



COLORADO PRESIDENTS CUP RULES AND PROCEDURES 2019/2020 Series

I. PURPOSE OF THE COMPETITION

- a. The Colorado Presidents Cup is for Colorado Champions League Premier 2 and below players/teams and is part of the US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup Series.
- b. The Colorado Presidents Cup represents the first stage in a three-stage competition, known as the US Youth Presidents Cup. The second stage Far West Region Presidents Cup and the third stage is the US Youth National Presidents Cup. This competition is held annually to establish State, Regional and National Champions. The Colorado Presidents Cup is conducted in a tournament format to establish a State Presidents Cup Champion in the 11U-19U age groups.
- c. By entering the Colorado Presidents Cup, each team agrees to appear for and to compete in every scheduled game for whom it qualifies, including any and all Regional and National Championship games (13U-18U). There is no Regional event for winners in the 11U, 12U and 19U currently.
 - i. 13U-18U teams understand and agree to participate at the Regional and National should the team become Colorado Presidents Cup Champion.
 - ii. 13U-18U teams agree to assume full responsibility for the financial and travel requirements associated with competition at the State, Regional and National levels.

II. AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. The following Rules and Procedures shall apply to all Colorado Presidents Cup games.
- b. State, Regional and National Presidents Cup Competitions shall take precedence over all other games, whether they are league or tournament play, including out of state play. Game rescheduling for the purpose of allowing a team or members of that team, to compete in another event will not be permitted.
- c. Colorado Soccer Association (CSA) is responsible for developing the scheduling of games. Schedules will be played as published by CSA.

III. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- a. 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 (Rules 302,303 and 304), and of the State Association.
- b. The winners of the Colorado Presidents Cup must agree to compete at the US Youth Soccer Far West Presidents Cup in June of 2020.
- c. Teams must be within good standing with their perspective clubs, the Colorado Soccer Association and US Youth Soccer.
- d. Teams may only participate in one (1) Colorado Cup (State Cup, Presidents Cup or Centennial Cup) per year.
- e. Teams that compete in Colorado Champions League Premier 1 division are NOT eligible to participate in Colorado Presidents Cup.
- f. All players shall be registered within CSA affiliated clubs and teams.
- g. All Coaches and team representatives will possess a current CSA background check, concussion and safe sport course completion certification.

Ultimate Level of Competition

Age	Boys	Girls
19U	State	State
18U	National	National
17U	National	National
16U	National	National
15U	National	National
14U	National	National
13U	National	National
12U	State	State
11U	State	State

IV. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- a. A player must be properly registered and rostered in accordance with the rules of US Youth Soccer (Policy on Playing Rules, 201 and 209), National Presidents Cup Policy (Rule 302) and within Colorado Soccer Association with a member club.
- b. A player is NOT eligible to participate in Colorado Presidents Cup if they have or plan to participate in the Colorado State Cup within the seasonal year.
- c. A player is NOT eligible to play in Colorado Presidents Cup if they are primary on a Colorado Champions League Premier 1 team.
- d. A player who was on a frozen roster for a Colorado State Cup team that advanced to play-off rounds is NOT eligible to participate in Colorado Presidents Cup.
- e. A player cannot play for more than one team during the tournament series.
- f. Any player listed on a frozen cup roster is considered to have participated in cup play with that team.

- g. A team shall forfeit each game of the team in which— (1) an unregistered player was with the team at the game in a uniform; or (2) a player was improperly entered on the team's roster.
- h. A player who participated in quarterfinals, semifinals or finals game in the Colorado State Cup series or participated in the National League or the most competitive division of the respective state and/or regional league, is not eligible to participate.

V. PLAYER/COACHES PASSES

- a. At every Colorado Presidents Cup game each team must have valid player passes for all players listed on their roster. It is highly recommended (and required at the Regional and National level) the coach have a pass for each team for which they are coaching. In the event a coach is ejected, and that pass taken the coach would still have a coach pass to be able to coach their additional teams.
- b. Each player shall have a US Youth Soccer Member Pass with the following information
 - i. Player name and birth date (i.e. name as it appears on proof of age document and date of birth 01/01/01)
 - ii. Team name, age group and team gender for the team participating in the event
 - iii. State Association
 - iv. Current passport style photo of player
 - v. Signature of Club Registrar
- c. All team officials shall have a US Youth Soccer Member pass which contains the same data as on the player member card except date of birth. Team officials must have completed the background check and have completed Concussion and Safe Sport certification.
- d. Each team is limited to four (4) team officials on the bench side (i.e. coaches, assistant coaches, managers, goalkeeper coaches, 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. (It is recommended that player and coaches passes be laminated, hole-punched in the upper left-hand corner and placed on an open lock-ring).
- e. Club trainers may be on the sideline and will account for 1 of the 4 officials on the sideline. Please note that CSA has certified trainers on the field and the final decision will be of the CSA certified trainer.

VI. ROSTERS

- a. Roster freeze date will be as published by CSA. Prior to the freeze date we suggest reviewing your roster with your club registrar and coach.
- b. All players' names and information are correct. (i.e. Name as it appears on proof of age document, correct birth date of player, US Youth Soccer Member Pass Card ID Number)
- c. All players' proof of age documents which are acceptable to US Youth Soccer have been inspected and verified through CSA. (Players will show verified)
- d. Once rosters have frozen no amendments to the roster will be allowed.
- e. Club Pass Players may be added prior to the roster freeze. Club Pass players must follow the player eligibility rules.
- f. If an injury occurs once rosters have frozen the injured player may not be removed from your roster. If you add a player to replace the injured player, the injured player may **NOT** return to play within the State level of competition. The injured player will be marked off as "NOT playing" on game day but will still appear on your roster. To replace an injured player, you must show proof of injury and notify CSA no later than 48 hours prior to your scheduled Presidents Cup game.
- g. Roster limits
 - i. 11U & 12U Roster limit 18
 - ii. 13U – 19U Roster limit 22 (max 18 active for game day)
 - iii. Team officials limited to 4 on sideline at any time. For all age groups, teams are strongly encouraged to list more than one team official on the roster in case of coach ejections, coaching conflicts, or suspensions.

VII. UNIFORMS

- a. Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey. Each player on the team must wear a number different from the number of every other player including the goalkeepers (if numbered). Duplicate numbers are NOT permitted.
- b. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers is optional. It is suggested that teams with more than 1 goalkeeper have numbered jerseys for them.
- c. Players must bring an alternate colored jersey which is also numbered with the same number as the primary jersey.
- d. No jewelry may be worn during the match (allowances for medical alert bracelets and necklaces as approved by referees)
- e. Home team is listed first in the schedule and should wear dark colored jerseys and socks. Visiting team listed second will wear the light-colored jerseys and socks. The referee may use his/her discretionary judgement to resolve sock color conflicts. Teams must bring both jerseys to each match.

VIII. PROCEDURES OF THE COMPETITION

a. VENUE: In Colorado Presidents Cup Competition, pairings, sites and format of play shall be determined by Colorado Soccer Association.

b. FORMAT: Teams in each age group will be guaranteed three games. Should odd number of teams register for an age group, play-in games will be played between the lowest seeds to bring the number down to the nearest even number.

c. FLIGHTING: Structure of the competition shall be as follows:

# of Teams In Flight	# of brackets in Flight	Flight bracket Structure*	Play-offs/Knock-out Round Structure**
1	0	0	Team automatic Champion
2	1	1	One game – Winner Champion
3	1	2 game Round Robin	Winner after 2 games declared Champion
4	1	Round Robin	Top two (2) points will play final
6	2	3/3	Winner of each bracket play final
8	2	4/4	Top two (2) teams from each bracket will advance to semifinal
10	3	4/3/3	Three (3) bracket winners and top wildcard *** advance to semifinals
12	3	4/4/4	Top two (2) teams from each bracket and two (2) wildcards advance to quarterfinals
14	4	4/4/3/3	Top four (4) bracket winners and four (4) wildcards advance to quarterfinals
16	4	4/4/4/4	Top two (2) teams from each bracket advance to quarterfinals
18	5	4/4/4/3/3	Top five (5) bracket winners and three (3) wildcards advance to quarterfinals
20	5	4/4/4/4/4	Top five (5) bracket winners and three (3) wildcards advance to quarterfinals

*Bracket Structure: If there are two brackets of 3 teams (3/3), the game structure will involve playing each team in your bracket and one crossover game, which is determined by seeding.

**Playoff Structure: The first round of playoffs will be reseeded should it contain a matchup that was played in pool play.

***Wildcards: If your flight structure has a wildcard(s) the team(s) with the next highest points will occupy the wildcard slots. Teams will be reseeded during the first round of play-off/knockout to avoid rematches between teams that have already played in preliminary rounds.

- d. SEEDING OF FLIGHTS: In each gender/age category seeding will be conducted by CSA according to the following order of criteria:
 - i. Previous year's Presidents Cup champion will be seeded number one
 - ii. Previous year's Presidents Cup runner-up will be seeded number two.
 - iii. All remaining teams will be seeded based upon the age group's standings of the most recent completed league season.
 - iv. If a team played in a younger age group in league play, their seed will come after the seeds listed above.

IX. PLAY-IN GAMES

- a. Play-in games will be held if an odd number of teams register for an age group. The play-in games are played between the lowest seeds at the time of bracketing.
- b. Two lowest seeded teams will have a one game competition to establish who will advance to pool play.
- c. CSA will determine the play-in game dates. There will be no deviating from the dates provided. If teams do not play on the dates provided by CSA the teams will not be considered for Colorado Presidents Cup and refund will be given.
- d. If teams are tied at the end of regulation, the winner will be determined by FIFA kicks from the mark immediately after regulation play to determine the team advancing to Colorado Presidents Cup pool play.
- e. Play-in Teams who do not advance through competition into pool play will have all but 50% of the registration fee refunded.
- f. The Play-In Game roster will be frozen on a date specified by CSA. Should the team advance into pool play, the frozen play-in roster, will become the cup roster for the Colorado Presidents Cup and no changes can be made. The players of the teams that do not advance to Pool Play may be assigned to rosters of teams that are participating in Colorado Presidents Cup Pool Play, so long as it is prior to the roster freeze date and does not violate any Colorado Cup rules.

X. SCORING WILL BE:

- a. 3 point for a win
- b. 1 point for a draw
- c. 0 point for a loss
- d. In the event of a forfeit, a 4-0 win shall be awarded to the affected team.

- XI. DETERMINATION OF WILDCARD TEAMS:** When determining of the wildcard, the standings from each bracket will be compared.
- a. The top wildcard is the team that finished with the most points that didn't win the bracket.
 - b. The second wildcard is the team that finished with the second most points outside of the bracket winners.
 - c. The wildcard is the team that finished with the third most points outside of the bracket winners.
- XII. OFFICIALS:** The CSA State Referee Assignor shall select the referees for all Colorado Presidents Cup Competition games. Every effort will be made to supply (3) three referees. However, club lines shall be used in extreme situations.
- XIII. LATE WITHDRAWALS:** Teams who are accepted to the competition and then withdrawal prior to their first scheduled match will forfeit their entry fee.
- XIV. NO SHOWS:** Any Presidents Cup team failing to appear for a single scheduled cup will be assessed a forfeit, and the Presidents Cup Committee shall review the circumstances of the no show for possible disciplinary review and/or a fine.
- XV. TEAM EXPULSION:** A team removed from Cup Competition for any team fault for one or more matches shall be required to post a bond of no less than \$2,000 in certified funds with the CSA office prior to being admitted to any future State or Presidents Cup championship competitions. The bond will only be refunded after the team has played in all Cup matches for whom it qualifies.
- XVI. PLAYER/COACH/SPECTATOR MISCONDUCT:**
- a. Penalties received by players/coaches in Presidents Cup Competition will be served only within the context of Cup play and will not carry over into league or other tournament play. If applicable, penalties will be served in Regional/National competition or carried over to the players/coaches next State or Presidents cup enrollment regardless of their team affiliation or Cup they participated in. If the coach is participating in both State and Presidents Cup, the penalty will be applied to the event in which it occurred.
 - b. 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.
 - c. If a game is abandoned due to coach/spectator/player, the team for which the coach/spectator/player is with shall forfeit the game and other team awarded points based on the score or 1 4-0 victory whichever is greater
 - d. If a player/coach/spectator is sent off/dismissed for misconduct, the referee will submit the game report to CSA. The player/coach/spectator shall be subject to penalties described below and shall be ineligible until he or she is reinstated by CSA.
- IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION FROM CURRENT GAME AND A MINIMUM ONE (1) GAME SUSPENSION FROM THE NEXT SCHEDULED COLORADO PRESIDENTS CUP GAME.**

- i.* S1: Serious foul play (SFP). Examples include but are not necessarily limited to: when a player, in a violent or dangerous manner intentionally trips, holds, pushes, charges, or tackles an opponent from behind.
- ii.* S4: Denial of goal or goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball. This does not apply to a goalkeeper within his/her own penalty area (DGH).
- iii.* S5: Denial of obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or penalty kick (DGF).
- iv.* S6: Using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures (AL). Examples include but are not necessarily limited to: language uttered in frustration and, in the referee's opinion loud enough to be heard. Derogatory Language or inappropriate gestures displayed and directed at others. If persistent in obstinate behavior, CSA can enforce additional penalties.
- v.* S7: Receiving a second caution in the same game (2CT).

IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION FROM CURRENT GAME AND A ONE (1) OR MORE GAME SUSPENSION FROM THE NEXT SCHEDULED COLORADO PRESIDENTS CUP GAME UPON REVIEW

- vi.* S2: Violent conduct (VC). 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.
 - 1. Pushing in an act of aggression, striking or attempting to strike a referee, linesperson or fourth official will result in immediate suspension and upon CSA Disciplinary Committee review a potential minimum of one (1) year suspension from all CSA sanctioned activities, unless serious injuries are inflicted then the minimum suspension period will be at least five (5) years.
- vii.* S3: 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.
- viii.* 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 Disciplinary Committee. Actions listed above are to be regarded as minimum suspensions.
- ix.* Team personnel carded from the game are guilty of irresponsible behavior (IB). A report written by the referee will provided about the incident. A team official will serve a one game suspension at minimum. Based on the severity of the incident, CSA may refer the incident to the CSA Disciplinary Committee for further review and action, which may result in more than a one game suspension.
- x.* In specific situations, CSA may place an individual on probation in addition to the suspension. The probationary period is to be served immediately following the suspension period and is intended to monitor the individual's degree of reform. Should an individual on probation be sent off the field of play and shown the red card during the probationary period the matter shall

be referred to CSA for evaluation.

XVII. CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

- a. If a player is evaluated by medical trainers present at the field and is found to exhibit concussion-like symptoms, Colorado Presidents Cup will adhere to the USYS Concussion Procedures and Protocol.
- b. The player will be evaluated by on-site medical trainers and if a suspected head injury is determined, the player's pass will be pulled and given to a CSA designated staff member. The player and parents will receive information documents from the medical trainer and will need to be evaluated and cleared by a medical professional before participating in any further league or cup matches. Once the clearance paperwork is sent to the CSA office, the player pass will be provided to the club via USPS Mail so the player can resume participation in league and cup games.

XVIII. KICK OFF AND WAITING TIME: Kick off will be at the time shown on the tournament schedule. A 15-minute grace period will be allowed from the scheduled kick off time. If a team is not ready for play at the end of the grace period, the game is a FORFEIT.

XIX. THE TECHNICAL AREA (SIDELINES): The technical area is a designated area for rostered substitutes and no more than four (4) technical staff members.

- a. No more than four (4) rostered technical staff members are allowed in the designated area during the game. Team or Club Medical or Sports Management Trainers are considered one of the four staff members on the sideline. Clubs are responsible to ensure that Medical or Sports Management Trainers are certified in their expertise.
- b. The occupants of the technical staff in the bench area must have a club coach or team coach pass for the respective bench.
- c. Technical Staff Occupants of the technical area shall be identified to the referee by presenting a US Youth Soccer Coaches pass with current picture during on field check in. Each Coach or other Club Technical person will need to have a pass for each/team they are representing on the side-line.
- d. Both teams shall be located on the same side of the field. Spectators of both teams shall occupy the opposite side of the field from the teams and coaches. Teams and spectators will not occupy a common side of adjacent fields.

XX. DURATION OF GAME:

Age	Half Length	Halftime	Overtime Half Length (Playoff Only)
11U	30 minutes	5 minutes	10 minutes
12U	30 minutes	5 minutes	10 minutes
13U	35 minutes	5 minutes	10 minutes
14U	35 minutes	5 minutes	10 minutes
15U	40 minutes	5 Minutes	15 minutes
16U	40 minutes	5 Minutes	15 minutes
17U	45 minutes	5 Minutes	15 minutes
18U	45 minutes	5 Minutes	15 minutes
19U	45 minutes	5 Minutes	15 minutes

- a. No Overtime Periods for Play-In Games or Pool Play Games: no overtime periods shall be played in the play-in or pool play games. If a play-in game is tied at the end of the second half, the winner will be determined by FIFA kicks from the mark immediately after regulation play. If a pool play game ends in a tie after regulation, the result will be recorded as a draw.
- b. Overtime Periods for Playoff games: If a quarterfinal, semifinal or final game is tied at the end of the second regulation period, there shall be two full overtime periods. If a quarterfinal, semifinal or final game is still tied at the end of the second overtime period, the winner shall be determined by FIFA kicks from the mark.

XXI. TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES: Should there be a tie at the completion of a round that determines advancement, the tie will be broken by the following order of criteria:

- a. Head to head results
Note: If more than two teams are tied, the sequence will be followed beginning with the second tiebreaker until a team is either advanced or eliminated. The remaining teams will then be compared, beginning with the second tiebreaker to determine final placement
- b. Winner of most games
- c. Cumulative goal differential between goals scored and goals allowed in all games played within the teams' flight. Maximum goal difference allowed is four (4) goals per game.
- e. Least goals allowed in all games played within the teams' flight.
- f. Kicks from the penalty mark per IFAB Laws of the Game:

Note: If two teams are tied on all tiebreakers and the two teams in question are playing each other the final pool play game, the game will go straight to kicks from the mark. No overtime periods will be played.

XXII. PROTESTS AND APPEALS:

- a. To be valid and eligible for consideration, protests shall be lodged verbally with the referee and the opposing coach at the game site immediate after the end of the game, except protests relating to the grounds, goal posts, bars, and their appurtenances of the game must be in writing and submitted to the referee and opposing coach prior to the start of the game.
- b. All protests must be made in writing within two hours after the end of the game in which the protest incident occurred, accompanied by a non-refundable \$100.00 protest fee to a CSA staff member or designated representative.
- c. A judgement decision of a game official cannot be protested, only the misapplication of the laws of the game.
- d. If these conditions are not met in full, the protest will not be considered.

- e. Upon receiving a properly filed protest, CSA or designate will determine the time and location of the protest hearing and shall designate the members of the protest committee. This committee will meet in a closed meeting to make a ruling on the protest. A hearing will be held immediate upon receiving field protest and protest fee if it requires immediate action. Otherwise, a decision will be rendered within 48 hours.
- f. A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the Colorado Presidents Cup competitions is not sufficient grounds for a protest or appeal. Violators may expect appropriate action by CSA.
- g. In Colorado Presidents Cup competitions at the State Association level, decisions made on protests and appeals by CSA and protest committee authority are binding and allow the competition to proceed.

XXIII. UNFINISHED GAMES:

- a. Any game that is stopped for any cause except team fault before the end of the first half will be replayed.
- b. Any match that is stopped in the second half for any reason except team fault will be considered complete. However, if the second half is started, there has to be confidence that the half will be completed. The Official, CSA (or designated alternate) and site coordinator will assess the specific situation prior to starting the second half.
- c. A playoff round match stopped for any cause may be reviewed by CSA for determination of status.
- d. If a game is abandoned due to coach/spectator/player behavior, the team for which the coach/spectator/player is with shall forfeit the game and the other team awarded points based upon the score of a 4-0 victory, whichever is greater.

XXIV. RULES OF PLAY: The playing rules of the Colorado State Presidents Cup competitions shall conform to the IFAB “Laws of the Game” except as provided within these rules.

XXV. HOME TEAM DETERMINATION: The home team is always listed first on the cup schedule. If both teams are wearing similar jerseys, the home team shall wear dark jerseys and the visiting team shall wear light colored jerseys. If the visiting team does not carry a light-colored jersey, then the visiting team shall wear an alternate dark color that does not conflict with the home team’s colors. Either team’s goalkeeper shall change jerseys as the referee directs regardless of home/visitor status. Each team will provide a game ball for the match, subject to referee approval.

XXVI. SUBSTITUTIONS: All age groups have unlimited substitutions at any stoppage of play with the referee’s permission. Substitutes must be ready to enter the field of play at the half way line when the stoppage occurs.

XXVII. AWARDS: CSA provides awards for teams finishing as Champion and Finalist. Both teams in the final should plan to stay at least one hour after the final whistle for an awards presentation. The Champion of each age group will receive a trophy to keep in their possession. The finalist of each age group will receive a plague to keep in their possession. Each rostered player and coach will receive a medal for their placement in Colorado Presidents Cup.

XXVIII. MATTERS NOT COVERED:

- a. Any matter not addressed in these rules or the US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup Rules will be decided by CSA. Decisions in such matters specific to Presidents Cup Rules will be final and binding.
- b. If a party has reasons to appeal a decision made by CSA other than what is covered within these rules, an appeal may be filed with the CSA Board of Directors which must follow the Appeal process as described within CSA Rules and Procedures.

(Subject to Change)

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