



## US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup Policy/Rules

The information below includes rules of play and administrative information for the Virginia Presidents Cup 2020-2021. Teams with an Official VYSA League Roster or a VYSA EDP League roster and US Youth Soccer Players Passes and born in the following year groups are eligible.

- 18/19U January 1, 2002 or later
- 17U January 1, 2004 or later
- 16U January 1, 2005 or later
- 15U January 1, 2006 or later
- 14U January 1, 2007 or later
- 13U January 1, 2008 or later
- 12U 9v9 January 1, 2009 or later

### 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.

Section 2. In State Associations where player registrations are 25,001 or larger during the immediately preceding seasonal year, a player who was rostered to any team that competed in quarter, semi or final matches in a designated State NCS series or was rostered to any team that competed in an elite, premiere or the most competitive level or levels in any regional or national league, or were a member of a national level developmental academy are not eligible to participate in a Regional or National Presidents Cup.

Section 3. A club may issue a club pass to any youth player who is a registered US Youth Soccer player of their 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 4. A player may be rostered to only one team at each level of the National Presidents Cup competitions during a seasonal year.

Section 5. US Youth Soccer State associations are charged with making a final determination of a players' eligibility to be rostered on a team participating at any level of the National Presidents Cup competitions.

Section 6. 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.

## **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) For the 2020-2021 seasonal year, in State Associations where player registrations are 25,001 or larger during the 2018-2019 seasonal year, a team is not eligible to participate in the National Presidents Cup competitions if:
  - It competed in an interstate regional competition in which the team advanced to a round of 16, quarter, semi or finals in a State Cup or State Championships competition, or
  - It competed in the quarter, semi or final matches in a State Cup or State Championships competition, or
  - It competed in an elite, premiere or the most competitive level or levels in any regional or national league or were a member of a national level developmental academy.
- 4) For the 2020-2021 seasonal year, State Associations where player registration totals less than 25,001 during 2018-2019 seasonal year, each State Association may designate any team as their representative to the regional level of the National Presidents Cup.

### *Club Pass Players---This is a new rule for 2019--additional information*

At the time of application to the Presidents Cup and any time before your first Presidents Cup game a team may add club pass players to their Presidents Cup roster. A club pass player is a US Youth Soccer player already registered to your club and is age appropriate for your team. The President cup roster is separate from your league roster. When you form your Presidents Cup roster at the time of application to Presidents Cup you will bring over your players from your league team and add any additional players through the club pass system. Before your first game the players you choose to remain active on the Presidents Cup roster are the only players that you may use for Virginia Presidents Cup play. If you choose to add club pass players your roster will be different than your league roster. During the Presidents Cup competition teams may not add any additional club pass players after the first game has been played.

After a State Champion is declared and before rosters are locked for Regional Competition the Presidents Cup Champion team may add additional club pass players to the roster going forward to Regional competition. A team may also add up to 5 Additional Rostered Players for Regional and National competition. These additional rostered players must be US Youth Soccer members at the time your roster was frozen for your first game but they do not need to be players that were rostered to your club when your roster was frozen for Fall Presidents Cup play. No more than 5 additional rostered players may be on a Presidents Cup roster at every level of the competition. If one of the 5 additional

players drops off that player may not be replaced. There are only 5 places on a roster for these players and once 5 have been used no others can be added. Every roster that goes forward to Regional or National competition must maintain nine players who were on the roster that won the State Championship. If a team wins the Regional Championship the team may again add club pass players and additional rostered players to the roster before the rosters are locked for the National Championship.

If the roster is not maintained according to the Presidents Cup rules through VYSA or Regional and National competitions, the team will be declared ineligible for competition.

### **Roster Size and Continuity**

- A U14-U18 team must not allow more than twenty-two (22) or less than seven (9) players on its Presidents Cup roster at any given time during the seasonal year.
- **New Rule** - A U13 team must not allow more that Twenty Two (22) or less than nine (9) players on its Presidents Cup roster at any given time during the season year. This team may only carry the 22 player roster for Presidents Cup competition. The league roster for the U13 teams is still a max number of 18. The numbers of players on the Presidents Cup roster from 18 to 22 will come from club pass players to the Presidents Cup roster.
- A U12 9v9 team must not allow more than sixteen (16) or less than seven (7) players on its Presidents Cup roster at any given time during the seasonal year.
- All teams are limited to five (5) transfers to the roster for VYSA Presidents Cup play.
- A U13-18 team must maintain at least 9 of the players that were on the roster at the State competition level at the Regional and National level of competition.
- A U12 team must maintain at least 7 of the players that were on the roster at the State Competition level. U12 teams must maintain 7 of these players through the Regional Competition. U12 teams do not go forward to the National competition.

### **Age Groups**

A team must enter competition in the age group corresponding to the age of its oldest player. For the Presidents Cup, any team registered with US Youth Soccer through VYSA and playing in a recognized league may apply. An official VYSA League Roster or a VYSA EDP League roster with US Youth Soccer Players Passes are recognized leagues.

### **The Presidents Cup Roster**

The Presidents Cup Roster is part of the Affinity online registration process. Please print the Presidents Cup Roster called the Official Game Roster from this site. This roster now becomes the team's Presidents Cup Roster and will be utilized in all Presidents Cup, Regional and National Championship activities. The Presidents Cup Roster in Virginia is for Presidents Cup play only and may not be used for other events, such as league and tournament play.

Your Presidents Cup Roster and your league roster no longer need to mirror each other prior to your first game. You may add players from your club to your VYSA Presidents Cup rosters that don't play on your league team. Your team may make changes to the league roster at any time since the rosters are two separate rosters now, but once the Presidents Cup Roster has been used to play one game, the Presidents Cup roster can no longer be changed until your team is the State Champion or chosen as a wild card to go to Regionals

## **Roster Freeze Date**

Presidents Cup rosters are frozen before your first game in the Presidents Cup competition. The roster you print from the online Affinity system and use for your first Presidents Cup game is the roster you must keep during your whole VYSA Presidents Cup competition. You may make no changes to this roster while you are playing Presidents Cup. The State Champion and any wild card teams selected will be able to update their VYSA Presidents Cup roster again for Regional and National competition.

## **Fall (15U, 16U, 17U and 18U teams) Spring (12U, 13U, 14U teams)**

Because the State Cup games will be played in the same season as the Presidents Cup it will be very difficult to play in both competitions. All games for both competitions are played on the same weekends State-wide. This would mean in some cases two games in one weekend. There are no rules to prohibit this, but travel and game times would make it almost impossible to play in both competitions.

If a Presidents Cup team has players that are also club passed to a State Cup team; in order to remain eligible to remain on a Presidents Cup roster they must be released from the State Cup roster before the State Cup team's quarter final game.

Any violation of player or team eligibility rules will result in the forfeiture of any games in which an ineligible team or player has participated. **The coach is ultimately responsible for verifying player eligibility.**

## **Forfeits**

Notice of intent to withdraw or forfeit a game must be made to the Presidents Cup Chairman. Any team withdrawing from the competition after September 8, 2020 will lose their Presidents Cup entry fee. Any team withdrawing from the competition through a game forfeit or other circumstances after the schedules are released and until the number of days designated by the Region before Regional competition will lose their entrance fee and be fined an additional 500.00 for the forfeit.

If a team forfeits games above the State Association competition (Regional or National Competition) inside the number of days designated by the Region for the Regional competition there will be an additional Regional fines.

- Between 60 and 31 days prior to the first day of competition: \$1,500
- Between 30 and 15 days prior to the first day of competition: \$2,500
- 14 days or less prior to the first day of competition: \$5,000

## **Regional and National Obligations**

Teams representing VYSA at each of the competitions; East Region and National Finals must observe all US Youth Soccer rules and guidelines for those events. If it is determined that a team or its players have violated these rules and guidelines, a fine of up to \$500 may be imposed by VYSA. This amount is above any fine amount that East Region or US Youth Soccer may impose.

## Payment Obligations

Any amount owed by a team in connection with a Presidents Cup event is an obligation of the team's club. If any amount remains unpaid after notice to the team and the team's club, VYSA may place the club and all of its teams in bad standing, rendering them ineligible to compete in any VYSA-sanctioned event.

## Seeding and Home and Away Designations

The top four returning teams from the previous Presidents Cup will be seeded 1 through 4. These four teams will be designated home for each game they play. If a top 1 to 4 team is defeated, the team that defeats them will take their seeded position. All other teams will be grouped and then drawn at random. All other home and away positions will be determined at random. Games will be placed on fields in any area in Virginia. Teams participating in Presidents Cup will provide fields if their team is drawn home. The Semifinals and Finals will be located in Fredericksburg at the Publix Virginia Soccer Training Center. In the Semi Final and Final games the team in the top of the bracket will be the home team.

There will be no protest or appeal of the seeding process or selection. The seeding process will be difficult and will depend a great deal on the amount of information supplied by the team.

## Game Sites

As a condition of acceptance into the competition, **applicants must agree to play anywhere they are scheduled** within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Team officials are expected to inform their players and parents of this requirement prior to entering the competition. Game sites are assigned (and may be re-assigned) by the Presidents Cup Chairman, taking into account field availability, referee availability, travel distances, weather considerations, scheduling efficiency. This shall not be grounds for protest.

## Game Officials

- In all games: Three (3) officials shall be assigned for each match.
- If an assigned official fails to appear at a match within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time, the coaches must try to agree to a substitute, and play the game. If the game is played, the results shall be official and no protest will be honored regarding the use of a substitute official (s) or outcome of the game. If it is not possible to come to an agreement on a substitute official (s) the game will be rescheduled by the Cup committee and disagreement with the new scheduled time and place will not be grounds for protest.
- In the event the game officials' uniform color conflicts with either team's color, the game officials will change colors.

## General Rules of Play

- Both teams and a maximum of four (4) team officials for each team shall take the same side of the field. All team officials must carry a current team official pass. The referee will check these passes before the game. Spectators shall take the other side of the field. The home team shall choose which side the teams will take. The Site Administrator, or the referee if

no Site Administrator is present, shall decide upon other arrangements if required by site contingencies.

- No artificial noisemakers are permitted.
- The home team shall provide an appropriate size and quality game ball to the referee for approval.
- Each field player (except goalkeepers) shall wear a numbered jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Each player must wear a different number. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are optional in the Presidents Cup competition. Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from other players and referees.
- The away team shall have a choice of colors. In the event of a conflict, the home team must change if so directed by the referee.
- The teams shall make available, on request, a copy of these Rules and Procedures for the referee.
- The referees in the VYSA State competition will accept passes that are laminated and those that are not. Laminated passes are not required for VYSA Presidents Cup games.
- The Champion of the VYSA Presidents Cup competition in each age group will need to laminate their passes prior to the Regional Competition. Player passes may be laminated at any time before or during the VYSA competition, but must be laminated by any team going to the Regional Competition in June, 2020.
- In the all Presidents Cup competitions, State, Regional and National competition the team officials (coaches, trainers and managers) listed on a team roster must carry the US Youth Soccer member pass with a current photograph of the team official.

### **Pre-Game Procedures**

In the 12U age groups, the home team and the away team will provide the Official Game Roster form. The Official Game Roster form is also the Official Presidents Cup roster. Each team must bring this form to every game. This form is available to both teams to print from the Affinity system 2 days prior to each Presidents Cup game that the team participates in. After team check in, these forms will be given to the referees to use for the game report form.

In the 13U-19U age groups, both the home team and away team will provide the Official Game Roster. All players who will participate in the Fall Presidents Cup competition must be marked as "Active" in the Affinity system no later than the team's first game to be listed as available players on the Official Game Roster.

As part of the team check-in process for the U13-U18 teams, the referee will cross off those players above 18 who will not participate in the game on that specific day. Up to 18 players can be rostered to play in a game. At the time of the kick off, the roster of 18 will be set and no changes can be made to the Official Game Roster. Players not participating may sit on the team's bench but they must be dressed in street clothes; they cannot wear any part of the team uniform. The referees may ask any player not playing in the game to leave the team bench and the team sideline should an issue arise.

Each team must present for inspection by the referee their approved frozen Official Game Roster (Presidents Cup roster) and their US Youth Soccer Player Passes. The team official passes or team

official club passes must also be presented. The referee must check the USYS Player Passes against (1) the players, (2) and the Official Game Roster. An electronic version of the roster or player passes is not acceptable. The referee will verify each player's identity and verify consistency of the documents. Checking passes, players, and rosters **MAY NOT** be waived by the referee or the coaches. The referee may prohibit the participation of a player whose identity cannot be verified or whose documents are inconsistent or improper. If checking of the Official Game Roster and passes against each player is not done, the coaches of both teams will be considered to be at fault. This may be grounds for a hearing on the validity of the game. The referee will check each team official pass or club pass against the team officials on the team sideline.

Both the Official Game Roster and the USYS player passes must be available during the entire Cup match. They must be made available on request of the referee or a State official.

### **Grace Period**

- Games must start when scheduled except:
- A fifteen (15) minute grace period is given to each team to present its roster and the US Youth Soccer Player Passes to the referee for inspection. Failure to comply results in a forfeit with no right of appeal.
- A fifteen (15) minute grace period is given to each U13-U18 team which cannot field eleven (11) players at game time and U12 teams that can't field 9 players at game time. After fifteen (15) minutes, the game will start provided that the team has at least seven (7) players. If less than seven (7) players are present at the end of the grace period, the team forfeits with no right of appeal.

These two 15 minute grace periods will run concurrently and the game will start or be a forfeit no later than 15 minutes from the official scheduled game time.

### **Game Durations, Overtime, and Ball Requirements**

Games shall consist of two halves of equal duration in accordance with the age group specifications included below under paragraph 4.

If a game is tied at the end of regulation, the tie shall be resolved by playing two equal overtimes according to the age group specifications. If tied after both overtimes have been played, penalty kicks in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game will break the tie.

Games shall be played in accordance with the following Age Group Specifications:

#### **Duration of Games**

Age Group	Game Length	Overtime Periods (No Overtime periods during Round Robin play)
Under 18	Two 45' halves	Two 15' halves size #5 ball
Under 17	Two 45' halves	Two 15' halves size #5 ball
Under 16	Two 40' halves	Two 15' halves size #5 ball

Under 15	Two 40' halves	Two 15' halves size #5 ball
U13 & 14	Two 35' halves	Two 10' halves size #5 ball
Under 12	Two 30' halves	Two 10' halves size #4 ball

### Substitutions

Unlimited substitutions may be made for all age groups, with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage of play except on corner kicks and penalty kicks.

### Ejections

If a player or coach is cautioned or ejected in connection with a Presidents Cup game, the caution or ejection is to be recorded on the Game Report by the referee. Ejections must also be reported by email or telephone to Anne Thompson the Presidents Cup Director by the coach or manager of the team involved.

Players or coaches ejected from a game are prohibited from participation in the next following US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup game, whether it be the next VYSA Presidents Cup game or the first game of the East Region event or the first game of the National event. (Presidents Cup suspensions are served only in connection with US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup games and have no bearing on league or other tournament play.) ***Each season the coach of each team must verify the eligibility of the players on his/her roster and determine if a sit-out is necessary.*** Ejections and cautions issued in connection with Presidents Cup play may be referred to the VYSA Board of Directors for further disciplinary action.

If a coach is ejected from a Presidents Cup game, he/she must leave the field and the area surrounding the field. At no time is the ejected coach allowed to be close enough to the field to participate or comment on the game. The referee will send the coach off and will make the determination of the distance each must be from the field. If a player is ejected, the coaching staff or manager must make sure that the player ejected from their team is in the charge a carded official or responsible adult. If the player remains on the bench under the responsibility of the carded official the player must remove his/her uniform jersey. If the player is disruptive to the game, the carded official must escort the player away from the field and remain with the player until a responsible adult can be found to take care of the player.

### Unfinished Games

Unfinished games, due to any cause, will be replayed from the start, provided play has not begun in the second half and neither team is at fault. If play is stopped after completion of the first half, and cannot be resumed as determined by the referee and provided neither team is at fault, the Presidents Cup Rules deem the game completed. If the game is tied at this stoppage, the game will be replayed in its entirety. 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 Presidents Cup Director as to whether the game is to be replayed, stand as is, or declared a forfeit and a disciplinary hearing may be held.

### **Post-Game Procedures**

The Official Game Rosters for both the home and away teams will be completed by the referee including the score, cautions, and ejections, if any. The completed Official Game Roster for both teams is provided to the WINNING team.

- The WINNING team shall: Log into the Affinity system and complete the scoring process. Results must be reported in the on-line score reporting system within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the game.
- The WINNING team shall: Collect both the home and away Official Game Rosters from the referee after the game. These two forms must be mailed to Anne Thompson at 6604 Holford Lane, Springfield VA 22152. These forms are the official game report and must be received as soon as possible.

### **Protests, Appeals and Referee Assaults and Abuse**

*-- A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the competition is not sufficient ground for a protest or appeal. --*

### **Game Protests**

To be valid and eligible for consideration, the protest of a game regarding a matter not described in paragraph F below must be communicated and received, at least orally to

1. the referee and the opposing coach before departing from the game site; and
2. the Presidents Cup Chairman within twenty-four (24) hours of the kick-off time of the game being protested.

### **Protest Documents and Fees**

The protest must be delivered in writing, by hand, email or mail to the Presidents Cup Chairman to arrive within forty-eight (48) hours of the game being protested. Written protests must adequately describe the issue or incident under protest and the circumstances that apply. The protest fee of \$300 must be by credit card or cash, certified check or money order made payable to VYSA. The fee, if not paid by credit card, must be express mailed to the VYSA State Office to arrive on the first possible business day after the protest is lodged. The Presidents Cup Director will provide a copy of the protest to the coach of the opposing team.

### **Protest Decisions**

Protest Decisions - The Presidents Cup Director will apply all Presidents Cup Rules to the protest and will determine the validity of the protest. If a protest is determined to be valid, a committee will be formed to hear this protest. A protest shall be decided by a Protests Committee composed of the Director of the Presidents Cup and up to three others appointed by the Presidents Cup Director.

### **Appeals**

The decision of the Presidents Cup Director in determining a valid protest and/or a decision of a hearing committee may be appealed to the Adjudication Committee of VYSA. The appeal must be submitted in writing within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of the protests committee written decision. The appeal must be accompanied by credit card payment or cash, certified check or money order in the amount of \$300 payable to VYSA.

### **Other Matters for Adjudication**

Any other matter not involving a seeding decision, game location, game protest or the assault or abuse of a referee, assistant referee, or other game official under paragraph F below may be presented to the Adjudication Committee for adjudication. The request for adjudication must be submitted in writing not later than forty-eight (48) hours after the occurrence of the incident, written decision or issue in question, and it must be accompanied by credit card payment or cash, certified check or money order in the amount of \$300 payable to VYSA.

### **Assaults and Abuse of Game Officials**

The Adjudication Committee of VYSA has the original and exclusive jurisdiction over alleged assaults or abuse of referees, assistant referees, and other game officials by players, coaches, managers or other team or club officials. The United States Soccer Federation (USSF) requires that any player, coach, team or club official accused by a referee, assistant referee, or other game official of assault be immediately suspended from all soccer-related activities until a hearing on the allegation can be conducted.

*Revised July, 2017, August 2018, August 2019, August 2020*