



US YOUTH SOCCER US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL PRESIDENTS CUP REGION IV PRESIDENTS CUP TOURNAMENT

TOURNAMENT FORMAT AND RULES

ELIGIBLE AGE GROUPS

U13-U17 Boys and Girls

STATE QUALIFIERS

Each State Association will operate a qualifying event or competition that will provide a champion to represent them in each division to the Regional Presidents Cup Tournament. State Associations will notify the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Chairperson of their intent to participate in each age group by Feb 25, 2010.

Teams will qualify for participation in the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament in one of two ways:

- A. For US Youth Soccer States whose membership is 30,000 or fewer:
 - I) The Runner-up, or second place, team in the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series may represent the state at the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament; or
 - II) Each State is free to designate any team except their USYSNC Champion, as their representative to the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament.
- B. For US Youth Soccer States whose membership is 30,001 or more:
 - I) The winner of the competition level directly below US Youth Soccer (State Association) State Championship or Cup may represent the state at the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament; or
 - II) Each State is free to designate any team except those that participated in USYSNC, as their representative to the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament.

TEAM ELIGIBILITY

The Presidents Cup Tournament competition is a closed competition comprised of teams who are qualified by competition authorities through the Individual US Youth Soccer Regional Qualifiers; whose players are properly registered with US Youth Soccer through a State Association and who have qualified as described in the section above. All teams must comply 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 Regional Presidents Cup Tournament by winning their State Competition. The Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee may choose a replacement from among the finalists of the region competition to compete in the National

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

The State will provide a Presidents Cup Tournament roster with no more than eighteen (18) players for U14 through U15 or twenty-two (22) players for U16 and U17 age groups for each of their participating teams. State Associations must supply a roster reflecting the players registered for the State level event which the Presidents Cup Tournament Committee can use to determine compliance with the following:

- A. Rosters MUST be legible and signed by the State Association Registrar;
- B. Players MUST be listed in alphabetical order, last name first;
- C. Jersey Numbers MUST be listed on the Roster;
- D. All players will have a uniquely numbered jersey that matches their number listed on the roster;
- E. No team shall be allowed more than 18/22 players on its roster respective to their age group; and
- F. Team bench personnel (maximum of four (4) people).

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. Passes must 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!

FORMAT OF COMPETITION

The format of the competition will be determined upon the completion of team entries and posted upon the Region IV website.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event that inclement weather affects the competition, the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee reserves the right to make all decisions concerning this competition. The decisions of the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee are final, not subject to appeal.

GAME BALLS

All games will be played using a size #5 ball supplied by the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee. In the unlikely event Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee officials do not provide a ball, the referee will make a choice from balls offered by both teams.

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.

HOME TEAM – VISITING TEAM

The team listed first in each pairing is the home team. The visiting team will have their choice of jersey colors. If in the opinion of the referee there is a conflict, the home team shall change jerseys.

TECHNICAL AREA

Players and team personnel will be in the technical area on one side of the field. A maximum of four (4) people can represent the team officials, (i.e. coach, assistant coach, manager, trainer). Parents and spectators will be on the opposite side of the field from the technical area. Team officials must display their identification passes as provided by the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee.

UNIFORMS

Each player must wear an official uniform with a six inch minimum size number on the back of the shirt. Duplicate numbers are NOT permitted. Teams MUST bring an alternate jersey with a six-inch minimum size number (which is the same as their primary jersey number) on the back. **No jewelry may be worn during a match (allowances for medical alert bracelets and necklaces as approved by the referee.) Goalkeeper jerseys are not required to have a number.**

SCORING AND TIE BREAKERS

The standings of teams during the round robin portion of play are based upon the number of points earned in qualifying games.

Teams earn points as follows:

- A. Three points for a win (Forfeits are considered a 4-0 victory)
- B. One point for a tie, and
- C. No points for a loss

TIE BREAKERS

In the event where two or more teams have accumulated an equal number of points within any group and are tied on the basis of points earned at the conclusion of Round Robin play, the team's placement will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria. Tiebreakers will be considered in order until the tie is broken, then restarted to break the remaining tie:

- A. Winner in head-to-head competition (this criteria is not used if more than two teams are tied);
- B. Highest goal difference (goals for minus goals against) with a maximum of three (3) goals difference per game counted both for and against. For example, if the score was 8-3, the calculation would be +3 goals for the winning team, -3 goals for the losing team. If the score was 6-4, the calculation would be +2 goals for the winning team and -2 goals for the losing team.
- C. Total goals allowed. Team with the fewest total goals allowed advances;
- D. Kicks from the penalty mark at a time determined by the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee will occur within 40 minutes of the conclusion of the last match played in the group.

TIES

After round robin play, any game with a tie at the conclusion of the regulation period will be broken first by the completion of two equal overtime periods following the FIFA Laws of the Game. Matches which remain tied at the conclusion of the overtime periods will be determined by kicks from the Penalty Mark using the 11 players on the field at the conclusion of the second overtime and following the FIFA Laws of the Game.

PROTESTS AND APPEALS

All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors, to interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest concerning the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament, shall be referred to the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee.

To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest:

- A. Must be orally lodged by a Team Official who is a direct participant of the game. Protests must be lodged with the referee and the opposing coach at the game site prior to leaving the game site or entering onto another field of play. The oral protest must be noted on the game report at the conclusion of the match.
- B. Must be filed with the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee within two (2) hours after the completion of the game being protested, accompanied by:
 - a. a fee of \$100.00 cash, cashier's check or money order,
 - b. Three (3) written copies of the protest, which must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged;
 - c. Three (3) written copies of any information to be presented by witnesses.

- C. 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.

The Chairman of the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee with which the protest is properly lodged shall immediately on receipt of the protest notify the team against which the protest is made and shall send 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, at a time specified by the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee.

Once the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee has ruled there will be no appeal of that decision.

RULES OF PLAY

Except as otherwise provided herein, the rules of US Youth Soccer and the FIFA “Laws of the Game” shall apply.

- A. Substitution - Unlimited substitutions shall be allowed during any stoppage of play except Corner Kicks and Penalty Kicks.
- B. Discipline - Players receiving a red card in any game shall be automatically suspended for the next game. Their player cards will be retained in the Tournament Office and may be picked up by the Coach at the completion of the suspension. The Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee will review all dismissals and additional penalties or suspensions may be assessed. Coaches will receive a minimum of a 2 game suspension. See Suspension Guidelines for minimum game suspensions.
- C. Tournament Management - All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors, to interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest concerning the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament competitions, shall be referred to the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee. All decisions of the Committee are final.
- D. Unfinished Games – Unfinished games, due to any cause, will be replayed from the start, provided that neither team is at fault and play has not begun in the second half. If play is stopped after completion of the first half, and cannot be resumed as determined by the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee, and provided neither team is at fault, the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee may deem the game completed. Should play be stopped at any time due to one of the teams being adjudged at fault, it shall be at the discretion of the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee as to whether the game is to be replayed, stand as is, or declared a forfeit.

DURATION OF GAMES

Age Group	Game Length	Overtime Periods *
Under 17	Two 45 min. halves	Two 15 min. halves
Under 16	Two 40 min. halves	Two 15 min. halves
Under 15	Two 40 min. halves	Two 15 min. halves
Under 14	Two 35 min. halves	Two 10 min. halves
Under 13	Two 35 min. halves	Two 10 min. halves
		* (No overtime in Round Robin Play)

We may adjust the format according to the number of teams entered.

SCHEDULING OF GAMES

The Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee is responsible for developing the schedule of games. The Local Organizing Committee may be asked to provide information on field size, location, and availability to assist in the scheduling process.

Preliminary schedule will be developed in May upon final receipt of initial entries submitted by states.

Final schedule will be posted to the Region IV web page.

If teams withdraw prior to 14 days of the start of the tournament, wildcards can be used as replacement teams.

If teams withdraw within 14 days of the start of the tournament, teams may not be replaced. Scheduled opponents could receive a "bye game" during the preliminary round.

Within the limits imposed by these rules and guidelines and by uncontrollable external conditions, the schedule is developed in an objective manner with no favoritism shown to specific teams or state associations.

WILDCARD RULES

Wildcard teams will be used in any age group where it is necessary to fill the brackets. The wildcard draw will be held on the same date as the bracket draw either before or after the bracket draw. All state associations may participate in the wildcard draw.

The format for filling out the wildcard matrix will be developed by the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee. It will provide all participating states an equal opportunity to receive wildcard selections. When a wildcard team is needed, the first state listed for that age group will be notified. If they decline, the next state is contacted, and so on until a wildcard team is selected.

A state cannot have a wildcard team selected unless they already have a team entered in that age group. All wildcard teams must compete in the same age group in which they participated during state play. No state may have a second wildcard team in the same age group until all other state associations have declined their wildcard selection.

OTHER RULES

Official Game Cards:

The game cards filled out by the referees are the official records of the tournament and are retained by the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee. The format and content of the cards are established by the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee and the RRA, in consultation with the National Presidents Cup Committee.

The contents include the following information:

- Game information – date, location, game number
- Scheduled and actual start times
- Division of play – age and gender
- Team names – designated as "home" and "away"
- Team uniform colors
- Name of team taking opening kickoff
- Jersey numbers of players who scored
- Game time of scores
- Captains names and jersey numbers
- Coaches Name
- Details on cautions and sendoffs
- Sportsmanship points for each team
- Referee comments
- Referee signatures

Expanded Rosters for U16-17

Up to twenty-two (22) players are allowed on a team roster for U16 and U17 teams. Only eighteen (18) players are allowed to be game active. Game active players are to be identified on the game roster given to the officials

prior to the start of play. Players who are not game active may remain on the team bench, but cannot be in team uniforms.

Failure to Appear or Perform

Teams who withdraw from the regional tournament after May 15th shall forfeit their entry fee and will be fined an additional \$1,000.00. The money collected in fines may be dispersed to the replacing wildcard team to help defray expenses incurred by attending the regional tournament.

Based on circumstances involved, the tournament committee may levy a fine of \$500.00 per game for all games forfeited during the regional tournament. This fine may be dispersed to any team(s) adversely affected by the forfeiture(s).

All fines will be assessed to the team's state association and must be paid within 30 days of the completion of the regional tournament. The regional tournament committee shall have the authority to assess an additional penalty and/or refuse entry to any team from a state association with unpaid fines at the time of entry the following year.

Assessment of fines and penalties is the responsibility of the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee.

OTHER ITEMS

Awards

Region IV provides awards for teams finishing first (1st) and second (2nd) in each age bracket of the Regional Presidents Cup Tournament:

SUSPENSION GUIDELINES

The Hearings Committee shall act on all disciplinary matters and shall have discretionary powers in determining disciplinary action applied to team personnel and players. Game suspensions listed below are to be regarded as minimums for the charged offenses. Depending on the findings of the Hearings Committee, penalties may be increased according to the gravity of the infringements.

When sent off the field of play and shown the red card for infringement of the "laws of the game," players and substitutes shall be disciplined by additional game suspensions as follows:

Serious Foul Play

Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to, intentionally impeding an opponent denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity; denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by handling the ball.

All age groups: Suspension of a minimum of one (1) game.

Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to, tripping, holding, unlawfully charging or pushing an opponent denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity; intentionally tripping, holding, pushing, unlawfully charging or tackling an opponent from behind or charging in a dangerous and violent manner.

All age groups: Suspension of a minimum of one (1) game.

Foul, Insulting, or Abusive Language

Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to, words uttered in frustration and, in the referee's opinion, loud enough to be heard outside the field of play; words or actions directed towards any person.

All age groups: Suspension of a minimum of one (1) game.

Violent Conduct

Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to, spitting, or other unseemly act, on or at another person; kicking, striking or attempting to strike another person.

All age groups: Suspension of a minimum of two (2) games.

Pushing in an act of aggression, kicking, spitting at, striking or attempting to strike a referee, assistant referee, or fourth official.

All age groups: Suspension of a minimum of one (1) year with review by the Board of Presidents Cup regarding possible further disciplinary action.

Any player, substitute 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 on an infringement of the "laws of the game" involving them, shall have one game added to the suspension that would normally be levied by the Conduct Committee.

Goal Celebrations

Players will receive a yellow card for removing their jersey as part of a goal celebration. Removing the jersey includes covering the head and pulling the jersey over the head as well as complete removal of the shirt. A player whose jersey removal reveals text or pictures on an undershirt or on the skin must be dealt with in accordance with what is shown:

- A red card is shown if the material is insulting, abusive, or offensive
- A yellow card is shown if the material is unsporting

In specific situations, the Conduct Committee may place an individual on probation, in addition to the suspension, for a period of time not to exceed the length of the suspension. The probationary period is to be served immediately following the suspension period and is intended to monitor an individual's degree of reformation. Should an individual on probation be sent off the field of play and shown the red card during the probationary period, the original suspension and probation shall be re-applied and no appeal will be heard.

Coaches and assistant coaches sent off the field of play for an infringement of the "laws of the game" shall have one (1) additional game added to the suspension that would normally be levied against a player for a similar infringement.

Coaches who are serving suspensions cannot participate in any game activities related to the team from which they were suspended. Coaches are prohibited from participating in any pre-game activities and must remain out of game sight during matches from which they are suspended. The use of cell phones for team contact is specifically prohibited.

Players who are serving suspensions may sit on the team bench during the game(s) from which they have been suspended. They must wear non-uniform apparel and must conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. Misbehavior may result in removal from the team area at the request of tournament officials and additional sanctions are possible.

"Club" coaches or coaches listed on multiple rosters who are suspended will serve their suspension during the next scheduled games involving the team they were coaching at the time of their suspension. If that team is no longer participating in the national Presidents Cup tournament championships, coaches will serve their suspensions until the suspension is served.

CAUTIONS AND EJECTIONS TRACKING PROCEDURES

The Game Card

The official game card is filled out by the referee and turned in to the scorekeeper. The scorekeeper will check the game card for any and all send-offs and cautions. Each infraction will be entered into the computer program using game number, player name, player jersey number, state association, and reference code for infraction given by the referee. Information will be verified by the scorekeeper.

Each send-off must be supported by a separate referee report. The player pass card will be attached to the official game card. Any report of infractions must be substantiated by the referee report or it will not be reported to the state association.

Game Card Review

The game card is reviewed by the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee for nature of infractions to determine the number of game suspensions according to published guidelines.

Player pass card is pulled from game card and placed in a hold file which is kept by either the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee or the Credentials Chair until such time as the suspension has been served.

Player pass cards for participants whose suspensions are served during the tournament shall be picked up at Tournament Headquarters no sooner than one hour after the conclusion of the final game for which the player has sat out. Pass cards for participants with outstanding suspensions not served during the regional tournament must be picked up before the completion of the tournament. A disciplinary report will be sent to the state association and the National Tournament Committee for any outstanding suspensions not served.

Documentation

A copy of each game card and referee send-off report is made, along with a copy of the player pass. The Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee will hold this data for a period of one (1) year.

A letter of notification will be sent to the state association listing any player(s) or team administrators whom may have outstanding suspensions that need to be served at the national or state level.

States are to provide the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee with verification of compliance at credential check-in of any open suspensions from State qualifying tournament play that needs to be served in the first game of the regional tournament.

CREDENTIALS

CREDENTIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO STATES

Registration and credential instructions and information will be prepared and mailed to all State Presidents Cup Tournament Chairs and State Administrators well in advance of the tournament according to the deadlines dates established.

DUTIES OF STATE ASSOCIATIONS

Each State Association shall appoint or designate an individual as its State Presidents Cup Tournament Representative to be responsible for the proper registration and eligibility of its players and teams. Each State Youth Association will be held responsible via its State Presidents Cup Tournament Representative or designee for certifying the credentials of its teams and players, and to provide all necessary forms. Failure to comply with all rules and procedures can lead to disciplinary action.

DUTIES OF STATE PRESIDENTS CUP TOURNAMENT REPRESENTATIVE

Each State Presidents Cup Tournament Representative shall be responsible for the proper submission of documents to the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Chairman, or his designee, in a timely manner.

The State Presidents Cup Tournament Representative shall be responsible for all communications regarding the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament competitions to the coaches and/or team officials from that State Youth Association. This responsibility includes communication and liaison between the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Chairman, the local tournament chairman, and the team officials for that State during their actual tenure at the tournament.

The Presidents Cup Tournament Representative is responsible for distributing the US Youth Soccer Rules to each coach or team official. Each State Presidents Cup Tournament Representative shall be responsible for the behavior of the teams, coaches, and team officials from their State Association during the competition.

The State Presidents Cup Tournament Representative will be notified when their state is awarded a wild card team. It is their responsibility to accept and provide the team name or decline the wild card within forty-eight (48) hours so another state may be notified.

CREDENTIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE STATE TOURNAMENT REPRESENTATIVE

It is the responsibility of each State Presidents Cup Tournament Representative to make sure that US Youth Soccer Rules pertaining to eligibility of teams and players have been met.

States hold the primary responsibility on eligibility of players and teams upon submission of rosters. All documentation should be checked several times by different individuals to make sure all data is correct.

Only players listed on the Official Roster will be allowed to participate in the Regional Competition. The State Presidents Cup Tournament Representative must have submitted the Official Roster plus seven (7) white copies of that roster.

The following items must be included in binder form for each team participating in the Regional Competition as part of the Credentials Process:

- A. Seven (7) photo static copies of rosters that comply in every detail with the section titled "Rosters" below.
- B. An official US Youth Soccer Member Pass laminated, presented in alphabetical order, including Coaches passes located behind the player passes, as described in the section titled "Player/Coach Passes" below.
- C. Medical Release Forms signed by the parent or guardian of the child.
- D. Local contact information form will be provided at Check-In will collect cell phone, hotel information, and return travel information for each team and will be on file with the Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Committee to facilitate contact.

States will be notified as to the scheduled time for check-in. Check schedule as published on Region IV Presidents Cup Tournament Credentials Web page. Time may vary if multiple sites are used.

The Credentials Chairman should be notified in advance if a state or team coach is unable to appear during the given time, so that alternate arrangements can be made. Any state representative not appearing during the given time for check-in without prior alternate arrangements will be deemed as no show for the competition.

CHECKLIST FOR STATE PRESIDENTS CUP TOURNAMENT REPRESENTATIVES

According to the US Youth Soccer Rules indicated, the signature of the State Youth Commissioner or President, or their designee, on a Tournament Roster, testifies that the following items have been verified:

Rule 224	Player Eligibility
Rule 241	Player Passes and Rosters

By May 15th, each State Presidents Cup Tournament Representative must file Official ROSTERS with the Region IV Tournament Assistant Director. Prior to submitting team rosters to the Regional Credentials Chairperson, the State Presidents Cup Tournament Representative should go through the following checklist for each team:

1. All players' names and information must be **TYPED** and signatures correspond with typed names. (NO NICKNAMES) First and last names are acceptable and preferred;
2. A player must be properly registered and rostered in accordance with the rules of US Youth Soccer and the State Association;
3. Each player on the roster has been registered with the State Youth Association on the approved US Youth Soccer form;
4. **ALL PLAYERS** on a team must be listed on the roster. A team's roster is frozen when a team checks in for the Regional Presidents Cup Tournament. However, a team must have on its roster at that time, **at least a 65% +1 continuity of players from the State Qualifying Tournament Roster to the Regional President's Cup Tournament Roster. Thereafter, no changes to the roster will be permitted. :**
5. All players listed on the US National Presidents Cup Championship Roster form display:
 - The name as shown on proof of age document
 - Correct birth date for player
 - Jersey number and alternate jersey number

- Player's position
 - Player's year of graduation
6. Roster must have listed:
- name of State Association
 - name of team, age group of team, gender of team
 - names/addresses/phone numbers of coaches, team managers, trainers
 - If you use back of roster for additional data, you must copy all data on all roster copies.
 - team uniform colors for shirts/shorts/socks plus alternate uniform colors
 - Wild Card teams must display a WC or the words Wild Card in the upper right hand corner of the roster.
7. The roster must be signed by the State Youth Association Commissioner/President or their designee and the team coach attesting all documentation is correct and true.

PLAYER AND ADMINISTRATOR PASSES

Each coach shall have a US Youth Soccer Member Card clearly marked "COACH PASS" which will contain the same data as on the player member card, expect date of birth. Coach **Pass must be outlined in red on the front and back of card.**

Each player shall have been issued a US Youth Soccer member card with the following typed information:

- Player name
- Team name
- Team age group (U13/14/15/16/17)
- Team gender (B for Boys, G for Girls; or M for Male, F for Female)
- Birth date of player (02/26/95)
- State Association name
- Current photo of player (head/shoulder, face on) Must be minimum of 1 ¼ x 1 ¼ inch picture. Typically school or drivers license size.
- Signatures of State Youth Commissioner or designee, player, coach.
- Wild Card teams must display WC on front of pass. WC can be done with a Sharpie pen or some type of marker.

ALL cards must be completely laminated in plastic. No open sides or ends.

ALL cards must be hole punched in **upper left-hand corner.**

ALL cards must be placed on an open lock ring.

ALL cards must be in roster order on the ring.

All player and coaches passes of teams entered in the regional competition. Each team is limited to four (4) team coaches/managers on bench side. Club Coaches must have a pass for **each team** he/she is associated with and this pass will be counted as one of the four allowed on the bench. A member card can be issued for one (1) state coach or medical personnel per state; and will be counted as part of four officials on bench. State Commissioner/President or a State Representative can be bench side for any of their teams, provided they hold an official pass. The State Commissioner or President, or a State Representative will not count as part of the team's coaching staff.