



MARCH 16 – 21, 2027 | WASHINGTON D.C

SOCCER CHAPERONE GUIDE

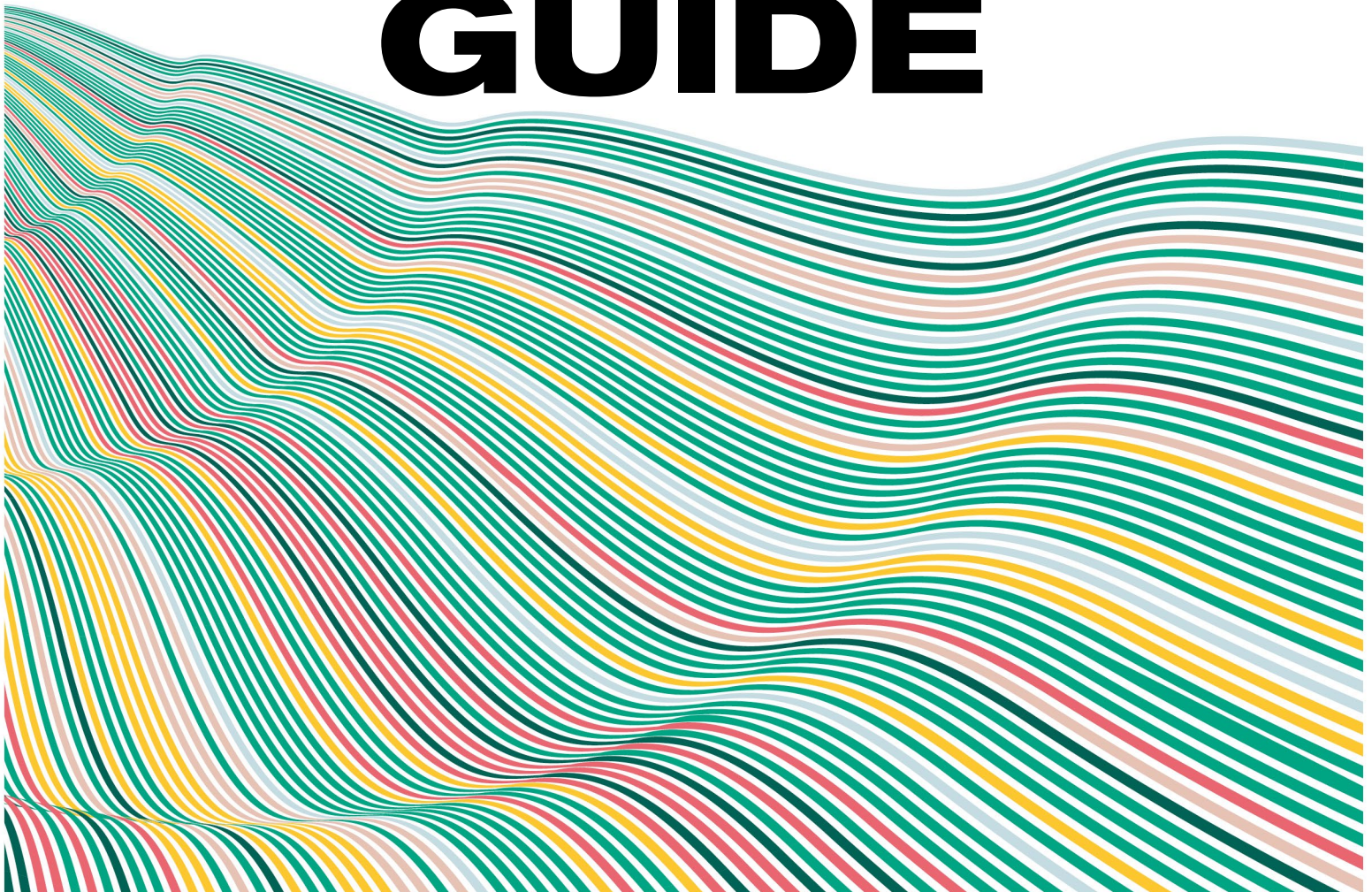


Table of Contents

Program Overview, Key Dates & Program Participants.....	3
Before You Arrive.....	4-5
Chaperones & Staffing: Roles, Responsibilities, Lead Chaperone Info.....	Click here
Travel & Transportation.....	Click here
Lodging & Hotel Incidentals.....	6
Schedule & Logistics.....	7-8
Programming & Activities.....	Click here
Game Regulations.....	9-10
Health & Safety.....	Click here
Delegation Exploration and Ideas for Extended Stays in DC.....	Click here



National 4-H Soccer Cup Overview

Join us in Washington, D.C., for Ignite by 4-H, where youth from across the country come together to learn, grow, and be inspired!

This year, the **National 4-H Soccer Cup** kicks off a day early, giving teams more time for gameplay and more opportunities to discover their spark through inspiring speakers, hands-on workshops, career exploration, and meaningful peer connections.

The National 4-H Soccer Cup will be a sub-track of our Healthy Living track. This exciting tournament offers youth a fun and active way to build teamwork, leadership, and sportsmanship skills, all while promoting well-being and connection. The Soccer Cup brings young people together through the power of play, friendly competition, and shared goals—both on and off the field.

This handbook provides National 4-H Soccer Cup-specific information, including tournament logistics, rules, schedules, and special programming. While the [general Ignite Chaperone Guide](#) outlines the broader event, this guide focuses on what's unique to soccer participants, helping your team get the most from the experience.

We understand that every team has its own planning process. To help everything run smoothly, please distribute this coordinator handbook to your Lead Chaperone, coaches, and all adult chaperones. We'll also host several pre-event webinars to answer questions and provide updates.

All required forms have been streamlined into two versions:

- One for adult chaperones
- One for teens, to be completed with a parent or guardian

Forms will be submitted digitally, but paper versions may be uploaded if necessary. These include the National 4-H Council Code of Conduct, the National 4-H Council Release of Liability, Waiver, Indemnification, Consent to Medical Attention, and Media Release.

Please make sure to read the entire handbook so you don't miss out on any essential details. If you have any questions, please contact events@4-h.org. Thank you for your continued interest in Ignite by 4-H! We can't wait to welcome you to Washington, D.C., for an unforgettable experience!

National 4-H Soccer Cup Key Dates

1. Selected teams will be notified by **Friday, July 31, 2026**.
2. Full roster including guest names and birth dates are due by **Monday, November 2, 2026**.
 - A maximum of 3 players may change between **Monday, November 2, 2026** and **February 26, 2027**.
3. Required forms are due by **Friday, December 4, 2026**.

Additional Key Dates & Deadlines can be found [here](#).

Program Participants

High-school-aged youth may participate in Ignite by 4-H. Each team participating in the National 4-H Soccer Cup must include at least one adult chaperone and a minimum of 11 players. Teams are limited to the two adult chaperones included with their scholarship. Each team must also identify one Lead Chaperone (typically the head coach of your team).

The tournament will follow standard youth age divisions. By default, the tournament will be structured with a male and female U19 (Under-19) bracket. To be eligible for the competition, players must be 19 years old or younger as of March 16, 2027.

HEADS UP to Youth Sports: Online Concussion Training

We ask that at least one coach per team complete the **HEADS UP to Youth Sports: Online Concussion Training** prior to attending Ignite. Once completed, you can send the certificate of completion to events@4-h.org or it can be uploaded to the portal.

Soccer Webinars

To prepare for the National 4-H Soccer Cup, we plan to host a series of webinars specific to soccer to answer any questions you may have. Please see below for scheduled webinars and planned topics:

- **Wednesday, August 19, at 2 p.m.** – Soccer Coaches Meeting
- **Wednesday, February 24 at 2 p.m.** – Final Details Soccer Coaches Meeting

Before You Arrive

Soccer Team Scholarships

The following are eligible to participate in the National 4-H Soccer Cup:

- Cooperative Extension 4-H **soccer teams** within land-grant universities (LGUs)
- Cooperative Extension 4-H **soccer teams** within your local county

Registration includes:

- All field costs and game supplies
- High-impact programming and speakers featuring national experts and leaders along with opportunities for career exploration, using your voice and building connections with teens from across the country.
- Room and board (double occupancy for teens, single occupancy for adults) checking in on Tuesday, March 16 and checking out on Sunday, March 21.
- All meals and breaks.
- Transportation to and from the hotel to soccer fields
- DC-area site visits and program materials.

All teams will be responsible for the following costs:

- Travel costs, including transportation costs to and from Ignite.

IMPORTANT:

1. If awarded, you will receive a confirmation email, and additional instructions will be sent for registration.
2. All teens must be accompanied by an adult chaperone and be currently enrolled in 4-H.
3. A full roster including guest names and birth dates must be provided by **Monday, November 2, 2026**, or your team may be unable to attend Ignite.

Ignite Portal

We highly recommend all attendees, Lead Chaperones and a parent/guardian for each teen attendee utilize the Ignite portal to submit all registration information, complete the required forms and register for teen workshops. If you have any trouble with the Ignite Portal, [click here](#) and provide your feedback so we can assist.

An email address is NOT required for teens or parents/guardians, but we highly recommend including them to help ensure timely communication. **Please ensure each contact has a unique email address. Do not use a parent's email for a teen or vice versa—each email can only be linked to one contact in the system.** The system will not allow you to save a contact if the email address is already associated with another person.

To log in to the portal, [click here](#).

- If you have attended an event hosted by National 4-H Council since June 2024, you will use your previous login information.
- If not, you will need an invitation code to log in which will be emailed from **DoNotReply@igniteevents.4-h.org**

Event App

- The Ignite by 4-H event app is available on both [iOS](#) and [Android](#). We highly encourage you and your attendees to download it as soon as possible to receive push notifications for event updates, deadline reminders and stay up to date on all things Ignite 2027!
- As the event gets closer, the app will become your go-to resource featuring personalized schedules, venue maps, daily menus, bus and table assignments, and more. And don't worry – it's all seamless. Once Ignite tickets are purchased and you have logged into the portal, you'll use the same username and password, so if you haven't logged in to the Ignite Portal yet, now's the time! Reach out to us at events@4-h.org if you need assistance.

Packing List

- Backpack or bag
- Water Bottle
- Soccer Kit
- Cleats
- Shin Guards
- Jacket
- Extra pair of shoes for field (non-cleats)
- Sunscreen



On-Field Team Building Experience

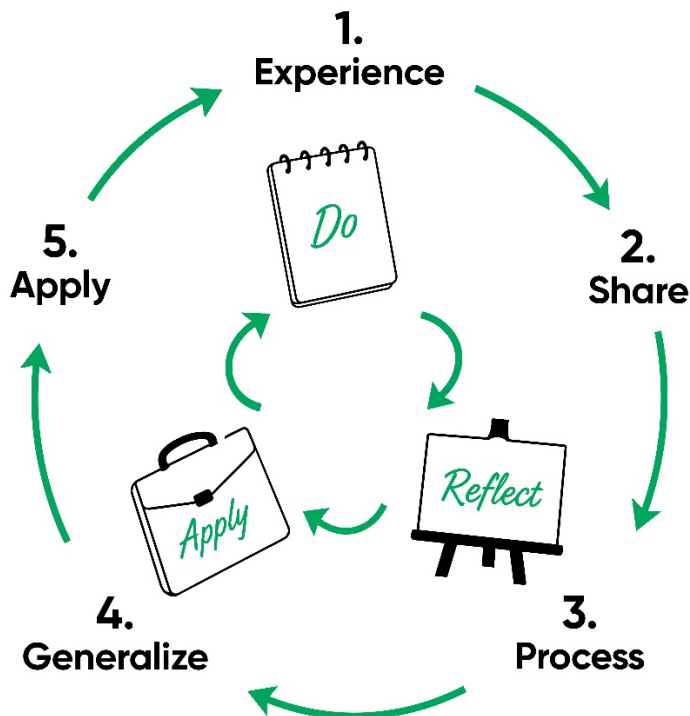
As part of the Soccer Sub-Track, coaches are asked to work with their players to design and facilitate a 30-minute interactive activity that focuses on 4-H youth development. Activities should engage youth in meaningful learning while demonstrating how lessons learned through soccer can be applied beyond the field.

Activity Requirements

- Actively engage all 75 teen participants
- Take approximately 30 minutes to complete
- Promotes one or more of the following:
 - Sportsmanship
 - Teamwork and communication
 - Leadership
 - Belonging
 - Soccer skill development
- Encourages collaboration and positive peer interaction
- Is appropriate for youth from various backgrounds and skill levels
- Includes a brief reflection or debrief discussion at the conclusion (as outlined below in the 4-H Experiential Learning Model)
- Can be implemented with minimal equipment

Please submit the following information to events@4-h.org for your On-Field Team Building Experience **by Friday, October 16:**

- **Activity Title**
- **Activity Goal/Learning Objective**
 - What will youth learn, practice, or experience?
- **Description of Activity**
 - Brief overview of how the activity will be conducted and who will lead this activity
- **Materials/Equipment Needed**
- **Accessibility or Adaptation Considerations**
 - How can the activity be modified to include youth with varying abilities, experience levels, or learning needs?
- **Reflection Questions**
 - Include 2-3 questions that help youth connect the activity to life skills, leadership, teamwork, or personal growth.



- 1. Experience:** Youth engage in a hands-on educational learning experience.
- 2. Share:** Ask youth to describe their observations and reactions
- 3. Process:** Ask youth to identify themes, problems and opportunities
- 4. Generalize:** Ask youth to connect key learning to real life experiences.
- 5. Apply:** Ask youth how they use what they learned in similar/different situations.

Lodging & Hotel Incidentals

All soccer coaches and players will stay at the Washington Hilton.

Teen Lodging

- All teens will have one roommate. We will make every effort to keep teammates together, but attendees under the age of 18 will not be paired with attendees over the age of 18.
- Youth delegates will have the opportunity to request a specific roommate by **Monday, November 2, 2026**. If no roommate is listed, the desired roommate requests to be roomed with someone else or your team has an odd number, we will work with the Lead Chaperone to determine a suitable roommate from another team.
- Council is committed to providing a welcoming experience for all attendees participating in Ignite. To help ensure accessibility, please let us know by **Monday, November 2, 2026**, if any accommodations are needed as part of your registration.
 - Examples may include accessible hotel rooms or support for visual or hearing impairments. Requests received after this date will be considered, and we will make every reasonable effort to accommodate them; however, our ability to do so may be limited by factors such as interpreter availability or hotel room inventory. Providing advance notice helps us plan effectively and coordinate with hotel and venue staff to support your needs.

Chaperone Lodging

- All adult chaperones will have single-occupancy rooms. Adult attendees will **not** be assigned a roommate unless **both individuals specifically request to room together**. If both adults indicate a desire to share a room, they will be paired. **No discount will be provided** for sharing a room.
- Council's policy prohibits adults (educators, volunteer chaperones that are age 18 and older) from sharing lodging rooms with youth (teens less than 19 years old), except when the adult and youth are immediate family members) or when the youth's parent or legal guardian approves staying with the adult. Council must be provided with a letter signed by the youth's parent or legal guardian granting permission for a designated adult to stay in the youth's room.
- If an adult chooses to share a room with their child, there will be no refund or adjustment to their ticket price.

Laundry

Laundry is available at the Hotel Rendale located directly across the street from the Washington Hilton.

Hotel Rendale:

1900 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20009

- There are 2 washers and 2 dryers available for guest use. Machines are first-come, first-served, so consider planning to wash all team uniforms together.
- There is also dry cleaner about 6–8 minute walk from the hotel called **World Cleaners** located at **1811 18th St NW, Washington, DC 20009**

Hotel Incidentals

All participants have signed the required code of conduct form which specifies youth participants and attendee's parent/guardians shall be personally and financially responsible for reimbursing 4-H for:

- any damage done to hotel property that is caused by the actions or inactions of the attendee
- any incidentals (e.g., room service or minibar items) charged to the attendee's room by the attendee
- any fees or damages assessed by the hotel related to smoking, or similar behaviors.

To the extent that 4-H is unable to determine which attendee incurred the damage or expenses, 4-H may seek reimbursement equally from all youth participants and attendee's parent/guardians who shared a hotel room.

No outside food or beverage may be consumed in the lobby. If you choose to order pizza or food from meal delivery services, it must be consumed in hotel rooms.



Schedule & Logistics

National 4-H Soccer Cup Schedule Information

All schedules for the National 4-H Soccer Cup are TENTATIVE, meaning they may change, up to the date of the event. Every effort will be made not to make drastic changes to the schedule, especially last minute. Whenever a significant alteration is made, you will be notified.

IMPORTANT: You are responsible for transportation from airport to the Washington Hilton at the beginning of Ignite and from the hotel to return to the airport at the end of Ignite. All other transportation is included.

The most up to date schedule can be found [here](#).

Soccer Fields and Facilities

The Youth Experiences Team at National 4-H Council is in the process of finalizing contracts with a venue for the National 4-H Soccer Tournament games. Once this has been finalized the location will be shared. Our hope is to continue with a single-site format to keep all players and coaches together and allow teams to watch other matches, support peers, and prepare for upcoming games. The daily schedule will list the location for each date/time.

Health & Safety

The full National 4-H Soccer Cup Emergency Plan will be added in the fall of 2026

Arrival Information

We understand that travel times will vary on Tuesday, March 16. Your group may check into the Washington Hilton any time **after 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16**. If you arrive prior to 4 p.m., most likely hotel rooms will not be available. Upon check in you will receive your Ignite registration materials. If you are delayed en route, please contact events@4-h.org or call 301-961-2901

No meals or programming are planned for Tuesday, March 16.

All Head Coaches are required to provide an approximate arrival time for your delegation.

Luggage Storage

If you would like to store your luggage before registration, luggage storage will be available at the Washington Hilton on Tuesday, March 16.

Onsite Registration Information

National 4-H Soccer Cup Registration will take place on **Wednesday, March 17** in your assigned bus dismissal room. Groups may not register before this time. At this time you will receive your name badges, any additional instructions and will provide instructions for loading buses.

Meals

The following meals are included:

- **Wednesday, March 17:** Breakfast To-Go, Lunch Dinner
- **Thursday, March 18:** Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner To-Go
- **Friday, March 19:** Breakfast To-Go, Lunch and Dinner
- **Saturday, March 20:** Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
- **Sunday, March 21:** Breakfast & Optional Boxed Lunch (sign-up required)

Meals listed above will be provided. However, as soccer teams will be physically active throughout the event, we recommend that players and coaches bring adequate snacks to stay fueled throughout the day. Water will be provided. On game days, a snack concession stand will be open with snacks available for purchase.

Many meals have assigned rooms and tables. Please respect these assignments and make sure your teens do as well to ensure adequate seating.



Workshops

Workshops are required for all teens to attend. Each teen participating in the National 4-H Soccer Tournament will pre-register for the following workshop sessions:

- 2 Career Connections Workshops
- 4 Explore Workshops

In addition, onsite at the soccer fields, skills competitions and on-field team building experiences will take place.

Bus Dismissal & Loading

Your team will be assigned a specific bus number that will remain the same throughout Ignite. Please make sure your group knows their bus number and gets on the correct bus each time. Each time your delegation boards a bus from the hotel, you will be dismissed from a specific location, so we know all teams are accounted for before the bus leaves the hotel.

Wednesday, March 17 – Game Location to be announced

- Bus Dismissal 7 a.m. from Washington Hilton, specific bus dismissal room to be announced.
- Travel Time & Breakfast on Bus 7 a.m. – 8 a.m.
- Bus Dismissal from Soccer Fields: 4 p.m.

Thursday, March 18 – Self-Guided Tour of National Monuments & Memorials

- Bus Dismissal: 6 p.m.

Friday, March 19 – Game Location to be announced

- Bus Dismissal 8 a.m. from Washington Hilton, specific bus dismissal room to be announced.
- Travel Time & Breakfast on Bus 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.
- Bus Dismissal from Soccer Fields: 6:30 p.m.

Due to liability, staffing, and parking restrictions, groups will not, under ANY circumstances, be permitted to use their own bus, vans or private cars for Ignite activities.

Coaches Huddle

At least one coach from each team is required to attend; participation from all coaches is strongly encouraged. These huddles provide a structured forum to debrief the day's games, review the upcoming schedule, and address any issues that arose. Discussion topics may include player or team disagreements, weather impacts, scheduling conflicts, or other operational concerns.

Huddles will be facilitated by the Ignite Design Team and held in a pre-determined room at the Washington Hilton at the following dates/times:

- **Wednesday, March 17 at 10 p.m.**
- **Friday, March 19 at 7:30 p.m.**

Team Meetings

Meetings with all players and coaches tend to happen naturally, but we want to ensure you have scheduled time to touch base with your full team to debrief the day and prepare for the day ahead. The Ignite Design Team may provide specific topics or updates to address with your team as the event progresses. These meetings can be informal and take place at any location that works for your team. Team meetings are scheduled at the following dates/times:

- **Wednesday, March 17 at 3 p.m.**
- **Friday, March 19 at 5:30 p.m.** prior to boarding buses to return to the hotel

Third Half Soccer Lunch

The **Third Half** is a National 4-H Soccer Cup tradition inspired by the belief that the relationships built through sport are just as important as the competition itself. After the matches conclude on Friday, participants come together to share lunch on Saturday, engage in conversation and connect with peers from across the country. It's an opportunity to look beyond the jerseys and the final score, recognizing that although they competed against one another on the field, they share many of the same passions, experiences, and values. The Third Half is a celebration of sportsmanship, belonging, and the power of sport to bring people together.



National 4-H Soccer Cup U19 Game Regulations

The National 4-H Soccer Cup is an invitational tournament. National 4-H Council reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to invite teams to participate based on available space and program needs, and to promote the event and related program activities.

Facility Rules

1. The facility is a smoke-free, tobacco-free, drug-free environment. Open flames, drones, ATVs, motorized vehicles, bicycles, scooters, skateboards, rollerblades, and similar equipment are prohibited on the premises.
2. Food, gum, sunflower seeds, and beverages other than water are prohibited on the playing fields.
3. Do not move, remove, or alter field equipment, goals, flags, turf, or playing surfaces. Tape, paint, adhesives, confetti, glitter, rice, birdseed, and spray products are prohibited on the fields.
4. Teams and spectators are responsible for removing trash from benches, seating areas, and fields and disposing of it in designated trash and recycling receptacles.
5. Live streaming and recording of games, including through social media platforms, is prohibited without prior approval from National 4-H Council.

Game Play, Discipline & Conduct

6. Each team has a 15-minute grace period to be ready for their match. After 15 minutes, the game is forfeited. If games begin late, the clock will start from the scheduled time unless approved by Ignite Design Team.
7. If a player or coach is more than 15 minutes late for scheduled bus transportation, the bus will depart without them. A coach or player who misses the bus will be ineligible to play or coach in their next scheduled game and will be responsible for their own transportation to the soccer fields.
8. Team must have a minimum of 7 players playing in the field to start, continue and finish a match. A team with 7 players and a player receiving a yellow card during the game will forfeit the match.
9. Referees and field marshals will keep official time and score on the field.
10. Free substitutions are allowed during any stoppage in play.
11. Two yellow cards equal an automatic red card. A direct red card results in ejection. Any ejection carries a minimum one-game suspension, with possible additional penalties pending referee's report.
12. A direct red card results in ejection and a minimum one-game suspension, with possible further penalties pending referee's report.
13. If a coach or player is ejected from a match for misconduct, they must leave the team bench area and sit in the bleachers. They are not permitted to coach or participate in any way for the remainder of the game. The ejection carries an automatic one-game suspension, with the possibility of additional penalties based on the referee's report.
14. Any player or coach involved in a physical or verbal fight will be dismissed from the tournament without exception. Referee reports and written reports from coaches or the Ignite Design Team may be used as evidence.
15. There is zero tolerance for drinking alcohol, smoking, or drug use during Ignite at any time or location. This will result in dismissal from all future gameplay in the National 4-H Soccer Cup.
16. A coach must be present to begin and finish any match. A team without a coach will forfeit that match.
17. Cursing, use of derogatory language, in any language, and any offensive gestures or motions by players or coaches are strictly prohibited at all times, both on and off the field.
18. Coaches are responsible for team players' behavior during the game and outside the field at all times during the National 4-H Soccer Cup.

Scoring & Standings

19. A win = 3 points, tie = 1 point, and loss = 0 points.
20. Tiebreakers will be determined in the following order: head-to-head, goal differential, goals scored, yellow/red card count, and if needed, a coin toss.

Uniforms & Equipment

21. Teams are required to bring their own soccer balls for pre-game warm-ups. Only the official match ball will be provided for gameplay. Warm-up balls will not be supplied.
22. Regular soccer cleats required. No bare feet or metal cleats on fields. Shoes must be worn at all times.
23. Only players listed on the official roster, who have completed all required forms and meet all eligibility requirements, are eligible to play.
24. All players on a team must wear matching team uniforms and required soccer equipment (NO EXCEPTIONS). The team listed first on the schedule is the home team; the visiting team must change uniforms if there is a conflict. Pinnies will be provided if necessary.
25. Team uniforms and names must not include offensive logos, language, or content that is derogatory in any way. The Ignite Design Team reserves the right to remove or deny participation to any teams that refuse to comply.
26. No jewelry is allowed during game play. If piercing jewelry cannot be removed (e.g., newly pierced), it must be fully covered with athletic tape before the game. Failure to comply will result in a yellow card. Referees have final authority on enforcement.

Team Roster & Player Eligibility

27. Up to 15 players may be registered per team, with 11 players allowed on the field at one time. A maximum of two adult coaches are allowed on the team bench.
28. Only players who are listed on the team roster with their full name and date of birth, have completed all required forms, and are wearing proper uniforms are eligible to play.
29. Team rosters cannot change after **February 26, 2027**.
30. A player may only play on one team during the tournament and must remain on that team for the entire event once registered.
31. All players must bring a valid photo ID confirming their date of birth.
32. All players are expected to attend and actively participate in all scheduled Ignite workshops and activities for which they are registered. Players who fail to attend scheduled workshops without documented illness or other excused circumstance may be deemed ineligible for future matches during the tournament and/or future National 4-H Soccer Cup events. The Ignite Design Team reserves the right to make final determinations regarding attendance violations and eligibility.

Awards & Recognition

33. The champion and runner-up teams will receive trophies (replicas for each team). The perpetual National 4-H Soccer Cup trophy will be engraved with the winning team and displayed at the National 4-H Council office in Washington, D.C. Winning players will receive medals.

Liability and Responsibility

34. National 4-H Council are not responsible for any injuries that may occur before, during, or after games or related activities. While event organizers will provide reasonable measures, resources, and procedures to help prevent injuries and to respond to emergencies, full responsibility for the health, safety, and conduct of team members rests with each team's coaching staff. Coaches are responsible for ensuring appropriate supervision, preparedness, and care for their players at all times.

Coaches' Responsibilities, Safety, and Sportsmanship

35. Coaches are responsible for ensuring player and coach compliance with all tournament rules, field regulations and event protocols.
36. Coaches must submit an emergency response plan outlining procedures for player or staff injury or illness.
37. Coaches are strongly encouraged to complete CPR and First Aid certification, preferably through the American Red Cross. Coaches are also strongly encouraged to collect a health screening form from each player. National 4-H, and event stakeholders do not provide insurance or financial assistance, nor do they assume responsibility for any injuries or illnesses.
38. All coaches are expected to model the highest standards of sportsmanship at all times. Unsportsmanlike conduct, including abusive language, disrespect toward officials, players, or spectators, or any behavior that undermines fair play, will not be tolerated. Violations may result in disciplinary action, including removal from the bench, suspension from competition, or disqualification from future tournaments.
39. Following each match, each team must provide two players to serve as ball retrievers for the next scheduled game. Ball retrievers are responsible for promptly returning out-of-play balls to help ensure matches continue smoothly and on schedule.

Any National 4-H Soccer Cup participant who violates the National 4-H Soccer Cup U19 Game Regulations may be subject to consequences including loss of matches or points, suspension, removal from the tournament, and/or disqualification from future participation.