

USASA POLICY ON NATIONAL CUPS COMPETITIONS RULES AND LISTINGS OF CUPS CHAMPIONS

PART I - GENERAL

Rule 101. DEFINITIONS

Section 1. The definitions of Bylaw 107 of USASA apply to this policy. Those definitions include the following:

(1) “**Amateur Sports Act**” means the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act (chapter 2205 of title 36, United States Code)

(2) “**club**” means an organization of one or more soccer teams usually playing within a geographic area.

(3) “**Executive Committee**” means the Executive Committee of USASA established under Bylaw 411 of USASA.

(4) “**Federation**” means the United States Soccer Federation, Inc.

(5) “**FIFA**” means the Federation Internationale de Football Association of which the Federation is the national association member for the United States.

(6) “**league**” means an organization that conducts competition among soccer teams.

(7) “**National Affiliate**” means a multi-sport or single sport organization that independently conducts soccer programs (A) in the United States at the national or lower level, or (B) outside the United States whose members consists of members of the United States Armed Forces, the United States Foreign Service, or their dependents.

(8) “**National Council**” means the National Council of USASA as provided under Bylaw 311 of USASA.

(9) “**National Cups**” means those Cups provided for under this policy.

(10) “**National League**” means a league classified as a National League under Bylaw 211.

(11) “**Organization Member**” means an organization that is classified as such a member of the USASA as provided by Bylaw 202 of USASA.

(12) “**region**” means one of those 4 regions established under Bylaw 203 of USASA.

(13) “**Regional Council**” means a council referred to in Bylaw 321 of USASA.

(14) “**Regional League**” means a league classified as a Regional League under Bylaw 211 of USASA.

(15) “**State Association**” means the administrative body within a territory determined by the National Council to carry out USASA’s programs for amateur players.

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

(17) “**USASA**” means the United States Amateur Soccer Association, Inc.

(18) “**USOC**” means the United States Olympic Committee that is the corporation established under the Amateur Sports Act to oversee all amateur athletic activity in the United States.

(19) “**youth player**” means 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) a seasonal year is allowed to complete that seasonal year, and (B) August of one season year is allowed to complete all of that seasonal year.

Section 2. The following additional definitions also apply to this policy:

(1) “**levels of competition**” means those levels of the National Cups Competitions specified in Rule 201.

(2) “**National Cups Commissioner**” means the position established under Rule 241.

(3) “**National Cups Committee**” means the committee referred to in Bylaws 501 and 507 of USASA.

(4) “**National Cups competitions**” means those competitions listed in section 1 of Rule 102.

(5) “**player pool**” means the pool of players as provided by section 1(c) of Rule 222 and Rule 406.

(6) “**premier team**” means a team as provided by section 2 of USASA Bylaw 213 and section 1 of Rule 221.

(7) “**Regional Cups Commissioner**” means the position established under Rule 242.

(8) “**roster**” means the form designating the players of a team selected to play in a particular game as provided by section 2 of Rule 407.

(9) “**State Cups Commissioner**” means the position established under Rule 243.

Rule 102. ESTABLISHMENT AND CUP TITLES

Section 1. USASA establishes and shall organize annually National Cups competitions for men and women entitled as follows:

- (1) U.S. National Men’s Open Cup
- (2) U.S. National Men’s Amateur Cup.
- (3) U.S. National Women’s Open Cup.
- (4) U.S. National Women’s Amateur Cup.
- (5) U.S. National Men’s Over 30 Cup
- (6) U.S. National Women’s Over 30 Cup.
- (7) U.S. National Men’s Under 23 Cup.
- (8) U.S. National Women’s Under 23 Cup.
- (9) U.S. National Men’s Under 20 Cup.
- (10) U.S. National Women’s Under 20 Cup.

Section 2. USASA may establish and organize additional National Cups competitions. Regional councils may organize regional cups competitions in addition to competitions at the regional level of the National Cups competition.

Section 3. (a) The U.S. National Men’s Open Cup competition is a competition of the Federation. USASA shall organize that competition for USASA, and the Federation policy shall apply to that

competition, to the extent provided by the Federation.

(b) Teams registered with USASA shall enter the U.S. National Men's Open Cup competition only through the USASA qualifying competition. USASA shall qualify teams for the Men's Open Cup as determined by the Federation rules, policies, and procedures related to the U.S. Open Cup.

Rule 103. AWARDS AND CHAMPION TITLES

Section 1. The champion and runner-up team of each Regional Cup competition klevel of the National Cups competitions shall be awarded trophies.

Section 2. (a) The champion and runner-up team of each National Cup competition finals shall be awarded trophies and medals. Additional awards may be made to the teams at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

(b) The champion team of each National Cup competition finals shall be entitled to call itself the USASA champions of that National Cup competition.

(c) At its discretion, the Executive Committee may incorporate one or more sponsors' names in the title of any of its National Cups competitions.

Section 3. Trophies, medals and other awards presented to the champions and runners-up of the National Cup competitions shall be the property of the champions and runners-up, respectively. National trophies are the property of USASA and shall be retained at the USASA office and displayed as determined by the Executive Committee.

Rule 104. NOTICES

All notices required to be givento USASA or Regional Cups Commissioners under this policy shall be addressed to the proper person with a copy to the National Cups Commissioner.

Rule 105. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

Any matters not provided for by this policy shall be determined by the National Cups Committee whose decision shall be final.

Rule 106. AMENDMENTS

As provided by Bylaw 622 of USASA, this policy may only be amended by majority vote of the National Council.

PART II - ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITIONS

Subpart A - Rounds of Competitions

Rule 201. STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ROUNDS

Each of the National Cups competitions shall be conducted at the following levels:

(1) The first level of competitions shall be at the State Association level. These competitions shall be the State rounds of competitions for teams of the State Association and, as provided by Section 1(a) of Rule 203, teams of National leagues and Regional Leagues.

(2) The second level of the competitions shall be at the regional level. These competitions shall be the Regional rounds of competitions for teams that are champions (or runner-ups as provided by section 1 of Rule 204) of each State Association in the region and, as provided by section 1(a) of Rule 203, teams of National Leagues and Regional Leagues.

(3) The third level of the competitions shall be at the national level. These competitions shall be the National rounds of competitions for teams that are champions (or runners-up as provided by Rule 205) of each of the regions.

Rule 202. STATE ROUNDS OF COMPETITIONS

Section 1. Each State Association shall conduct and administer the State rounds of competitions for the National Cups competitions. The State Association may also sponsor the State rounds of competition.

Section 2. The National Cups Commissioner and the Regional Cups Commissioner shall set the date by which the champions of State rounds of competitions must be determined.

Section 3. As long as the champions of the State rounds of competition are determined no later than the scheduled deadline, the State Cups Commissioner for a State Association may organize the State rounds of competitions in a manner preferred by the State Association.

Rule 203. NATIONAL LEAGUE AND REGIONAL LEAGUE ROUNDS OF COMPETITIONS

Section 1. (a) Each National League and Regional League may conduct its own League rounds of competitions, leading to a League Cup champion for each National Cup competition. That champion is eligible to advance to the appropriate Regional rounds of competition if all of the eligible teams of the League enter that competition at the League level.

(b) If a National or Regional League does not conduct its own competitions, individual teams of the League may enter the National Cups competitions through their State Association.

Section 2. National League and Regional League rounds of competitions shall be administered and may be sponsored by the League.

Section 3. The National Cups Commissioner and the Regional Cups Commissioners shall set the date by which champions of National League and Regional League rounds of competition must be determined.

Section 4. A National League or Regional League may organize the League rounds of

competitions in a manner preferred by the League -

(1) as long as the champions of the National League or Regional League rounds of competitions are determined no later than the scheduled deadline, and

(2) except as otherwise provided for the U.S. National Men's Open Cup competition under section 3 of Rule 205.

Rule 204. REGIONAL ROUNDS OF COMPETITIONS

Section 1. All champions of State, National League and Regional League rounds of competitions shall participate in Regional rounds of competitions. If the champion of a State, National League, or Regional League round of competition is unable or unwilling to participate in a Regional round of competition, the runner-up of that State, National League, or Regional League competition is eligible to advance to that Regional round of competition instead. The participation of a runner-up shall require the notification of and approval by the Regional Cups Commissioner and the appropriate State Cups Commissioner.

Section 2. Each champion of National League and Regional League rounds of competitions shall be entered in Regional rounds of competitions, within the region in which that team is domiciled, as follows:

(1) Regional League champions enter at the same level as State Cups champions

(2) National League champions enter at the semifinals of the Regional rounds of competitions.

Section 3. (a) The scheduling of all Regional rounds of competitions games shall be conducted during a Regional Council meeting to facilitate communication with all State Associations

(b) The finals of the Regional rounds of competitions shall be played in any State Association of the region, when hosting permission is requested and granted by the Regional council.

Section 4. The Regional Cups Commissioner for a region may organize the Regional rounds of competition in a manner agreed to at a Regional Council meeting -

(1) as long as the champions of the Regional rounds of competitions are determined no later than the scheduled deadline, and

(2) except as otherwise provided for the U.S. National Men's Open Cup competition under section 3 of Rule 205.

Rule 205. NATIONAL ROUNDS OF COMPETITIONS

Section 1. A team that is the champion of Regional rounds of competitions in 2 or more competitions shall participate in only one of those National rounds of competitions that are played at the same time. The team shall notify USASA within 48 hours after completion of the Regional rounds of competitions which National round of competition played at the same time that it elects to participate in. The runner-up of each Regional round of competition shall advance to each National round of competition

that the champion elected not to participate in.

Section 2. The U.S. National Men's Open Cup competition shall be administered by the regions through the determination of Regional Open Cup champions. The administration of the Men's Open Cup competition following the determinations of the Regional Open Cup champions shall be coordinated by USASA with the Federation. Unless the Federation provides otherwise, the Open Cup competitions shall be conducted at the regional and national levels as a single-elimination competition.

Section 3. USASA may, unless the Federation provides otherwise, conduct a USASA Men's Open Cup competition at the national level. This competition shall be for the 4 teams that won the Regional round of competitions and are qualified to participate in the Federation's U.S. National Men's Open Cup competition. The semifinal and final games of the USASA competition shall be played at sites approved by the Executive Committee in consultation with the National Cups Committee.

Section 4. The National rounds of competitions shall be played at a site or sites approved by the Executive Committee, on the recommendation of the National Cups Committee. The Cups Committee is responsible for the supervision of those rounds.

Subpart B - Eligibility and Entries

Rule 221. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. (a) To be eligible to participate in a National Cup competition, a team must be-

- (1) registered as a premier team of a State Association, a National League, or a Regional League, and

- (2) registered with USASA and playing in a regular league competition of at least 4 teams that play a complete league schedule.

(b) A premier team is eligible to enter any National Cup competition if the players on the team meet the eligibility criteria related to age and registration status.

Section 2. Any youth team whose players are registered with the Federation is eligible to enter the U.S. National Men's or Women Amateur, Under 23 and Under 20 competitions. To be eligible, the youth team must play in a regular league competition of at least 4 teams that play a complete league schedule. A youth soccer team is required to provide proof of insurance coverage consistent with that required of teams registered with USASA or, lacking that proof, is required to purchase insurance coverage through USASA.

Section 3. Teams of women's professional leagues that are members of the Federation are eligible to enter the U.S. National Women's Open Cup competition. Those teams are not eligible to enter the U.S. National Women's Amateur, Over 30, Under 23, and Under 20 Cups competitions.

Section 4. A team that enters the U.S. National Women's Open Cup competition is not eligible

to also play in the Women's Amateur Cup competition in the same year of competition.

Rule 222. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. (a) Each player of a team competing in a National Cup competition must be qualified according to the bylaws of USASA and must be properly registered and rostered with that team at least 7 days prior to any game in the competition in which the player may participate. Proper registration includes complying with all appropriate registration requirements of the Federation and the USASA.

(b) A player may not actually play for more than one team in the same competition. A registered player who has not actually played may transfer to another team in the same competition. A player may be registered and play in different competitions.

(c)(1) Any team eligible for the finals of the Regional rounds of competitions shall submit to the Regional Cups Commissioner a player pool list of not more than 22 players at least 7 days prior to the finals of the Regional rounds of competitions. The list shall contain information as provided by a form approved by the National Cups Committee.

(2) The list shall be signed by a team official and verified by the designated State Association, National League, or Regional League representative.

(3) Those players appearing on the list for the finals of the Regional rounds of competitions shall be the only players eligible to participate in the National rounds of competitions.

(d) A player under suspension is ineligible to participate in National Cups competitions until the suspension has been served.

Section 2. Only amateur players are eligible to participate in the U.S. National Men's and Women's Amateur Cups competitions.

Section 3. All players must be born 30 years prior to the date of any game they play in the U.S. National Men's or Women's Over 30 Cups competitions.

Section 4. A player who has not attained the age 23 years before August 1 shall be eligible to participate in the U.S. National Men's or Women's Under 23 Cups competition that begin on or after September 1. A player who reaches the age of 23 after July 31 is eligible to compete in the current year's Under 23 competition.

Section 5. (a) Only amateur players are eligible to participate in the U.S. National Men's and Women's Under 20 competitions.

(b) A player who has not attained the age of 20 years of age before August 1 shall be eligible to participate in the U.S. National Men's or Women's Under 20 Cup competition that begins on or after September 1 of the same year. A player who reaches the age of 20 after July 31 is eligible to compete in the current year's Under 20 Cup competition.

Section 6. Player eligibility for the U.S. National Men's Open Cup shall comply with the rules and policies established by the Federation.

Rule 223. ENTRIES

Section 1 (a) The entry fees are as follows:

(1) U.S. National Men's Amateur Cup Competition	\$100.00
(2) U.S. National Women's Open Cup Competition	\$200.00
(3) U.S. National Women's Amateur Cup Competition	\$100.00
(4) U.S. National Men's Over 30 Cup Competition	\$100.00
(5) U.S. National Women's Over 30 Cup Competition	\$100.00
(6) U.S. National Men's Under 23 Cup Competition	\$100.00
(7) U.S. National Women's Under 23 Cup Competition	\$100.00
(8) U.S. National Men's Under 20 Cup Competition	\$100.00
(9) U.S. National Women's Under 20 Cup Competition	\$100.00

(b) Fees for the U.S. National Men's Open Cup will be set annually by the Federation.

Section 2. Only money orders, cashier's or certified checks, State Association, National League, and Regional League checks will be accepted.

Section 3. A State Association, National League or Regional League may assess additional fees to cover referee and administrative expenses.

Section 4. Entry forms and payment for teams of National Leagues and Regional Leagues conducting their own competitions shall be forwarded as follows:

- (1) National Leagues shall forward forms and payment to the Administrator.
- (2) Regional Leagues shall forward forms and payment to the appropriate Regional Cups Commissioner.

Rule 224. ENTRY DEADLINES

Section 1. In consultation with the Executive Committee, the National Cups Commissioner shall establish a deadline date for each of the National Cups competitions by which a definite entry of a team must be received by the Regional Cups Commissioner or State Cups Commissioner. The different competitions may have different deadline dates.

Section 2. In consultation with the Regional Director, the Regional Cups Commissioner shall establish a Regional round of competition deadline date for each National Cup competition, which must be before the National deadline date set by the National Cups Commissioner.

Section 3. In consultation with the Regional Cups Commissioner, a State Cups Commissioner within the region wishing to have a State round of competition deadline date may do so. Once a State

deadline date is established, the State Cups Commissioner may not begin the State round of competition until all entry forms and fees for that competition are received by the Regional Cups Commissioner.

Section 4. In consultation with the National Cups Commissioner, only the Regional Director and Regional Cups Commissioner may extend a Regional or State round of competition deadline date once the date is established. Under no circumstances may the date be extended beyond the National deadline date.

Subpart C - Commissioners

Rule 241. NATIONAL CUPS COMMISSIONER

Section 1. Immediately following the annual general meeting of USASA, the Chairman of USASA shall appoint a National Cups Commissioner who shall be responsible for administering the National Cups competitions with the assistance of the staff of USASA.

Section 2. Neither a player registered with, nor an official of a team entered in, the competitions may be selected as the National Cups Commissioner, Regional Cups Commissioner, State Cups Commissioner, or a person to whom any responsibility for administering the National Cups competitions is delegated.

Section 3. The National Cups competitions shall be operated directly by the National Cups Commissioner. The Commissioner shall be completely independent of any State Association, National League, or Regional League influence.

Section 4. The National Cups Commissioner shall report to the Chairman of the USASA and shall be responsible for coordinating the administration of the National Cups competitions for USASA. The National Cups Commissioner's specific responsibilities include the following:

- (1) consulting with the Regional Directors on the appointment of Regional Cups Commissioners.
- (2) establishing deadline dates by which State Association, National League and Regional League entries must be received;
- (3) with the National Cups Committee, rejecting team entries for failure to comply with this policy and requirements;
- (4) coordinating with the Referee Committee the appointment of game officials;
- (5) in consultation with the National Cups Committee, determining player and team suspensions and fines related to breaches of the National Cups policy.
- (6) ensuring timely distribution of Cups entry forms, promotional materials, and rule books to the Regional Cups Commissioners, National Leagues, Regional Leagues and professional leagues;
- (7) coordinating the selection of game venues for conducting National rounds of competitions;

(8) coordinating and assisting in the processing and determination of protests filed for Regional and National rounds of competition.

(9) supporting the Executive Committee in marketing the National Cups program; and

(10) other duties assigned by the Chairman.

Rule 242. REGIONAL CUPS COMMISSIONERS

Section 1. In cooperation with the National Cups Commissioner, the Executive Committee shall appoint RegionalCups Commissioners. One RegionalCups Commissioner shall be appointed to coordinate and administer the National Cups competitions in each of the regions.

Section 2. The Regional Cup Commissioner is responsible for coordinating and administering all National Cups competition play in the Commissioner's region. The Regional Cup Commissioner's specific responsibilities include the following:

(1) consulting with the appropriate State Associations of the region on the appointment of State Cup Commissioners and forwarding written appointment letters to the State Cups Commissioners;

(2) consulting with the Regional Director to establish deadline dates for the region by which State, National League and Regional League entries must be received, and notifying the National Cups Commissioner of all Regional rounds of competitions dates;

(3) consulting with the Regional Director to establish the date by which all State and Regional League rounds of competitions in the region must be completed.

(4) forwarding all entry forms and fees received from State Associations and Regional Leagues to the Administrator in a timely manner.

(5) coordinating the scheduling of all Regional rounds of competitions games at the appropriate Regional Council meetings.

(6) in consultation with the National Cups Committee, resolving all disagreements regarding the sites, dates and times of Regional Cups competitions games;

(7) coordinating with the Regional Referee Administrator for the scheduling and assignment of referees for all Regional rounds of competitions games;

(8) providing the Regional Referee Administrator with rule books to distribute to referees assigned to Regional rounds of competitions games.

(9) providing the Regional Referee Administrator with the appropriate game report forms to be completed following all Regional rounds of competitions games, with directions on submission of the completed reports to the Regional Cups Commissioner.

(10) periodically reporting to the National Cups Commissioner about the ongoing results of the Regional rounds of competitions and immediately reporting to the National Cups Commissioner and the Administrator the final determination of champions of Regional rounds of competitions in all National Cups competitions;

(11) administering all suspensions as provided in Rule 409 for Regional rounds of competitions games.

(12) recommending to the National Cup Committee, player and team suspensions and fines related to breach of this policy.

(13) ensuring timely distribution of National Cups entry forms, promotional materials and rule books to the State Cups Commissioners and Regional Leagues.

(14) coordinating the processing and decisions of protests filed for Regional and National rounds of competitions as provided by Rule 411.

(15) supporting the National Cups Commissioner and the Executive Committee in marketing of the National Cups program;

(16) providing advice to the State Cups Commissioners regarding the conduct of the National Cups competitions and rule interpretations; and

(17) other duties assigned by the Regional Director and National Cups Commissioner.

Rule 243. STATE CUPS COMMISSIONERS

Section 1. In consultation with the Regional Director, the Regional Cups Commissioner for the region shall appoint a State Cups Commissioner for each State Association in the region. Each appointment shall be made based on a recommendation from the State Association and shall be made at the beginning of the National Cups competition without regard to potential participation of teams from each State Association.

Section 2. The State Cups Commissioner is responsible for coordinating and administering all National Cups competition play in the State Cup Commissioner's State Association. The State Cups Commissioner's specific responsibilities include the following:

(1) consulting with the State Association to establish deadline dates for the State Association by which entries must be received, and notifying the Regional Cups Commissioner of all State rounds of competitions dates.

(2) distributing entry forms, rule books, and other promotional materials to all leagues and teams in the State that are registered with USASA, as well as forwarding similar information to all Federation youth organizations whose membership may be eligible for the National Cups competitions.

(3) forwarding all entry forms and fees received from the State Associations to the Regional Cups Commissioner in a timely manner.

(4) coordinating the scheduling of all State rounds of competitions games, including dates and locations, and recommending to the State Association any "closed" time periods required under Rule 401.

(5) in consultation with the National Cups Committee, resolving all disagreements regarding the sites, dates, and times of State rounds of competitions games.

(6) coordinating with the State Referee Committee and assignor for the scheduling and assignment of referees for all State rounds of competitions games.

(7) coordinating with the State Referee Committee and assignor the distribution of rule books to referees assigned to State rounds of competitions games.

(8) providing the State Referee Committee and assignor with the appropriate game report forms to be completed following all State rounds of competitions games, with directions on submission of the completed reports to the State Cup Commissioner.

(9) periodically reporting to the Regional Cups Commissioner about the ongoing

results of the State rounds of competitions and immediately reporting to the Regional Cups Commissioner the final determination of champions of State rounds of competitions in all National Cups competitions.

(10) administering all suspensions as provided in Rule 409 for State rounds of competitions;

(11) recommending to the National Cups Committee, player or team suspensions and fines related to breaches of this play.

(12) coordinating and assisting in the processing and decisions of protests filed for State rounds of competitions as provided by Rule 411;

(13) collecting appropriate financial report forms from all games whether a payment to USASA is required or not.

(14) supporting the National Cups Commissioner and the Executive Committee in marketing the National Cups program; and

(15) other duties assigned by the State Association and the Regional Cups Commissioner.

PART III - FINANCIAL MATTERS

Rule 301. STATE AND REGIONAL ROUNDS OF COMPETITIONS GAME RECEIPTS

Section 1. All Regional rounds of competitions games, to the extent feasible, shall be played on enclosed grounds.

Section 2. (a) For all State and Regional rounds of competitions games, the charges against the gross gate receipts (defined as the total gate receipts, less federal or other legal taxes against those receipts) shall be in the following order:

(1) For State rounds of competitions games, the gross gate receipts (after taxes) shall be divided equally between the teams.

(2) For Regional rounds of competitions games, the receipts shall be divided as provided by the officers of the region.

(b)(1) A financial report shall be -

(A) prepared by the home team after every game referred to in subsection (a) of this section;

(B) signed by both teams, and

(C) sent by the home team to the Regional Cups Commissioner within 48 hours after the game, with the appropriate fee paid by a check made payable to the region.

(2) The financial report shall be sent whether or not a gate fee is charged or a collection is made. Failure to send in the financial report may result in not being allowed to proceed any further in Cups competitions or may prohibit the team from entering the National Cups competitions for the following year.

Rule 302. TEAM BOND REQUIREMENT

Section 1. The winning team from each State Association, National League, Regional League,

and Regional rounds of competitions shall post a bond of \$500 in the form of a cashier's or certified check made payable to "USASA". The check or money order shall be sent, within 7 days after the team wins the competition, to the Regional or National Cups Commissioner, as the case may be. No Regional or National round of competition involving that team may begin unless the appropriate Commissioner has the bond.

Section 2. If a team does not fulfill its obligations by participating in a Regional round of competition game, as scheduled, the posted bond shall be forfeited. If that non-fulfillment results in a scheduled opponent or host Association incurring any fair and reasonable expenses as a result, that opponent or State Association may submit, for payment within 10 days, a statement of all such expenses, which shall be paid in an amount not to exceed the amount of the bond. The statement shall be submitted to the Regional Cups Commissioner for referral to the National Cups Committee. The Committee shall make a recommendation to the Executive Committee of the fair and reasonable expenses that should be paid.

Rule 303. SUBSIDIES AND BUDGETS OF FINALS OF REGIONAL ROUNDS

Section 1.(a) USASA shall provide a subsidy to the 4 regions equitably apportioned by the National Cups Committee with the approval of the Executive Committee. The amounts of the subsidies shall be disbursed directly to the teams of State Associations by the Administrator at the direction of the Executive Committee.

(b) Full accounting must be made by the Regional Cups Commissioner and the hosting State Association.

Section 2. The State Association hosting the finals of the Regional rounds of competitions shall submit to the USASA office, with a copy to the National and Regional Cups Commissioners, a budget outlining the income and expenses for the finals. The budget must be submitted at least 60 days prior to the finals in order to receive an advance toward hosting the finals (in accordance with the adopted budget) from the USASA. The advance money shall be used for expenses related to the finals and may not be used for the purpose of entertainment or other non-Cup related expenses.

Section 3. Notwithstanding sections 1 and 2 of this rule, subsidies for National League and Regional League teams shall be as follows:

- (1) For Regional League teams, the subsidies shall be the same as the subsidies for participants from State Associations.
- (2) For National League teams, there is no subsidy.

Rule 304. TRAVEL SUBSIDIES FOR NATIONAL ROUNDS OF COMPETITIONS

Section 1. USASA shall partially subsidize the traveling expenses of the teams participating in the National rounds of competitions using a mileage percentage factor between the city where the team is from

and the city where the finals are hosted.

Section 2. For a team to receive a fully allocated travel subsidy for competing in a National round of a National Cup competition, the region that the team is from must have at least 10 teams in that Cup competition. However, a team from a region having less than 10 teams in that Cup competition shall receive a proportional subsidy, based on the number of teams out of the maximum of 10, that have entered the competition. A team winning a Regional round of competition may participate in the National round of the National Cup competition at its own expense. If it wishes to do so, the team must notify in writing the National Cups Commissioner within 5 days after the Regional Cups finals with a copy to the Regional Cups Commissioner.

Section 3. Notwithstanding sections 1 and 2 of this rule, subsidies for National League and Regional League teams shall be as follows:

- (1) Regional League teams: the subsidy shall be the same as the subsidy for participating teams from State Associations.
- (2) National League teams: There is no subsidy,

PART IV - PLAYING REQUIREMENTS

Rule 401. PRECEDENCE OF GAMES

Section 1. National Cups competitions games (whether original, replayed, or postponed games) take precedence over all scheduled games and other competitions under the jurisdiction of USASA either directly or indirectly through its members. Games of the National Men's and Womens' Open Cups competition take precedence over all other games, and a "closed" time or times may be ordered.

Section 2. State Association, National League, Regional League, and their member league competitions affected by National Cups competitions games may order one or more "closed" time periods for teams under their jurisdiction, prohibiting any other games to be played at that time and date.

Rule 402. FORFEITS

Section 1. (a) A team using an ineligible player at any level of the National Cups competitions shall (1) forfeit to the opposing team the game in which the player played, and (2) be expelled from the competition.

(b) A claim of player ineligibility for State rounds of competitions games shall be resolved by the State Cups Commissioner. A claim of player ineligibility at the Regional and National rounds of competition shall be resolved by the National Cups Committee in consultation with the appropriate State Cups Commissioner or Commissioners and the USASA and Federation offices.

Section 2. A team shall also forfeit a game to the opposing team for failure to comply with the rules of the National Cups competitions, or for other just causes as determined by the National Cups Commissioner. (See Rule 401).

Section 3. (a) A team intending to forfeit a game at the Regional or National round of a National Cup competition must give written notice of its intention to do so to the representative of the opposing team, which shall be received by the opposing team at least 7 days before the date of the game. Copies of the notice must also be given, for a forfeiture at the Regional round of competition, to the Regional Cups Commissioner and State Cups Commissioner and, for a forfeiture at the National round of competition, to the National Cups Commissioner and the Regional Cups Commissioner. Timely notice of intention to forfeit under this section does not negate any claims for expenses submitted under Rule 302.

(b) A team that forfeits a game at the Regional or National round of a National Cups competition may not enter any of the National Cups competitions in the following year.

Rule 403. NOTICE OF GAMES

Notification of a team's next game shall be given to each team competing at any round of the National Cups competitions shall be made no less than 7 days prior to the scheduled date of the game, except when both teams waive this requirement in writing.

Rule 404. UNIFORMS

Section 1. The basic compulsory equipment of each player is -

- (1) a jersey or shirt
- (2) shorts (and if thermal shorts are worn, they are of the same main color as the shorts)
- (3) stockings
- (4) shinguards, and
- (5) footwear

Section 2. When the uniforms of the 2 competing teams are so similar as to create possible player identification problems on the field, as determined by the referee, the home team shall change its uniform. However, if the visiting team is wearing colors other than those submitted on the National Cups competition entry form, the visiting team shall change.

Section 3. Clear visible numbers, at least 6 inches high and sewn on, pressed on, or silk screened, must be worn on the back of each player's jersey. Each player on a team must wear a different number. A description of the team's uniform shall accompany the player list forwarded, as specified by Rule 406.

Rule 405. PLAYER PASSES

Section 1. Each player registered on an appropriate form shall carry a laminated or otherwise tamper-resistant, USASA approved identification pass bearing the player's photograph.

Section 2. All players on eligible youth teams participating in a National Cup competition shall present an appropriate identification pass bearing the player's photograph issued by the youth organization.

Section 3. Each player pass shall be verified by the player's State Association, National League, or other Organization Member, as appropriate, and by the designated representative of the State Association, League, or Member. The pass shall be presented to the referee before entering the game and shall be made available to the representative of the opposing team on request.

Rule 406. PLAYER POOL LISTS

Section 1. At least 7 days before the original scheduled date of a game, every team playing in any of the National Cups competitions shall provide to the opposing team by special delivery mail, telephone facsimile, or electronic mail, a player pool list of eligible players from which the team will be selected. The list may not have more than 18 players or, as provided by section 1(c) of Rule 222, not more than 22 players, and may not be changed for replayed games. Transmission of the player list by telephone facsimile or electronic mail shall be followed by voice confirmation of receipt of the player list.

Section 2. No objection to the qualification of any players recorded in the player pool list referred to in section 1 of this rule shall be entertained unless notice of the objection, stating the reasons for the objection, is given in writing to the referee and the opposing team before the beginning of the game. Any team making a frivolous objection may be removed from the National Cups competition. This section does not apply to a claim of player ineligibility.

Section 3. Failure to transmit a player list is not by itself grounds for a protest, but it may be a factor to be considered in connection with a claim that the opposing team used an ineligible player.

Section 4. The 2 teams may waive, in writing, the requirements of transmitting player lists. For State rounds of competitions, the State Cups Commissioner may also waive the requirements of transmitting a player list to the opposing team. If the player list requirement is waived by the 2 teams or the State Cups Commissioner, the time allowed for a protest in the case of an unqualified player shall be as provided under Rule 411.

Rule 407. PLAYING RULES

Section 1. In all games played in the National Cup competitions, the playing rules are the FIFA Laws of the Game in effect at the time of the deadline of entry, with the following exceptions:

(1) The length of the field may not be more than 120 yards nor less than 100 yards, and the width of the field may not be more than 80 yards nor less than 65 yards.

(2) Goal nets must be used. The field should be properly marked. A flag on a post not less than 5 feet high and having a non-pointed top, shall be placed at each corner.

(3) A maximum of 3 substitutions are allowed in all Open, Amateur, Under 23, Under 20 competitions. A maximum of 5 substitutes are allowed in all Over 30 competitions. In any Cup competition, a player who has been substituted for may not re-enter the game at any time.

(4) No more than 18 players may suit up for a game.

(5) If the score of any game is tied at the end of the second half, there will be 2 sudden death (“golden goal”) overtime periods of 15 minutes each. If neither team scores during the 2 overtime periods, the winner will then be determined by FIFA kicks from the penalty mark.

(6) If, for any cause, a game is not completed, it must be replayed in its entirety. However, if the non-completion of a game results from misconduct clearly traceable to one of the contending teams, its management, or its followers as determined by the appropriate Cups Commissioner, the Cups Commissioner shall decide on the disposition of the game. Non-completion due to misconduct may result in dismissal of the offending team or teams from further composition.

Section 2. Each team will be allowed to select not more than 18 players from its player pool list for a particular game to participate in that game. Prior to the start of the game, each team will provide to the referee and the other team a roster designating not more than 11 starting players and the other players (not more than 7) from the list as the group of players from which substitutions may be made.

Rule 408. GAME OFFICIALS

The selection of game officials is subject to the following limitations:

(1) Only officials registered with the Federation shall be eligible to be selected as referee and assistant referees for games in the National Cups competitions.

(2) Neither a member of the USASA Referee Committee nor a member of the National Cups Committee may be a game official. Present or past members (within the past 2 years) of either of the competing teams may not be game officials for the game between the 2 teams, unless both teams waive this prohibition in writing.

(3) In all Regional rounds of competitions, the referee fee shall be set by the Regional Commissioner.

(4) In semifinal and final games of the Regional rounds of competitions, and in semifinal games of National rounds of competitions, the referees and assistant referees must be from neutral states.

Rule 409. PLAYER DISCIPLINE

Suspension of an ejected player is for a minimum of the 2 following pre-scheduled league or National Cups competitions games. Exhibition games and indoor games do not count in satisfying the game suspension requirement. The ejected player’s pass with each referee and assistant referee report must be promptly sent to the player’s State Association, National League, Regional League, or Organization Member that has the authority to increase the period of suspension.

Rule 410. TEAM AND PLAYER BREACH OF RULES

Section 1. The National Cups Commissioner has the authority to disqualify and remove from further participation in any National Cup competition, any team, team official, or player of any competing

team who may be proven to be guilty of any breach of the rules of USASA or the Federation.

Section 2. All notices of disqualification or suspension shall be forwarded by certified mail or overnight delivery to any affected team, except the minimum 2 games suspension under Rule 409 is effective without notice.

Section 3. If there is a dispute (other than one involving referee assault or abuse) arising from a National Cup competition under the jurisdiction of the USASA in which suspensions or penalties of 6 months or more are imposed against an individual, an opportunity shall be provided for the individual to appeal any such decision of the National Cups Committee or State Cups Commissioner to the USASA Appeals Committee. The decision of the USASA Appeals Committee is final. The procedures for appealing a decision of the National Cups Committee or State Cups Commissioner shall be as provided by Bylaw 642 of USASA.

Section 4. The National Cups Committee has authority to establish a policy for imposing fines at the State, Regional and National rounds of National Cups competition.

Rule 411. PROTESTS

Section 1. Any protest concerning a game played in State rounds of competitions shall be referred to the State Cup Commissioner. The Commissioner shall decide the protest and that decision is final. Any protest concerning a game in Regional rounds of competitions shall be referred to the National Cups Committee through the Regional Cups Commissioner for decision. The decision of the Committee is final.

Section 2. (a) The protest must be made in writing and must describe in detail the grounds for the protest.

(b) (1) The original signed protest, 5 additional copies of the protest, and a protest fee of \$10 shall be submitted to the State Cups Commissioner for State rounds of competitions games, and the Regional Cups Commissioner for Regional rounds of competitions games, within 3 days of the game to which the protest relates. A copy of the protest must be forwarded to the opposing team in the game. The protest and copies shall be submitted to the appropriate Cups Commissioner and the opposing team either by receipted hand delivery or by overnight delivery. The person receiving the copy of the protest shall provide a written receipt of receiving the copy.

(2) The protest fee must be sent to the appropriate Cups Commissioner by cashier's or certified check or money order, made payable to "USASA"

(c) The opposing team has 7 days from the date the copy of the protest was forwarded to it, to submit to the appropriate Cups Commissioner its statement regarding the protest, if any. The statement by the opposing team shall be submitted to the appropriate Cups Commissioner and the opposing team either via receipted hand deliver or by overnight delivery.

(d) No protest is proper for the alleged use of an unqualified player whose name appears on the player list received by the opposing team under Rule 406, unless prior to the game an objection, in writing, is lodged with the referee and the opposing team for the game. This subsection does not apply to a claim of player ineligibility.

(e) The appropriate Cups Commissioner shall decide the protest as soon as possible, and may require further submission of evidence related to the process.

(f)(1) For protest related to State Cups competitions games, notice of the State Cups Commissioner's decision shall be sent by overnight delivery, telephone facsimile, or electronic mail to both teams competing in the game which was subject of the protest. In addition, the State Cups Commissioner must forward to the appropriate Regional Cups Commissioner a copy of the decision and copies of the documentation available in the case within 3 days of the decision.

(2) For protests relations to Regional and National rounds of competitions games, notice of the National Cups Committee's decision shall be sent by overnight delivery to both teams competing in the game which was subject of the protest. In addition, the Cups Committee must forward to the Executive Committee a copy of the decision and copies of the documentation available in the case within 3 days of the decision.

(g)(1) A protest may be withdrawn in writing after it has been submitted, but withdrawal of a protest shall result in forfeiture of the protest fee, which shall be forwarded to USASA.

(2) The protest fee shall be forwarded to USASA if the protest is not sustained, or shall be returned if the protest is sustained.