



US YOUTH SOCCER REGION IV PRESIDENTS CUP 2017 FORMAT AND RULES

These rules apply to the US Youth Soccer Region IV Presidents Cup Regional competition (RPC).

A. ELIGIBLE AGE GROUP

13 Years Old and Younger through 17* Years Old (see A(a) below) and Younger Boys and Girls: the age group is determined by the age of the player on December 31st.

- a) * US Youth Soccer September 7, 2016 Memorandum sets eligible 17U birthdate range FOR THE 2017 EVENT ONLY. Eligible players birthdates must be within the range of August 1, 1999 through December 31, 2000. This age group is identified in 2017 as the 17/18U group.

- B. SCHEDULES: The Region IV Cup Committee is responsible for developing the scheduling of all matches during the event.

C. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

SECTION 1: All players must be properly registered and rostered in accordance with the rules of US Youth Soccer (Policy on Players and Playing Rules, 104 and 201), US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup Policy (Rule 302, 303 and 304), and of the State Association.

- a) The team must demonstrate continuity of rosters by maintaining a minimum of nine (9) players common to the roster between the State, Region and National competitions: and
- b) The winners of the Region IV Presidents Cup must agree to compete at the US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup.

SECTION 2: In State Associations where player registrations are 25,001 or larger during the immediately preceding seasonal year, teams who participate in the round of 16 or are one of the top 16 teams in a State Cup or State Championships competition, or participated in the National League or the most competitive division of the respective regional league, are not eligible to participate in the National Presidents Cup

SECTION 3: In State Associations where player registrations total 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.

C. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

SECTION 1: 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.

SECTION 2: 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 Presidents Cup.

D. ROSTERS, PASSES AND UNIFORMS

SECTION 1: ROSTER FREEZE DATES. States will identify a freeze date for their team rosters. Event Rosters will be frozen in EMS on June 6, 2017. Any modification to a team's roster in EMS after the State Freeze date will require permission from the State Association.

SECTION 2: ROSTER REQUIREMENTS. Prior to the Roster Freeze Date, each team should validate the information entered into the US Youth Soccer Event Management System.

- a) Rosters are capped at 22 players. The team must declare a Game Roster of not more than 18 players prior to the check-in for that game. The non-participating players may be on the bench but not in uniform, nor wearing shirts that are the same color of their, or, the opposing team.
- b) All players listed on the US Youth Soccer On-Line Roster display:
 - Name as shown on proof of age document; and
 - Correct birth date for player; and
 - US Youth Soccer Member Pass Card ID Number; and
 - Jersey number and alternate jersey number.
- c) Roster must list:
 - Name of State Association; and
 - Name of team, age group of team, and gender of team; and
 - Names, addresses, phone numbers of team officials (coach and manager).
- d) The roster has been signed by the State Association Commissioner/President or their designee and the team coach attesting all documentation is correct and true.
- e) The team's roster and player passes must be available at the game site at all times.

SECTION 3: 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 the appropriate official of the State Association. The member pass issued to a player shall identify the club by name or other appropriate means of identification.

It is recommended that player and coach passes be:

- a) Laminated in plastic. No open sides or ends.
- b) Hole-punched in upper left-hand corner and placed on an open lock ring.
- c) In roster order on the ring.
- d) Coach/Assistant Coach cards also are placed on the ring.

Each team is limited to four (4) team officials on the bench side. (i.e. coaches, assistant coaches, managers, team trainers). Club Coaches must have a pass for each team he/she is associated with and this pass will count as one of the four allowed on the bench. State approved trainers or club trainers may also be bench side with properly issued credentials from the host state.

SECTION 4: UNIFORMS.

- a) Each player shall have a number on the player's 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 including goalkeepers. Duplicate numbers are NOT permitted. Players MUST bring an alternate colored jersey which is also numbered with the same number as on the primary jersey. No jewelry may be worn during a match (allowances for medical alert bracelets and necklaces as approved by the referee).
- b) Any material on/covering the socks must be the same color as the part of the sock it covers (this applies to all material and not just tape).
- c) Undershorts/tights must be the same color as either the main color of the shorts or the lowest edge/bottom (hem); the team must wear the same color
- d) At Regional and National levels of the National Presidents Cup competitions, a player or team official at the game site to participate in a game or associated activity of the competitions may only have on the outer wear of the player or team official a name, logo, or other identifying mark of a youth soccer organization that is US Youth Soccer, a State Association or other member of US Youth Soccer, a member of a State Association, or an organization that is a member of an organization that is a member of a State Association. A name, logo, or other identifying mark of any other youth soccer organization must be removed, replaced, or covered before the player or team official may continue to remain at the game site for the game or association activity.

E. SUBSTITUTIONS

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

F. INCLEMENT WEATHER

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

G. GAME BALLS

All games will be played using a size #5 ball supplied by US Youth Soccer. In the event a ball is not provided, the referee will make a choice from balls offered by both teams.

H. GRACE PERIODS

Any team not ready to play at the scheduled start time shall be granted a 10-minute grace period. A minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a legal team. Any team not ready to play at the expiration of the grace period shall be deemed to have forfeited the game. The Region IV Presidents Cup Committee may extend this grace period for extraordinary situations.

I. HOME TEAM – VISITING TEAM

Home team listed first in the schedule will wear light colored jerseys and socks. Visiting team listed second will wear dark colored jersey and socks. The referee may use his/her discretionary judgement to resolve sock color conflicts.

J. 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 Committee.

K. FORFEITURE RULE

In the event that a team forfeits one of its preliminary games, the opposing team shall be awarded a 4-0 victory; three (3) points for a win, and the forfeiting team zero (0) points for the loss. In the event that goal differential becomes a factor in tie-breaking procedures, the 4 goals awarded for the forfeited game shall be included in the calculation to determine cumulative goal differential (see Rule O(c) below).

L. FINES FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR OR PERFORM

SECTION 1: Any team that drops within the three (3) week window prior to the scheduled Region IV Presidents Cup event will not have their registration fee refunded. That money will be transferred to the replacement team's fees.

SECTION 2: Based on circumstances involved, the Region IV Presidents Cup Committee may levy a fine up to \$3,000 for games forfeited during the regional event including teams who withdraw. 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 event. The Region IV Presidents Cup Committee shall have the authority to refuse entry to any team from a state with unpaid fines at the time of entry the following year.

M. STAY-TO-PLAY POLICY:

Traveling teams are required to follow the current Region's STAY-TO-PLAY policy while participating in the event.

N. SCORING METHOD FOR PRELIMINARY MATCHES

In the preliminary rounds, team standings shall be determined by the accumulation of points awarded as follows:

Win (including forfeit): 3 points

Tie: 1 point

Loss: 0 points

There will be no overtime periods in preliminary rounds. If teams are tied at the end of regulation play, each team will be awarded one (1) point.

O. 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 preliminary 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. This tie-breaking procedure shall be used if necessary to determine 1st and 2nd place standings within a flight, as well as determining the best 3rd place teams:

- a) Head to head results
- b) Winner of the most games
- c) Cumulative goal differential between goals scored and goals allowed in all games played within the team's flight. Maximum difference allowed is four (4) goals per game.
- d) Least goals allowed in all games played within the team's flight.
- e) Kicks from the penalty mark at a time determined by the Region IV Presidents Cup Event Committee.

If more than two teams are tied at the end of the preliminary round, the tie-breaking criteria will be used in the order shown, beginning at #2, to either advance or eliminate one team. The remaining teams will then be compared, beginning with #2 to determine the final placement.

P. OVERTIME PERIODS (For Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Championship Games Only)

If a game is tied at the end of regulation play, two complete overtime periods will be played. For 13U – 14U years old and younger the length of each overtime period will be 10 minutes. For 15U – 17/18U years old and younger the length of each overtime period will be 15 minutes. If a game is still tied at the end of the prescribed overtime play, FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" rules will apply in order to determine the winner using the 11 players on the field at the conclusion of the second overtime and following the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Q. RULES OF PLAY

Except as provided herein, rules of US Youth Soccer and FIFA "Laws of the Game" shall apply to the competition.

- a) Discipline - Players and coaches who receive a red card in any game shall be automatically suspended for the next game. Their cards will be retained at the Headquarters and may be

picked up by a team representative at the completion of the suspension. The Region IV Presidents Cup Committee will review all dismissals and additional penalties or suspensions may be assessed.

- b) Unfinished Games – Unfinished games, due to any cause, will be replayed from the start, provided that neither team is at fault nor 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 Committee, and provided neither team is at fault, the Region IV Presidents Cup 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 Committee as to whether the game is to be replayed, stand as is, or declared a forfeit.

R. DURATION OF GAMES

Age Group	Game Length	Overtime Periods for Quarterfinal, Semi-final and Championship Matches
17/18U Years Old and Younger	Two 45 min. halves	Two 15 min. halves
16U Years Old and Younger	Two 40 min. halves	Two 15 min. halves
15U Years Old and Younger	Two 40 min. halves	Two 15 min. halves
14U Years Old and Younger	Two 35 min. halves	Two 10 min. halves
13U Years Old and Younger	Two 35 min. halves	Two 10 min. halves

S. CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

US Youth Soccer Concussion Procedure and Protocol will be followed.

T. PLAYER/COACH/SPECTATOR MISCONDUCT

Penalties received by players/coaches will be served within the context of US Youth Soccer State, Regional or National Presidents Cup play.

- a) Any coach rostered to more than one team in the competition who is ejected shall sit out a minimum of the next scheduled match of the team with which the ejection was awarded.
- b) An Ejected Coach/Administrator cannot have contact with his/her team during the ejected game or games until the team and referees have left the field. No communication with players or team management is permitted during the suspended game. Violations of this will result in additional discipline action being taken by Region IV Presidents Cup Committee, including but not limited to additional games suspended or recommendations to the home state association.

- c) Players ejected from a match may continue to sit in the technical/bench area unless removed by the referee for continued inappropriate behavior once they have been sent to the bench. Players must remove their game jersey for the remainder of the match.
- d) 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. An RPC member or state representative will escort the player and team staff member to a waiting area.
- e) Players who are 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 IV Presidents Cup Committee will require additional suspensions to be served either during the Region event, the National Event if the team advances, or during the following State's Season of play.
- f) Spectators asked to leave by a referee or other event 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.
- g) If a player/coach/spectator is sent off/dismissed for misconduct, the referee will submit the game report to the Region IV Presidents Cup Committee. The player/coach/spectator shall be subjected to a one game suspension with the following exceptions:

TWO (2) OR MORE GAME SUSPENSION

- 1) Violent Conduct (S2): Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to: Striking or attempting to strike another player, team official or spectator, unlawfully entering the field of play during an altercation.
- 2) Spits at an Opponent or any other Person (S3): Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to: spitting or other unseemly acts on or at another person.
- 3) Miscellaneous: Any player, substitute or coach who refuses the referee's request for their name, or gives a false name, while the referee is gathering data to report an infringement of the "Laws of the Game", involving them, shall have a minimum of one (1) game added to the suspension that would normally be levied by the Region IV Presidents Cup Committee. Actions listed above are to be regarded as minimum suspensions.
- 4) Coaches and assistant coaches sent off the field of play for Violent Conduct (S2) shall have one (1) additional game added to the suspension that would normally be levied against a player for a similar infringement. Based on the severity of the incident, the Region IV Presidents Cup Committee may refer the incident to the United States Soccer Federation for review and possible further action.

U. MATCH MANIPULATION

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

- a) If failing to compete is observed and confirmed by the RPC or designate, the RPC will give notice to the offending team or teams, and
- b) If corrective action is not taken, the team or teams will be subject to disqualification.

V. PROTEST AND APPEALS

SECTION 1:

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

SECTION 2:

- a) To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest:
 - 1) Must be orally lodged by a team official listed on the team roster involved in the game with the referee and with the opposing coach at the game site before entering the field of play or leaving the game site, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section; and
 - 2) Must be filed with the Region IV Presidents Cup Committee within two (2) hours after the completion of the game being protested, accompanied by:
 - i. A \$300 fee which would be refunded if the protest was upheld.
 - ii. Two (2) written copies of the protest, which must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged: and
 - iii. Two (2) written copies of any information to be presented by witnesses.
- b) 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.
- c) The Region IV Presidents Cup Committee, shall immediately on receipt of the protest notify the team against which the protest is made and shall provide 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.
- d) Protests regarding discretionary judgments of an official will not be accepted.

SECTION 3:

- a) A decision may be appealed as provided by US Youth Soccer Bylaw 703. Any such appeal must be filed within two (2) hours of receiving the decision of the Regional Presidents Cup Committee, with the Chairman of that Committee who shall immediately notify the Chairman of the National Presidents Cup Committee.
- b) Each appeal filed under subsection (a) of this section must be accompanied by:
 - 1) A fee in an amount determined by the US Youth Soccer Board of Directors; and
 - 2) Two (2) written copies of the appeal.

SECTION 4: Any party to a protest or appeal shall be accorded the right to be assisted in the presentation of the party's case at the protest or appeal meeting.

SECTION 5: A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of this competition is not sufficient grounds for a protest or appeal. Violators may expect appropriate action by US Youth Soccer.

W. GAME OFFICIALS

SECTION 1: The Regional Representative or designee to the Referee Committee shall appoint game officials.

SECTION 2: Any referee appointed to officiate in any Region IV Presidents Cup competition game may not be a past or present member of either of the completing teams.

SECTION 3: The referee has the authority to deal with players and team officials as provided by the FIFA "Laws of the Game". No player shall leave the field of play without consent of the referee.

SECTION 4: The referee must forward to the Region IV Presidents Cup Committee on the official game report form with the results of the game, a list of the players participating in the game and all particulars related to the game.

Updated on January 30, 2017

Modification to Substitutions, Discipline and added Match Manipulation

Updated on January 31, 2017

US Youth Soccer Memorandum of Sept. 7, 2016 on Presidents Cup Birth Year Clarification