

It is all about TIMING! In this case it is a tournament and as with most tournaments we will not have a schedule until the week before the tournament. So the question becomes “how can that work?”. We have a somewhat UNIQUE method.

At this point you have **completed** the “obtaining a Logon process” detailed in the “Tournaments Introduction” document. And you have your BIO information updated; and your Risk Management; and your Social Security Number; and ,if necessary, your Minor Worker paperwork completed and approved.

PHILOSOPHY

Our goal during the sign-up phase is to establish the games such that it represents a close picture of what will be forthcoming immediately before the tournament. Just having you show up is not our style. We want you to be able to have a LOT of input into when you do games and a LOT of input into which games you do.

So we take last year’s schedule (which the tournament tells us they will model this year’s schedule after) and load it into the system, modifying it to accommodate “known differences” that they have told us about.

Now when they say “model” the schedule after, it is NOT exact, but rather they will try to organize the games by groups. For example, the U11’s will play at the designated “mod” fields; the U12-U14’s will be grouped and the U15-19’s will be grouped. Now there will, because of the nature of tournaments be ungrouped games.

So when you see the games they will show the above group names and so you are signing up for a game in that specific range. With luck this will all work; and understand we will work with you as best we can when we merge the final schedule.

So the idea is to get the correct number of Referees signed up for the tournament using this “sign-up schedule”. When the real schedule comes in we will make ALL the games disappear and behind the scenes we will merge the “real” and the “sign-up” schedule as best as is possible. Once this is done the new “real” schedule will appear and your games will have a PURPLE icon to allow you to “reconfirm” your games. (e.g. you are satisfied as best we can achieve with the result).

At this point there will be some unhappy campers and as a consequence once you have accepted your schedule of games you will be allowed to sign up for more games.

During this signup phase you will only get 4 assignments MAX (2 Centers; 4 Lines in any combination to at total of 4). Once we get to the “week of” you will be allowed more assignments.

We believe this approach empowers you to do games at the tournament as well as allows you to choose your own schedule, which you know best. It also provides us with the opportunity to best serve the needs of the Tournament.

So we are now ready for this next step, SIGNUP. In this step we have created a schedule based on last year's schedule; which the tournament will attempt to follow this year. Let's be clear about this. They cannot follow it as much as we would like, so let me explain how this works.

First of all, we ask the tournament to schedule games in a series of somewhat similar games (at the same or similar level). These are then simulated by using groupings.

- 1) You will see games at a level of U11, U12-14, and U15-19.
- 2) You will see games at the same field in groups of 2-3 at a minimum in a back to back format.
- 3) These are 30 (or 35) minute halves with 5 minutes before and after the game and halftime, so you will see games at 8am, 9:30am, 11am,5:00pm,6:30pm.
- 4) For purposes of signing up you can have 2-3 games in a row, then you must take a break, then you can have 2-3 more games for a total of 4 games each day **maximum**.
- 5) In order to get a continuous series of games, they must be at the same field.
- 6) Any deviation from the same field will result in a mandatory 90 minute break.
- 7) The only way you can cheat this system is to sign up for 4 games in a series, and while this will work, we WILL NOT ALLOW IT, so you are better off not to do it, because we will take it away anyway and you could do better by getting your 4 games using the correct process.
- 8) AND, this is a big AND, we want you to sign up for Center, Line ...break.... Center, Line (max is 4 total with 2 Centers per day).

So the idea here is for you to reserve a series of games and then when the REAL SCHEDULE comes in we will do our best to match the REAL SCHEDULE with your schedule.

Once this is completed you may not be happy with the result, in which case you can reject the realignment and find new games in the Real Schedule. There will be some of this that is a natural occurrence and some that occurs because your situation has changed. This will all happen in the week immediately preceding the tournament.

- 1) To summarize you want to sign up for two sets of games with a break in between.
- 2) The week before we will merge the sign-up schedule with the real schedule and allow you to change your schedule at that point.
- 3) You will then be allowed to sign up for more games to fill out your schedule should you wish more than 4 games.
- 4) We will work with you to adjust your schedule if at all possible but just remember this may be difficult.

While this may seem like an ODD approach it has several advantages.

- 1) You know your schedule better than anyone else.
- 2) You get to make your own schedule.
- 3) Once the real schedule comes in we will match what you wanted as best we can and for many of you all you will need to do is to reconfirm your games.
- 4) HOWEVER, for some of you this process will not work to your satisfaction and we will work with you individually to try to solve this riddle.

This “simulated” schedule signup will continue until a week before the tournament when we will merge the “real” and “simulated” schedules. Because of real life issues (like the tournament doesn’t know how many teams are playing until then), some games will simply disappear; some games will be added and will be new.

At any time prior to the day before the first games you will be able to turn-back any games and re-adjust your schedule. There is no penalty for doing this and while there is some Risk, it is Risk that should be acceptable to you since you are choosing to do it.

If you have any questions please ask and perhaps I can explain it better which will help everyone since when you (read me) know exactly what they are trying to do we (me) tends to make assumptions about how easy it is to understand.

The simplest way to think of it is to locate 2 games at the same field and signup for a Center, Line then signup at least 90 minutes later for 2 games at a different (same) field for a Center, Line. Or you can sign-up for a Line, Line, and another later (line, line). Or any combo involving 4 total.

2 games works out to working 3 hours at the field, so 4 games puts you out there for 6 hours. This is why the mandatory break. The day will run for 12-14 hours so there will be room for “more” games and they will be available.

We know many of you do the tournaments as a summer job and we respect that; however, we also understand those Referees who just want to help out by doing a couple of games or simply want to do less.

Have a great summer!

Tom

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