



# COLORADO PRESIDENTS CUP RULES AND PROCEDURES

2015 Series  
Revised June 2014

## I. PURPOSE OF THE COMPETITION

The US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup provides a progressive, competitive experience to US Youth Soccer teams from the state to regional and then national level. **The Presidents Cup gives under 13 through under 17 age/gender groups who are ranked as one of the 2 lower teams in Division 1/Premier 1, all Division 2/Premier 2 and all Classic teams in State League play** an additional opportunity to compete against teams from across the country at a high level for the joy and challenge of the game. U12 and U18 age/gender groups compete for a Colorado Presidents Cup State Champion title. The Colorado Soccer Association (CSA) League Operations Committee (LOC) reviews all applicants for placement in the event. Decisions of the LOC are binding and cannot be appealed. Presidents Cup provides the chance to experience a unique US Youth Soccer event with camaraderie, community and competition through the sport. **In Colorado, U12 and U18 teams gain the same opportunity at the State level.**

## II. AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The following Specific Rules shall apply to all Colorado Soccer Association, US Youth Soccer Region and National Presidents Cup games.
- B. The authority for approval of dates of the competition shall be vested in the Colorado Soccer Association (CSA) Board of Directors.
- C. State, Regional and National Presidents Cup Competitions shall take precedence over all other games, whether they are league or tournament play, including out of state play. Match rescheduling for the purpose of allowing a team or members of that team, to compete in another event will not be permitted.
- D. The CSA Presidents Cup Tournament Committee is responsible for developing the scheduling of games.
  - 1. Hosting sites may be asked to provide information on field size, location and availability to assist in the scheduling process.
  - 2. Within the limits imposed by these rules and current CSA Cup Process Guidelines and by uncontrollable external conditions, the schedule is developed in an objective manner with no favoritism shown to specific teams or Clubs.
  - 3. Schedules will be played as published by CSA.
- E. The entrance fees for competition shall be established and approved by the CSA Board of Directors.

### III. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- A. State Association, US Youth Soccer Region, and National Presidents Cup shall be open to any age appropriate youth soccer team that is duly registered with CSA, providing that such team is in good standing. Presidents Cup competition shall be open to “select teams” associated with CSA’s WSSL and SWL. CSA approval of WSSL and SWL select team make-up is required prior to acceptance.
- B. U13 – U18 age/gender teams who participate in State Cup, or participate in the National or Regional League are not eligible to participate in Presidents Cup.
- C. Teams who do not advance from a State Cup play-in game are eligible to participate in Presidents Cup.
- D. All players shall be registered with CSA affiliated clubs and teams. Coaches, team representatives and chaperones will possess a current KIDSAFE background check.
- E. The base team roster for CSA Presidents Cup and all levels of Presidents Cup Competition for which the team qualifies, shall be the team league roster at the time the roster is frozen as designated by CSA.

Roster changes will comply with current CSA rules and Regulations addressing player transfers. The team roster for this competition shall be frozen no later than 9 calendar days (at the close of business) prior to the first scheduled Presidents Cup game. Players may be added to a team’s roster during competition to replace injured players who will not play. Players can NOT be removed from the roster to make room for the 18 or 22 player limitations within these rules.

- F. For U12 teams, the team roster shall not have more than 18 youth players on the team roster at any given time during the seasonal year.
- G. For U13 and older teams, the roster may have up to 22 youth players on the team roster at any given time during the seasonal year.
- H. For teams to advance to Region and National competition, rosters will have continuity that includes at least 9 of the players who participated in the State and Regional Qualifiers for Presidents Cup. No player added to a team after the Regional competition is completed shall be previously rostered to a team that participated in the US Youth Soccer National Championship series.
- I. U13 through U17 age/gender players who are added to a Presidents Cup team during the seasonal year must have played for a team ranked as one of the 2 lower teams in Division 1/Premier 1, all Division 2/Premier 2 and all Classic teams in State League play. Players who, or have been, rostered on a Super League, Elite, National League or the most competitive division of the respective regional league are not eligible to participate in State Presidents Cup play.
- J. Every team roster shall have a minimum of 7 players on the roster at all times.
- K. For those teams utilizing the 22 man roster, only 18 players may be suited up in game day uniforms to play at any given game. The team may allow the remaining players to sit on the bench provided that they are not suited up in game day uniforms or colors of the opposing team. These players are subject to the Laws of The Game.

- L. Any team utilizing a 19 to 22 player roster must inform the game assigned referee as to which 18 players will be participating in their upcoming match. The Referee shall line out those players not participating on the provided game day roster.

**Ultimate Level of Competition**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>
Under 18	State	State
Under 17	National	National
Under 16	National	National
Under 15	National	National
Under 14	National	National
Under 13	National	National
Under 12	State	State

**IV. TEAM CREDENTIALS**

- A. By entering the CSA State Presidents Cup, each team agrees to appear for and to compete in every scheduled match for whom it qualifies, including any and all Regional and National Championship matches. Each team also agrees to assume full responsibility for the financial and travel requirements associated with competition at the State, Regional and National levels.
- B. All fees and forms required for State Presidents Cup registration must be submitted to the CSA office on or before the close of business on the due date specified on application documents. **If registration is received without payment, the registration will not be accepted.**
- C. At every Presidents Cup match each team must have valid player passes for all players listed on the roster. Coaches must also have valid pass for each team they are rostered at every cup match.

**V. PROCEDURES OF THE COMPETITION**

- A. **VENUE:** In State Presidents Cup Competition, pairings, sites and format of play shall be determined by the CSA Presidents Cup Committee.
- B. **FORMAT:** Teams in each age group will be seeded into 4 team flights. The number of flights shall be determined by the number of teams entered. Play-in matches will be held prior to the preliminary rounds to establish the 4 team flight requirement.
- C. **FLIGHTING:** Structure of the competition shall be as follows:

Teams	Number of Flights	Competition Structure
4	1	Preliminary & Final
8	2	Preliminary, Semi & Final
12	3	Preliminary, Quarter, Semi & Final
16	4	
20+	5 or more	

**NOTE:** The CSA Cup Committee may modify the structure of competition to include cross flight play in the U18 age/gender groups ONLY if the modification does NOT add more

game days to the format of tournament competition. The decision of the CSA Cup Committee is final.

The Cup Committee may elect to form a Western Colorado flight consisting specifically of teams residing in that area. If formed, the winner of that flight will join competition in the quarterfinal round.

**D. SEEDING OF FLIGHTS:** In each gender/age category seeding will be conducted by the CSA League Operations Committee (LOC) according to the following order of criteria.

1. Previous year champion and finalist in Presidents Cup, first and second seed.
2. Previous season league standings.

**E. Play-In Matches:** Play-in matches will be held within two (2) weeks of preliminary round play to identify teams who will advance to the preliminary round. Lower seeded teams will have a one game competition to establish who will advance to the preliminary round of 8, 12, 16 or 20 teams in their age/gender group. If a team denies participation in the Play-in format, the remaining teams will not be reseeded. The scheduled opponent of the Play-in match would automatically advance to the preliminary round. If a team drops 4 days or more prior to the Play-in match, the team entry fee will be refunded, less expenses that CSA cannot recoup, i.e. referees, fields, medics, etc. If a team drops from a Play-in match 3 or less days prior to scheduled match, the team forfeits the entire entry fee. Play-in Teams who do not advance through competition into the preliminary round will have all but \$175 of the fee refunded.

**F. Officials:** The CSA State Referee Assignor shall select the referees for all Presidents Cup Competition matches. Every effort will be made to supply (3) three referees. However, club lines shall be used in extreme situations. The Referee Assignor shall make every effort to properly balance the experience, assessing of Official performance and utilization of qualified referees to support the event.

**G. Late Withdrawals:** Teams who are accepted to the competition and then withdrawal prior to their first scheduled match will forfeit their entry fee. In addition, the team will be placed on probation for Cup Play (Presidents or National Championship Series). Subsequent withdrawals under these conditions will result in the team not being accepted into either competition.

**H. No Shows:** Any Presidents Cup team failing to appear for a single scheduled cup will be assessed a forfeit, and the Presidents Cup Committee shall review the circumstances of the no show for possible disciplinary review and/or a fine.

1. A catastrophic event (one regarded as a great misfortune) outside the control of the Team will only be considered for rescheduling a missed match. The CSA Cup Committee decision is final upon review of the event.
2. Any Presidents Cup team failing to appear for two or more of its scheduled Presidents Cup matches will be eliminated from the competition, and all game results involving that team will be voided from the standings, whether earned or lost by competition or forfeiture. Should the CSA Presidents Cup Committee find that the team's "failure to appear" was willful or negligent; the coach and/or club officials of said team would be referred for disciplinary action and fined.

**I. TEAM EXPULSION:** A team removed from Cup Competition for any team fault for one or more matches shall be required to post a bond of no less than \$2,000 in certified funds with the CSA office prior to being admitted to any future State or Presidents Cup championship

competitions. The bond will only be refunded after the team has played in all Cup matches for whom it qualifies.

**J. PLAYER/COACH/SPECTATOR MISCONDUCT:** Penalties received by players/coaches in Presidents Cup Competition will be served only within the context of Cup play, and will not carry over into league or other tournament play. If applicable, penalties will be served in Regional/National competition or carried over to the players/coaches next State or Presidents cup enrollment regardless of their team affiliation or Cup they participated in. If the coach is participating in both State and Presidents Cup, the penalty will be applied to the event in which it occurred.

1. Any coach rostered to more than one team in the competition who is ejected shall sit out a minimum of the next **SCHEDULED MATCH** of the team with which the ejection was awarded.
2. If a player/coach/spectator is sent off/dismissed for misconduct, the referee will submit the game report to the Presidents Cup Commissioner or designated alternate. The player/coach/spectator shall be subjected to a one (1) game suspension with the following exceptions:

#### **TWO (2) OR MORE GAME SUSPENSION**

##### **a) Violent Conduct (S2)**

Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to: Striking or attempting to strike another player, team official or spectator, unlawfully entering the field of play during an altercation.

Pushing in an act of aggression, striking or attempting to strike a referee, linesperson or fourth official will result in immediate suspension and upon CSA Disciplinary Committee review a potential minimum of one (1) year suspension from all CSA sanctioned activities, unless serious injuries are inflicted then the minimum suspension period will be at least five (5) years.

##### **b) Spits at an Opponent or any other Person (S3)**

Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to: spitting or other unseemly acts on or at another person.

**c) Miscellaneous:** Any player, substitute or coach 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", involving them, shall have a minimum of one (1) game added to the suspension that would normally be levied by the Disciplinary Committee. Actions listed above are to be regarded as minimum suspensions.

**d) Coaches and assistant coaches sent off the field of play** for Violent Conduct (S2) or who persist in offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures (S6) after being cautioned shall have one (1) additional game added to the suspension that would normally be levied against a player for a similar infringement. Based on the severity of the incident, the Cup Committee may refer the incident to the CSA Disciplinary Committee for further review and action.

**K. PROBATION:** In specific situations, the Presidents Cup Committee may place an individual on probation in addition to the suspension. The probationary period is to be served immediately following the suspension period and is intended to monitor the individual's degree of reform. An individual on probation who is sent off the field of play during his /her probationary period will be referred to the Cup Committee for review.

**L. DETERMINATION OF WILD CARD TEAMS WHEN NECESSARY:**

Because of the variance in the number of flights in an age group, the wild card team will be determined by point averaging. That is to say, the total points accumulated at the end of first round play will be divided by the number of games played. Formats for advancement games are presented as projections only. They are subject to change because schedules may be changed to minimize a wild card team playing a former opponent.

**M. SCORING:** Scoring will be:

Points

- 11 Beneficiary of forfeiture
- 7 Win
- 3 Tie
- 0 Loss
- 1 Each goal scored up to a maximum of three goals
- 1 Shut-out (unless a 0-0 tie)

**N. KICK OFF AND WAITING TIME:**

Kick off will be at the time shown on the tournament schedule. A 15-minute grace period will be allowed from the scheduled kick off time. If a team is not ready for play at the end of the grace period, the game is a FORFEIT.

**O. THE TECHNICAL AREA (SIDELINES):**

The technical area is a designated area for rostered substitutes and no more than four (4) technical staff members.

1. The occupants of the technical area must be rostered to the team occupying the bench. Team or Club Trainers are not considered one of the four. Only one trainer is allowed within this area during the match. Trainers must identify themselves via a pictured Coaches pass signifying that they are associated with the Club. The Trainer’s Club will provide such pass.
2. Technical area occupants shall be identified to the referee by presenting a US Youth Soccer Coaches pass with current picture during team check-in. Each coach or other Club Technical person will need to have a pass for each team they represent on the side-line and be listed on the game day roster.
3. Both teams shall be located on the same side of the field. Spectators of both teams shall occupy the opposite side of the field from the teams and coaches.

**P. DURATION OF GAME:**

Age	Game Length	Half Time	Overtime – Playoff Rounds ONLY
U18 & U17	2 X 45	5 Minutes	2 X 15
U16 & U15	2 X 40	5 Minutes	2 X 15
U14 & U13	2 X 35	5 Minutes	2 X 10
U12	2 X 30	5 Minutes	2 X 10

Overtime Periods (Quarter Finals, Semifinals, and Championship Final Games Only): no overtime periods shall be played in Play-in or preliminary-round games. If a play-in game is tied at the end of regulation, the winner will be determined by FIFA kicks from the mark immediately after regulation play. If a quarterfinal, semifinal or final game is tied at the end of

the second regulation period, there shall be two full overtime periods. If a quarterfinal, semi-final or final game is still tied at the end of the second overtime period, the winner shall be determined by FIFA kicks from the mark.

**4 team Bracket minimum:**

An age group must have a minimum of 4 teams to form competition. A single bracket age group would play 3 matches to determine bracket seed. A Championship match would be held between the #1 and #2 teams which would be a rematch. This would allow champion determination by a game, not by points.

**Q. TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES**

Should there be a tie at the completion of a round that determines advancement, the tie will be broken by the following order of criteria:

1. Head to head results (this specific criterion is not used if more than two teams are tied).
2. Highest goal difference (goals for minus goals against) with a maximum of three (3) goals difference per game counted both for and against. For example, if the score were 8-3, the calculation would be +3 goals for the winning team, -3 goals for the losing team. If the score were 6-4, the calculation would be +2 goals for the winning team and -2 goals for the losing team.
3. Total goals allowed in all games played within the team's flight. The team with the fewest total goals allowed advances.
4. Kicks from the penalty spot per FIFA Law. For Play-in and pool play matches, if these procedures do not identify a winner, kicks will be taken immediately following the end of match that continued the tie.

Note: If more than two teams are tied, the sequence will be followed until a team is eliminated. The remaining teams will then restart the sequence at Point "2" above until the tie is broken.

**R. PROTEST AND APPEALS:** All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors, to interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest concerning the CSA Presidents Cup, shall be referred to the CSA Presidents Cup Committee. Protests citing discretionary judgments of an official will not be reviewed.

1. To be valid and eligible for consideration, protests shall be lodged verbally with the referee and the opposing coach at the game site within five minutes after the end of the game, except protests relating to the grounds, goal posts, bars, and their appurtenances of the game must be in writing and submitted to the referee and opposing coach prior to the start of the game.
2. All protests must be made in writing within one hour after the end of the game in which the protest incident occurred, accompanied by a non-refundable \$100.00 protest fee to the CSA Presidents Cup Commissioner or designated representative.
3. If these conditions are not met in full, the protest will not be considered.
4. Upon receiving a properly filed protest, the CSA Presidents Cup Commissioner or designate will determine the time and location of the protest hearing and shall designate

the members of the ad hoc protest committee. This committee will meet in a closed meeting to make a ruling on the protest.

5. A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the Presidents Cup competitions is not sufficient grounds for a protest or appeal. Violators may expect appropriate action by the CSA Presidents Cup Committee.
6. In Presidents Cup competitions at the State Association level, decisions made on protests and appeals by the CSA Presidents Cup Committee protest and appeal authority are binding and allow the competition to proceed.

#### **S. UNFINISHED GAMES:**

1. Any game that is stopped for any cause except team fault before the end of the first half will be replayed.
2. Any match that is stopped in the second half for any reason except team fault will be considered complete. However, if the second half is started, there has to be confidence that the half will be completed. The Official, Cup Commissioner (or designated alternate) and site coordinator will assess the specific situation prior to starting the second half.
3. A playoff round match stopped for any cause may be reviewed by the CSA Presidents Cup Committee for determination of status.

**T. RULES OF PLAY:** The playing rules of the Colorado State Presidents Cup competitions shall conform to the FIFA "Laws of the Game" except as provided within these rules.

#### **U. HOME TEAM DETERMINATION:**

The home team is always listed first on the cup schedule. If both teams are wearing similar jerseys, the home team shall wear dark jerseys and the visiting team shall wear light colored jerseys. If the visiting team does not carry a light colored jersey, then the visiting team shall wear an alternate dark color that does not conflict with the home team's colors. Either team's goalkeeper shall change jerseys as the referee directs regardless of home/visitor status. Each team will provide a game ball for the match, subject to referee approval.

#### **V. SUBSTITUTIONS:**

1. All age groups; All age groups have unlimited substitutions at any stoppage of play with the referee's permission.
2. Substitutes must be ready to enter the field of play at the half way line when the stoppage occurs

#### **W. Player Roster Changes:**

Any added players must originate from the same Club/location, meet current CSA Guest Player requirements and requests must be received at the CSA office with an appropriate Guest Player Authorization by 2:00 PM the Thursday prior to the scheduled game. Guest Player additions MUST have prior approval by CSA to play. Requests to replace players due to unavailability (vacations, proms, etc.) will not be considered. Once a player is authorized by CSA and placed on a roster, that player can NOT be removed; he/she becomes part of the frozen roster.



## VI. MATTERS NOT COVERED:

- A. Any matter not addressed in these rules or the US Youth Soccer **National** Presidents Cup Rules will be decided by the CSA Presidents Cup Committee. Decisions in such matters specific to Presidents Cup Rules will be final and binding.
- B. If a party has reasons to appeal a decision made by the CSA Presidents Cup Committee other than what is covered within these rules, an appeal may be filed with the CSA Board of Directors which must follow the Appeal process as described within CSA Rules and Procedures.
- C. Awards: CSA provides awards for teams finishing (1<sup>st</sup>) and (2<sup>nd</sup>) in each age bracket of the State Presidents Cup Tournament. The First Place team also receives a "Traveling Cup" that will have to be returned to CSA by the end of July for previous Fall Series Participants and the end of January for previous Spring Series Participants for awarding to the next series winners.

### ***(Subject to Change)***

CSA Board Approval

May 12, 2011

Revised June 7, 2011

Revised June 8, 2011

Revised August 2, 2011

Revised January 18, 2012

Revised February 13, 2012

Revised July 2012

Revised August 2012

Revised October 2012

Revised March 2013

Revised August 2013

Revised November 2013

Revised June 2014