



**US Youth Soccer
National Presidents Cup**

Rules of the Competition

Effective: April 15, 2019

RULES OF PLAY

Except as otherwise provided herein, FIFA Laws of the Game shall apply as modified by US Youth Soccer.

PLAYER PARTICIPATION

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

TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT / UNUSUAL SITUATIONS / MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors, interpretation of the rules, or any other dispute or protest concerning the National Presidents Cup competition shall be referred to the National Presidents Cup Committee. All decisions of the National Presidents Cup Committee are final.

The National Presidents Cup Committee has the authority to modify any of the Rules of the Competition as deemed necessary to ensure the orderly progression of the event. The National Presidents Cup Committee shall also determine any matter not provided for in any National Presidents Cup rule, policy or procedure. Any decision of the National Presidents Cup Committee shall be final.

DISCIPLINE

Players ejected, or team personnel removed from a match shall be automatically suspended for the next match. The National Presidents Cup committee will review all such dismissals and may impose additional penalties, suspensions or other punishment depending on the circumstances and severity of the infraction.

Players ejected from a match may continue to sit in the technical/bench area unless removed by the referee for inappropriate behavior once they have been sent to the bench.

If a player is removed from the technical/bench area they must be accompanied by a credentialed team staff member. A National Presidents Cup committee member, Tournament official or State representative will escort the player and team staff member to a waiting area.

Team personnel dismissed must leave the vicinity of the field before the match will be restarted.

Players who are serving a disciplinary suspension may occupy the bench in the technical area while dressed in street clothes. If additional disciplinary situations occur in which a suspended player is involved, the National Presidents Cup Committee will impose additional penalties, suspensions or other punishment to be served either during the event or the following season of play.

Coaches serving a disciplinary suspension may attend team activities during the suspension as a spectator only. No communication with players or team management is permitted during the suspended match(s). Any violations will result in additional disciplinary action being taken by the National Presidents Cup Committee, including but not limited to additional suspensions and/or recommendations to the home state association.

MATCH MANIPULATION

Teams failing to compete in the spirit of the competition or are involved in the manipulation of a game result are subject to forfeiture and disqualification from all levels of the National Presidents Cup competition.

- If failing to compete is observed and confirmed, the competition authority representative will give notice to the offending team or teams.
- If corrective action is not taken, the team or teams will be subject to disqualification.

DURATION OF MATCHES

Age Group	Game Length	Halftime	Overtime Periods (Championships only)
13U	Two 35 minute halves	10 minutes	Two 10 minute periods
14U	Two 35 minute halves	10 minutes	Two 10 minute periods
15U	Two 40 minute halves	10 minutes	Two 15 minute periods
16U	Two 40 minute halves	10 minutes	Two 15 minute periods
17U	Two 45 minute halves	10 minutes	Two 15 minute periods
18U	Two 45 minute halves	10 minutes	Two 15 minute periods

SCORING METHOD

The standings of teams are based upon the number of points earned in qualifying matches. Teams earn points as follows: Three (3) points for a win (including forfeits, which are considered a 4-0 victory), One (1) point for a tie and Zero (0) points for a loss.

TIE BREAKERS

In the event teams are tied on the basis of points earned, the team's placement will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria.

1. Winner in head-to-head competition (this criterion is not used if more than two teams are tied.)
2. Winner of most games. The team with the most wins advances.
3. Highest goal difference (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum differential of four (4) goals difference per match counted both for and against. For example, if the score were 8-3, the calculation would be +4 goals for the winning team, -4 goals for the losing team. If the score were 6-4, the calculation would be +2 goals for the winning team and -2 goals for the losing team.
4. Fewest goals allowed. The team with the fewest total goals allowed advances.
5. Kicks from the penalty mark.

Note: If more than two teams are tied, the sequence above will be followed until a team is eliminated. In a situation where three teams remain tied, a draw between tied teams will be conducted by the Tournament Committee to determine an order of contest between tied teams. The first team drawn will receive the bye; the next team drawn will be the home team against the remaining team in the first contest of penalty kicks. The winner of the first contest will then compete against the bye team in penalty kicks to determine the winner. The bye team will be the home team.

Eleven players from the roster of the final match will be selected by each coach to participate, and a referee will be assigned to break the tie on a field assigned by the National Presidents Cup Committee.

Players ejected in the second or third match of the National Presidents Cup, or not listed on the game roster of the third match are not eligible to participate in the Kicks to Break Standings Tie.

If the score of a Championship match is tied at the end of the second half, there will be two overtime periods of 10 minutes each for play in the 13U and 14U age groups. If the score of a Championship match is tied at the end of the second half in the 15U, 16U, 17U and 18U age groups, there will be two overtime periods of 15 minutes each. There is no "Golden Goal" in any overtime period. If neither team scores during the two overtime periods, the winner will be determined by FIFA Kicks from The Penalty Mark.

If the score of a third-place match is tied at the end of the second half, no overtime periods will be played, and the winner will be determined by FIFA Kicks from The Penalty Mark.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions shall be unlimited and can be made with the consent of the referee during any stoppage of play, except Penalty Kicks.

MATCH BALLS

The National Presidents Cup Committee will supply match balls. In the unlikely event that the National President Cup Committee cannot provide match balls, the referee will make a choice from balls offered by both teams. All matches will be played using a size #5 ball.

UNIFORMS

Each team must have two (2) uniform sets (one light color and one dark color) at each match during the event. Generally accepted light colors include, but are not limited to: white, light grey, sand, sky blue, yellow, gold, pink, and light green. Generally accepted dark colors include, but are not limited to: black, dark grey, dark brown, navy blue, red, maroon, dark green, and deep purple.

- The home team is required to wear their light color jersey and light color socks
- The away team is required to wear their dark color jersey and dark color socks
- Matching shorts are not required

If, in the opinion of the Referee, there is a color conflict, the team causing the conflict must change.

GRACE PERIODS

Teams not ready to play at the scheduled start time of any match shall be granted a ten (10) minute grace period. A minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a team. All situations where a team is not ready to play will be assessed by the National Presidents Cup Committee.

TECHNICAL/BENCH AREA

Players and team officials will be in the technical/bench area on one side of the field. A maximum of four (4) team officials (i.e. coach, assistant coach, manager, or trainer) may be in the technical/bench area. Team officials must visibly display the Bench Pass provided by the National President's Cup Committee to be permitted on the team sideline. No coaching is allowed from other than the technical/bench area.

SPECTATORS

The parents and/or spectators affiliated with a team are considered a part of the team, and the actions of these individuals are the responsibility of the credentialed team officials appearing on the roster.

The spectator area is located on the opposite side of the field from the technical/bench area. No spectators are permitted anywhere behind the goal line during a match. The spectator area is behind the line marked 3 yards beyond the touchline and extends from a point 3 yards from the center line down to the corner flag. Spectators must remain in this area, in the half of the field directly across from their team's bench, subject to the following exception.

It is expected that respect for the game and players will prevail if a limited number of spectators wish to quietly observe the match in the far end of the opposing spectator section (for example, the Goalkeeper's parents). In the event of disruptive behavior by these spectators, a Referee or Tournament official may require them to return to their designated area and restrict any further sideline movement of spectators.

Technical instruction from any part of the spectator area, or provocative or unsportsmanlike behavior by any spectator may result in their removal from the complex. Any spectator asked to leave by a Referee or Tournament official must immediately depart the field area and remain out of sight and sound of the match until the teams have departed the field of play and are no longer the responsibility of the referee.

Whistles, air horns, megaphones and similar devices are prohibited at all National Presidents Cup competitions. Air horns are for use solely by tournament officials to signal when fields must be cleared due to inclement or dangerous weather conditions.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event that inclement weather affects the competition, the National Presidents Cup Committee reserves the right to make all decisions concerning this competition in order to ensure the orderly progression of the event. The decisions of the National Presidents Cup Committee are final, and not subject to appeal.

UNFINISHED MATCHES

If, as determined by the National Presidents Cup Committee, inclement weather affects the National Presidents Cup competition, the following rules will apply regarding play and the determination of a winning team, in the order stated:

- If play is suspended or the start of play is delayed, the Committee may eliminate overtime periods. If the match is tied at the conclusion of regulation playing time, the match will go immediately to FIFA Kicks from the Penalty Mark.
- The game length may be reduced to 70 minutes for the 17U and 18U age groups and 60 minutes for the 15U and 16U age groups. If the game is terminated beyond these times, the result of the game will stand. If the game is tied or does not reach those times, then advancement in the competition will be determined by FIFA Kicks from The Penalty Mark.
- If, in the opinion of the National Presidents Cup Committee, additional steps to assure the safe conclusion of the Presidents Cup competition are needed, those decisions will be communicated to all designated team coaches and/or managers before they are implemented.

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.

DOCUMENT CHANGE LOG

Date	Rule/Section	Change
4/1/17	Various	Changes to Substitution and Discipline rules, addition of USYS Match Manipulation Rule. General modifications for clarity and ease of comprehension.
10/7/17	Various	Added player participation restriction. Clarification of uniform requirements, various other changes for comprehension and clarity.
11/8/17		Addition of 18U age group.
1/10/18		Modifications to spectator behavior section.
4/12/18	Tiebreakers	Clarification on "Golden Goal"
7/31/2018	Various	Cleanup of wording of age group names
4/15/19	Cover	Update to US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup logo