

Commissioner's Cup Rules and Regulations



Revised and Approved Nov. 8, 2023

Disclaimer: These rules are subject to change based on changes from USYS. All Regional scheduling will be at the discretion of the respective Regional Vice President with input from the Regional Board. All Regional round of play locations will be determined based on the number of teams entered into the event, hosting agreements, and field availability. There is a high chance that travel will be required.

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The competition is open to 11U-17U teams that meet all team eligibility requirements. 11U and 12U age groups will have a Division 1 and a Division 2. All other age groups will have one division. There will be no heading allowed in the 11U and 12U divisions in this tournament. Age groups in 15U and up may be combined as needed based on the number of teams entered. The determination to combine will be done by the Regional Vice President based on need.

I. Administration

- A. A Commissioner's Cup Committee will be established to oversee the administration of the competition. The commission will have the authority to decide on all Commissioner's Cup matters, including interpretation of rules and regulations, development and implantation of rules and regulations, development and implementation of policies and procedures. The committee will be comprised of the (4) Regional Vice Presidents, (1) staff member (to be appointed by the Vice President of Competition).
- B. The Commissioner's Cup Committee and/or FYSA will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by any team due to the cancellation in part or in the whole of the tournament or for any travel incidental to the competition.

II. Eligibility

A. Team Eligibility

- 1. For 13U-17U age groups, teams participating in the highest level of any Florida Youth Soccer sanctioned league are not eligible to participate in Commissioner's Cup unless a waiver is granted by the Commissioner's Cup Committee. Teams who participate in the Florida State Premier League (FSPL) in Division 2, may apply and their application will be reviewed for eligibility and competitive balance by the Commissioner's Cup Committee. 11U and 12U teams are excluded from this rule.
- 2. Teams may only enter Commissioner's Cup in the age group of their oldest player, based on the roster at the time of entry. After entry, teams may not release players in order to qualify for a younger age group; no team may enter an age group for which they do not have at least one player of that age rostered at the time of roster freeze.
- 3. Teams participating in Commissioner's Cup must reside in the State of Florida and be registered with FYSA.
- 4. All teams will be reviewed for eligibility and proper placement to make a final determination.
- 5. Failure to comply with one or more of the Team Eligibility requirements will result in the team's disqualification from Commissioner's Cup and forfeiture of entry fee. Additional sanctions may be enforced according to noncompliance rules or at the discretion of the Commissioner's Cup Committee.

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B. Player Eligibility

1. Only players in good standing with current, valid, laminated, signed by the registrar, and verified US Youth Soccer player passes with a current photo will be allowed to play providing they have met and completed all registration procedures per FYSA Rules and Regulations.
2. Players may only be rostered to a team as primary players or club pass. Secondary or guest players are prohibited from participating in Commissioner's Cup.
3. Teams are limited to a total of five (5) club pass players per team.
4. Players may only participate on one Commissioner's Cup team.
5. Players may not be simultaneously rostered to any other team participating in Commissioners Cup or to any team participating in Presidents Cup or State Cup at the time of or after the roster freeze. Once the team has been eliminated from Commissioner's Cup competition players may be eligible to be transferred to Presidents Cup or State Cup teams if prior to their respective roster freeze dates and permitted by the respective competition rules.
6. It shall be solely the club's responsibility to determine the eligibility of its players. It is the responsibility of the team to notify the site director of any player or coach suspension from a tournament, league play, etc. at the time of check-in.
7. Failure to comply with one or more of the player eligibility requirements will result in the player's disqualification from Commissioner's Cup and forfeiture of any previous games in which the ineligible player participated. Additional sanctions may be enforced according to non-compliance rules or at the discretion of the Commissioner's Cup Committee.

C. Coach Eligibility

Only coaches in good standing with current, valid, laminated signed by the registrar and verified US Youth Soccer Passes with a current photo CDC approved and risk management approved and SafeSport Trained will be allowed to coach providing they have met and completed all registration procedures per FYSA Rules and Regulations.

D. Team/Application/Roster

Any changes and/or corrections must be made in accordance with FYSA registration procedures before the roster freeze date. It is the clubs' responsibility to ensure all changes or corrections are complete and accurate prior to the roster freeze date. Coaches can be added after the roster freeze date with the approval of the Vice President of the respective region or FYSA Director of Competition for the State Finals stage.

1. Application

The Commissioner's Cup is limited to US Youth/FYSA registered teams in the 11U through 17U age groups. The application must be entered online in GotSport using an FYSA registered account in order for a team to be accepted into the competition and can be entered by the club registrar

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or a registered team staff member rostered to that team that received access to the FYSA GotSport team account. The application cost will be published on the Commissioner's Cup web page.

2. Roster Size

All teams must not have more than the maximum allowed number of players on the roster at the freeze date. Roster maximums and requirements for age groups are as follows:

- a) 11U and 12U teams may have a roster of sixteen (16) players at roster freeze.
- b) 13U-17U teams may have a roster of twenty-two (22) players at roster freeze.
- c) Secondary, and Guest players will be dropped from the event roster at the time of roster freeze.
- d) Failure to comply with one or more of the roster eligibility requirements will result in the player's disqualification from Commissioner's Cup play and forfeiture of any previous games in which the ineligible player participated. Additional sanctions may be enforced according to non-compliance rules or at the discretion of the Commissioner's Cup Committee.

3. Roster Freeze

The roster freeze date is the final date by which all changes, additions, or deletions may be made to a team's roster. All-time reference Eastern Standard Time (EST). All team event rosters will be frozen at 5:00 pm, ten days prior to the start of the first round of regional play for each age group.

Once the roster has been frozen in the commissioner cup event no player activity can occur to the team's roster. Any player change will result in the team being disqualified from the competition. Coaches/Volunteers may be added after the roster freeze date.

III. Competition Format

A. Regional Authority

- 1. The Regional Vice Presidents in conjunction with the Commissioner's Cup Committee will determine their respective Commissioner's Cup's dates, number of rounds, type of each round, and progression of advancing teams in each group in each region. The blind draw for each region will be conducted by the Regional Vice Presidents. The winner of each age group will advance to the FYSA Commissioner's Cup State Finals at the Lake Myrtle Sports Complex in Auburndale. If a region fails to have a team available for an age group, a blind draw will be conducted by the State office to fill the vacant spot.

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B. Determination of Standings

1. In any elimination match, overtime procedures will be instituted. In group play, there will be no overtime matches. Standings in a group will be determined as defined below. In no case, once a tiebreaker has been used will it be revisited if a team is eliminated. Points and tie- break criteria do not carry over to subsequent group play rounds.
 - a) First is game points 3 points for a win
 1 point for a tie
 0 points for a loss
 - b) Second as follows:
 - 1) Head-to-head competition (not used for 3 or more teams are tied in points); if no clear winner then
 - 2) Net Goal differential (NGD) calculated as goals scored minus goals allowed, with a maximum NGD of +/- of five (5) per match, if no clear winner, then
 - 3) Least goals against (no limit to the number of goals allowed); if no clear winner then
 - 4) Penalty kicks in accordance with FIFA "Penalty Shootout"
 - c) If three or more teams are still tied, then:
 - 1) In the event three (3) teams are tied at the end of group play and are tied through all the above tiebreakers, the Site Director will hold a random draw with the first team drawn sitting out. The other two teams will then take kicks at the mark to establish a winner. The winner of this will then participate in kicks at the mark with the team that initially sat out the first round and the winner will advance. If a 2nd team advances from this group, kicks from the mark will be taken by the 2 teams that lost their kicks from the mark pairing to determine the next team to advance.
 - 2) In the event that four (4) teams tie at the end of group play, the site director will hold a random draw with the first team drawn will participate in kicks from the mark against the second team drawn. The third and fourth teams will also participate in kicks from the mark. The two winners will then take kicks from the mark with the winning team advancing. If a 2nd team advances, the losing team in this pairing will be the next advancer.

IV. Rules of Play

A. Laws of the Game

1. All games shall be in accordance with FIFA, US Soccer, and FYSA Constitutions, By-laws, Rules and Regulations, and US Youth Soccer Rules except as noted within Commissioner's Cup rules.

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2. Heading in the 11U and 12U Divisions

- a) There will be no heading for the 11U and 12U divisions for this tournament.
- b) If a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.
- c) If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.

B. Game length

The duration of the match for all rounds is noted below. Overtime shall be used in Elimination rounds. Game can end in a tie during the Group play rounds. Game lengths can be reduced due to scheduling constraints or extreme external circumstances.

Age Group	Game Length	Overtime
15U-17U	2x40	2x15
13U-14U	2x35	2x10
11U-12U	2x30	2x10

C. Ball Size

The size of the ball to be supplied by the home team will be:

1. 11U-12U Size 4 Ball 25–26-inch circumference 11-13 oz.
2. 13U-17U Size 5 ball 27–28-inch circumference 14-16 oz.

D. Number of players

1. 11U and 12U will play nine (9) a side including a goalkeeper
2. 13U-17U will play eleven (11) a side including goalkeeper

E. Substitutions

1. Will be allowed at any stoppage by either team with the referee's permission
2. Substitutions for this tournament shall be unlimited.

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F. Player Equipment

1. Each player shall have a number on their jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Duplicate numbers are not permitted. Numbers are not required for goal keepers.
2. In the event of a uniform color conflict, the team designated as the home team will wear light colored jerseys and socks, and the team designated as the away team will wear dark colored jerseys and socks. The team causing the conflict will need to change jerseys and socks.
3. All player equipment, including cleats, orthopedic braces, shin guards, and jewelry, must be in compliance with FYSA rule section 402.
4. At every level of the Commissioners Cup competition, each player, team, and team official may only have on his/her/their apparel the name, logo, or other identifying mark of US Youth soccer or a member directly or indirectly of US Youth Soccer. A name, logo, or other identifying marks of any youth soccer organization other than US Youth Soccer or its member must be removed, replaced, or covered before a player, team, or team official may enter or remain at a field complex where the Commissioner's Cup competition is being held. After an initial warning pursuant to above, the name, logo, or other identifying marks of any youth soccer organization other than US Youth Soccer or its member must be removed before the player; team or team official may enter or continue in the competition.

G. Water Breaks

When temperatures are at or expected to reach eighty-five (85) degrees or higher, a break will be given at the midpoint of each half of regulation time and at the end of each overtime period (if played) for player hydration. This break will be given at a normal stoppage of play. This break will be a maximum of one (1) to two (2) minutes of time. The tournament director has the ability to add additional water breaks if necessary.

H. Mercy Rule

Mercy rules are applicable within Commissioner's Cup when the goal differential reaches 8-0 in the second half. The teams must play the entirety of the first half.

V. Pre-game Procedures

- A. For all rounds, a representative (Coach/Manager) from each team may be requested to be at the site no less than one hour (1) prior to their scheduled game time, for check-in with the Site Director.
- B. At the time of check-in, the coach must inform the officials and note on the roster any player who will not participate in the match due to suspension (i.e., for a previous red card), 13-17U teams with more than 18 players must declare the active 18 for the match prior to going to the field of play.
- C. Failure to comply with pre-game procedures will result in a \$50 fine. Extenuating circumstances may be considered by a Commissioners Cup Committee member.

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- D. Each team must have a medical release form for each player in its possession.
- E. For all Rounds prior to the match, the Coach/Manager will pay each game's referee fees to the Center Referee at the field. No fees No play.

Referee Fees			
Age Groups	Total Per Team	Center Referee	Asst Referee
11U/12U	\$60	\$50	\$35
13U/14U	\$70	\$60	\$40
15U/16U/17U	\$75	\$70	\$40

- F. The game card will be given to the center referee once the teams have checked in with the site director. Referees may only accept the official game card for the match. Player and Coach passes will be presented to the referee for check-in on the field and verify jersey numbers for each player on the roster that will participate in the game.
- G. The referee will check the player's identity with his pass and will check the player's equipment. Only at this time may a player be challenged. The referee will note the challenged player's name on the game report, and a staff member of the team requesting the challenge must inform the Site Director of the Challenge. The player will be allowed to play. No player's identity can be challenged or protested after the start of each game.
- H. No more than four (4) team staff members are allowed on the side with the team. All must have the appropriate U.S. Youth Soccer pass and be listed on the FYSA team roster. At the discretion of the site director and with appropriate credentials a coach or manager may be written in on the game card.
- I. A player who arrives at the playing field after the start of the game may enter the game after showing his/her pass to and being checked by the referee/assistant referee. (If the player's pass was not checking in with the team passes, the player must first be checked in by the site director who will have the pass sent out to the field by a field marshal).
- J. A team will be allowed a fifteen (15) minute grace period from the scheduled game time before awarding the match to the opponent. Failure to meet scheduled play will automatically require payment of a forfeiture fine. A match shall be started as soon as the minimum number of players or a rostered coach/manager as required under the Laws of the Game is present. A forfeited match shall be recorded as a 5-0 score in favor of the opponent. The site director in accordance with the Commissioner's Cup Committee can extend the 15-minute time allocation due to unforeseen circumstances.
- K. Control of sidelines
 - 1. Players, managers, coaches, and fans are expected to conduct themselves within the letter and spirit of The Laws of the Game. The Site Directors shall have the authority and responsibility to remove any person(s) from the tournament for abuses of good conduct without warning; in addition to the rules of good manners, these rules will apply in this competition:

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2. The Site Director will designate one sideline for the sole use of the players, coaches, and spectators with the opposing team taking the opposite sideline, except when specific facility guidelines are in place.
3. A restraining line may be drawn four (4) yards from the side touchline and all sideline viewers must remain outside of that line.
4. Coaches will be accountable for the behavior of their fans and maybe ejected for non-compliance.
5. All Coaches are required to remain within their technical area and should remain seated on their respective benches (if provided), except to give tactical instructions, or to make substitutions. The use of cell phones from the bench sidelines is prohibited. Violators are subject to dismissal from the match.

VI. Post-Game Procedures

At the completion of the match, the referee/assistant referee will return all player and coach passes to the team at the field. The referee will complete the Game Report, ensure that both teams sign the completed Game Report, compile any other reports as may be required, and give the report(s) to the Site Director.

VII. Unfinished games

- A. Unfinished games due to any cause shall be replayed providing neither team is at fault and the first half of the match has not been completed. If play is stopped after the completion of the first half and play cannot be resumed, and provided neither team is at fault, the game is considered complete. Any match that is not played or terminated where both teams are at fault will be marked as a "No Contest." A match that is labelled a "No Contest" may be rescheduled at the discretion of the Commissioner's Cup Committee.
- B. Should play be stopped at any time in the second half due to one of the teams being adjudged at fault, it shall be at the discretion of the Committee as to whether the game is to be replayed, complete with the score at the time of stoppage, or declared a forfeit in favor of the team not adjudged at fault.
- C. In the event unusual conditions necessitate rescheduling, curtailment or cancellations of games, the Commissioner's Cup Committee shall have absolute authority to make changes to best serve the interest of the tournament.

VIII. Discipline

- A. It shall be the club's, teams, and coach's responsibility to determine the status of its players. It is the responsibility of the team to notify the Site Director of any suspensions from a tournament, local league, Region cup, prior year's State Cup, etc. that is to be served, at the time of player's check-in (see pre-game check-in).
- B. Any team playing a suspended player or coached by a suspended coach shall be immediately disqualified from Cup Competition. All games played by this team will be considered as forfeits with a score of 5-0 in favor of the opponent.

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C. Ejections

1. A player or coach ejected will have at least a one- (1) game suspension. A player/coach may receive more than a one-game suspension based on the severity of the actions. The minimum suspensions for unacceptable conduct will be in accordance with FYSA's discipline procedures.
2. A player that receives a red card may remain on the team bench for the remainder of the match provided the player does not cause any additional problems. If further issues are created by the red-carded player, additional penalties may be imposed against the player and/or coach. A player under the age of eighteen (18) may leave the site if they are accompanied by a parent or guardian only.
3. Any coach ejected must leave the Site immediately following an ejection. An ejected Coach shall not return to the site for subsequent matches until the suspension has been served. Coaches who coach more than one team will not be eligible to coach during games of other teams until the suspension is served with the original team with which the coach received his ejection. Failure to comply may result in the match being declared a forfeit.
4. Coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained herein, including cautions, ejections, and standard suspensions. Any other individual, who may be reasonably construed, as being associated with a team such as relatives and spectators, shall also be subject to the jurisdiction and authority of this Association. Any coach or team official shall be held responsible for the actions of any individual(s) at any match, that in the opinion of the referee, is a supporter of that team.

IX. Forfeits

- A. All games declared a forfeit shall be recorded as a 5-0 score in favor of the opponent.
- B. In the case that actions by both teams would result in a forfeited match neither team will receive points for the match. In the case that the game is a part of a knock-out round, neither team will advance to the following round.
- C. All forfeits are subject to fines according to the parameters set within section X nonperformance.

X. Non-Performance

- A. Affiliates may be fined for teams withdrawing from the competition, failing to show for a scheduled match, etc. player, coach, or team misconduct reflecting adversely upon the Competition or FYSA, actions requiring law enforcement being called, or conduct deemed unsatisfactory by the Commissioner Cup Committee. The minimum fines for the following offenses shall be as follows:
 1. Team withdraws after the close of registration and before the draw date; \$500 plus entry fee
 2. Team withdraws after the draw date but before the schedule is posted \$800 plus entry fee

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3. Team withdraws after the schedule is posted \$1000 plus entry fee
4. Team withdraws after the schedule is posted and before roster freeze \$1200 plus entry fee
5. Team withdraws after roster freeze \$1500 plus entry fee
6. Team withdraws after preliminary round \$2500
7. Failure to meet scheduled match \$800 and all referee fees for the match
8. Failure to fulfill the obligation to compete in FYSA Commissioner's Cup Final event after winning the regional competition will result in a \$2,500 fine to the Club.
9. The Commissioners Cup Committee reserves the right to require a club to post a performance bond of up to \$500 per team prior to the start of the tournament in response to a club's history of non- performance. During the event, the Commissioners Cup Committee may also require a club to post a performance bond prior to the team's next game in cases of non-compliance. In cases where a club has posted a performance bond and commits one of the Non-Performance offenses above, the performance bond will be forfeited in addition to the sanctions listed.

B. Protest and Appeals For a protest to be considered, the following procedure will be followed:

1. No protest on referee judgment or discretion calls will be accepted.
2. Verbal notification of intention to protest must be given to the site director immediately following the match.
3. All protests must be in writing, delivered to the site director within one hour of the conclusion of the match. A protest fee of \$400 must accompany the protest, along with all supporting documentation delivered to the site director. The protest must be submitted and signed by a team rostered official. The fee must be a money order or cash. Personal checks are not accepted. The site director will then forward the protest fee with the written protest to the RVP of the region. The decision of the Commissioner's Cup Committee will be binding on all parties, allowing the competition to proceed. Only in the case of a successful protest will the protest fee be refunded.

C. Appeals

1. Any appeal of a decision not covered above must be filed with seven (7) days of the decision. The appeal must be filed and received at the FYSA State Office, in writing and be accompanied by a fee of \$400.00. This fee must be a money order, cash or club check. Personnel checks will not be accepted. Only in the case of a successful appeal will the fee be refunded. The chair will then present the appeal to the Commissioners Cup Protest and Appeals Committee for determination. The decision of the Commissioner's Cup Protest and Appeals Committee will be binding on all parties, allowing the competition to proceed.