



## Cup Bracketing and Seeding

You also need to read the Cup Match-Ups Document that accompanies this document

### Founders Cup

#### Number of Brackets

The number of brackets at each age group will be determined by the number of teams that enter as outlined in the Excel worksheets: Bracketing Notes (4).xlsx and Bracket Matrix.xlsx. FC for U11 to U14 is played after Fall League and must be completed by the Sunday before Thanksgiving. FC for U15 to U19 is played after the Winter League in April. The number of brackets and the playing format will be determined by the number of available playing dates between the end of the league and the required date of the final. In most years there are a maximum of 6 playing dates in the fall and 8 playing dates in the spring for the FC.

4 team preliminary brackets are preferred. Where possible the number of teams playing only 1 or 2 games will be kept to a minimum.

#### Seeding

Teams will be seeded into brackets based on a blind draw.

#### Procedure

A chart will be prepared for each age group showing the number of brackets. The name of each team entered in the tournament will be written on a slip of paper. The names of all teams entered at a particular age group will be placed into an opaque container. Names will be drawn one at a time and assigned to brackets in a serpentine method.

If the draw would place two teams from the same club together, the second team from the same club will be moved to the next bracket that avoids having two teams from the same club in the same bracket.

Quarterfinal (if needed) and semifinal matchups will be set before teams are drawn into the brackets.

#### Quarterfinals

Teams from the same preliminary bracket will not advance to play each other in quarterfinals. If bracket advancement places two teams from the same bracket against each other in quarterfinals, the lower qualifying team will be swapped with a team from another bracket to ensure that no teams from the same bracket play each other in the first knockout round.

### Presidents Cup

#### Number of Brackets

The number of brackets at each age group will be determined by the number of teams that enter as outlined in the Excel worksheets: Bracketing Notes (4).xlsx and Bracket Matrix.xlsx. The number of brackets and the playing format will be determined by the number of available playing dates between the end of the league and the required date of the final. 4 team preliminary brackets are preferred.

Where possible the number of teams playing only 1 or 2 games will be kept to a minimum.

Quarterfinals will be used if necessary. The tournament format should not require any team to play more than 1 game per day or 2 games per weekend.

## **Seeding**

Quarterfinal and semifinal matchups, by bracket, will be determined before teams are seeded. Quarterfinal matchups will be configured so that the top two seeds in the age group (assuming they progress from the preliminary brackets) would not play each other prior to the final game. Quarterfinals will not be reconfigured after preliminary bracket play.

Teams from U11- U14 will be seeded into the required number of brackets based on league performance in the Fall Portland Timbers and Thorns leagues. Teams from U15-U18 will be seeded in the required number of brackets based on league performance in the Portland Timbers and Thorns Winter League. All teams in each age group division will be compared based on an equal number of games. If not all teams in an age group division have played the same number of games on the seeding date, teams will be compared based on the largest number of games that all teams in an age group division have played.

Teams are seeded into brackets using a serpentine method. Divisions eligible for U11-U14 Presidents Cup are Division 1 and lower. All U15-U18 divisions are eligible for Presidents Cup. Within divisions, groups are given priority in the following order: Boys - Green, White, Blue and Girls - Red, White, Blue. For example, all teams in Division 1 Green will be seeded into brackets before teams from Division 1 White, and so on.

## **Quarterfinals**

Teams from the same preliminary bracket will not advance to play each other in quarterfinals. If bracket advancement places two teams from the same bracket against each other in quarterfinals, the lower qualifying team will be swapped with a team from another bracket to ensure that no teams from the same bracket play each other in the first knockout round.

## **State Cup**

### **Number of Brackets**

The number of brackets at each age group will be determined by the number of teams that enter as outlined in the Excel worksheets: Bracketing Notes (4).xlsx and Bracket Matrix.xlsx. The number of brackets and the playing format will be determined by the number of available playing dates between the end of the league and the required date of the final. 4 team preliminary brackets are preferred.

Where possible the number of teams playing only 1 or 2 games will be kept to a minimum.

Quarterfinals will be used if necessary. The tournament format should not require any team to play more than 1 game per day or 2 games per weekend.

## **Seeding**

Quarterfinal and semifinal matchups, by bracket, will be determined before teams are seeded. Quarterfinal matchups will be configured so that the top two seeds in the age group (assuming they progress from the preliminary brackets) would not play each other prior to the final game. Quarterfinals will not be reconfigured after preliminary bracket play.

Teams from U11- U14 will be seeded into the required number of brackets based on league performance in the Fall Portland Timbers and Thorns leagues. Teams from U15-U18 will be seeded in the required number of brackets based on league performance in the Portland Timbers and Thorns Winter League. All teams in each age group division will be compared based on an equal number of games. If not all teams in an age group division have played the same number of games on the seeding date, teams will be compared based on the largest number of games that all teams in an age group division have played.

Teams are seeded into brackets using a serpentine method. All U11-U18 divisions are eligible for State Cup. Within divisions, groups are given priority in the following order: Boys - Green, White, Blue and Girls - Red, White, Blue. In

other words, all teams in Division 1 Green will be seeded into brackets before teams from Division 1 White, and so on.

Teams that qualify for State Cup by playing in a qualifying league (Fall for U11-U14 and Winter for U15-U19) other than a Portland Timbers and Thorns league will be seeded in the following order :

1. US Youth Soccer National League participants will be seeded first if they DO NOT play in the PTTL.
2. US Youth Soccer National League Northwest Conference participants will be seeded next if they DO NOT play in the PTTL. If more than 1 team played in the US Youth Soccer National League Northwest Conference then they will be seeded based on final standings of the Northwest Conference.
3. Teams that play in the designated Portland Timbers and Thorns qualifying league will be seeded into brackets based on their league standings, regardless of their participation in other qualifying competitions. I.e., a team that plays in both National League and the Timbers and Thorns league will be seeded based on the Timbers and Thorns league standings.

### **Quarterfinals**

Teams from the same preliminary bracket will not advance to play each other in quarterfinals. If bracket advancement places two teams from the same bracket against each other in quarterfinals, the lower qualifying team will be swapped with a team from another bracket to ensure that no teams from the same bracket play each other in the first knockout round.