



US Youth Soccer

National Directors Cup

Welcome

WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS!

Your team is about to embark on a once in a lifetime experience as you take part in the restart of this national event that will create memories you will never forget. As a way to prepare you for this history-making journey, the US Youth Soccer National Directors Cup Committee has written this letter to welcome, congratulate and prepare you for this national event. To help you navigate through the information, you can make reference to three different sections: Preparing Your Team, What to Expect and General Expectations and Advice.

In 2003, the Directors Cup was envisioned to be an event that would provide teams from every US Youth Soccer State Association, who did not consistently participate at the national level.

Each of US Youth Soccer's four regions has chosen the selection process in which teams are chosen to advance to the Directors Cup. This year, half of you have been designated to attend this event based on specific needs of your region, and the other half have won regional events designed to produce a specific champion to test itself against the other regions in order to produce a Directors Cup Champion. Regardless of the path you took to qualify for the Directors Cup, you are here because of the strong competition you and your team brings to the field. The selection process will be solidified with standard requirement in future years, but this year we are plowing new ground and using flexibility as our motto as we restart and crown the champions.

Preparing Your Team - The Directors Cup Committee has designated a representative from each region to help you and your team throughout the tournament to keep up-to-date on the most recent and factual information regarding scheduling and other tournament details. The representatives and the chairman of the Directors Cup are the only ones who are guaranteed to have the most current information. You will meet the Directors Cup representatives at check-in, so be sure to remember their faces. There will be volunteers from Kirkwood and Delaware Youth Soccer onsite as well to assist you with minor questions about the facility.

Summary:

- Team Eligibility**
- Rosters and Player/Coach IDs**
- Hotel Reservations**
- Travel Arrangements**
- Adapting to the Weather**

Team Eligibility - The Directors Cup is a closed competition with only teams qualified by competition authorities through the Directors Cup Regional Qualifiers, whose players are properly registered with US

Youth Soccer through a State Association, who have qualified as described in the section above, and if the team complies with all of the following requirements:

- The team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered youth players (as defined by US Youth Soccer).
- The team must be in good standing with its State Association and must be in compliance with, and have not violated, any of the bylaws and policies of US Youth Soccer.
- Teams will be qualified to compete in the Directors Cup by winning the Directors Cup Regional Competition. The Directors Cup Regional Qualifying competition authority may choose a replacement from among the finalists of the region competition to compete in the Directors Cup should the winner be unable to attend.
- There shall be one team from each region of US Youth Soccer for each age group and each gender.

Rosters - Each club will provide a Directors Cup roster with no more than 18 players for Under-14 through Under-16 age groups. For Under-17, the roster will consist of 22 players. State Associations must supply a roster reflecting the players registered for the state level event which the Directors Cup Committee can use to determine compliance with the following:

- Rosters will have a continuity that includes at least 50 percent + 1 of the players who participated in the Directors Cup Regional Qualifiers. No player added to a team after the regional competition is completed shall be previously rostered to a US Youth Soccer National Championship Series team.
- Rosters **MUST** be legible and signed by the State Association registrar.
- Players **MUST** be listed in alphabetical order, last name first.
- Jersey Numbers **MUST** be listed on the roster.
- All players will have a uniquely numbered jersey that coincides with the roster.
- No team shall be allowed more than 18/22 (respectively) players on its roster.
- Team bench personnel (maximum of four people) will have, **AND** must display on their person, the identification passes provided by the Directors Cup. Passes must be easily visible and should be worn using the lanyards provided with the passes.

Player/Coach Passes – Each player and team official listed on a team roster must carry the US Youth Soccer member pass with a current photograph of the player or team official, as the case may be, and prior to check-in, must be signed by that player or team official and the appropriate official of the State Association and laminated. Team officials (not PLAYERS) over the age of 17, must provide proof they have been approved by their State Risk Management Committee at check-in.

NO PLAYER/COACHES PASS, NO PLAY, NO EXCEPTIONS!

Hotel Reservations – All hotel reservations must be made through the Directors Cup. In anticipation of your participation, the Directors Cup Committee entered into a significant contract with hotels near the field to secure you and your team rooms convenient to the event location. This contract must be honored, and it is your responsibility to abide by this guideline. Upon check-in Thursday night and before approval of participation in the Directors Cup, your team is required to provide proof that you have taken residence in one of the hotels designated by the Directors Cup. There will no exceptions to this rule.

Travel Arrangement - Travel to the tournament is up to you. We suggest you make those reservations as soon as you get home tomorrow. Airline reservations should be made into Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which is only 25 minutes north of Kirkwood. An alternative would be Baltimore, Maryland, about 45 minutes south of Kirkwood.

You should plan on arriving no later than 1:00 p.m., Thursday July 17, 2008, and departing no earlier than 5:00 p.m., Sunday, July 20, 2008, to provide adequate travel time and still be able to fully participate in all games and activities for the Directors Cup.

A reminder to you: Team travel in 16-passenger vans is not acceptable. There have been entirely too many unfortunate incidents involving these vehicles and you are encouraged when renting vans to attend the Directors Cup, keep safety as your top priority.

Adapting to the Weather - Finally, get your team ready for summer play. Kirkwood, Delaware, has terrific grass surfaces set in a beautiful setting. It is, however, July. That means it will be hot. Kirkwood is located near the Atlantic Ocean and the Delaware River, which make humidity an inevitable factor. So, make sure your players begin to hydrate their bodies starting Monday, July 14, to help avoid heat related illnesses.

A Medical Trainer will be on hand to deal with injury and illnesses. They will be available to wrap ankles if the player provides the tape, but will be served on a first come, first served, basis. Their duty is first to injured players and they will not take appointments at any point throughout the event. In case of any emergency, the local fire department will respond within five minutes to any call from the field.

WHAT TO EXPECT

**Summary: Team Check-in
Schedule for the Weekend**

Team Check-in – All teams are required to check-in on Thursday, July 17, 2008, and the Directors Cup Host Hotel, Christiania Hilton. It is only necessary for one representative per team to attend check-in, but you may have more present if you choose. Having all paperwork organized and in order will speed up the process for all 32 teams who must check-in.

Necessary items for check-in consist of signed and notarized Medical Release Forms for the current year for each player, as well as, a laminated player pass with picture and player signature for all players and coaches. Putting the passes in alphabetical order will again, help to speed up the check-in process. You must provide six copies of your current roster, which includes players added just for the Directors Cup, and one copy of the original roster for the team, which must be dated prior to February 15, 2008. All rosters must have the signature of the State Registrar; do not settle for signatures from your club or local organization.

As mentioned earlier, you will be provided with four bench passes per team upon check-in. Passes must be worn on the lanyard provided and be visible at all times. Persons not displaying the passes will not be allowed in the Technical Areas. Teams will sit on one sideline; with spectators located on the opposite touch line. Please note the seating arrangements to be followed on the Field Map.

Each team will play four games, a copy of your roster, certified by Directors Cup Committee, must be provided by your team, along with ALL player/coach IDs, to your referee prior to each game. Roster should indicate the jersey numbers of each player, and for Under-17 teams, the eligible 18 players for the match. Under-17 players ineligible for the match should have their player cards in their possession on the bench. The Directors Cup will keep two copies when you check-in, and will return the four you need with the appropriate approval affixed before you leave check-in.

Schedule for the Weekend - All games will be played at the Kirkwood Soccer Club. A map to drive to the facility is located at this internet address: <http://www.kirkwoodsoccer.org/map2.GIF>. Game schedules

and Field Maps for the entire weekend are included in this packet of information and at <http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/directorscup/>.

All teams will play one game on Friday, attend the Team Event on Friday evening, play two games on Saturday, and based on the outcome of those games, play in either the Championship or Consolation Game on Sunday Morning.

Coaches will attend a reception hosted by US Youth Soccer Regional Directors on Saturday night at the Christiania Hilton. Please plan on having enough adult supervision for your team to attend this fun event.

All teams are required to attend the awards ceremony. Immediately following your final game, your team must depart the playing field and arrive at Field 14 as quickly as possible. A staging area will be set up so your players can get off their feet, under shade and be ready to promptly move to the stage when announced. All participants will receive an award, and parents will have the opportunity to take photos during the ceremony. However, keeping on schedule is imperative for some teams to uphold tight travel schedules. Please help us to respect all travel plans by holding your post game discussion until after the awards ceremony and by arriving at the awards stage promptly after your last game is finished. We want this to be an exciting experience for all, and being rushed for time will hinder that hope.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS AND ADVICE

Summary: **Behavior and Sportsmanship**
 Player Event
 Parking
 Field Usage

Behavior and Sportsmanship– The Directors Cup was designed to give teams that do not travel on a regular basis within the US Youth Soccer National League and Premier Leagues to meet and compete against those from other regions. We know that traveling long distances as a team is a new experience for many who are attending the Directors Cup. However, to qualify for 100 percent of the travel stipend provided by your regional director and US Youth Soccer, the behavior of every team member, coach, and parent will be considered. Expect any interaction with hotel personnel, tournament management or Local Organizing Committee volunteers to be reported to the Directors Cup Committee. We expect the very best behavior from all involved in this event and will not hesitate to take extraordinary steps if faced with less than perfect manners and attitudes. This applies to sportsmanlike behavior on the field, respect for referees and opposing coaches, as well as, interaction with anyone who is working to make your team's experience the best it possibly can be in the Directors Cup. Above all, we expect and demand the proper respect for an opponent on the pitch.

Player Entertainment - The player entertainment event on Friday evening will include dinner. This is an opportunity for trading pins, memorabilia and making new friends. Make a point to provide each of your players with something that has meaning to the team or club your represent or the State and Region you come from. This is a tradition at most events of this stature and will provide players with lasting memories. Another thing to note for this event is to have a parent or two circulate with the players throughout the evening to take pictures for a memory.

Parking - The complex has more than adequate parking for this tournament. Nevertheless, if you have the later game there will be some crowding and we do not want to take the chance of missing a start time. Therefore, allot enough time from your hotel, park and give the players time to take part in pre-game warm-ups.

Field Usage – Kirkwood Soccer Club is currently rehabilitating all the fields not used by this tournament, and will take the ones we use on Monday out of service. Therefore, please respect the following information and make your team aware of these rules:

- Do not use any field area for warm-ups except the one you are scheduled to play on.
- Do not use any goal mouth for keeper warm-ups.
- Field 1,3,12 and 13 have fresh sod and playing on them will cost your club.
- Do not play on the 3v3 fields. They were never meant to be used for big kids, so keep your team off of them.