

# **2025/2026 Missouri Presidents Cup Rules**



## **I. PURPOSE**

- a. These are the rules of the US Youth Missouri Presidents Cup. The Midwest Presidents Cup Championships and US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup Championship Series rules are part of the US Youth Soccer Missouri Presidents Cup Championship. Clubs, Leagues & Associations that register no less than 65% of their entire membership shall be accepted first; those with less than 65% of their membership registered with USYS/MYSA shall be accepted after the first group and shall be the first teams to be drawn for Qualifying Games, if necessary.

## **II. FORMAT**

- a. Each state association shall determine the format for the competitions. The format shall be a tournament format unless otherwise decided by the MYSA Cups Committee.

## **III. AGE DIVISIONS – (the U18 & U19 age groups shall be combined at all levels of Presidents Cup)**

- a. 13U – 19U Girls
- b. 13U – 19U Boys

## **IV. SEASONAL DIVISIONS**

- a. Fall Presidents Cup (15U – 19U Girls)
- b. Spring Presidents Cup (13U – 14U Girls and 13U – 19U Boys)

## **V. TEAM ELIGIBILITY**

- a. The Missouri Presidents Cup shall be open to eligible teams whose players are registered with US Youth Soccer through the State Association. The team must be in compliance with the following requirements:
  - i. The team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered youth players (as defined by US Youth Soccer and the Missouri Youth Soccer Association).

- ii. Teams cannot participate in National League Club P1 or Midwest Conference Premier I levels. Teams at the P1 level must participate in the Missouri State Cup and the USYS National Championship Series. This event accepts entry from the Premier 2 level NL Club and Midwest Conference and other approved leagues
  - iii. The team must be in good standing with the State Association and must be in compliance with, and not violated any of the bylaws and policies of US Youth Soccer and the Missouri Youth Soccer Association.
  - iv. The team must be entered in the competition of the Missouri Youth Soccer Association, in which at least 50 percent of its players must be domiciled.
- b. Every team participating in the National Presidents Championship competitions shall have an Official Missouri State Competitive Roster team roster and will present an official roster to the tournament administrators.
- i. *Team Roster* – The team roster shall be approved by the State Association where the team resides. The roster may have up to twenty-two (22) youth players on the team roster during the seasonal year and shall be uploaded to the event to become the game roster.
  - ii. *Game Roster* – For Presidents Cup, the game roster shall be prepared by Missouri Youth Soccer and given to the referee crew. The game day roster shall have a maximum of eighteen (18) players and a minimum of seven (7) players. Every player listed on the game roster must be included on the team roster to be eligible to participate with the team.

**By participating in any part of the Missouri State portion of a Presidents Cup competition, each team is accepting the possibility of advancement to any applicable Qualifiers or National competitions associated with the Missouri State competition and the possible costs and future availability of the team associated with such advancement including any fees imposed by USYS or MYSA for declining advancement.**

Furthermore, that team agrees to abide by all rules and direction including housing requirements, scheduling date & times, and deadlines imposed by all tournament committees during continued play in the Series.

## **VI. ROSTER REQUIREMENTS**

- a. Only primary and secondary registered players on the team roster are eligible for cup competition. As the winners from this event advance to the NC Qualifier of Presidents Cup, NO GUEST PLAYERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY.
- b. Any teams that have more than eighteen (18) players on their frozen team roster must designate on the game card (which the referees will have at the fields), which players will not be dressing out. Each player participating must have a unique player number on their jersey, use of tape or other temporary numbers is not allowed, a game official may choose to turn a jersey inside out and number the player 0 or 00 so they may participate. A coach placing players with duplicate numbers on the field shall receive a yellow card for such action.

## **VII. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- a. A club may issue a player pass to any youth player who is a registered youth player of the club before the team to which such youth player is to be rostered for state level of the Presidents Cup Series competitions submits its roster prior to Roster Freeze at the Missouri Presidents Cup.
- b. Missouri Youth Soccer is not required to consider as a rostered player a player on a school team when the State Association administers school programs
- c. A team may have on its team roster only players of the age group or younger for the seasonal year in which the team is participating in the National Presidents Cup Championships: 12-14U – 2 years max playing up, 15U & Up – 4 years max playing up.
- d. A player may only play for ONE TEAM during any segment of the Presidents Cup Series which can include: The Missouri Presidents Cup, the Presidents Cup Qualifier, and the National Presidents Cup Championships.
  - i. A player may not participate in more than one (1) Presidents Cup each year. For example, a team may not play in the Illinois Presidents Cup and then the Missouri Presidents Cup. They can only play in one or the other.
- e. Players who are on a roster of an advancing team from the Missouri Presidents Cup are not eligible to participate in the Missouri State Cup during the same seasonal year. This includes wildcard teams or multiple advancers from an age group.
- f. Players must be registered on teams within Missouri Youth Soccer Association.
- g. A player who has been suspended may play after the player's term of suspension has expired. Suspensions that are not served at this year's Presidents Cup will extend to the next Presidents Cup Series (PCS) event(s), which can include the following year's PCS event(s) as well.
- h. Each player participating shall always have a light and dark jersey and socks available. Jerseys shall have a unique number for each player. The goalkeeper is the only exception who is not required to have a numbered jersey. There is a \$150 team fine for not having jersey and /or socks to change when asked by a tournament or game official.

## **VIII. COACH AND MANAGER ELIGIBILITY**

- a. A team must always have an approved and licensed coach on their bench. If the coach is sent off and no assistant is available then the game shall end in a forfeit immediately.
- b. A maximum of four (4) bench personnel consisting of registered coaches, managers, and/or trainers with current seasonal year ID pass will be permitted on a team bench for each game.
- c. All bench personnel must have a valid and current coach's registration card (ID Pass) and have completed all requirements as part of their registration.
- d. It is the responsibility of the coaches of each team to know and administer all rules, policies and procedures associated with the USYS Presidents Cup series and to make sure that all associated players and personnel are also aware of said rules and procedures and any changes in those rules between competitions. Ignorance of rules or procedures is no excuse for any violation and the past performances, actions or non-actions of any group associated with the USYS Presidents Cup series shall not under any circumstance constitute a reason or acceptance for violating, ignoring or omitting any current rule, policy or requirement.

## **IX. RULE BREACHES – TEAM AND PLAYER**

- a. It is the responsibility of the Presidents Cup Committee to investigate a properly protested violation as soon as possible. Failure by a team coach or team manager to cooperate with that investigation shall result in disciplinary action up to including suspension.
- b. Any team found guilty of using an ineligible player is not eligible to compete further in the Presidents Cup Series competitions in the current seasonal year.
- c. Any coach, manager, or official found guilty of knowingly using an ineligible player is not eligible to compete further in the Presidents Cup Series competitions in the current year and two (2) subsequent seasonal years. In addition, said coach, manager, or official found guilty will participate in a hearing which may result in further suspension.
- d. A player found guilty of submitting falsified birth information is prohibited from competing further in Presidents Cup Series competitions in the current and subsequent seasonal year.
- e. Players – Players ejected from any Presidents Cup game shall not be allowed to compete in their team's next played Presidents Cup Series game. Player may not be replaced for the remainder of the game. Player passes for anyone ejected shall be surrendered to Presidents Cup officials. Player passes should be picked up from the tournament HQ or state office following the suspension. Players ejected from a game may be subject to additional penalties to be determined by a Hearing Committee appointed by the President and Presidents Cup Chairperson.
- f. Coaches/Managers/Trainers/Administrators – Any Coach, Manager, Trainer or Administrator sent off at Missouri Presidents Cup, Midwest Presidents Cup Championships or the National Presidents Cup Championship will result in a penalty of no involvement with that team for one (1) Presidents Cup Series game. Further suspension may be levied depending on the severity of the send-off. A hearing review will be conducted if the guilty individual wishes to appeal the suspension.
- g. Coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained in this policy, including cautions, ejections and standard suspension. Any other individuals who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team, such as relatives and spectators, are also subject to the jurisdiction and authority of Missouri Youth Soccer. Any coach or team official shall be held responsible for the actions of any individual at any game that, in the opinion of the referee, is a supporter of that team.
- h. Any suspension that is not fully served by the end of the Missouri Presidents Cup shall carry-over to the next Presidents Cup Series event. A suspension may carry-over into the next seasonal year.

## **X. COST**

- a. The entry fee for all age groups at the Missouri Presidents Cup will be posted on the MYSA website. Fee must be received at the MYSA office by the date specified on the MYSA website. Payment must be in the form of cashier's check, check, or online payment, cash is not accepted.
  - i. If a team participates in a qualifying game and is eliminated from the Presidents Cup Series competition, then a portion of their entry fee will be prorated back to the team.
  - ii. There is a minimum \$250 administration fee held from all payments.

## **XI. WITHDRAWAL & REFUND POLICY**

- a. All refund requests in respect to a team's withdrawal from the Missouri Presidents Cup, and application fee, will be subject to the judgment of the Missouri Presidents Cup Committee.  
*Refunds are not guaranteed.*
  - i. If a team seeks to withdraw from the Missouri Presidents Cup *prior* to the official Missouri Presidents Cup Draw, they may do so without penalty. The team will receive a refund, less any credit card fee, if the notification is submitted, received, and acknowledged by the MYSA State Office in a timely manner.
- b. If a team forfeits after Missouri Presidents Cup draw, the brackets will not be redrawn to be in compliance with Presidents Cup tournament format and no refund shall be given.
- c. If a team forfeits during the tournament, the team and/or club may be subject to an additional fine up to \$1,000 and suspension from the subsequent Missouri Presidents Cup tournament(s). Said fine and suspension will be determined by the Missouri Presidents Cup Committee.
- d. In the event of weather, in which games are cancelled, all refunds will be at the discretion of the Presidents Cup Committee
  - i. Teams that only get 1 game due to weather will be guaranteed a refund equal to the fixed costs of the event deducted from the entry fee (all broken down to the per/game amount).
  - ii. Teams that get 2 games due to weather will not be guaranteed a refund in the event of weather. It will be at the discretion of the Presidents Cup Committee if those teams receive a refund.

## **XII. APPLICATION DEADLINE**

- a. Applications and payment MUST be received in the Missouri Youth Soccer Association state office by the date posted on the tournament webpage and communicated to all participating teams with absolutely no exception.
- b. It is the responsibility of the applicant to confirm receipt of their application to make sure it has been received by the deadline dates listed above for the appropriate age divisions.

## **XIII. PROTEST PROCEDURES**

- a. All protests:
  - i. Shall be filed in writing and submitted by the head coach or a club director, no exceptions.
  - ii. Must contain the particular rule on the grounds upon which the protest is filed.
  - iii. Must be accompanied by the Appeal/Protest fee of \$750 in the form of money order or certified check payable to the Missouri Youth Soccer Association.
  - iv. Two (2) copies of the protest shall be logged with the Missouri Youth Soccer Association Presidents Cup Chairperson within two (2) hours following the match to whom it relates.
- b. All protests will be heard by the Missouri Presidents Cup Committee, which will be appointed by the Missouri Youth Soccer Association President and Missouri Presidents Cup Chairperson or by his/her representative.
- c. **Decisions of game officials are not grounds for protests:** The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play, including whether a goal is scored and the result of the match, and time keeping are

final. The referee may only change a decision on realizing that it is incorrect, or at his discretion, on the advice of an assistant referee or the fourth official, provided he has not restarted play or terminated the match.

- d. All decisions made by the Missouri Presidents Cup Committee will be final.

#### **XIV. TEAM CHECK-IN / GRACE PERIOD**

- a. Prior to the start of every game in the Missouri State Cup the MYSA Player ID and Coaches ID passes must be presented to the referee crew or designee. Player(s) without approved Player ID passes or generated on the Game Card may not play in Cup games or be on the team bench/sideline. Coaches without approved Coaches ID passes will not be allowed to be on the team bench/sideline. An injured player may be allowed on the bench with the team provided they are on the roster, are not dressed for the game, and have a player ID pass available.
- b. It is the coach or manager responsibility to retrieve their ID cards and verify that all cards are back in their possession. Any cards inadvertently left at fields shall be taken to Cup Headquarters.

Any team that arrives without the proper documentation shall have until the starting whistle of the second half of the game to produce such documentation and present it to the center referee or fourth official. If it is discovered that a player or coach has participated illegally during the game prior to the arrival of the documentation, then the game shall immediately be declared a forfeit. Any team not able to provide the required documentation prior to the starting whistle of the second half shall forfeit the game at that point. If single players or coaches documents are missing the game shall start on time, tournament HQ shall be notified of the issue immediately.

#### **XV. GAME FORMATS**

Divisions	Game Lengths	Overtime Periods	Ball Size
13/14	2 x 35 minutes	No Overtime	#5
15/16	2 x 40 minutes	No Overtime	#5
17/18/19	2 x 45 minutes	No Overtime	#5

**All halftimes are 10 minutes maximum. Tied games in regulation that require an advancing team shall go straight to kicks from the mark at the end of regulation.**

- a. Tie games at the end of regulation playing time in round-robin pool play will stand as a tie.
- b. No overtime periods are played
- c. In games requiring an advancing team: The outcome of games tied at the end of regulation shall be determined by using kicks from the penalty mark using only the players on the field at the end of the last overtime period.

- d. If a team finishes the match with a greater number of players than their opponent, they shall reduce their numbers to equate with that of their opponent and inform the referee of the name and number of each player excluded. The team captain shall have this responsibility. A coin toss shall be used to determine who kicks first (winner chooses which team shall kick first) and the game officials shall determine which goal the kicks from the marks shall be taken at based upon field or game conditions.
- e. **Both teams are required to bring both light and dark jerseys and socks.** The first team listed on the game card is the HOME team. The VISITING team is responsible for changing jerseys when there is a conflict, failure to have an alternate jersey and sock available will result in a \$100 fine per game and is applicable to both teams if necessary.

#### **XVI. SUBSTITUTIONS**

Unlimited substitutions shall be allowed for all ages. Referees may allow substitutions at any stoppage of play at their discretion. Referee may choose not to allow a substitution if it is felt that it is being used to slow play or use time.

#### **XVII. GAME CONDITIONS (WEATHER AND FIELDS)**

- a. Suspension of games due to weather and/or field conditions considered dangerous to the players shall be at the discretion of Presidents Cup Representative or game official if a Presidents Cup Representative is not available. If the first half of the game has been completed the game is official and shall not be re-started or replayed. If the game is stopped in the first half the game will be re-started from that point of the game.
- b. All weather suspensions will be determined by the Missouri Presidents Cup Committee representatives on site.

All Presidents Cup field size recommendations are to be within the US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup Series guidelines

For all games, the home team will provide the game ball. If the teams are unable to agree on a game ball, they will each submit a ball to the referee crew, who will then decide which ball to use.

### **CUP DRAW METHOD**

- a. The four (4) semi-finalists from the previous year's Missouri Presidents Cup shall be seeded if they are participating.
- b. A blind draw method will be used to determine the remainder of the bracket in all age divisions unless otherwise determined by the Missouri Youth Soccer Cups Committee.
  - a. The Cup Draw will be held at the location of the Host Organization or at the choosing of the Missouri Presidents Cup Chairperson.
  - b. Clubs, Leagues, Associations that register less than 60% of their teams with USYS/MYSA shall be the first teams entered into a Qualifying Game regardless of their previous seeding.

### **XVIII. FINAL AUTHORITY**

- a. The Missouri Presidents Cup Chairperson and Committee reserve the right to make certain decisions regarding this tournament, as they deem necessary, to improve the game and/or protect the participants. Such decisions shall include but are not limited to:
  - i. Cancellation of games
  - ii. Rescheduling of games
  - iii. Changing of venues or formats based on unseen events
  - iv. Calling a game complete
  - v. Changing of fields
  - vi. Number of games played in each time frame

### **XIX. SCORING METHOD**

- a. The standing of teams within brackets is based upon the number of points earned in qualifying games. Teams earn points as follows:
  - i. Three (3) points for a win
  - ii. One (1) point for a tie
  - iii. If any team forfeits any game in bracket play, the team will not be allowed to advance out of their bracket and shall be awarded 0 points for tournament. A forfeit will be recorded as a score of 4-0 to the winning team.

### **XX. TIE-BREAKERS**

In the event teams are tied based on points earned, the team's placement will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria:

- 1) Winner of head-to-head competition (this criterion is not used if more than two teams are tied).



- 2) Winner of most games.
- 3) Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of four (4) goals per game.
- 4) Fewest goals allowed.
- 5) Kicks from the penalty mark per the FIFA Law (If two or more teams are required to go to penalty kicks, they will be scheduled thirty (30) minutes after completion of last game of teams involved).

## **XXII TOURNAMENT FORMAT**

The tournament bracketing will be such to encompass as many teams into the competition as possible in a fair and safe format as determined by the competition committee. Teams shall play no more than 4 games in a weekend and any Championship game not played on Round Robin weekend shall be played at a later date that is communicated by MYSA.

In some bracket formats there may be 2 brackets of three that play all group play games across the bracket (i.e. 10 team brackets with divisions of 4-3-3 teams). In rare cases there may be a bracket where no teams accumulate any points. In such cases, the bracket with all zero-point teams shall not advance a winner and the semifinalists shall be the top two point getters in the other two brackets.

Qualifying games may need to be scheduled by the teams participating and Missouri Youth Soccer. These games shall take precedence over all tournaments and league games. All games MUST be played no later than 10 days in advance of Round Robin play beginning or the date specified by Missouri Youth Soccer in advance.

The following team registration entries are examples of when a Qualifying Game will be drawn:

5 teams, 7 teams, 11 teams, 13 teams, 15 teams, 17 teams

Drawing teams for Qualifying Games will be done in such a way to eliminate the possibility of cross-market games, if the first team drawn is from a particular district, then only teams from that district will be drawn to play against them. If no other team has applied from that district, then the process shall start over.

The Referee Assignor for the Missouri Cups or a qualified alternate shall assign referees for these games, this service shall be coordinated and paid by Missouri Youth Soccer, games are only officially scheduled after the Assignor approves the game and can provide the proper level

of officiating. Should there be scheduling issues, Missouri Youth Soccer is the final authority and will determine when and where a Qualifying Game will be played.

### **Use of Recording Equipment**

All use of recording equipment (i.e. HiPods, VEO, etc...) is limited to being set up on the SUPPORTER SIDE of the field and be properly weighted or secured a minimum of 10 feet from the field and outside of any fencing present. Teams and Clubs shall promptly share any recordings requested by the Tournament Director or Committee.

### **Team Warm Up**

For the respect of others, use of soccer balls to warm up should not be within 20 feet of a field that has an active game being played.

### **MYSA STAY TO PLAY POLICY CLARIFICATION**

**MYSA has a stay to play policy for ANY TEAM OR GROUP that needs rented accommodation for a state-run tournament/event. Any team/group participating that uses rented rooms or spaces, regardless of distance and/or type of housing including, but not limited to, hotels, campgrounds, house rentals (i.e. AirB&B, VRBO, etc...) MUST book the rooms by using the Housing Company specified by Missouri Youth Soccer.**

**Unless a waiver is specifically granted in writing by a MYSA Director, any team or group that uses less than 10 rooms per night times 2 nights (20-night total) for the group play portion lasting 3 days will be fined a minimum of \$500. Any team or group that uses less than 10 nights total will be fined \$750.**