



## 1) GENERAL RULES

a) Unless modified by this set of rules, all games shall be played in accordance with the most current IFAB Laws of the Game. All decisions of the referee are final and binding. The Tournament Committee, the adidas National Cup (hosted by the National Leagues Alliance and the Club Champions League), and the Virginia Youth Soccer Association will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by any team or club if the tournament is canceled in whole or part. Any team that cancels their registration for the tournament before acceptances are sent out will receive a full refund if the adidas National Cup staff has received written notice. Any team that cancels after acceptances have been sent out will not receive any refund of fees under any circumstances. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to decide on all matters about the tournament, and its judgment is final. Any team that disregards any decision by the Tournament Committee (including inclement weather policy) will be automatically dropped from the tournament and forfeit all remaining games. Neither the Tournament Director, the Club Champions League, Tournament Sponsors or coaches of host teams are responsible for any expenses incurred by any team if the tournament is canceled in whole or in part due to inclement weather, adverse field conditions, or circumstances beyond the Tournaments control. The adidas National Cup will provide a 90% refund if we are forced to cancel this event.

b) First-place trophies and award packages will be awarded to Champions (1st place winners in each age group) in the U11 through U19 age groups. Runners-Up will receive an award.

## 2) AGE AND ELIGIBILITY

a) Participation in the adidas National Cup is open to US Youth Soccer, US Club Soccer, and internationally accepted teams composed of twenty-two (22) or fewer players meeting the age limit of the specified division. U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U18, and U19 teams can bring a total of twenty-two players on their approved roster. U11 and U12 rosters comprise sixteen (16) or fewer players. U9 and U10 rosters have twelve (12) or fewer players. Players must have been born during or after the birth year. Each team must be registered and in good standing with their national organization or state soccer association and present a valid state roster. Player registration cards duly authorized by a team's sanctioning organization will be required as proof of age. **PLAYER PASSES MUST BE PRESENT AT THE FIELD FOR THE DURATION OF EACH GAME.**

b) No player shall play for more than one team during the tournament.



c) Players must participate on their primary team (or secondary if the primary team is not playing) if they are registered for the tournament. Players can participate as secondary carded players if their primary team is not registered in the tournament. Exception: players can participate on another team from within their own association as club carded and not be considered a guest players.

d) All US Youth Soccer teams (other than those from the East Region) MUST have a copy of the Permission to Travel form approved and signed by a duly authorized State Representative. US Club Soccer teams are not required to present a travel form. All International teams must have appropriate International Permission to Travel forms.

### **3) ROSTERS**

a) Each team shall have a roster properly stamped by its sanctioning organization present at every game, and the field marshal may inspect rosters at either the coach's request or the referee's decision.

b) Rosters submitted at tournament registration shall govern.

c) Roster Sizes:

U13 through U19: (11v11); 22 players (only 18 may be in uniform and eligible to play in each match – must be announced before the match begins)

U11 to U12: (9v9); 16 players

U9 through U10 (7v7); 12 players

### **4) GUEST PLAYERS**

a) This tournament is not intended as a tryout event.

b) A team may use no more than five (5) guest players, which the Tournament Director must approve. Rosters with guest players are limited as follows:

1) U13 to U19 teams may not have more than twenty-two (22) players on their roster, which number includes up to five (5) guest players.

2) U11 to U12 may not have more than sixteen (16) players on their roster, which number includes up to five (5) guest players.

3) U9 to U10 may not have more than twelve (12) players on their roster, which number includes up to five (5) guest players.

### **6) NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

a) U9 and U10 will play 7v7; U11 and U12 will play 9v9; all other age groups will play 11v11

b) A game may not start with fewer than seven (7) properly uniformed players on each team. Once started, games may not continue with fewer than seven (7) players per team. If a game cannot start or is stopped because a team has fewer than seven players, that team shall forfeit the game. A team shall have a 10-minute grace period from the scheduled starting time before a forfeit is declared. Note: U9 and U10 division games cannot start or continue with less than five (5) players. U11 and U12 division games cannot start or continue with less than six (6) players.

c) A forfeit in the preliminary rounds shall be awarded as three (3) points for the win. For tie-breaking purposes, the score shall be set as the average of goals scored by the winning team rounded up to the nearest whole number against the average of the goals given up by that team rounded down to the nearest whole number. As a minimum, the score will be recorded as 1-0.

d) If a team is a cause for termination of a game, that team will be considered to have forfeited that game.



e) Teams that have forfeited a game may not advance beyond the preliminary rounds without the approval of the tournament director.

## 7) SUBSTITUTIONS

- a) Substitutions without limit may be made, with the referee's permission:
  - i) After a goal has been made.
  - ii) At the beginning of the second half of play or prior to the beginning of an overtime period.
  - iii) At a goal kick by either team.
  - iv) At a throw-in by the team in possession, by either team.
- b) Limited substitutions may be made, with the referee's permission:
  - i) In case of stoppage of play for an injury on a one-for-one basis for the injured player(s).
    - o ii) To Replace A Cautioned Player.
- c) No substitutions on corner kicks will be permitted.
- d) A team may only substitute for a player who has been red-carded in the U16, U17, U18, and U19 age groups.

## 8) PROTESTS

THERE WILL BE NO PROTESTS.

## 9) UNIFORM, EQUIPMENT, AND FIELDS

- a) Players must wear numbers on the back of their uniforms, which shall coincide with those listed on the team's Official roster. This includes the Goalkeeper's uniform.
- b) PLAYERS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR SHIN GUARDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH IFAB LAWS OF THE GAME.
- c) The HOME team (listed first on the schedule) will wear their light-colored jerseys. The visiting team will wear their darker-colored jerseys. The home team will change their jersey if there is a color conflict.
- d) When the referee requests, each team must provide a linesperson.
- e) Check-in time is required to be completed online.
- f) Regardless of weather conditions, coaches and their teams must appear on the field, ready to play as scheduled. Failure to appear will result in forfeiture of the game. Only referees and/or the tournament director can postpone or cancel a game.
- g) The U12 and younger teams shall play with a size #4 ball, and U13 and older teams shall play with a size #5 ball.
- h) Heading the ball is prohibited in U11 games and younger. Whenever the ball strikes a player in the head, play is stopped. If deliberate, the proper restart is an indirect free kick to the opposing team. If this occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If the play by the head is deemed inadvertent, then the proper restart is a dropped ball.

## 10) DURATION OF GAMES

a) The following table shows the length of game halves for boys and girls preliminary matches, semi-final, and final matches.



<b>Ages</b>	<b>Match Length</b>	<b>Half Time</b>
U9-U10	50 mins	5 mins
U11-U12	60 mins	5 mins
U13-U15	70 mins	5 mins
U16-U19	80 mins	5 mins

b) In the event of inclement weather forces cancellation of a game after at least 20 minutes have been played, the game shall be considered official and the score at the point of cancellation shall be the final score. Should a game be halted before 20 minutes have been played, it shall be rescheduled for complete replay or another recommenced match length at the discretion of the Tournament Director. In the event of a semi-final or final tie, overtime shall be played as described: **Semi-final and Final matches will go straight to Penalty Kicks.**

## 11) DIVISION WINNERS AND WILD CARD TEAMS

a) Each team shall be awarded three points for a win and one point for a tie in the preliminary games. The division winner shall be the team with the most points. If two or more teams are tied in group play, the tie-breaking rules are as follows:

i) **Head-to-head competition (does not apply if more than two teams are involved)**

ii) **Goal Differential**

iii) **Goals For**

iv) **Fewest goals against**

v) **Most shutouts**

vi) **Penalty Kicks (PKs)** – The IFAB penalty kick procedure will be used to determine a winner. Coaches who feel their teams may require penalty kicks to see who advances should stay in close contact with Tournament Director throughout Saturday/Sunday so PKs can quickly be organized.

b) In the event of a tie among more than two teams: a tie is broken by the above system, but if the remaining teams still must be decided, those ties will be broken by starting again from the top of the tie-breaking procedure.

c) The Wild Card team will be the team from any division that has the highest win/tie total points after the division winners have been determined. In the event of a tie, the above-listed priority applies. In the initial knock-out round, the wildcard team cannot play a team from their division.

## 12) GAME AND SCORE REPORTING

a) The Field Marshal will ensure that the game report forms are properly completed, signatures obtained, and scores recorded at the end of each game.

b) The Field Marshal will ensure that the winning team (or the home team if the game is tied) brings the scorecard to the headquarters immediately after the completion of the match. The Division Coordinator will ensure that all field books are turned in to Tournament Headquarters after the conclusion of the last game on that field.

## 13. CONDUCT

a) Players, coaches, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves within the spirit of the Law and the letter of the Law. Displays of temper or dissent cause ejection from the game and the surrounding field area.

b) Both teams (players and coaches) will be on the same sideline. Spectators of both teams will take the opposite side of the pitch. No one will be allowed behind either end line.



c) A player or coach receiving a red card will not be able to participate in the remainder of the current match and not be able to participate in the tournament game following the game the card is issued. The Adidas National Cup reserves the right to SUSPEND ANY PLAYER, COACH, OR TEAM FROM THE TOURNAMENT FOR UNRULY CONDUCT.

d) **Accumulation of Cards** – any player or coach who receives a second caution card (yellow) during any part of the tournament will not be allowed to participate in the next tournament game following the contest where the second caution card was issued.

e) In the event of assault/abuse on a game official, a judiciary hearing shall immediately be convened at a Tournament site to be designated by the Tournament Director. All terms described in the USSF Official Administrative Rule Book under Rule 3.2.8, "Suspension for Assault on Official", shall apply. In any event, a player, coach, or other team official charged with assault on a game official is suspended from further participation in the Tournament.

f) Any team disregarding a decision by the referees and/or the Tournament Committee to either suspend or cancel tournament play, will be disqualified for the remainder of the tournament. Also, a written complaint will be filed with the team's sanctioning organization.

#### **14. HEADING RULE AT AGE GROUP DIVISIONS U11 AND YOUNGER**

Whenever the ball strikes a player in the head, play is stopped. The proper restart depends upon whether the player deliberately played the ball with his or her head. If deliberate, the proper restart is an indirect free kick to the opposing team. If this occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If the play by the head is deemed in advertent, then the proper restart is a dropped ball.

#### **15. U9 & 10 BUILD-OUT LINES**

1. When the goalkeeper has the ball, either during play (from the opponent) or from a goal kick, the opposing team must move behind the build-out line until the ball is put into play. Once the opposing team is behind the build-out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball into play (punting is not allowed). After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build-out line, and play resumes as normal. If a goalkeeper punts the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the punt occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.

2. Offsides: The buildout line will also denote where offside offenses can be called. Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the build-out line. Players can be penalized for an offside offense between the build-out line and the goal line.

#### **16. TEAM/SPECTATOR FIELD POSITIONS**

a) Coaches and players shall stand on opposite sides of the field from parents and spectators. No coaching shall be permitted within 18 yards of the goal line, from behind the goal line, or from the parent/spectator sideline. Parents and spectators from both teams shall stand on the same side of the field. The behavior of the parents and fans remains the responsibility of the coach and club. The referee and the Tournament

b) Representatives are authorized to remove any spectator whose behavior, in their opinion, interferes with the game's play. All spectators will remain behind spectator lines, as designated.



***c) The Adidas National Cup and its representatives takes pride in creating a competitive and respectful match environment. We expect all players, coaches, club officials, parents, and spectators to adhere to the highest levels of sportsmanship.***

## **17. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND PETS**

a) The use and presence of alcoholic beverages is prohibited near and at all game sites, including parking areas. Pets are not permitted on or near the fields.

## **18) EASTERN REGION POLICY REGARDING APPLICATION TO HOST A TOURNAMENT**

a) The Eastern Region has established the following policy concerning permission to travel when attending US Youth Soccer sanctioned tournaments in the Eastern Region. The purpose of this policy is to make it as simple as possible for the US Youth Soccer Eastern Region teams to travel to tournaments within the Eastern Region. The new policy states that any US Youth Soccer State Association teams within the Eastern Region that are accepted into a tournament in the Eastern Region, do not need permission to travel papers.

b) Permission to Travel is not required in friendly games within the Eastern Region.

## **NATIONAL STATE ASSOCIATIONS IN THE EAST REGION**

Connecticut Jr Soccer Assn

Delaware Youth Soccer Assn

Eastern New York Youth Soccer Assn

Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Assn

Soccer Maine

Maryland Youth Soccer Assn

Massachusetts Youth Soccer Assn

New Hampshire Soccer Assn

New Jersey Youth Soccer Assn

New York State West Youth Soccer Assn

Pennsylvania West State Soccer Assn

Soccer Rhode Island

Vermont Soccer Assn

Virginia Youth Soccer Assn

West Virginia Soccer Assn

