

Frequently Asked Questions

US Youth Soccer National Championship Series Policy Rules 101 & 221

1. Have there been any rules changes adopted for next year's Cup competitions?

Yes. Effective September 1, 2005, Rules 101 and 221 of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series Policy (the Cup Policy rules) require that a team have a team roster AND a game roster. This requirement applies to all teams, regardless of age.

2. How many players can I have on my team roster?

Effective September 1, 2005, Rule 221, section 3(1), of that Policy provides that a team may not have more than 18 players on its team roster in the Under 14, Under 15, and Under 16 age groups and no more than 22 players on its team roster for the Under 17, Under 18, and Under 19 age groups. This means that an Under 17, Under 18, or Under 19 team has a right to have up to 22 players on its team roster, and a team in the younger age groups has a right to up to 18 players on its team roster. A team may not have fewer than 7 players on its team roster at any given time during the seasonal year.

3. How many players can I have on my game roster?

Effective September 1, 2005, Rule 221, section 3(2), of that Policy provides that a game roster may not have more than 18 players, and not less than 7 players, on its game roster for each match. These requirements apply to all age groups. The players of a team on the game roster must be players on that team's team roster. For a team in the Under 17 and older age groups having more than 18 players on its team roster, see the next question and answer about designating which players play in a particular match.

4. What do I use as my game roster and how do I designate which players play in a match?

Your competition authority will decide what to use as your game roster and how to designate which players play in a particular match. However, the following is recommended for ease of administration and verification, eliminating the need for filling out additional forms that could likely greatly increase the opportunity for errors:

(1) For Under 16 and younger age group teams, that can only have 18 players on their team rosters, let the team use its team roster, copied on a color of paper other than the color of paper used for the team roster. Have the team add the following at the top of the roster form:

GAME ROSTER FOR -----

Have the team fill in the date of the game in the blank space.

(2) For Under 17 and older age group teams, have the teams do the same as in the case of the younger age group teams, with the following additional

requirement: If the team roster has more than 18 players, then have the coach strike through the lines with the names and information about the players that are not playing that particular game, and initial each line stricken through, leaving at most 18 players on the game roster. That way you will automatically have the team roster and game roster on the same form and will have no need to compare the team roster with the game roster.

5. When do I submit my game roster?

The team may name only up to 18 players on its game roster for each match and those players must be designated on the game roster at a time set by the State Association for US Youth Soccer State Cup play, and at a time set by your US Youth Soccer Region for Regional Championship play, but that time may not be later than 60 minutes prior to each scheduled game in National Championships play.

6. Who do I submit my game roster to?

Teams shall submit their game rosters to the competition authority (or a person designated by the competition authority) at the time designated by the competition authority (see the prior question and answer), which will be at least 60 minutes prior to each scheduled game in National Championships play.

7. What is the fewest amount of players allowed on a roster?

Teams may not allow fewer than 7 players on either its team roster or game roster at any given time during the seasonal year.

8. Is it mandatory to have 22 players on the team roster for older age groups?

This change does not mandate that each Under 17 or older team must carry 22 players, but does allow a team the flexibility to do so in the Under 17 and older age groups.

9. Who is responsible for approving my rosters?

The team roster shall be approved by the State Association where the team resides. The game roster does not need approval; however, it must comply with the requirements of Rule 221, section 3, as explained in the prior questions and answers.