

**POLICY  
ON  
US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS  
2011-2012**

**PART I—GENERAL**

**Rule 101. DEFINITIONS**

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

- (1) **“add”** means the addition of a player to a team’s roster.
- (2) **“Board of Directors”** means the Board of Directors of US Youth Soccer established under Bylaw 411.
- (3) **“club”** means an organization providing soccer to youth players that is a member of a State Association; provided however, a “club” need not have the word “club” as part of its official name.
- (4) **“club pass”** means a US Youth Soccer pass which—
  - (A) issued to a registered youth player by a club in compliance with the rules of the State Association of which the club is a member;
  - (B) issued as provided by this policy; and
  - (C) specifies the club of which the youth player is a registered member.
- (5) **“eligibility to play”** means registered and not under suspension.
- (6) **“Federation”** means the United States Soccer Federation, Inc.
- (7) **“game roster”** means the list of players who will participate in a particular competition.
- (8) **“involuntary release”** means the removal of a player from a team’s roster at the request of team authorities.
- (9) **“National Championships competitions”** means the competitions provided for under this policy for the Under 14, Under 15, Under 16, Under 17, Under 18, and Under 19 age groups.
- (10) **“recreational team”** means a team that participates in a recreational league.
- (11) **“recreational league”** means an intra-club league in which—
  - (A) the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any similar process to roster players to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited;
  - (B) the club administering the league accepts as participants in the league any eligible youths (subject to reasonable terms on registration);
  - (C) a system of rostering players is used to establish a fair or balanced distribution of playing talent among all teams participating; and
  - (D) league rules require that each player must play at least one-half of each game except for reasons of injury, illness, or discipline.
- (12) **“Referee Committee”** means the US Youth Soccer Referee Committee established under Bylaw 501.
- (13) **“region”** means one of those regions established under Bylaw 322.
- (14) **“registration”** means the signing of an intent to play the sport of soccer and the paying of fees to become a member of US Youth Soccer.
- (15) **“rostering”** means assignment of a registered player to a team.
- (16) **“select team”** means the official select or all-star team of —
  - (A) US Youth Soccer;
  - (B) a region;
  - (C) a State Association;
  - (D) a district or geographical subdivision of a State Association; or
  - (E) any league.
- (17) **“State Association”** means the administrative body within a territory determined by the National Council to carry out US Youth Soccer’s programs for youth players.

(18) “**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.

(19) “**team**” means a group of soccer players playing on the same side in soccer games.

(20) “**team roster**” means a list of registered players eligible to play for a team.

(21) “**US Youth Soccer**” means the United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc.

(22) “**voluntary release**” means the removal of a player from a team’s roster at the request of the player.

(23) “**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.** US Youth Soccer establishes and shall organize annually National Championships competitions in the 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 National Championships competitions for boys and girls in each of the age groups. These competitions shall be conducted at the State Association, regional, and national levels.

## **Rule 103. TITLES**

**Section 1.** The title of the National Championships competitions for each of the age groups shall be “US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS”.

**Section 2.** (a) The titles of the cups presented annually to the champion team of each boys and girls age group are the following:

(1) for the boys Under 14 age group, the US Youth Soccer William J. ‘Billy’ Goaziou Cup.

(2) for the girls Under 14 age group, the US Youth Soccer Elmer Ehlers Cup.

(3) for the boys Under 15 age group, the US Youth Soccer adidas Cup.

(4) for the girls Under 15 age group, the US Youth Soccer Kristine Lilly Cup.

(5) for the boys Under 16 age group, the US Youth Soccer Larry Harmon Cup.

(6) for the girls Under 16 age group, the US Youth Soccer Girls Under 16 Cup.

(7) for the boys Under 17 age group, the US Youth Soccer Don Greer Cup.

(8) for the girls Under 17 age group, the US Youth Soccer Laura Moynihan Cup.

(9) for the boys Under 18 age group, the US Youth Soccer Andy Stone Cup.

(10) for the girls Under 18 age group, the US Youth Soccer Frank Kelly Cup.

(11) for the boys Under 19 age group, the James P. McGuire Cup.

(12) for the girls Under 19 age group, the US Youth Soccer Ross Stewart Cup.

(b) The cup for each boys and girls age group shall be engraved annually with the name of the champion team of that age group.

**Section 3.** The cups are the property of US Youth Soccer and shall be competed for annually on dates and at sites determined by the Board of Directors.

**Section 4.** National Championships competitions at the State Association and regional levels shall include in their title the name US Youth Soccer National Championships as follows:

(1) for State Association competitions: “US YOUTH SOCCER [insert State Association name] CHAMPIONSHIPS” or “US YOUTH SOCCER [insert State Association name] STATE CUP”.

(2) for regional competitions: “US Youth Soccer [directional] [or] REGION [insert region roman number] CHAMPIONSHIPS”.

## **Rule 104. AWARDS TO TEAMS AND PLAYERS**

**Section 1.** The champion team for each boys and girls age group at the national level each year will be presented with the cup for that age group.

**Section 2.** Each champion and second place team referred to in section 1 of this rule will receive, at the national level, a National Champion Plaque which will remain in its keeping permanently.

**Section 3.** The players and coaches of each of the 4 teams that are first, second, third, and fourth place teams competing in the National Championships at the national level in each of the boys and girls age groups shall be awarded individual medals.

**Section 4.** The players and coaches of each of the teams that are first, second, third, and fourth place in the National Championships competitions at the region level in each of the boys and girls age groups shall be awarded individual medals.

**Section 5.** The players and coaches of each champion team of each boys and girls age group at the State Association level of competition shall receive an embroidered patch.

## **Rule 105. ADMINISTRATION**

**Section 1.** (a) The entire administration of these competitions is vested in the Board of Directors.

(b) 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 National Championships Committee appointed as provided by the US Youth Soccer bylaws. The Committee is responsible for the entire administration of the Championships competitions, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

**Section 3.** The Regional Director of each region shall appoint a Regional Championships Committee for the region. The Committee is responsible for deciding all administrative matters related to the Championships competitions at the regional level.

**Section 4.** (a) The Board of Directors shall determine each year the dates for deadline for entry in the National Championships competitions, the entry fee for these competitions, and the date and sites of the succeeding year's National Championships competitions. All State Associations will be advised, in writing, of that date not later than November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and not less than 90 days prior to the deadline for entry.

(b) Not later than the deadline for entry established by the Board of Directors, each State Association wishing to enter these competitions shall submit to the Chairman of the Regional Championships Committee, for forwarding to the US Youth Soccer national office, the following:

- (1) a non-refundable fee in the amount set by the Board of Directors for each competition.
- (2) an entry form indicating the State Association's intention to compete, with a copy of this form provided to the Regional Director.

## **Rule 106. PRECEDENCE OF GAMES**

National Championships 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 shall be conducted at the following levels:

- (1) The first level of competitions for all boys and girls age groups is at the State Association level.
- (2) The second level of competitions for all boys and girls age groups is at the regional level.
- (3) 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.** (a) Each State Association 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 it for each boys and girls age group at the National Championships competitions for the region of which the State Association is a member.

(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 the State Association. League competition may not be considered a tournament format.

**Section 2.** Prior to the competitions at the State Association level, the schedule and plans for determining the State Association representatives shall be submitted for approval to the Regional Director or the Director's designee of that State Association's region.

#### **Rule 203. REGIONAL LEVEL COMPETITION**

**Section 1.** Each of the regions shall conduct National Championships 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 Championships competitions.

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

**Section 3.** Only a State Association of a region may host the National Championships 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 shall compete in the National Championships competitions to determine the champion team for each of those boys and girls age groups. The teams from the regions shall compete in a round-robin format recommended by the National Championships Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

### **Subpart B—Teams and Players**

#### **Rule 221. TEAM ELIGIBILITY**

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

- (1) The team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered youth players (as defined by US Youth Soccer).

(2) The team must be in good standing with its State Association and must be in compliance with, and has not violated, any of the bylaws and policies of US Youth Soccer.

(3) The team must be entered in the competition of the State Association in which at least 50 percent of its players are registered.

(4) The team must compete in at least a 4-team approved league during the current seasonal year in its State Association, US Youth Soccer Regional League or US Youth Soccer National League, or with its State Association's permission in another State Association, except for the U-19 age group for boy's and girl's. The league competition must consist of a minimum of one game against each of 3 different teams participating in the league. Whether participation in any amateur league shall qualify a youth team for Championship competition under this policy shall be determined by each State Association.

(5) A team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the league and every level of the National Championships competitions by maintaining a minimum of 9 players common to the roster of the team at every level of the competitions.

**Section 2.** (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 State Association level of the National Championships competitions submits its National Championships roster for its first competition at the State Association level.

(2) Only at the State Association level of the National Championships competitions (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 written request, stating the reason why this action has been requested, has been made to and approved by the State Association on a form provided by it; and

(B) at the time a team's National Championships competitions roster for competitions at the State Association level is determined under this rule, the team may not have 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 of the State Association of which the club is a member.

(3) A State Association is not required to consider as a rostered player a player on a school team when the State Association administers school programs.

(b) In addition to the application of the club pass provisions of the policy, a team participating in the National Championships competitions may release involuntarily a player from its roster if the player has violated bylaws, policies, or requirements of the Federation, US Youth Soccer, the State Association, or the member of the State Association through whom the player is registered.

(c) A team may have on its team roster only players of the following age groups for the seasonal year in which the team is participating in the National Championships:

(1) For teams competing in the Under 14 and Under 15 age groups, each player on the team must be (A) of the age of the age group competition in which the team is participating in 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 in that seasonal year.

(2) For the teams competing in the Under 16, Under 17, Under 18, and Under 19 age groups, each player on the team must be (A) of the age of the age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year, or (B) of the age of any younger age group, through the Under 14 age group, of that age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year.

**Section 3.** Every team in the National Championships competitions shall have a team roster, a National Championships roster determined under this rule based on the players on the team's roster, and a game roster for every match or competition.

(1) Team Roster

A team roster shall have a minimum of 9 registered players on its roster at all times.

(2) National Championships Roster

A team shall have a National Championships roster based on its team roster at the State Association level of the National Championships competitions, approved by the State Association where the team resides. The team roster may have up to 22 youth players on the roster at all levels of the competitions. .

(3) Game Roster

The game roster shall be prepared by the team and submitted to the competition authority at a time set by the State Association for State Cup play, by the Region for Regional Cup play, and not later than 60 minutes prior to each scheduled game in National Championships play at the national level. The game roster 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 team's National Championships roster to be eligible to participate with the team in the National Championships competitions.

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

- (1) an unregistered player was with the team at the game in a uniform; or
- (2) a player was improperly entered on the team's roster.
- (3) the team no longer has a recognized team official as required by Rule 241, sections 1, 2, and 4, on the team bench.

**Section 5.** It shall be the responsibility of the appropriate official designated by each entering State Association to certify the eligibility of competing teams and to provide the teams with a copy of this policy.

**Section 6.** The team must provide its National Championships roster for National Championships competitions as follows:

- (1) at the State Association level, prior to the team's first National Championship game at the State Association level or no earlier than 14 days prior to the beginning of that age group competition at the State level;
- (2) at the regional level, at the time of the team's registration for the team's age group competition at that level that shall be determined by the region which shall be no later than 7 days prior to the beginning of the team's age group competition at the regional level; and
- (3) at the national level, at the time of the team's registration for the team's age group competition at that level that shall be determined by the National Championships Committee which shall be no later than 7 days prior to the beginning of that team's age group competition at the national level.

**Section 7.** (a) At the regional and national levels of the National Championships competitions, a team of a club may have on its National Championship roster an eligible player of that club who was not on the team's National Championships roster at the prior level of the team's National Championships competition.

(b) A player may be rostered to only one team's National Championships roster at each level of the National Championships competitions during the seasonal year.

**Section 8.** A team may compete in only one age group of the National Championships competitions during the seasonal year.

## **Rule 222. FORFEITS FOR FAILURE TO COMPETE**

**Section 1.** Any team or State Association intending to forfeit at the national level must give notice of its intention to forfeit to its Regional Director and the Chairman of its Regional Championships Committee within the deadline set by the National Championships Committee or the Board of Directors. The notice shall include the reason for the forfeit.

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

**Section 3.** Any team or State Association 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.** Any team or State Association intending to forfeit regional games must give notice to its Regional Director and the Chairman of its Regional Championships Committee in accordance with the region's policies and procedures.

**Section 5.** Forfeits and failures to compete in games at the regional level by a team or State Association shall be dealt with in accordance with the region's policies and procedures.

#### **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 US Youth Soccer shall be subject to sanctions including, but not limited 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 the State Association.

**Section 2.** A youth player may be on the National Championships roster of only one team at each level of the National Championships competitions 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 Rule 221, Section 1 (5), at each level of the National Championships 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 competitions and in any event only in compliance with the rules of the State Association of which the club is a member.

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

**Section 4.** The first National Championships roster of a team to which the player is rostered is the only team with which the player may participate in at each level of the National Championships competitions for a seasonal year.

#### **Rule 225. TEAM AND PLAYER BREACHES OF RULES**

**Section 1.** It is the responsibility of the National Championships 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 National Championships competitions 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 National Championships competitions in the current and subsequent seasonal year. A player found guilty of submitting falsified birth information is prohibited from competing further in National Championships competitions in the current and subsequent seasonal year.

**Section 3.** A player who is sent-off from any championship game is prohibited from participating in the next immediately following championship game played by the player's team. A player may receive more than a one-game 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 US Youth Soccer. Any coach or team official shall be held responsible for the actions of any individual at any game that, in the opinion of the referee, is a supporter of that team.

## **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 National Championships competitions, shall be referred to the National Championships Committee regarding games at the national level, or to the Regional Championships Committee regarding games at the regional level.

**Section 2.** (a) To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest —

(1) must be orally lodged by a team official listed on the team roster involved in the game 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 appropriate committee within 2 hours after the completion of the game being protested, accompanied by—

(A) a fee in an amount determined by the Board of Directors;

(B) 5 written copies of the protest, which must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged; and

(C) 5 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) The Chairman 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.** (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—

(1) if a decision of the Regional Championships Committee, with the Chairman of that Committee who shall immediately notify the Chairman of the National Championships Committee; or

(2) if a decision of the National Championships Committee, with the Chairman of that Committee who shall immediately notify the Board of Directors.

(b) Each appeal filed under subsection (a) of this section must be accompanied by—

(1) a fee in an amount determined by the 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 National Championships competitions is not sufficient grounds for a protest or appeal. Violators may expect appropriate action by US Youth Soccer.

**Section 6.** In National Championships competitions at the State Association level, decisions made on protests and appeals by the state protest and appeal authority are binding and allow that competition to proceed.

### **Subpart C—Game Play**

## **Rule 241. PASSES, ROSTERS, AND UNIFORMS**

**Section 1.** At the State Association, regional, and national levels of National Championships competitions, each player and team official listed on a team's National Championships 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 or other appropriate means of identification. 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 the appropriate official of the State Association.

**Section 2.** Each player at the State Association, regional, and national levels of the National Championships competitions must be listed on the US Youth Soccer National Championships roster for the player's team for that level. Each player must sign the roster. All information listed on the roster must be verified by the appropriate official of the State Association and signed by that official for each level of the National Championships competitions.

**Section 3.** (a) The team's National Championships roster and the US Youth Soccer member passes must be available at the game site at all times. The roster shall include the number of each player's jersey.

(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) At the national level of the National Championships competitions, each player shall have on his or her shorts the US Youth Soccer patch provided each player.

(d) Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from other players and game officials.

(e) At every level of the National Championships competitions, a player or team official at a game site to participate in a game of the competitions may only have on the 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 organization 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.** At the regional and national levels of the National Championships competitions, the players and team officials of each team must sign the official game lineup form in the presence of the Regional Championships Committee or the National Championships Committee, as the case may be, or its designee at times designated by the appropriate Committee.

## **Rule 242. PLAYING RULES**

**Section 1.** The playing rules of the National Championships competitions shall conform to the FIFA "Laws of the Game" except as provided by this rule.

**Section 2.** (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:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Game Length</u>	<u>Overtime Play</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Circumference</u>	<u>Weight</u>
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.

(b)(1) In competitions at the State Association and regional levels, tie games at the end of regulation playing time may stand.

(2) In competitions at the national level, tie games at the end of regulation playing time will stand except for each 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, 2 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 2 overtime periods, FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" rules will apply in order to determine the winner.

**Section 3.** At the National Championships competitions at the national level—

(1) for the Under 14 age group, unlimited substitutions shall be allowed; and

(2) for all other age groups, 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.

**Section 4.** (a) At the National Championships competitions at the regional and national levels, unfinished games due to any cause shall be replayed if neither team is at fault and 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 Regional or National Championships 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 Regional or National Championships Committee whether the game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit.

(b) At the National Championships competitions at the regional and national levels, all protests and appeals must be submitted by a team official listed on the team roster involved in the game. For protests involving completed games, see sections 1 and 2 of Rule 226.

#### **Rule 243. GAME OFFICIALS**

**Section 1.** For National Championships competitions at the national level, the Chairman of the Referee Committee shall appoint the game officials. For National Championships competitions at the regional level, the Regional Representative to the Referee Committee shall appoint the game officials.

**Section 2.** Any referee appointed to officiate in any National Championship competition game may not be a past or present member of either of the competing teams.

**Section 3.** The scale of charges for referees shall be—

(1) for State Association level competition, as set by the State Association.

(2) for regional level competition, as set by the region.

(3) for national level competition, as set by the National Championships Committee.

**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 and where assistant referees have been appointed, one of the assistant referees shall take charge. Where assistant referees have not been appointed and the referee fails to put in an appearance, the coaches or managers of the opposing teams must agree on a referee for the game. The same procedure will apply in the event of a referee becoming ill during the process of a game.

**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 of any offender within 2 days thereafter to the State Association with a copy to the Regional Director. No player shall leave the field of play without the consent of the referee.

**Section 7.** The referee must forward to the Competition Administrator on the official game report form, the results of the game, a list of the players participating in the game, and all particulars related to the game.

**PART III—AMENDMENT OF POLICY**

**Rule 301. AMENDMENT OF POLICY**

Except in an emergency, the Board of Directors may adopt an amendment to this policy only after providing State Associations, at least 30 days prior to the Board's consideration of the proposed amendment, written notice and the text of each proposed amendment. State Associations shall have until 10 days before the Board's consideration an opportunity to submit to the Board written comments about the proposed amendment.

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