

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES 2010 RULES



October, 2009

CALIFORNIA STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION-SOUTH UNITED STATES YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES RULES AND REGULATIONS

1 TITLE

- 1.1 The **US Youth Soccer Cal South National Championship Series** (also known as National Cup) shall be governed by these rules.
- 1.2 Champions in the US Youth Soccer Cal South National Championship Series Championships will represent Cal South in the US Youth Soccer Region IV National Championship Series Far West Regionals. Cal South teams who win the US Youth Soccer Region IV National Championship Series Far West Regionals in boys and girls Under-14 through Under-19 age groups will represent Cal South and Region IV in the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series National Championships.

2 Administration

- 2.1 The Cal South Board of Directors shall establish a State Cup Committee to manage the Cal South USYS National Championships (National Cup), State Cup, Recreation Cup and other competitions as directed. The Board of Directors (BOD) reserves the right to any final decision with regard to all games played in Cal South State Tournament competitions.
- 2.2 The State Cup Committee shall be under the control and direction of the Director of State Tournaments. The Sub-committee chairs of the State Cup Committee shall be appointed by the Cal South President and confirmed by the Board of Directors.
- 2.3 The National Championship Series competition shall be under the jurisdiction, control, and management of the State Cup Committee. The State Cup Committee shall select the dates, times and sites for all games and shall have direct control of all arrangements including referees.
- 2.4 Each District Commissioner shall appoint a minimum of one representative to the State Cup Committee. There shall be a maximum of three representatives per district. The District Commissioner shall designate the representative authorized to cast the district vote. All sub-committee chairpersons shall have one vote.
- 2.5 The Cal South State Cup Committee shall have the authority to rule on any matter pertaining to this competition. The State Cup Committee shall deal with protests, misconducts, or any other incident arising out of a National Championship Series game. The Committee may increase automatic minimum game suspensions. The decisions of the Committee are final.
- 2.6 The State Cup Committee shall have an Executive Committee comprised of the Director, sub-committee chairpersons, and any two (2)-district representatives. Any Executive Committee member shall excuse himself or herself if they have a conflict of interest in the matters at hand. The Executive Committee shall be used for

emergencies only. Its decisions shall be recorded and attached to the next regular State Cup Committee minutes.

- 2.7 The current FIFA Laws of the Game will govern all games as amended by USYS Rules governing National Championship Series Competition as well as Cal South Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and these competition rules.

3 TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1 A team entering the US Youth Soccer Cal South National Championship Series Championships shall meet the following eligibility requirements:
- 3.1.1 The team must have competed in a Cal South approved league or Regional League for the seasonal year with the exception of Under-19 boys and girls.
- 3.1.2 The team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered players (as defined by the rules of USYS and Cal South). **No team may register a player not residing in Cal South to its roster without prior written permission from the Cal South President and the home State or National Association of the player.**
- 3.1.3 The team must be in good standing with Cal South, its league of registration and competition league, if applicable, and must be in compliance with, and has not violated, any of the rules of USYS, Cal South and League of competition.
- 3.1.3.1 Any team that withdraws from the Far West Regional League after a schedule is published will not be allowed to participate in Cal South State and/or National Cup for that seasonal year.
- 3.1.4 The team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the league and National Cup for U12 – U15 age group competition by maintaining a minimum of **nine** players common to the rosters of both and for U16 – U19 age group competition by maintaining a minimum of **eleven** players common to the rosters of both. Player retention shall be based on the league roster as of November 15th of the current seasonal year, except Under-19 teams.
- 3.1.5 The team may not release, voluntarily or involuntarily, any player from its roster unless a written request stating the reason for this action has been made to and approved by Cal South on the approved release form. A team may release involuntarily a player from its roster only if the player is unable to play for one of the following reasons:
- 3.1.5.1 The player has violated rules of the USSF or USYS or the affiliation through which the player is registered.
- 3.1.5.2 The player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance. Determination of what constitutes a reasonable travel distance is subject to definition by the National State Association.
- 3.1.5.3 The player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the season.
- 3.1.6 A team may not roster any player who was previously rostered during the seasonal year to another team, or the same team, unless a written request stating the reason for this action has been made to and approved by Cal South on the approved forms (Release and Transfer). At the time a team names its National Championship Series roster it may not have more than 5 previously rostered (transfer players) players.

- 3.1.6.1 “Rostering” means assignment of a registered player to a team. (Reference USYSA Policy on U.S. Youth Soccer National Championships: Part 1-General Rule 101. Definitions (13))
- 3.1.7 Every team shall have a team roster and will present a game roster for every National Championship Series game. For under 15 and younger teams, the team roster may not have more than 18 youth players on the team roster at any given time during the seasonal year. For Under 16 and older teams, the roster may have up to 22 youth players on the team roster at any given time during the seasonal year. Every team roster shall have a minimum of 7 players on the roster at all times. (USYSA Policy 205) (Cal South Rule 105)
- 3.1.7.1 The team must name its team roster (roster freeze) for National Championship Series competition. This date depends on the Cup Competition age group which will be on a Friday, seven (7) days prior to the start of the competition for the particular age group. All changes to team rosters, adds, transfers, etc., including electronically posted changes to tournament entries, team rosters, adds, transfers, etc., made via Internet, **must be posted by 11:59pm on Friday, seven (7) days prior to the start of competition.**
- 3.1.7.2 The team must submit it’s National Championship Series game roster to the State Cup Committee not later than 60 minutes prior to each scheduled National Championship Series game. 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 roster to be eligible to participate with the team.
- 3.1.8 Teams must enter National Championship Series in the age group, or an older age group, in which the team was initially registered for the current seasonal year.
- 3.1.9 Teams must enter National Championship Series via Internet entry no later than the date set by the Cal South Board of Directors. All entries must be posted electronically by 11:59 pm on this date. Acceptance to National Championship Series competition after this deadline is at the discretion of the State Cup Committee.
- 3.1.10 Teams wishing to withdraw (drop) from the competition after applying to a Tournament must have their head coach or team manager notify the Cup Chairman and the State office in writing (e-mail will suffice) of their desire to withdraw (drop). Teams withdrawing prior to the draw will have their entry fee returned if paid. Teams withdrawing after the draw date shall forfeit their entry fee and be subject to further disciplinary action including a fine.
- 3.1.11 Teams may enter only **one** State Tournament in the seasonal year.
- 3.1.12 There will be no wait list for National Cup Competition.
- 3.1.13 Teams agree to play, **without complaint**, wherever they are assigned to play within the Cal South geographical area.
- 3.1.14 The signature of the team’s representative on the entry form and National Championship Series Team/Game Roster form acknowledges the team has complied with the above requirements. An electronic entry will be considered to have been signed, the same as a paper entry, once the electronic entry has been posted to Cal South.

- 3.1.15 All changes to team rosters, adds, transfers, etc., including electronically posted changes to tournament entries, team rosters, adds, transfers, etc., made via Internet, must be **posted by 11:59 PM** on the Friday prior to the draw.
- 3.1.16 A team entering the US Youth Soccer Cal South National Championship Series Championships shall if becoming Champion of an age group represent Cal South at the US Youth Soccer Region IV Far West Regional Championships and if Regional Champion at the US Youth Soccer National Championships. Failure to comply with the mandatory attendance provision shall subject the team and administrators to disciplinary action.

4 Player Eligibility

- 4.1 Players must be properly registered and rostered to their team at the time it names its National Championship Series Roster for that team.
- 4.2 A player may play for only one team entered in a State Tournament during the seasonal year.
- 4.3 A player who has been suspended may play after the player's term of suspension has expired.
- 4.4 A player is cup-tied to his/her team once the team has entered a State Tournament and participated in the draw for his/her team's respective age group.
 - 4.4.1 A cup-tied player may transfer to any other team entered but is ineligible to play in a State Tournament for the current seasonal year.
- 4.5 A player whose team withdraws from a State Tournament after the draw is still Cup-tied and may transfer to a team still entered in a State Tournament but is ineligible to play in a State Tournament for the current seasonal year.

5 Form of Competition

- 5.1 National Cup competition shall be offered annually in the following age groups for boys and girls: Under-12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19.
- 5.2 National Cup competition shall be a modified tournament format, with a preliminary round of games from which teams will advance to a single-elimination format with, depending on the number of teams entered, round of 32, round of 16, quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals. Preliminary round games can end in a tie.
- 5.3 For all games beyond the preliminary round, games ending in a tie at the end of regulation time will play overtime periods per rule 7.1. Rule 7.2 will govern the determination of a winner if a game goes to overtime.
- 5.4 Teams will be awarded points for games in the preliminary round:
 - 3 points for a win
 - 1 point for a tie
 - 0 points for a loss
- 5.4.1 Ties in points in the preliminary rounds shall use the following tiebreaker rules in order:
 - 1. The winner in head-to-head competition

2. Goal differential (goals scored minus goals allowed to a maximum differential of 4 per game)
 3. Least goals allowed
 4. Most goals scored
 5. Shut-out wins (forfeits not counting)
 6. FIFA kicks from the penalty mark
 7. If there is a tie between two or more teams for wild card placement, step 6. will be a coin toss by the State Cup Committee.
 8. If more than two (2) teams are tied at the end of the preliminary round, the tiebreaker criteria listed shall be used in the order shown until one team is advanced or one team is eliminated, or both. If remaining teams are still tied at this point in the tie-breaking process, they will then be compared beginning again with step 1 until another team is either advanced or eliminated or both.
- 5.5 Entries into the National Championship Series will be seeded and placed in brackets based primarily on the previous years USYS Cal South National Championship Series State results, providing that the team returning has on their current seasons roster nine (9) players common to both, by motion of the State Cup Committee.
- 5.6 If, due to the withdrawal of teams, a preliminary bracket contains three or fewer teams, the State Cup Committee may place remaining teams in different brackets. In addition, the Committee may redraw any age group if withdrawals reduce the total number of teams in that age group competition to a level, which would eliminate the need for one round of competition.
- 5.7 Teams shall be notified of schedules a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to their first round of games.

6 Precedence of Games

- 6.1 Cal South State Tournament games shall take precedence over all other Cal South sanctioned games.

7 Playing Rules

- 7.1 Duration of game:

AGE GROUP	GAME LENGTH	OVERTIME (Elimination Rounds)	BALL
Under-19	Two 45 Min. Halves	Two 15 Min. Halves	No. 5
Under-18	Two 45 Min. Halves	Two 15 Min. Halves	No. 5
Under-17	Two 45 Min. Halves	Two 15 Min. Halves	No. 5
Under-16	Two 40 Min. Halves	Two 15 Min. Halves	No. 5
Under-15	Two 40 Min. Halves	Two 15 Min. Halves	No. 5
Under-14	Two 35 Min. Halves	Two 10 Min. Halves	No. 5
Under-13	Two 35 Min. Halves	Two 10 Min. Halves	No. 5
Under-12	Two 30 Min. Halves	Two 10 Min. Halves	No. 4

- 7.2 Elimination round games tied after regulation will have two overtime halves added. If no goals are scored during two equal overtime periods, the match is decided by FIFA kicks from the penalty mark, which will immediately follow the overtime. Only players on the field at the conclusion of the overtime periods shall be eligible to participate in FIFA kicks from the penalty mark.
- 7.3 The home team is listed first in the schedule, and shall have choice of sides, change shirts if the referee decides there is a color conflict, and shall supply the game balls.
- 7.4 Prior to each game, each team must present to the referee the completed game roster form with the **affixed stamp** of the State Cup Committee and the team's Cal South/USYS player passes, and Administrator/Coach passes from same league of registration.
- 7.5 Each coach may review the game roster form and player passes of his/her opponent only at the time the game official checks credentials.
- 7.6 A fifteen (15) minute grace period is allowed from the scheduled starting time of the game. In the event both teams are more than fifteen (15) minutes late for the game, both teams will be deemed to have forfeited the game. Seven (7) rostered players and a Coach constitute a team ready to play.
- 7.7 Each team is responsible for one-half of the official's game fees. The correct amount for each team is shown on the State Cup web page. The teams must pay the referee on the field prior to each game; paying in cash is preferable. The State Cup Committee shall pay official game fees for forfeited games.
- 7.8 **Substitutions**
- 7.8.1 Except as provided by USYSA or Cal South, substitutions shall be unlimited except where specified otherwise in the rules and regulations for a special competition.
- 7.8.2 Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage in play. (USYS Rule 302 Cal South Rule 2.9)
- 7.9 Cal South 2.4.2 "**Endorse FIFA Law IV and current USSF guides**"
- FIFA Law IV states, "A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewelry)."**
The determination of whether a player may play or not will be made by the referee in accordance with FIFA Law IV.
- 7.10 It shall be the responsibility of each team to maintain proper spectator conduct. The coach, manager, and team shall be held primarily accountable for the conduct of the spectators from their respective teams. At no time shall foul or abusive language be permitted.
- 7.11 Only four (4) credentialed Administrators/Coaches with Cal South/USYS passes and listed on the Game Roster from same league of registration for the current seasonal year may be on the team bench. Only coaches with a Cal South/USYS pass from same league of registration may be in the technical area during National Championship Series games. During a National Championship Series game teams without at least one (1) coach with a white administrator card from same league of

registration in the technical area shall forfeit the game. The four (4) Administrator/Coaches on the bench must be named on the State Game Roster.

- 7.12 Coaching from the sidelines (giving direction to one's own team on points of strategy and position) is permitted, in accordance with Cal South Rule 2.9 provided:
 - 7.12.1 No mechanical devices are used cell phones included.
 - 7.12.2 The tone of the voice is informative and not derogatory.
 - 7.12.3 Each coach, substitute, or player remains within 10 yards on either side of the halfway line or midfield line.
 - 7.12.4 No coach, substitute, or player makes derogatory remarks or gestures to the referees, other players, substitutes, or spectators.
 - 7.12.5 No coach, substitute, or player uses profanity.
 - 7.12.6 No coach, substitute, or player incites in any manner, disruptive behavior.
- 7.13 Alcohol or illegal drug use, or possession or transportation of a weapon without a valid permit, shall not be permitted at Cal South State Tournament events.

- 7.14 **Birth Documents (USYS Rule 204)**
 - 7.14.1 National Championship Series players must show an original proof of age birth document, ***beginning with elimination round of play***, which are specified in Cal South Rules and Regulations 1.2.1 Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, a Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (DD Form 1173) issued by the uniformed services of the United States, a birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency or board of health records, a passport, an alien registration card issued by the United States Government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, a current driver's license, an unexpired federal, state, or local government identification card (if documentation of date of birth is required), or a certification of a United States citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. Hospital, baptismal, or religious certificates will not be accepted.
 - 7.14.2 Any proof of age/birth document that is not in English must have an English translation attached to the original document, using the Cal South translation form. ***The translator must add their name, address, phone number, and qualifications to translate.*** No coach of a team or parent of a player may translate for that team or the parent's own child unless they are certified and/or accredited to teach the specific language, i.e. high school teacher, professor of languages at a university or college, a court translator, or anyone recognized as an official translator by a governing body.
 - 7.14.3 **All** administrators of a team will be held responsible for the submission of documents as required for all check-ins. (All proof of age documents will comply with National Cup Rule 7.14) The State Cup Committee will not hear any pleas from parents, guardians, or representatives of players with improper documents.
 - 7.14.4 During the course of the competition, if the State Cup Committee has questions on the eligibility of any player or team, the committee has the authority to require the team/league to furnish proof of eligibility to participate in the competition. Failure to furnish the requested proof within forty-eight (48) hours may result in the disqualification of a player and/or team from the competition.

7.15 **INTERNATIONAL CLEARANCES – (USYSA Rule 207) (USSF Rule 606.6)** (a) For a player who is at least 17 years of age and comes to the United States on or after the player is 12 years of age, the player must request an international clearance from the Federation.

(b) For a player who is 12, 13, 14, 15, or 16 years of age and comes to the United States on or after the player is 12 years of age, an international clearance is not required. However, the State Association through which the player is registered shall require that—

(1) the player's parent, parents, or legal guardian complete and sign a statement that the player has not signed a professional contract or received money from a profession team for playing soccer; and

(2) the statement be (A) retained by the club or league with which the player is registered, or (B) filed with the State Association.

(USYSA Rule 207)

(c) The Federation and FIFA have international clearance requirements and procedures for players coming to United States to play soccer, Consult the Federation about these requirements and procedures.

(d) The failure of a player to obtain the clearance or statement provided or to follow the procedures referred to in subsection (a) of this rule does not affect the player's eligibility in regard to any USYSA program or activity, or any program or activity of a member of USYSA, unless the Federation provides otherwise.

7.16 **ADULT GAMES (USYSA Rule 208)**

7.16.1 A youth player may play an unlimited number of adult games without losing his or her youth eligibility. The youth player must notify his or her youth coach or other authorized team official of the player's intention to play adult games. The youth player shall request, in writing, (1) eligibility clearance from the Youth State Association through which the player is registered, and (2) permission from the appropriate Adult State Association. When the clearance and permission have been granted, the Adult State Association has sole discretion in permitting a youth player to play adult games and will be responsible for establishing the procedures under which the youth player will be allowed to play. In the event of a conflict between an adult game and a youth game, the youth game shall take precedence. A youth player who is required to sign an adult form shall retain youth eligibility.

7.16.2 A youth team with the written permission and mutual consent of both the Youth and Adult State Associations may play in an adult-approved league and not lose its youth eligibility to compete in the US Youth Soccer National Championships competitions. If the youth team's players are required to sign an adult form, the team shall retain its youth eligibility.

7.16.3 The youth team will be required to play under the rules of the Youth State Association concerning registration, roster rules, transfer rules, and any additional qualifications that are required to be eligible for the US Youth Soccer National Championships competitions. Each Youth State Association shall determine whether participation in any adult league shall qualify a youth team for the US Youth Soccer National Championships competition play.

- 7.17 **Medical Release.** Players under the age of 18 may not participate in any National Championship Series game without a medical release form, with wet signature signed by a parent or guardian, being presented for the player at check-in.
- 7.18 **Registration and Check-In**
- 7.18.1 **Preliminary Games Registration. Teams will register with Cal South State Tournament officials prior to the beginning of preliminary games.** At registration, the team representative shall present to the officials the following documents:
1. A completed National Cup Team Game Roster Form, provided by the State Cup Committee; *and*
 2. Administrator/coach Cal South/USYSA passes from same league of registration, (Hand written passes will not be accepted) *and*
 3. Cal South/USYS player passes for said team for the current seasonal year; (Hand written passes will not be accepted) *and*
 4. The original white medical release forms per 7.17.
- 7.18.1.1 The date, time, and place of registration shall be determined and published by the State Cup Committee.
- 7.18.1.2 **Failure to register at the assigned time and place will cause disciplinary action, which may cause the team's elimination from the current seasonal year's competition and forfeiture of entry fee.**
- 7.18.2 Teams will check-in with National Championship Series officials one hour (60 minutes) prior to **every** game to receive their stamped official game roster form. The team shall have ready for each check-in:
1. Player Cal South/USYS passes; (Hand written cards will not be accepted) and
 2. Administrator/coach Cal South/USYS passes from same league of registration, (Hand written cards will not be accepted) and
 3. Medical release forms and original birth documents to be presented if requested.
 4. For U16 and older teams the team shall identify up to 18 youth players who will be on their game roster for each game.
- 7.18.3 All teams shall check-in with the referee prior to **every** National Championship Series game and present the player cards and their official game roster form. All administrators/coaches must have at each game and present to the referee prior to each game their Cal South/USYS passes from same league of registration. Failure to present cards makes the player/Coach/Administrator ineligible for the game. Failure to produce said cards for team disqualifies team and game will be declared a forfeit.
- 7.19 **Player passes, Game Roster Forms, and Uniforms.**
- 7.19.1 Passes/Cards
- 7.19.1.1 It is the responsibility of administrators of a team to obtain Cal South/USYS passes before the first National Championship Series game and that the passes are correctly prepared with signature, photo, registrar's stamp, and lamination. (Hand written cards will not be accepted)

- 7.19.2 Game Roster Forms. Team administrators prior to the game shall present to the referee an official National Cup game roster form for each game to be played. Each game roster form must be **stamped** in the appropriate box by the State Cup Committee for the game roster form to be authentic.
- 7.19.3 Uniforms. Each player, ***including the goalkeeper***, must have a number listed on the game roster form and each 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 numbered jersey. Goalkeepers must wear colors, which distinguish them from other players and game officials.

4 Game Officials

- 8.1 The appointment of game officials shall be the responsibility of the State Youth Referee Administrator, in conjunction with the authority of the State Cup Committee. Officials shall be USSF registered.
- 8.2 Complaints regarding game officials must be in writing and sent to the Referee Disciplinary Committee with copies to the SYRA and Director of State Tournaments.
- 8.3 The State Cup Committee shall be responsible for the fees for all officials in the National Cup finals and forfeited games.
- 8.4 The scale of charges for duly appointed referees shall be as determined by the State Cup Committee with approval by the Cal South Board of Directors.
- 8.5 The referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the field in all matches. In other respects, the duties of the referee and referee assistant are as defined in the FIFA Laws of the Game.
- 8.6 The referees appointed to officiate in any National Cup game shall be neither a past nor present member nor be related to a member (member to include players, coaches and or administrators) of either of the competing teams. Referees accepting games that violate this rule shall be reported to the referee disciplinary committee for possible disciplinary action.
- 8.7 In the event the referee appointed fails to appear and where assistant referees have been appointed, one of those assistant referees shall assume the responsibilities of the referee.
- 8.8 The referee will give to the site field marshal at the conclusion of the game, all game roster forms from the completed games. The referees shall (a) mark the game roster forms appropriately, (b) complete the Cal South no-show report when one team fails to appear for a game within the required time, (c) complete the referee supplemental report for all red cards given, and (d) turn in the forms required by (b) and (c) to the site administrator from the State Cup Committee.
- 8.9 The referee may show a ***RED*** card to an ejected coach/administrator.

5 Misconduct and Breaches of the Rules

- 9.1 **Player Send off/Coach Ejection:**
- 9.1.1 If a player or administrator is ejected from a game, the referee shall give the pass and a supplemental referee report to the field site administrator or a State Cup Committee

member. Coaches ejected from the game shall spend the remainder of the game off the site. The game can be suspended until the coach leaves the site.

- 9.1.2 The referee may show a **RED** card to an ejected coach/administrator.
- 9.1.3 Any player ejected from one (1) National Cup game shall be ineligible to participate in his/her team's next **played** National Cup game/games (games forfeited to that team do not count as games played). If a player is advancing to Regional Competition his/her suspension will be served at the Regional Competition. Unserved suspensions will carry forward to the next year's competition where he/she is listed on the State Game Roster.
- 9.1.4 In the case of an administrator/coach ejection, the administrator/coach will be ineligible to participate in any National Cup game for the next two (2) games for the team from which he/she was ejected. If the team from which he/she was ejected is no longer playing in National Cup the administrator/coach will sit out the next two games where he/she is listed on the State Game Roster as an administrator/coach of a team still competing in National Cup. If an administrator/coach is advancing to Regional Competition his/her suspension will be served at the Regional Competition. Unserved suspensions will carry forward to the next year's competition where he/she is listed on the State Game Roster as an administrator/coach of a team entered in National Cup.
- 9.1.5 Any player or administrator ejected from a second National Cup game shall be ineligible to participate during the balance of the current Cal South National Cup competition. (Once suspension(s) have been served, they may participate at the Regional level)
- 9.1.6 Suspension from affiliated soccer shall not be assessed without a hearing before the State Cup Committee. The State Cup Committee has the authority to assess more than a one-game suspension without said hearing.
- 9.1.7 In National Cup play, suspensions shall apply to subsequent Regional play.
- 9.1.8 An ejection is not subject to protest.
- 9.1.9 The committee may increase automatic game suspension(s).

9.2 **Suspension Guidelines for Players**

- 9.2.1 The State Cup Committee shall act on all disciplinary matters and shall have discretionary powers in determining disciplinary action applied to team personnel and players. Game suspensions listed below are to be regarded as minimums for the charged offenses. Depending on the findings of the State Cup Committee, penalties may be increased according to the gravity of the infringements. When sent off the field of play and shown the red card for infringement of the Laws of the Game, players and substitutes shall be disciplined by additional game suspensions as follows:

9.2.1.1 **Serious Foul Play**

Examples include, but are not limited to, intentionally impeding an opponent, denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity; denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by handling the ball. **All age groups: Suspend for a minimum of one (1) game.**

Examples include, but are not limited to, tripping, holding, unlawfully charging or pushing an opponent denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity; intentionally tripping, holding, pushing, unlawfully charging or tackling an opponent from behind or

charging in a dangerous and violent manner. **All age groups: Suspend for a minimum of one (1) game.**

9.2.1.2 **Foul and Abusive Language**

Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to, words uttered in frustration and, in the referee's opinion, loud enough to be heard outside the field of play; words or actions directed towards any person. **All age groups: Suspend for a minimum of one (1) game.**

9.2.1.3 **Second Cautionable Offense**

Second yellow card after a previous yellow card. **All age groups: Suspend for a minimum of one (1) game.**

9.2.1.4 **Violent Conduct**

Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to:

Spitting, or other unseemly act, on another person; kicking, striking or attempting to strike another person. **All age groups: Suspend for a minimum of two (2) games.**

Pushing in an act of aggression, kicking, spitting on, striking, or attempting to strike a referee, assistant referee, or fourth official. **All age groups: Suspend from the balance of National Cup competition in the current year and the next year's National Cup competition with review by the Cal South Protest, Appeals, and Disciplinary Committee or Board of Directors regarding further disciplinary action.**

9.2.1.5 Any player, substitute, or team official who refuses the referee's request for his/her name or gives a false name while the referee is gathering data to report on an infringement of the Laws of the Game involving him/her, shall have one game added to the suspension that would normally be levied by the State Cup Committee.

9.3 **Ejected Coaches:** During the game suspension(s), there can be **NO** contact of any kind or by any means between the team and the coach from 30 minutes before the game until the conclusion of the game. Additionally, the coach must not be involved in unacceptable conduct (defined to include coaching his/her players or harassment of opponents/players). The State Cup Committee has the authority to ban an ejected coach from more than one National Cup game.

9.4 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.

9.4.1 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.

9.4.2 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.

- 9.4.3 A player found guilty of submitting falsified birth information shall be prohibited from competing further in any State Cup or National Cup competition in the current and subsequent seasonal year.
- 9.5 Coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained herein, including cautions, ejections, and standard suspensions.
 - 9.5.1 Other individuals, who may be reasonably construed, as being associated with a team, such as relatives and spectators, shall also be subject to the jurisdiction and authority of Cal South.
 - 9.5.2 The coach or team official shall be held responsible for the actions of any individual(s) at any match that in the opinion of the referee is a supporter of that team.
- 9.6 Administrators and players who are ejected in their last Cal South National Cup game and do not sit out their automatic suspension(s) in one seasonal year, shall have the suspension(s) carried forward to National Cup Competition in the next seasonal year.
 - 9.6.1 However, National Cup Champion and "wild card" players and administrators moving on to the US Youth Soccer Region IV Championships, shall have the suspension(s) carried forward to that competition rather than the next seasonal year National Cup.

10 Protests

- 10.1 The State Cup Committee shall have the authority to rule on any matter pertaining to this competition.
 - 10.1.1 The State Cup Committee shall deal with protests, misconduct, or any other incident arising from a National Cup game.
 - 10.1.2 The State Cup Committee has the authority to assess suspensions for more than one game.
- 10.2 The decisions of the State Cup Committee are final.
- 10.3 Filing a protest shall not stay the National Cup competition.
- 10.4 Protests based on violations of the rules and regulations are eligible to be considered by the State Cup Committee. Protests based on referee judgment calls as defined by the FIFA Laws of the Game are not eligible for protest.
- 10.5 Filing a protest:
 - 10.5.1 A written copy of the protest, citing the rule that has been violated, must be delivered to any State Cup Committee representative no later than two (2) hours following the conclusion of the game in which the violation occurred.
 - 10.5.2 The written protest must be accompanied by a one hundred dollar (\$100) fee, in the form of cash, money order, or cashiers check.

- 10.5.3 The protest fee shall be returned if the protest is upheld. The protest fee shall not be returned if the protest is heard and denied.

11 Forfeits for Failure to Compete

- 11.1 Teams wishing to withdraw (drop) from the competition after applying to a Tournament must have their head coach or team manager notify the Cup Chairman and the State office in writing (e-mail will suffice) of their desire to withdraw (drop). Teams withdrawing prior to the draw will have their entry fee if paid returned. Teams withdrawing after the draw date shall forfeit their entry fee and be subject to further disciplinary action including fine(s).
- 11.1.1 Teams failing to appear for a scheduled game without notifying the State Cup Committee at least 24 hours prior to team registration will also be assessed a \$500 fine.

12 Forfeits generally

- 12.1 Any team found guilty of violating any of the rules of this competition or of Cal South shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include disqualification from the tournament and forfeiture of one or more games. Forfeited games in the competition shall not be replayed.
- 12.2 Teams forfeiting any game in the preliminary round shall be eliminated from this seasonal year's competition. All scores for that team in the preliminary round shall then revert to a 1-0 win for the opponent. (***Forfeit one, forfeit all in preliminary rounds***)

13 Suspension of game

- 13.1 If the game is suspended prior to the commencement of the second half, the game shall be replayed in its entirety.
- 13.2 If the game is suspended during the second half, the game shall be considered a full game, unless there was a purposeful misconduct or misuse of this regulation.
- 13.3 If overtime periods are required and the game is suspended prior to or during an overtime period, both overtime periods shall be played on a suitable date.
- 13.4 If the suspended game is a preliminary round match, the decision to replay the match shall be at the discretion of the State Cup Committee if the match has no effect on the outcome of either team advancing to the next round.
- 13.5 If a game is stopped or suspended due to misconduct, the State Cup Committee shall decide whether or not the game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit, after making a determination as to which team or if both teams are adjudged at fault.

14 Suspension of Game due to weather or unforeseen events

- 14.1 In the event of inclement weather, the teams shall assume that the game will be played unless official notification is given.

- 14.2 The State Cup Committee, in an effort to provide one preliminary game per day, may arrange for an alternate field site on the day of play. In the case of bad weather, teams shall be notified at the earliest opportunity, which may be the morning of play. Providing the authority that has control of the field in question has not refused permission to use the field, the referee shall have the sole authority to decide whether a game shall be played or suspended due to inclement weather.

15 Game Termination due to misconduct

- 15.1 Should a game be terminated, it shall be the State Cups Committee's responsibility to review the referee report on the termination and determine if the game is to be recorded a forfeit, if the game is to be replayed, or if one or both teams are to be disqualified from the competition.

16 Appeals

- 16.1 The decisions of the State Cup Committee may be appealed to the Cal South Protest, Appeals, and Disciplinary Committee. Contact your District Commissioner or the Cal South office for the proper procedures. All decisions of the Cal South Protest, Appeals, and Disciplinary Committee are final and as such no further appeals will be heard.
- 16.2 Filing an appeal shall not stay the National Cup competition.

17 Appendix: Definitions

Except as otherwise provided, the following definitions apply to this policy:

add - the addition of a player to a team's roster.

Board of Directors - the Board of Directors of Cal South.

Cal South - California Youth Soccer Association-South

eligibility to play - registered and not Under-suspension.

Federation – the United States Soccer Federation, Inc.

involuntary release - the removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of team authorities.

National Championships competitions - the competitions provided for under this policy for the Under-14, Under-15, Under-16, Under-17, Under-18, and Under-19 age groups.

Referee Committee - the Cal South Referee Committee.

registration - the signing of an intent to play the sport of soccer and the paying of fees to become a member of USYSA.

rostering - assignment of a registered player to a team.

Team Roster – means a list of registered players eligible to play for a team.

Game Roster – means the list of players who will participate in a particular game.

suspension –the temporary withdrawal of rights and privilege, 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.

team - a group of soccer players playing on the same side in soccer games.

USYS - the United States Youth Soccer, Inc.

voluntary release - the removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of the player.

youth player - an individual who has not reached 19 years of age prior to August 1 immediately before the start of any seasonal year. A player who reaches 19 years of age during a seasonal year is allowed to complete that seasonal year. A player who reaches 19 years of age during August of one seasonal year shall be allowed to complete all of the next seasonal year.

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