



WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS!

Your team is about to embark on a once in a lifetime experience, a real memory maker, an experience that will never be forgotten. As a way to prepare you for this history-making journey, the US Youth Soccer Presidents 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.

The US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup provides a progressive, competitive experience to US Youth Soccer teams from the state to regional to national level. The Presidents Cup gives players an additional opportunity to compete against teams from across the country at a high level for the joy and the challenge of the game. It provides the chance to experience a unique US Youth Soccer event with camaraderie, community and competition through sport. 2009 is the first year that each Region will qualify teams through a playoff system which the Presidents Cup Committee anticipates will create a very consistent and high quality competition.

PREPARING YOUR TEAM

Each of the Regions has dedicated a person to help you and your team throughout the tournament. These are the members of the Presidents Cup Committee. Communication about the tournament will be through each Regions Committee Representative and your head coach. Here are the *rules* as to changes in your rosters following Regional Play and prior to Nationals:

Team Eligibility -- *The Presidents Cup competitions is a closed competition with only teams qualified by competition authorities through the 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:*

- A. *The team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered youth players (as defined by US Youth Soccer).*
- B. *The team must be in good standing with its State Association and must be in compliance with, and has not violated, any of the bylaws and policies of US Youth Soccer.*
- C. *Teams will be qualified to compete in the Presidents Cup by winning their Regional Competition. The Regional Qualifying competition authority may choose a replacement from among the finalists of the region competition to compete in the Presidents 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 Presidents Cup roster with no more than eighteen (18) players for U14 and U15. For U16 and U17 the roster will consist of Twenty-two (22) players. State Associations must supply a roster reflecting the players registered for the State level event which the Presidents Cup Committee can use to determine compliance with the following:*

- A. *Rosters will have a continuity that includes at least 65% + 1 of the players who participated in the Regional Qualifiers for Presidents Cup. No player added to a team after the Regional competition is completed shall be previously rostered to a US Youth Soccer National Championship team.*
- B. *Rosters MUST be legible and signed by the State Association Registrar.*
- C. *Players MUST be listed in alphabetical order, last name first.*
- D. *Jersey Numbers MUST be listed on the Roster.*
- E. *All players will have a uniquely numbered jersey that matches the roster.*
- F. *No team shall be allowed more than 18/22 players on its roster.*
- G. *Team bench personnel (maximum of four (4) people) will have AND display on their person in a fashion that is easy to see on the lanyard provided, the identification passes provided by the US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup.*

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 be signed by that player or team official and the appropriate official of the State Association, and laminated prior to check in.

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

Proper documentation of your team from your State Association is essential. If your state association is unfamiliar with this competition, fax them a copy of this letter and ask them to contact one of these individuals for additional instructions.

Region I – Ray White – Cell 857-272-3088
 Region II – David Flanagan – Cell 414-491-0444
 Region III – Pearse Tormey – Cell 864-449-6392
 Region IV – Joe Ver – Cell 907-209-4826

Your state association must sign off on the final roster. They must provide a roster that includes your players added for the National event that certifies the additions were not participants in the US Youth Soccer National Championship State play.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

MUST BE MADE THROUGH THE PRESIDENTS CUP. Teams are required to stay in the hotels contracted by US Youth Soccer and there are no exceptions. Partners In Team Travel will arrange for rooms for your team. Contact PITT by calling 919-870-9755 x 105 or on the web with a 2-step process by registering your team at https://www.partnersinteamtravel.com/usyspresident2009_registration.htm and providing secure payment information at https://www.partnersinteamtravel.com/usyspresident2009_payment.htm. If you use the web simply complete the information for the first room if you are not making a team reservation, and PITT will piece the rooming list together. If you are making team arrangements just follow the instructions. When those arrangements are complete, notify your Regional Rep at the number above of your hotel arrangements. We have anticipated and booked enough rooms to satisfy the needs of the tournament in hotels near the fields. Upon check-in on Thursday night, teams are required to prove they have registered and taken residence in one of the hotels provided by the Presidents Cup before they will be approved for participation in the tournament.

TRAVEL

Airline reservations should be made into Raleigh, North Carolina. Travel is at your own expense. You should plan on arriving no later than 5:00 PM Thursday July 16, 2009, and departing no earlier than 3:00 PM Sunday, July 19, 2009 to provide adequate travel time and still participate fully in the Presidents Cup. A reminder to you: Team travel in 16 passenger vans is not acceptable. When renting vans to attend Presidents Cup be sure you are renting 12 passenger or less vans.

ADAPTING TO THE WEATHER

First, get your team ready for summer play. Raleigh's WRAL Soccer Complex has grass surfaces and two turf fields, in a great venue setting. It is generally well shaded, however it is high summer and we expect the heat to be turned up! It will be humid. Make sure your players begin to hydrate their bodies starting Sunday, July 12, to help avoid heat related illnesses.

TRAINERS

A Medical Trainer will be available to deal with injury and illnesses. The local fire department responds within five minutes to a call from the field. Trainers will be available for wrapping, if the player provides the tape, on a first come, first served basis. Injury and illness take priority, and they will not take reservations.

CHECK-IN FOR PRESIDENTS CUP

There is a REQUIRED Check-In for all teams on Thursday, July 16, 2009 at the WRAL Soccer Complex. One individual only need attend the check-in.

During Check-In you will need these documents for each player/coach;

- A laminated player pass with picture and player signature for each player and coach.
- A signed Medical Release Form for the current year for each player.
- Put them in alphabetical order.
- Six copies of your current roster
- One copy of the original roster for the team dated for Check In from your Regional competition.
- All rosters must have the signature of the State Registrar, do not settle on just having signatures from your club or local organization.

At Check-In each team will be provided four Bench-Passes. These Passes must be worn about the neck on the lanyard provided and be visible at all times. Persons not displaying these passes will not be allowed in the Technical Areas. Teams will sit on one touch line; spectators on the opposite touch line.

Each team will play four games, a copy of your roster certified by Presidents Cup Committee will be provided by your team, along with ALL of your Player/Coach ID's, to your referee prior to each game, indicating the jersey numbers of each player, and for U16 and U17 teams the eligible 18 players for the match. U16 and U17 players ineligible for the match should have their player cards in their possession on the bench. The Presidents Cup will keep two copies of your roster when you check in, returning the four you need for games with the appropriate approval affixed before you leave check-in.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND

All games will be played at the CASL WRAL Soccer Complex. A map to drive to the facility is located at this internet address <http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/presidentscup/index.asp> Game schedules and Field Maps for the entire weekend is included in this packet of information. 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.

ALL TEAMS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE AWARDS CEREMONY. Your team needs to promptly depart your playing field and as quickly as possible arrive for the awards ceremony. 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 your age group is called. There are awards for all participants, and parents will have a chance for photos here. DO NOT TAKE TIME TO DISCUSS

THE GAME WITH YOUR TEAM AT THE FIELD AFTER THE GAME. MANY PEOPLE ARE DEPENDING ON YOU TO GET YOUR TEAM TO THE RIGHT PLACE PROMPTLY. There will be time after the ceremony for a final talk with your players.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

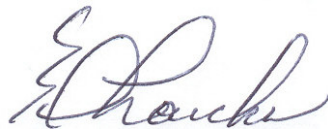
To qualify for 100% of the travel stipend provided by your Regional Director and US Youth Soccer, the behavior of every team member, coach, and parent will be considered. Expect any interaction with hotel personnel, tournament management, or Local Organizing Committee Volunteers to be considered by the Presidents Cup Committee when these calculations are made. We expect the very best behavior from all involved in this event, including parents, 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, and interaction with anyone who is working to make your teams experience happen in North Carolina. Above all, we expect and demand the proper respect for an opponent on the pitch. Go over with your team how to stop play for an injured player and the proper restart that respects the injury. Discuss with them how to march in the opening parade, how to win with honor, and lose with dignity. As much as 100% of your travel support could be forfeited in the event of poor behavior.

PLAYER ENTERTAINMENT

The player entertainment event on Friday evening will include dinner. This is an opportunity for trading pins, memorabilia, T-Shirts, names and phone numbers. Make a point to provide each of your players with something that has meaning to the team or club you represent, the State and Region you come from. Most players participating in the other National level events US Youth Soccer hosts report this is the players best memory of the event. Have a parent or two circulate with the players to take pictures for a memory book during the evening, it will have a profound impact on them later when they look back at it.

Again, Congratulations and enjoy the tournament!

Sincerely,



Ed Loucks
Chairman US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup Committee

Encl: Presidents Cup Commitment Form
Presidents Cup Code of Conduct
Presidents Cup Rules
Presidents Cup Schedule