



**POLICY ON THE
US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL PRESIDENTS CUP**

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**POLICY
ON THE
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PRESIDENTS CUP**

PART I—GENERAL

Rule 101. DEFINITIONS AND APPLICATIONS

Section 1. Except as otherwise provided, the following definitions apply to this policy:

- (1) “**Article**” preceding a Roman numeral means a reference to a specific portion of the US Youth Soccer Bylaws.
- (2) “**Board of Directors**” means the Board of Directors of US Youth Soccer established under Article XIII.
- (2) “**National Presidents Cup Committee**” means a special committee of US Youth Soccer established under Article XIV(5).
- (3) “**National Presidents Cup competitions**” means the competitions established under this policy.
- (4) “**Region**” means one of those regions established under Article VIII of US Youth Soccer.
- (5) “**State Association**” means the States Associations enumerated in Article VIII.
- (6) “**State Cup or State Championship**” means those competitions established in Rules 101, 102, and 103 of the US Youth Soccer National Championships Policy.
- (7) “**US Youth Soccer**” means the United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc.
- (8) “**Club**” means an organization providing soccer to youth players that is a member of a State Association; provided however, a “club” need not have the word “club” as part of its official name.
- (9) “**Club Pass**” means a US Youth Soccer pass which—
 - (A) issued to a registered youth player by a club in compliance with the rules of the State Association of which the club is a member;
 - (B) issued as provided by this policy; and
 - (C) specifies the club of which the youth player is a registered member.

Rule 102. ESTABLISHMENT AND TITLE

Section 1. US Youth Soccer establishes and shall organize annual National Presidents Cup competitions for those qualifying players in the 13 and Under through 19 and Under age groups as defined by Rule 104 of the US Youth Soccer Policy on Players and Playing Rules.

Section 2. There shall be individual, separately conducted National Presidents Cup competitions for boys and girls in each of the age groups.

Section 3. The title of the National Presidents Cup competitions shall be the “US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL PRESIDENTS CUP”.

Section 4. The titles of the cups presented annually to the championship teams of each boys and girls age group at the national level are the following:

(1) for the boys 13 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Boys 13 and Under National Presidents Cup.

(2) for the girls 13 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Girls 13 and Under National Presidents Cup.

(3) for the boys 14 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Boys 14 and Under National Presidents Cup.

(4) for the girls 14 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Girls 14 and Under National Presidents Cup.

(5) for the boys 15 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Boys 15 and Under National Presidents Cup.

(6) for the girls 15 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Girls 15 and Under National Presidents Cup.

(7) for the boys 16 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Boys 16 and Under National Presidents Cup.

(8) for the girls 16 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Girls 16 and Under National Presidents Cup.

(9) for the boys 17 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Boys 17 and Under National Presidents Cup.

(10) for the girls 17 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Girls 17 and Under National Presidents Cup.

(11) for the boys 18 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Boys 18 and Under National Presidents Cup.

(12) for the girls 18 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Girls 18 and Under National Presidents Cup.

(13) for the boys 19 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Boys 19 and Under National Presidents Cup.

(14) for the girls 19 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Girls 19 and Under National Presidents Cup.

Rule 103. AWARDS TO TEAMS AND PLAYERS

Section 1. The champion team for each boys and girls age group at the national level each year will be given a team award determined by the National Presidents Cup Committee.

Section 2. The players and coaches of the teams that are the champion and finalist teams competing in the National Presidents Cup at the national level in each of the boys and girls age groups shall be awarded individual medals.

Rule 104. ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. There shall be a National Presidents Cup Committee. The Committee is responsible for the entire administration of the National Presidents Cup competitions, subject to review by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The National Presidents Cup Committee reserves the right to make all decisions concerning the National Presidents Cup competitions, keeping in mind the best interests of US Youth Soccer, the US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup, and the safety and welfare of the players, coaches, administrators, and spectators.

Section 3. Unless otherwise provided in this policy, the decisions of the National Presidents Cup Committee are final.

Rule 105. NOTICES

All notices and other communications required to be given under this policy shall be in writing and addressed as the National Presidents Cup Committee shall direct.

PART II—ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITIONS

Rule 201. STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS

Each National Presidents Cup competition shall be conducted at the following levels:

- (1) The first level of competitions for each boys and girls age group is at the state level.
- (2) The second level of competitions for each boys and girls age group is at the regional level.
- (3) The third level of competitions for each boys and girls age group is at the national level.

Rule 202. STATE LEVEL COMPETITIONS

Section 1. (a) Each State Association shall determine—

- (1) whether it shall conduct a National Presidents Cup competition to determine its representatives in compliance with Rule 303;
- (2) which age groups, and whether boys or girls, or both, that it will conduct State Association level competitions for; and
- (3) the teams that represent it for each boys and girls age group at the National Presidents Cup competitions for the region of which the State Association is a member in compliance with Rule 303.

(b) The format for the competitions at the State Association level to determine teams representing the State Association shall be a format established by the State Association.

Section 2. Prior to the competitions at the State Association level, the schedule and plans for determining the State Association representatives shall be submitted for approval to that State Association's region.

Rule 203. REGIONAL LEVEL COMPETITIONS

Section 1. Each of the regions shall conduct a National Presidents Cup competition for the region consisting of boys and girls age groups. The competitions shall be among the National Presidents Cup teams of the State Associations of the region. These regional competitions shall determine the teams that represent the region for each of the boys and girls age groups at the national level of the National Presidents Cup competitions.

Section 2. Each region shall establish the requirements and format for the competitions for the region consistent with this policy.

Rule 204. NATIONAL LEVEL COMPETITIONS

Section 1. The National Presidents Cup teams representing each of the regions in each of the boys and girls age groups shall compete in the National Presidents Cup competitions at the national level to determine the champion team for each of those boys and girls age groups. Additional teams may be invited to compete at the national level as recommended by the National Presidents Cup Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. (a) The teams from the regions shall compete in a round-robin format recommended by the National Presidents Cup Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

(b) The National Presidents Cup Committee shall determine the days on which the round robin, semifinals (if applicable) and final games shall be played.

PART III—PLAYERS, TEAMS, AND GAME PLAY

Rule 301. APPLICATION

This part III applies to the National Presidents Cup Regional and National levels of competitions.

Rule 302. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. The US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup competitions are intended for properly registered and rostered players in accordance with the rules of US Youth Soccer (Policy on Players and Playing Rules, 201 and 209) and the State Association at the beginning of the State's qualifying event for that age and gender. Players that register with a state association after the beginning of the state qualifying event or have other unusual circumstances may submit a request for a waiver to the Regional Presidents Cup Program Manager.

Section 2. Players are not eligible to compete at the regional or national level of the National Presidents Cup competitions if they were rostered to a team that:

- (1) competed in the US Youth Soccer National League P.R.O. division; or
- (2) competed in a National League conference or division that was included in the published list entitled "US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup National League Conference Eligibility" as not eligible. [See Rule 303(4)].

Section 3. If a state association holds a separate and distinct qualifying event to identify the team advancing to the regional level of the National Presidents Cup competitions, a player who was rostered to a team that competed in the semifinal or final matches at the state or regional level of a designated US Youth Soccer National Championship Series event (NCS) is not eligible to participate at the regional or national level of the National Presidents Cup competitions.

Section 4. A club may issue a club pass to any youth player who is a registered youth player of the club before the team to which such youth player is to be rostered for the State Association level of the National Presidents Cup competitions submits its roster for its first competition at the State Association level.

Section 5. A player may be rostered to only one team at each level of the National Presidents Cup competitions during a seasonal year.

Section 6. State Associations shall confirm the eligibility of each player to be rostered on a team participating at the regional or national level of the National Presidents Cup competitions. A State Association must comply with any roster or player eligibility rule(s) established within the US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup Policy, the US Youth Soccer Policy on Players and Playing Rules, the US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup Competition Rules or any other official document relating to the National Presidents Cup competitions.

Section 7. A team that is found guilty for any reason of having an ineligible player on its roster or using an ineligible player forfeits each game involving the ineligible player.

Section 8. A player who has been suspended may play after the player's term of suspension has expired.

Rule 303. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. The National Presidents Cup competitions shall be open to any team whose players are registered with US Youth Soccer through a State Association if the team is in compliance with all of the following requirements:

(1) The team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered youth players (as defined by US Youth Soccer).

(2) The team must be in good standing with its State Association, must not be under sanction by their State Association or US Youth Soccer, and must be in compliance with, and have not violated any of the bylaws and policies of their State Association or US Youth Soccer.

(3) Any team that competed in the US Youth Soccer National League P.R.O. division is not eligible to compete at the regional or national level of the National Presidents Cup competitions.

(4) No later than August 1 of each year, each regional Presidents Cup Manager, working in conjunction with the National League Conference Managers, shall publish and highlight any change(s) to eligibility criteria for the upcoming year in a "US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup National League Conference Eligibility" list for each National League conference or division.

(5) In order for its teams to compete at the regional or national level of the National Presidents Cup competitions, a State Association shall hold a qualifying event of its choosing (tournament or other event) in order to identify the team advancing to the regional level of the National Presidents Cup competitions.

(I) If the Presidents Cup qualifying event is separate and distinct from any other state competition:

(a) A team is not eligible to compete at the regional or national level of the National Presidents Cup competitions if it competed in the US Youth Soccer National Championships Series. A "Play-in" or similar one-off match where the eliminated team moves into the state Presidents Cup qualifying event is not considered competing in the National Championship Series.

(b) Advancement shall be offered to teams in the order of finish from the qualifying event until the slot is filled, unless a team is prohibited from advancing based on its National League Conference participation as outlined in paragraphs (3) or (4) above.

(II) If the Presidents Cup qualifying event is a combined competition to identify teams advancing to both the regional US Youth Soccer National

Championships Series (NCS) and the regional National Presidents Cup competitions:

(a) The team advancing to the regional NCS shall be determined first.

(b) Advancement to the regional National Presidents Cup competition shall then be offered to the remaining teams that finished lower in the final event standings than the team that accepted the regional NCS berth, unless a team is prohibited from advancing based on its National League Conference participation as outlined in paragraphs (3) or (4) above.

(c) If a state chooses not to send a team to the NCS competition in a particular age group/gender, then advancement to the regional National Presidents Cup competition shall be offered to the teams in order of finish, unless a team is prohibited from advancing based on its National League Conference participation as outlined in paragraphs (3) or (4) above.

Rule 304. PASSES, ROSTERS AND UNIFORMS

Section 1. At the National Presidents Cup competitions, each player and team official listed on the team's roster must carry the US Youth Soccer member pass. The member pass issued to a player shall identify the club by name or other appropriate means of identification. The US Youth Soccer member pass must carry a current photograph of the player or team official, as the case may be, and be signed by the appropriate official of the state association.

Section 2. At least 14 days before the date of the first scheduled game of the National Presidents Cup competitions, each team in the competitions shall submit a roster with not more than 22 players.

A team's National Presidents Cup competitions roster is set at the beginning of its State Qualifying event. A team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the State Qualifying event and every level of the National Presidents Cup competitions by maintaining a minimum of 9 players common to that roster of the team at every level of the competition.

All information listed on the roster must be verified by the appropriate official of the State Association and signed by that official for each level of the National Presidents Cup.

Section 3. (1) The team's National Presidents Cup roster and the US Youth Soccer member's passes must be available at the game site at all times. The roster shall include the number of each player's jersey.

(2) Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are optional. It is suggested that teams traveling with multiple goalkeepers have numbered jerseys for them.

(3) At every level of the National Presidents Cup competitions, a player or team official at a game site to participate in a game or associated activity of the competitions may only have on the outer wear of the player or team official a name, logo, or other identifying mark of a youth soccer organization that is US Youth Soccer, a State Association or other member of US Youth Soccer, a member of a State Association, or an organization that is a member of an organization that is a

member of a State Association. A name, logo, or other identifying mark of any other youth soccer organization must be removed, replaced, or covered before the player or team official may continue to remain at the game site for the game or associated activity.

Rule 305. GAME PLAY

Section 1. The playing rules of the National Presidents Cup competitions shall conform to the FIFA “Laws of the Game” except as provided by this rule.

Section 2. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the length of games, ball size, ball circumference, and ball weight for each age group shall be as follows:

Age Group	Game Length	Ball	Circumferenc	Weight
13 and Under	Two 35’ halves	#5	27-28 in.	14-16 oz.
14 and Under	Two 35’ halves	#5	27-28 in.	14-16 oz.
15 and Under	Two 40’ halves	#5	27-28 in.	14-16 oz.
16 and Under	Two 40’ halves	#5	27-28 in.	14-16 oz.
17 and Under	Two 45’ halves	#5	27-28 in.	14-16 oz.
18 and Under	Two 45’ halves	#5	27-28 in.	14-16 oz.
19 and Under	Two 45’ halves	#5	27-28 in.	14-16 oz.

(b) If the score of a game that requires a winner is tied at the end of regulation time, there will be 2 overtime periods of 10 minutes each for play in the 13 and Under and 14 and Under age groups. If the score of a game that requires a winner is tied at the end of the second half in the 15 and Under, 16 and Under, 17 and Under, 18 and Under and 19 and Under age groups, there will be 2 overtime periods of 15 minutes each. If neither team scores during the 2 overtime periods, the winner will be determined by FIFA *Kicks from The Penalty Mark*.

(c) A team may have not more than 4 individuals designated as team officials for the team. The National Presidents Cup Committee will issue bench pass credentials to the team officials prior to the team’s first game. Only those team officials who sign for the credentials will be allowed in the bench area and on its team side of the field.

(d) There shall be no limit on the number of substitutions.

Section 3. Any player or team official who is sent off from any National Presidents Cup game is prohibited from participating in the next immediately following game played by the player or team official’s team. A player or team official may receive more than a one-game suspension. If a player or team official receives a red card in a final or consolation game, that player or team official will be referred to the player or team official’s State Association for appropriate disciplinary action.

Rule 306. GAME OFFICIALS

Section 1. For National Presidents Cup competitions at the national level, the Chairman of the Referee Committee, or the Chairman’s designee, shall appoint the game officials. For National Presidents Cup competitions at the regional level, the Regional Representative to the Referee Committee, or the Regional Representative’s designee, shall appoint the game officials.

Section 2. Any referee appointed to officiate in any National Presidents Cup competition game may not be a past or present member of either of the competing teams.

Section 3. The scale of charges for referees shall be as set by the National Presidents Cup Committee.

Section 4. The referee has the authority to deal with players and team officials as provided by the FIFA “Laws of the Game”. No player shall leave the field of play without the consent of the referee.

Section 5. The referee must forward to the Chairman of the National Presidents Cup Committee Chair, or the designee of the Chairman, on the official game report form with the results of the game, a list of the players participating in the game, and all particulars related to the game.

PART IV—PROTESTS AND APPEALS

Rule 401. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

Section 1. All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors, to interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest concerning the National Presidents Cup competitions, shall be referred to the National Presidents Cup Committee regarding games at the national level, or to the Regional Presidents Cup regarding games at the regional level.

Section 2. (a) To be valid and eligible for consideration at the national level of the competitions, each protest —

(1) must be orally lodged by a team official listed on the team roster involved in the game with the referee and with the opposing coach at the game site before entering the field of play or leaving the game site, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section; and

(2) must be filed with the National Presidents Cup Committee within 2 hours after the completion of the game being protested, accompanied by—

- (a) a fee in an amount determined by the Board of Directors;
- (b) 2 written copies of the protest, which must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged; and
- (c) 2 written copies of any information to be presented by witnesses.

(b) Any protest relating to the grounds, goal posts, bars, or other appurtenances of the game shall be entertained only if a written objection has been lodged with the referee and the opposing coach prior to the start of the game.

(c) The Chairman of the National Presidents Cup Committee shall immediately on receipt of the protest notify the team against which the protest is made and shall provide a copy of the protest and all particulars to that team, which will then have the right to defend its case, with or without witnesses.

Section 3. (a) An appeal of a decision may be appealed as provided by Article XVII of the US Youth Soccer Bylaws. Any such appeal must be filed within 2 hours of receiving the decision—

(1) if a decision of the Regional Presidents Cup Committee, with the Chairman of that Committee who shall immediately notify the Chairman of the National Presidents Cup

Committee; or

(2) if a decision of the National Presidents Cup Committee, with the Chairman of that Committee who shall immediately notify the Board of Directors.

(b) Each appeal filed under subsection (a) of this section must be accompanied by—

(1) a fee in an amount determined by the Board of Directors; and

(2) 2 written copies of the appeal.

Section 4. Any party to a protest or appeal shall be accorded the right to be assisted in the presentation of the party's case at the protest or appeal proceeding.

Section 5. A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the National Presidents Cup competitions is not sufficient grounds for a protest or appeal. Violators may expect appropriate action by US Youth Soccer.