

POLICY
ON
US YOUTH SOCCER
NEBRASKA STATE CUP

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**POLICY
ON
US YOUTH SOCCER NEBRASKA STATE CUP**

PART I—GENERAL

Rule 101. DEFINITIONS

Except as otherwise provided, the following definitions apply to this policy:

- a. **“Board of Directors”** means the Board of Directors of Nebraska State Soccer Association
- b. **“Club”** means an organization providing soccer to youth players that is a member of Nebraska State Soccer; provided however, a “club” need not have the word “club” as part of its official name.
- c. **“Club Pass”** means a US Youth Soccer which –
 - a) issued to a registered youth player by a club in compliance with the rules of Nebraska State Soccer.
- d. **“Federation”** means the United States Soccer Federation, Inc.
- e. **“game roster”** means the list of players who will participate in a particular competition.
- f. **“National Championship competitions”** means the competitions provided by US Youth Soccer for the Under 14, Under 15, Under 16, Under 17, Under 18, and Under 19 age groups.
- g. **“Nebraska State Soccer”** means the Nebraska State Soccer Association.
- h. **“region”** means one of those regions established by US Youth Soccer.
- i. **“rostering”** means assignment of a registered player to a team.
- j. **“seasonal year”** means days of play which are August 1 to July 31 of any given year.
- k. **“State Association”** means the administrative body within a territory determined by the US Youth Soccer’s National Council to carry out US Youth Soccer’s programs for youth players.
- l. **“suspension”** means the temporary withdrawal of rights and privileges, such as the right to play, coach, or otherwise administer or participate (directly or indirectly) in soccer, and the suspension is for the entire term of the suspension with all rights and privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending authority.
- m. **“team”** means a group of soccer players playing on the same side in soccer games.
- n. **“Team Roster”** means Nebraska Team Roster out of the registration software.
- o. **“National Championship Roster”** means the roster filled out online (previously call Blue Roster) prior to the event at all levels.
- p. **“US Youth Soccer”** means the United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc.
- q. **“youth player”** means an individual who has not reached 19 years of age prior to August 1 immediately before the start of any seasonal year. A player who reaches 19 years of age during a seasonal year is allowed to complete that seasonal year. A player who reaches 19 years of age during August of one seasonal year shall be allowed to complete all of the next seasonal year.

Rule 102. ESTABLISHMENT

Section 1. Nebraska State Soccer establishes and shall organize annually Nebraska State Cup competitions in the Under 13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 16, Under 17, Under 18, and Under 19 age groups. This policy applies to those competitions.

Section 2. There shall be individual, separately conducted Nebraska State Cup competitions for boys and girls in each of the age groups. Competitions will also be conducted at the regional and national levels as part of the US Youth Soccer National Championships.

Rule 103. TITLES

Section 1. The title of the Nebraska State Cup competitions for each of the age groups shall be "US YOUTH SOCCER NEBRASKA STATE CUP".

Rule 104. AWARDS TO TEAMS AND PLAYERS

Section 1. Each champion and second place team of each boys and girls age group will receive a Nebraska State Cup Team Award which will remain in its keeping permanently.

Section 2. The players and head coach of the champion and second place team of each boys and girls age group will receive individual medals.

Section 3. The players and head coach of each champion team of each boys and girls age group shall receive an embroidered patch from the National Championship Committee. The patches must be sewn on the primary uniform on the right sleeve, approximately one (1) inch from the shoulder.

Section 4. The players and head coach of each champion team of each boys and girls age group shall receive a Nebraska State Cup Champion shirt that must be worn to the Opening Ceremony at the Midwest Regional or the National Championships if held in either location. The players and head coach must also wear khaki shorts or pants. Teams will not wear any type of hat or chew gum or candy. The Head Coach or their designee will be present at the Opening Ceremony to walk in with the team. Teams, players or coaches that fail to abide to this section will be subject to a fine or suspension as decided by the Nebraska State Cup Committee.

Rule 105. ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. The entire administration of this competition is vested in the Board of Directors. Any matters not provided for in this policy shall be decided by the Board of Directors, and its decisions are final.

Section 2. There shall be a Nebraska State Cup Committee appointed as provided by the Nebraska State Soccer bylaws. The Committee is responsible for the entire administration of the State Cup competitions subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Fees and Deadlines -

- a. The Board of Directors shall determine each year the entry fee and date range for the competition.
- b. The State Cup Committee will set the deadlines for entry. The committee will set dates for an initial deadline and a final deadline. The final deadline will be 5 days after the initial deadline. During the days between the initial and final deadline the Committee will be allowed to take teams or fill brackets. The Committee must also call any teams that were in the Premier League and the top two (2) teams of Division 1 to see if they still want to enter. Teams entering after the initial deadline will pay a \$200.00 late fee except when the Committee is contacting the team to fill a bracket.
- c. Not later than the final deadline for entry established by the Committee, each team wishing to enter the competition shall submit to the state office:
 1. An on-line entry form indicating the team's intention to compete.
 2. A non-refundable fee in the amount set by the Board of Directors for the competition.

Section 4. State Office Staff and the State Cup Committee will work together to determine the site for the competition. Once the site is determined, State Office Staff will be responsible for conducting 90 day, 60 day and 30 day evaluations of the site. State Office Staff will communicate the condition and suggested repairs of the site to the site manager and the State Cup Committee. If the condition of the site is not championship quality or the suggested repairs are not made State Office Staff will move the site of the competition to a suitable site.

Rule 106. PRECEDENCE OF GAMES

Nebraska State Cup competitions games shall take precedence over all other youth games.

Rule 107. NOTICES

All notices and other communications required to be given under this policy shall be in writing and shall be addressed to the Board of Directors or a committee designated by it.

PART II—ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITIONS

Subpart A - Levels of Competitions

Rule 201. STATE, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL LEVELS

Each National Championship competition will be conducted at the following levels:

- a. The first level of competitions for all boys and girls age groups is at the State Association level.
- b. The second level of competitions for all boys and girls age groups is at the regional level.
- c. The third level of competitions for all boys and girls age groups is at the national level.

Rule 202. STATE ASSOCIATION LEVEL COMPETITION

Section 1. Age Groups and Format -

- a. Nebraska State Soccer shall determine –
 1. Which age groups, and whether boys or girls, or both, that it will conduct State Association level competitions for; and
 2. The teams that represent Nebraska State Soccer for each boys and girls age group at the National Championship competitions for Region II.
- b. The format for the competitions at the State Association level to determine teams representing the State Association shall be a tournament format established by Nebraska State Soccer. League competition may not be considered a tournament format.

Rule 203. REGIONAL LEVEL COMPETITION

Section 1. Each of the regions will conduct National Championship competitions for the region from among the teams representing each of the State Associations of the region. The competitions at the regional level shall determine the teams that represent the region for each of the boys and girls age groups at the national level of the National Championship competitions.

Section 2. The format for the competition to determine the teams as provided by section 1 of this rule will be that format established by the region.

Section 3. Only a State Association of a region may host the National Championship competitions for the region.

Rule 204. NATIONAL LEVEL COMPETITION

The teams representing each of the regions in each of the boys and girls age groups will compete in the National Championship competitions to determine the champion team for each of those boys and girls age groups. The teams from the regions will compete in a round-robin format recommended by the National Championship Committee and approved by the US Youth Soccer Board of Directors.

Subpart B - Teams and Players

Rule 221. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. The Nebraska State Cup competitions shall be open to any team whose players are registered with US Youth Soccer through Nebraska State Soccer if the team is in compliance with all of the following requirements:

- a. The team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered youth players (as defined by US Youth Soccer).
- b. The team must be in good standing with Nebraska State Soccer and must be in compliance with, and has not violated, any of the bylaws and policies of US Youth Soccer.

- c. The team must be entered in the competition of the State Association in which at least 50 percent of its players are registered.
- d. Under 14 and younger teams must compete in at least a 4-team approved league during both fall and spring sessions in Nebraska State Soccer, US Youth Soccer Regional League or US Youth Soccer National League. U15 through U18 teams must compete in at least a 4-team approved league during the current seasonal year in Nebraska State Soccer, US Youth Soccer Regional League or US Youth Soccer National League. U-19 age group for boys and girls are exempt from this rule. The league competition must consist of a minimum of one game against each of three different teams participating in the league.
- e. A Team must demonstrate continuity of rosters (Team & National Championship) between the league and every level of the National Championships competitions by maintaining a minimum of 9 players common to the Team Roster at every level of the competitions.

Section 2. Rostered, Release and Transfer

- a.
 - 1. A club may issue a club 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 the Nebraska State Cup level of the National Championship competition submits its National Championship Roster for its first competition at the Nebraska State Cup.
 - 2. Only at the Nebraska State Cup level of the National Championships competition (but not at the regional and national levels of the competitions) –
 - a. a team may roster any player not having a club pass of that team’s club if a transfer form stating the reason why this action has been submitted to and approved by Nebraska State Soccer: and
 - b. at the time a team’s National Championships competition roster for the Nebraska State Cup level is determined under this rule, the team may not more than 5 rostered youth who were previously rostered during the current seasonal year with a club other than the club of which the team is a member, the rostering of such youth players with such club shall be made in compliance with the rules and policies of Nebraska State Soccer.
 - 3. Nebraska State Soccer is not required to consider as a roster player a player on a school team if Nebraska State Soccer administers school programs.
- b. In addition to the application of the club pass provisions of the policy a team participating in the National Championship competitions may release involuntarily a player from its roster if the player has violated bylaws, policies, or requirements of the Federation, US Youth Soccer or Nebraska State Soccer.
- c. A team may have on its National Championship Roster only players of the following age groups for the seasonal year in which a team is participating:
 - 1. For teams competing at the Under 13, Under 14 and Under 15 age groups, each player on the teams must be:
 - a. of the age of the age group competition in which the team is participating for that seasonal year, or
 - b. of the age in either of the next 2 younger age groups of that age group competition in which the team is participating for that seasonal year.
 - 2. For teams competing at the Under 16, Under 17, Under 18 and Under 19 age groups, each player on the teams must be:

- a. of the age of the age group competition in which the team is participating for that seasonal year, or
- b. of the age of any younger age groups, through the Under 14 age group, of that age group competition in which the team is participating for that seasonal year.

Section 3. Every team participating in the Nebraska State Cup shall have a Team Roster based on this policy and will present a game roster for every match or competition.

- a. Team Roster – A Team Roster shall have a minimum of 9 registered players on its roster at all times. The Team Roster may have up to 22 youth players on the roster at any level of the National Championship competitions.
- a. Game Roster – The game roster shall be prepared by the team using their National Championship Roster and submitted to the Nebraska State Cup Committee not later than 60 minutes prior to each scheduled game. The game roster shall identify the players participating in the game and shall have a maximum of 18 players and a minimum of 7 players. Every player listed on the game roster must be included on the National Championship Roster.

Section 4. A team shall forfeit each game of the team in which –

- a. An unregistered player was with the team at the game in a uniform; or
- b. A player was improperly entered on the team's roster.
- c. The team no longer has a recognized team official as required by US Youth Soccer Rule 241, sections 1, 2 and 4, on the team bench.

Section 5. It shall be the responsibility of the State Office and the State Registrar to certify the eligibility of competing teams and to provide the policy online for the teams to review.

Section 6. Team Check-in will be held the Tuesday prior to the first day of play for any age group in the State Cup. Any team in District I, II or III not checking in shall be subject to a \$100 fine.

Section 7. National Championship Rosters will be submitted by the team at check-in and compared against the Team Roster the State Office has printed off. The submitted roster will be used as the National Championship Roster for the Nebraska State Cup. Teams may petition the State Office/Nebraska State Cup Committee by contacting the State Office or the State Cup Committee to vary a roster up until 2 (two) hours prior to their first game of the Nebraska State Cup. 2 (Two) hours prior to their first game of the Nebraska State Cup is the deadline for any variance on a National Championship Roster.

Section 8. The team may compete in only one Nebraska State Cup competition during the seasonal year.

Section 9. A player may be rostered to only one team's National Championship Roster at each level of the National Championships competition.

Section 10. The Champion team and any wildcard team in each age group must attend a meeting for the Midwest Regional event. The State Office will hold the meeting as soon as possible after the completion on the spring Nebraska State Cup.

Rule 222. FORFEITS FOR FAILURE TO COMPETE

Section 1. Any team intending to forfeit must give notice of its intention to forfeit to the Nebraska State Cup Committee and must give the notice twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled game. The notice shall include the reason for the forfeit.

Section 2. Forfeits and failure to compete by a team shall be a matter of review by the Board of Directors that shall have the authority to take action against the team or club that the Board considers appropriate.

Section 3. Any team or club failing to give notice of intention to forfeit may, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, have additional penalties imposed on it.

Section 4. A minimum of seven players constitutes a team. A ten (10) minute grace period shall be extended beyond the scheduled kick off time if seven players are not available at the scheduled kick off time. A team of seven players must start the game as soon as seven players are at the field after the originally scheduled kick off time. If at the end of the ten (10) minute grace period the team does not have seven players, the referee shall suspend the game and report the failure of the team to appear to the Nebraska State Cup Committee. The Committee reserves the right to declare a forfeit.

Section 5. Any team that forfeits a game will not be allowed to advance out of their group to the semi-finals or championship game. In the event of a forfeit, the games that the forfeiting team played in will not be counted in the points for any of the teams they play. Teams in their bracket will only count the points from the games against the other teams in their bracket or crossed over against.

Rule 223. FORFEITS GENERALLY

At the discretion of the Board of Directors or its designee, any team proven guilty of violating this policy or of any other requirement of Nebraska State Soccer shall be subject to sanctions including, up to forfeiture of all games and the preceding competition and fines and suspensions.

Rule 224. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. A player must be properly registered and rostered in accordance with the rules of US Youth Soccer and Nebraska State Soccer.

Section 2. A youth player may be on the National Championships roster of only one team at each level of the National Championships competition during any seasonal year, provided, however, that a youth player who was rostered to a team of a club at a National Championship competition level that does not advance to the next level and who has been issued a club pass of that club in accordance with this policy may be rostered to another team of that club at the next level of the National Championship competitions. Subject to the foregoing, and subject to the provisions of Team Eligibility at each level of the National Champions competitions, a team may add to its National Championship roster for that level as many registered youth players holding club passes of that club of which a team is a member as the team or its club determines so long as the roster

does not exceed 22 players. A Team may not change the club of which it is a member at any time after the commencement of the National Championship competition and in event only in compliance with the rules of Nebraska State Soccer.

Section 3. A player who has been suspended may play after the player's term of suspension has expired.

Section 4. When a State Association allows a player to be rostered on more than one team, the first team (primary team) to which the player is rostered is the only team with which the player may participate in National Championships competitions for a seasonal year, except—

- a. if a player is rostered to more than one team (secondary team) the player is eligible to compete, as long as the first team (primary team) to which the player is rostered is not playing in the State Cup, without changing registration status (transferred to primary).

Section 5. Alcohol and Illegal Drugs - Players in State Cup Competition are prohibited from consuming alcohol or using illegal drugs. Players are also prohibited from using any form of tobacco at the playing site of State Cup Competition. Penalty for violation by player participants is disqualification from the State Cup competition.

Rule 225. TEAM AND PLAYER BREACHES OF RULES

Section 1. It is the responsibility of the Nebraska State Cup Committee to investigate a properly protested violation immediately following its receipt. Failure to cooperate with that investigation shall result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension.

Section 2. Any team found guilty of using an ineligible player is not eligible to compete further in the Nebraska State Cup competition in the current seasonal year. Any coach, manager, or official found guilty of knowingly using an ineligible player is not eligible to compete further in the Nebraska State Cup competitions in the current and subsequent seasonal year. A player found guilty of submitting falsified birth information is prohibited from competing further in Nebraska State Cup competitions in the current and subsequent seasonal year.

Section 3. A player who is sent-off from any championship game is at least prohibited from participating in the next State Cup game played by the player's team. Depending on the send-off the Nebraska State Cup Committee may determine that the player will receive more than a one-game suspension. Any send-off in the last game of the Nebraska State Cup will carry over to the Regional competition if the team wins the State Cup or will carry over to next year's State Cup if the team is eliminated. Any player sent-off must report immediately following their game with their coach to the tournament tent to find out their suspension.

Section 4. 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 Nebraska State 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. Any coach or team official sent off must report immediately following their game to the tournament tent to find out their suspension.

Rule 226. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

Section 1. All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors, to interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest concerning the Nebraska State Cup competition, shall be referred to the Nebraska State Cup Committee regarding games at the state level.

Section 2. Eligible and Type –

- a. To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest —
 1. Must be orally lodged with the referee and with the opposing coach at the game site before entering the field of play or leaving the game site, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section; and
 2. Must be filed with the Nebraska State Cup Committee within 2 hours after the completion of the game being protested, accompanied by –
 - a. A fee of \$100.00;
 - b. 3 written copies of the protest, which must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged; and
 - c. 3 written copies of any information to be presented by witnesses.
- b. Any protest relating to the grounds, goal posts, bars, or other appurtenances of the game shall be entertained only if a written objection has been lodged with the referee and the opposing coach prior to the start of the game.
- c. Any protest relating to a judgment call of a referee or assistant referee will not be considered.
- d. The Chairperson of the committee with which the protest is properly lodged shall immediately on receipt of the protest notify the team against which the protest is made and shall send a copy of the protest and all particulars to that team, which will then have the right to defend its case, with or without witnesses.

Section 3. Appeal –

- a. An appeal of a decision regarding a protest may be appealed as provided by US Youth Soccer Bylaw 703. Any such appeal must be filed within 2 hours of receiving the decision of the Nebraska State Cup Committee, with the Chairperson of that Committee who shall immediately notify the Chairman of the National Championships Committee; or
- b. Each appeal filed under subsection (a) of this section must be accompanied by -
 1. a fee in an amount determined by the US Youth Soccer Board of Directors; and
 2. 5 written copies of the appeal.

Section 4. Any party to a protest or appeal shall be accorded the right to be assisted in the presentation of the party's case at the protest or appeal proceeding.

Section 5. A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the Nebraska State Cup competition is not sufficient grounds for a protest or appeal. Violators may expect appropriate action by Nebraska State Soccer.

Section 6. Decisions made on protests and appeals by the Nebraska State Cup Committee are binding and allow that competition to proceed.

Subpart C - Game Play

Rule 241. PASSES AND ROSTERS

Section 1. At the Nebraska State Cup competition, each player and team official listed on a National Championship Roster must carry the US Youth Soccer member pass. The member pass issued to a player shall be a club pass identifying the club by name. The US Youth Soccer member pass must carry a current photograph of the player or team official, as the case may be, and be signed by that player and the State Registrar.

Section 2. Each player at Nebraska State Cup competition must be listed on the National Championship Team Roster. Each player must sign the National Championship Roster before it is submitted at check-in. All information listed on the National Championship Roster, US Youth Soccer Player Passes and Medical Release and any additional forms required by any state programs must be verified by the appropriate official of the Nebraska State Soccer at Team Check-in and rosters will be signed by a designee of Nebraska State Soccer.

Section 3. Game Check-in –

- a. The US Youth Soccer member passes must be checked prior to each game and must have the Nebraska State Cup sticker on the pass. The National Championships Roster must be available at all games sites at all times.
- b. Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are optional.
- c. Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from other players and game officials.
- d. At every level of the National Championship competitions, a player or team official at a game site to participate in a game of the competition may only have outer wear of the player or team official a name, logo or other identifying mark of a youth soccer organization that is US Youth Soccer, A State Association or other member of US Youth Soccer, a member of a State Association or an organization that is a member of an organization that is a member of a State Association. A name, logo or other identifying mark of any other youth soccer association must be removed, replaced, or covered before the player or team official may continue to remain at the game site for the game.

Section 4. Teams advancing to the Championship game must come to the Tournament Tent one-hour prior to the game and the players of each team must sign the Official Game Lineup & Referees Report in the presence of the Nebraska State Cup Committee or its designee.

Rule 242. PLAYING RULES

Section 1. The playing rules of the Nebraska State Cup competition shall conform to the FIFA "Laws of the Game" except as provided by this rule.

Section 2. The home team will be responsible for wearing an alternate color jersey, if necessary, as determined by the referee. The team listed first in all rounds shall be the home team. Teams use the side of the field with team benches (when available) and spectators shall use the opposite side of the field.

Section 3. Seeding Procedures –

- a. At the U13 Age Group: If all teams entered in the Nebraska State Cup are leagued in the same age group, the top four teams will be seeded off the fall league results. In any division with 5 teams or less, teams will be seeded #1 through #4 and the last spot (if needed) will be filled by a blind draw. In any division (6 teams or more) with two brackets the #1 and #4 seeds will be in one bracket and the #2 and #3 seed will be in the other bracket. All other spots will be filled by a blind draw. In the event that a team changes clubs or name a team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the old team and new team by maintaining a minimum of 9 players common to the Team Rosters to maintain their spot in seeding. If a team loses their spot they will be put in the blind draw and the next highest team will take their spot. If not all teams entered in the Nebraska State Cup are in the same league (i.e. a team plays in older age group league), the seeding for the top four teams will be reviewed and placed by a group consisting of the Nebraska State Cup Committee members , Operations Manager, and Director of Coaching.
- b. At U14 and older Age Groups: The top four teams will be seeded from last year's Nebraska State Cup results. The Champion will be seeded #1, the Runner-up is seeded #2, the Semi-finalist that lost to Champion will be seeded #4 and the Semi-finalist that lost to Runner-up will be seeded #3. In any division with 5 teams or less teams will be seeded #1 through #4 and the last spot (if needed) will be filled by a blind draw. In any division (6 teams or more) with two brackets the #1 and #4 seeds will be in one bracket and the #2 and #3 seed will be in the other bracket. All other spots will be filled by a blind draw. In the event that a team changes clubs or name a team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the old team and new team by maintaining a minimum of 9 players common to the Team Rosters to maintain their spot in seeding. If a team loses their spot the vacated seed spot will be filled as part of the blind draw. If one or more of the final four teams from the previous year does not participate in the current year's tournament, the vacated seed spot will be filled as part of the blind draw.

Section 4. Bracketing -

- a. 1-Team Bracket: Team is declared the winner.
- b. 2-Team Bracket: The two teams will play in the Championship match.
- c. 3-Team Bracket: Each team will play round robin games with each of the other teams in the bracket. The two high point teams will advance to the championship game. High point team will be the home team for the Championship.
- d. 4-Team Bracket: (one four-team bracket): Bracket play is round robin games with each of the other teams in the bracket. The two high point teams advance to the Championship match. The championship game will be a re-match and a semifinal or consolation game will not be played. High point team will be the home team for the Championship.
- e. 5-Team Brackets (one five-team bracket): Bracket play is round robin games with each of the other teams in the bracket (each team gets four games). The two high point teams advance to the Championship match. The championship game will be a re-match and a

semifinal or consolation game will not be played. High point team will be the home team for the Championship.

- f. 6-Team Brackets (two three-team brackets): Bracket play is round robin games with each of the other teams in the bracket and a crossover game with a team from the other bracket. The semifinal will match high point teams in each bracket versus second high team in other bracket. The format may result in matches that are a re-match in the semifinal or Championship. No consolation game will be played. The 1st and 2nd high point teams will be the home teams for the semifinals. High point team will be the home team for the Championship.
- g. 7-Team Brackets (one four-team and one three-team bracket): Bracket play is round robin games with each of the other teams in the bracket (the teams in the three-team bracket will get two round robin games, but two teams advance to semifinal). The semifinal will match high point teams in each bracket versus second high team in other bracket. The Format may result in matches that are a re-match in the Championship. No consolation game will be played. The 1st and 2nd high point teams will be the home teams for the semifinals. High point team will be the home team for the Championship.
- h. 8-Team Brackets (two four-team brackets): Bracket play is round robin games with each of the other teams in the bracket. The semifinal will match high point teams in each bracket versus second high team in other bracket. The Format may result in matches that are a re-match in the Championship. No consolation game will be played. The 1st and 2nd high point teams will be the home teams for the semifinals. High point team will be the home team for the Championship.
- i. 9-Team Brackets (three three-team brackets): Bracket play is round robin games with each of the other teams in the bracket, teams will get two games during bracket play. The bracket winners and a wildcard from all the brackets advance to the semifinal. The semifinal will match 1st high point team versus wildcard and 2nd high point team versus 3rd high point team. There can not be a re-match in the semifinal, if that happens, 2nd high point team will play the wildcard. The Format may result in matches that are a re-match in the Championship. No consolation game will be played. The 1st and 2nd high point teams will be the home teams for the semifinals. High point team will be the home team for the Championship.
- j. 10-Team Brackets (one four-team and two three-team brackets): Bracket play is round robin games with each of the other teams in the bracket and the two three-team brackets will play a crossover game with a team from the other three-team bracket. The bracket winners and a wildcard from all the brackets advance to the semi final. The semifinal will match 1st high point team versus wildcard and 2nd high point team versus 3rd high point team. There can not be a re-match in the semifinal, if that happens, 2nd high point team will play the wildcard unless that also creates a re-match, if so the 3rd high point team will play the wild card. The Format may result in matches that are a re-match in the Championship. No consolation game will be played. The 1st and 2nd high point teams will be the home teams for the semifinals. High point team will be the home team for the Championship.

Section 5. Game Length and Overtime –

- a. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the length of games, overtime play periods, ball size, ball circumference, and ball weight for each age group shall be as follows:

Age Group	Game Length	Overtime Play	Size	Circumference/Weight
Under 19	Two 45' halves	Two 15' periods	#5	27-28 in. 14-16 ozs.

Under 18	Two 45' halves	Two 15' periods	#5	27-28 in. 14-16 ozs.
Under 17	Two 45' halves	Two 15' periods	#5	27-28 in. 14-16 ozs.
Under 16	Two 40' halves	Two 15' periods	#5	27-28 in. 14-16 ozs.
Under 15	Two 40' halves	Two 15' periods	#5	27-28 in. 14-16 ozs.
Under 14	Two 35' halves	Two 10' periods	#5	27-28 in. 14-16 ozs.
Under 13	Two 35' halves	Two 10' periods	#5	27-28 in. 14-16 ozs.

- b. Tie games at the end of regulation playing time will stand except for each semi or final game in each age group.
- c. If a game is tied at the end of regulation play and overtime periods are to be played to determine a winner, two complete overtime periods as provided in subsection (a) of this section will be played after the end of regulation play. If the game is still tied after the end of the two overtime periods, FIFA “Kicks from the Penalty Mark” rules will apply in order to determine the winner.

Section 6. At the Nebraska State Cup competition –

- a. For the Under 14 and younger age groups
 - 1. unlimited substitutions shall be allowed
 - 2. Substitution may occur on any stoppage of play with the approval of the referee.
- b. For all other age groups
 - 1. a maximum of 7 substitutions for each team shall be allowed in each game during each half of play and during overtime play. After leaving the game during a half of play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game during that same half of play. After leaving the game during overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game.
 - 2. Substitution may occur on any stoppage of play with the approval of the referee.
 - 3. 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 approval of referee) or at any point during the game if the referee signals for the player's re-entry.

Section 7. At the Nebraska State Cup competition unfinished games due to any cause shall be replayed if neither team is at fault nor play has not begun in the second half. If play is stopped during the second half and play cannot be resumed and if neither team is at fault, the Nebraska State 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 Nebraska State Cup Committee whether the game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit.

Section 8. Ball - All teams shall play each game with a ball that will be provided by Nebraska State Soccer.

Section 9. Refunds - Should all or a portion of the Nebraska State Cup be canceled due to just cause or teams do not play three games, then refunds shall be issued as follows:

- a. One game played – Refund \$195.00.
- b. Two games played – Refund \$100.00.
- c. Games shall be considered played when completed in regulation time, shortened time or penalty kicks.

Section 10. Scoring Method and Bracket Winners - Bracket winners will be determined by the following point system: Maximum points per game are 3 (three).

- Win ----- 3 (three) points
- Tie ----- 1 (one) point
- Loss ----- 0 (zero) points

Section 11. Tiebreakers - If at the conclusion of bracket play, two or more teams have the same point total, advancement to the semi-finals or championship will be determined using the following tiebreakers in the order listed until a team is eliminated. Once a team is eliminated, advancement among the remaining teams shall again be determined by the tiebreakers in the order listed starting with head to head competition.

- a. Winner of Head to Head (this criteria not used if more than two teams tied).
- b. Winner of Most Games in your bracket.
- c. Goal Spread (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of four goals per game.
Example: Game score of 7-1 would be scored as 5-1 for Goal Spread
- d. Fewest goals allowed.
- e. Kicks from the penalty mark.

Rule 243. GAME OFFICIALS

Section 1. For Nebraska State Cup competition the Nebraska State Cup Committee shall contract with a State Game Assignor that is assigned by the SRA to the event.

Section 2. Game Assignment -

- a. Any referee appointed to officiate in any Nebraska State Cup competition game may not be a past or present member of either of the competing teams.
- b. Any player or coach that is participating in the Nebraska State Cup will not be allowed to referee during the State Cup.
- c. Assignors and referees must recognize that when officiating, familiarity or family relationships must be avoided. Also Assignors should limit the number of games a referee officiates for any team or club.

Section 3. The Nebraska State Cup will use the current Pay Scale approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. The referee shall have the power to decide on the fitness of the ground in all games. In other respects, the duties of the referee and assistant referee are as defined in the "Laws of the Game."

Section 5. In the event the referee appointed fails to appear the Referee Assignor will determine who will replace the referee. The same procedure will apply in the event of a referee becoming ill during the process of a game. In both cases, if the Referee Assignor has no one to replace the referee the crew will use a club lineperson that will be recruited by the Referee Assignor.

Section 6. The referee has the power during the game to deal with players guilty of violent conduct or using threatening or abusive language. The referee shall forward the name and US

Youth Soccer Pass to the Nebraska State Cup Committee or its designee immediately after the game.

Section 7. The referee must forward to the Nebraska State Cup Committee or its designee on the official game card, the results of the game and all issues related to the game.

PART III - MODIFICATION OF POLICY

Rule 301. MODIFICATION OF POLICY

This policy shall only be modified by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.