



MANCHESTER UNITED
PREMIER CUP

U.S. FINALS

May 27-31, 2010

NIKE World Headquarters

Beaverton, Oregon

**PREMIER
INTERNATIONAL
TOURS**



Introduction and History of the Manchester United Premier Cup

In 1993 NIKE formed the NIKE International Premier Cup with a vision of allowing under-14/15 soccer teams in Europe to play other teams of similar skill level and of promoting a greater participation in youth soccer. Over 15 years later, the participants of that inaugural tournament have come of age. So too has the now called Manchester United Premier Cup, evolving in its young history from a strictly European tournament into a global event encompassing a canvas as broad as the appeal of the game itself.

The Manchester United Premier Cup is the largest international youth football tournament in the world, involving over 6,000 teams from over 40 countries. But, the Manchester United Premier Cup is about more than mere numbers. It is about engendering in the youth of today the desire to become the heroes of tomorrow. It is about promoting the cause of youth soccer and its impact extends far beyond the fortunate few who make it to the Cup final. Its reach extends to the thousands of local teams and programs that exist because of the dream of reaching that final.

In the United States, the Manchester United Premier Cup has drawn the most competitive U14/U15 teams across the nation and as a result U.S. Soccer has taken notice. Over the past decade U.S. Soccer has had staff coaches on hand to scout players for the U14 and U17 National Team programs. Many players who participated in the Manchester United Premier Cup have gone on to be fixtures among the various United States National Teams.

The first ever Boys World Finals was held in 1997 in Cape Town, South Africa. Corinthians from Brazil were crowned as the first ever Boys World Champions. Since then, the Boys World Finals have taken place in football crazed cities such as Paris, Barcelona, Amsterdam, Berlin, Lisbon and Hong Kong, and, in 2003, right here in the United States at the headquarters of NIKE in Beaverton, Oregon. In 2006-2008 the Boys World Finals returned home to Manchester and the tournament's namesake at Manchester United. Past Manchester United Premier Cup World Champions have included storied clubs such as FC Barcelona, Sao Paulo, Corinthians, Manchester City and Chivas Guadalajara. In the 2009 World Final, **Sao Paulo FC** (Pele's old club) from Brazil defeated **Werder Bremen** from Germany to lay claim to the 2009 crown. **Arsenal FC** from Southern California, who beat **Weston Fury Premier** (Florida) in the U.S. Final, represented the U.S. in 2009 and placed 16th out of 20 teams in what is always the most competitive field of teams in any tournament in this age group around the World.

The Manchester United Premier Cup 2010 Boys World Final will again be held at the tournament's namesake in Manchester at the facilities of Manchester United! The tournament will most likely take place in late July-early August. As soon as the dates are confirmed we will let teams know the exact dates. Teams considered the best of the best from all around the globe, including Manchester United's U14/15 team, will meet to vie for the title of Manchester United Premier Cup World Champion! And to top it all off, Nike will pay for the flights, accommodations, transportation and meals for the U.S. boys winner at the World Finals!

The first ever Girls NIKE Premier Cup was held in Beaverton, Oregon, USA in 1999. That year, 8 teams representing 5 countries and 3 continents competed for the first ever NIKE Premier Cup Girls World Championship. Starting in 2002, the Manchester United Premier Cup for Girls took on a different format, involving just a U.S. Final, where the winner would earn a bid to one of the World's most competitive tournaments for girl's teams, the Gothia Cup in Sweden. In the 2009 Manchester United Premier Cup U.S. Finals, in what was a battle of Southern California, the Real So Cal girls defeated Slammers FC in penalty kicks to earn a trip to the 2009 Gothia Cup. At the Gothia Cup they went undefeated and were crowned tournament champions for their age group!

The Girls winner of the 2010 MUPC US Finals will go on to play in the 2010 Gothia Cup in Gothenburg, Sweden, July 18-25, 2010. NIKE will pay for flights, accommodations, transportation and meals for up to 20 people for this event as well. The Gothia Cup is one of Europe's biggest and most competitive youth tournaments, attracting 1,000+ teams from around the globe every year!

Manchester United Premier Cup U.S. Finals 2010 - General Format

The Manchester United Premier Cup 2010 U.S. Finals will take place May 27-31, 2010 in Beaverton, Oregon on the campus of NIKE World Headquarters. Lake Oswego Soccer Club will serve as the tournament organizer/host club for this event. **20 boys teams and 20 girls teams from all over the U.S. will compete.** The tournament organizer (Lake Oswego SC) will have an automatic entry for 1 team in each gender. The other 19 teams per gender will be selected (by a tournament committee) from the applications received for the tournament.

For both genders, the 20 teams will be divided into 4 groups with 5 teams in each group. The first and second place teams of each group will advance to the Round of 8/Quarter-Finals, with winners of the Quarter-Finals advancing to the Semi-Finals and the winners of the Semi-Finals will advance to the Finals. Placement games will be played to determine places 1-8. Teams that don't advance to the Quarter Finals after group play is over will be able to play a maximum of 2 friendly games after the group games. All teams will play a minimum of 6 games throughout the tournament and a maximum of 7 games (for Finalists). Group games will take place Friday and Saturday. Quarter-Final games, the 1st set of placement games (for the losing teams in the Quarter-Finals) and 1 friendly game, for teams that don't advance to the Quarter-Finals, will take place Sunday. The Finals, final placement games for places 3-8 as well as the 2nd friendly game for the teams that don't advance to the Quarter-Finals will be played on Monday. A detailed tournament schedule will be provided in the tournament acceptance package.

All boys teams participating in the tournament will be allowed to have players on their roster born on or after January 1st, 1995. The reason a January 1st age category cut-off deadline is instituted for the US Finals is because the World Finals for the boys has an age category deadline of born on or after January 1st, 1995 as well, because that is the age category cut-off deadline for all other international soccer associations/federations.

The age category deadline for the girls teams will be born on or after August 1st, 1995. However, all girls teams should note that the Gothia Cup has an age category cut off date of born on or after **January 1st, 1995** as well. Therefore, for the Gothia Cup, the winner of the girls Manchester United Premier Cup US Finals can add players to their roster for the Gothia Cup as long as they are born on or after January 1st, 1995 as well.

Team Invitations

Top teams from all over the United States will be invited to apply for participation in the Manchester United Premier Cup 2010 U.S. Finals. Teams will be asked to fill out an application form and send in a team resume as well. After receipt of all application forms and team resumes, a tournament committee consisting of representatives from NIKE, Lake Oswego SC and Premier International Tours/L&J Group will then decide which 18 teams per gender will be accepted to participate. All boys teams that are applying should include information on both the club's U14 and U15 teams because that information will be considered in the selection of teams if those teams are planning on using players from both age groups of that club.

By inviting you to apply to participate in this prestigious event, we recognize the successes that your team has accomplished. We want to provide you with an opportunity that can be found nowhere else in the United States. This opportunity extends beyond that of being able to compete with top youth teams from throughout the United States, and potentially the world, it is also an opportunity for the young player to shine.

Team Requirements

- * Club teams only, **with a maximum of 3 guest players per team**. Players must be born on or after **January 1st, 1995** on the boys side, and players born on or after **August 1, 1995 for the girls**. All teams and players must be officially registered with USYS. Teams can register and bring a roster from another United States Soccer Federation affiliate organization such as US Club Soccer, for example, for insurance purposes. **However, at the tournament check in teams will need to provide a USYS approved State Cup roster(s) or a copy or copies of this/these roster(s), demonstrating that all players, with the exception of 3 guest players, are registered to the same club.** If your team does not have a USYS roster or compete in USYS state cup competition please consult Mike Stebbins at Premier International Tours (contact information in this package). Team rosters are limited to 18 players for the tournament.

Please note: For the Boys World Finals, teams are only allowed to roster 16 players for the tournament!

Note for boys teams regarding U.S. Development Academy Players:

Per U.S. Soccer rules, players who are full-time members of the Academy teams cannot play in the Manchester United Premier Cup. However, developmental players on the Academy teams (those players which are limited to only 6 appearances in Academy games) can play in the MUPC. Please consult us if you have any questions about this.

- * Teams must be prepared with a primary and secondary jersey, both sets numbered, as well as any training/pre-game equipment and/or balls.
- * Teams accepted to participate in the Manchester United Premier Cup will be required to pay a team entrance fee of \$ 500.00 per team.
- * All transportation to/from/during, as well as accommodation and meals during the Manchester United Premier Cup U.S. Finals, is at the expense and provision of each individual team. Upon acceptance into the tournament, accommodation information will be given in a team acceptance/confirmation package. Teams that are accepted into the tournament must also commit to booking their hotel rooms at one of the official tournament hotels.
- * Teams that are accepted into the tournament must commit to booking their return flights no earlier than Monday, May 31, at 7:00 pm because of the tournament schedule.

Next Steps

- * Read through this packet to fully understand the requirements of this tournament.
- * **Fill out the enclosed application form** and Manchester United Premier Cup roster form and send it to the attention of Premier International Tours (formerly Euro-Sporting - address included in this package), along with a team resume of the team's accomplishments over the past two years, **by January 25, 2010 Applications turned in after January 25, 2010 will be put on a wait list.**
- * **Premier International Tours will notify all teams if they have been accepted to participate by February 6, 2010.**
- * Teams will then need to confirm their participation by sending in a team confirmation with the \$ 500.00 team entrance fee by **February 20, 2010.**

Contact Information

Tournament Coordinator

Premier International Tours
Mike Stebbins and Loek van Zijl
13710 East Rice Place – Suite 110
Aurora, CO 80015
Tel. 800-724-6076
Fax: (303) 768-0756
E-mail: mike@premierinternationaltours.com

Tournament Organizer/Host Club

Lake Oswego Soccer Club
Mr. Travis Schoonover
425 2nd Street Alley
Lake Oswego, OR 97034
Tel. (503) 699-8879 x. 103
E-mail: travis@losc.org
Website: www.losc.org



Please direct all questions or concerns about the tournament to Premier International Tours.

Tournament rules Manchester United Premier Cup U.S. Finals 2010

1. The matches will be played according to the rules of F.I.F.A and the National/State Soccer Association.
2. Credentials: At registration/check-in, teams must provide the required credentials. This includes:
 1. USYS State Cup approved roster(s), or copy or copies of these rosters, signed or stamped by an appropriate authority demonstrating all players, with the exception of 3 guest players, are registered to the same club.
 2. Any guest player loan forms that are required by the respective USYS State Association for the 3 guest players.
 3. Matching player I.D. cards with photographs as well as travel permits for teams outside the state where the tournament takes place.
3. Rosters: Teams may register a maximum of 18 players for the tournament. Teams must designate before each game – on the line up card – which 11 players will be a starter for that particular game and which players will be substitutes.
4. Substitutes: Four (4) players from the substitutes listed on the game roster may be played per game per team. The referee shall be informed of the proposed sub before it is made. A substitution can only be made during a stoppage in the game. No player may re-enter after being substituted.
5. The matches will be refereed by referees, affiliated to the National/State Soccer Association. Decisions of the referees are binding.
6. Format
There will be 4 groups with 5 teams in each group per gender. Each group will play a round-robin format. After this, the top 2 teams in each group will advance to the quarter-finals. The winners of the quarter-finals will advance to the semi-finals, and the winners of the semi-finals will play in the final. Teams that advance to quarter-finals will play in placement games to determine places 1-8. Teams that don't advance to the quarter-finals will play friendly games after the group games. Placing within groups after group games will be determined by points. If teams are tied in points within the groups, the following applies:
 - 1 goal difference
 - 2 most goals scored
 - 3 the result of the mutual matchIf teams remain tied, penalty kicks will be taken. If more than 2 teams are tied, the toss of a coin or drawing of lots will determine the tie-breaker.

Standings in Groups/Preliminaries:
Points will be awarded as follows: 3 for a win, 1 for a tie and 0 points for a loss. All group games tied after regulation will remain tied.
8. Tiebreaker for **quarter-finals and placement matches (places 3-8):**
If the teams are tied after regulation penalty kicks will be taken.
Tiebreaker for **semi-finals and finals:**
If the teams are tied after regulation, the teams will play two full 5 minute overtime periods. If teams remain tied after the overtime periods, then penalty kicks will be taken.
Friendly games that end in a tie after regulation play will remain a tie.
9. Age-category: boys born on or after January 1, 1994 and girls born on or after August 1, 1994. The age of the players will be checked before the start of the tournament. All players need to have a valid ID with a picture (player card). The team leader must hand in a USYS State Cup approved roster(s), or copy of this/these roster(s) prior to the start of the tournament. The roster(s) may be checked against the ID/player cards at any time. The tournament committee or referee may require identification at any time from any player(s). Team leader/coach needs to report to the tournament secretary no later than 30 minutes prior the start of the team's first match to turn in the team's line up card.
If a team plays with an ineligible player, the team is disqualified. Any prizes that the team may have won must be handed in.

The boys winner of this U.S. event will play in the Manchester United Premier Cup World Final and the girls winner will play in the 2010 Gothia Cup. Both tournaments have an age category cut off date of born on or after January 1, 1995.

10. Duration of play: All matches will consist of two 20 minute halves; the tournament committee is entitled to alter duration of play and the play schedule if circumstances so dictate.
 11. Every club must bring an alternate jersey (must be another numbered jersey or t-shirt) of contrasting color. The home team (team listed first on the schedule) will determine what color jersey they will wear, and if, according to the referee, before the start of a match, the club colors of both teams show too little difference, the away team (team that is mentioned second on the schedule) is obliged to change.
 12. Red cards/Yellow cards. Two yellow cards accumulated by a player in one game equal a suspension from that game and the next scheduled game. 3 yellow cards accumulated by a player throughout the tournament equals a suspension from the next scheduled game. One red card in any game will result in the player being suspended from the remainder of that game plus the next scheduled game of the tournament. The tournament committee reserves the right to extend the suspension length on any infraction resulting in a red card depending on the severity of the infraction. When a player is sent off the field or is given a caution, the tournament committee will be notified immediately after the match.
 13. If a team is late for a match without a valid reason or if they don't show up, they automatically forfeit the match by a score of 3-0. In case there is a question of guilt when a match is suspended (stopped during the game) in a group all the results of the team in question are rendered invalid. If the team in question had to play in a follow up round they automatically forfeit the match by a score of 3-0.
 14. Penalty kicks to obtain a decision are taken according to the rules of the F.I.F.A. The referee decides at which goal all the penalty kicks will be taken. The team that wins the coin toss will decide which team will kick first. The teams alternately take 5 penalty kicks each. If, after 5 penalty kicks, the teams remain tied, each team will take a penalty kick until a decision has been obtained (sudden-death). Only players that are on the field at the end of a game are entitled to participate in the penalty kicks. Each penalty must be taken by a different player. Only after all the players of a team have taken a penalty kick is a player allowed to take a second penalty. All players, with the exception of the goalkeepers and the player who is taking the penalty kick, must remain in the center circle at midfield while the penalty is taken.
 15. Protests against arbitrated decisions are not possible. Protests concerning other matters should be made by the responsible team leader to the tournament committee no later than 15 minutes after the game. The tournament committee decides in the above-mentioned cases and in matters not covered by these tournament rules.
 16. The tournament organizer (FC Portland Academy), Premier International Tours and NIKE are not responsible for damages and loss of possessions of any of the participants.
- NB These rules are a standard version. These rules may be altered according to the rules and regulations of the National/State Soccer Association of the concerning country.

***** Please note rules are subject to change and a final version of tournament rules will be included in the acceptance package sent to teams when they have been accepted for the tournament.**