



OHIO NORTH CUP SERIES

RULES & ELIGIBILITY FOR THE OHIO NORTH CUP SERIES

*State Level Competition for the
US Youth Soccer National Championship Series
& US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup*

FEBRUARY 1, 2019



OHIO NORTH CUP SERIES

Ohio North is excited to present a reimagined Ohio North Cup Series featuring the state competition levels of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series and the US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup. The Ohio North State Cup and Presidents Cup will run concurrently in 2019 providing more teams opportunities to compete at the state, regional and national levels of US Youth Soccer's crown jewel events.

The Ohio North Cup Series rules of competition are subject to change with or without notice. The Ohio North Cup Series Chair or designee reserves the right to rule on any matter not specifically outlined in these rules. All decisions by the Cup Series Chair or designee are FINAL and shall not be the basis of a protest or an appeal nor shall any such decision be the basis for the withdrawal of a team or the refund of a team's registration fee.

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1.0. EVENT FORMAT

- 1.1. The Ohio North Cup Series is the first level of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series (NCS) and US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup. There are three levels to each competition:
 - 1.1.1. **State Cup:** This event focuses on those teams seeking to play in the highest level of state competition and the potential to advance onto the regional and national stages of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series.
 - 1.1.1.1. State Level Competition: Ohio North State Cup
 - 1.1.1.2. Regional Level Competition: US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championships
 - 1.1.1.3. National Level Competition: US Youth Soccer National Championships
 - 1.1.2. **Presidents Cup:** This event is focused on those teams seeking to play in the 2nd highest level of state competition and the potential to advance to the regional and national stages of the US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup. An alternative competition to the National Championship Series.
 - 1.1.2.1. State Level Competition: Ohio North Presidents Cup
 - 1.1.2.2. Regional Level Competition: US Youth Soccer Midwest Presidents Cup
 - 1.1.2.3. National Level Competition: US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup
- 1.2. **State Cup Format**
 - 1.2.1. All age groups in the Ohio North State Cup will consist of teams placed into pools with an even number of teams for round-robin play.
 - 1.2.2. Up to five (5) teams will be seeded, based on performance in the previous year's State Cup and previous season's State League competition. 10U teams are not seeded.
 - 1.2.3. For age groups that have an odd/uneven number of teams, play-in matches will be scheduled to form even brackets. Play-in teams will be determined as follows:
 - 1.2.3.1. The pool of teams which did not participate (in any age group) in previous year's competition; or
 - 1.2.3.2. The lowest ranked teams from the previous year's competition.
 - 1.2.4. Winners of play-in matches will advance to the State Cup Round Robin.
 - 1.2.5. Eliminated teams of play-in matches will play through to Presidents Cup pending competition eligibility requirements.
- 1.3. **Presidents Cup Format:** Final format based on the number of registered teams.
- 1.4. Teams in all age groups may be required to play preliminary matches in advance of the round robin weekend. The home team (listed first) will be the default host for all preliminary matches, unless otherwise agreed to by the teams.
- 1.5. Unless otherwise agreed to, play-in or preliminary round matches between teams traveling across the state will be played at neutral sites arranged by the Cup Series Committee.

2.0. ELIGIBILITY & ROSTERS

- 2.1. **State Cup Eligibility**
 - 2.1.1. All current National League and Great Lakes Conference Premier I teams must play in State Cup to be eligible to advance to the regional and national levels of the National Championship Series.
 - 2.1.2. All teams planning to apply for National League or anticipate playing in the Premier divisions of the Great Lakes Conference the following season must play in State Cup.
 - 2.1.3. ONPL 10U-13U teams must play in State Cup.
 - 2.1.4. All competing teams must play in a USYS league, ONPL, Ohio North State League or AFL, AASL, GAASA, NWOYSL or YAYSL league for the current seasonal year.
- 2.2. **Presidents Cup Eligibility**
 - 2.2.1. All competing teams must play in a USYS league, Ohio North State League or AFL, AASL, AASA, NWOYSL or YAYSL league for the current seasonal year.
 - 2.2.2. All current National League and Great Lakes Conference Premier I and Premier II teams are not eligible for Presidents Cup.
 - 2.2.3. Presidents Cup participating teams will be eligible to receive a spot in the Great Lakes Conference 1st Division.

- 2.3. **Qualifying Leagues**
- 2.3.1. The Cup Series is for current Ohio North members only. All teams in the Cup Series must play in a sanctioned US Youth Soccer league.
- 2.3.2. By submitting a Cup Series registration, the team official certifies that they are US Youth Soccer registered, in good standing, and will play in a qualifying league approved by Ohio North with a minimum of three (3) other US Youth Soccer teams.
- 2.3.3. Qualifying Leagues include: US Youth Soccer National League, Great Lakes Conference, Ohio North Premier League and Ohio North State League.
- 2.3.4. Conditional qualification for teams 13U and above will be provided to teams that participate in the following leagues: AFL, GAASA, NWOYSL and YAYSL.
- 2.4. To qualify for the Cup Series, teams must play at least **THREE (3)** complete matches during the current seasonal year with a record of standings and scores. These matches shall be referred to as Cup Series Qualifying Matches.
- 2.4.1. 19U teams are exempt from the 3-match league play requirement.
- 2.4.2. Matches that are scheduled through organizations not approved by or affiliated with Ohio North shall not be counted as Cup Series Qualifying Matches.
- 2.5. **Player Eligibility.** See 2.0 Rosters.
- 2.5.1. Players may only be rostered on one team at each level of the Cup Series.
- 2.5.2. Players only from within a team's club may be rostered (no guest players from other clubs are permitted).
- 2.6. **Roster Continuity:** A team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the league and every level of competition (regional and national) by maintaining a minimum of nine (9) players common to the roster of the team. See 2.0 Rosters.
- 2.7. **Advancement to Regionals/Nationals:** Teams that qualify to advance from the Cup Series to the regional or national levels of the National Championship Series (13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U, 19U) or National Presidents Cup (13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U) are expected to meet the competitive and financial requirements. Teams that do not meet this obligation will be subject to any fines assessed to Ohio North by the regional or national committees a maximum of \$5,000.
- 2.8. **Bond:** All 18U and 19U teams must submit a \$3,000 performance bond to the Ohio North State Office prior to the bracketing meeting.
- 2.9. In any instance where a team does not meet their obligation to advance, the Cup Series Chair or designee will determine the replacement.
- 2.10. **Rosters**
- 2.10.1. **Official Cup Series Rosters:** Must be submitted to the State Office through the registration system two (2) days prior to the date of the team's first match. Once submitted, no changes can be made to the roster during the state level of the Cup Series (i.e. First match June 4- Roster due by 11:59pm on June 1).
- 2.10.2. The "Official" roster must contain the following:
- 2.10.2.1. At least 50% of each team's Cup Series roster must reside inside Ohio North boundaries.
- 2.10.2.2. At least 50% of players must be from the league roster (10U – 12U divisions).
- 2.10.2.3. At least nine (9) players from the league roster (in 13U through 18U divisions).
- 2.10.2.4. Players only from within a team's club roster may be rostered (no guest players from other clubs are permitted).
- 2.10.2.5. Players are permitted to play on older teams.
- 2.10.2.6. Players and team staff with current US Youth Soccer/Ohio North laminated membership passes.
- 2.10.2.7. All team officials must comply with Ohio North's Risk Management Policy, including being Concussion and Lindsay's Law certified. (Visit www.ohionorthsoccer.org for more information.)
- 2.10.3. Failure to submit a roster to the Ohio North State Office by the established deadline may result in a \$50 *per day* late fee. Teams will not be permitted to play in Cup Series matches until their rosters and payments are received.

- 2.10.4. Any team competing in a Cup Series match without first submitting rosters and late fees (if applicable) will forfeit.
- 2.10.5. **Roster Continuity:** In the 13U through 19U divisions, the team’s league roster serves as the basis for the National Championship Series or National Presidents Cup roster continuity. Advancing teams must have at least nine (9) players from their league roster who carry over to the regional and national levels of the competition.
- 2.10.6. A player may only be rostered to one team at each level of the National Championship Series or National Presidents Cup.
- 2.10.7. Any player who is registered to a club (as a US Youth Soccer member) after the official Cup Series roster has been submitted, is ineligible to be added to the team roster for all levels of the National Championship Series and National Presidents Cup.
- 2.10.8. Teams in the 13U through 19U age groups are allowed a Cup Series team roster of up to 22 players. Prior to each Cup Series match, a team may select up to 18 players to compete in that match. This selection must be documented on the Official Cup Series Roster & Game Report.
- 2.10.9. **Cup Series Rosters, Game-Day Rosters (Match Reports) & Minimum and Maximum Players:**

Division	Match Format	Roster Max.	Min # of players on league roster	Match Roster Max.	Match Roster Min.
10U	7 v 7	12	50%	12	5
11U – 12U	9 v 9	16	50%	16	6
13U – 19U	11 v 11	22	9	18	7

- 2.10.10. **Previously Rostered Players (Transfers)**
 - 2.10.10.1. For the purposes of Cup Series participation, players are “frozen” to a club’s US Youth Soccer database on the Ohio North roster freeze date.
 - 2.10.10.2. A “transfer” is considered the movement of a player from one US Youth Soccer club to another US Youth Soccer club within the seasonal year.
 - 2.10.10.3. Cup Series rosters may contain no more than five (5) players who were previously rostered to another US Youth Soccer club during the seasonal year.
 - 2.10.10.4. Players transferred, or newly registered, after the Ohio North roster freeze date are ineligible for the National Championship Series or National Presidents Cup participation during that seasonal year.
 - 2.10.10.5. Players are precluded from competing for more than one club in the National Championship Series or National Presidents Cup during the seasonal year.
- 2.10.11. **Dual Carded Players**
 - 2.10.11.1. It is the sole responsibility of dual carded players, those who are registered with two different clubs competing in the Cup Series, to indicate by the roster freeze date, which club they will compete for in the Cup Series.
 - 2.10.11.2. Dual carded players must also inform both clubs of their decision.
 - 2.10.11.3. It is the responsibility of the respective clubs to update their Cup Series rosters.
- 2.10.12. **Eligibility Challenges:** All challenges to player and/or team eligibility must be submitted in writing after the player and/or team in question has participated in a match. Challenges must be filed by the coach or team manager with the Cup Series Chair or designee within 1 (one) hour of the conclusion of the match. A \$300 cash bond, which is forfeited in the event of a lost challenge, must accompany each challenge.
- 2.10.13. **Ineligible Players:** Any team found to have used an ineligible or over-age player in a Cup Series match shall be fined and the match shall be declared a forfeit. The match score shall be recorded as 0-4 and the team will be ineligible to advance in the competition. Teams forfeiting a match are expected to complete any remaining matches.

3.0. BRACKETING & SCHEDULING

3.1. State Cup Bracketing

3.1.1. Prior to State Cup bracketing in all age groups above 10U, the Cup Series Committee will seed the top teams based on the following criteria:

3.1.1.1. The top four (4) seeds are awarded to the previous year's champion, finalist, and semi-finalists. The losing semi-finalists will be ranked on the basis of group play performance.

3.1.1.2. If not otherwise earned, a 5th seed will be awarded to the previous season's State League champion.

3.1.1.3. Once the seeds are assigned to brackets, a double-blind draw will be conducted for the remaining teams.

Starting in the fall of 2019, Ohio North will allocate State Cup seeds to teams competing in the ONPL.

- *From the fall 10U divisions (boys and girls): the top four (4) teams will be seeded in the spring State Cup.*
- *From the fall 11U divisions (boys and girls): the top two (2) teams will be seeded in the spring State Cup. The remaining two (2) seeds will be allocated to the State Cup finalists from the previous seasonal year. The fall ONPL will be used to determine any open seeds.*
- *From the fall 12U divisions (boys and girls): the top two (2) teams will be seeded in the spring State Cup. The remaining two (2) seeds will be allocated to the State Cup finalists from the previous seasonal year. The fall ONPL will be used to determine any open seeds.*

3.1.2. In the event that a team changes clubs, the State Cup seed is owned by the original club, not the team roster. Only in the event that one club is merged/absorbed into another will the seed follow the team roster.

3.1.3. In 4-team divisions, teams from the same club (shared common database) will not be drawn together unless necessary.

3.1.4. In divisions of 14 teams, quarterfinals will be included in the play-off schedule.

3.2. **Presidents Cup Bracketing:** There will be no seeding in the first year. A double-blind draw will be conducted.

3.3. Scheduling

3.3.1. Cup Series matches take precedence over any and all scheduled league matches except for Great Lakes Conference (GLC) matches.

3.3.2. The Cup Series Committee will provide a default schedule for all play-in and preliminary matches which can be revised with the mutual agreement of both teams and the approval of the Cup Series Committee. Once a final schedule has been posted, no additional changes will be made.

3.3.3. Ohio North member leagues are required to reschedule all matches involving Cup Series participants and are precluded from declaring forfeits for any match conflicting with the Cup Series.

4.0. REFEREES

4.1. Designated certified assignors will schedule referees for all Cup Series matches.

4.2. Ohio North will pay referees for all Cup Series matches.

5.0. RULES OF COMPETITION

5.1. **Governance:** All matches shall be played under FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by U.S. Soccer, US Youth Soccer, Ohio North and/or unless otherwise stated in the Cup Series rules.

5.2. **Small-Sided Games:** Refer to the US Youth Soccer Small-Sided Games Guidelines for rules specific to the 10U through 12U age groups.

5.3. Field Dimensions

5.3.1. **10U (7v7)** – Acceptable Range. Length: 60 – 65 & Width: 35 – 45.

5.3.2. **11-12U (9v9)** – Acceptable Range. Length: 70 – 80 & Width: 45 – 55.

5.3.3. **13U-19U** (11v11) – Acceptable Range. Length: 100 – 120 & Width: 60 – 75.

5.4. **Match Lengths**

Age Group	Duration	Overtime	Kicks from the Mark
10U	2 x 25 mins	n/a	If necessary
11U – 12U	2 x 30 mins	n/a	If necessary
13U – 14U	2 x 35 mins	2 x 10 mins	If necessary
15U – 16U	2 x 40 mins	2 x 15 mins	If necessary
17U – 19U	2 x 45 mins	2 x 15 mins	If necessary

5.5. **Minimum Playing Numbers**

5.5.1. The minimum number of players required to begin and continue play is as follows:

5.5.1.1. **10U:** A minimum of five (5) players, one of which must be a goalkeeper.

5.5.1.2. **11U-12U:** A minimum of six (6) players, one of which must be a goalkeeper.

5.5.1.3. **13U-19U:** A minimum of seven (7) players, one of which must be a goalkeeper.

5.6. **Uniforms**

5.6.1. Each player shall have a unique number firmly affixed and clearly visible on the back of their jersey. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are optional. No tape shall be used.

5.6.2. FIFA Law 4 – The Players Equipment: Jersey or Shorts - If undergarments are worn, the color should be the same main color as the sleeve of the jersey or shorts.

5.6.3. Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from other players and the match officials.

5.6.4. Where there is a dispute over colors, the home team shall wear light uniforms and the visiting team shall wear dark uniforms.

5.6.5. The National Championship Series and National Presidents Cup are US Youth Soccer events. Any name, logo, or other identifying mark of any other youth soccer organization must be removed, replaced, or covered before a player, team, or team official can participate in a Cup Series match.

5.7. **Substitutions**

5.7.1. Matches in the 10U through 14U divisions will be competed with unlimited substitutions.

5.7.2. For the 15U through 19U divisions, a maximum of seven (7) substitutions per team shall be allowed during each half of play and, where applicable, during the entire overtime period. After leaving the match during a half of play, or during the overtime period, a substituted player may not re-enter the match.

5.7.3. Either team may make a substitution with the referee’s permission at any stoppage in play.

5.8. **Teams & Sideline Personnel**

5.8.1. Teams will report to the “field of play” at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the match.

5.8.2. Both teams are to be seated on the same side of the field.

5.8.3. All players and coaches must have US Youth Soccer laminated member passes at each match.

5.8.4. Coaches, players or teams that do not have their valid laminated member passes prior to the start of a match must remain on the spectator side.

5.8.5. The number of coaches/team officials permitted on each team’s sideline is four (4).

5.8.6. For the 13U through the 19U age groups, players who are on the 22-player Cup Series roster, but not on the 18-player game-day roster may remain in the bench area, but may not wear the match jersey. These players are permitted to wear the alternate team jersey.

5.9. **Forfeitures**

5.9.1. When a team does not have the minimum number of players available to start a match, a 15-minute grace period shall be extended beyond the official start time of the match.

5.9.2. At the end of the 15-minute grace period:

- 5.9.2.1. If a minimum number of players are available, the match can commence.
 - 5.9.2.2. If a minimum number of players are not available, the referee will suspend the match and submit a Cup Series match reports accordingly.
 - 5.9.3. The Cup Series Chair or designee may determine the match to be forfeited after examining the match report and conducting an investigation.
 - 5.9.4. In the event that any team is suspected of forfeiting a match with the design or purpose of controlling the advancement of any team from its own bracket or any other bracket, the Cup Series Chair or designee may require such an advancing team to play another qualifying match against the next highest ranking team that would otherwise be eligible to advance.
 - 5.9.5. A team that fails to take the field for a Cup Series match may be subject to sanctions.
 - 5.9.6. The score awarded to the winning team in a forfeit is 4-0.
 - 5.9.7. Individual teams are considered members of broader club structures, defined by player registration databases. In the case of forfeits, clubs will be assessed a \$500 penalty, per match.
 - 5.9.8. Clubs with outstanding fines will be placed in BAD STANDING and suspended from the Cup Series or sanctioned league play until payment has been received.
- 5.10. Ties & Overtime**
- 5.10.1. Ties are permitted in preliminary round play.
 - 5.10.2. Overtimes shall only be played in brackets with two (2) teams, Quarterfinal, Semi-Final, and Final matches, as follows:
 - 5.10.2.1. **13U-19U Matches**
 - 5.10.2.1.1. **13U-14U** will play two (2) complete 10-minute overtime periods.
 - 5.10.2.1.2. **15U-19U** will play two (2) complete 15-minute overtime periods.
 - 5.10.2.1.3. If after two (2) overtime periods, the match is still tied, "Kicks From the Mark" will be conducted in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game.
 - 5.10.2.2. **10U-12U Matches**
 - 5.10.2.2.1. "Kicks From the Mark" will be conducted and the FIFA Laws of the Game shall apply.

6.0. MATCH REPORTS

- 6.1. The Home Team will be listed FIRST on the schedule.
- 6.2. Immediately following each match, the winning team's manager or coach (or the HOME team's manager or coach in the case of a tie) must collect both match reports from the center referee and return both match reports to Ohio North.
 - 6.2.1. **When an event headquarters is not available at the field location, submit both match reports within 24 hours via:**
 - 6.2.1.1. Scan and email to stateoffice@ohionorthsoccer.org **AND**
 - 6.2.1.2. Mail originals to Ohio North State Office, 6650 W Snowville Road, Suite Y, Brecksville, OH 44141
 - 6.2.2. **When there is an event headquarters available at the field location:**
 - 6.2.2.1. Return match reports for both teams within 30 minutes to the event headquarters tent or facility.
 - 6.2.3. Failure to turn in the match reports as indicated shall result in a \$100 fine for each offense for the winning team (or home team in the event of a tie).
 - 6.2.4. Failure to use the Official Cup Series match reports shall result in \$100 fine for each offense.

7.0. SCORES & STANDINGS

- 7.1. **Scoring Method:** The standings of teams within a bracket or pool are based upon the number of points earned in a qualifying preliminary match. Team points shall be awarded as follows:
 - 7.1.1. Three (3) points for a win (including forfeits, but subject to the rule on forfeitures).
 - 7.1.2. One (1) point for a tie.
 - 7.1.3. Zero (0) points for a loss.

- 7.2. **Tie-Breakers:** In the event teams are tied on the basis of points earned during bracket or pool matches, the team's advancement shall be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria:
- 7.2.1. Winner of head to head competition. This criterion shall not be used when more than two teams are tied in points for their respective pool.
 - 7.2.2. Winner of most matches in their respective pool.
 - 7.2.3. Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of four (4) per match.
 - 7.2.4. Fewest goals allowed.
 - 7.2.5. Kicks From the Mark. (A coin flip may be used if weather or time prohibits penalty kicks.)
- 7.3. If more than two teams are tied, the sequence shall be followed until a team advances or is eliminated. The remaining teams will then restart the sequence as stated in 7.2.2 until the tie is broken.
- 7.4. **Wildcard Selection:** For age groups requiring a wildcard for semi-final play, wildcard qualification shall be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria:
- 7.4.1. Teams with the most points.
 - 7.4.2. Winner of head to head competition. (This criterion shall not be used when more than two teams are tied in points).
 - 7.4.3. Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of four (4) goals per match.
 - 7.4.4. Fewest goals allowed.
 - 7.4.5. Kicks From the Mark.
- 7.5. If more than two teams are tied, the sequence shall be followed until a team advances or is eliminated. The remaining teams will then restart the sequence as stated in 7.4.3 until the tie is broken.
- 7.6. The wildcard will play the highest seeded team in the next round.

8.0. WARNINGS, SENDOFFS & DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- 8.1. If a team receives three (3) or more red cards, or five (5) or more yellow cards in a single match, the match report will be reviewed by the Ohio North Board of Directors and sanctions may be levied against the coach or club.
- 8.2. Ohio North shall hold the passcards for suspended players during Cup Series matches. It is the team's responsibility to recover these cards after the suspension has been served.
- 8.3. For players, any suspensions will be served during the team's next scheduled National Championship Series or National Presidents Cup match, which include matches at the state, regional and national levels and may extend to the following year's competition.
- 8.4. For coaches or team officials, ejections will result in a minimum one (1) match suspension. This suspension applies to the next scheduled match. For coaches or team officials working with multiple teams, the suspension applies to the next scheduled Cup Series match(es).
- 8.5. In order for a player or team official to officially serve their suspension, the person's name must appear on the official Cup Series match-day roster.
- 8.6. A player who is sent-off from any match is prohibited from participating in the next immediately following match played by the player's team. A player may receive more than a one (1) match suspension.
- 8.7. **Separate Hearing and Immediate Suspension**
- 8.7.1. Player, coach, or team official committing referee assault or referee abuse is suspended immediately. A disciplinary hearing will be conducted within 30 days to determine the length of suspension.
 - 8.7.2. If considered serious enough, a player, coach, or team official may face additional sanctions for any other offenses as determined by the Cup Series Chair or designee and/or Cup Series Committee.
- 8.8. Team officials who receive a red-card or are otherwise ejected from a Cup Series match are required to leave the area as directed by the referee or Cup Series Chair or designee.
- 8.9. Suspended or ejected players are allowed on their team bench, but may not be dressed to play, unless otherwise directed by the referee or Cup Series Chair or designee.

9.0. COACH & SPECTATOR RESPONSIBILITY

- 9.1. Spectators will occupy the side of the field opposite the team benches.
- 9.2. Coaches are responsible for the all spectators accompanying their team.

- 9.3. If spectators become unruly and cannot be controlled, the sidelines will be cleared (of spectators) and a fine of up to \$1000 will be assessed against the offending club. If the spectators refuse to leave the field, the match will be suspended and/or forfeited pending an investigation by the Cup Series Chair or designee.
- 9.4. If a match is replayed due to spectator behavior, no spectators will be allowed on the sidelines.

10.0. FIELD STATUS

- 10.1. The determination of field status rests with the hosting organization and the Cup Series Chair or designee. Their decision is final.
- 10.2. Matches may be canceled and/or fields may be closed at a later time if the conditions are deemed to have changed.
- 10.3. Teams may be required to change fields or locations to accommodate schedule changes or field issues.
- 10.4. The referee and/or the Cup Series Chair or designee may suspend matches when the fields are considered unsafe or unplayable.
- 10.5. In the case of inclement weather, every effort will be made to complete matches. However, matches cannot be guaranteed and refunds will not be provided for matches impacted by inclement weather.
- 10.6. If a match is stopped during the first half, all players must remain available at the site until a resolution is determined by the Cup Series Chair or designee. Every effort will be made to complete the match that day.
 - 10.6.1. **Preliminary Round Matches**
 - 10.6.1.1. If the match has not reached half-time and logistics or weather consideration preclude the match from being completed that day, or replayed at a later date, a tie will be declared, the score will be recorded as 0-0, with each team receiving one (1) point towards advancing. If the match can be started at a later date, the match will resume where it was left off at the time it stopped and the score.
 - 10.6.1.2. If the match is stopped at any point after the completion of the first half and logistics or weather considerations preclude the match from being completed, the score will stand.
 - 10.6.2. **Quarter/Semi/Final Matches**
 - 10.6.2.1. When time and/or weather does not permit the completion of a match that has not reached half-time, the match shall be resumed at a date, time and location determined by the Cup Series Chair or designee.
 - 10.6.2.2. When a match is stopped at any point in the second half, the Cup Series Chair or designee will determine if, when, and where the match shall be resumed and completed. If it is not possible to complete the match, the score at the time of suspension will stand.
- 10.7. **Terminated Play:** If a match is terminated due to coach or player ejections, the result will be recorded as 4-0 in favor of the opposing team. If the match has reached halftime, the match is NOT considered a forfeit.
- 10.8. **Irrelevant Matches:** In the event that weather or unforeseen circumstances prohibit a match from being played, and the outcome of the match does not impact a bracket's scoring or a quarter/semi/final seeding, it may be determined by the Cup Series Chair or designee that the match will not be played. No refunds will be given.

11.0. PROTESTS & APPEALS

- 11.1. Any protest must be presented in writing to the Cup Series Chair or designee within one (1) hour of the completion of the disputed match.
- 11.2. If the Cup Series Chair or designee is unavailable at the site of the match, protests may be submitted via e-mail to the Ohio North State Office at stateoffice@ohionorthsoccer.org within four (4) hours of the completion of the disputed match.
- 11.3. All protests must be accompanied with a \$300 cash bond. If the protest is being submitted via email, the protest must include a specific statement acknowledging that the required \$300 cash bond will be submitted to the Cup Series Chair or designee within 24 hours of the protest. If a protest is upheld, the bond will be returned.
- 11.4. Referee's judgment cannot be cited as the basis for a protest.
- 11.5. A referee's misapplication of the FIFA Laws of the Game *may* be cited as the basis for a protest.

- 11.6. While late protests will not be accepted, the Cup Series Chair or designee reserves the right to report any misconduct by any Ohio North player, coach or team, including the use of ineligible players, to the Ohio North Board of Directors or to the appropriate regional or national committee for their consideration.

12.0. SPIRIT OF THE MATCH

- 12.1. Teams are required to keep their sidelines clean. This responsibility extends to both the team bench area and the spectator sideline.
- 12.2. Clubs shall be fined up to \$50 per incident for failing to enforce this courtesy to our hosting organizations.
- 12.3. Animals are not permitted at Cup Series soccer complexes.
- 12.4. The Cup Series Chair or designee reserves the right to fine, disqualify, and/or sanction any club for the actions of its players, coaches, managers or spectators that are deemed to violate acceptable standards of sportsmanship and decorum.
- 12.5. Ohio Youth Soccer Association North (Ohio North), its Board of Directors, staff, employees, volunteers, Cup Series Committee, Cup Series Chair and/or US Youth Soccer will not be responsible for any expense incurred by any team, club or person if the event is canceled in whole or in part by entering this competition, your team and all participants agree to accept the jurisdiction of the Cup Series Committee and Ohio North. No official, coach, club, league, referee, player, team or their representative(s) may invoke the aid of the Courts of any political or governmental entity without first exhausting all available remedies within the appropriate affiliated soccer organizations as set forth in these rules, the Constitution and Bylaws of Ohio North and of US Youth Soccer. For violations of this rule, the offending parties shall be subject to the sanctions of suspensions and fines, and shall be liable to Ohio North for all expenses incurred by these Associations and/or their officers as appropriate, in defending each court action, including but not limited to, court costs, attorney(s) fees and reasonable compensation or all time and expenses.

13.0. ALCOHOL, TABACCO & ILLEGAL DRUGS

- 13.1. Players and coaches are prohibited from using any form of drugs/alcohol/tobacco at the playing site of the Cup Series competition. The penalty for violation by player and/or coach may be disqualification from the Cup Series competition.