



2023 Indiana Cup Tournament Rules

**US Youth Soccer Indiana State Cup Championships
US Youth Soccer Indiana State Presidents Cup
The Indiana Challenge Cup**

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PART I – TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION

Rule 101. DEFINITIONS

Except as otherwise provided, the following definitions apply to the State Cup, Presidents Cup, and the Challenge Cup:

- a. **Appeal.** An action submitted during the Cup Competition, by a team coach, to the Indiana Soccer Tournament and Cup Committee, as a result of a decision made by the Cup Protest Committee.
- b. **Assignor.** A person, licensed by the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), authorized by the State Referee Administrator (SRA) to assign referees to State Cup, Presidents Cup, and Challenge Cup games.
- c. **Bond.** A “good faith” payment made to ensure that a team entered to play in the State Cup, Presidents Cup, or Challenge Cup will play in all their scheduled tournament games.
- d. **Club Coach.** A coach who has been issued a pass by Indiana Soccer as requested by a club allowing the coach to participate as a team official for any team in the same club. Club Coaches might not appear on a roster.
- e. **Double-Blind Draw.** A process used to place teams in tournament brackets for each age division. One draw will pick the bracket and the other will pick the team playing in that bracket.
- f. **Federation or USSF.** The United States Soccer Federation.
- g. **NCC.** The National Championships Committee as established by the US Youth Soccer Board of Directors to administer the rules and policies for the US Youth Soccer National Championships.
- h. **Game Roster.** A list of players who will participate in a particular game or competition.
- i. **Play-In Game.** A game played to determine the final teams to play in the Preliminary, Semi-Final, or Finals round of play. A play-in game(s) is played, generally, when the number of teams qualified and selected for an event exceeds the number of bracket positions for a particular age division.
- j. **Premier Team.** A premier team is one that plays all of its primary games in a designated premier league. For the purposes of these Cup games, premier leagues are designated in Rule 203.
- k. **Primary Player.** In order to be eligible for National, Regional or State Cup competition, double rostered players must be primary players on the team roster being entered into the competition and not shown as a secondary player.
- l. **Protest.** An action submitted during the Cup Competition, by a team coach, to the Cup Protest Committee, related to the qualifications of competitors, interpretation of Cup rules, or any dispute as it may relate to the State Cup, Presidents Cup, or the Challenge Cup.
- m. **Protest Committee.** Select group of TCC members as appointed by the Tournament Director to make decisions on filed protests.
- n. **Protest Committee Representative** means a member of the TCC serving on the Protest Committee and physically located at one of the Preliminary Round or Finals sites.
- o. **Roster.** A list of registered players available to participate in a match. Travel and recreational-plus teams must have an Indiana Soccer roster signed by the Indiana Soccer State Registrar.
- p. **Roster Freeze Date.** The date designated by Indiana Soccer, after which the player roster of a team entering the State Cup, Presidents Cup, or the Challenge Cup may no longer be changed.
- q. **Seasonal Year.** The seasonal year is from September 1 through August 31.

- r. **Secondary Player.** A player rostered to a second team. Double rostered players listed as secondary on a roster are not eligible to participate in any Indiana Soccer Cup competition for that Secondary Team.
- s. **Select Team.** A select team is one that is formed solely for the purpose of playing in tournaments.
- t. **SRA.** The State Referee Administrator or designee is responsible for coordinating the obtaining, training, scheduling, and assigning of game officials for each play-in, preliminary, semi-final and final game in the State Cup, Presidents Cup, and Challenge Cup competitions.
- u. **TCC.** The Indiana Soccer Tournament and Cup Committee.
- v. **Team.** A recognized entity organized for the purpose of playing the sport of soccer.
- w. **Team Official.** A person who possesses an approved Indiana Soccer pass and is listed on a team roster. A team official may be a coach, assistant coach, manager, or trainer.
- x. **Team Roster.** A list of Indiana Soccer (USYS) registered players eligible to play for a team.
- y. **Tournament Team.** A team comprised of players who may be registered to more than one team rostered only for the purpose of attending: (1) a tournament sanctioned by another National State Association, or (2) international tournaments sanctioned by Indiana Soccer. Tournament teams are not eligible to play in the State Cup, Presidents Cup, or the Challenge Cup.
- z. **Transfer Player.** Any player who has moved from one team roster to another team roster in a different club, or returns to the same roster, in the same seasonal year.
- aa. **US Youth Soccer.** The United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc.

Rule 102. ESTABLISHMENT

Section 1. The US Youth Soccer Indiana State Cup Championships

- a. In accordance with the policies and rules of the U.S. Youth Soccer National Championships Committee and US Youth Soccer, Indiana Soccer shall conduct individual, and separate, state championships for boys and girls in age groups determined each year by the TCC. The official name of this event for Indiana Soccer is The US Youth Soccer Indiana State Cup Championships (hereinafter referred to as the “State Cup”).
- b. State Cup winners in each age group, both boys and girls, upon approval of the TCC and Indiana Soccer, shall advance to and represent Indiana in the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championships. Wildcard berths may be awarded to 2nd place teams as determined by the Midwest Regional Cup Committee. A team who fails to fulfill this obligation will automatically be replaced by another team in that age group as determined by the TCC. An Indiana team (13U – 19U) that wins its age group competition at the Region II level will automatically advance to the US Youth Soccer National Championships.

Section 2. The US Youth Soccer Indiana President Cup

- a. In accordance with the policies and rules of the U.S. Youth Soccer Presidents Cup Committee and US Youth Soccer, Indiana Soccer shall conduct individual, and separate, state championships for boys and girls in age groups determined each year by the TCC. The official name of this event for Indiana Soccer is The US Youth Soccer Indiana Presidents Cup (hereinafter referred to as the “Presidents Cup”).
- b. Presidents Cup winners in 13U-19U age groups, both boys and girls, upon approval of the TCC and Indiana Soccer, shall advance to and represent Indiana in the US Youth Soccer Midwest Region Presidents Cup. Wildcard berths may be awarded to 2nd place teams as determined by the Midwest Region Cup Committee. A team who fails to fulfill this obligation will automatically be replaced by another team in that age group as determined by the TCC. An Indiana team (13U – 19U) that wins its age group competition at the Region II level will automatically advance to the US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup national finals.

Section 3. The Challenge Cup

Indiana Soccer shall conduct individual, separately conducted, championships for boys and girls in age groups determined each year by the TCC. The official name of this event is The Challenge Cup. The Challenge Cup competitions are established in accordance with the policies and rules of Indiana Soccer.

Rule 103. AWARDS TO TEAMS AND PLAYERS

Section 1. The State Cup

First and second place teams will receive a team award. The players and coaches of the 1st and 2nd place teams will each receive individual medals. The players of the champion team of boys and girls in each age group will receive an embroidered state champion patch. Sportsmanship Points will be awarded each game and Sportsmanship Awards may be given to all teams who meet the criteria set forth by the TCC.

Section 2. The Presidents Cup and Challenge Cup

First and second place teams will receive a team award. The players and coaches of the 1st and 2nd place teams will each receive individual medals. Sportsmanship Points will be awarded each game and Sportsmanship Awards may be given to all teams who meet the criteria set forth by the TCC.

Rule 104. ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. US Youth Soccer

The overall administration of the US Youth Soccer National Championships and the US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup competitions at the National, Region and State levels is vested in the US Youth Soccer Board of Directors.

Section 2. Indiana Soccer

In Indiana, administrative oversight of the State Cup, President Cup, and Challenge Cup competitions is vested in the Indiana Soccer Executive Director and is based on the policies and rules established by Indiana Soccer and US Youth Soccer.

Section 3. The Cup Director and Cup Committee

The Indiana Soccer Executive Director will establish a Tournament and Cup Committee (TCC) and approve its chairperson. The chairperson will subsequently appoint its members and a Cup Director. The Cup Director, who may be the chairperson of the TCC, has the authority and responsibility for all administrative, organizational and rule decisions related to the State Cup, President Cup, and Challenge Cup and the proper execution of all Cup competitions. The Cup Director reports directly to the Executive Director.

Section 4. Dates, Fees, Rules, and Locations.

Based on the authority in Section 3 above, the TCC shall establish the deadline date for entry, fees, dates, rules, and the sites for all Play-In, Preliminary, Semi-Final and Final game competitions. The deadline date and dates of play for the Cup competitions will be based on the play dates established by the Midwest Region for the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championships and US Youth Soccer Midwest Presidents Cup.

Section 5. Other Matters.

The TCC shall decide any tournament and cup competition matter for the good of Indiana Soccer. The TCC shall have the authority to oversee any matters not covered within this document. Only matters that the TCC feels that it cannot resolve will be forwarded to the Indiana Soccer Executive Director for final resolution. Decisions made by the TCC or the Executive Director under this rule may be appealed to the Indiana Soccer Board of Directors.

Rule 105. GAME PRECEDENCE

Section 1. Precedence.

All Indiana Soccer Cup competition games shall take precedence over all other youth games.

Section 2. League Scheduling.

Indiana Soccer affiliated leagues will minimize the scheduling of league games or referees on the dates announced for the State Cup, President Cup, and Challenge Cup preliminary, semi-final, and final games. All cup game(s) and referee scheduling shall take precedence over league games.

Section 3. Other Competitions.

Teams who accept entry into other sanctioned tournaments or competitions on the same weekend that any State Cup, President Cup, or Challenge Cup event is scheduled, in anticipation of their team not advancing, and the team does advance, will be expected to comply with the game schedule published by the TCC or risk additional penalties.

Rule 106. NOTICES

Section 1. Outgoing.

All notices pertaining to Cup competitions will be placed on the Indiana Soccer administrative web site as soon as reasonably possible. All notices will be emailed to club and team officials

Section 2. Incoming.

All notices and other communications required to be given under this policy and these rules shall be in writing and shall be addressed to the TCC.

Section 3. Rules and Rule Changes.

A copy of the rules to be used during the State Cup, President Cup, and Challenge Cup competitions will be published on the Indiana Soccer website. All changes to the rules must be posted to the Indiana Soccer website no later than 15 days prior to the start of the first Cup game. All participating teams will receive notification of specific rule changes in addition to posting the rules.

Rule 107. FEES

Entry fees, bond payments and other fines for the State Cup, President Cup, and the Challenge Cup will be reviewed and approved annually by Indiana Soccer.

Rule 108. MEETINGS

The date(s), time, and location of all meetings will be sent to the club president, team contact and placed on the Indiana Soccer website.

Rule 109. SPORTSMANSHIP

Section 1. Pre and Post Game Sportsmanship

Prior to the kick-off, both teams and the match officials shall “walk-on” to the field together and exchange handshakes. At the conclusion of the match, opposing players and coaches shall shake hands.

Section 2. Policies and Rules

Coaches, players, teams, and referees will be expected to read and adhere to all Cup rules and policies regarding behavior.

Section 3. Code of Conduct

The Coach of each team is responsible for ensuring that all team officials, players, parents and/or guardians read and comply with the Code of Conduct document.

Section 4. Control of the Sideline

Players, managers, coaches, and fans are expected to conduct themselves within the letter and spirit of the **Laws of the Game**. The Cup Director or the Cup Director's representative at any Cup site, shall have the authority and responsibility to remove any person(s) from the tournament for abuses of good conduct. All spectators must remain on the opposite side of the field from the team. Spectators must remain a minimum of two (2) yards from the sidelines.

Section 5. The Sportsmanship Award.

For each age group in the State Cup, President Cup, and Challenge Cup competitions teams may be awarded Sportsmanship awards. These awards will be based on points accumulated during games played based on the criteria outlined in Section 6 below. The referees, at the conclusion of each game, will record sportsmanship points on the official game card as explained below.

Section 6. Sportsmanship Points.

On a scale of 1 (low) – 10 (high) in each category listed below, the referees will assess sportsmanship points:

- a. **Conduct of Players (10 Points).** This category evaluates playing by the rules, respect for teammates, officials, opponents, and general behavior.
- b. **Conduct of Coaches (10 Points).** This category evaluates a coach's reasonable demands of players, the coach's respect for tournament rules, officials, players, and opponents; the coach's safe and proper use of equipment, knowledge of the rules, and the good sportsmanship example he/she sets for the players.
- c. **Conduct of Spectators (10 Points).** This category evaluates the decorum and behavior of spectators, respect for referee decisions, rules of the game and the tournament, and the overall behavior of everyone on the sidelines.

PART II – ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION

Rule 201. THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS LEVEL OF COMPETITION

Section 1. The US Youth Soccer Indiana State Cup Championships.

The US Youth Soccer National Championships competition shall be conducted at the following levels:

- a. **State Level (State Cup)** The first level of competitions for all boys and girls age groups 13U through 19U is at the State level. This is considered a premier level tournament and is officially titled The US Youth Soccer Indiana State Cup Championships.
- b. **Regional Level.** The second level of competitions for all boys and girls age groups 13U through 19U is at the Midwest Region level. This is considered a premier tournament and is called the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championships.
- c. **National Level.** The third and final level of competitions for all boys and girls age groups 13U through 19U is at the national level. This is considered a premier level tournament and is called the US Youth Soccer National Championships.

Section 2. The US Youth Soccer Indiana President Cup.

The US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup competition shall be conducted at the following levels:

- a. State Level (Presidents Cup) The first level of competitions for all boys and girls age groups 11U through 19U is at the State level. This event is officially titled The US Youth Soccer Indiana Presidents Cup.
- b. Regional Level. The second level of competitions for all boys and girls age groups 13U through 19U is at the Midwest Region level. This is called the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Presidents Cup.
- c. National Level. The third and final level of competitions for all boys and girls age groups 13U through 19U is at the national level. This is called the US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup. NOTE: In 2021, the 18U and 19U age divisions will be combined for the national level event. Beginning in 2022, the 18U and 19U age divisions will be separated at the national level event.

Section 3. The Challenge Cup.

This tournament is conducted at the state level only. Age divisions for the Challenge Cup will be determined each year by the TCC. Age group winners in the Challenge Cup do not advance to any higher level of competition.

Rule 202. COMPETITION FORMATS

Section 1. Age Groups.

The TCC shall determine in which age groups, whether boys or girls or both, it will conduct Cup competitions. In addition, the TCC will also determine the seeding, draw, rules, and play-in policy for all age groups.

Section 2. Format.

The format used to determine teams representing Indiana Soccer as its state champion for each cup event, shall be as established by the TCC. The TCC, at its discretion, may seed teams in each age division.

Section 3. Small-Sided Game Format.

- a. The 9 v 9 small-sided format, as approved by the Indiana Soccer Board of Directors, will be used for all 11U and 12U age divisions.
- b. 11U and 12U teams may enter the Presidents Cup or the Challenge Cup. Small-sided teams may not enter the State Cup.
- c. 11U and 12U teams will not be allowed to play up to a different age format. 10U teams will not be allowed to enter the 11U division.

Section 4. Play-In Games.

- a. The need for play-in games will be determined by the TCC based on the number of team entries received for an age group. Play-in games may be scheduled for any age division where it may be necessary to limit entries to a fixed number of teams in a particular age division.
- b. Any team required to play a play-in game prior to the scheduled Roster Freeze Date (Rule 203, Section 3), will have their team rosters frozen 72 hours prior to the kickoff of the play-in game.**
- c. Teams playing in a play-in game will be determined as part of the double-blind draw system for each age division. The date, time, and location of the draw shall be announced by the TCC in accordance with Rule 106 and be open to the entire membership.
- d. The home team (listed first in the team pairing) will coordinate the date, time and location of the play-in game and provide that information to the Cup Director and the Indiana Soccer office no later than the date set by the TCC. The play-in game will be played at a mutually agreed upon location. Teams that cannot agree

as to the date, time and location of a play-in game will play their play-in game at a location and date and time determined by the TCC.

- e. The SRA, or the designated representative, will schedule referees for all play-in games.
- f. All teams will complete these games no later than the final date allowed for play-in games as published by the TCC.
- g. Play-in games will not end in a tie. (Rule 211, Section 4)
- h. If a team drops out of the preliminary round after the completion of all play-in games in that bracket, the losing team from a play-in game may be invited to fill that vacancy.
- i. Teams that do not advance out of the play-in round will have a portion of their entry fee returned as determined by the TCC.

Section 5. Preliminary Round.

- a. Time/Location. Preliminary Round competition dates will be determined by the TCC as determined by the TCC and posted on the Indiana Soccer website. The number/location of teams entering the State Cup, President Cup and Challenge Cup competition shall determine the final number of playing sites and their location. Indiana Soccer Affiliated Club(s) may be asked to assist in hosting these competitions. The host clubs will be selected by the Cup Committee Chair. Host Clubs shall be responsible for meeting all requirements as outlined in the Host Club Agreement.
- b. Team Registration/Check In. Team coaches/managers will register/check in their players/coaches before the start of the first preliminary round game. Registration/check in locations and times will be published separately by the TCC.
- c. Format: It is mandatory for all Elite 64, Midwest Conference, Great Lakes Conference, and ISL Premier teams to apply for STATE Cup. Not all these teams will be accepted into STATE Cup. Some teams will be placed in Presidents Cup during the team seeding process. During the application process, all teams will be given the opportunity to tell the selection committee where you desire to be placed even if you are an Elite 64, Midwest Conference, Great Lakes Conference, or ISL Premier team that had to apply to STATE Cup.

(1) The State Cup.

- (a). The State Cup will be limited to 13U through 19U, boys and girls teams. All age divisions will be limited to a maximum of 12 teams each.
- (b). 13U-17U teams applying for the State Cup will be ranked with the top 12 selected for participation. Teams that are not selected will be offered the opportunity to participate in the President Cup or the Challenge Cup.
- (c). 18U-19U teams applying for the State Cup will be ranked with the top 12 selected for participation. Teams that are not selected will be offered the opportunity to participate in the Presidents Cup.
- (d). All applicants will be seeded by a ranking process outlined by the TCC giving DOCs (or their designee) of participating teams in each age group an opportunity for input. The TCC will have final approval. Two (2) or more teams from the same club may end up in the same preliminary round bracket based on the seeding. In the event this happens, teams from the same club in the same bracket will play each other in first for group play. The normal order of games to be played will resume after this game(s).
- (e). Preliminary round competition shall be in a round robin format.
- (f). Each age division will play the appropriate number of games in its bracket based on the number of teams in that bracket. Winners of each bracket, based on total points, will advance to the Semi-Final

round of competition. No more than four (4) teams will advance to the Semi-Final round from each age division.

(2) President Cup

- (a). The Presidents Cup will be limited to 11U through 19U, boys and girls teams. All age divisions will be limited to 16 teams each.
- (b). All teams applying for the Presidents Cup will be ranked with the top 16 selected for participation. 11U-17U age teams that are not selected will be offered the opportunity to participate in the Challenge Cup.
- (c). Same rules apply as listed above (d-f) from State Cup format.

(3) The Challenge Cup

- (a) The Challenge Cup is open to age groups 11U – 17U, boys and girls teams. If more than 16 teams enter an age division, the division may be divided into two (2) equal age divisions or play-in games may be used to determine the final 16 teams. The maximum number of teams that will be accepted for any age group/gender will be 32 teams. The first 32 teams to apply will be accepted.
 - (b) All Teams will be placed in brackets using a double-blind draw process of first selecting the bracket and then selecting the team. Two (2) teams from the same club will not be placed in the same bracket unless the number of teams from a single club exceeds the number of brackets available in one gender and age group.
 - (c) If, due to the withdrawal of a team, a preliminary bracket contains three (3) or fewer teams, the TCC may place teams in different brackets. In addition, the TCC may redraw any age group if the withdrawal reduces the total number of teams in that age group competition to a level which would eliminate the need for one round of competition.
 - (d) Preliminary round competition will be a round-robin format.
 - (e) Each age division will play the appropriate number of games in its bracket based on the number of teams in the bracket. Winners of each bracket, based on total points, will advance to the semifinal round of competition. No more than four (4) teams will advance from each age division. In those cases where there are more than 4 brackets, quarterfinal games will be added to reduce the division to four (4) teams for semifinals.
- (4) Any team entry received after the stated entry deadline for any cup competition will be given the option to be “wait listed.” Any wait listed teams may be added to the competition to fill out a bracket or to take the place of a team that withdraws from the competition after the cup draw.
- (5) The Cup Committee reserves the right to adjust any age division/bracket structure in the State Cup, President Cup, or the Challenge Cup based on the number of teams participating.
- d. Game/Field Schedule. The Cup Committee will determine the game/field schedule for each age division at each Preliminary Round site.

Section 6. Semi-Final/Finals.

- a. Time and Location. The semi-final and/or finals will generally be held in June. Indiana Soccer Affiliated Club(s) may be asked to assist in hosting these competitions. The host clubs will be selected by the Cup Committee Chair. Host Clubs shall be responsible for meeting all requirements as outlined in the Host Club Agreement.
- b. Format. Semi-Final and/or Final competition shall be in a single elimination format. Not all divisions will have semifinal or final games. The Cup Committee will determine which divisions will have semifinals and finals based on the number of entries in the event and the competition level.

- c. Game/Field Schedule. The Cup Committee will determine the game/field schedule for each age division.

Section 7. Advancement.

- a. Upon approval by the TCC and Indiana Soccer, 13U-19U age division champions in the State Cup competition shall represent Indiana Soccer at the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championships.
- b. Upon approval by the TCC and Indiana Soccer, 13U-19U age division champions in the Presidents Cup competition shall represent Indiana Soccer at the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regionals Presidents Cup event.
- c. Teams participating State, Presidents, or Challenge Cup who have earned advancement from any preliminary round games to finals, from state level event to regional level event, or regional level event to national level event that refuse the advancement may be fined a minimum of \$1000 and may also be declared ineligible for any cup play the following year. The fine imposed will be due immediately upon withdrawal. The fine collected will be forwarded to the team selected to fill the vacancy to offset the travel expenses for that team.
- d. Age division champions in the Challenge Cup do not advance to a higher level of competitive play.

Rule 203. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. The State Cup.

13U – 19U teams will be eligible for the State Cup if all the following criteria are met:

- a. The team roster is comprised of properly registered youth players as defined by US Youth Soccer and Indiana Soccer and contains a minimum of 9 players from the team's league roster.
- b. The team has an approved Indiana Soccer roster, and that roster contains at least 50% Indiana resident players.
- c. The team roster contains no more than 5 transferred players from other clubs at the time of the roster freeze.
- d. The team has competed/entered in an Indiana Soccer approved league of at least 4 teams and play has consisted of a minimum of one game against each of three (3) different teams in that league in the current seasonal year. Teams in specific leagues or league levels are limited to the cup event in which they may participate and must meet the criteria listed in Section 5 below.
- e. The team is not a Select team according to Rule 101-s
- f. The team has submitted the entry form on time with proper payment and acknowledges the Indiana Soccer Code of Conduct.

Section 2. The Presidents Cup and Challenge Cup.

11U – 19U teams will be eligible for the Presidents Cup and 11U-17U teams will be eligible for Challenge Cup if all the following criteria are met:

- a. The team roster is comprised of properly registered youth players as defined by US Youth Soccer and Indiana Soccer and contains a minimum of 9 players from the team's league roster.
- b. The team has an approved Indiana Soccer roster.
- c. The team is not a Select team according to Rule 101-s.
- d. The team has submitted the entry form and proper payment.

- e. The team has competed/entered in an Indiana Soccer approved league of at least 4 teams and play has consisted of a minimum of one game against each of three (3) different teams in that league in the current seasonal year. Teams in specific leagues or league levels are limited to the cup event in which they may participate and must meet the criteria listed in Section 5 below.

Section 3. Team and Game Rosters

Every team entered in either the State Cup, President Cup, or the Challenge Cup shall have an Indiana Soccer approved Team Event Roster.

- a. Team Event Roster.

- (1). The Indiana Soccer Registrar shall approve the team roster.
- (2). Minimum team event roster limits are as follows:
 - i. 11U – 12U teams – 9 players
 - ii. 13U – 19U teams – 11 players
- (3). Maximum team event roster limits are as follows:
 - i. 11U – 12U teams – 16 players
 - ii. 13U – 19U teams – 22 players

- b. Game Roster.

- (1). The game roster for 11U-12U teams shall have a maximum of 16 players and a minimum of 7. The game roster for 13U-19U teams shall have a maximum of 18 players and a minimum of 7.
- (2). Every player listed on the game roster must be included on the team event roster to be eligible to participate with the team.
- (3). The Game Roster, for a specific game, will identify the players who will play in any particular game. Any additional players listed on the Team Event Roster, but not playing in a particular game, may be seated with the team in its technical area.
- (4). Players not listed on the Game Roster, but seated in technical area, will not dress in game uniforms as are those players participating and listed on the Game Roster.
- (5). These non-playing persons of the team will be considered team members and will be held to the same standards of conduct specified in **Law 5** as team officials. Although these teams' members and team officials cannot commit misconduct or be shown a card, they may be ordered from the field for irresponsible behavior. Any player so ordered will not be allowed to participate in their next scheduled Cup game.

Section 4. The Roster Freeze Date

At a date determined by Indiana Soccer, in accordance with this Section and Rule 104-4, the rosters of all teams participating in the State Cup, President Cup, and the Challenge Cup will be frozen after which no team may make any player change to their Cup roster. The roster, as of the date of the roster freeze, is the roster the team must play with throughout the duration of their participation in the state level of their respective cup competition. State Cup teams advancing to Regional and National Championship levels and may add or change club pass players in accordance with the rules and policies set forth by US Youth Soccer and the Region II rules that govern participation in those events. Presidents Cup teams advancing to Regional and National Championship levels may add guest players and/or club pass players in accordance with the rules and policies set forth by US Youth Soccer and the Midwest Region that govern participation in those events. Coaching changes may be made at any time for any cup event.

Section 5. Premier Level of League Play

- a. For the purpose of State Cup, President Cup, and Challenge Cup competitions, the premier level of play

will be defined by the TCC at the time Cup applications are posted and opened on-line. Premier level includes, but is not limited to the following leagues:

- (1). US Youth Soccer Elite 64 League
 - (2). The US Youth Soccer National League, including the Midwest Conference & Great Lakes Conference
 - (3). The Indiana Soccer League (ISL), Premier Division
- b. It is mandatory for all Elite 64, Midwest Conference, Great Lakes Conference, and ISL Premier teams to apply for STATE Cup. Not all of these teams will be accepted into STATE Cup. Some teams will be placed in Presidents Cup during the team seeding process. During the application process, all teams will be given the opportunity to tell the selection committee where you desire to be placed even if you are a Midwest Conference, Great Lakes Conference, or ISL Premier team and had to apply to STATE Cup. Teams not playing in the Elite 64, Midwest Conference, Great Lakes Conferences, or ISL Premier may apply for any cup provided they are in compliance with Rule 203 Section 1-3 listed above.
- c. The TCC has the right to determine final team placement in the State Cup, President Cup, or the Challenge Cup.

Rule 204. FORFEITS FOR FAILURE TO COMPETE

Section 1. Withdrawal from Competition

- a. Any team that withdraws from these competitions after having entered the competition, but before the Cup selections/seeding (State & Presidents Cup) or draw (Challenge Cup), shall not be penalized.
- b. Any team that withdraws after the brackets have been posted, but before the schedules have been officially published, shall forfeit its registration fee.
- c. Any team that withdraws after the schedules have been officially published shall forfeit its registration fee, and may be suspended from all Cup competition for the following Cup year. The Club to which that team belongs may be subject to a fine of up to \$500.00.

Section 2. Missing Games

- a. Any team missing a particular game during any Cup event for any reason shall forfeit their entry fee and the Club to which that team belongs may be subject to a fine of up to \$500.00.
- b. Any team, who forfeits a game in Preliminary Round play for any reason, will not be allowed to advance to the Semi-Final/Final round of competition.

Rule 205. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. General

Each player and coach must have an approved Indiana Soccer player/coach pass. The pass must be signed by the State Registrar, contain the Indiana Soccer seal, contain a picture of the individual and then be laminated on both sides.

Section 2. The State Cup

- a. Club Pass Players. Teams may Club Pass players for State Cup competition. A Club Pass process is provided to clubs to designate these players. The Club Pass players must be designated by the roster freeze deadline.

- b. Transferred Players. A transferred player is defined in Rule 101z. Teams may not carry more than five (5) transferred players (previously registered with a different club) on their Official State Cup Roster. Teams with more than five (5) transferred players (previously registered with a different club) on their roster at the roster freeze date will be considered ineligible for State Cup play.
- c. Players may only play for one team in the National Championships competition in the same seasonal year.
- d. Players must be listed on the team's Official Indiana Soccer State Cup Roster as of the roster freeze date.

Section 3. The Presidents Cup and Challenge Cup

- a. Club Pass Players. Teams may Club Pass players for State Cup competition. A Club Pass process is provided to clubs to designate these players. The Club Pass players must be designated by the roster freeze deadline.
- b. Transferred Players. There is no limit on transferred players on a team's official Cup roster for the President's Cup or Challenge Cup.
- c. Players must be listed on the team's Official Indiana Soccer State Roster as of the roster freeze date.

Rule 206. BREACH OF RULES

Section 1. Investigations.

It is the responsibility of the Cup Protest Committee to investigate and render a decision on a properly protested alleged violation immediately following its receipt.

Failure of any team, coach, player, or parent to cooperate with that investigation or accept the decision of the Protest Committee may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension.

Section 2. Disciplinary Actions

Any team found guilty of using an ineligible player will forfeit the game in which the ineligible player participated and is not eligible to compete further in the Cup competition in the current seasonal year. Other sanctions may also be taken against that player or team. Any coach, manager, or team official found guilty of knowingly using an ineligible player is not eligible to compete further in the Cup competitions in the current and subsequent seasonal year. A player found guilty of submitting falsified birth information is prohibited from competing further in the Cup competitions in the current and subsequent seasonal year. These violations may not be appealed.

Rule 207. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

Section 1. Protest

- a. The Protest Committee. The Cup Director shall appoint the Protest Committee. The Cup Director, or a designated representative, shall serve as Chairperson. Protest Committee members will not participate in decisions involving or affecting players/teams from Clubs of which they are members.
- b. Qualifications. All questions related to the qualifications of competitors, interpretation of rules, or any dispute or protest whatever, shall be in writing and be referred to the Cup Protest Committee, whose decisions shall be final.
- c. Protest Submission. An official protest must be submitted in writing, by the team's Head Coach as listed on the Team Roster, using the protest form provided by the TCC. For play-in games, the protest will be submitted to the Indiana Soccer State Office, ATTN: Cup Protest Committee, no later than 24-hours following the conclusion of the game being protested. For all other games, the protest will be submitted directly to the Cup Director, or a designated representative, within one (1) hour after the conclusion of the game being protested. Referee's judgment will not be a basis for protest.

- d. Protest Bond. A \$350 bond must accompany all protests. Club check or cash will be accepted as payment. If the protest is upheld the bond will be returned. If the protest is denied, the bond will be retained.
- e. Notifications/Procedure. Upon receipt of an official protest, the Cup Director, or a designated representative at the Site location, will notify the Head Coach of the teams involved that a protest has been filed. The Cup Director, or designated representative, will convene the Protest Committee as soon thereafter as is reasonably possible upon receipt of the protest. The Committee may elect to hear from any or all witnesses wishing to testify and may solicit such testimony from game officials, teams, and other witnesses. The Protest Committee will make its decision as soon as is reasonably possible after all information is received. All decisions are to be made in accordance with these rules and the guidelines set forth in FIFA Laws of the Game, the USSF Administrative Handbook, and US Youth Soccer.
- f. Decisions. The decisions of the Protest Committee shall be by a simple majority vote with the Cup Director, or designated representative, authorized to vote only in the event of a tie. At the conclusion, The Cup Director, or designated representative, will forward the decision of the Protest Committee to the Head Coach of both teams. A copy of the decision will be kept on file at the Indiana Soccer State Office.

Section 2. Appeals

- a. Process. Decisions of the Protest Committee may be appealed only to the TCC. An appeal must be made in writing and filed within 24 hours of receipt of the Protest Committee's decision accompanied by a \$350 bond fee. If the appeal is upheld, the bond will be returned.
- c. Decisions. Decisions of the TCC are final. Such decisions may be appealed to the Indiana Soccer Executive Director.

Rule 208. SCOREKEEPING AND GAME REPORTING

Section 1. Reporting

- a. Game Results will be posted on the Indiana Soccer web site within 48-hours of completion,
- b. The Cup Director will issue a preliminary tournament report to the Cup Committee and the Indiana Soccer Executive Director within 45 days of the completion of the tournament. The final report will be issued approximately 60 days following the conclusion of the event.

Rule 209. RECORDING OF "SEND-OFFS"

Section 1. Administration

The TCC at each site maintains a record of all infractions that result in send off's (red cards). This record is compiled from "Official Game Cards" completed and submitted by game referees.

Section 2. Retention of Player Cards

The Cup Committee will retain the pass card of a player or team official sent off until they are again eligible to participate.

Section 3. Send Offs

- a. Any player or team official receiving a sendoff from a game shall be ineligible to participate in that team's next Cup game. At the discretion of the Cup Committee, the suspension could be increased and could result in more than a one game suspension. No substitution shall be permitted for a player who has been sent off in a particular game.
- b. Sendoffs will carry over from one Cup year to the next Cup year. If a player/team official received a sendoff or was dismissed from the last game of any of the previous year's Cup events, that player/team official must sit out their one game suspension on the first game of the current year's Cup games or at the first game of

Regional competition if the team has advanced to the Regional level. This also applies to a sendoff received in the last game of regional or national play.

c. Player Send Off's.

- (1). A player shown a red card (send-off) from a game must remain seated at the coach's side at all times during the remainder of the game. The coach will be responsible for the action(s) of the sent off player.
- (2). If a sent-off player seated on the bench causes a disturbance, the player may be ejected from the site. The TCC may take action against the coach if the sent off player violates the spirit of this rule.
- (3). The player's official pass will be held by the referee and turned in to the tournament headquarters immediately following the conclusion of the game. The card will be held at the tournament headquarters until the game suspension is served.

d. Team Official Send Off's.

- (1). Team officials playing in the Cup competitions are expected to exhibit the highest level of sportsmanship.
 - (2). A team official sent off from a game must completely leave the playing site area and cannot return to the playing field after the completion of the game. The term "playing site area" for the purpose of these Cup games is defined by the TCC as an area where the play cannot be seen or heard. A member of the Cup Committee or his designee at the playing site will escort the team official from the playing area.
 - (3). The team official sent off is not allowed to have any contact with the team, in any form, for the remainder of the match. The team official sent off will not participate with coaching the team or providing any technical or tactical information in any visible or audible manner. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of any form of electronic means (i.e., cell phone, 2-way radio) or communicating through a third party.
 - (4). The team official that has been sent off will serve a one game suspension (or more at the discretion of the TCC). The suspension must be served during the next cup game for that team. The official will not be allowed near the playing site area, as described above, during that game and will not be allowed to have contact with the team during the game.
- 1). Any team official sent off from a game will be assessed a \$250 fine and may be paid immediately at tournament headquarters. The CLUB will be responsible if not paid by the team official.**
 - 2). A Club Coach (carded as an official club coach) who is sent off will not be permitted to participate with any team in any way for the rest of the competition. (Example: a club coach sent off during the preliminary rounds could not return for the remainder of the preliminary rounds but could return for the finals. If the club coach is sent off in the finals, he or she could not return for the duration of the finals competition.)
 - 3). Any CLUB COACH that is sent off will be fined \$500.00 and may be paid immediately at tournament headquarters. The CLUB will be responsible if not paid by the Club Coach.**
 - 4). The team official's pass will be held by the referee and turned in to the tournament headquarters immediately following the conclusion of the game. The card will be held at the tournament headquarters until the game suspension(s) is served.

Section 4. Reporting.

The Cup Director will forward to the appropriate Midwest Region Cup Director a list of all send-offs that must be served during the Midwest Region games for both the National Championship Series and Presidents Cup.

Section 5. Reviews.

The TCC shall review each send-off to determine if additional penalties should be recommended to the Indiana Soccer Disciplinary Committee.

Rule 210. PASSES AND ROSTERS

Section 1. Player Passes.

Players who do not have a proper player pass will NOT be allowed to participate in the event with the team.

Section 2. Team Official's Passes.

There will be no more than four 4 team officials on the team side of the bench at any one time. Team officials who do not have a proper team official pass must receive authorization directly from the TCC. This authorization may be written or verbally communicated to the game referees. Team officials without a proper pass may be required to show a photo ID.

Section 3. Game Rosters.

The TCC will maintain a copy of the approved event roster for every team at headquarters.

Rule 211. PLAYING RULES

Section 1. "Laws of the Game."

All Cup games shall be played in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game, except as modified by USSF, US Youth Soccer, US Youth Soccer Midwest Region and/or Indiana Soccer.

Section 2. Start Times.

- a. All games will start at the scheduled time.
 - (1). The minimum number of players required to start a full sided game is seven (7), one of whom shall be designated as the goalkeeper.
 - (2). The minimum number of players required to start a small sided game is six (6), one of whom shall be designated as the goalkeeper.
 - (3). Any team with less than the minimum required number of players at the scheduled start time shall have their game declared a forfeit.
- b. If extenuating circumstances develop while a team is traveling to the game site, and less than the required minimum number of players are available to start at the start time, the Cup Director, or his designated representative at a Preliminary Round site, may grant an extended grace period. As soon as the minimum number of players has arrived, the game shall start. In no case will the grace period extend beyond 30 minutes from the originally scheduled start time, unless mutually agreed to by the home team, the Visiting team, and the Cup Director. Should the team not arrive by the mutually agreed adjusted time, the team requesting the delay will forfeit the game.

Section 3. Age Groups.

Except as otherwise provided, the length of game, overtime play periods, ball size, for each age group shall be as follows:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Game Length</u>	<u>Halftime</u>	<u>Overtime Play (Semi-Final/Finals)</u>	<u>Size</u>
17U/19U	2 X 45 halves	10 min	2 x 15' periods	#5

15U/16U	2 x 40' halves	10 min	2 x 15' periods	#5
13U/14U	2 x 35 halves	10 min	2 x 10' periods	#5
11U/12U	2 x 30' halves	10 min	2 x 10' periods	#4

Section 4. Ties after Regulation Play

- a. Play-in games will not end in a tie. If the game is tied at the end of regulation play, the game will continue with overtime play in accordance with Section 3 of this Rule. If the game remains tied after the end of the 2nd overtime period, FIFA “Kicks from the Mark” rules will apply to determine the winner.
- b. In Preliminary Round play, if the game is tied at the end of regulation play, the game will stand as a tie.
- d. Semi-final/final games will not end in a tie. In the Semi-Finals, if the game is tied after regulation play, the game will continue with overtime play in accordance with Section 3 of this Rule. If the game remains tied after overtime play, FIFA “Kicks from the Mark” Rules will apply to determine the winner.

Section 5. Kicks From the Mark

When taking FIFA “Kicks from the Mark” the following procedures will apply:

- a. Each team shall select five (5) players to kick from the players on the field at the conclusion of the overtime play period. When a team finishes the match with a greater number of players than their opponents, they shall reduce their number to equate with that of their opponents and inform the referee of the name and number of each player excluded. The team captain has this responsibility.
- b. The referee tosses a coin and the team whose captain wins the toss can choose to either kick or receive.
- c. Teams shall alternate kicks.
- d. If, before both teams have taken five (5) kicks, one team has scored more goals than the other team could, even if it were to complete its five kicks, taking kicks shall cease and the score reported.
- e. If, after both teams have taken five (5) kicks, both have scored the same number of goals or have not scored any goals, the taking of kicks shall continue, in the same order, until such time as both teams have taken an equal number of kicks and one team has scored a goal more than the other.
- f. Each kick is taken by a different player and all eligible players must take a kick before any player can take a second kick.

Section 6. Unfinished Games

Unfinished games due to any cause shall be replayed in their entirety if neither team is at fault, nor the second half play has not begun. If play is stopped during the second half and play cannot be resumed and if neither team is at fault, the Cup Committee may deem the game complete. However, if play is stopped at any time due to one of the teams being adjudged to be at fault, it shall be at the discretion of the Cup Committee whether the game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit. Games that must be played to determine the outcome of a bracket will be given priority over games that have no bearing on the outcome of a bracket.

Section 7. Coaching Limitations and Dissent

- a. One team official at a time may convey tactical instructions to the players during the match. All team officials must remain within the confines of the technical area. They must behave in a responsible manner. No team official or spectator is allowed behind the goal during a game. The technical area is limited to players and no more than four (4) team officials.
- b. There shall be no dissent between players/team officials and the referee. Questioning the referee is considered dissent. Team officials are expected to solicit the support of their fans in monitoring this policy. Field Marshals and tournament officials are authorized to have unruly spectators removed from the playing area.

Section 8. Home Team

The team listed first shall always be the Home Team. The team listed as the Home Team will wear light jerseys. The team listed as the Visitor will wear dark jerseys. If a conflict should arise, the inappropriately dressed team will change or forfeit.

Section 9. Scores and Standings

- a. The standing of teams within brackets is based upon the number of points earned in qualifying games. Teams earn points as follows:
 - Three (3) points for a win (including forfeits)
 - One (1) point for a tie, and
 - Zero (0) points for a loss
- b. In the event of a forfeited game, the team forfeiting the game will not be allowed to advance out of their group to the semi-finals. The team declared the winner of a forfeited game shall receive three (3) points for the win and a score of 4-0. No other scoring points will be awarded. All games previously played against the forfeiting team shall be rescored 4-0 with 3 points awarded for the win; all remaining games to be played against the team forfeiting will be scored in the same manner.

Section 10. Tie Breakers

- a. If two or more teams are tied, the tiebreaker sequence below will be followed until the tie is clearly broken. At any point where a team is eliminated after a particular tiebreaker is applied to all teams, and two or more teams still remain tied, the remaining tied teams will then restart at point "1" in the sequence below, until the tie is broken.
- b. The tiebreaker rules for determining standings at the end of the Preliminary Rounds will be:
 - (1). Winner of head-to-head competition (this criterion will not be used if more than two teams are tied)
 - (2). Winner of most games
 - (3). Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum differential of four goals per game)
 - (4). Goals scored for (with a maximum of 4 goals per game)
 - (5). Fewest goals allowed
 - (6). To determine bracket winners, tied teams will use kicks from the mark to determine who advances.
 - (7). To determine WILDCARD winners, tied teams from the same bracket will use FIFA Kicks from the Mark (Rule 211, Section 5) to determine who advances. Tied teams from different brackets will be scheduled a separate game to be played at a mutually agreeable date and time. The teams will have 48 hours after the conclusion of their preliminary round games to agree on a date. If the teams fail to agree on a date, the TCC will select the date and time. The TCC will determine the location. (Rationale – teams in the same bracket have already played to a tie, kicks from the mark will determine the winner. Teams from different brackets have not yet played head-to-head.)

Section 11. Substitutions

All games shall be played with the substitution rules outlined in the FIFA Laws of the game with the exceptions outlined below:

- a. Exceptions – State Cup: 13U-14U games.

- (1) If the referee dismisses a goalkeeper, the referee may allow the team to replace the goalkeeper with another player. The team must still play short with another player leaving the field of play.
 - (2) Substitutions shall be unlimited with the consent of the referee.
- b. Exceptions – State Cup: 15U-19U games.
- (1) Once a player leaves the field for a substitute, the player may not re-enter the game during the same half-time period. At the start of the second half-time period, all players are re-eligible for play.
 - (2) For purposes of substitution, overtime will be considered a third period and all players will be eligible for play.
 - (3) Substitution may occur on any stoppage of play with the referee’s approval.
 - (4) If a player is removed from the game and no substitute enters the game for the player (team plays short), the original player may re-enter the game. Entry shall be at a normal substitution point (with the approval of the referee) or at any point during the game if the referee signals for the player to re-enter.
- c. Exceptions – Presidents Cup and Challenge Cup: all games.
- (1) If the referee dismisses a goalkeeper, the referee may allow the team to replace the goalkeeper with another player. The team must still play short with another player leaving the field of play.
 - (2) Substitutions shall be unlimited with the consent of the referee at the following times:
 - Prior to a throw-in in your team's favor (If team in possession is subbing, then both teams may sub)
 - Prior to a goal kick by either team
 - After any goal
 - At half-time
 - At half-time of any overtime period

Rule 212. REFEREE ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. The SRA

The State Referee Administrator (SRA) or their designee is responsible for obtaining, training, scheduling, and assessing game officials.

Section 2. Conflict of Interest

Any referee appointed to officiate in a Cup competition shall not be a present member of either of the competing teams or clubs.

Section 3. Referee Responsibilities

The duties of the referee and assistant referee are as defined in the “Laws of the Game.”

Section 4. Non-Performance of a Referee

In the event the appointed referee fails to appear the SRA, or their designee will provide replacement referees. At no time will a two-person referee system be allowed.

Rule 213. OFFICIAL GAME CARD

Section 1. Completion

The official records of tournament games are the game cards filled out by the game referees and retained by the Cup Director. Indiana Soccer and the TCC, in consultation with the Referee Committee, will establish the format and content of the card.