

**2024 NWSL x LIGA MX FEMENIL SUMMER CUP
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

I. Format

- 1) The 2024 NWSL x Liga MX Femenil Summer Cup (“**Summer Cup**”) will consist of a group stage comprised of three (3) games per Club, followed by a semifinal round and a final.

- 2) All twenty (20) Clubs will be organized into five (5) groups. Four (4) groups will have three (3) NWSL Clubs and one (1) Liga MX Femenil Club, while the remaining group will have two (2) NWSL Clubs and two (2) Liga MX Femenil Clubs. Below explains how the groups will be formatted, including the specific Clubs from each league:

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E
Portland Thorns FC	Angel City FC	Kansas City Current	NJ/NY Gotham FC	Orlando Pride
Seattle Reign FC	San Diego Wave FC	Houston Dash	Washington Spirit	North Carolina Courage
Utah Royals FC	Bay FC	Tigres UANL	Chicago Red Stars	Racing Louisville FC
Club Tijuana	Club América	Club Pachuca	Chivas de Guadalajara	Rayadas de Monterrey

- 3) The semifinals will be comprised of the top four (4) Clubs from the five (5) group winners (i.e., Clubs must first win their group to qualify). In the event two (2) or more Clubs are even on points, tiebreakers will be employed to determine standings.

- 4) The seeding for the top four (4) point winners of the five (5) Group winners will be as follows:
 - a. Top Point Winner vs Fourth Place Point Winner
 - b. Second Place Point Winner vs Third Place Point Winner

II. Tiebreaker Rules

- 1) If two (2) or more Clubs in the same group have an equal number of points after the completion

of group play, the following criteria, in the order below, shall be applied to determine the preliminary round ranking:

- a. Goal Differential in all group play games;
- b. Most goals scored in all group play games;
- c. Most points obtained in the group games between the tied clubs;
- d. Goal differential from the group games between the tied clubs;
- e. Most goals scored in all group games between the tied clubs;
- f. Least disciplinary points accumulated:
 - i. yellow card: 1 point
 - ii. indirect red card (as a result of two (2) yellow cards): 3 points
 - iii. direct red card: 4 points
 - iv. yellow card and direct red card: 5 points

(Only one of the above point totals shall be applied to a player in a single game. Both player and club staff disciplinary points will be counted in the team total);

- g. Should two (2) Clubs remain tied after considering disciplinary points, the head-to-head result of the two (2) Clubs will be taken into account;
- h. Drawing of lots by NWSL x Liga MX Femenil

2) If two (2) or more group winner Clubs have an equal number of points after the completion of group play, the following criteria in the order below shall be applied to determine the qualified clubs to the semifinals, as well as the seeding:

- a. Goal Differential in all group play games;
- b. Most goals scored in all group play games;
- c. Least disciplinary points accumulated:
 - i. yellow card: 1 point
 - ii. indirect red card (as a result of two (2) yellow cards): 3 points
 - iii. direct red card: 4 points
 - iv. yellow card and direct red card: 5 points

(Only one of the above point totals shall be applied to a player in a single game. Both player and club staff disciplinary points will be counted in the team total);

- d. Drawing of lots by NWSL/Liga MX Femenil

III. Extra Time and Kicks from the Penalty Mark

- 1) There will be no extra time in any game played in the 2024 Summer Cup.

- 2) In the group stage, if a game is tied at the end of regulation, kicks from the penalty mark will be used to determine which club earns one (1) additional point in the group standings. The penalty shoot-out will be conducted in accordance with the procedure specified in the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 3) In the semifinal or final, if the game is tied at the end of regulation, a penalty shoot-out shall be used to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedure specified in the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 4) There will be a five (5) minute break between the end of regulation and the start of penalty kicks. The players shall remain on the pitch during this interval.

IV. Yellow and Red Cards

- 1) If a player or club staff member receives two cautions during two (2) different Tournament games in the group stage, they will automatically be suspended from their club's subsequent Tournament game. Accumulation suspensions will be served for a second yellow card in the final game of the group stage. Yellow card accumulation will be wiped at the start of the Semifinal round, meaning no accumulation suspensions will be served in the semifinals or final.
- 2) If a player or club staff member (except medical staff) is sent off as a result of a direct or indirect red card during a Tournament game, they will automatically be suspended from their club's subsequent Tournament game, which may include the Final. Further sanctions may be imposed in the case of a direct red card.
- 3) Any red card suspension, direct or indirect, that cannot be served during the 2024 Summer Cup, will not be carried over to the club's next NWSL or Liga MX Femenil Regular Season game, except for severe cases determined by the Disciplinary Committee. Any red card that cannot be served in the 2024 Summer Cup will carry over to the following year's version of the tournament.

V. Substitutions

- 1) Teams are permitted five (5) substitutions during each game to be used in accordance with IFAB Laws of the Game.

- 2) The 2024 Summer Cup will participate in “The IFAB Additional Permanent Concussion Substitutions Protocol” which allows one (1) “concussion substitute” per Club, per game following the IFAB guidelines:
- A) A “concussion substitution” may be used regardless of the number of substitutes already used. When a “concussion substitute” is used, the opposing Club then has the option to use an “additional” substitute for any reason. A “concussion substitution” may be made:
 - Immediately after a concussion occurs or is suspected;
 - After an on-field assessment, and/or after an off-field assessment; or
 - At any other time when a concussion occurs or is suspected (including when a player has previously been assessed and has returned to the field of play).
 - B) Procedure
 - If a Club decides to make a ‘concussion substitution’, the referee/fourth official is informed, by using a pink substitution card.
 - The player with concussion or suspected concussion is not permitted to take any further part in the match, including penalties (penalty shoot-out), and should, where possible, be accompanied to the dressing room and/or a medical facility.
 - The opposing Club is informed by the referee/fourth official that it has the option of using an ‘additional substitute’ and an ‘additional substitution’ opportunity, which may be used concurrently with the ‘concussion substitution’ made by the other team or at any time thereafter (except as outlined otherwise in the Laws of the Game).
- 3) In the final if the game is tied at the end of regulation, Clubs may no longer make substitutions, except in the case of a goalkeeper who is unable to continue before or during the penalty kicks, in accordance with the procedure specified in the Laws of the Game.

VI. Game Day Roster

1. Clubs must have a minimum of eighteen (18) players on their game day roster. Teams will be permitted to have a maximum of twenty (20) players on their game day roster. The Property will consider exceptions to this requirement in cases where a player is injured or otherwise becomes unavailable within forty-eight (48) hours of a scheduled game.

2. Only players listed on the game day roster may dress for each game.

VII. Technical Area

1. Only the nine (9) named substitutes may sit on the bench. A maximum of nine (9) nonplaying personnel are allowed on each team bench. These persons can either be Coaches or medical staff. The Home Club is required to have a Team physician on its bench at every Game and therefore will be allowed nineteen (19) total individuals on its bench. If the Visiting Club does not bring its physician, the maximum number of bench personnel will be eighteen (18) total individuals. Team owners, general managers, and other executives are not permitted to sit on the bench unless they are an active roster Player or recognized team Coach.