



**UNITED
CUP**



USYS United Cup 2022

POLICY MANUAL

Hosted by:
Oregon Youth Soccer Association
www.oregonyouthsoccer.org

2022 USYS United Cup Policy Manual

Tournament Management Information

The USYS United Cup is hosted by Oregon Youth Soccer Association (OYSA). The competition is open to teams that have all their recreational players and coaches registered with US Youth Soccer through either OYSA or Washington Youth Soccer Association (WYS) in accordance with the registration policies of US Youth Soccer (USYS) and their home state association.

The USYS United Cup aims to provide recreational youth soccer players an opportunity to experience a consistent and high-quality statewide tournament in a fun, family-like atmosphere. It fosters stimulation and excitement about soccer in an effort to increase the recreational players interest in and love for the game.

The USYS United Cup is managed by OYSA in accordance with the bylaws and policies of OYSA, US Youth Soccer (USYS), and the US Soccer Federation (USSF). The Tournament Director has operational and disciplinary authority in accordance with these policies over all participants for the duration of the competition. All OYSA registered participants are subject to the disciplinary authority of OYSA and USSF for matters that warrant disciplinary actions that extend beyond the end of the competition.

WYS registered participants are subject to the disciplinary authority of WYS and the USSF for matters that warrant disciplinary actions that extend beyond the end of the competition.

Consumption or possession of alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, and marijuana products are strictly prohibited at all United Cup matches.

Oregon Youth Soccer and the United Cup have NO TOLERANCE for any form of harassment, intimidation, abuse, assault, or racism.

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(A) Player Eligibility

(1) Properly Registered, Listed on Roster

- (a) Every player on a team’s official United Cup roster must be properly registered to OYSA and listed on the roster in Affinity by the roster freeze date set by the Tournament Director.

(2) Player Restrictions

- (a) A player who is registered to OYSA as a competitive player is not eligible to participate in the United Cup.

(3) By the Roster Freeze Date

- (a) All player eligibility issues for the United Cup tournament are determined as of the roster freeze date. There are no exceptions.

(4) Improperly Registered Player

- (a) An improperly rostered player may be removed from the team’s roster without penalty, so long as the team has not played any matches in the tournament.

(B) Team Eligibility

(1) Open Tournament

- (a) The USYS United Cup is an Open Tournament. Any OYSA-registered recreational team may enter, provided that all players are registered as recreational players with OYSA and are listed on the tournament roster prior to the roster freeze date for the tournament.

(2) Southwest Washington Teams

- (a) Southwest Washington teams that are composed entirely of players registered in the current seasonal year with OYSA are eligible to enter so long as the team meets all other player and team eligibility requirements.

(3) Roster Limitations

- (a) A team’s age is established by the age group of the oldest player on the roster.
- (i) For purposes creating a team by grade level, players older than the team’s age group, but still in the same grade may be rostered if they are born between Aug.-Dec. of the previous year. For example: players born between Aug-Dec. of 2007 are allowed to play on a U14 (8th grade – 2008 birth year) team.
- (ii) Players born between Jan.-July of the previous year are not allowed on a younger team.
- (b) Teams may not compete in an age group younger than the team’s age.
- (c) The following chart shows the tournament’s age groups and the youngest aged player that can be on the roster of a team in each age group:

Team Age	Youngest Player Allowed	Maximum Tournament Roster
U9	U7	14 players
U10	U8	14 players
U11	U9	14 players
U12	U10	14 players
U13	U11	14 players
U14	U12	14 players
U15	U13	14 players
U16	U14	14 players
U17	U14	14 players
U18	U14	14 players
U19	U14	14 players

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(C) Ineligible Participation

(1) Team Will Forfeit

- (a) A team will forfeit any game in which an ineligible player is listed on the team's tournament roster.
- (b) A team will forfeit any game in which an ineligible player participates (NOTE: participation includes a player being present on the team's bench wearing the team's uniform, regardless of whether the player enters the field as a player)
- (c) A team will forfeit any game in which the team no longer has an eligible adult present on the team bench.

(2) Removed from United Cup

- (a) Any team found to have allowed an ineligible player to participate in a match is not eligible to compete further in the United Cup in the current seasonal year.
 - (i) Any remaining scheduled games for the team will be forfeited.
- (b) A coach, manager, team official, or club official who knowingly allows an ineligible player to participate is ineligible to compete further in the United Cup, with any team, in the current and subsequent seasonal year.
- (c) A player who is found to have submitted false birth information is prohibited from competing further in the United Cup in the current and subsequent seasonal year.
- (d) A player who participates with a team knowing that he or she is ineligible for such participation is ineligible to compete in the United Cup in the current and subsequent seasonal year.

(D) Rosters

(1) Team Roster (all individuals assigned to a team)

- (a) No team may roster more than 14 players to their team roster.
- (b) No team may roster more than 4 coaches.

(2) Roster Freeze

- (a) The rosters for the United Cup are frozen on May 30th at 5 PM. No borrowed players are permitted on any United Cup Printed Match Roster.

(E) Responsibilities of Coaches and Team Officials

(1) Knowing the Laws of the Game, United Cup Rules, and United Cup Policies

- (a) The coach in charge of a team at a match is responsible for knowing the IFAB Laws of the Game, United Cup Rules, and United Cup Policies.

(2) Ensuring Proper Conduct of Team's Players, Coaches, and Spectators

- (a) The coach in charge of a team at a match is responsible for the conduct of the team's players, coaches, team officials, and spectators.
 - (i) The referee or tournament staff may require the coach to take action to control the behavior of or remove spectators whose words or actions are offensive, insulting, abusive, profane, disruptive or interfere with a referee or the orderly conduct of the match.
 - (ii) The coach in charge of the team may be warned, cautioned, or sent off for failing to control the conduct of the team's spectators, officials, or players.
 - (iii) If a game is abandoned because of the behavior of a team's spectators, team officials, or players, the team's coach may be suspended in addition to any other administrative discipline assessed to the team resulting from the abandonment.
- (b) Any reported instances of referee abuse or referee assault by a player, coach, team official, or spectator will be forwarded to OYSA for disciplinary proceedings as specific by US Soccer Federation Policy 531-9.

(F) Scoring Method, Tie-Breakers, and Wildcards

(1) Bracket Play

- (a) The standings of teams are based upon the number of points earned in bracket play matches:
 - (i) 3 points for a win (forfeits are considered a 4-0 victory)
 - (ii) 1 point for a tie
 - (iii) 0 points for a loss

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(2) Abandoned Games in Bracket Play - Scoring

- (a) If the referee abandons a match without fault by either team, and a reschedule is determined to not be possible, the game will be scored as follows:
 - (i) The score of a match abandoned following the end of the first half will be the score at the time of abandonment.
 - (ii) The score of a match abandoned during the first half will be entered as a 0-0 draw.
- (b) If the referee abandons a match because of the improper behavior of a coach, player, spectator, or any combination thereof, the match will not be rescheduled.
 - (i) If both teams are at fault, the game will be scored as a forfeit by both teams so that neither team receives any points from the match in standings.
 - (ii) If only one team is at fault, the score will be entered as a forfeit by the team at fault.

(3) Tie-Breaking Criteria:

- (a) Except when advancing wildcards from unequal brackets [Policy (F)(5)(c)] standings within a bracket or advancement from the bracket will be determined by applying the criteria below. See Policy (F)(4)(b) for ties among 3 or more teams and Policy (F)(5)(b) for advancing wildcards from equal brackets.
 - (i) Winner in head-to-head competition
 - (ii) Winner of most games.
 - (iii) Highest goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum differential of four (4) goals per match counted both for and against.
 - (iv) Total goals allowed
 - (v) Total goals scored
 - (vi) Most shutouts
 - (vii) Coin Flip by Tournament Director

(4) Breaking Ties in Bracket Play Within a Bracket

- (a) If 2 teams are tied in points at the conclusion of bracket play, team placement or advancement will be determined by applying the criteria in Policy (F)(3), in the order listed, beginning with (F)(3)(a)(i).
 - (i) The tie is broken when the first of the tie-breakers in Policy (F)(3) distinguishes between the two teams.
 - (ii) Coin Flip by Tournament Director, as provided in Policy (F)(3)(a)(vii), will only be used if the 2 teams have played each other and none of the tie-breakers in (F)(3)(a)(i)-(F)(3)(a)(vi) have differentiated the teams.
- (b) If 3 or more teams are tied in points at the conclusion of bracket play, team placement or advancement will be determined by applying the criteria in Policy (F)(3)(a), in the order listed, beginning with (F)(3)(a)(ii), but not including (F)(3)(a)(vii).
 - (i) The tie is broken when the first of the specified tie-breakers sorts the teams.
 - (ii) If a tie-breaker only sorts some of the tied teams, the standings of the remaining teams is determined by applying the tie-breakers to the remaining teams beginning again with (F)(3)(a)(ii), but not including (F)(3)(a)(vii).
 - (iii) If two teams remain tied after applying all the tie-breakers in (F)(3)(a)(ii)-(F)(3)(a)(vi), and the two teams have played each other, the two team's results will then be compared using (F)(3)(a)(i). If a tie still exists after this, Policy (F)(3)(a)(vii) will break the tie.

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(5) **Wildcard Advancement – Comparing Teams Across Brackets**

- (a) When the tournament format for a particular age group requires advancing an unequal number of teams (wildcards) from each bracket (e.g., best 2nd place team or top two 2nd place teams), teams in different brackets will be compared to each other using criteria that are applied the same way to all teams in the group being compared.
 - (i) Wildcards are always drawn from the same level in each bracket.
 - (A) When the format is the top team and NN wildcards, only the teams finishing 2nd in each bracket will be compared for wildcard advancement.
 - (B) When the format is the top 2 teams and NN wildcards, only the teams finishing 3rd in each bracket will be compared for wildcard advancement.
 - (ii) When all brackets have the same number of teams, results within brackets can be directly compared as specified in (F)(5)(b).
 - (iii) When brackets do not have equal numbers of teams, results within brackets cannot be directly compared because teams will not have played the same number of games. The method of comparing teams between brackets with unequal numbers of teams is specified in (F)(5)(c).
- (b) **Equal Brackets:** When all brackets have the same number of teams playing the same number of games, the first criterion for advancing teams is the number of points earned. If there is a tie in the number of points, the tie will be broken by applying the criteria from (F)(3)(a)(ii) through (F)(3)(a)(vi), in the order shown. The criteria will be applied until the teams have been sorted. If a tie-breaker only sorts some of the tied teams, the teams remaining tied will be compared by restarting the tie-breaker comparison with (F)(3)(a)(ii) until all slots in the next round have been filled.
- (c) **Unequal Brackets:** When not all brackets have the same number of teams and a comparison is made across brackets, the teams will be compared using the following criteria in the order shown:
 - (i) Average points per game: determined by dividing a team's total points earned in bracket play by the number of games the team has played.
 - (ii) Average goal difference: determined by dividing a team's total goal difference (using a maximum of four (4) goals difference per game counted both for and against) by the number of games a team has played (e.g., team A plays 3 games with a +3, +2, and -1 goal difference in each game. The total goal difference is +4. The average goal difference is $4/3=1.33$. Team B plays 2 games with a goal difference of +3 and - for a total goal difference of +3. The average goal difference for team B is $3/2=1.5$. In a comparison between team A and team B, team B would advance based on a superior average goal difference).
 - (iii) Average goals allowed: determined by dividing the total number of goals allowed by the number of games played.
 - (iv) Average goals scored: determined by dividing the total number of goals scored by the number of games played.
 - (v) The criteria in this section (F)(5)(c) will be applied until the tied teams have been sorted. If a tie-breaker only sorts some of the tied teams, the teams remaining tied will be compared by restarting the tie-breaker comparison with (F)(5)(c)(i) until all slots in the next round have been filled.
- (d) **Wildcard Placement:** Wildcard teams will be ranked based on points earned in bracket play and the application of tie-breakers as required. Wildcard teams will be seeded into knockout matchups based on their rank, except that no team will be matched against a team it has already played in its preliminary bracket.

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(6) Coin Toss

- (a) If all the tie-breakers and team comparisons specified in (F)(4), (F)(5)(b), or (F)(5)(c), as appropriate, have been applied and a tie remains, any remaining ties will be determined by a coin toss conducted by the Tournament Director. In any coin toss, the higher seeded team will select heads or tails before the Tournament Director tosses the coin.

(7) Breaking Ties in Knockout Rounds

- (a) When a game in a knockout round (quarterfinal, semifinal, final) ends in a tie, the winner will be determined by Kicks from the Penalty Mark in accordance with IFAB Laws of the Game. No overtime will be played.

(G) Failing to Play, Suspended Matches, and Abandoned Matches

(1) Failing to Play a Match

- (a) A team fails to play a match when a team does not have the required minimum number of players and coaches/team officials at the location of a scheduled match, checked-in with the United Cup Printed Match Roster, to begin the game within 10 minutes after the official match start time.
- (b) The result of the game will be scored as a forfeit by the team that failed to play.
- (c) The Tournament Director will review the circumstances of any failure to play forfeiture.
 - (i) The Tournament Director may impose additional penalties, up to and including the removal of a team from the tournament. If a team is removed from the tournament, all of the team's scheduled games (played or un-played) will be scored as forfeits.

(2) Play Suspended by Referee or Tournament

- (a) If the first half of the match has been completed, the match will be considered completed and the result considered final.
- (b) Matches that are not played or have completed less than one half of play will be scored so that neither team receives points towards standings from the match.
- (c) The referee must include information about the suspended play in their Match Report.

(3) Matches Abandoned for Failing to Maintain Minimum Number of Players

- (a) If at least one full half has been completed, a match abandoned by a referee for a team's failure to maintain the minimum number of players (5) on the field will stand as a completed match.
 - (i) If the team that failed to maintain the minimum number of players has fewer goals at the time of abandonment, the score at abandonment will be the final score of the match.
 - (ii) If the team that failed to maintain the minimum number of players has more goals at the time of abandonment, the match will be scored as a forfeit by that team.
 - (iii) If the team that failed to maintain the minimum number of players is tied at the time of abandonment, the match will be scored as forfeit by that team.
- (b) If one full half has not been completed, a match abandoned for a team's failure to maintain the minimum number of players on the field will be considered forfeit by that team.

(4) Matches Abandoned for Refusing to Continue Playing

- (a) A team that forces a referee to abandon a match by refusing to continue to play after the match has begun will forfeit the match and may be subject to additional penalties.
- (b) If a team refuses to continue a match after a coach is sent-off, and there is another eligible adult for the team present at the match, the team will be removed from the tournament.
 - (i) When a team is removed from the tournament during a quarterfinal or semifinal match, the opponent will automatically advance to the next round.
 - (ii) When a team is removed from the tournament during the final match, the team will not be eligible to receive any awards that go to a tournament finalist.

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(5) Matches Abandoned for Behavior

- (a) When a match is abandoned due to the conduct of coaches, team officials, players, or spectators, the team or teams at fault will forfeit the match and may be subject to additional penalties.
- (b) If both teams are found to be at fault, the game will be scored as a 0-0 draw and a forfeit by both teams so that neither team gains any points towards standings from the result.
- (c) The Tournament Director may impose additional penalties, up to and including, removing a team (or teams) found to be at fault from the tournament.

(6) Table of Penalties in addition to Forfeit

Offence	Penalty
Failure to play a game – 2 nd offence	Remove from Cup
Abandoned Game – Behavior – 2 nd offence	Remove from Cup
Abandoned Game – Refusing to Continue Playing – 2 nd offence	Remove from Cup
Abandoned Game – Refusing to Continue Playing after coach expulsion [Policy (G)(4)(b)]	Remove from Cup
Ineligible Player – Suspended – 2 nd offence	Remove from Cup
Ineligible Player - Registration	Remove from Cup
Removal from Cup	Forfeit entry fee Forfeit all games
Referee abuse by player, coach/team official, or spectator	Remove from Cup
Referee assault by player, coach/team official, or spectator	Remove from Cup

(H) Match Suspensions for Individuals

(1) List of Minimum Suspensions

- (a) Minimum suspensions that apply without a disciplinary hearing are listed in the table below.
 - (i) Where a suspension range is shown, the Disciplinary Committee will set the length.

Offense	Suspension
Player sent-off for a second caution received in the same match	1 match
Player sent-off for denying a goal or obvious goal-scoring opportunity by committing a handball offence	1 match
Player sent-off for denying a goal or obvious goal-scoring opportunity by committing a foul	1 match
Player sent-off for serious foul play	1-3 matches
Player sent-off for offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures (OIALG)	1-5 matches
Player sent-off for Violent Conduct	1-3 matches
Coach or team official sent off	1-5 matches
Coach or team official refused to leave game site after being sent-off (added to suspension for sending-off)	2 matches – rest of cup
Refusing to give name to referee by player/coach when a card is recorded (added to other suspension)	1 match

(2) Disciplinary Result of a Suspended/Ineligible Player or Coach Participating

- (a) A team will forfeit every match in which a suspended (or otherwise ineligible) player or coach participates.
 - (i) The suspended (or otherwise ineligible) individual who participated in the match(es) will be subject to additional disciplinary action.

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(3) Other Suspension Details

- (a) A suspension of up to 3 games may be assessed for each game in which a player or coach participated while suspended may be imposed.
- (b) A coach who forces the abandonment of a match by removing a team from play after the match has begun will be suspended from participation with any team for the remainder of the tournament.
- (c) A coach who forces abandonment of a match by refusing to leave the premises of the match after being sent-off by the referee will be suspended from participation with any team for the remainder of the tournament. The coach will also be referred to OYSA for consideration of additional penalties.
- (d) A player who has been sent-off for fighting, or who has received a second red card for violent conduct during the tournament will be suspended for the remainder of the current year's tournament.
- (e) The Tournament Director will refer any issues regarding participation by an unregistered or improperly registered player to OYSA for disciplinary proceedings.
- (f) Any allegations of referee abuse or referee assault will be forwarded to the home State Association of the alleged perpetrator for disciplinary proceedings in accordance with USSF policy.
- (g) Any player or team official who is alleged to have committed referee assault will be suspended from further participation in the current year's tournament until after the individual's home State Association conducts a hearing on the charge of referee assault, in accordance with USSF Policy 531-9.

(4) Suspensions Imposed After Disciplinary Hearing

- (a) A coach who knowingly permits a suspended player to participate will be suspended for the remainder of the current year's tournament.
- (b) A coach who knowingly permits an ineligible player to participate will be suspended for the remainder of the current year's tournament.
- (c) A coach or other team official who brings the game into disrepute may be suspended up to the remainder of the tournament when the person engages in any of the following conduct:
 - (i) Stating publicly in the vicinity of a match that match officials or assignors have engaged in improper conduct, such as taking payment from an opponent, displaying bias towards players, coaches, or teams because of ethnic origin, race, religion, or gender;
 - (ii) Making public statements at—or in the vicinity of—a match which question the integrity of the tournament or match officials;
 - (iii) Removing a team from a match after play has begun because of disagreements with officiating or the other team;
 - (iv) Causing a team to not make a good faith effort to compete in a match.

(5) Conditions of Suspension

- (a) Coaches serving suspensions cannot participate in any game activities related to the team from which they were suspended.
 - (i) Coaches are prohibited from participating in any pre-match and post-match activities and must remain out of sight of the match during matches they are suspended from.
 - (ii) The use of any electronic device by the suspended coach or team official to contact another individual on the team during pre-match, match, or post-match activities is prohibited.
- (b) Suspensions not served during the USYS United Cup tournament in the current seasonal year carry over into USYS United Cup competitions in the next seasonal year(s).

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(I) Withdrawing from Tournament - Refunds and Penalties

(1) Refunds or Penalties due to Withdrawal from Tournament

Withdrawal Date	Refund	Penalty
Before entry deadline	Full refund	N/A
After entry deadline	N/A	Forfeit entry fee

(J) Protests, Appeals, Hearings

(1) No Protests

- (a) There will be no protests accepted. Decisions of the referee during play are final. Decisions of Tournament Director regarding all tournament matters are final.

(2) No Appeals

- (a) There will be no appeals accepted relating to send-offs. Decisions made by the referee exercising their judgement during a match are not subject to appeal.

(3) Review

- (a) A decision of the Tournament Director imposing a disciplinary suspension is not subject to appeal unless a suspension would extend to an individual's right to participate in competitions beyond the USYS United Cup.

(K) Powers of Tournament Director

(1) Powers

- (a) Decide all contested scores and other matters pertaining to the operation of the tournament.
- (b) Determine all questions of eligibility for players and teams to participate in the tournament.
- (c) Make final decisions whether to accept teams into the tournament.
- (d) Provide written notice of fines imposed in accordance with these policies.
- (e) Decide all disciplinary matters that do not require a hearing and may impose sanctions up to and including suspension from participation in the tournament.
- (f) May appoint a Protest and Appeals Committee to:
- (i) Hear and decide all protests, if permitted
 - (ii) Decide all appeals from send-offs and expulsions during the tournament, if permitted
 - (iii) Decide disciplinary matters that may exceed minimum suspensions.
- (g) Provide written notice of the disciplinary sanctions imposed for sanctions other than the automatically imposed minimum sanctions for cards issued in a match.
- (h) Arrange for a hearing on all matters that require a hearing under these policies, the applicable bylaws and policies of OYSA, or the applicable policies of the USSF.
- (i) Refer matters to OYSA for additional disciplinary proceedings when the Tournament Director believes that behavior warrants penalties that exceed the Tournament Director's authority.
- (j) Decisions of the Tournament Director regarding the conduct of the tournament, application of tournament rules and policies, and interpretation of tournament rules and policies are not subject to appeal.
- (k) The Tournament Director may delegate performance of any one or more of the powers and/or duties of the Tournament Director described in these policies to one or more persons that the Tournament Director designates.
- (l) The person(s) exercising any of the powers or authority delegated by the Tournament Director shall have all of the power and authority of the Tournament Director in regard to such matters.