

2022-2023 PRESIDENTS CUP COMPETITION RULES



EFFECTIVE 08/01/2022



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RULE 101 SCOPE

The US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup Competition Rules provided herein apply to the US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup Regional and National levels of competition. Except as otherwise provided herein, IFAB Laws of the Game as modified by US Youth Soccer shall apply.

RULE 102 ADMINISTRATION

Section 1 There shall be a Presidents Cup Management Group (PCMG). The PCMG is responsible for the entire administration of the National Presidents Cup competitions, subject to review by the Board of Directors.

Section 2 The PCMG reserves the right to make all decisions concerning the National Presidents Cup competitions, keeping in mind the safety and welfare of the players, coaches, referees, administrators, and spectators as well as the best interests of US Youth Soccer and the US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup.

Section 3 The PCMG shall determine any matter not provided for in the US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup competitions and has the authority to modify any rules, protocols or guidelines as deemed necessary in order to ensure the safe and orderly progression of the competition. Any such decision of the PCMG is final and not subject to appeal.

RULE 103 CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

All US Youth Soccer concussion procedures and protocols, as well as any state or local laws regarding concussions, shall be adhered to.

RULE 104 ADDITIONAL ROSTERED PLAYERS

A limited number of additional players may be added to the roster of teams advancing to the National Presidents Cup Regional or National levels of competition. See Rule 301 for Additional Rostered Player requirements.

RULE 105 PLAYER PARTICIPATION

A player may be rostered to only one team at each level of the National Presidents Cup competitions during a seasonal year. See Rule 302 for player eligibility requirements.

RULE 106 TEAM PARTICIPATION

Depending on a team's league participation, it may be subject to eligibility constraints for the regional or national Presidents Cup competition. See Rule 303 for team eligibility requirements.

RULE 107 MATCH MANIPULATION

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

- If failing to compete is observed and confirmed, the competition authority representative will give notice to the offending team or teams.
- If corrective action is not taken, the team or teams will be subject to disqualification.



RULE 201 DISCIPLINE

Section 1 Players ejected or team officials dismissed from a match shall be automatically suspended for the next match. No substitution shall be permitted for a player who has been sent off during a match. The PCMG will review all such dismissals and may impose additional penalties, suspensions or other punishment depending on the circumstances and severity of the infraction.

Section 2 Players ejected from a match may continue to sit in the technical/bench area unless removed by the referee for inappropriate behavior after they have been ejected.

Section 3 If a player is removed from the technical/bench area they must be accompanied by a credentialed team official. A PCMG member, Competition Official or State Representative will escort the player and team official to a waiting area.

Section 4 Players who are serving a disciplinary suspension may sit on the team bench while dressed in street clothes and will be held responsible for their actions the same as any other participant. If additional disciplinary situations occur in which a suspended player is involved, the PCMG will impose additional penalties, suspensions or other punishment to be served either during the event or the following season of play.

Section 5 Any team official dismissed must leave the vicinity of the field before the match will be restarted. The team official may not have any contact with the team until the referees have left the field after the match.

Section 6 Team officials serving a disciplinary suspension may attend team activities during the suspension as a spectator only. No communication with players or team management is permitted during the suspension. A dismissed team official that is rostered to more than one team in the competition shall serve their suspension during scheduled match(es) of the team with which the ejection occurred. Any violations will result in additional sanctions being imposed by the PCMG, including but not limited to, additional suspensions and/or recommendations to the State Association.

Section 7 If a player or team official is dismissed from their team's last match, the PCMG will impose sanctions to be served at the next level of National Presidents Cup competitions or during the following season of play.

Section 8 Players or team officials that have displayed activities in violation of the competition's Code of Conduct, any US Youth Soccer rule or policy and/or local ordinances or laws (including, but not limited to, theft or willful destruction of property) may be denied participation for the duration of the competition.

Section 9 Any player or team official 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, shall have a minimum of one (1) match added to the suspension that would normally be levied by the PCMG.

RULE 202 MEMBER PASSES

All rostered players and team officials must possess a printed, current and valid US Youth Soccer member pass with a recent face on, passport style photograph. Member passes may be verified against the official event roster before the start of the competition. At each match, member passes must be provided to the referee. If unusual, extenuating or other circumstances exist, electronic member passes may be utilized if approved by the PCMG or a designee. Printed member passes should be provided as soon as practical.



RULE 203 DURATION OF MATCHES

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Game Length</u>	<u>Halftime</u>	<u>Overtime Periods</u>
12U*	Two 30-minute halves	10 minutes	Two 10-minute periods
13U	Two 35-minute halves	10 minutes	Two 10-minute periods
14U	Two 35-minute halves	10 minutes	Two 10-minute periods
15U	Two 40-minute halves	10 minutes	Two 15-minute periods
16U	Two 40-minute halves	10 minutes	Two 15-minute periods
17U	Two 45-minute halves	10 minutes	Two 15-minute periods
18U	Two 45-minute halves	10 minutes	Two 15-minute periods
19U	Two 45-minute halves	10 minutes	Two 15-minute periods

* Competitions may be organized for qualifying players in the 12U age group for both boys and girls as defined by Rule 104 of the US Youth Soccer Policy on Players and Playing Rules and will conclude at the Regional Presidents Cup level.

RULE 204 KNOCKOUT ROUND MATCHES

Ties at the end of regulation time in semifinal or final matches will be determined first by the completion of two (2) equal overtime periods as outlined in Rule 203. There is no “Golden Goal” in any overtime period. If a match remains tied at the conclusion of both overtime periods the winner will be determined by Kicks from the Penalty Mark utilizing the players on the field at the conclusion of the second overtime period.

RULE 205 SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions shall be unlimited and can be made in accordance with IFAB Laws of the game, with the consent of the referee, during any stoppage of play. Substitutes must be waiting at the half line when the referee calls for the substitution. Substituted players must leave the field of play at the half line near their team bench.

RULE 206 MATCH BALLS

The PCMG will supply match balls. In the unlikely event that match balls cannot be provided, the referee will make a choice from balls offered by both teams. 12U matches will be played with a size 4 ball. All other matches will be played with a size 5 ball.

RULE 207 FORFEITS

Section 1 During group play, a team must forfeit any match where they fall below the required minimum number of players; seven (7) for 13U through 19U teams and six (6) for 12U teams. Subsequent matches will not be automatically forfeited.

Section 2 A team forfeiting a match for any other reason will result in all of their group matches being declared a forfeit.

Section 3 Forfeited matches will be reported as a 4-0 loss for scoring purposes. In circumstances where forfeited matches are involved in the determination of team advancement (i.e. tie breakers), all tie breaking criteria involving goal differential or fewest goals allowed will be determined on a per match average, rounded to the nearest whole number, excluding the results of the forfeited match.

Section 4 During knockout rounds, a team forfeiting a match will result in the opponent advancing.



RULE 208 SCORING METHOD

Ties at the end of regulation time in group play will stand. Team standings are determined by the accumulation of points in qualifying matches. Teams earn points as follows: Three (3) points for a win (including forfeits, which are considered a 4-0 win), one (1) point for a tie and zero (0) points for a loss.

RULE 209 TIE BREAKERS

Section 1 (Used when all teams played the same number of group matches)

In the event teams are tied based on points earned, each team's placement will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria:

1. Winner in head-to-head competition. (This criterion is not used if more than two teams are tied).
2. Winner of most games. The team with the most wins advances.
3. Highest goal difference (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum differential of four (4) goals difference per match.
4. Fewest goals allowed. The team with the fewest total goals allowed advances.
5. Kicks from the Penalty Mark.
6. If, in the opinion of the PCMG, additional steps are required to ensure the safe conclusion of the competition are needed, those decisions will be communicated to all affected teams before they are implemented.

Note: If more than two (2) teams are tied, the sequence above will be followed until a team is eliminated/advanced. The remaining teams will then restart the sequence at tiebreaker criteria 2 above until the tie is broken. In a situation where three teams remain tied, a draw between tied teams will be conducted by the PCMG to determine an order of contest between tied teams. The first team drawn will receive the bye; the next team drawn will be the home team against the remaining team in the first round of Kicks from the Penalty Mark. The winner of the first contest will then compete against the bye team in Kicks from the Penalty Mark to determine the team that advances. The bye team will be the home team.



Section 2 (Used when teams played a different number of group matches due to an odd number bracket)

At the conclusion of group play in 7 and 11 team brackets, for teams that played two (2) group matches, the average number of points earned from those two (2) matches will be added to their point total for purposes of determining advancement. A tie or ties could result when determining teams that will advance to the semifinal round. In such cases, ties will be broken via Kicks from the Penalty Mark procedure below.

If Kicks from the Penalty Mark are necessary to determine advancement, eleven (11) players on the event roster will be selected by a credentialed team official to participate, and a referee will be assigned to break the tie on a field assigned by the PCMG. Players ejected in their last group match in a regional or national Presidents Cup competition are not eligible to participate in Kicks from the Penalty Mark.

- A. In a situation where two (2) teams are tied, Kicks from the Penalty Mark will be utilized to determine the team that advances.
- B. In a situation where three (3) teams are tied, a draw between tied teams will be conducted by the PCMG to determine an order of contest between tied teams. The first team drawn will receive the bye; the next team drawn will be the home team against the remaining team in the first round of Kicks from the Penalty Mark. The winner of the first contest will then compete against the bye team in Kicks from the Penalty Mark to determine the team that advances. The bye team will be the home team.
- C. In a situation where four (4) teams are tied, a draw between tied teams will be conducted by the PCMG to determine an order of contest.
 - 1) The first two (2) teams drawn will contest Kicks from the Penalty Mark, with the team drawn first being designated the home team, to determine one team that will compete in a final round.
 - 2) The remaining two (2) teams drawn will also contest Kicks from the Penalty Mark, with the team drawn third being designated the home team to determine the second team that will compete in a final round.
 - 3) The winner of the first contest above will then compete against the winner of the second contest above in Kicks from the Penalty Mark to determine the team that advances. The team from Section 2 Paragraph C Point 1 will be designated the home team



RULE 210 UNIFORMS

Section 1 Each team must have two (2) uniform sets (one light color and one dark color) and 2 different color sock sets at **each match** during the competition. Generally accepted light colors include, but are not limited to, white, light grey, sand, sky blue, yellow, gold, pink, and light green. Generally accepted dark colors include, but are not limited to, black, dark grey, dark brown, navy blue, red, maroon, dark green and deep purple.

- The home team (listed first in the schedule) is required to wear their light color jersey.
- The away team (listed second in the schedule) is required to wear their dark color jersey.
- Matching shorts are not required. The same color shorts can be utilized for both uniforms.
- Opposing teams are required to wear contrasting color socks.

Section 2 If, in the opinion of the referee, there is a sock color conflict, the **home team** must change. If, in the opinion of the referee, there is a jersey color conflict, the **team causing the conflict** must change. The referee's decision is final. Any failure to comply may result in the team forfeiting the match, which has additional consequences. See Rule 207, Section 2. **Reminder, teams are required to bring both color uniforms and socks to all matches.**

Section 3 Any material on or covering player socks must be the same color as the part of the sock it covers (this applies to all materials and not just tape). Undershorts and/or tights must be the same color as either the main color of the shorts or the lowest edge/bottom (hem) and all members of the team must wear the same color. Enforcement is at the discretion of the referee.

Section 4 Uniform numbers must be a minimum of six (6) inches in size. Each field player must have a number permanently affixed to the back of their jersey which must be clearly visible. **Duplicate and/or taped numbers are not permitted.** Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from other players and referees. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are optional; however, are recommended. It is suggested that teams utilizing multiple goalkeepers have numbered jerseys.

RULE 211 MARKINGS AND LOGOS

Section 1 At every level of the National Presidents Cup competitions, a player or team official intending to participate in a match or associated activity may only have on the outerwear of the player or team official a name, logo, or other identifying mark of a youth soccer organization that is US Youth Soccer, a State Association or other member of US Youth Soccer, a member of a State Association, or an organization that is a member of an organization that is a member of a State Association. A name, logo, or other identifying mark of any other youth soccer organization must be removed, replaced, or covered before the player or team official may continue to remain at the match field for the match or associated activity.

Section 2 If a player or team official chooses to not remove a name, logo, or other identifying mark of any other youth soccer organization, it must be completely covered by another patch that is sewn on. **Covering non-complaint marks with tape is not permitted.**

Section 3 A player or team official may have a mark and/or name on their clothing if it is related to an item or service that is appropriate for youth. Any inappropriate mark or name on a team member's uniform must be removed, replaced, or **permanently** covered (tape is not permitted) before the player or team official may participate. An example of inappropriate mark or name would be, but is not limited to, tobacco products or alcoholic beverages. If there is any question about a logo, marking or sponsor, it is **strongly** suggested that you inquire well in advance of the start of the competition in order to avoid an issue at the match field.



RULE 212 GRACE PERIOD

Teams are required to be at the match field a minimum of 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. A minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a team. Teams not ready to play at the scheduled start time of any match shall be granted a 10-minute grace period. The match may be forfeited if a team is not at the match field and prepared to play after the grace period expires. All situations in which a team is not ready to play will be assessed by the PCMG. If unusual or extenuating circumstances exist, the grace period may be extended before declaring the match a forfeit.

RULE 213 TECHNICAL/BENCH AREA

Players and team officials will be located in the technical/bench area on one side of the field. A maximum of four (4) team officials (i.e., coach, assistant coach, manager, or trainer) may be in the technical/bench area. Team officials must wear the Bench Pass provided by the PCMG around their neck to be permitted on the team sideline. No coaching is allowed from other than the technical/bench area.

RULE 214 TEAM OR CLUB TRAINERS

A team may use their own Athletic Trainer as one of their four (4) credentialed team officials. The competition Athletic Trainers are primary to any team or club trainers, who are deemed secondary.

RULE 215 SPECTATORS

- a) Spectators (parents, relatives and/or other individuals) who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team are subject to the jurisdiction and authority of US Youth Soccer and the PCMG. The actions of these individuals are the responsibility of the credentialed team officials appearing on the roster.
- b) The spectator area is located on the opposite side of the field from the technical/bench area. No spectators are permitted anywhere behind the goal line during a match. The spectator area is behind the line marked 3-yards beyond the touchline and extends from a point 3-yards from the center line down to the corner flag. Spectators must remain in this area, in the half of the field directly across from their team's bench, subject to the following exception.
- c) It is expected that respect for the game and players will prevail if a **limited number** of spectators wish to **quietly** observe the match in the **far end** of the opposing spectator section (for example, the Goalkeeper's family). In the event of disruptive behavior by these spectators, a competition official may require them to return to their designated area and restrict any further sideline movement of spectators.
- d) Technical instruction from any part of the spectator area, or provocative or unsportsmanlike behavior by any spectator may result in their removal from the complex. Any spectator asked to leave by a competition official must immediately depart the field area and remain out of sight and sound of the match until the teams have departed the field of play and are no longer the responsibility of the referee.
- e) Whistles, air horns, megaphones, artificial noisemakers and/or similar devices are prohibited at all National Presidents Cup competitions. Air horns are for use solely by competition officials to signal when fields must be cleared due to inclement or dangerous weather conditions.



RULE 216 DELAYED OR UNFINISHED MATCHES

If inclement weather or other circumstances causes play to be suspended or otherwise affects the scheduled progression of a regional or national Presidents Cup competition, the PCMG has the authority to make decisions and/or modifications to match length, starting times or any other criteria deemed necessary in order to ensure the safe and orderly progression of the competition. Any such decision of the PCMG is final and not subject to appeal.

Options available to the PCMG include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Match lengths may be reduced.
- b) If the start of play was delayed and a match which requires a winner to advance in the competition is tied at the conclusion of the second half, overtime periods may be eliminated, and the match proceed directly to Kicks from the Penalty Mark. This decision will be communicated before the match starts.
- c) If play is stopped or suspended at any time *before* first half concludes and cannot be resumed after a reasonable delay, as determined by the PCMG, the match will be replayed in its entirety.
- d) If play is stopped or suspended at any time *after* first half concludes and cannot be resumed as determined by the PCMG, the score stands, and the match will be deemed as complete. If the match is tied and requires a winner to advance in the competition, the PCMG will determine the safest method to determine the advancing team.
- e) Matches that have no bearing on advancement out of group play may be cancelled.
- f) If additional steps are needed to ensure the safe and orderly progression of the competition of a regional or national Presidents Cup competition, reasonable efforts will be made to communicate those decisions to a rostered team official before they are implemented.



RULE 301 ADDITIONAL ROSTERED PLAYERS

A limited number of additional players may be added to teams advancing to the National Presidents Cup Regional and National levels of competition. Additional Rostered Players must be properly registered with US Youth Soccer and the advancing team's State Association at the beginning of the State qualifying event. Additional Rostered Players may be from any other member club in good standing and recognized as a member by the State Association.

Section 1 Additional Rostered Players must meet all other National Presidents Cup competitions player eligibility requirements. See Rule 302.

Section 2 A team may utilize a total of five (5) Additional Rostered Players in a seasonal year in the Regional and/or National Presidents Cup competition.

Section 3 Additional Rostered Players must appear on the official US Youth Soccer Event Management System roster and be so designated.

Section 4 Additional Rostered Players must possess a current, valid US Youth Soccer Member Pass.

Section 5 13U through 19U teams must maintain a roster continuity of nine (9) continuous players throughout the State, Regional and National levels of the National Presidents Cup competitions. For regions that host competitions in the 12U age group, 12U teams must maintain a roster continuity of eight (8) continuous players throughout the State and Regional Presidents Cup competitions.



RULE 302 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. The US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup competitions are intended for properly registered and rostered players in accordance with the rules of US Youth Soccer (Policy on Players and Playing Rules, 201 and 209) and the State Association at the beginning of the State's qualifying event for that age and gender. Players that register with a state association after the beginning of the state qualifying event or have other unusual circumstances may submit a request for a waiver to the Regional Presidents Cup Program Manager.

Section 2. Players are not eligible to compete at the regional or national level of the National Presidents Cup competitions if they were primary rostered to a team that competed in the US Youth Soccer National League P.R.O. or Elite 64 division. Primary rostered National League P.R.O. and Elite 64 players are ineligible to club pass on to a Presidents Cup roster.

Section 3. Players that are primary rostered to a Presidents Cup team may club pass to a National League Conference, P.R.O. or Elite 64 team without affecting their eligibility at the regional or national level of the Presidents Cup competitions. National League Conference players must choose which USYS Cup Series (National Championship Series or Presidents Cup) state level they want to participate in and remain tied to that Cup series at the regional and national levels of competition.

Section 4. If a State Association holds a separate and distinct qualifying event to identify the team advancing to the regional level of the National Presidents Cup competitions, a player who was rostered to a team that competed in the semifinal or final matches at the state or regional level of a designated US Youth Soccer National Championship Series event (NCS) is not eligible to participate at the regional or national level of the National Presidents Cup competitions.

Section 5. 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 Presidents Cup competitions submits its roster for its first competition at the State Association level.

Section 6. A player may be rostered to only one team at each level of the National Presidents Cup competitions during a seasonal year.

Section 7. State Associations shall confirm the eligibility of each player to be rostered on a team participating at the regional or national level of the National Presidents Cup competitions. A State Association must comply with any roster or player eligibility rule(s) established within the US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup Policy, the US Youth Soccer Policy on Players and Playing Rules, the US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup Competition Rules or any other official document relating to the National Presidents Cup competitions.

Section 8. A team that is found guilty for any reason of having an ineligible player on its roster or using an ineligible player forfeits each game involving the ineligible player.

Section 9. A player who has been suspended may play after the player's term of suspension has expired.



RULE 303 TEAM ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. The National Presidents Cup 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, must not be under sanction by their State Association or US Youth Soccer, and must be in compliance with, and have not violated any of the bylaws and policies of their State Association or US Youth Soccer.
- (3) Any team that competed in the US Youth Soccer National League P.R.O. or Elite 64 division is not eligible to compete at the regional or national level of the National Presidents Cup competitions.
- (4) No later than August 1 of each year, each regional Presidents Cup Program Manager, working in conjunction with the National League Conference Managers, shall publish and highlight any changes to eligibility criteria for the upcoming year in a "US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup National League Conference Eligibility" list for each National League conference or division.
- (5) In order for its teams to compete at the regional or national level of the National Presidents Cup competitions, a State Association shall hold a qualifying event of its choosing (tournament or other event) in order to identify the team advancing to the regional level of the National Presidents Cup competitions.
 - I) If the Presidents Cup qualifying event is separate and distinct from any other state competition:
 - a) A team is not eligible to compete at the regional or national level of the National Presidents Cup competitions if it competed in the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series. A "Play-in" or similar one-off match where the eliminated team moves into the state Presidents Cup qualifying event is not considered competing in the National Championship Series.
 - b) Advancement shall be offered to teams in the order of finish from the qualifying event until the slot is filled, unless a team is prohibited from advancing based on its National League Conference participation as outlined in paragraphs (3) or (4) above.
 - II) If the Presidents Cup qualifying event is a combined competition to identify teams advancing to the regional US Youth Soccer National Championships Series (NCS) and regional National Presidents Cup competitions:
 - a) The team advancing to the regional NCS shall be determined first.
 - b) Advancement to the regional National Presidents Cup competition shall then be offered to the remaining teams that finished lower in the final event standings than the team that accepted the regional NCS berth, unless a team is prohibited from advancing based on its National League Conference participation as outlined in paragraphs (3) or (4) above.
 - c) If a state chooses not to send a team to the NCS competition in a particular age group/gender, then advancement to the regional National Presidents Cup competition shall be offered to the teams in order of finish, unless a team is prohibited from advancing based on its National League Conference participation as outlined in paragraphs (3) or (4) above.
 - d) Where appropriate, a request for a waiver may be submitted to the Presidents Cup Management Group if unusual circumstances exist that could impact a team that has been identified to advance from a combined qualifying competition via (b) or (c) above.



RULE 401 PROTESTS AND APPEALS

Section 1 All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors, interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest concerning the National Presidents Cup competitions, shall be referred to the PCMG at the regional or national level.

Section 2 (a) To be valid and eligible for consideration at the regional or national levels of the National Presidents Cup competitions, each protest:

1) must be orally lodged by a team official listed on the team roster involved in the match with the referee and with the opposing coach at the game site before entering the field of play or leaving the match field, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section; and

2) must be filed with the PCMG or a designee within 2 hours after the completion of the match being protested, accompanied by:

- a) a cash fee in the amount of \$300.00;
- b) one (1) electronic or two (2) written copies of the protest, which must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged; and
- c) one (1) electronic or two (2) written copies of any information to be presented by witnesses.

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

(c) The PCMG or a designee shall immediately, upon receipt of the protest, notify the team against which the protest is made and shall provide a copy of the protest and all particulars to that team, which will then have the right to defend its case, with or without witnesses.

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

- 1) if a decision at the Regional Presidents Cup level, with the PCMG or a designee who shall immediately notify the National Presidents Cup Program Manager; or
- 2) if a decision at the National Presidents Cup level, with the PCMG or a designee who shall immediately notify the Board of Directors.

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

- 1) a cash fee in the amount of \$300.00; and
- 2) one (1) electronic or two (2) written copies of the appeal.

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

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

Section 6 A protest or appeal of a decision or the judgement of referees will not be heard. A protest may be lodged for a misapplication of the Laws of the Game by the Referee which materially affected the outcome of the match.