Cal North State Cup Directives, Rules & Regulations

These rules govern Cal North State Cup Competitions and supersede any other Cal North rules to the extent that other Cal North rules may be inconsistent with these rules.

RULES FOR UNDER 9, UNDER 10 AND UNDER 11 STATE CUP CAN BE LOCATED IN THE CAL NORTH JUNIOR CUP FESTIVAL DIRECTIVES, RULES & REGULATIONS DOCUMENT

I. CAL NORTH STATE CUP COMPETITIONS

A. The Cal North State Cup is a statewide event held in winter and spring. Participating teams may be subject to travel over long distances and rescheduling of games due to adverse weather conditions. Teams that do not care to travel or that lack the flexibility to play rescheduled games should not apply.

B. The purpose of the **Cal North** State Cup competitions is the selection of **Cal North** State Champions in each of the age and gender groups offered. Separate competitions will be held in both boys and girls U12, U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U18, U19 divisions.

C. Winners of the U12, U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U18 and U19 division competitions will be eligible to represent California Youth Soccer Association in the annual US Youth Soccer Region IV Cup Competition.

II. JURISDICTION

A. The entire **Cal North** State Cup competition shall be under the jurisdiction of the **Cal North** State Cup Committee as authorized by the **Cal North** Board of Directors. The **Cal North** Board of Directors reserves the right to any final decision with regard to any and all games played in these competitions.

III. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A. **Cal North** State Cup competitions are open to any Under-12 through Under-19 **Cal North** registered team so long as such team meets **Cal North** State Cup entrance and eligibility requirements, is in good standing at the time of entry, and remains in good standing throughout the competition.

B. Any team that participates in an Under-11 or younger playing league may not enter the **Cal North** State Cup.

C. A team or player may play in only one (1) **Cal North** Cup competition within the same current seasonal year. (i.e. a team or player may not play in **Cal North** State Cup and **Cal North** Presidents Cup, **Cal North** Association Cup or **Cal North** Founders' Cup)

D. Any player on a frozen cup roster is considered to have participated in cup play.

E. Players must be properly registered with a **Cal North** affiliated league and their credentials approved by the District Commissioner/Registrar for the current seasonal year, in accordance with **Cal North** and US Youth Soccer Rules. All roster changes will be transacted in compliance with player eligibility rules and roster add, transfer and release requirements.

1. At the time a team's roster is frozen for **Cal North** State Cup, the team may not have more than five rostered players who were previously rostered during the current seasonal year with a league other than the league of which the team is a member. The rostering of such players with such league shall be made in compliance with the registration rules of **Cal North**.

2. U12 and U13 teams may have up to 18 registered players on their roster. U14 - U18 teams may have up to 22 registered players on the roster (only 18 rostered players are allowed to be game active for each match and the 18 players listed on the game card can change from match to match. Players who are on the roster but not active for the match can sit on the bench but cannot be in uniform)

F. All rostering of individuals on **Cal North** State Cup teams, including transfers, adds and releases will be processed in accordance with **Cal North** and US Youth Soccer registration requirements.

1. A "club pass" is a player pass issued by a **Cal North** affiliated member league to a registered player of that league. The pass shall be issued in compliance with the rules and requirements of **Cal North**.

2. At the time a team's roster is frozen for **Cal North** State Cup, the team may not have more than five rostered players who were previously rostered during the current seasonal year with a league other than the league of which the team is a member. The rostering of such players with such league shall be made in compliance with the registration rules of **Cal North**.

G. On the Tuesday prior to the scheduled start of cup play for the team's age group and gender the team's cup rosters will freeze in regard to any player movement on or off the roster. In order to be included on the frozen cup roster all roster changes involving players must be processed by the District Registrar not later than midnight on the Monday prior to cup. Transactions involving player movement on or off the team roster (adds, transfers and/or releases) must be submitted to the District Registrar no later than the Friday prior to the roster freeze deadline. Beginning on the roster freeze deadline, roster changes involving players will not be permitted throughout the duration of the state-level cup competition. Only players rostered in accordance with **Cal North** and US Youth Soccer Cup and registration rules will be eligible to participate in Cal North Presidents Cup Competitions

H. Registered team officials may be added to or removed from a team roster at any time prior to the **Cal North** State Cup competition beginning or after the **Cal North** State Cup Competition has begun.

I. **Cal North** Teams advancing to the US Youth Soccer Region IV Championships and/or the US Youth Soccer National Championships will be eligible to make additional limited roster changes following the conclusion of **Cal North** State Cup and again following the conclusion of US Youth Soccer Region IV Championships provided the changes are in compliance with the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series rules. All roster changes will be in compliance with **Cal North** player eligibility rules and roster add, transfer and release requirements and must be submitted to the **Cal North** State Registrar not later than 14 days prior to the start of competition for which the roster is being frozen

1. With the exception of U19 teams, teams participating in State Cup, Region IV Championships and/or National Championship must demonstrate a continuity of rosters between the league and every level of the NCS competition by maintaining a minimum of 9 players from the league roster common to the roster of the team at every level of the competitions. For U19 teams because there is no requirement for league play for National Championship Series, the continuity of roster must be demonstrated from the frozen State Cup roster to the roster for Region IV and National Championships. The 9 core players can be a different 9 players at the Regional and National levels.

2. So long as a team is in compliance with the requirement for continuity of 9 players between the levels of cup as noted previously, the team may transfer or add players to the team roster if and only if the player being added or transferred to the roster was registered in the team's league prior to the team's roster being frozen for state cup play.

3. US Youth Soccer National Championship Series Rule 221 Section 2 states "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 the youth player is to be rostered for the State Association level of the National Championships competitions submits it National Championships roster for its first competition at the State Association level." In **Cal North** Leagues, not Clubs, are the organizations that affiliate with the State Association and therefore in this rule use of the word "league" is appropriate in place of "club".

4. For complete information regarding rosters and player eligibility for the National Championships Series please refer to Part I, Section 1, item (5), Section 2, items (1) through (3); Part II, Rule 221 and Rule 224 of the **Policy on US Youth Soccer National Championships**

IV. TEAM ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

A. In order for a team to be eligible for **Cal North** State Cup Competition, it must submit:

1. The **Cal North** State Cup Competition Entry Form filled-out completely and including the signature or electronic acknowledgement of a registered team official.

2. **Cal North** State Cup Entry Fees in the amount of $625.00 by credit card, check or money order payable to California Youth Soccer Association.

3. A legible copy of the team's official roster (goldenrod) that has been approved by the team's district registrar.

B. Completed applications submitted by teams from a fully affiliated **Cal North** league, consisting of the three items in Section IV, item A, above, must be received at the **Cal North** office (1040 Serpentine Lane, Suite 201, Pleasanton, CA 94566) no later than 5 PM, January 2, 2013 for U12 – U18 teams and no later than 5 PM April 1, 2013 for U19 teams.

C. Late receipt of entry through delay by the U.S. Mail, other carriers, or delivery by person cannot and will not be accepted. NO EXCEPTIONS! Entries on anything but a **Cal North** State Cup Entry form will not be accepted. Non-acceptance of entries for failure to meet entry deadlines is not protestable.

D. In order to be eligible to play in **Cal North** State Cup, a team must be registered with an affiliated **Cal North** league. With the exception of U19 teams, a team must have played in a recognized, sanctioned **Cal North** playing league, including **Cal North** Cal Soccer League (CCSL), or in the US Youth Soccer Far West Regional League. Qualifying league play must consist of playing in a division with at least three (3) other teams and have played three (3) different teams at least once BEFORE a team is eligible to participate in **Cal North** State Cup. Participation in a league for paper teams does not fulfill the league play eligibility requirement for **Cal North** State Cup. In a district where a team's league does not begin play until **Cal North** State Cup Competition has already begun, or a team has not been able to play the required number of league games because of inclement weather, the team's District Commissioner shall notify the **Cal North** State Cup Chairman in writing of the team's conflict with this rule and explain why there is a conflict AT LEAST FIVE (5) DAYS PRIOR TO THE STATE CUP DRAW FOR THAT TEAM'S AGE/GENDER GROUP. If the team is accepted for play in **Cal North** State Cup it shall be the responsibility of the team's District Commissioner to make sure that the team meets the requirements of this paragraph BEFORE the end of the seasonal playing year of that specific year's **Cal North** State Cup Competition. The District Commissioner shall notify the **Cal North** State Cup Chairman in writing when a team that has received a temporary exemption from this rule has met the requirements as called for in this paragraph. Participation in **Cal North** Cal Soccer League (CCSL) Spring Session will qualify as a team's playing league requirement if the team registers and fulfills all other **Cal North** State Cup eligibility and application requirements. Any team that participates in **Cal North** State Cup and fails to fulfill their commitment to play in the qualifying Playing League shall be subject to severe penalties as indicated in section XXIV of these rules. **Under no circumstances, and notwithstanding the foregoing, with the exception of U19 teams, will any team be eligible to participate in Cal North State Cup unless it participated as a Cal North team in a regular Cal North league or the US Youth Soccer Far West Regional League. A team cannot establish eligibility by participating in league or other play only for the purpose of creating or establishing eligibility to participate in Cal North State Cup.**

E. Any team that enters **Cal North** State Cup Competition agrees to play WHEREVER it is assigned to play within the **Cal North** geographical boundaries without complaint to **Cal North**.

F. **Cal North** considers each team that enters **Cal North** State Cup to be in receipt of the **Cal North** State Cup rules as well as the **Cal North** Constitution, Bylaws, General Procedures, Specific Rules and PIMs through the publication and posting of the annual issue of **Cal North** Team Manual and/or as a requirement of the completion of the online **Cal North** State Cup application process. Claims of not having read same before submitting a team entry are not admissible. Each team representative's signature or electronic acknowledgement on the **Cal North** State Cup Entry Form is confirmation that the team has complied with the above requirements.

V. RESERVE POOL REQUIREMENTS

A. Any team that enters **Cal North** State Cup after the January 2, 2013 deadline for U12-U18 teams or the April 1, 2013 deadline for U19 teams and meets all other entrance requirements will be placed into the Reserve Pool and is not guaranteed the opportunity to play.

B. Teams entering the Reserve Pool for **Cal North** State Cup are subject to all **Cal North** State Cup eligibility requirements.

C. Teams must meet the entry form and roster submission requirements as cited in the **Cal North** State Cup Team Entrance Requirements.

D. Any team that applies to **Cal North** State Cup as a Reserve Pool team will be assessed an additional fee of $100.00 above the regular **Cal North** State Cup entry fee.

E. Teams' Reserve Pool entry fees of $725.00 must be paid by credit card, certified check, money order, or bank cashier's check.

F. Prior to the State Cup draw the **Cal North** State Cup Committee or designees may, by means of a blind draw, select additional teams from the Reserve Pool for teams in a particular age group in order to make that division divisible by four (4)

G. The **Cal North** State Cup Committee or designees cannot draw any additional teams from the Reserve Pool other than to attain a division of play that is divisible by four (4)for the Cal North State Cup in the specific age/gender above the number of teams that have entered **Cal North** State Cup at the time of the **Cal North** State Cup entry deadline. The selection will be made through a blind draw from the teams that have entered **Cal North** State Cup Reserve Pool in the specific age group/gender at the time of the State Cup Reserve Pool deadline.

H. The deadline to adjust and add teams to create brackets divisible by four (4) for the **Cal North** State Cup draw shall be at 5:00 PM on the Monday preceding the draw for each age/gender division of play.

I. The **Cal North** State Cup Committee or designees may draw from the Reserve Pool if a team drops from **Cal North** State Cup play in the team's proper age/gender division.

J. After the **Cal North** State Cup draw has taken place, whenever a team is needed to fill a vacancy that occurs in a bracket, a team in the Reserve Pool in the proper age/gender group shall be blind drawn from the Reserve Pool.

K. Any team not blind drawn from the Reserve Pool when play commences shall have $625.00 of its entry fee returned to the team within thirty (30) days from the first day of play in the team's age/gender division. The $100.00 that will be retained by **Cal North** is an administrative late fee.

VI. CREDENTIALS

A. Prior to participating in any round of **Cal North** State Cup competition, credentials that have been approved by the appropriate District or State Registrar for each participating team, player and registered team official shall be presented. Credentials must be properly approved beginning with the first preliminary round game.

B. An original **Cal North** Team roster (goldenrod) must be authorized by the team's District Registrar prior to the team participating in any round/game of **Cal North** State Cup Competition Play.

C. Properly approved team, player, and registered team official credentials that meet **Cal North** State Cup requirements will be required at each and every game in order to participate in **Cal North** State Cup Competition.

D. Any improper player's or registered team official's member pass shall be retained by the **Cal North** State Cup staff which will result in the individual being ineligible to participate until proper credentials are cleared with either their District Commissioner or District Registrar and presented to the **Cal North** State Cup Credentials Committee for clearance.

E. A US Youth Soccer member pass with original wet ink signature of the player's parent or guardian in the completed Consent for Medical Treatment section must be presented for each player. Players who are 18 years or older at the time of competition MUST sign their own forms.

F. Any exception to the requirement for presenting properly approved credentials for a team, player and/or registered team official prior to the start of a game can only be approved after a review of the facts by the Third Vice Chairman and the on-site cup staff, as well as confirmation by the team's District Registrar and/or **Cal North** Registration Committee Chair that the team, player(s) and/or registered team official(s) are properly registered and approved for participation in **Cal North** competition. In the absence of the Third Vice Chairman the Chairman of the Board or the 1st Vice Chairman may be consulted.

G. The credential(s) for which an exception is allowed must be presented to on-site cup staff before the conclusion of the weekend on which the game in which the exception was granted takes place.

H. If it is later deemed that the team, player(s) or registered team official(s) for which an exception was granted is not properly approved and credentialed or is not eligible to participate in **Cal North** competition, the individual(s) will be subject to any and all **Cal North** disciplinary policies, including but not limited to **Cal North** State Cup forfeiture and fine policies.

I. An ineligible player, participating in a **Cal North** State Cup Competition shall cause his/her team to forfeit any game that the player has participated in and may result in further disciplinary action, against the team's coach, registered team official, or player by the **Cal North** Board of Directors.

VII. TEAM FORMATION

A. Any team entering **Cal North** State Cup may not release a player or players in order to qualify for a lower age group division.

B. A team is required to play in **Cal North** State Cup at the oldest age group at which it was ever rostered during the seasonal year.

C. Player releases are allowed only in certain circumstances as specified in **Cal North** and US Youth Soccer registration rules.

D. The team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between league play and **Cal North** State Cup competition by maintaining a minimum of nine (9) players common to the rosters of both competitions.(Under 19 teams are exempt from this requirement as they are not subject to the league play requirement.)

VIII. SEEDING

A. There will be seeding of eight (8) teams in the Under 12 through Under 19 age divisions. In order to have eight (8) teams seeded, the age group must have the minimum number of teams necessary to create no fewer than 8 brackets; otherwise only four will be seeded.

B. The eight (8) teams that will be seeded for the current season's **Cal North** State Cup Tournament in the above referenced age divisions will be last season's **Cal North** State Cup Winner, Runner Up, and the six remaining quarter-finalists that have moved up one age group division for the current season's **Cal North** State Cup Competition. In the event that a team played up an age group in the previous season's **Cal North** State Cup Competition and they are a seeded team based on the team being a finalist in the previous season's **Cal North** State Cup Competition they will take precedent in the seeding of teams in their age/gender division over any team that is moving up an age group from the previous season's **Cal North** State Cup Competition. The previous season's **Cal North** State Cup Champion will be seeded #1, the previous season's **Cal North** State Cup Runner Up will be seeded #2, the determining factor as to the order of the remaining quarter-finalist teams shall be determined by the results of the semi-final or quarter-final games in which the teams participated in during the previous season's **Cal North** State Cup Competition. The #3 and #4 seeds will be the non-advancing semi-finalist teams and will be seeded third and fourth based on the following tie breakers: 1) Goal differential, goals scored versus goals allowed, (if one team lost 0-4 (-4 goal differential) and the other team lost 1-3 (-2 goal differential), the team with the 1-3 loss would be the #3 seed). 2) Least goals allowed. 3) Most goals scored. 4) Coin toss. Tie breaking procedures will begin with (1) and continue in numerical sequence to (4). When one of the tiebreakers shows a differential between the teams, the prevailing team shall become the #3 seed immediately without

continuing to any other tiebreakers. Seeds # 5, # 6, #7, and #8 will be the non-advancing quarter-finalist teams and will be seeded in order based on the tie breaking system used for determining the third and fourth seeds.

C. For purposes of seeding, if a game between the previous season's quarter finalists remained tied at the end of the regulation and overtime periods, resulting in kicks from the mark to determine the winner, the score as it stood at the conclusion of the overtime periods will be used in the determination of seeding (for example, if one team lost 1-2 and the other team tied 2-2, the team with the 2-2 tie would receive the higher seed.)

D. In the event that a team does not meet the eligibility requirements to be a seeded team even though the team was a finalist from the preceding season's **Cal North** State Cup Competition, or the team is not entered in the current **Cal North** State Cup Competition, all teams seeded below that team will be moved up in the seeding and no new teams will be seeded to fill the vacant seeding position created by the move up of the other teams.

E. In order to qualify for a seeded position in **Cal North** State Cup Play, a team must essentially be the same team that played in **Cal North** State Cup the previous season. The criteria for determining if a team is to be considered a returning team is as follows:

1. At least fifty percent (50%) of the team's players return from the previous year's **Cal North** State Cup Team Roster.

2. The team is rostered and the players are registered with the same league and district, as they were the previous season.

3. The team is in good standing with their league and district.

4. Any team that does not meet these criteria shall go into the blind-draw pool with all the other teams in its respective age division; and, that age division shall have less than four (4) seeded teams.

5. The **Cal North** State Cup Chairman shall send a response form to the **Cal North** State Registrar with the names of all teams that were either finalists, semifinalists or quarterfinalists in the previous year's **Cal North** State Cup competition. The State Registrar will then be asked to verify whether these teams meet the criteria listed in 1-3 above.

IX. BRACKETING

A. All properly received **Cal North** State Cup entries will be entered into preliminary rounds by a modified blind-draw

B. Teams will be bracketed for the preliminary rounds by means of a blind draw conducted by the **Cal North** State Cup Committee or designees

C. The **Cal North** State Cup Committee reserves the right to restructure/eliminate brackets due to teams dropping to try to ensure as many brackets as possible have 4 teams in them.

D. The winners of each bracket will advance to single elimination round competition. The **Cal North** State Cup Committee reserves the right when necessary to bring two (2) teams forward to the next round from certain predetermined brackets in the preliminary round of play to ensure that all age divisions will have complete quarter-final play in the competition.

E. The bracket winners and runners-up will be determined by the scoring point system outlined in Section XVI of the **Cal North** State Cup Competition Directives, Rules & Regulations.

F. The **Cal North** State Cup Committee reserves the right to combine brackets with less than three (3) teams in the brackets after the draw has taken place. (This would take place after a team has dropped from the competition and there are not any teams available in the Reserve Pool to take the place of the team/teams that have withdrawn from competition in the specific bracket or brackets.) The combining of these brackets must take place no later than 6:00 PM on the Tuesday prior to the first weekend of play in the particular age/gender division that is being adjusted.

G. If the draw has taken place and due to an administrative error a team must be added to a **Cal North** State Cup age/gender group, that team will be placed into the competition as follows: All brackets of three (3) in the specific age/gender group will be put into a hat, one of the brackets will be drawn from the hat and the team will be inserted as the fourth (4th) team in that bracket.

H. If in the opinion of the **Cal North** State Cup Chairman and his/her Committee an uncorrectable error is made in the draw of a division of teams and it is discovered after the draw had taken place, the **Cal North** State Cup Chairman and **Cal North** State Cup Committee shall determine the best and most expeditious manner in which to redraw the particular division/divisions if they determine that a partial or complete redraw is necessary. The implementation of this shall be done as quickly as possible with the approval of the **Cal North** 3rd Vice Chairman.

I. If, due to the withdrawal of teams, half or more of the preliminary brackets contain three or fewer teams, the **Cal North** State Cup Committee may schedule a redraw of that age group. In addition, the **Cal North** State Cup Committee may redraw any age group if withdrawals reduce the total number of teams in that age group competition to a level, which would eliminate the need for an extra round of competition.

J. **Cal North** reserves the right to cancel an age/group gender division that does not have a minimum of eight qualified applicants at the time of the application deadline. If the determination is made to cancel any age/group gender division the team will be offered a refund in full or the opportunity to migrate to any other **Cal North** cup age/group gender division for which they are qualified. When migrating to a different **Cal North** cup any applicable refund or additional application fees will be applied.

X. SCHEDULING

A. Requests for scheduling accommodations or adjustments on behalf of any specific team will not be taken into consideration when creating schedules.

B. A complete schedule of games, playing dates, and opponents will be published and distributed to all teams as soon as possible after the draw takes place prior to the preliminary round games beginning.

C. **THERE WILL BE NO RESCHEDULING OF GAMES TO ACCOMMODATE OUT-OF-STATE TOURNAMENTS, LEAGUE GAMES, SOCIAL EVENTS, SCHOOL AND/OR COLLEGE ENTRANCE TESTS.**

D. It is the responsibility of each team to be aware of all potential conflicts which may affect its ability and the ability of its players to participate in **Cal North** State Cup competition on any and all dates for which play is scheduled for its age group (both primary dates for play and alternate dates for play).

E. A game upon which a protest/appeal is upheld will be replayed as called for by the **Cal North** Protest and Appeals Committee. It shall be the responsibility of the **Cal North** State Cup Chairman to reschedule the game and set a time and place for the game that will allow all **Cal North** State Cup Competition play to continue with the least amount of delay.

F. The team listed first on the **Cal North**-issued schedule of games shall be the HOME TEAM in all cases and will provide a game ball.

XI. COMPETITION PROCEDURES

A. All games will be governed by the FIFA Laws of the Game and those rules included in the US Youth Soccer Rules and **Cal North** Constitution, Bylaws, General Procedures, Specific Rules and PIMs unless the rules of this competition specify otherwise.

B. For this competition **Cal North** unlimited substitution rules as indicated in PIM 10-3 item E will be in effect.

C. Each district is expected to provide one field for every four teams which enter **Cal North** State Cup in the U14 to U19 age groups and one field for every six teams that enter in the U12 to U13 age groups. For every two (2) fields that a Hosting District provides, at least one (1) of its teams will be scheduled at home during the Preliminary Rounds.

D. For preliminary round games, the host district is responsible for supplying referees and game fields (and/or alternative fields).

E. It is recommended that field marshals be available for crowd control, etc.

F. In single elimination games, both teams' bench areas will be on the same side of the field, and coaching from the sideline will not be permitted except as in accordance with FIFA directives.

G. Spectator areas will be established on the opposite side of the field at single elimination games. No individual is allowed on the team side of the field in these games unless they are credentialed members of one of the teams participating in the game.

H. No more than four (4) registered team officials from each team including coaches shall be on the same side of the field as the teams during second round, round of 16, quarterfinal, semifinal and finals play.

XII. UNIFORMS

A. The appearance of players is a vital extension of the game. A player's team uniform confirms the identity of the club or organization that the player represents. It should be worn with pride.

B. Stockings/socks must be of the same color (a player must wear stockings/socks of a matching color) and should be correctly worn in the pulled-up position covering shin pads or guards.

C. Shirts/ jerseys shall be neatly tucked into their shorts.

D. The wearing of tracksuit trousers or long tights in a color that coordinates with the team's colors is permissible in adverse weather.

E. Cyclists' pants, tights, etc., may be worn under a player's shorts if they are the same color as the shorts.

F. The wearing of long sleeve base-layer under garments beneath the players' uniform jerseys is permitted in the following instances: 1) if the base-layer under garment is the same color as the primary color of the team's uniform jersey; 2) if a black base-layer under garment is worn by the team when the primary color of the team's uniform jersey is a dark color; 3) if a white base-layer under garment is worn when the primary color of the team's uniform jersey is a light color. Any player who wears a base-layer under garment must wear a base-layer garment that matches those worn by the other members of his/her team.

G. All **Cal North** State Cup referees will be instructed to enforce this uniform rule in all games.

H. Home teams will change jerseys in the event of a conflict in jersey color. When changing jerseys, teams must adhere to the rule regarding the base-layer undergarments.

I. The referee will have final determination as to whether or not a team must change their jersey or base layer under-garment due to conflicting colors.

XIII. FIELDS

A. Fields should be properly marked and ready by game time, with corner flags and nets in good condition.

B. The recommended minimum dimensions for game fields are: 100 yards long x 60 yards wide for U12 and U13; 100 yards long x 70 yards wide for U14 - U19.

C. The **Cal North** State Cup Chairman may place games on different sized fields if the use of such fields is necessary for the timely play of **Cal North** State Cup games.

D. The referee's decision, as to whether any field is playable or not, is not protestable.

XIV. GAME LENGTH

A. Length of games, overtime periods, and ball specifications shall be as follows:

Age Group	Preliminary Round	Single Elimination Round	O.T. Period	Ball Size	Circumference	Weight
U17,U18,U19	two - 40 min.	two - 45 min.	two - 15 min.	#5	27-28	14-16 oz's.
U15, U16	two - 35 min.	two - 40 min.	two - 15 min.	#5	27-28	14-16 oz's.
U13, U14	two - 30 min.	two - 35 min.	two - 10 min.	#5	27-28	14-16 oz's.
U12	two - 25 min.	two - 30 min.	two - 10 min.	#4	25-26	11-13 oz's.

B. The length of games played in the opening round and any subsequent Round-Robin round of **Cal North** Cup Competition will be reduced by five (5) minutes per half.

C. Single elimination games shall be regulation length.

D. All ties in the opening round shall stand and no extra time shall be played SUBJECT TO LAW 7 OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME.

E. In single-elimination games, the Golden Goal rule will be in place.

F. If the teams remain tied at the end of overtime play, then the winner shall be determined by kicks from the penalty spot per FIFA.

XV. GAME REPORT

A. **Cal North** State Cup Competition Game and Referee Report (game cards), supplied by **Cal North**, shall be presented to the referee and will be used for all **Cal North** State Cup games. Such game cards, properly filled out, will be submitted by the hosting venue to the **Cal North** office at the conclusion of each weekend of play.

XVI. SCORING

A. In the preliminary rounds, the following point system will be used to determine which teams advance.

3 points for a WIN
1 point for a TIE
0 points for a LOSS

B. If teams are tied in points at the conclusion of the preliminary round, the following tie-breaking procedure will be employed to determine which teams advance to the next round:

1. Results of head-to-head competition between teams that are tied.
2. Goal differential (goals scored minus goals allowed to a maximum differential of 4 per game).
3. Least goals allowed.
4. Most goals scored to a maximum of 4 per game.
5. Kicks taken from the penalty spot per FIFA

C. In three team groups, if FIFA kicks involve a team that had completed play on a previous day and is unavailable to take the kicks, an alternative time and site for the kicks shall be scheduled by the **Cal North** State Cup Committee Chairman.

D. To determine the advancing team(s) when more than two teams in a bracket are tied at the end of the preliminary round matches, the tie breaker criteria listed in section XVI, items B and C will be applied in the order listed to determine the placement of each team in the bracket, beginning at tie breaker #2. One or more teams' order of finish in the bracket can be determined at any step of the tie breaking process. Until the order of finish of each of the tied teams in the bracket can be determined, the tie breaking steps will be applied in the order shown without reverting to a previous step at any time during the tie breaking determination.

E. Should three or more teams be tied at the end of the preliminary round after completing the above list of tie-breakers, a Round Robin Shoot-out will then be utilized as follows: Ten (10) shots will be taken per team, five (5) each against opposing keepers. Total from two (2) shoot-outs, i.e. Team A scores 3 versus Team B keeper, then scores 2 versus Team C keeper, Team A's total is 5. Team with most goals advances. If teams remain tied after two (2) rounds, re-shoot. Coach will designate ten (10) shooters of which ANY ROSTERED PLAYER may shoot.

Round 1

Team A	5 Players (1 - 5) versus Team B Keeper
Team B	5 Players (1 - 5) versus Team C Keeper
Team C	5 Players (1 - 5) versus Team A Keeper

Round 2

Team A	5 Players (6 - 10) versus Team C Keeper
Team B	5 Players (6 - 10) versus Team A Keeper
Team C	5 Players (6 - 10) versus Team B Keeper

XVII. CANCELLATIONS

A. In the event of inclement weather, the host district is responsible for informing the **Cal North** Office, the **Cal North** Third Vice Chair, the **Cal North** State Cup Committee Chairman, and the State Cup Committee members as soon as possible before games if fields are unplayable. Only the **Cal North** State Cup Committee Chairman may reschedule a game for different dates. If inclement weather should necessitate field and/ or playing date change, it is the prerogative of the **Cal North** State Cup Committee Chairman to schedule such changes. District **Cal North** State Cup Coordinators may, if necessitated by inclement weather, make last minute changes to different playing sites.

B. Makeup games necessitated by cancellations due to inclement weather or games replayed due to a Protest and Appeals decision may be scheduled by the **Cal North** State Cup Committee Chairman on consecutive days (Saturday and Sunday) or between scheduled dates (weekdays). The **Cal North** State Cup Committee Chairman's decisions are not protestable.

XVIII. ABANDONED/TERMINATED GAMES

A. Should a scheduled game be terminated or abandoned before its completion and the situation is not covered by **Cal North** State Cup Competition Rules, or National Cup Rules, the status of the game shall be determined by the **Cal North** Protest & Appeals (P&A) Committee.

B. The terms "abandon" and "terminate" are interchangeable and mean the same thing for purposes of **Cal North** State Cup Competition play.

C. A game can be abandoned or terminated by the referee when one of the following situations occur:

1. The referee is unable to control the players on the field.

2. The referee is unable to control the actions of individuals that are not playing in the game (coaches / registered team officials / spectators, etc.)

3. The field has become unsafe to play on for any reason (weather related, objects being thrown onto the field, or any other circumstance that makes the field unsafe for play.

4. The referee has been instructed by a **Cal North** State Cup Competition Administrator to abandon/terminate for a specific purpose related to **Cal North** State Cup Competition Rules.

5. The referee and his/her assistants have been threatened by a player, coach, registered team official, and/or spectator and feel that it is in the best interest of the referees/assistant referees to abandon/terminate the game and leave the site.

6. Any reasons that are consistent with the risk of continuing to play being outweighed by the possibility of someone being seriously injured if the game continues.

7. The team does not have present at least one registered team official of the appropriate age with the required **Cal North** credentials at any time ONCE the game has begun. If this situation occurs the game will be deemed an abandoned/terminated game.

D. A game can be deemed abandoned/terminated ONLY after the game has begun OR just prior to the game IF the field is determined to be unsafe for play or the weather is such that in the opinion of the referee OR a **Cal North** State Cup Competition Administrator the game cannot be played for reasons of safety or potential field damage. Any game that is abandoned / terminated prior to the game beginning shall be played at a later time UNLESS the game will not have any bearing on which team wins the bracket that the two (2) teams are in.

E. Once a game has BEGUN and the game is abandoned/terminated the status of the game shall be determined by the **Cal North** Protest, Appeal and Disciplinary Committee regardless of at what point during the game it was abandoned/terminated. The **Cal North** Protest, Appeal and disciplinary committee shall render a decision as to the status of the game within seventy-two (72) hours of the written information reaching the **Cal North** First Vice Chairman, which shall allow the competition to continue pending a decision by the **Cal North** PAD Committee. The **Cal North** Protest, Appeal and Disciplinary Committee may determine that game that was abandoned / terminated must be played over again in its entirety.

F. The **Cal North** Protest, Appeal and Disciplinary Committee may also take separate action regarding teams, or individuals behavior that are related to the abandonment/termination of any game as a result of information that has been brought to their attention during the review of the abandoned/terminated game or games.

XIX. FORFEITURES

A. In the event that a team forfeits and/or withdraws during the preliminary round competition, all games involving that team shall not be considered in determining the team that advances. If a team forfeits one game, all games that team is scheduled to play are forfeit.

B. A game is forfeit when:

1. A team does not show up to play at the time and field at which they are scheduled to play as per the **Cal North** State Cup Competition Schedule. It is the team's responsibility to know when and where they are assigned to play ANY **Cal North** State Cup Competition Game in which they are scheduled to participate. It is the team's responsibility to be aware of any schedule changes that take place in **Cal North** State Cup Competition play that affects their team.

2. A team is not ready to play within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled start time of a **Cal North** State Cup Competition Game in which the team has been scheduled to participate with AT LEAST seven (7) players who have proper credentials as specified in the **Cal North** State Cup Competition Rules and who are dressed in uniforms that meet the **Cal North** State Cup Competition Guidelines. The team must also have a registered team official of the appropriate age and with proper **Cal North** credentials as called for in the **Cal North** State Cup Competition Rules at the beginning of and throughout the game.

3. A team allows a player, registered team official, or coach to participate in a **Cal North** State Cup game and it is found out before, during, or after the game that the player, coach OR registered team official was not properly credentialed, was not in good standing or was otherwise ineligible to participate in the game/games.

C. Once a game has begun, the game cannot be a forfeit UNLESS one of the teams has at least one individual that is not eligible to participate in **Cal North** State Cup Competition Play AND the individual participates in the game as described in Section B, Item 3 above.

D. If due to a sendoff during the game there is no adult who is a registered team official available to take charge of the team, the game shall immediately be terminated and the opposing team shall be declared the winner of the game. If the score of the game exceeds 1 - 0 in favor of the opposing team at the time of the game being terminated that score shall stand as the final score of the game. If the score is 1 - 1 or the score favors the team that is causing the game to be terminated the score shall be recorded as a 1 - 0 score in favor of the opposing team.

XX. AWARDS

A. A commemorative team trophy will be presented to the winning team's coach.

B. Participation pins will be given to all teams up to a maximum of twenty (20) per team for U12-U13 teams and twenty-four (24) per team for U14 - U19 teams.

C. Individual championship game medals will be presented as follows: A maximum of twenty (20) medals per team for U12-U13 teams and twenty-four (24) medals per team for U14 - U19 teams.

XXI. ADVANCEMENT IN THE US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

A. Age group champions of the U12, U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U18 and U19 division competitions will be eligible to represent California Youth Soccer Association at the US Youth Soccer Region IV Championships (Far West Regionals.)

B. Age group finalists of the U12, U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U18 and U19 division competitions may have the opportunity to attend the US Youth Soccer Region IV Championships should **Cal North** be selected to send a Wild Card team in their age group/gender. Wild Card slots are selected by blind draw at the US Youth Soccer Region IV Council meeting at the annual US Youth Soccer Workshops and Convention.

C. Champions in the U14, U15, U16, U17, U18 and U19 division competitions at Far West Regionals are eligible to represent Region IV at the US Youth Soccer National Championship competition.

D. Teams advancing to the US Youth Soccer Region IV Championships (Far West Regionals) and/or the US Youth Soccer Nationals Championships will be subject to all current rules as designated in the US Youth Soccer Region IV Far West Regional Championships Operations Manual and the Policy on US Youth Soccer National Championships.

E. Should US Youth Soccer Region IV and/or US Youth Soccer rules change to include age groups not now included in National Championships **Cal North** will consider including the age groups to advance in accordance with the US Youth Soccer and Region IV Rules.

XXII. SEND OFFS / EXPULSIONS / SUSPENSIONS

A. Any team accumulating three (3) send offs and or expulsions throughout this competition shall be immediately placed on probationary status. Upon receipt of a fourth (4th) player/registered team official sendoff / expulsion for any team, the team shall immediately be eliminated from this competition for the remainder of the current **Cal North** State Cup Competition. The game shall be terminated by the referee upon the issuance of the fourth send off or expulsion. The preliminary round games involving the eliminated team shall not be considered in determining the team that advances. In single elimination games the opposing team automatically advances.

B. Each District hosting games shall have, on site, a Protest, Appeals, Disciplinary (PAD) Committee to determine penalties for red card sendoffs and expulsions. PAD Committee decisions shall be communicated to applicable players, coaches or team officials.

C. Any player or registered team official who is sent off or expelled from the field before, during or after a **Cal North** Cup Competition game shall automatically receive the recommended minimum penalty prescribed by **Cal North** for the applicable age group and offense per **Cal North** Specific Rule 4:05, Disciplinary Rulings including the mandatory two additional game suspension required for any registered team official. Additional games may be added by the Disciplinary Committee if the circumstances of the offense warrant it.

D. Sendoffs and expulsions shall be administered in accordance with **Cal North** PIM 10-4. If a player or registered team official is sent off or expelled and has not served his/her suspension, the governing authority for that competition shall mail the member pass, game report and Send-Off Report to the individual's District Commissioner, with the exception of send offs / expulsions for referee assault which will be sent to the Board of Directors of this Association.

E. The suspended individual shall be ineligible for further **Cal North** Cup Competition Play until the player pass is returned, upon completion of suspension. All **Cal North** State Cup Competition suspensions must be served during **Cal North** Cup Competition and Regional Cup/National Cup

Competition if applicable. If the individual does not complete their suspension in the current season of **Cal North** State Cup Competition/ Regional Cup/ US Youth Soccer National Cup Competition the suspension shall carry over to the following year's **Cal North** Cup Competition/ Regional Cup/ US Youth Soccer National Cup Competition until the suspension is completely served.

F. When a coach or registered team official is serving a suspension earned in a previous season of **Cal North** Cup or US Youth Soccer Regional or National Cup competition, he/she shall serve the suspension with the team with which he/she earned the suspension as long as the coach or registered team official is still associated with that team.

G. When a suspension is carried over from a previous season **Cal North** Cup or US Youth Soccer Regional or National Cup Competition, if the coach or registered team official is no longer registered with the team with which he or she earned the suspension, the coach or registered team official will serve the suspension with the team that he/she is currently registered with that is competing in **Cal North** or US Youth Soccer Regional or National Cup Competition.

H. Coaches or registered team officials who are listed on multiple rosters and who are suspended during **Cal North** Cup competition and/or US Youth Soccer Regional or National Cup Competition games will serve their suspension during the next scheduled **Cal North** Cup and/or US Youth Soccer Regional or National Cup competition games involving the team with which they were participating as a registered team official at the time of their suspension. If that team is eliminated from **Cal North** Cup and/or US Youth Soccer Regional or National Cup Competition prior to the suspension being served in its entirety the individual will continue to serve his/her suspension in the following season with the next team to which he/she is registered and which participates in the **Cal North** Cup competition and/or US Youth Soccer Regional or National Cup competition.

I. Coaches or registered team officials registered or affiliated with two or more teams may not participate with any team while serving a suspension.

J. Suspension penalties that cannot be served in the current season will carry over to the next seasonal year.

K. Any individual that is sent-off or expelled during a **Cal North** State Cup Competition game and the suspension exceeds the minimum suspension for the conduct that caused the send-off or expulsion shall have recorded on the **Cal North** Referee's Send-Off Report the reason for the additional suspended games, or an attachment to the **Cal North** Referee's Send-Off Report that gives the reason for the additional suspension. The lack of such backup may be grounds for reduction of suspension. The minimum suspensions are located in Section 4:05 of **Cal North** Specific Rules.

L. All instances of Referee Assault shall be reported within 48 hours to the **Cal North** First Vice Chairman. Individuals accused of Referee Assault shall be immediately suspended pending a review by the **Cal North** Protest, Appeals & Discipline (PAD) Committee. Reports of Referee Assault should be sent to the **Cal North** State Office in Pleasanton.

XXIII. PROTEST, APPEALS AND DISCIPLINE

A. The **Cal North** Cup Suspension Status form will be used to record all decisions regarding send-offs and/or expulsions. Directives regarding send offs and expulsions are located in section 4:05 of the **Cal North** Specific Rules.

B. With cause, the Board of Directors may remove from cup competition any team, which violates section 3:01:03 of the general procedures of the **Cal North** Constitution.

C. Send offs and/or expulsions are not subject to Protest or Appeal.

D. In instances where **Cal North** State Cup Competition Rules and US Youth Soccer Championship Series Rules conflict, the US Youth Soccer Cup Competition Rules prevail.

E. Referees will retain member passes for those individuals who have been sent off or expelled and along with the **Cal North** Referee Send Off Report and the game report will turn them in to the on-site Protest, Appeals and Discipline (PAD) Committee for disciplinary action. The member pass along with a copy of the Game and Referee Report card and a copy of the **Cal North** Referee's Send Off Report must be sent within forty eight (48) hours to the sent off or expelled individual's District Commissioner for further action if necessary.

F. Referees' judgment calls and send-offs may not be protested or appealed. Only protests or appeals of a misapplication of the Laws of the Game will be considered.

G. Only disciplinary action that exceeds **Cal North**'s recommended minimum penalty for an offense for an as per section 4:05 of **Cal North** Rules may be appealed.

H. In order for a protest of a competition to be valid, the referee must be notified that the game is under protest prior to leaving the field of play. The referee should record protests on game cards, inform the opposing coach.

I. The protest must be in writing and received by the **Cal North** Office within 72 hours after the game being protested. A $200.00 fee must accompany the protest or appeal and be mailed to the **Cal North** Office at 1040 Serpentine Lane, Suite 201, Pleasanton, CA. 94566.

J. The decision of the **Cal North** Protest & Appeals Committee shall be forwarded to the coach within 48 hours of the P & A Committee's decision.

K. Game results and **Cal North** Protest & Appeals Committee decisions will stand, and scheduled **Cal North** State Cup Competition games will continue.

L. There will be no make-up games against teams that have lost during the time of any protest or appeal procedure not filed by or against them.

M. All appeals and protests shall be heard by the **Cal North** Protest & Appeals Committee within five (5) days after the game has been played that is being appealed or protested. No further protest or appeal shall be allowed beyond the hearing of the **Cal North** Protest & Appeals Committee.

N. Any appeal or protest filed that pertains to any **Cal North** State Cup Competition Activity including but not limited to team entry status, player eligibility, team eligibility, or any other area pertaining to **Cal North** State Cup Competition Play except a specific game/games shall be heard by the **Cal North** Protest & Appeals Committee within seven (7) days of filing of the protest and appeal.

O. The **Cal North** Protest & Appeals Committee also reserves the right to make decisions regarding appeals and protests by conference phone call or other electronic communications amongst the members of the Committee relying solely on the written testimony that is submitted by the parties to the appeal or protest.

P. BY ENTERING A CAL NORTH STATE CUP COMPETITION TOURNAMENT A TEAM AGREES TO WAIVE ANY APPEAL RIGHTS OTHER THAN TO THE CAL NORTH PROTEST & APPEALS COMMITTEE.

XXIV. WITHDRAWALS

A. In order to withdraw from Cal North State Cup play, a team must submit a notice in writing to the Cal North office during business hours (8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Monday through Friday) and must receive written confirmation from the Cal North office that the notice has been received.

B. Any team that withdraws from the **Cal North** State Cup AFTER their application has been received by **Cal North**, but prior to the draw, will lose their entry fee and based on the proximity of their withdrawal date to the start of preliminary round in the team's age group/gender, the team may be subject to additional fines as noted in section XXV of the **Cal North** State Cup rules.

XXV. FINES

A. Any team that withdraws from **Cal North** State Cup play AFTER the draw, but at least one week prior to the start of scheduled play, will lose their entry fee and be fined $300.00.

B. Any team that withdraws from **Cal North** State Cup less than one week prior to the start of scheduled play, but before 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before scheduled play will lose their entry fee and be fined $500.00.

C. Any team that does not withdraw prior to 5:00 p.m. the Friday before the start of play, forfeits a game after the start of the preliminary round, or is eliminated from the competition per Section XVIII and/or Section XXI of the **Cal North** State Cup Competition Directives, Rules & Regulations will lose their entry fee and be fined $750.00.

D. For teams that play only one game in the preliminary round due to forfeit/forfeits these penalty fees may be used to defray their expenses.

E. Any team that participates in **Cal North** State Cup and fails to fulfill their commitment to participate in a qualifying Playing League as indicated in section IV-D of these rules will be fined $2000.00, and may be subject to further sanctions and disciplinary action by the **Cal North** Board of Directors.

F. Any team found to have participated in **Cal North** State Cup when not eligible to do so will be fined $2000.00 and may be subject to further sanctions and disciplinary action by the **Cal North** Board of Directors.

G. It is the responsibility of each League to ensure that all **Cal North** State Cup fees and fines are paid to **Cal North**. Leagues with outstanding fees and fines will be ineligible for **Cal North** Cup play until they pay their fees and fines.

XXVI. AUTHORITY

A. The **Cal North** Board of Directors reserves the right to change any rule prior to or during the competition, and such changes will take effect five (5) days after written notification has been made to all teams entered/remaining in that competition.

B. During the competition, questions regarding interpretation of these rules and matters not addressed herein shall be resolved by the **Cal North** State Cup Coordinator on site or by the **Cal North** State Cup Committee Chairman.