



**US Youth Soccer  
Region III Presidents Cup**

**Player/Team Eligibility  
Format of the Tournament  
Rules of the Competition**

Effective May 4, 2017

## **Scope of Competition**

It is the intent of the Region III Presidents Cup competition to mirror the policies, procedures and rules of the most current edition of the "Policy on the US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup" in all respects.

The National Presidents Cup competition shall be conducted at the following levels:

- The first level of competition is at the state level.
- The second level of competition at the regional level.
- The third level of competition is at the national level.

The State Association

- Shall determine whether it will conduct a National Presidents Cup competition to determine its representatives in compliance with US Youth Soccer Rule 303.
- Shall determine which age groups and genders that it will conduct competitions for.
- Shall determine the format for the competition and the teams that will represent it in the Region III Presidents Cup tournament in compliance with US Youth Soccer Rule 303.
- Shall determine prior to the competitions at the State Association level, the schedule and plans for determining the State Association representatives shall be submitted for approval to the Region III Presidents Cup Chair.

US Youth Soccer Region III

- Shall conduct the Region III Presidents Cup competition, consisting of 13-U, 14-U, 15-U, 16-U and 17-U boys and girls age groups. The competition shall be conducted amongst the teams as determined by the individual State Associations of Region III.
- Shall determine the teams that represent Region III at the National Presidents Cup competition via the results of the Region III Presidents Cup tournament.
- Shall establish the requirements and format for the Region III Presidents Cup tournament consistent with the US Youth Soccer Policy on the National Presidents Cup.

## **Player Eligibility**

- A player must be properly registered and rostered in accordance with the rules of US Youth Soccer (Policy on Playing Rules, 201 and 209) and the State Association at the conclusion of the State's qualifying event.
- In State Associations where player registrations are 25,001 or larger during the immediately preceding seasonal year, a player who participated in quarter, semi or final matches in a designated State NCS series or participated in the National League or the most competitive division of the respective regional league, is not eligible to participate in a Regional or National President's Cup.
- A team that is found guilty for any reason of having an ineligible player on its roster or using an ineligible player forfeits each game involving the ineligible player.
- A player who has been suspended may play after the player's term of suspension has expired.

## **Team Eligibility**

The Region III Presidents Cup competition 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:

- The team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered youth players (as defined by US Youth Soccer).
- 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.
- In State Associations where player registrations are 25,000 or larger during the immediately preceding seasonal year, teams who participate in the round of 16 or one of the top 16 teams in a State Cup or State Championships competitions, or participated in the National League or the most competitive division of the respective regional league, are not eligible to participate in the regional level of the National Presidents Cup.
- In State Associations where player registration totals less than 25,000 during the immediately preceding seasonal year, each State Association may designate any team as their representative to the regional level of the National Presidents Cup.

## **Passes, Rosters, Age Documentation and Uniforms**

### **Passes**

- At the Region III Presidents Cup competition, each player listed on the team's roster and team officials who are to be issued Region III Presidents Cup Bench Passes must carry an official US Youth Soccer Pass that includes:
  - Identification of the club the individual is registered with.
  - A current, face-on photograph of the individuals head and shoulders, permanently attached to and laminated within the pass.
  - Birth date (players only, not required for team officials)
  - US Youth Soccer player identification number.
  - Signature of State Registrar / Youth Commissioner / President or other designee.
  - All team officials shall have a US Youth Soccer identification card clearly marked with their team function (DOC, Coach, Assistant Coach, Trainer, etc.) Such pass cards need not show birth date but must contain all other information (including a photo) included on the player identification cards as indicated above.
  - All passes must be laminated, kept in order on a ring or other containing device, with team officials in the front followed by players in alphabetical order by last name.
- Club specific credentialed team officials (with a maximum of four (4)), will be issued Bench Passes by the Region III Presidents Cup Committee. All team credentialed team officials must have their US Youth Soccer pass in their possession at all times while in the team area. Bench Passes must be visibly worn in order to remain in the team area. Lost Bench Passes will NOT be replaced.
- A club is an organization providing soccer to youth players as identified by their US Youth Soccer State Association. A club pass is a USYS pass which is issued to a registered youth player. A player participating in the Region III Presidents Cup through the club pass system must be in compliance with all applicable registration and rostering rules. The State Association is responsible for the approval of all players on the roster.
- Team rosters and player/team official passes will be checked and approved at registration. The team's Region III Presidents Cup roster and player/team official passes must also be available to be checked prior to each game, either by referees or the tournament committee. If the player/team official passes have been previously checked at registration, and found acceptable, the tournament committee MAY waive the requirement that the passes be available at each game if the passes are not able to be present due to extraordinary circumstances (as determined solely by the Region III Presidents Cup Tournament committee).

### **Rosters**

- Each state shall set a roster freeze date for their state Presidents Cup Tournament. Once a player is rostered to a team's state Presidents Cup roster and the roster freeze date has passed, no movement of players is permitted until the players team is eliminated from the competition, and then only between the different levels of Presidents Cup competitions.
- Team rosters and player/team official passes will be checked and approved at registration. The team's Region III Presidents Cup roster and player/team official passes must also be available to be checked prior to each game, either by referees or the tournament committee. If the player passes have been previously checked at registration, and found acceptable, the tournament committee MAY waive the requirement that the passes be available at each game if the passes are not able to be present due to extraordinary circumstances (as determined solely by the Region III Presidents Cup Tournament committee).
- Each team in the tournament shall submit a roster with not more than twenty-two (22) players; the roster size shall be consistent per age group with the National Presidents Cup policy. All rosters shall include the number of each player's jersey. 18 players are eligible to play in a given match; players serving a disciplinary suspension must be part of the 18 player game roster. Players on the team roster but not participating may be on the bench in street clothes. A team must have on its game roster at least 9 players that were on its roster at its state qualifying event.

- Roster freeze and lock information in the American Eagle Event Management System (EMS):
  - Rosters will be frozen in the EMS one (1) week before the start of the tournament, i.e. at 11:59PM Central Time on Tuesday night/Wednesday morning. The State Rep lock will occur exactly 24 hours later, on Wednesday night/Thursday morning at 11:59PM Central time.
  - All information listed on the roster must be verified and approved by an appropriate official of the State Association. A copy of an Official State generated roster shall be submitted to the Region III Registrar at or before the time for the State Rep lock, which is listed above.
  - After the deadlines above, State Reps should bring any issue with a team's Roster to the attention of the Region III Registrar as soon as the issue is identified.

#### Age Documentation

- Proof of age for each player is not required at check-in, but must be available within 24 hours if requested or if a protest of eligibility is made. It is strongly suggested that this information be available throughout the tournament.
- Acceptable proof of age documents include a birth certificate or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, passport, alien registration card issued by the US Government, certificate issued by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age or a certification of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. Not accepted are hospital, baptismal or any religious certificates.

#### Uniforms

- Each team must have 2 (two) complete uniform kits: one light color (including socks), and the other dark, (including socks) at each game. The home team is required to wear their light uniform (including socks) and the away team is required to wear their dark uniform (including socks). If, in the opinion of the Referee, there is a color conflict, the team causing the conflict must change.
- Each player shall have a number on his or her jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team including goalkeepers.
- In the President's Cup Regional competition and associated activities, team uniforms (including team officials) may have the name, logo or other identifying mark of US Youth Soccer and/or one of US Youth Soccer's affiliated State Associations or affiliated clubs. Team uniforms may also have a mark or name related to an item or service that is appropriate for youth soccer.
- Any inappropriate marks or logos, as well as the name, logo, or other identifying mark of any youth soccer organization not affiliated with US Youth Soccer must be removed or covered when present at a game or associated activity.

#### Other

Hotel room blocks and reservations are solely be handled by your State Office and/or State Representative. Any questions regarding hotels must be directed to your State.

The Region III Presidents Cup is governed by a "Stay to Play" rule. Any team that does not utilize the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) specified hotels, in the manner they have approved, will NOT be allowed to participate in the tournament.

Aerial drones that are operated in a manner that, in the opinion of the tournament officials, creates a safety hazard and/or a distraction to the participants are not permitted over or in the immediate vicinity of the fields or tournament administration areas (to include tournament headquarters, hospitality, awards areas, team warm-up areas, etc.) while any tournament event is taking place.

### **Concussion Information**

A concussion is a brain injury and all brain injuries are serious. All concussions are serious and may result in complications including prolonged brain damage and possibly death if not recognized and managed properly.

**A player diagnosed with a possible concussion may return to US Youth Soccer play only after release from a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy specializing in concussion treatment and management.**

It should be noted that state or local laws in the location where the Region III Presidents Cup is being held may be more restrictive than these rules.

For any player diagnosed with a possible concussion, the player (if possible), any parents present at the event, along with a team official, must sign and will be issued the USYS "Possible Concussion Notification" form.

Additional information on the USYS Concussion Protocol can be found at <http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/HealthandSafetyResourceCenter/>

To manage concussions, US Youth Soccer (USYS) mandates that the attached protocol be followed at any USYS event, including the Region III Presidents Cup. A team representative is strongly encouraged to notify all players, coaches, managers, trainers, parents and any other adults associated with their team that the USYS Concussion protocol will be utilized throughout the Region III Presidents Cup tournament, including athletes not being permitted to participate if they are diagnosed with a possible concussion.

Additionally, if a player is diagnosed with a possible concussion in the last game played by your team at the event, the player identification card will be retained and forwarded to the USYS office. Once the player is cleared as per the USYS concussion policy, that clearance should be sent to the USYS office, and the card will then be returned.



## Concussion Procedure and Protocol For US Youth Soccer Events

**Concussion:** a traumatic brain injury that interferes with normal brain function. Medically, a concussion is a complex, pathophysiological event to the brain that is induced by trauma which may or may not involve a loss of consciousness (LOC). Concussion results in a constellation of physical, cognitive, emotional, and sleep-related symptoms. Signs or symptoms may last from several minutes to days, weeks, months or even longer in some cases.

### CONCUSSION SIGNS, SYMPTOMS, AND MANAGEMENT AT TRAINING AND COMPETITIONS

#### **Step 1:**

##### Did a concussion occur?

Evaluate the player and note if any of the following signs and/or symptoms are present:

- (1) Dazed look or confusion about what happened.
- (2) Memory difficulties.
- (3) Neck pain, headaches, nausea, vomiting, double vision, blurriness, ringing noise or sensitive to sounds.
- (4) Short attention span. Can't keep focused.
- (5) Slow reaction time, slurred speech, bodily movements are lagging, fatigue, and slowly answers questions or has difficulty answering questions.
- (6) Abnormal physical and/or mental behavior.
- (7) Coordination skills are behind, ex: balancing, dizziness, clumsiness, reaction time.

#### **Step 2:**

##### Is emergency treatment needed?

This would include the following scenarios:

- (1) Spine or neck injury or pain.
- (2) Behavior patterns change, unable to recognize people/places, less responsive than usual.
- (3) Loss of consciousness.
- (4) Headaches that worsen
- (5) Seizures
- (6) Very drowsy, can't be awakened
- (7) Repeated vomiting
- (8) Increasing confusion or irritability
- (9) Weakness, numbness in arms and legs

**Step 3:**

If a possible concussion occurred, but no emergency treatment is needed, what should be done now?

Focus on these areas every 5-10 min for the next 1 - 2 hours, without returning to any activities:

- (1) Balance, movement.
- (2) Speech.
- (3) Memory, instructions, and responses.
- (4) Attention on topics, details, confusion, ability to concentrate.
- (5) State of consciousness
- (6) Mood, behavior, and personality
- (7) Headache or "pressure" in head
- (8) Nausea or vomiting
- (9) Sensitivity to light and noise

**Step 4:**

A player diagnosed with a possible concussion may return to US Youth Soccer play only after release from a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy specializing in concussion treatment and management.

**Step 5:**

If there is a possibility of a concussion, do the following:

- (1) The attached Concussion Notification Form is to be filled out in duplicate and signed by a team official of the player's team.
- (2) If the player is able to do so, have the player sign and date the Form. If the player is not able to sign, note on the player's signature line "unavailable".
- (3) If a parent/legal guardian of the player is present, have the parent/legal guardian sign and date the Form, and give the parent/legal guardian one of the copies of the completed Form. If the parent/legal guardian is not present, then the team official is responsible for notifying the parent/legal guardian ASAP by phone or email and then submitting the Form to the parent/legal guardian by email or mail. When the parent/legal guardian is not present, the team official must make a record of how and when the parent/legal guardian was notified. The notification will include a request for the parent/legal guardian to provide confirmation and completion of the Concussion Notification Form whether in writing or electronically.
- (4) Player Pass
  - (a) In league play. The team official must also obtain the player's pass from the referee, and attach it to the copy of the Form retained by the team.
  - (b) In tournament play, including, but not limited to, Regional and National Tournament play in the US Youth Soccer National Championships and President's Cup. The tournament committee will obtain the player's pass and keep it until a proper medical release relating to the injured player is received by the committee.

References:

Kissick MD, James and Karen M. Johnston MD, PhD. "Return to Play After Concussion." Collegiate Sports Medical Foundation. Volume 15, Number 6, November 2005. [http://www.csmfoundation.org/Kissick -  
\\_return\\_to\\_play\\_after\\_concussion - CJSM 2005.pdf](http://www.csmfoundation.org/Kissick_-_return_to_play_after_concussion_-_CJSM_2005.pdf). April 22, 2011.

National Federation of State High School Associations. "Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion in Sports". 2008 NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook (Third Edition). 2008 77-82. <http://www.nfhs.org>. April 21, 2011.





*The Game for All Kids!*®

Possible Concussion Notification  
For US Youth Soccer Events

Today, \_\_\_\_\_, 2\_\_\_\_, at the \_\_\_\_\_ [insert name of event],  
\_\_\_\_\_ [insert player's name] received a possible concussion during practice or  
competition. US Youth Soccer and Staff want to make you aware of this possibility and signs and symptoms  
that may arise which may require further evaluation and/or treatment.

It is common for a concussed child or young adult to have one or many concussion symptoms. There are four  
types of symptoms: physical, cognitive, emotional, and sleep.

If your daughter or son starts to show signs of these symptoms, or there any other symptoms you notice about  
the behavior or conduct of your son or daughter, you should consider seeking immediate medical attention:

- |                                       |                                  |                              |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| - Memory difficulties                 | - Neck pain                      | - Delicate to light or noise |
| - Headaches that worsen               | - Odd behavior                   | - Vomiting                   |
| - Fatigued                            | - Slow reactions                 | - Focus issues               |
| - Irregular sleep patterns            | - Less responsive than usual     | - Seizures                   |
| - Irritability                        | - Weakness/numbness in arms/legs | - Slurred speech             |
| - Repeats the same answer or question |                                  |                              |

Please take the necessary precautions and seek a professional medical opinion before allowing your daughter  
or son to participate further. Until a professional medical opinion is provided, please consider the following  
guidelines:

- Refraining from participation in any activities the day of, and the day after, the occurrence.
- Refraining from taking any medicine unless (1) current medicine, prescribed or authorized, is permitted  
to be continued to be taken, and (2) any other medicine is prescribed by a licensed health care  
professional.
- Refraining from cognitive activities requiring concentration cognitive activities such as TV, video games,  
computer work, and text messaging if they are causing symptoms.

If you are unclear and have questions about the above symptoms, please contact a medical doctor or doctor of  
osteopathy who specializes in concussion treatment and management. Please be advised that a player who  
suffers a possible concussion may not return to play until there is provided a signed clearance from a medical  
doctor or doctor of osteopathy who specializes in concussion treatment and management.

Player's Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Age Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Player Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Official Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*By inserting my name and date and returning this Notification Form, I confirm that I have been provided with, and acknowledge that, I have read the information contained in the Form. If returning the signed Form by mail, send it to the following address: 9220 World Cup Way, Frisco, TX 75034.*

*If returning this Form by email, send it to the following address: [nationaloffice@usyouthsoccer.org](mailto:nationaloffice@usyouthsoccer.org).*

US Youth Soccer Notification: Yes No If yes, method and recipient: \_\_\_\_\_

#### References:

Kissick MD, James and Karen M. Johnston MD, PhD. "Return to Play After Concussion." Collegiate Sports Medical Foundation. Volume 15, Number 6, November 2005. [http://www.csmfoundation.org/Kissick\\_-\\_return\\_to\\_play\\_after\\_concussion\\_-\\_CJSM\\_2005.pdf](http://www.csmfoundation.org/Kissick_-_return_to_play_after_concussion_-_CJSM_2005.pdf).

April 22, 2011.

National Federation of State High School Associations. "Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion in Sports". 2008 NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook (Third Edition). 2008 77-82.

<http://www.nfhs.org>.

April 21, 2011.

Children's National Medical Center. "Safe Concussion Outcome, Recovery & Education (SCORE) Program." Adapted by Gerard Gioia, PhD; Micky Collins, PhD; Shireen Atabaki, MD, MPH; Noel Zuckerbraun, MD, MPH.

<http://www.childrensnational.org/score>.

June 27, 2011.

## **Format & Rules of the Competition**

**Rules of Play:** Except as otherwise provided herein, FIFA Laws of the Game shall apply as modified by US Youth Soccer.

**Substitutions:** Substitutions shall be unlimited and made with the consent of the referee during any stoppage of play, except Penalty Kicks.

**Discipline:** Players ejected or team personnel removed from a match shall be automatically suspended for the next match. The Region III Presidents Cup committee will review all ejections and may impose additional punishment depending on the circumstances and severity of the infraction.

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

If a player has to be removed from the technical/bench area they will be escorted from the area and must be accompanied by a credentialed team staff member. A state representative must escort the player and team staff member to a waiting area.

Team personnel dismissed must leave the vicinity of the field before the match will be restarted.

A maximum of 18 players are eligible to participate in any single game. Players serving a disciplinary suspension must be part of the 18 player game roster. Players serving a disciplinary suspension may occupy the bench in the technical area while dressed in street clothes. If additional disciplinary situations occur in which a suspended player is involved, the Region III Presidents Cup Committee will require additional penalties to be served either during the event or during the following season of play.

Coaches 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 suspended game(s). Any violations will result in additional discipline action being taken by the Region III Presidents Cup Committee, including but not limited to additional suspensions and/or recommendations to the home state association.

Spectators asked to leave by a referee or other tournament official must immediately depart the field area and are required to remain out of sight and sound of the game until the team has departed the field of play and is no longer the responsibility of the referee.

**Suspensions:** If a player does not complete any suspension imposed during a National Presidents Cup qualifying event (State or Region), that suspension must be served at the next level of National Presidents Cup competition if the team advances to that level. If the team does not advance, then it is up to the State Association to determine how the suspension will be served.

**Match Manipulation:** Teams failing to compete in the spirit of the competition or are involved in the manipulation of a game result are subject to forfeiture and disqualification from all levels of the National Presidents Cup competition.

- 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.

**Tournament Management:** All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors, to interpretation of the rules, or any other dispute or protest concerning the Region III Presidents Cup competition, shall be referred to the Region III Presidents Cup Committee. All decisions of the Region III Presidents Cup Committee are final. One appeal to Region III is allowed.

Inclement Weather: Region III Presidents Cup Committee decisions regarding weather are final and not subject to appeal. Every attempt will be made to have all matches played. Re-scheduled games may be played under lights in the evening or may be scheduled for early morning, prior to normal starting time at the discretion of the Region III Presidents Cup Committee. Games will continue during rainstorms. Games will be suspended by the referee or the Region III Presidents Cup Committee in the event of unplayable field conditions, hail, tornado, lightning or other condition. In the event of tornadoes or lightning, all players, coaches and spectators should immediately clear the fields and seek shelter in their vehicles. The Region III Presidents Cup Committee will advise participants when it is safe to return to fields.

Re-scheduling attempts will be made as quickly and fairly as possible, considering referee and field availability and the normal progress of the competition. As a final solution, it may be necessary to employ a coin toss to determine teams advancing to semi-final and/or final matches.

The safety of players, referees and spectators is the tournaments primary concern followed by fairness to the affected teams and the orderly flow of competition for the Region III Presidents Cup.

Unfinished Games: Every attempt will be made to complete one-half of a match prior to next scheduled game.

- If at least one-half of a match is completed, the game is official and score stands.
- If one-half cannot be completed prior to the next scheduled game then:
  - The rest of the game may be re-scheduled at the end of the day
  - The rest of the game may be re-scheduled before the start of play on another day of the tournament.
  - The game may be canceled and kicks from the penalty mark will be used to determine a winner. A win will be recorded as a 4-0 win and loss as a 0-4 loss.
  - If circumstances do not permit kicks from the mark, then a coin flip may be utilized to determine a winner.

Schedule: Group play is scheduled on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, with Semi finals on Saturday and Championship games on Sunday.

Game Balls: The Region III President's Cup Committee will attempt to supply game balls. The referee will ask each team to provide suitable balls if games balls cannot be supplied. All games will be played using size #5 soccer balls.

Grace Period: Teams not ready to play at the scheduled start time of any match shall be granted a ten (10) minute grace period. At the end of that grace period, the Region III Tournament Committee will make a determination of the next step based on all available information. A minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a team.

Home/Visiting Team: The team listed first in each game pairing is the home team. Each team must have 2 (two) complete uniform kits: one light color (including socks), and the other dark, (including socks) at each game. The home team is required to wear their light uniform (including socks) and the away team is required to wear their dark uniform (including socks). If, in the opinion of the Referee, there is a color conflict, the team causing the conflict must change.

Technical Area: All players and a maximum of four (4) team officials (i.e. coach, assistant coach, manager, trainer) may be in the technical area. Team officials must have a Bench Pass provided by the Region III President's Cup Committee visibly worn to be on the team sideline. All parents and spectators must be on the opposite touch line.

Uniforms: Each player must wear a uniform with a number on the back of the shirt. Duplicate numbers are NOT permitted. Teams MUST bring an alternate color jersey with a number on the back. No jewelry may be worn during a match. Goalkeeper jerseys are required to have a number.

Scoring: The standings of teams within groups of three or more teams in their respective age divisions are based upon the number of points earned in qualifying games. Teams earn points as follows: Three (3) points for a win (including forfeits, which are considered a 4-0 victory), One (1) point for a tie and Zero (0) points for a loss.

Tie Breakers: In the event teams are tied on the basis of points earned, a team's placement will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria:

- a. Winner of head to head competition (this criterion is not used if more than two teams are tied.)
- b. Winner of most games. The team with the most wins advances.
- c. Highest goal differential (goals scored minus goal against) with a maximum differential of four (4) goals per game. (For example, if the game score is 6-1, the goal differential would be +4 for the winner, -4 for the loser. If the score is 2-0, the goal differential would be +2 for the winner and -2 for the loser).
- d. Fewest goals allowed. The team with the fewest total goals allowed advances.
- e. Kicks from the penalty mark.
- f. Coin toss (only if circumstances do not permit breaking of the tie via kicks from the penalty mark).

If more than two teams are tied, the sequence above will be followed until one team is eliminated. The tie breaking sequence then returns to point "a" above and commences again. In a situation where three teams remain tied, a draw between tied teams will be conducted by the Tournament 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 contest 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 the winner. The bye team will be the home team.

Eleven players from the roster of the final game will be selected by each coach to participate, and a referee will be assigned to break the tie on a field assigned by the Region III Presidents Cup Committee.

Length of Games: All games in the Region III Presidents Cup will be full length for the appropriate age group. Preliminary games may end in a tie. 13-U & 14-U groups play 35 minute halves, 15-U & 16-U groups play 40 minute halves, and 17-U groups play 45 minute halves.

Semi Final pairings: Winner of Group A vs. Wildcard  
Winner of Group B vs. Winner of Group C

If the Wildcard comes from Group A, the Semi Final pairings will be changed to:  
Winner of Group A vs. Winner of Group C  
Winner of Group B vs. Wildcard

Semi Final Matches: If a semifinal match is tied at the end of regulation play, teams will go straight to kicks from the penalty mark.

Final Matches: If a final match is tied at the end of regulation play, 2 complete 10 minute overtime periods will be played to completion. If the game is still tied at the end of the second overtime period, kicks from the penalty mark will be used to determine the winner.

## **Protests and Appeals**

All questions relating to the qualifications of the competitors or interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest shall be referred to the Region III Presidents Cup Committee. Judgment decisions of the referee are not subject to any form of appeal or protest.

**Protests:** To be valid and eligible for consideration, any protests relating to the grounds, goal posts, crossbar or other appurtenances of the games 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.

All other protests must be filed with the Region III Presidents Cup Committee or the appropriate State Representative and include:

- A fee in the amount of \$300.00. This fee may be in cash, cashier's check or money order.
- Personal checks will not be accepted. Cashier's checks or money orders must be made payable to US Youth Soccer Region III.
- Ten written copies of the protest, which must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged.
- Ten written copies of any information to be presented by witnesses.

For protests regarding game situations, all protests must be received by the Region III Presidents Cup Committee or appropriate State Representative within two (2) hours of the completion of the game being protested.

For protests regarding non-game situations, all protests must be received by the Region III Presidents Cup Committee or appropriate State Representative within two (2) hours of completion of the last game in the bracket or division in question, whichever is latest.

A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the Region III Presidents Cup is not sufficient grounds for protest. Judgment decisions of the referee are not subject to any form of appeal or protest.

Upon receipt of a valid protest, the following procedure will be utilized:

- The Region III Presidents Cup Director will appoint a Hearing Committee who shall immediately upon the receipt of a protest notify the team against which the protest is made and shall give 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.
- The Hearing Committee shall compile the necessary information to hear the protest, from all available sources before the protest is heard. This shall include, if possible, coaches, field marshals, referees, assessors, witnesses if necessary, etc. All materials will be treated with confidentiality.
- After compiling the necessary information, the Hearing Committee will meet to conduct the protest hearing. The decisions of the Hearing Committee shall be binding on all parties.
- The Region III Presidents Cup Hearing Committee will notify all parties of its decision.

**Appeals:** The decisions of the Region III Presidents Cup Committee or the Presidents Cup Hearing Committee may be appealed to the Region III Appeals Committee. The appellant shall bear the burden of showing that the decision being appealed is clearly erroneous. No new evidence may be presented to the Region III Appeals Committee unless circumstances have materially changed, or new facts are discovered that were unavailable at the time of the original hearing.

An appeal must be filed with the Region III Appeals Committee or its representative within two hours of notification of the Hearing Committee's decision and include:

- A fee in the amount of \$500. This fee may be in cash, cashier's check or money order.
- Personal checks will not be accepted. Cashier's checks and money orders must be payable to US Youth Soccer Region III.
- Ten written copies of the appeal.

As a reminder, a plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the Region III Presidents Cup is not sufficient grounds for an appeal. Judgment decisions of the referee are not subject to any form of appeal or protest.

## **Document Change Log**

January 6, 2014: Clarification of 18/22 roster size.

October 4, 2014: Modification of player/team eligibility to confirm with National Presidents Cup policy.  
Modification of substitution rule to conform to National rule (allowed at any stoppage).

October 7, 2014: Modification of roster submission dates & procedures for American Eagle system.

January 16, 2015: Added rules regarding hotel stay requirements for participating teams. Added team acknowledgement of the USYS Concussion Protocol and Notification requirements.

May 19, 2015: Added clarification of Club Pass use and when the event roster is officially frozen.

July 24, 2015: Modification of game lengths, revision of substitution rules, aerial drone regulations and clarification of tie breaker rules.

October 5, 2015: Modification of Player Eligibility to confirm with National Presidents Cup policy change, changes to roster freeze date, and clarification of player/team official pass information and age documentation requirements.

January 18, 2016: Modification of player and team official ejection procedures to conform to National Presidents Cup change.

April 12, 2016: Revision of USYS Concussion Protocol information to comply with most up to date version.

June 23, 2016: Revision of Roster Freeze Date, clarification of Home/Away uniform rules, clarification of tie breaking rules when 3 or more teams are tied.

August 16, 2016: Change of Presidents Cup logo.

April 1, 2017: Modification of Substitution and Discipline rules to conform to National Presidents Cup change, addition of Match Manipulation rules.

May 4, 2017: Clarification of disciplinary suspension rules.