



**US Youth Soccer
Presidents Cup**

Competition Rules

Effective: August 1, 2020



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RULE 101 SCOPE

The Rules of the Competitions provided herein apply to the US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup Regional and National levels of competition. Except as otherwise provided herein, IFAB Laws of the Game as modified by US Youth Soccer shall apply.

RULE 102 CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

All US Youth Soccer Concussion procedures and protocols, as well as any state or local laws regarding concussions, will be followed.

RULE 103 ADDITIONAL ROSTERED PLAYERS

A limited number of additional players may be added to the roster of teams advancing to the National Presidents Cup Regional and National levels of competition. See Rule 301 for Additional Rostered Player requirements.

RULE 104 PLAYER PARTICIPATION

A player may be rostered to only one team at each level of the National Presidents Cup competitions during a seasonal year. See Rule 302 for player eligibility requirements.

RULE 105 TEAM PARTICIPATION

Depending on the size of their State Association, teams may be subject to participation constraints. See Rule 303 for team eligibility requirements.

RULE 106 MATCH MANIPULATION

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

- 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.

RULE 107 ADMINISTRATION

Section 1 There shall be a National Presidents Cup Committee. The Committee is responsible for the entire administration of the National Presidents Cup competitions, subject to review by the Board of Directors.

Section 2 The National Presidents Cup Committee reserves the right to make all decisions concerning the National Presidents Cup competitions, keeping in mind the best interests of US Youth Soccer, the US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup, and the safety and welfare of the players, coaches, administrators, and spectators.

Section 3 Unless otherwise provided in this policy, the decisions of the National Presidents Cup Committee are final.



RULE 201 DISCIPLINE

Section 1 Players ejected or team officials dismissed from a match shall be automatically suspended for the next match. No substitution shall be permitted for a player who has been sent off during a match. The event 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.

Section 2 Players ejected from a match may continue to sit in the technical/bench area unless removed by the referee for inappropriate behavior after they have been ejected.

Section 3 If a player is removed from the technical/bench area they must be accompanied by a credentialed team official. An event Presidents Cup Committee member, Competition Official or Team/State Representative will escort the player and team official to a waiting area.

Section 4 Players who are serving a disciplinary suspension may sit on the team bench while dressed in street clothes and will be held responsible for their actions the same as any other participant. If additional disciplinary situations occur in which a suspended player is involved, the event Presidents Cup Committee will impose additional penalties, suspensions or other punishment to be served either during the event or the following season of play.

Section 5 Any team official dismissed must leave the vicinity of the field before the match will be restarted. The team official may not have any contact with the team until the referees have left the field after the match.

Section 6 Team officials 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 suspension. A dismissed team official that is rostered to more than one team in the competition shall serve their suspension during scheduled match(es) of the team with which the ejection occurred. Any violations will result in additional sanctions being imposed by the event Presidents Cup Committee, including but not limited to, additional suspensions and/or recommendations to the State Association.

Section 7 If a player or team official is dismissed from their team's last match, the event Presidents Cup Committee will impose sanctions to be served at the next level of National Presidents Cup competitions or during the following season of play.

Section 8 Players or team officials that have displayed activities in violation of the competition's Code of Conduct, any US Youth Soccer rule or policy and/or local ordinances or laws (including, but not limited to, theft or willful destruction of property) may be denied participation for the duration of the competition.

Section 9 Any player or team official who refuses the referee's request for their name, or gives a false name, while the referee is gathering data to report an infringement of the Laws of the Game, shall have a minimum of one (1) match added to the suspension that would normally be levied by the event Presidents Cup Committee.

RULE 202 MEMBER PASSES

All rostered players and team officials must possess a printed, current and valid US Youth Soccer member pass with a recent face on, passport style photograph. Member passes will be verified against the official event roster before the start of the competition. At each match, member passes must be provided to the referee. If unusual or extenuating circumstances exist, and in order to ensure the orderly progression of the competition, electronic member passes may be utilized if approved by the Chair of the event Presidents Cup Committee or a designee. Printed member passes must be provided as soon as practical.



RULE 203 DURATION OF MATCHES

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Game Length</u>	<u>Halftime</u>	<u>Overtime Periods</u>
12U*	Two 30-minute halves	10 minutes	Two 10-minute periods
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
18/19U	Two 45-minute halves	10 minutes	Two 15-minute periods
19U*	Two 45-minute halves	10 minutes	Two 15-minute periods

* Competitions may be organized for qualifying players in the 12U and 19U age groups for both boys and girls as defined by Rule 104 of the US Youth Soccer Policy on Players and Playing Rules and will conclude at the Regional Presidents Cup level.

RULE 204 SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions shall be unlimited and can be made with the consent of the referee during any stoppage of play, except Penalty Kicks. Substitutes must be waiting at the half line when the referee calls for the substitution. Substituted players must leave the field of play at the half line near their team bench.

RULE 205 MATCH BALLS

The event Presidents Cup Committee will supply match balls. In the unlikely event that match balls cannot be provided, the referee will make a choice from balls offered by both teams. 12U matches will be played with a size 4 ball. All other matches will be played with a size 5 ball.

RULE 206 FORFEITS

Section 1 During group play, a team must forfeit any match where they fall below the required minimum number of players. Subsequent matches will not be automatically forfeited.

Section 2 A team forfeiting a match for any other reason will result in **all** of their group matches being declared a forfeit.

Section 3 Forfeited matches will be reported as a 4-0 loss for scoring purposes. In circumstances where forfeited matches are involved in the determination of team advancement (i.e. tie breakers), all tie breaking criteria involving goal differential or fewest goals allowed for all teams involved will be determined on a per match average to the nearest tenth of a point, excluding the results of the forfeited match.

Section 4 During knockout rounds, a team forfeiting a match will result in the opponent advancing.

RULE 207 SCORING METHOD

Ties at the end of regulation time in group play will stand. Team standings are determined by the accumulation of points in qualifying matches. Teams earn points as follows: Three (3) points for a win (including forfeits, which are considered a 4-0 win), One (1) point for a tie and Zero (0) points for a loss.



RULE 208 TIE BREAKERS

In the event teams are tied based on points earned, each 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.
4. Fewest goals allowed. The team with the fewest total goals allowed advances.
5. Kicks from the Penalty Mark.
6. If, in the opinion of the event Presidents Cup Committee, additional steps are required to ensure the safe conclusion of the competition are needed, those decisions will be communicated to all affected teams before they are implemented.

Section 1 If more than two (2) teams are tied, the sequence above will be followed until a team is eliminated/advanced. The remaining teams will then restart the sequence at tiebreaker criteria 2 above until the tie is broken. In a situation where three teams remain tied, a draw between tied teams will be conducted by the event Presidents Cup 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 round of Kicks from the Penalty Mark. The winner of the first contest will then compete against the bye team in Kicks from the Penalty Mark to determine a winner. The bye team will be the home team.

Eleven (11) players on the frozen event roster will be selected by a credentialed team official to participate, and a referee will be assigned to break the tie on a field assigned by the event Presidents Cup Committee.

Players ejected in the second or third match in a National Presidents Cup Competitions, or not listed on the game roster of the third match are not eligible to participate in Kicks from the Penalty Mark to determine a winner.

Section 2 Ties at the end of regulation time in group play will stand. Ties at the end of regulation time in quarter-final (if played), semi-final and/or final matches will be determined first by the completion of two (2) equal overtime periods as outlined above. There is no "Golden Goal" in any overtime period. If a match remains tied at the conclusion of both overtime periods the winner will be determined by Kicks from the Penalty Mark utilizing the players on the field at the conclusion of the second overtime period.

Section 3 If the score of a third-place match (if played) is tied at the end of regulation time, no overtime periods will be played, and the winner will be determined by Kicks from the Penalty Mark.



RULE 209 UNIFORMS

Section 1 Each team must have two (2) uniform sets (one light color and one dark color) at **each match** during the competition. 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 (listed first in the schedule) is required to wear their light color jersey and light color socks.
- The away team (listed second in the schedule) is required to wear their dark color jersey and dark color socks.
- Matching shorts are not required. The same color shorts can be utilized for both uniforms.

Section 2 If, in the opinion of the referee, there is a color conflict, the team causing the conflict must change. The referee's decision is final. **Reminder, teams are required to bring both uniform sets to all matches.**

Section 3 Any material on or covering player socks must be the same color as the part of the sock it covers (this applies to all materials and not just tape). Undershorts and/or tights must be the same color as either the main color of the shorts or the lowest edge/bottom (hem) and all members of the team must wear the same color. Enforcement is at the discretion of the referee.

Section 4 Uniforms numbers must be a minimum of six (6) inches in size. Each field player must have a number permanently affixed to the back of their jersey which must be clearly visible. Duplicate and/or taped numbers are not permitted. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are optional; however, are recommended. It is suggested that teams utilizing multiple goalkeepers have numbered jerseys.

RULE 210 MARKINGS AND LOGOS

Section 1 At every level of the National Presidents Cup competitions, a player or team official intending to participate in a match or associated activity may only have on the outerwear of the player or team official a name, logo, or other identifying mark of a youth soccer organization that is US Youth Soccer, a State Association or other member of US Youth Soccer, a member of a State Association, or an organization that is a member of an organization that is a member of a State Association. A name, logo, or other identifying mark of any other youth soccer organization must be removed, replaced, or covered before the player or team official may continue to remain at the match field for the match or associated activity.

Section 2 If a player or team official chooses to not remove a name, logo, or other identifying mark of any other youth soccer organization, it must be completely covered by another patch that is sewn on. **Covering non-complaint marks with tape is not permitted.**

Section 3 A player or team official may have a mark and/or name on their clothing if it is related to an item or service that is appropriate for youth. Any inappropriate mark or name on a team member's uniform must be removed, replaced, or **permanently** covered (tape is not permitted) before the player or team official may participate. An example of inappropriate mark or name would be, but is not limited to, tobacco products or alcoholic beverages. If there is any question about a logo, marking or sponsor, it is **strongly** suggested that you inquire well in advance of the start of the competition in order to avoid an issue at the match field.



RULE 211 GRACE PERIOD

Teams are required to be at the match field a minimum of 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. A minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a team. Teams not ready to play at the scheduled start time of any match shall be granted a 10-minute grace period. The match may be forfeited if a team is not at the match field and prepared to play after the grace period expires. All situations in which a team is not ready to play will be assessed by the event Presidents Cup Committee. If unusual or extenuating circumstances exist, the grace period may be extended before declaring the match a forfeit.

RULE 212 TECHNICAL/BENCH AREA

Players and team officials will be located 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 wear the Bench Pass provided by the event Presidents Cup Committee around their neck to be permitted on the team sideline. No coaching is allowed from other than the technical/bench area.

RULE 213 TEAM OR CLUB TRAINERS

A team may use their own Athletic Trainer as one of their four (4) credentialed team officials. The competition Athletic Trainers are primary to any team trainers, who are deemed secondary.

RULE 214 SPECTATORS

Section 1 Spectators (parents, relatives and/or other individuals) who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team are subject to the jurisdiction and authority of US Youth Soccer and the event Presidents Cup Committee. The actions of these individuals are the responsibility of the credentialed team officials appearing on the roster.

Section 2 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.

Section 3 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 competition official may require them to return to their designated area and restrict any further sideline movement of spectators.

Section 4 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 competition 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.

Section 5 Whistles, air horns, megaphones, artificial noisemakers and/or similar devices are prohibited at all National Presidents Cup competitions. Air horns are for use solely by competition officials to signal when fields must be cleared due to inclement or dangerous weather conditions.



RULE 215 INCLEMENT WEATHER

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

RULE 216 UNFINISHED MATCHES

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

- 1) If play is suspended or the start of play is delayed, the event Presidents Cup Committee may eliminate overtime periods.
- 2) If the match is tied at the conclusion of regulation playing time, the match will go immediately to Kicks from the Penalty Mark.
- 3) If play is suspended at any time after first half concludes and cannot be resumed as determined by the event Presidents Cup Committee, the score stands, and the match will be deemed as complete.
- 4) The game length may be reduced to 70 minutes for the 17U, 18/19U and 19U age groups and 60 minutes for the 15U and 16U age groups. If the game is suspended 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 Kicks from the Penalty Mark.
- 5) If, in the opinion of the event Presidents Cup Committee, additional steps to assure the safe conclusion of a Regional or National Presidents Cup competition is needed, those decisions will be communicated to all designated team officials and/or managers before they are implemented.



RULE 301 ADDITIONAL ROSTERED PLAYERS

A limited number of additional players may be added to teams advancing to the National Presidents Cup Regional and National levels of competition. Additional Rostered Players must be properly registered with US Youth Soccer and the advancing team's State Association at the beginning of the State qualifying event. Additional Rostered Players may be from any other member club in good standing and recognized as a member by the State Association.

Section 1 Additional Rostered Players must meet all other National Presidents Cup competitions player eligibility requirements. See Rule 302.

Section 2 A team may utilize a maximum of five (5) Additional Rostered Players in a seasonal year in either the Regional and/or National Presidents Cup competitions.

Section 3 Additional Rostered Players must appear on the official US Youth Soccer Event Management System roster and be so designated.

Section 4 Additional Rostered Players must possess a current, valid US Youth Soccer Member Pass.

Section 5 The team must maintain its roster continuity of nine (9) continuous players throughout the State, Regional and National levels of the National Presidents Cup competitions.

RULE 302 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Section 1 The US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup competitions are intended for properly registered and rostered players in accordance with the rules of US Youth Soccer (Policy on Players and Playing Rules, 201 and 209) and the State Association at the beginning of the State's qualifying event for that age and gender.

Section 2 For the 2020-2021 seasonal year, in State Associations where player registrations are 25,001 or larger during the 2018-2019 seasonal year, a player who was rostered to any team that competed in quarter, semi or final matches in a designated State NCS series or was rostered to any team that competed in an elite, premiere or the most competitive level or levels in any regional or national league, or were a member of a national level developmental academy are not eligible to participate in a Regional or National Presidents Cup.

Section 3 A club may issue a club pass to any youth player who is a registered youth player of the club before the team to which such youth player is to be rostered for the State Association level of the National Presidents Cup competitions submits its roster for its first competition at the State Association level.

Section 4 A player may be rostered to only one team at each level of the National Presidents Cup competitions during a seasonal year.

Section 5 US Youth Soccer State Associations are charged with making a final determination of a players' eligibility to be rostered on a team participating at any level of the National Presidents Cup competitions.

Section 6 A team that is found guilty, for any reason, of having an ineligible player on its roster or using an ineligible player forfeits each match involving the ineligible player.

Section 7 A player who has been suspended may play after the player's term of suspension has expired.



RULE 303 TEAM ELIGIBILITY

Section 1 The National Presidents Cup competitions shall be open to any team whose players are registered with US Youth Soccer through a State Association if the team is in compliance with all of the following requirements:

- 1) The team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered youth players (as defined by US Youth Soccer).
- 2) The team must be in good standing with its State Association, must not be under sanction by their State Association or US Youth Soccer, and must be in compliance with, and have not violated any of the bylaws and policies of their State Association or US Youth Soccer.
- 3) For the 2020-2021 seasonal year, in State Associations where player registrations are 25,001 or larger during the 2018-2019 seasonal year, a team is not eligible to participate in the National Presidents Cup competitions if:
 - It competed in an interstate regional competition in which the team advanced to a round of 16, quarter, semi or finals in a State Cup or State Championships competition, or
 - It competed in the quarter, semi or final matches in a State Cup or State Championships competition, or
 - It competed in an elite, premiere or the most competitive level or levels in any regional or national league or were a member of a national level developmental academy.
- 4) For the 2020-2021 seasonal year, State Associations where player registration totals less than 25,001 during 2018-2019 seasonal year, each State Association may designate any team as their representative to the regional level of the National Presidents Cup.



RULE 401 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 event Presidents Cup Committee.

Section 2 (a) To be valid and eligible for consideration at the regional or national levels of the National Presidents Cup competitions, each protest:

- 1) must be orally lodged by a team official listed on the team roster involved in the match with the referee and with the opposing coach at the game site before entering the field of play or leaving the match field, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section; and
- 2) must be filed with the event Presidents Cup Committee within 2-hours after the completion of the match being protested, accompanied by:
 - A) a cash fee in the amount of \$300.00;
 - B) one (1) electronic or two (2) written copies of the protest, which must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged; and
 - C) one (1) electronic or two (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 match shall be entertained only if a written objection has been lodged with the referee and the opposing coach prior to the start of the match.

(c) The Chair of the event Presidents Cup Committee shall immediately, upon 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 Chair of that Committee who shall immediately notify the Chair of the National Presidents Cup Committee; or
 - (2) if a decision of the National Presidents Cup Committee, with the Chair 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 cash fee in the amount of \$300.00; and
 - (2) one (1) electronic or two (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.