

# Natick Fall Classic Tournament

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** Where can I find detailed information about your Tournament?

**Answer:** The majority of information about the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Natick Columbus Day tournament can be found on the Natick Soccer Club website at [www.naticksoccer.org](http://www.naticksoccer.org).

The Fall Classic Tournament page has information on how to register, registration fees, roster sizes, tournament rules, FAQs, medical release forms, discounted hotels, and more. If you have any questions that cannot be answered by the information provided, feel free to reach out to one of the Tournament Directors for help.

**Question:** How many games is my team guaranteed at your tournament?

**Answer:** Unless we have severe weather problems,

Grade 2 (U8)	plays a <b>minimum of 3 games</b> . Each gender will play all three games <u>in one day</u> . Boys will play on Saturday and girls will play on Sunday. Each player will receive a participation medal after their final game.
Grade 3-4 (U9-10)	plays a <b>minimum of 4 games</b> . Each player will receive a participation medal after their final game.
Grade 5-8 (U11-U14)	play a <b>minimum of 3</b> round robin games. Additional games if team advances to playoffs. Each player on teams that advance to the finals will receive a champion or finalist trophy.

**Question:** When are the playoffs?

**Answer:** Grade 5-8 (U11-U14) playoffs are typically held Monday. However, there may be some groups that could have playoffs beginning late Sunday afternoon.

**Question:** What is the player Date of Birth (DOB) acceptance for each age Group for the 2023 Natick Fall Classic Tournament?

**Answer:** Players must be on an age-appropriate team for participation in Tournament games. The teams will remain with the grade-based eligibility that has been used in previous years. The only exception is a pre-approved Age/Grade waiver provided by your league and/or approved by the Tournament Director. This waiver needs to be submitted to and approved by the Tournament Registrar prior to the start of the tournament.

Grade 2 (U8)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade or lower <b><u>AND</u></b> born on or after JAN 1, 2015 & Younger
Grade 3 (U9)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade or lower <b><u>AND</u></b> born on or after JAN 1, 2014 & Younger
Grade 4 (U10)	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade or lower <b><u>AND</u></b> born on or after JAN 1, 2013 & Younger
Grade 5 (U11)	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade or lower <b><u>AND</u></b> born on or after JAN 1, 2012 & Younger
Grade 6 (U12)	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade or lower <b><u>AND</u></b> born on or after JAN 1, 2011 & Younger
Grade 7 (U13)	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade or lower <b><u>AND</u></b> born on or after JAN 1, 2010 & Younger
Grade 8 (U14)	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade or lower <b><u>AND</u></b> born on or after JAN 1, 2009 & Younger

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### Question: What is the maximum number of players on a team Roster?

**Answer:** The maximum number of players allowed on a team roster by age group is listed below. Roster compliance must be verified at Registration check-in prior to the start of the tournament.

Grade 2 teams (U8)	maximum of twelve (12) players
Grade 3-4 teams (U9-10)	maximum of fourteen (14) players
Grade 5-6 teams (U11-12)	maximum of eighteen (18) players
Grade 7-8 teams (U13-14)	maximum of twenty-two (22) players

### Question: What is an Approved Roster for the tournament?

**Answer:** It is the responsibility of the coach to have an approved roster(s) for the tournament. This is your normal league roster which is generated by your town Registrar. The key information on an approved roster is a player's name, date of birth, and address or town. You can provide multiple rosters and/or player cards when combining rosters and adding guest players.

### Question: Do you allow guest players on a team?

**Answer:** All players on the team need to be from the same town program with the exception of limited number of Guest players allowed. A "Guest" player is a player from a roster outside of the town from which the team normally competes. A player from the same town but on a different roster is not considered a "Guest" player. It is common and encouraged for towns to combine players from different rosters within the same town as needed.

The maximum number of guest players allowed by age group is listed below:

Grade 2 teams (U8)	2 guest players per team
Grade 3-4 teams (U9-10)	2 guest players per team
Grade 5-6 teams (U11-12)	3 guest players per team
Grade 7-8 teams (U13-14)	4 guest players per team

### Question: Can I combine 2 or 3 of my town teams for the Tournament?

**Answer:** Yes. This is very popular. You can combine teams from your own town to make up a team for the tournament. However, you must still follow the guidelines for appropriate player age, maximum roster size and guest player limits. Remember a guest player is a player that is NOT from your town. For your "approved" roster, just bring the individual team rosters you are combining and cross out the players that are not participating OR a player passcard from the team they are registered on. This is the same for any guest player joining your team.

## **Natick Fall Classic Tournament** ***Frequently Asked Questions***

**Question:** Can I have a Player join the team even if they are not currently affiliated with any town or club soccer program.

**Answer:** Yes, BUT they must be covered by US Youth Soccer Insurance. If a player is not currently affiliated with any Town or Club soccer program, they are not currently covered by US Youth Soccer Insurance (Example: Mass Youth soccer is under the US Youth Soccer umbrella). However, the player can register online at Mass Youth Soccer as an Individual Member for \$22. This will cover the player with the necessary membership and insurance coverage needed to participate in the tournament. The process is simple and can be completed on the Mass Youth Soccer website <http://www.mayouthsoccer.org/>. You can link directly to the Individual membership form here:  
<https://fs23.formsite.com/massyouth/form20/index.html>

**Question:** When is Registration check-in night and what do I need to bring?

**Answer:** Registration check-in is held on the Friday afternoon/night prior to the tournament. Details are posted on the Natick Tournament website with registration hours and directions.

What to bring:

- two (2) copies of your approved team roster(s)
- two (2) copies of each player's medical release forms.

One copy of each of these will stay with the Tournament Registrar and the other copy will stay with the team for the duration of the tournament.

If any player does NOT have a completed and signed medical release form, the player will not be allowed to participate in the tournament.

**Question:** Who can go to registration check-in for the team?

**Answer:** This can be done by the coach, assistant coach, team manager or another parent or club member that has all the proper registration materials. No players are needed at registration check-in.

**Question:** When will the tournament game schedule be released?

**Answer:** Tournament directors make every effort to release the game schedule as soon as possible. Like any tournament, many factors slow down this process. However, we are committed to releasing the schedule **no later than the Sunday evening midnight** prior to the Tournament weekend.

**Question:** Where can I find Hotel information about your tournament?

**Answer:** Hotel information is listed on Natick Soccer Club website at [www.naticksoccer.org](http://www.naticksoccer.org) on the Tournament page which has Hotel addresses, discounts & contact info for nearby hotels.

## Natick Fall Classic Tournament *Frequently Asked Questions*

### Question: What is a patch tournament?

**Answer:** A patch tournament is an event where each team swaps patches (symbolic of their soccer club or town) with their opponents after playing each tournament game. While patches are a requirement, exchanging patches or another token is also a show of good sportsmanship and a long-standing tradition at many tournaments. Just as important, the players love to collect them.

### Question: How many patches do I need?

**Answer:** While all teams roster sizes vary, these are our best estimations:

Grade 2 teams (U8)	If 12 players on roster x 3 games = <b>36 patches</b>
Grade 3-4 teams (U9-10)	If 14 players on roster x 4 games = <b>56 patches</b>
Grade 5-6 teams (U11-12)	If 18 players on roster x 3 games (min.) = <b>54 patches</b> PLUS up to 2 possible additional playoff games = <b>36 add'l. patches</b>
Grade 7-8 teams (U13-14)	If 22 players on roster x 3 games (min.) = <b>66 patches</b> <b>PLUS</b> up to 2 possible additional playoff games = <b>44 add'l. patches</b>

### Question: Where do I get patches for the tournament?

**Answer:** Many soccer clubs provide patches to their teams (There may be a cost. Please ask your soccer club). Contact your travel director or club administrator for more info on obtaining these in advance of the tournament. Natick Soccer Club provides patches to coaches (for a small cost/patch) to exchange in our tournament or other patch tournaments they take part in.

### Question: What if my club does not have patches available?

**Answer:** If your club does not provide patches, there are a number of alternatives. Generally speaking, any item that represents your town, soccer club, soccer or team name is a great option. Stickers, temporary tattoos, lanyards, or magnets are some ideas you might consider. Be sure to obtain enough based on the guidelines above.