

**US YOUTH SOCCER
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS POLICY
2019-2020**

PART I—GENERAL

Rule 101. DEFINITIONS

Except as otherwise provided, the following definitions apply to this National Championships policy ('policy'):

- (1) "**Add**" means the addition of a player to a team's roster.
- (2) "**Article**" preceding a Roman numeral means a reference to a specific portion of the US Youth Soccer Bylaws.
- (3) "**Board of Directors**" means the Board of Directors of US Youth Soccer established under Article XIII.
- (4) "**Club**" means an organization providing soccer to Youth Players that is a member of a State Association; provided however, a "Club" need not have the word "Club" as part of its official name.
- (5) "**Club Pass**" means a US Youth Soccer pass which—
 - (A) issued to a registered Youth Player by a Club in compliance with the rules of the State Association of which the Club is a member;
 - (B) issued as provided by this policy; and
 - (C) specifies the Club of which the Youth Player is a registered member.
- (6) "**Eligibility to Play**" means registered and not under Suspension.
- (7) "**Federation**" means the United States Soccer Federation, Inc.
- (8) "**Game Roster**" means the list of players who will participate in a particular competition.
- (9) "**Involuntary Release**" means the removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of team authorities.
- (10) "**National Championships Competitions**" means the competitions provided for under this policy for the 13 and Under, 14 and Under, 15 and Under, 16 and Under, 17 and Under, 18 and Under, and 19 and Under age groups.
- (11) "**Recreational Team**" means a team that participates in a Recreational League.
- (12) "**Recreational League**" means an intra-Club league in which—
 - (A) the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any similar process to roster players to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited;
 - (B) the Club administering the league accepts as participants in the league any eligible youths (subject to reasonable terms on Registration);
 - (C) a system of Rostering players is used to establish a fair or balanced distribution of playing talent among all teams participating; and
 - (D) league rules require that each player must play at least one-half of each game except for reasons of injury, illness, or discipline.
- (13) "**Region**" means one of those Regions established under Article VIII.
- (14) "**Registration**" means the signing of an intent to play the sport of soccer and the paying of fees to become a member of US Youth Soccer.
- (15) "**Rostering**" means assignment of a registered player to a team.
- (16) "**Select Team**" means the official select or all-star team of —
 - (A) US Youth Soccer;
 - (B) a Region;
 - (C) a State Association;
 - (D) a district or geographical subdivision of a State Association; or
 - (E) any league.

(17) “**State Association**” means the administrative body within a territory determined by the National Council to carry out US Youth Soccer’s programs for Youth Players.

(18) “**Suspension**” means the temporary withdrawal of rights and privileges, such as the right to play, coach, or otherwise administer or participate (directly or indirectly) in soccer, and the Suspension is for the entire term of the Suspension with all rights and privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending authority.

(19) “**Team**” means a group of soccer players playing on the same side in soccer games.

(20) “**Team Roster**” means a list of registered players eligible to play for a Team.

(21) “**US Youth Soccer**” means the United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc.

(22) “**US Youth Soccer National Championship Leadership**” means the US Youth Soccer Cups Director in addition to the regional and National Championship committee chairs.

(23) “**US Youth Soccer Cups Director**” means the individual overseeing the cups vertical for US Youth Soccer.

(24) “**Voluntary Release**” means the removal of a player from a team’s roster at the request of the player.

(25) “**Youth Player**” means an individual as defined by Article III of the US Youth Soccer Bylaws.

Rule 102. ESTABLISHMENT

Section 1. US Youth Soccer establishes and shall organize annually National Championships Competitions in the 13 and Under, 14 and Under, 15 and Under, 16 and Under, 17 and Under, 18 and Under, and 19 and Under age groups. This policy applies to those competitions.

Section 2. There shall be individual, separately conducted National Championships Competitions for boys and girls in each of the age groups. These competitions shall be conducted at the State Association, Regional, and national levels.

Rule 103. TITLES

Section 1. The title of the National Championships Competitions for each of the age groups shall be “US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS”.

Section 2. (a) The titles of the cups presented annually to the champion Team of each boys and girls age group are the following:

- (1) for the boys 13 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Boys 13 and Under Cup.
- (2) for the girls 13 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Girls 13 and Under Cup.
- (3) for the boys 14 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Boys 14 and Under Cup.
- (4) for the girls 14 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Girls 14 and Under Cup.
- (5) for the boys 15 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Boys 15 and Under Cup.
- (6) for the girls 15 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Girls 15 and Under Cup.
- (7) for the boys 16 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Boys 16 and Under Cup.
- (8) for the girls 16 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Mavis Derflinger Cup.
- (9) for the boys 17 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Don Greer Cup.
- (10) for the girls 17 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Girls 17 and Under Cup.
- (11) for the boys 18 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Boys 18 and Under Cup.
- (12) for the girls 18 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Girls 18 and Under Cup.
- (13) for the boys 19 and Under age group, the James P. McGuire Cup.
- (14) for the girls 19 and Under age group, the US Youth Soccer Girls 19 and Under Cup.

(b) The cup for each boys and girls age group shall be engraved annually with the name of the champion Team of that age group.

Section 3. The cups are the property of US Youth Soccer and shall be competed for annually on dates and at sites determined by the US Youth Soccer National Championship Leadership as approved by the Chief Executive Officer, and/or designee.

Section 4. National Championships Competitions at the State Association and Regional levels shall include in their title the name US Youth Soccer National Championships as follows:

(1) for State Association competitions: "US YOUTH SOCCER [insert State Association name] CHAMPIONSHIPS" or "US YOUTH SOCCER [insert State Association name] STATE CUP".

(2) for Regional competitions: "US Youth Soccer [directional] [or] [insert Region name] REGION CHAMPIONSHIPS".

(3) The US Youth Soccer National Championships Series logo is required on all event merchandise and graphics at the State Associations' competitions, Regional competitions and national competition. The logo can be used as part of event artwork or as a stand-alone logo.

Rule 104. AWARDS TO TEAMS AND PLAYERS

Section 1. The champion Team for each boys and girls age group at the national level each year will be presented with the cup for that age group.

Section 2. Each champion and second place Team referred to in section 1 of this rule will receive, at the national level, a National Champion Plaque which will remain in its keeping permanently.

Section 3. The players and coaches of each of the 4 Teams that are first, second, third, and fourth place Teams competing in the National Championships at the national level in each of the boys and girls age groups shall be awarded individual medals.

Section 4. The players and coaches of each of the Teams that are first, second, third, and fourth place in the National Championships Competitions at the Region level in each of the boys and girls age groups shall be awarded medals as determined by the US Youth Soccer National Championship Leadership.

Section 5. The players and coaches of each champion Team of each boys and girls age group at the State Association level of competition shall receive an embroidered patch.

Rule 105. ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. (a) The entire administration of these competitions is vested in the US Youth Soccer National Championship Leadership under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer, and/or designee.

(b) Any matters not provided for in this policy shall be decided by the US Youth Soccer National Championship Leadership, and all decisions are final.

Section 2. There shall be a National Championships Committee appointed as provided by the US Youth Soccer bylaws. The Committee, under the direction of the US Youth Soccer Chief Executive Officer, and/or designee, is responsible for the entire administration of the Championships competitions.

Section 3. The US Youth Soccer Chief Executive Officer, and/or designee, with input from the applicable regional General Manager, may appoint a Regional Championships Committee for the Region. The Committee is responsible for deciding all administrative matters related to the Championships competitions at the Regional level.

Section 4. (a) The US Youth Soccer National Championship Leadership shall determine each year the dates for deadline for entry in the National Championships Competitions, the entry fee for these competitions, and the date and sites of the succeeding year's National Championships

Competitions. All State Associations will be advised, in writing, of that date not later than November 1st of each year and not less than 90 days prior to the deadline for entry.

(b) Not later than the deadline for entry, each State Association wishing to enter these competitions shall submit to the US Youth Soccer national office, the following:

- (1) a non-refundable fee in the amount set by the US Youth Soccer National Championship Leadership for each competition.
- (2) an entry form indicating the State Association's intention to compete.

Rule 106. PRECEDENCE OF GAMES

National Championships Competitions games shall take precedence over all other youth games.

Rule 107. NOTICES

All notices and other communications required to be given under this policy shall be in writing and shall be addressed to the US Youth Soccer Cups Director.

PART II—ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITIONS

Subpart A—Levels of Competitions

Rule 201. STATE, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL LEVELS

Each National Championship competition shall be conducted at the following levels:

- (1) The first level of competitions for all boys and girls age groups is at the State Association level.
- (2) The second level of competitions for all boys and girls age groups is at the Regional level.
- (3) The third level of competitions for all boys and girls age groups is at the national level.

Rule 202. STATE ASSOCIATION LEVEL COMPETITION

Section 1. (a) Each State Association shall determine—

- (1) which age groups, and whether boys or girls, or both, that it will conduct State Association level competitions for; and
- (2) the Teams that represent it for each boys and girls age group at the National Championships Competitions for the Region of which the State Association is a member.

(b) The format for the competitions at the State Association level to determine Teams representing the State Association shall be a tournament format established by the State Association. League competition may not be considered a tournament format.

Section 2. Prior to the competitions at the State Association level, the schedule and plans for determining the State Association representatives shall be submitted for approval to the Regional Championships Committee of that State Association's Region.

Rule 203. REGIONAL LEVEL COMPETITION

Section 1. Each of the Regions shall conduct National Championships Competitions. The competitions at the Regional level shall determine the Teams that represent the competition for each of the boys and girls age groups at the national level of the National Championships Competitions.

Section 2. The format for the competition to determine the Teams as provided by section 1 of this rule shall be that format established by the US Youth Soccer National Championship Leadership.

Section 3. US Youth Soccer Member State Associations and other interested entities may bid to host the National Championships competitions.

Rule 204. NATIONAL LEVEL COMPETITION

At a minimum, the Teams representing each of the Regions in each of the boys and girls age groups shall compete in the National Championships Competitions to determine the champion Team for each of those boys and girls age groups. The format for the competition to determine the champion Teams shall be that format established by the US Youth Soccer National Championship Leadership.

Subpart B—Teams and Players

Rule 221. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. The National Championships Competitions shall be open to any Team whose players are registered with US Youth Soccer through a State Association if the Team is in compliance with all of the following requirements:

(1) The Team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered Youth Players (as defined by US Youth Soccer).

(2) The Team must be in good standing with its State Association and must be in compliance with, and has not violated, any of the bylaws and policies of US Youth Soccer.

(3) The Team must be entered in the competition of the State Association in which at least 50 percent of its players are registered.

(4) The Team must compete in at least a 4-Team approved league during the current seasonal year in its State Association, US Youth Soccer National League or National League Conferences, or with its State Association's permission in another State Association, except for the 19 and Under age group for boys and girls. The league competition must consist of a minimum of one game against each of 3 different Teams participating in the league. Whether participation in any amateur league shall qualify a youth Team for Championship competition under this policy shall be determined by each State Association.

(5) A Team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the league and every level of the National Championships Competitions by maintaining a minimum of 9 players common to the roster of the Team at every level of the competitions.

Section 2. (a) (1) A Club may issue a Club Pass to any Youth Player who is a registered Youth Player of the Club before the Team to which such Youth Player is to be rostered for the State Association level of the National Championships Competitions submits its National Championships roster for its first competition at the State Association level.

(2) Only at the State Association level of the National Championships Competitions (but not at the Regional and national levels of the competitions)—

(A) a Team may roster any player not having a Club Pass of that Team's Club if a written request, stating the reason why this action has been requested, has been made to and approved by the State Association on a form provided by it; and

(B) at the time a Team's National Championships Competitions roster for competitions at the State Association level is determined under this rule, the Team may not have more than 5 rostered youth who were previously rostered during the current seasonal year with a Club other than the Club of which the Team is a member, the Rostering of such Youth Players with such Club shall be made in compliance with the rules of the State Association of which the Club is a member.

(3) A State Association is not required to consider as a rostered player a player on a school Team when the State Association administers school programs.

(b) In addition to the application of the Club Pass provisions of the policy, a Team participating in the National Championships Competitions may release involuntarily a player from its roster if the player has violated bylaws, policies, or requirements of the Federation, US Youth Soccer, the State Association, or the member of the State Association through whom the player is registered.

(c) A Team may have on its Team Roster only players of the following age groups for the seasonal year in which the Team is participating in the National Championships:

(1) For Teams competing in the 13 and Under, 14 and Under, and 15 and Under age groups, each player on the Team must be (A) of the age of the age group competition in which the Team is participating in that seasonal year, or (B) of the age in either of the next 2 younger age groups of that age group competition in which the Team is participating in that seasonal year.

(2) For the Teams competing in the 16 and Under, 17 and Under, 18 and Under, and 19 and Under age groups, each player on the Team must be (A) of the age of the age group competition in which the Team is participating in that seasonal year, or (B) of the age of any younger age group, through the 14 and Under age group, of that age group competition in which the Team is participating in that seasonal year.

Section 3. Every Team in the National Championships Competitions shall have a Team Roster, a National Championships roster determined under this rule based on the players on the team's roster, and a Game Roster for every match or competition.

(1) Team Roster

A Team Roster shall have a minimum of 9 registered players on its roster at all times.

(2) National Championships Roster

A Team shall have a National Championships roster based on its Team Roster at the State Association level of the National Championships Competitions, approved by the State Association where the Team resides. The Team Roster may have up to 22 Youth Players on the roster at all levels of the competitions.

(3) Game Roster

The Game Roster shall be prepared by the Team and submitted to the competition authority at a time set by the State Association for State Cup play, by the Region for Regional Cup play, and not later than 60 minutes prior to each scheduled game in National Championships play at the national level. The Game Roster shall have a maximum of 18 players and a minimum of 7 players. Every player listed on the game roster must be included on the Team's National Championships roster to be eligible to participate with the Team in the National Championships Competitions.

Section 4. 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.

(3) the Team no longer has a recognized Team official as required by Rule 241, sections 1

and 2, on the Team bench.

Section 5. It shall be the responsibility of the appropriate official designated by each entering State Association to certify the eligibility of competing Teams and to provide the Teams with a copy of this policy.

Section 6. The Team must provide its National Championships roster for National Championships Competitions as follows:

(1) at the State Association level, prior to the Team's first National Championship game at the State Association level or no earlier than 14 days prior to the beginning of that Team's competition at the State level;

(2) at the Regional level, at the time of the Team's Registration for the Team's age group competition at that level that shall be determined by the Region which shall be no later than 7 days prior to the beginning of the Team's competition at the Regional level; and

(3) at the national level, at the time of the Team's Registration for the Team's age group competition at that level that shall be determined by the National Championships Committee which shall be no later than 7 days prior to the beginning of that Team's competition at the national level.

Section 7. (a) At the Regional and national levels of the National Championships Competitions, a Team of a Club may have on its National Championship roster an eligible player of that Club who was not on the Team's National Championships roster at the prior level of the Team's National Championships competition.

(b) A player may be rostered to only one Team's National Championships roster at each level of the National Championships Competitions during the seasonal year.

Section 8. A Team may compete in only one age group of the National Championships Competitions during the seasonal year.

Rule 222. FORFEITS FOR FAILURE TO COMPETE

Section 1. Any Team or State Association intending to forfeit at the national level must give notice of its intention to forfeit in writing to the US Youth Soccer Cups Director within the deadline set by the US Youth Soccer National Championship Leadership. The notice shall include the reason for the forfeit.

Section 2. Forfeits and failure to compete at the national level by a Team or State Association shall be a matter of review by the Board of Directors that shall have the authority to take action against the Team or State Association that the Board considers appropriate.

Section 3. Any Team or State Association failing to give notice of intention to forfeit may, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, have additional penalties imposed on it.

Section 4. Any Team or State Association intending to forfeit Regional games must give notice in writing to its Regional Championships Committee Chair in accordance with the Region's policies and procedures.

Section 5. Forfeits and failures to compete in games at the Regional level by a Team or State Association shall be dealt with in accordance with the Region's policies and procedures.

Section 6. Match Manipulation at the National Championships Series competitions at all levels. Teams failing to compete in the spirit of the competition or are involved in the manipulation of a game result are subject to forfeiture and disqualification from all levels of the competition.

(1) if failing to compete is observed and confirmed, the competition authority representative will give notice to the offending Team or Teams.

(2) if corrective action is not taken, the Team or Teams will be subject to disqualification.

Rule 223. FORFEITS GENERALLY

At the discretion of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Leadership, any Team proven guilty of violating this policy or of any other requirement of US Youth Soccer shall be subject to sanctions including, but not limited to, forfeiture of all games and the preceding competition and fines and Suspensions.

Rule 224. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. A player must be properly registered and rostered in accordance with the rules of US Youth Soccer and the State Association.

Section 2. A Youth Player may be on the National Championships roster of only one Team at each level of the National Championships Competitions during any seasonal year; provided, however, that a Youth Player who was rostered to a Team of a Club at a National Championship competition level that has been eliminated and does not advance to any level of the competition and who has been issued a Club Pass of that Club in accordance with this policy may be rostered to another Team of that Club at the next level of the National Championship competitions. Subject to the foregoing, and subject to the provisions of Rule 221, Section 1 (5), at each level of the National Championships Competitions, a Team may Add to its National Championship roster for

that level as many registered Youth Players holding Club Passes of that Club of which a Team is a member as the Team or its Club determines so long as the roster does not exceed 22 players. A Team may not change the Club of which it is a member at any time after the commencement of the National Championship competitions and in any event only in compliance with the rules of the State Association of which the Club is a member.

Section 3. A player who has been suspended may play after the player's term of Suspension has expired.

Section 4. The first National Championships roster of a Team to which the player is rostered is the only Team with which the player may participate in at each level of the National Championships Competitions for a seasonal year.

Rule 225. TEAM AND PLAYER BREACHES OF RULES

Section 1. It is the responsibility of the National Championships Committee to investigate a properly protested violation immediately following its receipt. Failure to cooperate with that investigation shall result in disciplinary action up to and including Suspension.

Section 2. Any Team found guilty of using an ineligible player is not eligible to compete further in the National Championships Competitions in the current seasonal year. Any coach, manager, or official found guilty of knowingly using an ineligible player is not eligible to compete further in the National Championships Competitions in the current and subsequent seasonal year. A player found guilty of submitting falsified birth information is prohibited from competing further in National Championships Competitions in the current and subsequent seasonal year.

Section 3. A player who is sent-off from any championship game is prohibited from participating in the next immediately following championship game played by the player's Team. A player may receive more than a one-game Suspension.

Section 4. Coaches and other Team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained in this policy, including cautions, ejections, and standard Suspension. Any other individuals who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a Team, such as relatives and spectators, are also subject to the jurisdiction and authority of US Youth Soccer. Any coach or Team official shall be held responsible for the actions of any individual at any game that, in the opinion of the referee, is a supporter of that Team.

Rule 226. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

Section 1. All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors, to interpretation of eligibility and/or the rules, or any dispute or protest concerning the National Championships Competitions, shall be referred to the National Championships Committee regarding games at the national level, or to the Regional Championships Committee regarding games at the Regional level.

Section 2. (a) To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest —

- (1) must be orally lodged by a Team official listed on the Team Roster involved in the game with the referee and with the opposing coach at the game site before entering the field of play or leaving the game site, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section; and
- (2) must be filed with the appropriate committee within 2 hours after the completion of the game being protested, accompanied by—
 - (A) a fee in an amount determined by the US Youth Soccer National Championship Leadership;
 - (B) 5 written copies of the protest, which must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged; and
 - (C) 5 written copies of any information to be presented by witnesses.

(b) Any protest relating to the grounds, goal posts, bars, or other appurtenances of the game shall be entertained only if a written objection has been lodged with the referee and the opposing coach prior to the start of the game.

(c) The Chairman of the committee with which the protest is properly lodged shall immediately on receipt of the protest notify the Team against which the protest is made and shall send 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.

Section 3. (a) An appeal of a decision regarding a protest may be appealed as provided by US Youth Soccer Article XVII(3). Any such appeal must be filed within 2 hours of receiving the decision—

(1) if a decision of the State Cup Championships Committee, with the Chairman of that Committee who shall immediately notify the Chairman of the National Championships Committee; or

(2) if a decision of the Regional Championships Committee, with the Chairman of that Committee who shall immediately notify the Chairman of the National Championships Committee; or

(3) if a decision of the National Championships Committee, with the Chairman of that Committee who shall immediately notify the US Youth Soccer Cups Director.

(b) Each appeal filed under subsection (a) of this section must be accompanied by—

(1) a fee in an amount determined by the US Youth Soccer National Championship Leadership; and

(2) 5 written copies of the appeal.

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

Section 5. A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the National Championships Competitions is not sufficient grounds for a protest or appeal. Violators may expect appropriate action by US Youth Soccer.

Section 6. In National Championships Competitions at the State Association level, decisions made on protests and appeals by the state protest and appeal authority are binding and allow that competition to proceed.

Section 7. Match Manipulation: An appeal of the decision regarding Match Manipulation may be appealed as provided by US Youth Soccer Article XVII(3). Any such appeal is subject:

1. If the state or Regional Championships Committee determines that a Team is guilty of Match Manipulation, the Chairman of the committee shall immediately notify the Chairman of the Nationals Championships committee; or

2. If the National Championships Committee determines that a Team is guilty of Match Manipulation, the Chairman of the committee shall immediately notify the US Youth Soccer Cups Director.

Subpart C—Game Play

Rule 241. PASSES, ROSTERS, AND UNIFORMS

Section 1. At the State Association, Regional, and national levels of National Championships Competitions, each player and Team official listed on a Team's National Championships roster must carry the US Youth Soccer member pass. The member pass issued to a player shall be a Club Pass identifying the 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.

Section 2. Each player at the State Association, Regional, and national levels of the National Championships Competitions must be listed on the US Youth Soccer National Championships roster for the player’s Team for that level. All information listed on the roster must be verified by the appropriate official of the State Association and signed by that official for each level of the National Championships Competitions.

Section 3. (a) The Team’s National Championships roster and the US Youth Soccer member passes must be available at the game site at all times. The roster shall include the number of each player’s jersey.

(b) Each player shall have a number on the player’s jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Each player on a Team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the Team. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are optional.

(c) At the national level of the National Championships Competitions, each player shall have on his or her shorts the US Youth Soccer patch provided each player.

(d) Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from other players and game officials.

(e) At every level of the National Championships 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 competition is being held.

(2) After an initial warning pursuant to (e)(1) above, the name, logo, or other identifying mark of any youth soccer organization other than US Youth Soccer or its member must be removed before the player, Team or Team official may enter or continue in the competition.

Rule 242. PLAYING RULES

Section 1. The playing rules of the National Championships Competitions shall conform to the FIFA “Laws of the Game” except as provided by this rule.

Section 2. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the length of games, overtime play periods, ball size, ball circumference, and ball weight for each age group shall be as follows:

Age Group	Game Length	Overtime Play	Size	Circumference	Weight
19 and Under	Two 45’ halves	Two 15’ periods	#5	27-28 in.	14-16 ozs.
18 and Under	Two 45’ halves	Two 15’ periods	#5	27-28 in.	14-16 ozs.
17 and Under	Two 45’ halves	Two 15’ periods	#5	27-28 in.	14-16 ozs.
16 and Under	Two 40’ halves	Two 15’ periods	#5	27-28 in.	14-16 ozs.
15 and Under	Two 40’ halves	Two 15’ periods	#5	27-28 in.	14-16 ozs.
14 and Under	Two 35’ halves	Two 10’ periods	#5	27-28 in.	14-16 ozs.
13 and Under	Two 35” halves	Two 10” periods	#5	27-28 in.	14-16 ozs.

(b)(1) In competitions at the State Association and Regional levels, tie games at the end of regulation playing time may stand.

(2) In competitions at the national level, tie games at the end of regulation playing time will stand except for each semi-final and final game in each age group.

(c) If a game is tied at the end of regulation play and overtime periods are to be played to determine a winner, 2 complete overtime periods as provided in subsection (a) of this section will be played after the end of regulation play. If the game is still tied after the end of the 2 overtime periods, FIFA “Kicks from the Penalty Mark” rules will apply in order to determine the winner.

Section 3. At all National Championships Competitions-

(1) for the 13 and Under and 14 and Under age groups, unlimited substitutions shall be allowed; and

(2) for all other age groups, a maximum of 7 substitutions for each Team shall be allowed in each game during each half of play and during overtime play. After leaving the game during a half of play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game during that same half of play. After leaving the game during overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game.

(3) 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.

Section 4. (a) At the National Championships Competitions at the Regional and national levels, unfinished games due to any cause shall be replayed if neither Team is at fault and play has not begun in the second half. If play is stopped during the second half and play cannot be resumed and if neither Team is at fault, the Regional or National Championships Committee may deem the game complete. However, if play is stopped at any time due to one of the Teams being adjudged to be at fault, it shall be at the discretion of the Regional or National Championships Committee whether the game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit.

(b) At the National Championships Competitions at the Regional and national levels, all protests and appeals must be submitted by a Team official listed on the Team Roster involved in the game. For protests involving completed games, see sections 1 and 2 of Rule 226.

Rule 243. GAME OFFICIALS

Section 1. For National Championships Competitions at the national level, the US Youth Soccer National Referee Administrator, or designee, shall appoint the game officials. For National Championships Competitions at the Regional level, the Regional Referee Administrator, or designee, shall appoint the game officials.

Section 2. Any referee appointed to officiate in any National Championship competition game may not be a past or present member of either of the competing Teams.

Section 3. The scale of charges for referees shall be—

- (1) for State Association level competition, as set by the State Association.
- (2) for Regional level competition, as set by the US Youth Soccer National Championship Leadership.
- (3) for national level competition, as set by the US Youth Soccer National Championship Leadership.

Section 4. The referee shall have the power to decide on the fitness of the ground in all games. In other respects, the duties of the referee and assistant referee are as defined in the "Laws of the Game."

Section 5. In the event the referee appointed fails to appear and where assistant referees have been appointed, one of the assistant referees shall take charge. Where assistant referees have not been appointed and the referee fails to put in an appearance, the coaches or managers of the opposing Teams must agree on a referee for the game. The same procedure will apply in the event of a referee becoming ill during the process of a game.

Section 6. The referee has the power during the game to deal with players guilty of violent conduct or using threatening or abusive language. The referee shall forward the name of any offender within 2 days thereafter to the State Association with a copy to the US Youth Soccer Cups Director. No player shall leave the field of play without the consent of the referee.

Section 7. The referee must forward to the Competition Administrator on the official game report form, the results of the game, a list of the players participating in the game, and all particulars related to the game.

PART III—AMENDMENT OF POLICY

Rule 301. AMENDMENT OF POLICY

A member of US Youth Soccer or its staff may offer an amendment to this policy for review by the National Championship Committee and recommendation to the Board of Directors.

PAST WINNERS

BOYS UNDER 19—JAMES P. McGUIRE CUP

1935 Reliable Juniors of New Bedford, MA
1936 Hatikvoh Juniors of Brooklyn, NY
1937 Hatikvoh Juniors of Brooklyn, NY
1938 Lighthouse Boys' Club of Philadelphia, PA
1939 Avella Juniors of Avella, PA
1940 Avella Juniors of Avella, PA
1941 Mercerville Juniors of Trenton, NJ
1942-44 No competition—travel restricted because of war effort
1945 Hornets of Chicago, IL, and Pompeii Juniors of Baltimore, MD, co-champions
1946 Schumacher Juniors of St. Louis, MO
1947 Heidelberg Juniors of Heidelberg, PA
1948 Lighthouse Boys' Club of Philadelphia, PA
1949 Lighthouse Boys' Club of Philadelphia, PA
1950 Harrison Juniors of Harrison, NJ
1951 Seco Juniors of St. Louis, MO
1952 Kollsman S.C. of Brooklyn, NJ
1953 Newark Boys Club of Newark, NJ (East)
1954 Hansa S.C. of Chicago, IL
1955 Schwaben of Chicago, IL (West)
1956 St. Singelbert of St. Louis, MO
1957 Lighthouse Boys' Club of Philadelphia, PA
1958 St. Paul of St. Louis, MO
1959 Ukrainian of New York, NY
1960 St. Paul of St. Louis, MO
1961 Hakoah of San Francisco, CA
1962 Schumacher of St. Louis, MO
1963 Kutis of St. Louis, MO
1964 Kutis of St. Louis, MO
1965 Im. Heart of Mary of St. Louis, MO
1966 St. Williams of St. Louis, MO
1967 Lighthouse Boys' Club of Philadelphia, PA
1968 St. Philip Di Neri of St. Louis, MO
1969 St. Philip Di Neri of St. Louis, MO
1970 St. Bart's of St. Louis, MO
1971 Seco of St. Louis, MO
1972 Seco of St. Louis, MO
1973 St. Elizabeth S.C. of Baltimore, MD
1974 Florissant Celtics of St. Louis, MO
1975 Imo's Pizza of St. Louis, MO

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1976 Annandale Boys Club Cavalier of Annandale, VA
 1977 Santa Clara Broncos of Santa Clara, CA
 1978 Imo's Pizza of St. Louis, MO
 1979 Imo's Pizza of St. Louis, MO
 1980 Fremont Celtics of CA–North
 1981 Scott Gallagher of St. Louis, MO
 1982 Annandale Boys Club of Annandale, VA
 1983 Montgomery United of MD
 1984 Scott Gallagher of St. Louis, MO
 1985 Columbia Jays of MD
 1986 Fram-Culver of Culver, CA–South
 1987 Union Lancers of Union, NJ
 1988 Union Lancers "69" of Union, NJ
 1989 LaJolla Nomads of LaJolla, CA–South
 1990 Spartan Randolph Blackhawks of St. Paul, MN
 1991 NHBFC Black, CA–South
 1992 Vista Hurricanes, VA
 1993 MVLASC Shooting Stars, CA–North
 1994 Baltimore Spirit, MD
 1995 Countryside Lightning, FL
 1996 Scott Gallagher of St. Louis, MO
 1997 Clearwater Chargers, FL
 1998 CISCO Flames, AZ
 1999 LaJolla Nomads, CA–South
 2000 FC Delco Dynamo, EPA
 2001 FC Delco Black, EPA
 2002 Texans '82/83, South TX
 2003 FC Delco Arsenal, EPA
 2004 HSC Bulls '85, HI
 2005 Sockers FC, IL
 2006 Javanon SC, KY
 2007 Dallas Texans '88 Red, North TX
 2008 Solar FC, North TX
 2009 Baltimore Casa Mia Bays, MD
 2010 Crew Juniors, OH-South
 2011 Baltimore Bays Chelsea, MD
 2012 Crew Juniors OH-South
 2013 Lehigh Valley United 93, EPA
 2014 Concord Fire elite, GA
 2015 Massapequa Arsenal, NY-E
 2016 FC Golden State, CA-S
 2017 Challenger Crew Jrs Gold 98, OH-N
 2018 Baltimore Celtic SC Christos, MD

GIRLS UNDER 19—ROSS STEWART CUP

1980 The Sting, North TX
 1981 D'feeters Green, North TX
 1982 The Sting, North TX
 1983 Saratoga Spirits, CA–North
 1984 Braddock Road Blue Bells, VA
 1985 The Sting, North TX
 1986 Massapequa Falcons, Eastern NY
 1987 The Sting, North TX
 1988 The Sting, North TX
 1989 Livonia Hawks, MI
 1990 Springfield Spirit, VA
 1991 J.B. Marine S.C., MO
 1992 Texas Longhorns, North TX
 1993 Hammer F.C., OH South
 1994 Greater Boston Bolts, MA
 1995 Town N' Country Heather, FL
 1996 North Huntington Beach FC 77, CA–South
 1997 Ridgefield Yankee United Nova, CT
 1998 Shamrocks, CA–South
 1999 Cardinal Premier, OH South

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2000 Colorado Rush Nike, CO
2001 Colorado Rush Nike, CO
2002 San Diego Surf White, CA–South
2003 Peachtree City Lazars, GA
2004 Pleasanton Rage, CA–North
2005 Stars of Massachusetts, MA
2006 Colorado Rush Nike, CO
2007 Carmel United Cyclones, IN
2008 Force Football Club, MI
2009 Colorado Rush Nike, CO
2010 '91 Lonestars Red, South-TX
2011 Dallas Texans 92 Red Dallas, North TX
2012 CCSC SOL (FL)
2013 NASA 12 Elite II, GA

GIRLS UNDER 19 – GIRLS UNDER 19 CUP

2014 VSA Heat Blue, VA
2015 Gretna Prima 95/96 Green, NE
2016 So Cal Blues Dodge, CA-S
2017 98 CR Academy, NC
2018 NSA Shock, IL

BOYS UNDER 18—ANDY STONE CUP

1994 F.C. Portland Academy, OR
1995 Vardar III, MI
1996 Santos, AZ
1997 Columbia City United, MD
1998 AFC Lightning, GA
1999 FC United, WA
2000 Scott Gallagher, MO
2001 Texans '82/83, South TX
2002 FC Delco Arsenal, EPA
2003 Michigan Wolves, MI
2004 Busch SC, MO
2005 Dallas Texans Red 87, North TX
2006 Dallas Texans 88 Red, North TX
2007 Terryville Fire, ENY
2008 Andromeda 90, North TX
2009 DSC 90 Green, SC
2010 EastSide FC '91 Liverpool Red, OR
2011 YMS Thunder, EPA

BOYS UNDER 18 – BOYS UNDER 18 CUP

2012 Florida Rush Nike , FL
2013 West Coast FC, CA-South
2014 Santa Barbara FC White, CA-South
2015 FC Golden State White, CA-S
2016 Santa Barbara SC White, CA-S
2017 BRYC 99 Elite, VA
2018 Baltimore Celtic SC 00, MD

GIRLS UNDER 18—FRANK KELLY CUP

1994 Fountain Valley Spirit, CA–South
1995 Raleigh Spartans, NC
1996 FC Royals, WA
1997 Sting '79, North TX
1998 Central Valley Mercury, CA–North
1999 Northport/Cowharbor Piranha, Eastern NY
2000 Colorado Rush Nike, CO
2001 Michigan Hawks, MI
2002 Colorado Girls Soccer Academy, CO
2003 Dallas Texans Red '85, North TX

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2004 Michigan Hawks, MI
2005 Laguna Hills Eclipse, CA-South
2006 Dallas Texans Red 88 North, North TX
2007 Bloomfield Force, MI
2008 Colorado Rush, CO
2009 FC Bucks Vipers, EPA
2010 Laguna Hills Eclipse White, CA-South
2011 FC Milwaukee, WI
2012 FC Pennsylvania Strikers, EPA

GIRLS UNDER 18 – GIRLS UNDER 18 CUP

2013 Team Chicago Botafogo, IL
2014 Beach FC Ingrassia, CA-South
2015 Carlsbad Elite, CA-S
2016 Tennessee SC 16, TN
2017 TSC Showcase, TN
2018 Sunrise Sting 2000, FL

BOYS UNDER 17—DON GREER CUP

1991 Northglenn/Thunder, CO
1992 Alta Loma Arsenal, CA-South
1993 Temple Terrace Spirit, FL
1994 Club Ohio/Dynamo, OH South
1995 California Flyers, CA-South
1996 Columbia City United, MD
1997 Nomads, CA-South
1998 FC Delco Dynamo, Eastern PA
1999 Braddock Road Warhawks, VA
2000 West Babylon Panthers, ENY
2001 Team Dayton, OH-South
2002 Irvine SC Strikers, CA-South
2003 Chicago Magic SC, IL
2004 Scott Gallagher, MO
2005 Dallas Texans Red 88, North TX
2006 Arsenal FC, CA-South
2007 Andromeda 90, North TX
2008 Andromeda 91, North TX
2009 CZ Elite, CA-South
2010 Alpharetta Ambush 93 Red, GA
2011 Grand Rapids Crew Jrs., MI
2012 Galaxy 94/95 Blue, IL
2013 West Coast FC, CA-South
2014 Manhattan SC PSG 96, ENY
2015 Chicago Magic PSG Preacademy, IL
2016 Pipeline Black, MD
2017 Baltimore Celtic SC 2000, MD
2018 Galaxy 2001 Blue, IL

GIRLS UNDER 17—LAURA MOYNIHAN CUP

1991 Michigan Hawks, MI
1992 Sparta, IL
1993 Connecticut Omni, CT
1994 DeAnza Magic, CA-North
1995 Central Valley Express, CA-North
1996 FC Royals, WA
1997 Central Valley Mercury, CA-North
1998 Colorado Rush, CO
1999 Colorado Rush, CO
2000 San Diego Surf, CA-South
2001 Bethesda Fury, MD

2002 Pleasanton Rage, CA–North
 2003 Sereno '86 Golden Eagles, AZ
 2004 So Cal United, CA–South
 2005 Eclipse Select, IL
 2006 Eclipse Select , IL
 2007 Eagles SC, CA–South
 2008 Dallas Texans 91 Red, North TX
 2009 Eclipse Select 91-92, IL
 2010 So Cal Blues Dodge, CA-South

GIRLS UNDER 17 – GIRLS UNDER 17 CUP

2011 NSA Premier Fury, IL
 2012 VSA Heat Blue (VA)
 2013 Cleveland United White, OH-North
 2014 DMCV Sharks Elite, CA-South
 2015 Tampa Bay United 97 Premier, FL
 2016 YMS Premier Xplosion 98, PA-E
 2017 CUP 00 Gold, OH-S
 2018 Rebels 2001 Elite, CA-South

BOYS UNDER 16—D.J. NIOTIS CUP

1976 Ruiz Soccer Club, Florissant, MO
 1977 Annandale Boys Club, Annandale, VA
 1978 Busch Gardens Soccer Club, St. Louis, MO
 1979 Club America, Dallas, North TX
 1980 Busch Gardens Soccer Club, St. Louis, MO
 1981 Montgomery United Ponies, MD
 1982 Columbia Kick, MD
 1983 Goalpost, Federal Way, WA
 1984 Vista Red Hawks, VA
 1985 Blau-Weiss Gottschee, Intermediate "A", Forest Hills, Eastern NY
 1986 Liebe Soccer Club, St. Louis, MO
 1987 Columbia City United, MD
 1988 Busch Soccer Club, MO
 1989 Busch Soccer Club, MO
 1990 Livonia Metro Magic Wolves, MI
 1991 F.C. Delco Demons, Eastern PA
 1992 NHBFC Black, CA–South
 1993 Vardar III, MI
 1994 Texans, South TX
 1995 Chicago Soccers, IL
 1996 Nomads SC, CA–South
 1997 Javanon '81, KY
 1998 Vardar III, MI
 1999 Chicago Magic, IL
 2000 FC Westchester, ENY
 2001 Sockers FC, IL
 2002 Atlanta Fire, GA
 2003 Southern California United, CA–South
 2004 Casa Mia Bays, MD
 2005 Arsenal FC, CA–South
 2006 Baltimore Casa Mia Bays, MD
 2007 Real So Cal, CA–South

BOYS UNDER 16—LARRY HARMON CUP

2008 Dallas Texans 92 Red, North TX
 2009 Dallas Texans 93 Red, North TX
 2010 Slammers FC, CA-South
 2011 Concorde Fire Elite, GA
 2012 Michigan Jaguars, MI
 2013 Smithtown Arsenal, ENY
 2014 Baltimore Celtic 97/98, MD
 2015 Baltimore Celtic, MD

- 2016 Loudoun Red, VA
- 2017 Tampa Bay United, FL
- 2018 Arlington SA 2002 Red, VA

GIRLS UNDER 16—PATRICIA L. MASOTTO CUP

- 1985 Black Watch Heather, FL
- 1986 Mission Viejo Soccerettes, CA–South
- 1987 Sachem Tomahawks, Eastern NY
- 1988 Springfield Spirit, VA
- 1989 Fairfax Police Youth Express, VA
- 1990 Willingboro Strikers, NJ
- 1991 Mission Viejo Herrericanes, CA–South
- 1992 Burnsville Giants, MN
- 1993 J.B. Marine, MO
- 1994 '78 Roadrunners, CA–North
- 1995 Dallas Sting, North TX
- 1996 Central Valley Mercury, CA–North
- 1997 Northport/Cow Harbor Piranha, Eastern NY
- 1998 Weston Wild Thing, CT
- 1999 Windsor World Class, CT
- 2000 South California Blues, CA–South
- 2001 GSA '85 Phoenix Red, GA
- 2002 West Valley Samba, CA–South
- 2003 San Diego Surf, CA–South
- 2004 Eclipse Select, IL
- 2005 Slammers SC, CA–South
- 2006 Real Colorado National, CO
- 2007 McLean Freedom, VA
- 2008 Dallas Texans Red 92, North TX

GIRLS UNDER 16—GIRLS UNDER 16 CUP

- 2009 De Anza Force, CA-North
- 2010 Solar 94 Red, North-TX

GIRLS UNDER 16 – MAVIS DERFLINGER CUP

- 2011 Sting 95, North TX
- 2012 BRYC 95 ELITE (VA)
- 2013 DMCV Sharks Elite, CA- South
- 2014 Beach FC 97 Academy, CA-South
- 2015 JFC Storm 98/99, FL
- 2016 Carlsbad Elite 99, CA-S
- 2017 Nationals Union 01 Black, MI
- 2018 SJEB Rush 02 Academy Blue, NJ

BOYS UNDER 15—adidas® CUP

- 2001 FC Delco Dynamo, Eastern-PA
- 2002 Rochester Jr. Rhinos, NY–West
- 2003 Casa Mia Bays, MD
- 2004 Arsenal FC, CA–South
- 2005 FC Greater Boston Bolts, MA
- 2006 So Cal United, CA-South
- 2007 Michigan Wolves 92 Black, MI
- 2008 Baltimore Casa Mia Bays, MD
- 2009 Baltimore Casa Mia Bays, MD
- 2010 Baltimore Bays Chelsea, MD

BOYS UNDER 15 – BOYS UNDER 15 CUP

- 2011 Chicago Fire, IL
- 2012 Fullerton Rangers, CA-South
- 2013 Santa Barbara SC White, CA- South
- 2014 Pateadores San Diego, CA-South

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2015 Sporting KC Academy, KS
2016 McLean 00 Green, VA
2017 Solar Chelsea Red 02 Stricker, TX-N
2018 LVSA 03 Silver, NV

GIRLS UNDER 15—KRISTINE LILLY CUP

2001 Colorado Rush Nike, CO
2002 Laguna Hills Eclipse, CA–South
2003 PDA Wildcats, NJ
2004 Mustang Blast, CA–North
2005 St. Louis Soccer Club, MO
2006 Eclipse Select, IL
2007 So Cal Blues, CA–South
2008 Dallas Texans 93 Red Dallas, North TX
2009 San Diego Surf, CA-South
2010 Sting 95, North-TX
2011 PDA Slammers, NJ

GIRLS UNDER 15 – GIRLS UNDER 15 Cup

2012 Legends FC, CA-South
2013 Eclipse Elite Black 97-98, IL
2014 Jacksonville FC 98/99 Elite, FL
2015 Legends FC 99, CA-S
2016 Midwest United FC 01 Royal, MI
2017 Nationals Union 02 Black, MI
2018 Beach FC DPL, CA-South

BOYS UNDER 14— BOYS UNDER 14 CUP

2001 Potomac Cougars, MD
2002 La Jolla Nomads White, CA–South
2003 '88 CASL Elite, NC
2004 Celtic Harps, CA–South
2005 So Cal United, CA–South
2006 Valley United Blast, CA-South

BOYS UNDER 14—WILLIAM J. “BILLY” GOAZIOU CUP

2007 Baltimore Casa Mia Bays, MD
2008 NJSA 04 Gunners, NJ
2009 West Coast FC, CA-South
2010 Eclipse Select, IL
2011 Fullerton Rangers, South-CA
2012 Santa Barbara Soccer Club, CA-South
2013 Pateadores CM, CA-South
2014 United FA 00 elite, GA
2015 Houstonians 2001, TX-S
2016 Valparaiso United FC 02 JG, AZ

BOYS UNDER 14— BOYS UNDER 14 CUP

2017 USA/MP 2003 Premier, SC
2018 Nationals Union 04 Black, MI

GIRLS UNDER 14—ELMER EHLERS CUP

2001 KC Dynamos, KS
2002 Slammers FC, CA–South
2003 Slammers FC, CA–South
2004 Eagles, CA–South
2005 So Cal Blues, CA–South
2006 ISC Strikers, CA–South
2007 Sting Royal Dallas 93, North TX
2008 San Juan Spirits 94 Blue, CA-North

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2009 Mustang Blast, CA-North
2010 Foothill MVLA Lightning, CA-North
2011 Sting 97, North TX
2012 MSC Coyotes Green, MD

GIRLS UNDER 14 – GIRLS UNDER 14 CUP

2013 Eastside FC 98 Red, WA
2014 NEFC Elite, MA
2015 Legends FC Gold, CA-S
2016 PSG MI Gators 02 Orange, MI
2017 LVPSA 03 Red, NV
2018 Michigan Jaguars 04 Green, MI

BOYS UNDER 13 – BOYS UNDER 13 CUP

2013 Pateadores LA, CA-South
2014 WAZA FC East 01 Juniors, MI
2015 Baltimore Celtic Darby 01/02, MD
2016 02 CASL Academy Juniors, NC
2017 St. Louis Scott Gallagher Pre Academy 04, MO
2018 CDA Slammers FC, CA-South

GIRLS UNDER 13 – GIRLS UNDER 13 CUP

2013 Legends FC, CA-South
2014 Surf Academy, CA-South
2015 PSG MI Gators 02 Orange, MI
2016 Solar Chelsea Red, North TX
2017 San Diego Surf, CA-S
2018 San Diego Surf 05 Academy Select, CA-South