

US YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

SECTION 1. GENERAL AND DEFINITIONS

1.01 US Youth Soccer League Championship Administration

The US Youth Soccer League Championships are administered by US Youth Soccer in accordance with the US Youth Soccer League Championship Policy.

1.02 General

The US Youth Soccer League Championship (LC) Rules shall govern the LC. These League Championship Rules pertain only to the LC playoff tournament.

1.03 Definitions

Except as otherwise provided, the following definitions apply to this policy:

- (1) "Article" preceding a Roman numeral means a reference to a specific portion of the US Youth Soccer Bylaws.
- (2) "Board of Directors" means the Board of Directors of US Youth Soccer established under Article XIII.
- (3) "CEO" and "CEO of US Youth Soccer" means the Chief Executive Officer of US Youth Soccer established under Article XVIII.
- (4) "General Managers" means the four General Managers of the East, Midwest, South and West Regions of US Youth Soccer.
- (5) "Member League" means any league that is a member of any State Association or that is sanctioned by any State Association.
- (6) "League Championships" means the competitions provided for under this policy inclusive of all National Championship Series age and gender groups.
- (7) "Region" means one of those regions established under Article VIII.
- (8) "Regional Championships" means the regional championships as part of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series.
- (9) "State Association" means the administrative body within a territory determined by the National Council to carry out US Youth Soccer's programs for youth players.
- (10) "Team" means a group of soccer players playing on the same side in soccer games.
- (11) "US Youth Soccer" means the United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc.

SECTION 2. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

2.01 Rules

Participation in the LC is governed by the rules adopted by US Youth Soccer, the United States Soccer Federation (US Soccer), and the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) (for the current US Youth Soccer seasonal year) except where modified by those rules and these LC rules. These LC rules may be revised by the LC Management Group on a seasonal year basis and other times as may be necessary or appropriate.

2.02 Matters Not Provided For

The LC Management Group has final authority in all matters related to the program not specifically provided for by the LC Policy, or Rules.

SECTION 3. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS LEAGUE APPLICATION/TEAM ENTRY

3.01. Gender Age Groups

LC shall be held for the genders and age groups included in the National Championship Series.

3.02 League Eligibility

Any member league of US Youth Soccer may request entry to the LC subject to the specific league eligibility requirements established for each seasonal year by the LC Management Group. At a minimum, all Applicant Leagues are expected to meet the following qualifications:

- (a) Applicant Leagues shall be US Youth Soccer State Association member leagues in good standing and shall consist of US Youth Soccer clubs ("Member Clubs") in good standing with their State Associations.
- (b) Applicant Leagues shall affirm, in writing, their intention to participate in the LC competition and

their commitment to following all rules pertaining to the LC.

- (c) Applicant Leagues shall offer a division in every age group for which LC competitions will be held, and the teams in each such division shall play a minimum of three (3) games during their season.
- (d) Applicant Leagues shall demonstrate that they are well organized and capable of contributing positively to the US Youth Soccer League Championships as a Member League.
- (e) Applicant Leagues shall demonstrate the ability to consistently field competitive teams consistent with the caliber of competition playing in the US Youth Soccer League Championships.

3.03 Participation in National Championships Series Competition

In accordance with the US Youth Soccer League Championships Policy, in order to be eligible to advance to the US Youth Soccer Regional Championships, teams participating in the LC must also be in good standing and participate in their respective State Cup competition in the current seasonal year.

3.04 Applications Deadline

All applications for participation in the LC must be received by the deadline established by the LC Management Group.

3.05 Application Process

League applications to participate in the LC are to be submitted in a manner and form as determined on a seasonal year basis by the LC Management Group. Selection is for three-year terms, which are subject to renewals for additional three-year terms upon reapplication.

3.06 Acceptance of LC Policies, Rules, Decisions and Fees

Any league applying to participate in the LC agrees to accept, abide by, and comply with all policies, rules, and decisions of the LC and further agrees to pay all fees that are due to US Youth Soccer for participation in the LC by the applicable deadlines.

3.07 Final Authority on League Acceptance

The LC Management Group shall have the final authority to accept leagues into the LC.

3.08 Payment of Fees and Other Expenses

Each league participating in the LC will pay the fees and other expenses established by the LC Management Group. US Youth Soccer is not responsible for expenses incurred by teams through travel, housing, coaching, uniforms, and other related team operating costs.

3.09 Team Withdraw

A league that does not send a team in an age group will be subject to a fine of \$1,500 per team. The LC Management Group will hold a draw to determine the team replacement for that age group from the remaining leagues if possible. Any team who withdraws from the competition after it has started will be subject to a fine of \$2,000.

SECTION 4. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS STRUCTURE

4.01 Number of Leagues in Gender Age Groups

The LC Management Group shall determine the total number of leagues permitted to participate in each Regional Championships geographical areas each seasonal year.

4.02 Competition Format

Teams from participating leagues within each of the Regional Championship's geographical areas within each of the age/gender groups included in the National Championship Series shall be placed into a single division consisting of up to 8 teams (i.e. up to 8 participating leagues). All advancing teams shall be scheduled to play single-elimination format games against the other advancing teams within their age and gender groups.

SECTION 5. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS ROSTERS AND PLAYER PASSES

5.01 Filing of Team Rosters

Each participating team must file with the LC Management Group a copy of the team's current official stamped State Association *state cup* roster no later than 48 hours prior to the playing of their first game in the LC playoff weekend. Failure to file the roster may result in the expulsion of the team from the LC. Only those players listed on the team's current official approved State Association state cup roster may play in any LC matches.

5.02 Club Pass

Teams participating in the LC may utilize club pass players. Club pass players must be properly registered with the club, following the National Championship rules, as a US Youth Soccer player prior to the filing of the team roster described in 5.01 to be eligible.

5.03 Player Eligibility

All players must be current US Youth Soccer members and have member passes that have been approved by their respective State Association. Once a player is on the state cup roster of a team in the LC and such team has played one match in state cup competition, such player may not appear on another team's roster during the LC championship weekend as a club pass player or otherwise.

5.04 Member Passes Presented to Referee

Valid US Youth Soccer member passes for the current seasonal year shall be presented to the referee for players upon entering the field of play. Printed passes will be returned to the team at the end of the half. Players will present passes upon entering the match during the second half. All printed passes will be returned to the team at the end of the match.

5.05 Playing of Ineligible Player

A team that plays an ineligible player shall be subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to: (a) forfeiture of the match; (b) suspension of the team's coach from LC competition; (c) expulsion of the team from the LC; and/or (d) any further action(s) as determined by the LC Management Group.

5.06 Questions Regarding Player Eligibility

A team may request an interpretation on the eligibility of a player on an opposing team to the LC Management Group subject to the following: (a) the request must be made in writing; and (b) the LC Management Group shall have up to 24 hours after first receiving and reviewing the request to make a ruling.

5.07 Additional Player Information

The LC at its discretion may require participating teams to provide additional information on players for use in promoting the LC and/or its teams and players. Teams are required to submit information as requested in procedures established by the LC.

SECTION 6. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHEDULING AND MATCH MANAGEMENT

6.01 Scheduling LC Matches

LC matches and match sites shall be scheduled by the LC Management Group. Locations and dates are subject to change. All teams are required to coordinate hotel stays through the designated hotel provider as designated by the LC Management Group.

6.02 Matches Per Day

It is the intent to limit teams to one match per day.

6.03 Inclement Weather and Unplayable Field Conditions Prior to Match

The LC Management Group, working in consultation with the participating league leadership, shall have the sole authority to postpone a match due to inclement weather and/or unplayable field conditions prior to the kick-off of a match.

6.04 Referee Jurisdiction

Once the referee has jurisdiction of a match, the match may be stopped, suspended, or terminated as provided in the "FIFA Laws of the Game."

6.05 Emergency Rescheduling

In the event that multiple LC matches are scheduled at a site during a day or consecutive days and weather and/or field conditions may cause the postponing of matches, the LC Management Group has the emergency authority to reschedule matches on such days. Such rescheduling shall be accepted by LC teams and may include the scheduling of more than one match per day. In extreme cases, the LC Management Group may also authorize the reduction of match length provided that the notification of the reduction of match length is done prior to the match kick-off.

6.06 Permission to Host or Travel Not Required

For the purpose of LC competition, Permission to Host or Travel Forms are not required.

6.07 Match Management Procedures

The LC Management Group has the authority to make the final decision on all aspects related to a match outside of the US Youth Soccer League Championship Rules –as of April 8, 2019

jurisdiction of the referees. Match Management Procedures include but are not limited to:

- (a) Teams should expect the referees to check player passes and collect the Match Line Up Card from the team around 15 minutes prior to the scheduled kick off time.
- (b) Match balls are provided by the participating teams.
- (c) The videotaping of matches by team representatives and non-official US Youth Soccer representatives from the team bench side is prohibited unless written permission is granted in writing from the LC Management Group.

6.08 Additional Match Management Procedures

On an emergency basis, the LC Management Group may impose additional Match Management Procedures. These additional procedures shall be limited to those items that are necessary, in the sole opinion of the LC Management Group, in order for a match to be played.

6.09 Responsibility of Teams

The officials of a team at a match (as provided by Rule 8.10), are responsible for the behavior, conduct and control of team players, support staff, supporters including but not limited to family and friends, and team management staff. Failure to abide by this rule may result in Disciplinary Action as determined by the LC Management Group.

6.10 Responsibility of Teams- Risk Management

All players, coaches, referees, and team officials must be in compliance with all risk management policies of US Youth Soccer.

SECTION 7. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

7.01 Qualifying for Regional Championships

For the applicable Regional Championships as part of the National Championship Series, the top team in each of the gender age groups represent the LC in the Regional Championships. If any of those teams are also a State Cup championship team, that team will represent the state in the Regional Championships and not represent LC. In those cases, the second place team from the LC will attend the Regional Championships as the LC representative. If any LC team qualifying for the Regional Championships in a gender age group is determined to be ineligible to compete in the Regional Championships, then the next eligible LC team in that gender age group will represent the LC in the Regional Championships in place of the ineligible team. If the second place team from the LC is also determined to be ineligible, then the third place team will advance from the LC as the LC representative and so on and so forth. These teams must be in compliance with Rule 3.02 in order to be eligible for the Regional Championships.

SECTION 8. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS RULES OF PLAY

8.01 Applicable Rules and Laws of the Game

Matches will be played under the applicable policies and rules of US Youth Soccer. Teams are responsible for obtaining and abiding by the FIFA Laws of the Game as they govern play subject to the modifications noted in these rules.

8.02 Substitutions

- (1) for the 13 and Under and 14 and Under age groups, unlimited substitutions shall be allowed; and
- (2) for all other age groups, a maximum of 7 substitutions for each team shall be allowed in each game during each half of play and during overtime play. After leaving the game during a half of play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game during that same half of play. After leaving the game during overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game.
- (3) If a player is suspected of suffering a head injury they may be substituted for evaluation without the substitutions counting against the teams total number of allowed substitutions during each half or overtime period. If the player with the suspected head injury has received clearance from the events' Health Care Professional, the player may re-enter at any stoppage of play. The evaluated player must replace the original substitute and will not count as a substitution. The temporary substituted player may re-enter the game as a regular substitute. A team may only make a temporary substitution if they have a substitution available.

8.03 Match Length

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Length of Each Half</u>
17U through 19U	45 minutes
15U and 16U	40 minutes
13U and 14U	35 minutes

8.04 Field Size

Fields for all age groups must meet the US Soccer/FIFA requirements for field size.

8.05 Forfeit Due to Failure to Appear for Match

Failure to appear or failure to timely appear for a scheduled match will result in a forfeit.

- (a) Teams are expected to be ready to play at the scheduled time of the match. 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. If either one or both teams are not on the field of play within the ten minute grace period, the referee, (through either the Fourth Official or Junior Assistant Referee), shall notify the LC Management Group of the failure of the team(s) to arrive within the grace period.
- (b) The LC Management Group shall review the circumstances surrounding the failure of a team to appear and may:
 - Allow additional grace time
 - Order the game to be played at another time and place of the LC Management Groups choosing
 - Award a forfeit to the other team if only one team has failed to appear

8.06 Failure to Produce Player Passes and Rosters

Any team who is unable to produce player passes or their roster prior to the scheduled game start time will be given a 15 minute grace period. Any team failing to produce the required player passes and roster within the 15 minute grace period will forfeit the match.

8.07 Anchored Goals

The coaches and match referee should inspect the integrity of the goals to ensure they are secure and suitable for play. Matches shall not begin until both goals have been firmly secured.

8.08 Team Uniforms

Team and individual player Uniforms for LC matches must conform as follows:

- (a) Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey (exception: goalkeeper). The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and be clearly visible. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team. Numbers should be affixed to the jersey and no taped numbers are permitted. Goalkeeper jersey numbers are optional.
- (b) All teams are required to attend each match with 2 sets of jerseys and socks for all of its players; one set of light colored jerseys and socks, and a second set of dark colored jerseys and socks.
- (c) It is expected that that the first team listed on the match schedule is to wear light/white color jerseys and socks. Visiting team listed second will wear dark colored jerseys, shorts, and socks. When there is a conflict in uniform color, the home team on the LC schedule must change its jerseys and socks. The Referee shall define when uniform color conflicts are an issue.
- (d) The LC Management Group shall have the option to assign jersey colors to teams for matches, should the LC Management Group deem that such procedure is appropriate.
- (e) In the event of color conflict with referees, the referees shall change jersey colors.
- (f) Teams playing in the LC are permitted to have the following limited items on their game uniforms:
 - US Youth Soccer logo or directly related US Youth Soccer logoed patches
 - Their individual club and/or team logo and team sponsor logo or uniform manufacturer logo
 - Name and number of player
 - No other patches or logos are permitted unless written permission is granted by the LC Management Group.

8.09 Coaching From Sidelines

Limited coaching is permitted only from one touch line from the team's respective technical area (if marked) or from the center-line to no more than 5 yards from the end of the team bench closest to the goal line (if no technical area is marked). Team bench persons may not enter the field without permission from the referee.

8.10 Official Match

If less than one half is completed and the match is terminated because of weather or other unplayable conditions, the entire

match must be replayed, subject to review by the LC Management Group. If the first full half of a match is played, and the second half of the match is not played because of weather or unplayable field conditions, the match is official and the final score will be the score at the time the match is terminated. If a match is terminated during the second half of play due to inclement weather or unplayable field conditions as determined by the referee in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game, the final score will be the score at the time the match is terminated.

8.11 Team Bench Area and Supervision

No more than 4 team bench persons (being only team coaches, team administrators, and team medical staff) shall be permitted at the team bench area during a match. Also, those players listed on the match lineup card are permitted at the team bench area during a match. Team Bench Passes **MUST** be worn and visible to the Referees and LC Management Group at all times when your match is going on. A suspended team bench person is not permitted at the Team Bench Area. The team bench area must at all times be supervised by a team bench person or a non-team individual designated by the LC Management Group. If a team does not have a team coach, team administrator, team medical staff or individual designated by the LC Management Group to supervise the team during a game, then the game shall be forfeited.

8.12 Team Coaches- Coaching Education Requirement

On an annual basis, the LC Management Group shall determine the minimum levels of coaching education needed by each coach in order to supervise a team in LC competition.

8.13 Unforeseen Circumstances

In the event that matches are unable to be played due to unforeseen circumstances due to travel issues (i.e. airline flight cancellation, weather conditions, etc.), the LC Management Group may waive Rule 8.05. Such a request for waiver must be made in writing with the LC Management Group within 5 days after the day of the scheduled match and include all details in regards to the situation. Full disclosure of information, including but not limited to copies of all emails before, during and after the occurrence of a travel issue, logs of telephone calls to travel agencies, airlines, players, coaches etc. must be provided to the LC. The LC Management Group may also require additional supporting information from the affected team. The LC Management Group shall review such occurrence and rule on whether the rescheduling of matches shall occur.

SECTION 9. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS REFEREES

9.01 Officiating System

Matches must be officiated using the 3-person FIFA/USSF Referee System, although a 4-person system (using a fourth official) is preferred. In the event the assigned referee fails to appear (within 10 minutes of the match time); a certified referee must be found by the LC Management Group or his/her designee to officiate the match. The referee, in conjunction with any LC Official on site, may appoint replacements for assistant referees who fail to show up by the match time. In the event certified USSF officials are not available, the referee in conjunction with the LC Management Group may appoint club assistant referees. Club assistant referees shall be limited to decisions only on touchlines and possession as specified by FIFA/USSF Referee Guidelines.

9.02 Referee Assignor

Match officials will be assigned under the authority of the LC Management Group.

9.03 Payment of Referees

Referees, assistant referees, and fourth officials (if used) shall be compensated by the LC in manner as determined by the LC Management Group. Referee fees are included in the LC fees.

9.04 Filing of Referee Match Report

The referee shall file a Match Report with the LC immediately following the match in accordance with directives from the LC Management Group.

SECTION 10. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS SEND OFFS, DISMISSALS, AND SUSPENSIONS

10.01 Protocol for Send Offs and Dismissals

A player that has been sent off during a match must remain in the team bench area until the conclusion of the match. The referee report of the incident and the player's pass shall be turned over to the LC Management Group. Players that remain with their credentialed team representative in the bench area must remove their player jersey. If a sent off player continues to be disruptive or a distraction to anyone in the bench area, they will be escorted to an area designated by the LC Management

Group and the suspension may be increased by the LC Management Group upon review of the incident. Any team bench person dismissed from participating in a match must leave the field area and retreat to the parking area of the complex or an area designated by the LC Management Group. The match officials and/or LC supervisors on site are authorized to prohibit the use of any communication devices at the team bench areas.

If a resulting suspension is to be served during that championship weekend, the player may sit on the team bench providing that he/she is dressed street clothes and wearing the Inactive Player Badge. If a team official is suspended, they shall not be permitted to coach nor be on either the team bench or spectator sideline.

10.02 Send Offs and Dismissals- Automatic Suspension

Any player sent off or non-player dismissed under Rule 10.01 will automatically be suspended for the team's next LC match. Any player sent off or dismissed non-player must comply with the location and communication provisions of Rule 10.01.

10.03 Send Offs and Dismissals- Review by LC Management Group

All send offs and dismissals are to be reviewed by the LC Management Group who may determine that an additional suspension shall be assessed.

10.04 Reporting Send Offs to States

The LC may distribute information on all send offs to the respective State Associations. The home State Association may have the authority to impose additional sanctions with regard to any matters arising from send off in the LC.

10.05 Suspensions Incurred at Last Match of Seasonal Year

If a player or non-player is sent off during the last match of the LC seasonal year, the suspension shall be served at the team's next LC match. The LC Management Group has the right to impose additional sanctions with regard to any matters arising from participation in the LC as the result of the sending off. The home State Association of the player or non-player may have the authority to impose additional sanctions with regard to any matters arising from such send off in the LC.

SECTION 11. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS DISCIPLINE

11.01 Violation of Rules

Any violation of these rules will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the LC Management Group.

11.02 Disciplinary Actions

All disciplinary measures imposed by these rules and/or the LC Management Group shall be limited to an individual or team's participation in the LC except as outlined in Rules 10.04 and 10.05.

11.03 Termination of Matches

Once the referee has jurisdiction of a match, the match may be stopped, suspended, or terminated as provided in the "FIFA Laws of the Game." The referee will report the termination of any match to the LC Management Group. The LC Management Group shall ascertain the facts and recommend any action, including appropriate disciplinary action, against any individual or team associated with the LC to the LC Management Group for review and decision.

11.04 Termination

If a match is terminated at any time due to one of the teams (by action of players, coaches, team management, administrators, spectators) adjudged to be at fault as determined by the LC Management Group, it shall be at the discretion of the LC Management Group as to whether the match is to be replayed or declared a forfeit.

11.05 Forfeits-Loss of LC Eligibility

Any team that forfeits a match may automatically become ineligible to participate in the LC for the following seasonal year and shall not be permitted to represent the LC at the Regional Championships as provided by Rule 7.01.

SECTION 12. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS PROTESTS AND APPEALS

12.01 Definition of a Protest

A Protest is a formal written objection of any violation of established policies, rules, or procedures related to a specific match and can only be filed by one of the involved team officials. Only those teams involved are permitted to protest a match result. Third parties, i.e., coaches from other teams, state administrators, cannot file protests on a specific match.

Protests must be based upon a violation of the published rules of the US Youth Soccer, US Soccer, the LC competition, or FIFA Laws of the Game. Notice of intent to protest activity that occurred during a match must also be registered in writing with the LC Management Group within 2 hours of completion of the match.

12.02 Protests of Match Played

To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest must be orally lodged by a team official listed on the team roster with the referee and the opposing coach at the game site before entering the field of play or leaving the game site. Notice of intent to protest activity that occurred during a match must also be registered in writing with the LC Management Group at the completion of the match. All protests must be submitted in writing with the appropriate fee of \$700 to the LC Chairperson. The referee is the final authority on the field of play. All decisions of the referees with respect to matters of fact, including judgment matters, are final. Any protest relating to the grounds, goalpost, bars, or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained if the referee has approved them.

12.03 Hearing of Protest

The protest shall be heard following the receipt of the protest fee that day. The LC Management Group shall immediately upon the receipt of a protest notify the team against which the protest is made. For game protests, the LC Management Group shall compile all of the necessary information from all available sources before the protest is heard. All information to be presented by witnesses must be in writing. Both coaches and/or their designated representative MUST remain at the game site until the protest is decided or are released by the LC Chairperson. A lawyer shall not represent a team at the hearing of a protest unless that person is listed on the team's roster. A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the LC is not sufficient grounds for protest.

A protest committee comprised of a representative from each league, as long as they have no conflict of interest and shall not be associated with any principals involved, along with the LC Chairperson shall hear the protest.

12.04 Appeals Committee

The LC shall have a LC Appeals Committee made up of members of the Management Group. The LC Appeals Committee shall have jurisdiction of appeals as provided in the rules of this Section 12. Members of the LC Appeals Committee shall have no conflict of interest in the matters being appealed and shall not be associated with any of the principals involved. The LC Appeals Committee shall be chaired by one of the members designated by the US Youth Soccer CEO or his representative. The Appeals Committee shall be composed of no fewer than 3 and no more than 5 members. Decisions of the LC Appeals Committee shall be final.

12.05 Filing Procedures

A protest or appeal must be filed in writing and must include:

- (a) The nature and specifics of the complaint.
- (b) A listing of the policies, rules, and/or procedures that have been violated.
- (c) A statement of the desired resolution.
- (d) Copies of all documents relevant to the protest or appeal.
- (e) The filing fee for a protest or appeal is \$700 (certified check or money order – made payable to US Youth Soccer).

All protests and appeals must be filed with the LC Management Group. The original document of the protest or appeal, along with all supporting documents, must be received by the LC Management Committee within 2 hours after the completion of the match or the decision of the protest committee.

12.06 Hearing of Appeal

An appeal of the protest committee decision shall be heard by the LC Appeals Committee.

12.07 Notification of Parties

The LC Management Group shall notify all parties involved, no later than four hours after receipt of an appeal or protest, that an appeal or protest has been filed. If a protest is upheld and the game has to be replayed, it will be up to the LC Management Group to schedule the game as it sees fit.

12.08 Disputes, Discipline & Appeals

The LC Management Group is authorized to settle disputes which arise in the course of LC competition. The LC Management Group, in accordance with the disciplinary policies and procedures of US Youth Soccer and US Soccer, will investigate and adjudicate all allegations of misconduct by teams, coaches, players, or others involved in LC operations and will impose an appropriate sanction for any violation found. When an appeal of a LC Management Group decision is authorized under this section 12, the appeal will be heard in accordance with Rule 12.04.

12.09 LC Appeals Committee Decisions

Appeals shall be considered and determined by the LC Appeals Committee in person or by telephone conference call at the Chairman of the LC Appeals Committee's direction. Consideration and determination of an appeal shall be closed to the public and the parties. Decisions shall be reduced to written form and shall be sent to the principal parties no later than two (2) hours after the conclusion of deliberations.

12.10 Return of Filing Fee

In the event that a Protest or Appeal is upheld then the filing fee shall be returned to the entity filing the Protest or Appeal; otherwise the filing fee is non-refundable.

12.11 US Youth Soccer Bylaw Section 4 of Article XVII

Section 4 of Article XVII of the US Youth Soccer bylaws provides the following:

- A. No member of USYSA, official league, club, team, player, coach, administrator or referee may invoke the aid of the courts of the United States or of a state without first exhausting all available remedies with the appropriate soccer organization, and as provided by USYSA.
- B. For a violation of this bylaw, the offending party shall be subject to suspension and fines, and shall be liable to USYSA for all expenses incurred by USYSA and its officers and members of the board of directors in defending each court action, including the following:
 - 1. court costs;
 - 2 attorney's fee;
 - 3. reasonable compensation for time spent by USYSA officials and employees in responding to and defending allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances;
 - 4. travel expenses; and
 - 5. expenses for holding special National Council meetings necessitated by court. action