



FALL 2020 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS *Iowa State Cup & Iowa Presidents Cup (15U – 19U)*

MANAGING OUR FALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS DURING COVID-19

Balancing the safety of participants (players, coaches, referees, spectators) while still offering our annual championship events is what is driving our decision-making for our fall championships: the Iowa State Cup and the Iowa Presidents Cup. We are doing everything we can to ensure Covid-19 does not derail this once in a lifetime opportunity to win a state title and go on to represent Iowa next summer at US Youth Soccer's regional and/or national championships. By being proactive, creative and flexible, we are hopeful the result is no team will be forced to forfeit a match, and/or have to withdraw from the competition due to a positive Covid-19 test.



Primary principles guiding the format this fall for the Iowa State Cup and the Iowa Presidents Cup include:

- Creating a less risky environment surrounding the games and the Cups as a whole
- Reducing expense and time commitment for clubs and families
- Building in flexibility that allows for "local" match-ups to be scheduled closer to "home"
- Setting up the competitions to successfully reach a conclusion in which age group winners who will represent #TeamIowa at regionals are determined

STAND-ALONE CUPS | 2021 Iowa State Cup & 2021 Iowa Presidents Cup, Fall 2020 Competition

Over the past three years of the Iowa Soccer Championship Series (ISCS), which served as the qualifying event that determined if your team advanced to the Iowa State Cup or to the Iowa Presidents Cup, we have experienced the growth of the ISCS competition. During this time Iowa teams have also had regional and national success, particularly at Presidents Cup. While already poised to run stand-alone Cups this fall, mitigating the pandemic's risks erased any doubt that it is time to evolve the ISCS and now offer stand-alone Cups: the Iowa State Cup and the Iowa Presidents Cup. This means that clubs and teams now choose which state championship they want to enter and compete in. *An unintended consequence is that separate Championships also lend themselves well to our Covid-19 mitigation efforts this fall.*

FALL COMPETITION FORMAT | Single Elimination, Flexible Scheduling

In keeping with our guiding principles (above) for reducing risk, expense and time commitment during the pandemic, the flexible format for Fall 2020 Competition in each Cup is single elimination, with the option to localize matches. *(This decision is for this fall, please do not assume or misinterpret that it is the format for future years).*

Included in this format, once the official schedules are released by Iowa Soccer, is the flexibility for teams to:

- Stay on the play date, but move the match to a more local or neutral location



- If beneficial for both teams, move the play date and the location of the match within a designated window
- Details on “how to” and the window in which matches may be rescheduled by teams involved will be released when the schedules are released

COVID-19 and A POSITIVE TEST

The purpose of the Iowa State Cup and the Iowa Presidents Cup is to identify the teams that will advance to the respective US Youth Soccer regional championship in the summer of 2021. We are optimistic that by re-tooling the Cups this fall, we will be able to see the events to completion, giving the players and coaches the chance to compete for a coveted state title.

However, if a team has a player or coach who tests positive for COVID-19, he/she must follow Iowa Soccer’s Return to Play Protocols (RTP) which could require a 14-day quarantine. Once reported, the Cup Director will communicate to all teams in the affected division; if a scheduled match falls within the quarantine period, Iowa Soccer will work with both teams to try to reschedule it outside that 14-day restricted period. *Please know our pledge is to work with teams to provide fair and reasonable solutions as challenges arise; bear in mind in some instances factors may be too numerous to overcome, but our goal is that the results of games and the outcome of the championships are due to games being played, not forfeited.*

ELIGIBLE TEAMS | Fall 2020 Age Groups

This event is open to any Iowa Soccer member team comprised of properly registered and rostered youth players that participate in the required minimum games in an approved league during the current seasonal year: USYS National League, USYS Midwest Conference, or Iowa Soccer State League. The team must be in good standing and in compliance with all Iowa Soccer rules, bylaws and policies and the corresponding Cup rules. *Additionally, US Youth Soccer, in response to lost opportunities for players this spring, has made age group exceptions in each Cup this year (see below for detail).*

2021 Iowa State Cup, Fall 2020 Competition	2021 Iowa Presidents Cup, Fall 2020 Competition
15U B&G (2006 Age Group)	15U B&G (2006 Age Group)
16U B&G (2005 Age Group)	16U B&G (2005 Age Group)
17U B&G (2004 Age Group)	17U B&G (2004 Age Group)
18U B&G (2003 Age Group)	18/19U B&G (2003/02 Age Group*)
19/20U B&G (2002/01 Age Group*)	N/A
Team Entry Fee = \$200	Team Entry Fee = \$200
Per Game Fee, Starting with First Game = (15-16U - \$150; 17U and up - \$160)	Per Game Fee, Starting with First Game = (15-16U - \$150; 17U and up - \$160)

**US Youth Soccer has made an exception for our oldest age groups in each of these events to give these players an opportunity to make up for lost opportunities this past summer due to COVID-19 pandemic.*

IOWA STATE CUP: The oldest admissible age group for the 2020-21 SEASONAL YEAR ONLY will be 19/20U. Eligible players’ must be born on or after January 1, 2001.

IOWA PRESIDENTS CUP: The oldest admissible age group for the 2020-21 SEASONAL YEAR ONLY will be 18/19U. Eligible players' must be born on or after January 1, 2002.

COMPETITION DETAILS | Fee, Dates, Location

- Minimum Cup fee (entry fee + game fee for first game) = \$350 (15U-16U), \$360 (17U-up)
- Game fee, per table above, assessed for each game team competes in (there could be some flexibility on this amount if teams move match to a different location)
- “Home Base” Location: Cownie Soccer Park (Des Moines)
- Timeline:
 - Online Entry Opens: Wednesday, August 12; will enter “State Cup” or “Presidents Cup”
 - Entry Closes: Wednesday, August 26
 - Seeding Calls: Thursday, September 10
 - Returning Team Rule in effect for teams #1 - #4 and for teams #5 - #8
 - Roster continuity of 9+ players from previous cup roster
 - Fall Brackets & Schedules Posted: Wednesday, September 16
 - *Games will be scheduled @ Cownie based on the table below. Upon the release of the schedule, if mutually-agreed upon, teams may play a match on an alternative date/time/location as long as the request to change the game is submitted to Iowa Soccer no later than one week prior to requested date and the date lands BEFORE the date Iowa Soccer has it scheduled for at Cownie*
 - Game Change Window, Requests:
 - Cup play may begin Saturday, September 26, the first allowable date for games; game must be played before the date it is scheduled for at Cownie.
 - Request to change must be submitted no later than one week prior to the rescheduled game date.

HOW & WHEN GAMES WILL BE SCHEDULED AT COWNIE – STATE CUP & PRESIDENTS CUP				
# Of Teams in Division	October 17	October 18	October 24	October 25
1 Team	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2 Team	n/a	n/a	n/a	Final
3 Team	n/a	n/a	Semifinal	Final
4 Team	n/a	n/a	Semifinal	Final
5 Team	Round 1	n/a	Semifinal	Final
6 Team	Round 1	n/a	Semifinal	Final
7 Team	Round 1	n/a	Semifinal	Final
8 Team	Round 1	n/a	Semifinal	Final
9 Team	Round 1	Round 2	Semifinal	Final
10 Team	Round 1	Round 2	Semifinal	Final
11 Team	Round 1	Round 2	Semifinal	Final
12 Team	Round 1	Round 2	Semifinal	Final