



USASA NATIONAL CUP POLICIES TABLE OF CONTENTS

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**USASA NATIONAL CUP POLICIES
PART I - GENERAL**

101 DEFINITIONS

The definitions of Bylaws 107 of the United States Adult Soccer Association (USASA) apply to this policy. Those pertinent definitions include the following:

- (1) **“Club”** means an organization of one or more soccer teams usually playing within a geographical area.
- (2) **“Executive Committee”** means the Executive Committee of the USASA established under Bylaw 411 of the USASA.
- (3) **“Federation”** means the United States Soccer Federation, Inc.
- (4) **“FIFA”** means the Federation Internationale de Football Association of which the Federation is the national association member for the United States.
- (5) **“League”** means an organization that conducts competition among soccer teams.
- (6) **“Affiliate”** means a multi-sport or single sport organization that independently conducts soccer programs (a) in the United States at the national or lower level, or (b) outside the United States whose members consist of members of the United States Armed Forces, the United States Foreign Service, or their dependents.
- (7) **“National Council”** means the National Council of the USASA as provided under Bylaw 311 of USASA.
- (8) **“National Cups”** mean those Cups provided for under this policy.
- (9) **“National League”** means a league having teams in two or more regions.
- (10) **“Region”** means one of those four regions established under Bylaw 203 of the USASA.
- (11) **“Regional Council”** means a council referred to in Bylaw 321 of the USASA.
- (12) **“Regional League”** means a league having teams in only one region or as approved by the Executive Committee of the USASA.
- (13) **“State Association”** means the administrative body within a territory determined by the National Council to carry out USASA's programs for adult players.
- (14) **“State, Regional or National Rounds”** shall mean the levels of competition defined in Part IV - §401 of these policies.

The following additional definitions also apply to this policy:

- (15) **“Eligible”** means a player who is properly registered under the rules of this Association and is not under suspension.
- (16) **“Player pool”** means the pool of players eligible to play on a team.
- (17) **“Cup Game Report Form”** means the official Cup Game Report Form published by the Cups Committee.
- (18) **“Roster”** mean those players, not to exceed eighteen, selected by the team from its Player Pool to participate in a given game.

102 CUPS ESTABLISHMENT AND TITLES

1. The USASA has established and annually organizes National Cups competition for men and women entitled as follows:

- (1) US National Men's Open Cup
(*Werner Fricker Cup*)
- (2) US National Women's Cup
- (3) US National Men's Amateur Cup
- (4) US National Men's Over-30 Cup
(*Gerhard Mengel Cup*)
- (5) US National Men's Under-23 Cup
- (6) US National Women's Under-23 Cup

2. The USASA may establish and organize additional National Cups competitions. Regional Councils may organize regional cups competitions in addition to the National Cups competitions held at the regional level.

3. (a) The U.S. National Men's Open Cup competition is a competition of the Federation. The USASA shall organize that competition for the USSF up to the regional level only, and the Federation policy shall apply to that competition, to the extent provided by the Federation.

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

(c) The USASA shall continue the Men's Open Cup eliminations among its regional finalists to determine the USASA Men's Open Cup champion (Werner Fricker Cup).

103 AWARDS

Awards presented shall be the property of the recipient(s). National trophies are the property of USASA and shall be retained at the USASA office and displayed as determined by the executive committee.

104 NOTICES

All notices required to be given under these policies shall be addressed to the person so designated with a copy to the National Cups Commissioner.

105 MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

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

106 AMENDMENTS

These policies may only be amended by majority vote of the Executive Committee or the National Council.

PART II - ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRIES

201 TEAM ELIGIBILITY

1. To be eligible to participate in a National Cups competition, a team must be:

(a) registered as a team of a state association, a national league, a regional league, or an affiliate of USASA, and

(b) playing as a team in a regular league competition of at least four teams in the Men's Open and Men's Amateur divisions.

(c) playing as a team in a regular league competition of at least four teams in all other divisions, unless there is no competition-specific league in their home state within an 80 mile radius of that team.

2. Any team participating in any competition or game that could result in that team representing its state association at the regional or national cup competitions must be (a) duly registered with USASA in accordance with National Cup Policy 201-1, and (b) must have submitted a national cupentry form together with the appropriate fee to the appropriate cup commissioner before that competition begins.

Failure to comply with (a) and/or (b) will render such team ineligible to compete in any game of the National Cup competitions.

3. Any youth team whose players are registered with the Federation is eligible to enter the U.S. National Men's Open Cup, or any U.S. National Men's or Women's Amateur, or Under-23 competition. A youth soccer team is required to provide proof of insurance coverage consistent with that required of teams registered with USASA or, lacking that proof, is required to purchase insurance coverage through USASA.
4. Teams of women's professional leagues, which are members of the Federation, are eligible to enter the U.S. National Women's Cup competition. Those teams are not eligible to enter the U.S. National Women's Under-23 Cup competition.
5. A team which has been disqualified from any level of National Cups competition during the prior year's competition shall not be allowed to participate in the following year. At the time of the disqualification, the National Cups Committee shall determine whether all the members of the disqualified team, or which members, are disqualified from participating during the following year.
6. A team using disqualified individuals from the prior year's competition shall be disqualified.

202 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. Each player of a team competing in a National Cups competition must meet the eligibility criteria related to age or gender and be properly registered with that team at least ten days prior to any game in the competition in which the player may participate. Proper registration includes complying with all appropriate registration requirements of the national state association, other USASA member, USASA, other federation member, and the Federation.
2. Current USSF Policy 601-6 Section 2 reads as follows:
For a player who comes to the United States on or after the player is 12 years of age, the player must request and receive an international clearance from the Federation. A player shall not, under any circumstances, be authorized to play in official matches for his or her club/team without obtaining an international clearance from the registrar of the US Soccer Federation. It is the responsibility of the player, team official, and the respective state association to obtain international clearances, if required.
3. Players competing in the Men's Amateur Cup must have amateur status. In all other National Cups, players of professional status are permitted to participate, but must be registered with the secretary general of the USSF on a professional registration form accompanied by a contract.
 - (a) Players who have, at any time, registered as a professional, retain their professional status until they have applied for and received "Reinstatement to Amateur Status" from the Federation (See USSF Policy 601-4).
 - (b) A professional player who is currently registered as a professional player with any club can be reinstated as an amateur only with the permission of that club and the adult or youth state association or professional league with which the club is affiliated (see USSF Policy 601-4 "Amateur Reinstatement").
 - (c) A player's professional status does not expire as a result of the player not having signed a professional contract or played professionally in recent years. (See USSF Policy 601-4 Amateur Reinstatement). It is the responsibility of the player and team official to obtain an amateur reinstatement, if required).
 - (d) A player who has professional status must be registered on a Federation Professional Player Registration Form with the secretary general of the United States Soccer Federation. Such players may not be registered by a state association on an Amateur Registration Form (A-Form) (see USSF Policy 601-2).
4. A player who is under the age of 30 may be listed in the player pool of an Over-30 team, but may not participate in any game of that competition until the player has attained the age of 30.
5. A player who has not attained 23 years of age before August 1 shall be eligible to participate in the U.S. National Men's or Women's Under-23 Cups competition that begin on or after September 1. A player who reaches the age of 23 after July 31 is eligible to compete in the current year's Under-23 Cups competition. (For example, for the 2006—2007 competitions, a player must be born on or after August, 1983).
6. A player may not actually play for more than one team in the same competition. A registered player who has not actually played in a given competition may transfer to another team in the same competition. A player may be registered and play in different competitions.
7. A player under suspension is not eligible to participate in any National Cups competition, until the suspension has been served.

8. Only amateur players are eligible to participate in the U.S. National Men's Amateur Cup competitions.

9. Player eligibility, including the USASA Men's Open Cup shall be governed by the rules and policies established by the USASA. Following regional determination of USASA qualification, the regional representatives will enter the Lamar Hunt Men's Open Cup competition per the Federation's Open Cup Policy. Qualifying teams and players shall be governed by the rules and policies established by the United States Soccer Federation. However, this shall not apply to the "playing rules" (Rule 305) of the Open Cup, including substitution. No team is permitted to play in the USSF Lamar Hunt Men's Open Cup competition by entering that competition twice. For example, a team may not enter the Men's Open Cup competition in the USL and the USASA. However, that team may enter the USASA Men's Open Cup competition to qualify for the Werner Fricker Open Cup, if they so desire.

203 PLAYER POOL

1. A Player Pool Form (provided by the Cups Committee and available on the www.usasa.com website), listing not more than 22 players qualified to participate as specified in 202 must be submitted:

(a) For state rounds of competition, to the State Cups Commissioner not later than 15 days prior to any National Cup game, unless the time limit is waived or modified by the State Cups Commissioner.

(b) For regional rounds of competition, to the Regional Cups Commissioner not later than 15 days prior to any National Cup game, unless the time limit is waived or modified by the Regional Cups Commissioner. The Player Pool is frozen 15 days prior to a team's next game of the regional rounds of competition, unless the 15 day period is waived or modified by the Regional Cups Commissioner. A team that does not submit a Player Pool Form 10 days prior to the first game of the regional rounds of competition shall be disqualified and removed from the regional rounds of competition.

(c) For national rounds of competition, to the USASA Administrator at the USASA office not later than 15 days prior to the first game of the national rounds of competition. A team that does not submit a Player Pool Form 15 days prior to the first game of the national rounds of competition shall be subject to a fine of \$100 per day for every day, up to five days. If the Player Pool Form is not submitted by 10 days prior to the first game of the national rounds of competition, the team shall be disqualified and removed from the national rounds of competition.

2. This Player Pool Form must be filled out completely and typed, signed by a team official, and must be verified and dated by the appropriate state association, regional league, or national league.

3. At least seven days before the originally scheduled date of a game, every team playing in any of the state or regional rounds of competitions shall provide to the opposing team by overnight express mail, telephone facsimile, or electronic mail, the Player Pool Form of eligible players from which the team will be selected. The player pool may not include more than 22 players and may not be changed for replayed or postponed games. Transmission of the player pool by telephone facsimile or electronic mail shall be followed by voice confirmation of receipt of the player pool.

4. No game in any of the National Cup games may be played without the respective Cups Commissioner or USASA Administrator being in possession of a verified player pool form of each of the teams involved.

204 ENTRIES

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

\$250.00 for U.S. National Men's Open Cup

\$200.00 for all other competitions.

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

2. Only money orders, cashiers or certified checks, or state association, national league, regional league or affiliate checks will be accepted.

3. A state association, region, affiliate of USASA, national league or regional league may assess additional fees to cover referee and administrative expenses. The amount of any additional fees must be approved by the National Cups Committee

4. Entry forms and payment for teams of national leagues and regional leagues, conducting their own competitions, shall be forwarded as follows:

(a) National leagues shall forward forms and payment to the USASA Administrator at the USASA office.

(b) Regional leagues shall forward forms and payment to the appropriate Regional Cups Commissioner.

205 ENTRY DEADLINES

1. In consultation with the executive committee, the National Cups Commissioner shall establish an entry deadline for each

of the National Cups competitions by which a definite entry of a team must be received by the Regional Cups Commissioner or State Cups Commissioner. The different competitions may have different deadlines.

2. The Regional Cups Commissioner, in consultation with the Regional Director, shall establish an entry deadline for the regional rounds of each National Cups competition, which must precede the national deadline, set by the National Cups Commissioner.

3. State Cup Commissioners, in consultation with their Regional Cups Commissioner, may set an entry deadline for state rounds of competition, which precede the regional deadline. However, the State Cups Commissioner may not begin the state rounds of competition until all entry forms and fees for that competition are received by the Regional Cups Commissioner.

4. Only the Regional Director and Regional Cups Commissioner may extend a regional or state round of competition deadline date in consultation with the National Cups Commissioner, once the date is established. Under no circumstances may the date be extended beyond the national deadline.

PART III - PLAYING REQUIREMENTS

301 PRECEDENCE OF GAMES

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

2. State associations, national leagues, regional leagues, affiliates, and their member league competitions affected by National Cups competitions games may order one or more "closed" time periods for teams under their jurisdiction, prohibiting any other games to be played at the time and date of a National Cups game.

3. National Cup games (whether original, replayed, or postponed games) take precedence over all other games of non-USASA teams who enter the National Cups competition.

302 NOTICE OF GAMES

1. Notification of a team's next game shall be given, by the appropriate Commissioner, to each team competing in any round of the National Cups competitions and shall be made not less than seven days prior to the scheduled date of the game, except when both teams waive this requirement in writing.

303 UNIFORMS

1. When the referee determines that the uniforms of the two competing teams are so similar as to create possible player identification problems on the field, the home team shall change its uniform. However, if the visiting team is wearing colors other than those submitted on the Official Entry Form, the visiting team shall change.

2. Clearly visible numbers, at least six inches high and sewn, pressed, or silk screened on, must be worn on the back of each player's jersey, including the goalkeeper. Each player on a team must wear a different number. A description of the team's uniforms shall be provided on the "Official Entry Form" and on the Player Pool Form.

304 PLAYER PASSES

1. Each player shall carry a laminated, or otherwise tamper-resistant, USASA-approved identification pass bearing the player's photograph and indicating the player's membership on the team. The pass shall be presented to the referee before entering the game and shall be made available to the representative of the opposing team on request.

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

3. Each player pass shall be verified by the player's state association, national or regional league, affiliate or other organization member, as appropriate, and by the designated representative of the state association, league, or member.

305 PLAYING RULES

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

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

(b) Goal nets must be used. The field shall be marked in accordance with the plan in "The Laws of the Game". A flag on a post not less than

five feet high and having a non-pointed top shall be placed at each corner.

(c) In all rounds of the Men's Open cup competition, a maximum of four substitutions shall be allowed in each game in all Open Cup matches. A maximum of seven substitutions shall be allowed in each game of all other competitions, unless modified by the regional council for regional rounds of competition or by the national state association for state rounds of competition.

(d) In any National Cups competition, a player who has been replaced by a substitute may not re-enter the game at any time.

(e) No more than 18 players from the player pool may be in uniform for a game.

(f) Regional Cups Commissioners may organize the regional rounds of competition in a manner agreed to at a regional council meeting. This may include round robin brackets, double elimination, or single elimination. Depending upon the format chosen and approved by the regional council, a tie may be allowed to stand. In games in which a winner must be determined, the Regional Cups Commissioner shall have the authority to decide whether games will go into overtime periods or directly to kicks from the penalty mark as prescribed by FIFA. In all national rounds of competitions in which the score of any game is tied at the end of the second half, there will be two overtime periods of 15 minutes each. If the game remains tied at the end of the two overtime periods, the winner will then be determined by kicks from the penalty mark as prescribed by FIFA.

(g) If, for any cause, a game is not completed, it must be replayed in its entirety.

(1) However, if the non-completion of a game results from misconduct clearly traceable to one of the competing teams, its management, or its followers, the Cups Commissioner for that level of play shall decide on the disposition of the game

(2) If a game is not completed because one of the teams is unable to field at least seven players, the score will stand as of the moment of termination or abandonment. If the team responsible for abandonment has more goals than the opposing team, or the game is tied, the opposing team will be awarded a forfeit victory.

(3) If the team awarded the forfeit has scored fewer than three goals, it shall be awarded the forfeit victory of three goals.

(4) The decision of the Cups Commissioner is final.

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

306 GAME OFFICIALS

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

(a) Only officials registered with the Federation shall be eligible to be appointed as referees and assistant referees for games in any of the National Cups competitions.

(b) Neither a member of the USASA Referee Committee nor a member of the National Cups Committee may be a game official. Individuals who are, or have been, a member of one of two competing teams during the past two years may not officiate a game between the two teams, unless both teams waive this prohibition in writing.

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

(d) In semifinal and final games of the regional rounds of competitions, the referees must be from neutral states. In final games of national rounds of competitions, the referees and assistant referees must be from neutral states.

307 PLAYER AND TEAM OFFICIAL DISCIPLINE

1. Team officials (coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, and others allowed to be in the technical area) are expected to behave in a responsible manner. A team official may be expelled from the field by the referee, in which case the team official must leave the area of the field entirely and no longer participate directly or indirectly in the match. The dismissed team official will also be suspended from participating in the next scheduled match of the official's team, but the National Cup Committee may increase or add other penalties as the behavior warrants.

2. Players shall be suspended for one game if they were sent off the field by the referee for a second cautionable offense. Exhibition games and indoor games do not count in satisfying the game suspension requirement.

3. Suspension of an ejected player for all other reasons shall be for a minimum of the two subsequent, pre-scheduled league or National Cup games. Exhibition games and indoor games do not count in satisfying the game suspension requirement. The ejected player's pass, along with a copy of each referee and assistant referee report must be promptly sent to the player's state association, national league, regional league, or organization member, which shall have the authority to increase the period of suspension.

4. If any player or team official is participating in more than one National Cups competition during the same weekend, that ejected player or dismissed team official will be suspended from the next one [Rule 307(1)] or two [Rule 307(2)] games of all competitions in which that player or team official was eligible to participate.

308 TEAM AND PLAYER BREACH OF RULE

1. The National Cups Committee has the authority to suspend and/or disqualify and remove from further participation in any National Cups competition, any team, team official, or player of any competing team who has been proven guilty of any breach of the rules of USASA or the Federation.

2. All notices of disqualification or suspension shall be forwarded by certified mail or overnight delivery to any affected team, except that the minimum of one game or two games suspension under §307 is effective without notice.

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

4. The National Cups Committee has authority to establish a policy for imposing fines for games at the state, regional and national level of National Cups competition.

5. Any team which abandons a game in progress in any regional or national round of competition shall be disqualified and removed from the competition and shall forfeit their bond and entry fee, as well as any awards to which they would otherwise be entitled to by completing the game. The National Cup Committee, at its discretion, has the authority to impose additional penalties and suspensions for unsportsmanlike conduct, including requiring such team to reimburse the USASA for all travel expenses to the appropriate round of competition.

309 PROTESTS

1. Any protest concerning a game played in state rounds of competitions shall be referred to the State Cups Commissioner. The commissioner shall decide the protest and that decision may not be appealed. Any protest concerning a game in regional rounds of competitions shall be referred to the National Cups Committee through the Regional Cups Commissioner for disposition. The decision of the committee may not be appealed.

2. Should it become necessary, so as not to seriously and adversely impact a competition schedule, that an immediate decision regarding a protest in the regional rounds of competition is required, the Regional Cups Commissioner shall have the authority to render such a decision without consultation of the National Cups Committee, provided that:

(a) the protest fee has been paid, and

(b) both teams involved have been given the opportunity to present statements, either verbally or in writing, to the Regional Cups Commissioner. In the case of such an expedited decision, the provisions of §310 regarding the format, distribution, and timing of notice and responses shall not apply.

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

(b)(1) The original, signed protest, five additional copies of the protest, and a protest fee of \$100.00 shall be submitted to the State Cups Commissioner for state rounds of competitions, and the Regional Cups Commissioner for regional rounds of competitions, within three days of the game to which the protest relates. A copy of the protest must be forwarded to the opposing team in the game. The protest and copies shall be submitted to the appropriate cups commissioner and the opposing team either by receipted hand delivery or by overnight delivery. The person receiving the copy of the protest shall provide a written receipt of receiving the copy.

(b)(2) The protest fee must be sent to the appropriate cups commissioner in the form of cashier's check, certified check or money order, made payable to "USASA".

(c) The opposing team shall have seven days from the date the copy of the protest was forwarded to it, to submit to the appropriate cups commissioner its statement regarding the protest, if any. A copy of the statement shall be submitted to the opposing team either via receipted hand delivery or by overnight delivery.

(d) No protest shall be considered for the alleged use of an ineligible player whose name appears on the player pool form received by the opposing team under "203-3", unless prior to the game a written protest, accompanied by the \$100 protest fee, is lodged with the referee and the opposing team for that game.

(e) The protest shall be decided as soon as possible and may require further submission of evidence related to the protest.

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

(f)(2) For protests relating to regional and national rounds of competitions, notice of the National Cups Committee's decision shall be sent by overnight delivery to both teams competing in the game which was subject of the protest. In addition, the cups committee must forward to the executive committee a copy of the decision and accompanying documentation available in the case, within three days of the decision.

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

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

310 DISQUALIFICATIONS

1. (a) A team that is found to be ineligible to participate in the National Cups competition or is found to be using an ineligible player at any level of the National Cups competitions shall be disqualified from the competition.

(b) A claim of player ineligibility for state rounds of competitions shall be resolved by the State Cups Commissioner. A claim of player ineligibility at regional and/or national rounds of competitions shall be resolved by the National Cups committee in consultation with the appropriate State Cups Commissioner or Commissioners and the USASA and Federation offices.

2. A team may also be disqualified from the National Cups competitions for failure to comply with the rules of the National Cups competitions, or for other just causes as determined by the National Cups committee.

3. A team intending to forfeit a game in a regional or national round of competition must give written notice of its intention to do so to the representative of the opposing team, which must be received by the opposing team at least seven days before the date of the game. Copies of the notice must also be given to the Regional Cups Commissioner and State Cups Commissioner and, for forfeiture at the national rounds of competition, to the National Cups Commissioner and the Regional Cups Commissioner. Timely notice of intention to forfeit under this paragraph does not negate any claims for expenses submitted under §601.

4. A team that forfeits a game at, or is disqualified from, any level of the National Cups competitions may be barred from entering the National Cups competitions in the following year at the discretion of the National Cups committee.

5. If a team is disqualified from regional or national rounds of competition, the National Cups committee shall have absolute discretion to appropriately adjust the structure or form of the remainder of the competition. If a team is disqualified from state rounds of competition, the State Cups Commissioner shall have the absolute discretion to appropriately adjust the structure or form of the remainder of the state rounds of competition.

6. Any scheduled game that is forfeited will result in a 3:0 score for the opponent.

PART IV - ROUNDS OF THE COMPETITION

401 STATE, REGIONAL & NATIONAL ROUNDS

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

(a) The first level of competitions shall be the state rounds of competition for teams of the state associations, for teams of affiliates of USASA, and, for teams of national leagues and regional leagues.

(b) The second level of the competitions shall be on the regional level. These competitions shall be for teams advancing beyond the state rounds.

(c) The third level of the competitions shall be the national rounds of competition for teams that are champions (or runners-up as provided by ¶1 of §404) of each of the regions.

402 STATE ROUNDS OF COMPETITIONS

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

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

3. As long as the champions of the state rounds of competition are determined not later than the scheduled deadline, the State Cups Commissioner for a state association may organize the state rounds in a manner preferred by the state association.

403 REGIONAL & NATIONAL LEAGUE ROUNDS

1.(a) Each national league and regional league may conduct its own league rounds of competitions, leading to a league cup champion for each National Cups competition. That champion is eligible to advance to the appropriate regional rounds of competition if all of the eligible teams of the league enter that competition at the league level.

(b) If a national or regional league does not conduct its own competition, individual teams of the league may enter the National Cups competitions through their state association.

2. National league and regional league rounds of competitions shall be administered and may be sponsored by the league.

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

4. A national league or regional league may organize the league rounds of competitions in a manner preferred by the league:

(a) as long as the champions of the national league or regional league rounds of competitions are determined not later than the scheduled deadline, and

(b) except as otherwise provided for the U.S. National Men's Open Cup competition under ¶3 of §405.

404 REGIONAL ROUNDS OF COMPETITIONS

1. All advancing teams of state, national league and regional league rounds of competitions shall participate in regional rounds of competitions. If the champion of a state, national league or regional league round of competition is unable or unwilling to participate in a regional round of competition, the respective runner-up is eligible to advance to that regional round of competition instead. The participation of a runner-up shall require the notification of and approval by the Regional Cups Commissioner and the appropriate State Cups Commissioner.
2. Each champion of national league and regional league rounds of competitions shall be entered in regional rounds of competitions within that region in which the team is domiciled.
3. The finals of the regional rounds of competitions shall be conducted in any state association of the region that has been granted hosting permission by the regional council.
4. The Regional Cups Commissioner may organize the format of his/her region's competition, in a manner agreed to at a regional council meeting, including but not limited to the number of substitutions, round robin brackets, double eliminations, single eliminations, and tie-breakers by overtime periods with sudden death or kicks from the penalty mark
 - (a) as long as the champions of the regional rounds of competitions are determined no later than the scheduled deadline, and
 - (b) except as otherwise provided for the U.S. National Men's Open Cup competition under ¶3 of §405.

405 NATIONAL ROUNDS OF COMPETITION

1. The national rounds of competitions shall be played at venues approved by the executive committee, on the recommendation of the National Cups Committee. The cups committee is responsible for the supervision of those rounds.
2. A team that is the champion of regional rounds of competitions in two or more competitions may participate in only one of those national rounds of competitions that are played at the same time. The team shall notify the chairman of the National Cups committee within 48 hours after completion of the regional rounds of competitions in which national round of competition played at the same time it elects to participate. The runner-up of each regional round of competition shall advance to each national round of competition in which the champion elected not to participate.
3. The U.S. National Men's Open Cup competition shall be administered by the regions through the determination of regional open cup champions. After the regional champions have been determined, the Federation shall have jurisdiction of the administration of the Federation Men's Open Cup.

PART V – COMMISSIONERS

501 NATIONAL CUPS COMMISSIONERS

1. Immediately following the Annual General Meeting of the USASA, the chairman of USASA shall appoint a National Cups Commissioner who shall be responsible for administering the National Cups competitions with the assistance of the staff of USASA.
2. Should the National Cup Commissioners, Regional Cup Commissioners, State Cup Commissioners, or any other person to whom any responsibility for administering the National Cups competitions is delegated, be a player registered with, or an official of a state, league or team entered in the competitions, the commissioner(s) must reclude him/her self from all discussions and decisions concerning the team or organization of which he/she may be affiliated with.
3. The National Cups competitions shall be administered directly by the National Cups Commissioner.
4. The National Cups Commissioner shall report to the chairman of the USASA and shall be responsible for coordinating the administration of the National Cups competitions for USASA. The National Cups Commissioner's specific responsibilities include the following:
 - (a) consult with the Regional Directors on the appointment of Regional Cups Commissioners,
 - (b) establish deadline dates by which state association, national league, regional league, and affiliate entries must be received,
 - (c) with the National Cups committee, reject team entries for failure to comply with this policy and requirements,
 - (d) coordinate with the Referee Committee the appointment of game officials,
 - (e) in consultation with the National Cups Committee, determine player and team suspensions and fines related to breaches of the National Cups policy,
 - (f) ensure timely distribution of cup entry forms, promotional materials, and rulebooks to the Regional Cups Commissioners, national leagues, regional leagues, affiliates, and professional leagues,
 - (g) coordinate the selection of game venues for conducting national rounds of competitions,
 - (h) coordinate and assist in the processing and determination of protests filed for regional and national rounds of competition,
 - (i) support the Executive Committee in marketing the National Cups program; and,
 - (j) other duties assigned by the chairman of the USASA.

502 REGIONAL CUP COMMISSIONERS

1. The Regional Director, with the advice of the National Cups Commissioner, shall appoint a Regional Cups Commissioner for each respective region.
2. The Regional Cups Commissioner is responsible for coordinating and administering all games in National Cups competitions in his/her region. The Regional Cups Commissioner's specific responsibilities include the following:

- (a) Appoint a State Cups Commissioner for each state association in his/her region. Each appointment shall be made based on a recommendation from the state association and shall be made at the beginning of the National Cups competitions without regard to potential participation of teams from each state association,
- (b) consult with the Regional Director to establish deadline dates for the region by which state, national league and regional league entries must be received, and notifying the National Cups Commissioner of all dates of regional rounds of competitions,
- (c) consult with the Regional Director to establish the date by which all state and regional league rounds of competitions in the region must be completed,
- (d) forward all entry forms and fees received from state associations and regional leagues to the administrator in a timely manner,
- (e) coordinate the scheduling of all regional rounds of competitions,
- (f) resolve all disagreements regarding the sites, dates and times of regional cups competitions in consultation with the National Cups Committee,
- (g) coordinate with the Regional Referee Administrator for the scheduling and assignment of referees for all regional rounds of competitions,
- (h) provide the Regional Referee Administrator with rule books to distribute to referees assigned to regional rounds of the competitions,
- (i) provide the Regional Referee Administrator with the appropriate game report forms to be completed following all regional rounds of competitions, with directions on submission of the completed reports to the Regional Cups Commissioner,
- (j) periodically report to the National Cups Commissioner the ongoing results of the regional rounds of competitions and immediately report to the National Cups Commissioner and the USASA administrator the final determination of champions of regional rounds in any National Cups competitions,
- (k) administer all suspensions as provided in §307 for regional rounds of competition,
- (l) recommend to the National Cups Committee, player and team suspensions and fines related to breaches of this policy,
- (m) ensure timely distribution of National Cups entry forms, promotional materials and rule books to the State Cups Commissioners and regional leagues,
- (n) coordinate the processing and decisions of protests filed for regional and national rounds of competitions as provided by §309,
- (o) support the National Cups Commissioner and the Executive Committee in marketing of the National Cups program,
- (p) provide advice to the State Cup Commissioners regarding the conduct of the National Cups competitions and rule interpretations, and,
- (q) other duties assigned by the Regional Director and/or National Cups Commissioner.

503 STATE CUP COMMISSIONERS

1. State Cup Commissioners shall be appointed by the Regional Cups Commissioner in accordance with §502 ¶2 (a).

The State Cup Commissioners are responsible for coordinating and administering all games played in the National Cup competitions in their state association. The State Cups Commissioner's specific responsibilities shall include the following:

- (a) consult with the state association to establish deadline dates for the state association by which entries must be received, and notifying the Regional Cups Commissioner of all dates of intra-state games,
- (b) distribute entry forms, rule books, player pool forms, cup game report forms and other promotional materials to all USASA leagues and teams registered in the state, as well as forwarding similar information to all Federation youth organizations whose membership may be eligible for the National Cups competitions,
- (c) forward all entry forms and fees received from his/her state association to the Regional Cups Commissioner in a timely manner,
- (d) coordinate the scheduling of all intra-state Cup games, including dates and locations, and recommend to the state association any "closed" time periods required under §301,
- (e) resolve all disagreements regarding the sites, dates, and times of intra-state Cup games in consultation with the Regional Cups Commissioner,
- (f) coordinate with the State Referee Committee and Assignor for the scheduling and assignment of referees for all state rounds of competition,
- (g) coordinate with the State Referee Committee and Assignor the distribution of rule books to referees assigned to state rounds of competition,
- (h) provide the State Referee Committee and Assignor with the appropriate game report forms to be completed following all state rounds of competitions games, with directions on submission of the completed reports to the State Cup Commissioner,
- (i) periodically report to the Regional Cups Commissioner about the ongoing results of the state rounds of competitions and immediately report to the Regional Cups Commissioner the final determination of champions of state rounds of competitions in all National Cup competitions,
- (j) administer all suspensions as provided in §307 state rounds of competition,
- (k) recommend to the National Cups Committee, player or team suspensions and fines related to breaches of the Laws of the Game or of these Cup Policies,
- (l) assist in the processing and decisions of protests filed for state rounds of competitions as provided by §307.
- (m) support the National Cups Commissioner and the Executive Committee in marketing the National Cups program; and,
- (n) other duties assigned by the state association and the Regional Cups Commissioner.

PART VI - FINANCIAL MATTERS

601 TEAM BOND REQUIREMENT

1. The winning team from each state association, national league, regional league, and regional rounds of competitions shall post a bond of \$500.00 in the form of a cashiers or certified check made payable to "USASA". The check or money order shall be sent, within seven days after the team wins the competition, to the Regional or National Cups Commissioner, as the case may be. No regional or national round of competition involving that team may begin unless the appropriate commissioner is in possession of that bond.

If a team does not fulfill its obligations by failing to participate in a regional round (interstate) or national round Cup game as scheduled, the posted bond shall be forfeited. If that non-fulfillment results in a scheduled opponent or host association incurring any fair and reasonable expenses as a result, that opponent or state association may submit for payment within ten days, a statement of all such expenses, which shall be paid in an amount not to exceed the amount of the bond. The statement shall be submitted to the Regional Cups Commissioner for referral to the National Cups Committee. The committee shall make a recommendation to the executive committee of the fair and reasonable expenses that should be paid.

602 SUBSIDIES FOR REGIONAL FINALS

The USASA shall provide a subsidy to the four regions equitably apportioned by the National Cups Committee with the approval of the Executive Committee. The subsidies shall be disbursed directly to the treasurer of each region by the administrator at the direction of the Executive Committee. Full accounting to the Regional Director, Cups Commissioners and USASA Administrator must be made by the hosting state association.

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