



2025-26 Presidents Cup Tournament Rules

1. AGE AND ELIGIBILITY

- A. Participation in the Presidents Cup is open to accepted teams, properly registered and rostered with Georgia Soccer. Player passes and a valid Georgia Soccer State roster are required at check-in and at the fields for the duration of the games.
- B. Participation in the State Championship is as follows:
 - A team is not eligible to participate in Presidents Cup if the team advanced to a round of 16, quarter, semi or finals in a State Cup or State Championship.
 - A team is not eligible to participate if it competed in an elite, premier or the most competitive level or levels in any regional or national league or were a member of a national level developmental academy.
- C. Age groups for teams are those of US Youth Soccer for the seasonal year.
- D. Teams must demonstrate a continuity of rosters between a Georgia Soccer sanctioned league and the Championships by maintaining a minimum of nine (9) players common to both rosters.
- E. Club passing is allowed, providing that the team the player is club passed from is eligible for the Championship. See Rule 1B and 1C for team eligibility.
- F. Guest players are not allowed.
- G. A player may play for only one team during the State Round tournament.
- H. Winners- in age groups determined by US Youth will advance to the Southern Presidents Cup.
- I. Recreational players participating in the tournament may not participate in the State United Rec Cup.

2. LAWS OF THE GAME

- A. All games shall be played in accordance with FIFA Laws, except as specifically modified by these rules.
- B. U13 through U19 teams will play 11v11, roster limit is 22. 18 players will be identified for each match.



3. DURATION OF GAMES

The duration of tournament games shall be in accordance with the following:

Year	Ball Size	Preliminary Matches & Semi Finals	Finals
Under 19	5	90 minutes	90 minutes
Under 17	5	90 minutes	90 minutes
Under 16	5	80 minutes	80 minutes
Under 15	5	80 minutes	80 minutes
Under 14	5	70 minutes	70 minutes
Under 13	5	70 minutes	70 minutes

4. FIELD AND GAME EQUIPMENT

- A. Players must wear numbers on the back of their uniforms and these numbers shall coincide with those listed on the teams' official game card.
- B. Players are required to wear shin guards in accordance with FIFA laws of the game.
- C. The designated home team shall provide the game ball unless supplied by the tournament.
- D. Players will be allowed to play with a cast in accordance with Georgia Soccer Law 540.3.

5. PROTESTS

THERE WILL BE NO PROTESTS ALLOWED.

6. SUBSTITUTIONS

- a. Unlimited substitutions may be made, with the referee's permission:
 - i. After a goal has been scored.
 - 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.
 - v. In case of stoppage of play for an injury.



7. UNIFORMS

- A. The home team will wear light colored jerseys and socks. The visiting team will wear dark colored jerseys and socks. The team in the incorrect color will have to change.
- B. In the tournament, team uniforms (including team officials) may have the name, logo or other identifying mark of US Youth Soccer and/or one of US Youth Soccer's affiliated State Associations or affiliated clubs. Team uniforms may also have a mark or name related to an item or service that is appropriate for youth soccer.
- C. Any inappropriate marks or logos, as well as the name, logo, or other identifying mark of any youth soccer organization not affiliated with US Youth Soccer must be removed.

8. CONDUCT

- A. Players, coaches, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves within the spirit and the letter of the Law.
- B. Players, coaches, and team officials ejected from a game by the referee shall be ineligible for the next scheduled game.
- C. All players and coaches will take one side of the field, and supporters will take the other side. No one will be allowed behind either goal line.

9. GROUP WINNERS AND WILD CARD TEAMS

- A. Each team will be awarded points as follows:
 - 3 points for a win
 - 1 point for a tie
 - 0 points for a loss
- B. At the end of the Group round, the Group winner shall be the team with the most points in the Group. In the event of a tie within a Group the following criteria shall be used to determine the winner.
 - 1 Head to head competition. (In the event of a tie among more than 2 teams, this criterion will not be considered.)
 - 2 Most wins.
 - 3 Greater net goal difference, with a maximum of +4 and a minimum of -4 for any one game.
 - 4 Least number of goals allowed. There is no limit on the number of goals that will be counted to determine the tiebreaker.
 - 5 Most goals, with a maximum of 4 per game.
 - 6 FIFA kicks from the penalty mark thirty minutes prior to the scheduled playoff round games.
- C. In the event of a tie among 3 or more teams, the elimination of a team begins with B #2 noted above. If 2 teams remain, the tie shall be broken by repeating the above elimination procedures beginning with **Step B #2.**
- D. In the event that a wild card team must be selected for the playoff rounds, the above procedure, starting at 9B, will be used across the entire division.
- E. The Tournament Committee, acting within the parameters of these rules, will determine the teams to advance into the final round.



10. PLAYOFF ROUNDS

- a. Winners of each group advance into the playoff rounds.
- b. If a wild card team is selected for the playoff rounds, that team will not be assigned to play against the winner of its own group in the first playoff round. If the wildcard comes from group A, the wildcard will play the winner of group B in the semi-finals and the winner of A will play the winner of C.
- c. If the winners of groups B and C have already played each other in round robin, then B will play the wildcard and A will play C.
- d. Overtime will be played in case of a draw at the end of regulation time in the semi-finals and finals.
 - i. U13 and above will play one 10-minute overtime period with the teams exchanging ends after 5 minutes and a 2-minute interval.
 - ii. If no goals are scored during overtime play, FIFA kicks from the penalty mark will be taken to determine the winner.

11. FAILURE TO SHOW AND FORFEITS

- A. A team shall be allowed a 15-minute grace period after the scheduled kick-off time before the match is awarded to their opponent. A minimum of 7 players constitutes a team and if 7 players are present, the game will not be delayed.
- B. In no case shall a team which forfeits a game be declared a division winner or wild card team.
- C. If a team is the cause for termination of a game, that team will be considered to have forfeited that game.
- D. Should a team in round-robin competition intentionally forfeit any match, official game scores for all of that team's games shall be recorded as 4-0 losses. A team that intentionally forfeits a match will be considered to have withdrawn from the tournament.
- E. Forfeits of games in the playoff rounds shall be recorded as 1-0 games.

12. INCLEMENT WEATHER

- A. In case of inclement weather, the Tournament Committee will have the authority to change games as follows:
 - 1. Relocate or reschedule any game.
 - 2. Change the format or duration of any game.
 - 3. Cancel any preliminary game.
 - 4. Preliminary games terminated by game or Tournament officials after one half of play shall be considered official as of the time of termination.
- B. If the tournament is not played on the original date due to weather, teams will be expected to play on the rain dates posted on the tournament website. If a team chooses not to play on the specified rain date, they will not receive a refund of their entry fee.

13. GENERAL

- A. Under no circumstances whatsoever will the Tournament Committee or Georgia Soccer be responsible for any expenses (including tournament entry fee) incurred by any team. This includes a situation where the Tournament or any game is canceled in whole or part.
- B. Entry fees are non-refundable once entries close. A \$25.00 fee will be charged to teams that withdraw prior to entry deadline.
- C. Refunds will be made if the tournament is cancelled due to weather or Acts of God, but approximately one-half of the entry fee will be retained.
- D. The Tournament Committee's interpretation of the rules shall be final.
- E. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to decide on all matters pertaining to this Tournament.