

**US Youth Soccer
National Championship Series Policy
Effective August 1, 2025**

Rule 101. DEFINITIONS

Except as otherwise provided, the following definitions apply to this National Championships policy ('policy'):

- (1) **"Add"** means the addition of a player to a team's roster.
- (2) **"Article"** preceding a Roman numeral means a reference to a specific portion of the US Youth Soccer Bylaws.
- (3) **"Board of Directors"** means the Board of Directors of US Youth Soccer established under Article XIII.
- (4) **"CEO"** means the Chief Executive Officer of US Youth Soccer established under Article XVIII.
- (5) **"Club"** means an organization providing soccer to Youth Players that is a member of a State Association; provided however, a "Club" need not have the word "Club" as part of its official name.
- (6) **"Club Pass"** means a US Youth Soccer pass which—
 - (A) issued to a registered Youth Player by a Club in compliance with the rules of the State Association of which the Club is a member;
 - (B) issued as provided by this policy; and
 - (C) specifies the Club of which the Youth Player is a registered member.
- (7) **"Eligibility to Play"** means registered and not under Suspension.
- (8) **"Federation"** means the United States Soccer Federation, Inc.
- (9) **"Game Roster"** means the list of players who will participate in a particular competition.
- (10) **"Involuntary Release"** means the removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of team authorities.
- (11) **"National Championships Series Competitions"** means the competitions provided for under this policy for the 13 and Under, 14 and Under, 15 and Under, 16 and Under, 17 and Under, and 18/19 Under age groups.
- (12) **"National Championships Series"** means the competitions established under this policy.
- (13) **"National Championships Series Tournament Director"** means the National Championships as established by Rule 102, Sections 1 and 2 of this policy.
- (14) **"Registration"** means the signing of an intent to play the sport of soccer and the paying of fees to become a member of US Youth Soccer.
- (15) **"Rostering"** means assignment of a registered player to a team.
- (16) **"Select Team"** means the official select or all-star team of —
 - (A) US Youth Soccer;
 - (B) a Region;
 - (C) a State Association;
 - (D) a district or geographical subdivision of a State Association; or
 - (E) any league
- (17) **"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.
- (18) **"Suspension"** means the temporary withdrawal of rights and privileges, such as the right to play, coach, or otherwise administer or participate (directly or indirectly)

in soccer, and the Suspension is for the entire term of the Suspension with all rights and privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending authority.

(19) **"Team"** means a group of soccer players playing on the same side in soccer games.

(20) **"Team Roster"** means a list of registered players eligible to play for a Team.

(21) **"US Youth Soccer"** means the United States Youth Soccer Association.

(22) **"National Championship Series Event Team"** shall be comprised of National Championship Tournament Director appointed by the Chief Soccer Officer with approval of the Chief Executive Officer. The National Championship Tournament Director shall determine the number of personnel and make-up of the Event Team.

(23) **"US Youth Soccer National Championship Tournament Director"** means the individual overseeing the National Championship Series for US Youth Soccer.

(24) **"Voluntary Release"** means the removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of the player.

(25) **"Youth Player"** means an individual as defined by Article III of the US Youth Soccer Bylaws.

(26) The National Championship Series is a single competition conducted at the State and National levels.

Rule 102. ESTABLISHMENT AND TITLE OF COMPETITIONS:

Section 1. US Youth Soccer establishes and shall organize annually National Championship Competitions in the 13 and Under, 14 and Under, 15 and Under, 16 and Under and 17 and Under age brackets. The Under 18 and Under 19 age groups shall be combined to form an Under 18/19 age bracket.

Section 2. The National Championships competitions are the property of USYS and shall be competed annually on dates and at sites determined by the Tournament Director and approved by the CEO or designee. In the event of disagreement, the decision will fall to the full USYS Board of Director's.

Section 3. There will be individual, separately conducted National Championships competitions for boys and girls in each of the age groups. Teams that qualify directly for the National Championships through the National League platform may be granted a waiver by their State Association from participating in their State Cup competition if they do not wish to participate. All other teams and those National League platform teams that are not granted a waiver by their State Association MUST participate in their State Cup to qualify for the National Championships.

Section 4. The title of the National Championships competitions shall be the "USYS National Championship Series".

Section 5. The title of the National Championship Competitions for each of the age groups shall be "US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SERIES". The Cup for each boys and girls age group shall be engraved annually with the name of the champion team of that age group.

Section 6. The cups are the property of US Youth Soccer and shall be competed annually on dates and at sites determined by the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series Management Group as approved by the Chief Executive Officer, and/or designee.

Section 7. National Championship Competitions at the State Association level shall include in their title the name US Youth Soccer National Championships as follows:

(1) for State Association competitions: “US YOUTH SOCCER [insert State Association name] CHAMPIONSHIPS” or “US YOUTH SOCCER [insert State Association name] STATECUP”.

(2) The US Youth Soccer National Championships Series logo is required on all event merchandise and graphics at the State Associations’ competitions—and national competitions. The logo can be used as part of event artwork or as a stand-alone logo.

Rule 103. ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. (a) The entire administration of these competitions is vested in the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series Tournament Director, the Chief Soccer Officer and the Chief Executive Officer, and/or designee.

(b) Any matters not provided for in this policy shall be decided by the US Youth Soccer National Championship Tournament Director, and all decisions are final.

Section 2. (a) The US Youth Soccer National Championship Tournament Director shall determine each year the deadline for entry in the National Championships Competitions along with the entry fee for these competitions.

(b) Not later than the deadline for entry, each State Association wishing to enter these competitions shall submit to the US Youth Soccer national office the following:

- (1) a non-refundable fee in the amount set by the US Youth Soccer National Championship Leadership for each competition.
- (2) an entry form indicating the State Association’s intention to compete.

Rule 104. PRECEDENCE OF GAMES

The National Championship Series Competition games shall take precedence over all other US Youth Soccer games in the selected vicinities where the event(s) are located.

Rule 105. NOTICES

All notices and other communications required to be given under this policy shall be in writing and shall be addressed to the National Championship Series Tournament Director.