



2022/2023 Eastern Regional Championships

Rules and Regulations

The Eastern Regional Championships are the most important US Youth Soccer registered team competition conducted by the Region, or by any State Association within each State Association each year. As such, this competition requires that each State Association and all members of State Associations support the Championships as their first priority.

The US Youth Soccer Championships Policies prescribes the requirements of the Championships competitions. The Eastern Regional Championships Rules and Regulations are designed to supplement that policy and establish the procedures to be followed in the East Region. Except as otherwise provided in these Rules and Regulations, the US Youth Soccer Championships Policies and the Eastern Regional Championships Rules and Regulations apply to the 12 and under age group.

The entire US Youth Soccer Eastern Regional Championships are under the jurisdiction of the US Youth Soccer Eastern Regional Championships Committee, which has the final decision in all Eastern Regional Championships competition. The US Youth Soccer Eastern Regional Championships Program Manager shall determine the East Region representative to the National Championships Competition.

These Rules and Regulations, the US Youth Soccer National Championships Rules, and the Laws of the Game (IFAB) shall govern the games.

East Region will determine on a state association or interested party to host the Eastern Regional Championship within the boundaries of the East Region. States or organization wishing to host the Eastern Regional Championships must adhere to the procedures outlined in the East Region Proposal bid package (RFP).

Team competition in the Eastern Regional Championships will follow World Cup format. The competition will take place over a seven (7) day period.

- Day 1: Preliminary Games (12u – 17u will have one game)
- Day 2: Preliminary Games (all age groups will have one game)
- Day 3: Preliminary Games (all age groups will have one game)
- Day 4: Preliminary Games (18u – 19u will have one game); Quarter-Final Games for groups of 20; Rest Day for groups less than 20
- Day 5: Rest Day for groups of 20 & 18u – 19u; Semi-Finals for groups less than 20
- Day 6: Semi-Finals for groups of 20; Finals for groups less than 20
- Day 7: Final Matches for groups of 20

A. TEAM ENTRY

1. Each State Association may enter one boys and one girls team in each of the following age groups: 19u and under, 18u and under, 17u and under, 16u and under, 15u and under, 14u and under, 13u and under, and 12u and under 9v9. **All entries are to be submitted before the deadline which is Tuesday, April 4th, 2023 at 5PM (except for 19 and under age group). The 19U deadline for 2023 is set for Tuesday, May 2nd at 5PM.**
2. The entry fee for all teams will be due to US Youth Soccer by **Friday, May 19th, 2023.**
3. The wildcard draw for 2023 (if necessary) is scheduled for **Monday, April 17th, 2023** (exception: the wildcard draw for the 19 and under age group (if necessary) will be **Wednesday, May 10th**).
4. On or before the deadline date set by the Eastern Regional Championships Program Manager, the Eastern

Regional Championships designated committee member must receive the US Youth Soccer NCS competitions roster for every team entered in the competition. The East Region Roster Instruction Policy must be adhered to.

5. Each player and team official listed on a team's NCS competition roster must carry a current US Youth Soccer member pass. The member pass issued to a player shall be a pass identifying the state and club by name or other appropriate means of identification. The US Youth Soccer member pass must carry a **current photograph** of the player or team official, as the case may be, and be signed by the appropriate official of the State Association. **This includes players added from a recreation program.**
6. Teams competing in the championships games and going on to the National Championships will have their team picture taken after the Final match. Champion team photos will be forwarded to the US Youth Soccer office to be included in that event's program.
7. A State Association/Conference may withdraw any of its teams from the East Regional Championships without penalty up to 30 days prior to Official team check in at the event. Deadline to drop a team 30 days prior is **May 23, at 5PM for 2023 competition.** Any State Association/Conference that withdraws team(s) from the Eastern Regional Championships less than 30 days prior to the Official Team check in will be subjected to a fine of \$ 1500.00 per team in addition to forfeiting their entry fee. In addition, any State Association/Conference that withdraws team(s) less than 5 days prior to the Official Team Check in at the event will be subject to an **additional \$ 1500.00** per team plus their entry fee. These fines are to be made payable to USYS East Region and MUST be submitted to US Youth Soccer/East Region within thirty (30) days upon completion of the Eastern Regional Championships competition. Any team that withdraws from the competition at any time without the approval of their State Association/Conference will be fined \$1,000.00. Any State Association/Conference that is unable to send its Champion team has the option to send its runner-up team.
8. Any unreasonable forfeits determined by the Eastern Regional Championships Committee will be subject to a fine of \$1,000.00 per game forfeited and the team will not advance to the next round of competition.
9. Any team who withdraws from the competition after it has started will be subject to a fine of \$2,000.00 plus their Entry fee.
10. Any State Association/Conference that does not pay the fine(s) will be considered not in good standing and its teams will not be permitted to play in any future Eastern Regional Championships competition until the fine(s) are paid.
11. The State Association/Conference will be responsible for collecting any fine(s) from the team that withdraws or forfeits any games in the Eastern Regional Championships. These fines are to be made payable to US Youth Soccer East Region and must be submitted to the US Youth Soccer/East Region within thirty, (30) days upon completion of the Eastern Regional Championships.
12. It is expected that teams who win the Eastern Regional Championship will represent the region at the National Championships. If a team withdraws from the National Championship at any point following the East Regional Championships, the team shall be fined \$5,000. The State Association/Conference shall be responsible for payment of any fine(s) and is responsible for collecting any fine(s) from the teams that are penalized.

B. REFEREES

1. Each state association is strongly recommended to send one referee per team attending the regional tournament up to a total of 16 referees. In addition, each state association will be strongly recommended to send one advisor for every 4 teams attending up to a total of 4 advisors.
2. If additional referees are required, they will be secured using the following priorities:
 - *First Priority* – individual referees that have been seen and evaluated at US Youth events and recommended by the East Referee Committee to attend.

- *Second Priority* – Individual referees that contact US Youth Soccer with a desire to work at the East Regional Championships. The deadline to submit an individual application to the Regional Referee Administrator is April 1st.
 - *Third Priority* – Regional Referee Administrator will work with the local SRC(s) based on where Championship event is being held.
3. All referees working the Eastern Regional Championships will be confirmed/selected by the Regional Referee Administrator. All selected referees will have their room and board covered by US Youth Soccer in addition to a travel stipend.
 4. There will be a Pre-Tournament clinic for all referees and assessors on the eve of the Preliminary Games.

C. WILDCARD TEAMS

Age groups will consist of 4, 8, 12, 16, 18 or 20 team divisions (based on # of entries, which will then be divided into sub-groups of three (3) or four (4) teams).

13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 under Age Groups: The National League Conferences managed by EDP will be sending a maximum of five (5) teams to the Eastern Regional Championships in these age groups. If a team qualifies for the Regional Tournament as the State Champion and the EDP Conference Champion, that team shall be entered as the State Representative. If the EDP Conference Champion is the State Associations' State Champion then the Regional Championship slot will go to that EDP Conference Runner-Up. If the Runner-Up is the State Champion then the Regional Championship slot will go to that EDP Conference third place team. If the 4th place team is the State Champion then the slot will return to the Eastern Regional Championships Committee for allocation.

1. If wildcards are needed in individual age groups, the Eastern Regional Championships Committee will conduct a wildcard draw on April 17th, 2023 (exception: 19U wildcard draw if needed will be held on May 10th). It will be the State Association's responsibility to let their team(s) know that they have a wildcard spot in an individual age group.
2. The Eastern Regional Championships Committee will conduct a draw for alternates on April 17th, 2023 (exception: 19U). The Committee Program Manager will notify in writing of the alternate draw. Upon receipt of this information, it will be the responsibility of the States Association to notify its teams that they are alternates.
3. The Eastern Regional Championships Committee will notify each state association the total number of teams they entered, including age group and gender.
4. If a State Association has the opportunity to enter a second team as a wildcard team, it will be required to pay the East Region entry fee for 2023.

D. SCHEDULING

- A. The Eastern Regional Championships Committee will schedule preliminary rounds on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd day, Quarter-Finals on the 4th day, Semi-Finals on the 6th day and Finals on the 7th day (exception: groups with less than 20 teams).

Teams will be scheduled by a blind draw to be held by the Eastern Regional Championship Committee

- B. Teams will be seeded as follows:

There is a possibility of 5 returning teams to the Eastern Regional Championships from the previous year which could be seeded for this year's competition in the following order as long as 50% players are returning from their 2022 regional/national competition roster to this year's state cup roster:

1. National Champion
2. Regional Champion
3. Regional Runner-up

4/5. Regional Semi-Finalists (these two teams will be drawn to determine their placement.

C. In the event that a State Association has the opportunity to enter a second team as a wildcard in an age group at the time of the **original draw**, it will not be in the same sub-group as the State Champion.

1. If a State Association withdraws a team after the draw, the alternate will replace the withdrawn team in whatever group it was in and remain in the slot for which the withdrawn team was originally placed.
2. Regardless of where it's State Association is drawn, the representatives of the National League Conferences managed by EDP will be placed in the sub-group for which it was originally drawn.
3. Each State Association/Conference **MUST** designate a person(s) from their state/conference who will be the official representative/liaison to the Eastern Regional Championships Committee. Should an issue arise at any time during the tournament, this person(s) will be notified regarding communications, emergencies, etc. involving your state association/conference and its participating teams. The official representative/liaison **MUST** remain at the event until all teams from their respective state/conference have completed their competition and awards (if any) have been presented.

E. EAST REGION CHAMPIONSHIPS PROCEDURES

1. Registration

- a. **Each player and team official** listed on a team's National Championship roster **MUST** have their State Association duly authorized US Youth Soccer Member Pass. Any player without their US Youth Soccer Member Passes cannot play in the Eastern Regional Championships. **Any Team Official (maximum four (4) per team) without their member pass will not receive their Team Bench Pass and therefore will be prohibited from being present on the team bench side.**

2. Mandatory Team Officials Meeting

- a. The Mandatory Team Officials Meeting will be held via a webinar. A Team/State representative from each team attending the Eastern Regional Championships **MUST** view the webinar before the beginning of the Eastern Regional Championships.
- b. Teams will be notified regarding the procedure for confirming that a team official has viewed the webinar before the event.

F. COMPETITION FORMAT

Each age group, both boys and girls, will be divided into two, three, four, five or six sub-groups of three/four teams unless the max number of teams entered is four and or six. If only four teams entered then there will be a round robin followed by a final between the top two teams. If only six teams entered, there will be two sub-groups of three teams for scheduling purposes only. Their preliminary games will be 2 games within your group and 1 crossover game with the top 4 teams in point standings from all groups advance to semi-finals. The teams in each sub-group of four will play one another in a round robin format. Advancement to the semi-final bracket of each age group, both boys and girls, is determined by the round robin results. Wild card teams are determined by using the rule 12-Point System/Resolving Ties.

2 Sub-Groups of 3 Teams: SF #1 First team in points verses 4th team in points. SF#2 Second team in points verses 3rd team in points.

2 Sub-Groups of 4 Teams: SF#1: Group A Winner v Group B Runner-Up. SF#2: Group B Winner v Group A Runner-Up.

3 Sub-Groups of 4 Teams: SF#1: Group A Winner v the Wildcard. SF#2: Group B Winner v Group C Winner. If the wildcard comes from Group A, then the Group B Winner plays the wildcard in SF #2 and the Group A Winner plays the Group C Winner in SF#1.

4 Sub-Groups of 4 Teams: SF#1: Group A Winner v Group D Winner. SF#2: Group B Winner v Group C Winner.

5 Sub-Groups of 4 Teams: Quarter-Finals – Game #1 Group A Winner v Wildcard #3; Game #2 Group B Winner v Wildcard #2; Game #3 Group C Winner v Wildcard #1; Game #4 Group D Winner v Group E Winner; A group winner cannot play a wildcard team from their original bracket in the Quarter-Final Round. SF #1 Game #1 Winner v Game #4 Winner; SF #2 Game #2 Winner v Game #3 Winner.

1. **Game Balls**

The home team will furnish the game ball if not furnished by the Eastern Regional Championships Committee. The game ball for each age group **MUST** meet the US Youth Soccer requirements listed in Section 11. It will be the responsibility of the game officials to ensure the game ball meets the requirements of Section 11. Once the game begins, a protest cannot be lodged because of an illegal ball.

2. **Grace Period**

It is the goal of the Eastern Regional Championships Committee to have every game decided on the field of play by the two opponents. However, circumstances may not allow this to take place.

Teams are expected to be ready to play at the scheduled time of the match. Teams not ready to play at the scheduled start time of any match shall be granted a ten (10) minute grace period. A minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a team.

If either one or both teams are not on the field of play within the ten minute grace period, the referee, (through either the Fourth Official or Junior Assistant Referee), shall notify the Eastern Regional Championships Committee of the failure of the team to arrive within the grace period.

The Committee shall review the circumstances surrounding the failure of a team to appear and may:

1. Allow an additional grace time
2. Order the game to be played at another time and place of the Committee's choosing
3. Award a forfeit to the other team if only one team has failed to appear

Only the Eastern Regional Championships Committee may decide if a forfeit will be awarded to a team. The Eastern Regional Championships Committee's decision in this matter is final and not subject to appeal.

All participants in the match shall remain on the field of play until dismissed by the Eastern Regional Championships Committee. If a team leaves before being dismissed, that departure may be considered a forfeit.

Any team with an unreasonable forfeit is subject to the fines and penalties detailed in Section A8.

3. **Home Team - Visiting Team**

The team listed first is the home team. Home team listed first will wear white or light-colored jerseys, shorts, and socks. Visiting team listed second will wear dark colored jerseys, shorts, and socks. Goalkeeper jersey numbers are required. If there is a color conflict, the home team will be required to change. Teams are **STRONGLY** encouraged to have two sets of jerseys, shorts and socks with them at game time.

4. **Team Bench - Sidelines**

Teams and team officials (maximum of four (4), e.g. coach, assistant coach, manager, trainer) will be on one sideline. Parents and spectators will be on the opposite sideline. The Eastern Regional Championships Committee will make the selection of sidelines. **NOTE:** Team Bench Passes **MUST** be worn and visible to the Referees and Tournament Officials at all times while your match is going on.

Club/State Medical Trainer – the trainer will choose if they want to take 1 of the 4 credentials in order to stay on the bench. Each trainer must be licensed/certified in order to receive the credential. This credential

allows them to come onto the field or bench area in a supporting secondary role to the main tournament medical staff.

5. **East Region Championship Committee, State Reps, and Press**

The Eastern Regional Championships Committee, State Reps, State officials/VIP, college coaches and official press will be given ID badges which will enable them to be on the team side of the field, however keeping the **team bench area clear and reserved for the team**. The Committee will issue ID badges at the tournament headquarters.

6. **NOISE-MAKING DEVICES (I.E. DRUMS, HORNS, COWBELLS, TRUMPETS, ETC.) ARE PROHIBITED.**

7. **Apparel-Uniforms**

At every level of the National Championships Series competitions, each player, team and team official may only have on his/her/their apparel the name, logo, or other identifying mark of US Youth soccer or a member directly or indirectly of US Youth Soccer.

(1) A name, logo, or other identifying mark of any youth soccer organization other than US Youth Soccer or its member must be removed, replaced, or covered before a player, team or team official may enter or remain at a field complex where the National Championships Series competition is being held.

Each player **MUST** wear an official uniform with a six-inch minimum size number on the back of the shirt. Duplicate numbers are not permitted. Teams **MUST** bring an alternate jersey with a six-inch minimum size number on the back.

The referee shall decide when uniform color conflicts are an issue.

Altered uniform numbers must be permanently affixed to jerseys. Taped numbers will not be accepted. Referees are authorized to remove players from game with illegal numbering.

8. **Equipment**

The wearing of shin pads will be **MANDATORY** for all players. A player will not be allowed to play without wearing them at all times during the games. There are no restrictions as to the tape color to be used if needed for shin pads and or socks.

9. **Player/Team Official Passes for the 12 and under Age Group.** A 12 and under 9v9 team may have a maximum of up to 16 players on its roster at any one time.

The referee or the Assistant Referee, before each game, will receive the player and team official passes from either the field marshal or each coach. The passes will remain with them for the duration of the game. **It will be the responsibility of each coach, at the end of the game, to obtain his or her passes.** (Exception: See Part G., Send Offs).

10. **Player/Team Official Passes for the 13 & Older Age Groups**

The 13 & Older Age Group may have a maximum of twenty-two (22) players on their team roster and a maximum of eighteen (18) players on each game roster. Each team **MUST** present to the referee or A/R a game roster (designating the 18 players) and ALL players and team official passes. The passes will remain w/the Game Officials and upon completion of each game the Game Officials will return the player and Team Official passes to the appropriate Team Officials. (Exception: See Part G., Send Offs).

Players that are listed on the Eastern Regional Championships Roster but not on the game roster may be on the team bench but they may not be in uniform and they must wear a credential around their neck provided by the Eastern Regional Championships Committee.

11. Length of Games, Overtime Periods, Ball Requirements

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Game Length</u>	<u>Overtime</u>	<u>Ball</u>	<u>Circumference</u>	<u>Weight</u>
19 and younger	Two 45' halves	Two 15' halves	#5	27-28 inches	14-16oz
18 and younger	Two 45' halves	Two 15' halves	#5	27-28 inches	14-16oz
17 and younger	Two 45' halves	Two 15' halves	#5	27-28 inches	14-16oz
16 and younger	Two 40' halves	Two 15' halves	#5	27-28 inches	14-16oz
15 and younger	Two 40' halves	Two 15' halves	#5	27-28 inches	14-16oz
14 and younger	Two 35' halves	Two 10' halves	#5	27-28 inches	14-16oz
13 and younger	Two 35' halves	Two 10' halves	#5	27-28 inches	14-16oz
12 and younger	Two 30' halves	Two 10' halves	#4	25-26 inches	11-13oz

***East Region Champions** represent the East Region at the US Youth Soccer National Championships except in the 12u age group.

- a. Halftime shall consist of 10 minutes.
- b. In the preliminary round robin portion, ties scores at the end of regulation time shall stand.
- c. For Quarter-Final, Semi-Final, and Final games, if a game is tied at the end of regulation play, two complete overtime periods will be played at the end of normal playing time. The time of the overtime periods will be as provided above. If a game is still tied after the end of overtime play, FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" rules will apply in order to determine the winner.
- d. At the Regional event unfinished games due to any cause shall be replayed providing, neither team is at fault nor has play not begun in the second half. If play is stopped during the second half and play cannot be resumed and provided neither team is at fault, the Regional Championships Committee may deem the game complete. But 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 Regional Championships Committee as to whether the game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit.

12. Point System

- a. Determination of standings within a sub-group. Competition with 6, 8, 12, 16, or 20 teams
- b. **Round robin points:**
 - Three** Points for a win
 - One** Point for a tie
 - Zero** Points for a loss
- c. Resolving ties within a sub-group. Competition with 8, 12, 16, or 20 teams

This system shall be used to determine the sub-group winner or wildcard participants at the end of the round robin, when there is a tie and it is necessary to resolve a tie:

- (1) Winner of head to head competition
- (2) Most Wins
- (3) Goal differential - (Maximum 4 goals/game for games with an ending score of 4 or higher)

Example: 15-0 = 4-0 (+4)
 8-1 = 5-1 (+4)
 2-4 = 2-4 (-2)

- (4) Least goals allowed (three (3) game total)
- (5) FIFA Penalty Kicks (immediately following the round robin games)

- d. Three way tie within a sub-group. Competition with 8, 12, 16, or 20 teams: Follow the same format

for c.(2), c.(3), c.(4) and c.(5). If FIFA penalty kicks have to be taken, there will be a draw by the Eastern Regional Championships Committee. First team drawn will receive the bye next team drawn will be the home team against the remaining team in the first contest of PK'S. The winner of the first contest will then compete against the bye team in PK'S to determine the group winner. The bye team will be the home team.

- e. Selection of wildcard teams for those age groups with 12 or 20 teams (3/5 sub-groups of 4). Same criteria as b and c above. The wildcard team cannot play a team from their group in the initial knock-out round.
- f. Resolving ties within a sub-group: competition with 6 teams. Same format as 13.c and 13.d except head to head competition cannot be used

13. **Forfeits:** A team not showing up for the Eastern Regional Championships and gives no notification to the Eastern Regional Championships Committee. Remaining teams in the bracket will receive:

- (1) 3 points for the win
- (2) 4 goals for
- (3) Zero goals against

A team participating in competition during the Eastern Regional Championships and forfeiting a game(s).

- a. Each forfeited round robin game: The non-forfeiting team shall be awarded:
 - (1) 3 points for a win
 - (2) Goal differential by the winner of a forfeited game shall be equal to the average goals, for game(s) in the same bracket against the team that forfeits, rounded up.
 - (3) Zero goals against the winner of forfeited game, rounded up.
- b. Each forfeited round robin game: The forfeiting team shall be awarded:
 - (1) Zero points for the loss.
 - (2) Zero goals for.
 - (3) 4 goals against.
- c. If a referee terminates a game for reasons other than weather or field conditions, the East Region Championships Committee will decide the results of the game.

G. TEAM AND PLAYER BREACHES OF RULES

- 1. **Player Send Off:** A player that has been sent off during a match must remain in the team bench area until the conclusion of the match. Field Marshal shall notify East Region HQ that a red card was shown at the match. The referee's report of the incident and the player's pass shall be turned over to the Eastern Regional Championship Committee by the Referee Committee. Players that remain with their credentialed team rep. in game/bench area must remove their player jersey. If a sent off player continues to be disruptive or a distraction to anyone in the bench area, they will be escorted from the area to Headquarters and the suspension may be increased by the Eastern Regional Championships Committee upon review of incident. The Eastern Regional Championship Committee has the right to modify and change the player sendoff policy/rule at any time during the competition.

If the resulting suspension is to be served at the current Eastern Regional Championships, then the player will report to the HQ Site one (1) hour prior to said game to receive an Inactive Player Badge (from the Eastern Regional Championships Committee). The player may sit on the team bench providing he/she is dressed in street clothes and wearing the Inactive Player Badge.

- 2. The minimum penalty for a send-off is that the player shall not be permitted to play in the immediate next Cup (State Cup, Regional and/or National – whichever comes first) competition of his or her team. A competition is defined as a game, match, or taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark to determine the team to advance. This penalty may be increased at the determination of the Eastern Regional

Championship Committee. Any appeal of an increased suspension by the Eastern Regional Championship Committee **MUST** be submitted in writing to the East Region Appeals Committee within two (2) hours of notification of increased suspension.

3. A member of the Eastern Regional Championships Committee will inform the Referee Administrator and the team official of the sent-off player's next opponent that the sent-off player cannot compete in the forthcoming game.
4. If the team of a sent-off player allows the player to participate in the game he or she is to be sitting out, that team will automatically forfeit the game.
5. A credentialed team official or a State Rep of the sent-off player may come to the Eastern Regional Championships Committee's tent to pick up the pass after the completion of the game(s) he or she had to sit out.
6. **Coach or Credentialed Team Official:** If a Coach or Team Official is dismissed from any game, they will be escorted by a Regional Official or a State Rep to the Headquarters tent and must remain there till the completion of the match. The team official's pass together with the referee's report of the incident shall be turned over to the Eastern Regional Championships Committee by the referee.
7. The minimum penalty is that the coach or team official shall not be permitted to coach nor be on either the team bench or spectator sideline in the immediate next Cup (State Cup, Regional and/or National whichever comes first) competition of his or her team. A competition is defined as a game, match, or taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark to determine the team to advance. This penalty may be increased at the determination of the Eastern Regional Championships Committee. Any appeal of an increased suspension by the Eastern Regional Championships Committee **MUST** be submitted in writing to the East Region Appeals Committee within two (2) hours of notification of increased suspension.
8. A member of the Eastern Regional Championship Committee will inform the Referee Administrator and the team official of the expelled team official's next opponent that the team official cannot participate in the forthcoming game.
9. If the coach or team official should show up at the game site, and in any way attempt to participate in the game, his or her team will automatically forfeit the game.
10. The expelled coach or another team official may come to the Eastern Regional Championship Committee's tent to pick up the team official pass after the completion of the game(s) he or she had to sit out.
11. Any Player, Coach or Team Official who has been suspended from the Eastern Regional Championships due to disciplinary action by the Eastern Regional Championship Committee may appeal their decision to the East Region Appeals Committee no more than two (2) hours of notification of increased suspension.

The Following Rules Apply to Every Appeal Regarding Discipline

The appeal **MUST** be filed with the East Region Appeals Chair within **two (2) hours** after notification of the Eastern Regional Championships Committee's decision. The appeal **MUST** be submitted in writing with two copies and the appeal fee of \$700.00. The appeal fee may be in cash, cashier's check, money order or a personal check and **MUST** be made payable to US Youth Soccer—East Region. In addition any information to be presented by a witness **MUST** be in writing.

H. RULES OF PLAY

1. Except as otherwise provided herein, the rules of the US Youth Soccer and the IFAB "Laws of the Game" shall apply.
2. **Substitutions**

- a. Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage of play.
- b. For the 14 and under age groups, unlimited substitutions shall be allowed; and
- c. For all other age groups, a maximum of 7 substitutions for each team shall be allowed in each game during each half and during any overtime play. After leaving the game during a half of play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game during the same half of play. After leaving the game during overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game.
- d. If a player is suspected of suffering a head injury they may be substituted for evaluation without the substitutions counting against the teams total number of allowed substitutions during each half or overtime period. If the player with the suspected head injury has received clearance from the events "Health Care Professional, the player may re-enter at any stoppage of play. The evaluated player must replace the original substitute and will not count as a substitution. The temporary substituted player may re-enter the game as a regular substitute. A team may only make a temporary substitution if they have a substitution available.

I. PROTESTS

All questions relating to the qualifications of the competitors or interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest, shall be referred to the Eastern Regional Championship Protest Administrator who shall be designated by the Eastern Regional Championship Program Manager.

For game protests, the Administrator shall compile the necessary information, to hear the protest, from all available sources before the protest is heard. This shall include, if possible, both coaches, field marshals, referees, assessors, available witnesses if necessary, etc. All materials will be treated with confidentiality. Both coaches and or their designated representatives **MUST** remain at the game site until the protest is decided or are released by a member of the Eastern Regional Committee.

After completion of compiling the necessary information, the Administrator will meet with the Eastern Regional Championship Committee, of which there must be four (4) members present, to conduct the protest meeting. The Administrator will only vote in case of a tie. The decision of the Committee shall be binding on both teams. Should a member of the Eastern Regional Championships Committee be a representative of either State involved in the protest, that member shall abstain from hearing and voting on the said protest.

The Eastern Regional Championships Committee's Protest Administrator will notify both coaches of the Committee's decision.

If the protest is upheld and the game has to be replayed, it will be up to the Eastern Regionals Championship Committee to schedule the game as it sees fit.

THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY TO EVERY PROTEST

1. **The protest must be verbally lodged with the referee and with the opposing coach at the game site before entering the field of play or leaving the field of play except as noted in 4 below. This will be noted by both coaches initialing the game report which will state in writing the game is being protested.**
2. The protest must be filed with the Eastern Regional Championship Committee's Protest Administrator with the following:
 - a. Fee in the amount of \$700.00. This fee may be in cash, cashier's check, money order or a personal check. All checks and money orders must be made payable to US Youth Soccer East Region.
 - b. The protest must be submitted in writing with a minimum of two (2) copies and must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged.
 - c. Any information to be presented by witnesses must be in writing.

3. The Eastern Regional Championships Committee's Protest Administrator **MUST** receive the protest within two (2) hours of the completion of the game being protested.
4. Any protest relating to the grounds, goalpost, bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained if the Eastern Regional Championships Committee and the Referee Administrator have approved them.
5. The East Region Championship Committee's Protest Administrator 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.
6. A lawyer shall not represent a team at the hearing of a protest unless the lawyer is listed on the team's roster as a coach, assistant coach, or team manager.
7. A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the Eastern Regional Championships is not sufficient grounds for protest.
8. Judgement decisions of the referee are not subject to protest.

K. AWARDS

Each Champion Team will receive a Team Plaque. All age groups both boys and girls will receive 1st and 2nd place medals.

As part of the East Region Championship competition—teams who placed 1st or 2nd are required to attend the award presentation immediately following the completion of their final game.

L. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Teams heading to National Championships will be given information regarding the next step in their journey to become a US Youth Soccer National Champion.

Should the following occur at Regional finals, below will be the order for determination for Nationals.

1. **Regional Champion is a National League Pro Qualifier---Finalist at Regionals would attend Nationals as the Regional Representative.**
2. **Both Champion and Finalist are National League Pro Qualifiers---Playoff game between remaining Semi-finalists to determine Regional Representative at Nationals.**
3. **3 of 4 Semi-Finalists are National League Pro Qualifiers---Remaining Semi-finalist would be Regional Representative at Nationals.**
4. **All 4 Semi-Finalists are National League Pro Qualifiers---Playoff game between next two highest point earning teams (not already National League Pro Qualifiers) to determine Regional Representative to Nationals.***

*** Subject to event tie-breaker protocols for determination of next two highest point earning teams.**