



US YOUTH SOCCER
CAL NORTH
STATE CUP
2026

Cal North Soccer

2025-2026 (U11/U12) Cal North State Cup Rules

Last reviewed: November 25, 2025

** These rules are subject to change for U12 teams that will be moving on to USYS Nationals.*





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DEFINITIONS

Except as otherwise provided, the following definitions apply to this State Cup policy ("policy"):

- (1) "Add" means the addition of a player to a team's roster.
- (2) "Article" preceding a Roman numeral means a reference to a specific portion of the US Youth Soccer Bylaws.
- (3) "Cal North Cup Staff" means the staff of Cal North dedicated to running the State Cup event(s).
- (4) "Club" means an organization providing soccer to Youth Players that is a member of Cal North; provided however, a "Club" need not have the word "Club" as part of its official name.
- (5) "Club Pass" means a Cal North 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.
- (6) "Eligibility to Play" means registered and not under Suspension.
- (7) "Federation" means the United States Soccer Federation, Inc.
- (8) "Game Roster" means the list of players who will participate in a particular competition.
- (9) "Involuntary Release" means the removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of team authorities.
- (10) "State Cup Competitions" means the competitions provided for under this policy for the Under 9 - Under 19 age groups.
- (11) "Recreational Team" means a team that participates in a Recreational League.
- (12) "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.
- (13) "District" means one of the nine Districts that make up Cal North.
- (14) "Registration" means the signing of an intent to play the sport of soccer and the paying of fees to become a member of Cal North.
- (15) "Rostering" means assignment of a registered player to a team.
- (16) "Select Team" means the official select or all-star team of —
 - (A) Cal North;
 - (B) a Club;





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(C) a Playing League;

(D) a district or geographical subdivision of a State Association

(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) "Cal North" means the California Youth Soccer Association

(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 as defined by Article III of the US Youth Soccer Bylaws.

(24) The Cal North State Cup serves as the official qualifier for the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series and the Regional and/or National Events that make up the series.

I. JURISDICTION

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

B. 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.

II. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A. Cal North State Cup competitions are open to any Under-9 through Under-19 team registered with Cal North at the time of the registration deadline so long as the 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. The team must be a properly registered Cal North team and follow all Cal North and US Youth Soccer requirements for rostering of individuals on a team, including transfers, adds and releases.

B. In order to qualify for Cal North State Cup the team must have participated in a competition approved by Cal North.

C. A team or player may only play in one Cal North State Cup competition per seasonal year. The team or player may not participate in more than one division of the Cal North State Cup they choose to participate in.

D. Players participating in Cal North State Cup must be on the eligible team's approved frozen roster for the current seasonal year at the time of the roster freeze deadline for Cal North State Cup as either a player originally placed on the roster, a player added to the roster or a player transferred onto the roster. Guest players are not permitted to participate in the Cal North State Cup.





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E. Any player on a frozen State Cup roster is considered to have participated in a qualifying competition of play with that team.

F. Players must be properly registered with a Cal North affiliated league and their credentials properly approved for the current seasonal year.

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 club other than the club of which the team is a member. The rostering of such players with such a club shall be made in compliance with the registration rules of Cal North.

2. Teams may have a maximum of 22 registered players on their 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.

G. Roster Freezes: At 11:59 PM on the Wednesday prior to the scheduled start of cup play 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 finalized before midnight on the Wednesday prior to the first game scheduled for cup play. Beginning at 12:01 AM on the Thursday following the roster freeze deadline, roster changes involving players will not be permitted throughout the duration of the state-level cup competition.

H. Registered team officials may be added to or removed from a team roster at any time as long as they have valid and current Cal North team official passes.

I. Cal North Teams advancing to the US Youth Soccer West Region 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 West Region 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 Cal North in order to comply with the US Youth Soccer deadlines for the competition for which the roster is being frozen.

1. With the exception of U19 teams, teams participating in Cal North State Cup, West Region 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 50% of 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 the National Championship Series, the continuity of roster must be demonstrated from the frozen Cal North State Cup roster to the roster for West Region and National Championships. The 50% of core players can be combined with a different 50% of players at the Regional and National levels.

2. So long as a team is in compliance with the requirement for continuity of 50% of 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 club prior to the team's roster being frozen for Cal North State Cup play.





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3. 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

III. TEAM ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

A. In order for a team to be eligible for Cal North State Cup Competition, the following step must be completed by the published deadline

1. Register for the Cal North State Cup Competition through the Cal North website.
2. Payment of the team entry fee completed with a valid credit card on file.

B. In order to be eligible to play in the Cal North State Cup, a team must be a registered US Soccer affiliated member. [US Soccer Organizational Members are listed here](#). Participation in any qualifying competition approved by US Soccer will qualify as a team's requirement if the team registers and fulfills all other Cal North State Cup eligibility and registration requirements.

C. 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.

D. 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 these documents on the Cal North website and/or as a requirement of the completion of the online Cal North State Cup registration process. Claims of not having read the same before submitting a team entry are not admissible. Each team representative's signature or electronic acknowledgement on the Cal North State Cup registration process is confirmation that the team has complied with the above requirements.

IV. WAITLIST REQUIREMENTS

A. Any team that enters Cal North State Cup after the published deadline and meets all other entrance requirements will be placed onto the Waitlist and is not guaranteed the opportunity to play.

B. Teams on the Waitlist for Cal North State Cup are subject to all Cal North State Cup eligibility requirements.

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

D. Teams' Waitlist entry fees must be paid by credit card,

E. Prior to the State Cup bracketing process the Cal North Cup Staff may, by means of first applied-first considered or by invitation of teams from Cal North qualifying competitions already completed, select additional teams from the Waitlist for teams in a particular age group in order to make that a working division.





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F. The Cal North Cup Staff cannot bracket any additional teams from the Waitlist other than to attain a working division for the Cal North State Cup in that specific age group/gender

G. The deadline to adjust and add teams to create working brackets for the Cal North State Cup shall be at the sole discretion of the Cal North Cup Staff.

H. The Cal North Cup Staff may select from the Waitlist based on first applied-first considered if a team drops from Cal North State Cup play in the team's proper age/gender division.

I. After the Cal North State Cup bracketing has taken place, whenever a team is needed to fill a vacancy that occurs in a bracket, a team from the Waitlist in the proper age/gender group based on first entry onto the Waitlist shall be considered.

J. Any team not selected from the Waitlist when play commences shall have its entry fee returned to the team within thirty (30) days from the first day of play in the team's age/gender division.

V. CREDENTIALS

A. Prior to participating in any round of Cal North State Cup competition, Cal North credentials that have been approved in accordance with Cal North registration requirements for each participating team, player and registered team official shall be presented. Credentials must be properly checked in by designated Cal North State Cup Staff beginning with the first preliminary round game.

B. 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.

C. 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 and presented to the Cal North Cup Staff for clearance.

D. A Cal North member pass must be available for presentation for each player and registered team official on the team sidelines.

E. 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 on-site cup staff.

F. 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.

G. 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.





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H. 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 Cup Staff.

VI. TEAM FORMATION

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

B. Player releases are allowed at the discretion of the team participating. Cal North Cup Staff can help facilitate the release of a player if necessary, but will be unable to facilitate after the Roster Freeze deadline for any Cup Competition.

C. The team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between league play and Cal North State Cup competition by maintaining a minimum of 50% players common to the rosters of both competitions. (Under 19 teams are exempt from this requirement as they are not subject to the qualifying competition requirement.)

VII. SEEDING COMMITTEE AND BRACKET SEEDING

A. The Cal North Cup Staff will be appointed by the Cal North Executive Director.

B. The Cal North Cup Staff will seed all State Cup brackets based on strength of the team in the current seasonal year. Decisions of the Cup Staff are final.

VIII. BRACKETING

A. The Cal North Cup leadership team reserves the right to restructure/eliminate brackets due to teams dropping with the goal of creating working brackets.

B. The winners of each bracket will advance to the single elimination round competition if one is deemed necessary. The Cal North Cup Staff reserves the right when necessary to bring additional teams forward to the next round from certain predetermined brackets in the preliminary round of play.

C. 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.

D. After bracket creation, if a team must be added to a Cal North State Cup group, that team will be placed into the competition and seeded based on the determination of the Cup Staff.

E. If in the opinion of the Cal North Cup Staff an uncorrectable error is made in the creation of a bracket and it is discovered after the brackets are created, the Cal North Cup Staff shall determine the best and most expeditious manner in which to recreate the particular division(s).





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F. If due to the withdrawal of teams, half or more of the preliminary brackets contain three or fewer teams, the Cal North Cup Staff may reseed the brackets in that age group. In addition, the Cal North Cup Staff may reseed 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.

G. Cal North reserves the right to cancel any division as they see fit whether due to team withdrawal or other extenuating circumstances. If the determination is made to cancel any division the team will be offered a refund in full or the opportunity to migrate to any other Cal North Cup division for which they are qualified. When migrating to a different Cal North Cup any applicable refund, discount or registration fees will be applied.

IX. 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 bracketing takes place prior to the preliminary round games beginning.

C. Cal North cannot guarantee that requests for a reschedule of games to accommodate out-of-state tournaments, league games, social events, school and/or college entrance tests, participation in the events hosted by other soccer organizations, or any other conflicts of schedule presented to Cup Staff will be granted.

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 (including primary dates for preliminary and single elimination round play and alternate dates for cup play).

E. A game upon which a protest/appeal is upheld will be replayed as called for by the Cal North Cup Staff. It shall be the responsibility of the Cal North State Cup Staff 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 three (3) game balls.

X. 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. Substitution rules for Cal North State Cup are as follow:

1. For the Under 9 through Under 14 age groups, unlimited substitutions shall be allowed





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2. For all other age groups, Under 15 through Under 19, 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.

C. It is recommended that field marshals be available for crowd control, but not a guarantee that they will be provided by Cal North.

D. In all Cal North State Cup 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.

E. Spectator areas will be established on the opposite side of the field at all Cal North State Cup 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.

F. 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 any Cal North State Cup game.

XI. UNIFORMS

A. A team should have light and dark jersey options available whenever possible. When not possible, the team shall use pinnies if necessary to achieve a jersey color distinctive from that of their opponent.

B. With the exception of the Goalkeeper's jersey, each player on a team's game day roster must have a separate and distinct identifying number on their jersey. If necessary, and only with the permission of the referee, a jersey number that was assigned to one player on the game day roster may be assigned to another player on the game day roster. The reassignment of the jersey number must be noted by the referee on the game card.

C. Socks must be of the same color (a player must wear socks of a matching color) and should be correctly worn covering shin pads or guards.

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

E. Tights may be worn under a player's shorts so long as they are not deemed a distraction by the referee.

F. The wearing of long sleeve shirt beneath the players' jersey is permitted so long as it is not deemed a distraction by the referee

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 pants/long sleeves.





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I. The referee will have final determination as to whether or not a team must change their jersey or pants/long sleeves due to conflicting colors.

XII. FIELDS

A. Fields should be properly marked and ready by game time, with corner flags and nets in good condition. Cal North State Cup Staff, in conjunction with the referee(s), will have sole discretion and final determination on whether or not a field is playable.

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

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

D. The Cal North State Cup Staff/referee's decision, as to whether any field is playable or not, is not protestable.

XIII. GAME LENGTH

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

Age Group	Preliminary Round	Single Elimination Round	Ball Size
	Halves	Halves O.T. Periods	
U17-U19	(2) 40 min halves	(2) 45 min halves (2) 15 min	5
U15/U16	(2) 35 min halves	(2) 40 min halves (2) 15 min	5
U13/U14	(2) 30 min halves	(2) 35 min halves (2) 10 min	5
U11/U12	(2) 25 min halves	(2) 30 min halves (2) 10 min	4
U9/U10	(2) 20 min halves	(2) 25 min halves (2) 10 min	4





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B. The length of preliminary round games in Cal North Cup Competition will be reduced by five (5) minutes per half. Match lengths are subject to change at the Cal North State Cup Staff's discretion, even if they differ from the table above*

C. Single elimination games shall be regulation length, unless otherwise decided by the Cal North State Cup Staff.

D. All ties in the preliminary rounds 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.

XIV. GAME REPORT

A. Game cards supplied by Cal North, shall be presented to the referee and will be used for all Cal North State Cup games. After being properly filled out, game cards will be submitted to the Cal North State Cup Staff at the conclusion of each game for online score entry.

XV. SCORING

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

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

2. In the instance of a 6-team bracket where teams A, B and C crossover within the bracket to play teams D, E and F, should one team withdraw and it is not possible to reschedule the bracket to become a 5 – team bracket, in order to give all teams an equitable opportunity to advance, each team's total score will be based on the total number of points earned (3 for a win, 1 for a tie, 0 for a loss) divided by the total number of games played. Each team's composite score will be calculated to two decimal points if necessary. The same points averaging method will be used to determine goal differential, fewest goals allowed and goals scored (as designated in the tiebreaker system below in item B #2, #3 and #4.)

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





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C. 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, item B 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.

D. 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. The team with the 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

XVI. 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 Rules, or US Youth Soccer National Cup Rules, the status of the game shall be determined by the Cal North Cup Competition Authority

B. The terms "abandon" and "terminate" are interchangeable and mean the same thing for purposes of Cal North State Cup 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 Staff member to abandon/terminate for a specific purpose related to Cal North State Cup Rules.





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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 at least one registered team official present 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 Staff member 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 Cup Staff regardless of at what point during the game it was abandoned/terminated.

F. The Cal North Cup Staff 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.

XVII. 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. Any forfeit shall be scored 2 - 0.

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 Schedule. It is the team's responsibility to know when and where they are assigned to play any Cal North State Cup 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 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 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 Rules and who are dressed in uniforms that meet the Cal North State Cup Guidelines. The team must also have a registered team official with proper Cal North credentials as called for in the Cal North State Cup Rules at the beginning of and throughout the game.





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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 AND the individual participates in the game as described in Section B, Item 3 above.

D. If due to a send off 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 a two (2) goal differential 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 tied or the score favors the team that is causing the game to be terminated the score shall be recorded as a 2 - 0 score in favor of the opposing team.

XVIII. AWARDS

- A. Awards commemorating the Cal North State Cup will be presented to the Champions and Finalists of each division.
- B. Champions shall be awarded a trophy and a medal.
- C. Finalists shall be awarded a medal.
- D. There will be no consolation prizes for 3rd place finishers.

XIX. ADVANCEMENT TO THE US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. Champions in the U12 age groups will commit to travel and represent Cal North at the US Youth Soccer National Championships U12 Event. U12 National Championships will be in Salt Lake City, Utah during the west sub-regional Presidents Cup event running from June 18-21, 2026.

B. Additional Cal North registered teams competing in the U12 age groups may have the opportunity to attend the US Youth Soccer National Championships U12 Event should Cal North be selected to send a Wild Card team in their age group/gender. Wild Card slots are selected by blind draw by US Youth Soccer Designated Officials.

C. Teams advancing to the US Youth Soccer National Championships 12U Event will be subject to all current rules as designated in the US Youth Soccer National Championships Policy.





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D. Any team qualifying for the US Youth Soccer National Championships U12 Event will attend the event as the designated representative champion or wild card team for Cal North. Any team wishing to opt out of their commitment as a Cal North representative team must do so within one week of qualifying for the event or be subject to any withdrawal fines assessed by US Youth Soccer.

XX. 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 send off / expulsion for any team, the team shall immediately be eliminated from this competition for the remainder of the current Cal North State Cup. 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 venue shall have an on-site Cup Staff to determine penalties for red card send offs and expulsions. Cup Staff 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 State Cup 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 Cup Staff 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 Cup Staff will suspend the player for the next round of play within any Cal North Sanctioned event, with the exception of sendoffs/expulsions for referee assault which will be sent to the Executive Committee of this Association.

E. The suspended individual shall be ineligible for further Cal North Cup Play until completion of suspension. All Cal North State Cup suspensions must be served during Cal North Cup Competition and National Cup Competition if applicable. If the individual does not complete their suspension in the current season of Cal North State Cup Competition/US Youth Soccer National Championships the suspension shall carry over to the following year's Cal North Cup Competition/US Youth Soccer National Championships 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 National Championships he/she/they shall serve the suspension with the team with which he/she/they earned the suspension as long as the coach or registered team official is still associated with that team.





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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/they 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/their suspension in the following season with the next team to which he/she/they is registered and which participates in the Cal North Cup competition and/or US Youth Soccer Regional or National Cup competition.

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

J. Any individual that is sent off or expelled during a Cal North 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.

K. All instances of Referee Assault shall be reported within 48 hours to the Cal North State Office. 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 by using the game incident report.

XXI. PROTEST, APPEALS AND DISCIPLINE

A. Cal North will record all decisions regarding send offs and/or expulsions and use said records to notify suspended individuals of their sentence. Directives regarding send offs and expulsions are located in section 4:05 of the Cal North Specific Rules.

B. Other than a formal protest, any inquiry regarding the eligibility of any team, player and/or registered team official participating in a Cal North Cup must be submitted via email to the Cup Staff within 24 hours of the issue in which the question of eligibility is a factor.

C. With cause, the Cup Staff may remove from cup competition any team, which violates section 3:01:03 of the general procedures of the Cal North Constitution.

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





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E. Referees will report any sendoff or expulsion immediately after the match to the Cup Staff and that player or team official will be crossed off the next match card for their participating team signifying they are not eligible to play that game.

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, a member of the Cal North Cup Staff must be notified by a registered team official of the protesting team immediately following the game being protested. Within 2 hours of the completion of the game being protested the protest must be filed in writing and submitted to the Cal North Cup staff at the Cup venue. The protest should be noted on the game card by Cup staff. Cal North Cup staff will inform the opposing team's coach as well as the coaches of other teams in the bracket that may be impacted that a protest of the game has been filed. Notification will be made to the affected team(s) as soon as possible but not later than the end of the day on which the protest was filed. A registered team official may be contacted if the coach cannot be reached by Cal North Cup Staff. Cup Staff will consider the protest and notify all affected teams of their determination by the end of the day on which the protest was filed. If no other appeal is filed within 2 hours following the determination of the Cup Staff, the decision will be final and all affected teams will be notified.

I. In order to appeal a decision of the Cup Staff, a staff member must be notified by a registered team official of the appealing team immediately following the decision being rendered. Within 2 hours of the Cup Staff's determination being issued the appeal must be filed in writing and submitted at the Cup venue. The Cup Staff will consider the appeal and notify the appealing team of their determination by the end of the day on which the appeal was filed. Any affected teams will be notified of the final determination of the Cup Staff. In the instance when a decision is rendered by the Cup Staff following the conclusion of competition on the weekend during which the decision being appealed was rendered, arrangements will be made by the Cup Staff to accept the appeal within a time frame as established by the Cup Staff.

J. A protest or appeal that pertains to a specific Cal North Cup Competition game result may be heard by the Cal North Cup Staff on site. Any protest or appeal that pertains to Cal North Cup Competition activity including but not limited to team entry status, team eligibility, player or registered team official eligibility or any other area pertaining to Cal North Cup Competition except a specific game result shall be heard by the Cal North Cup Staff within three days of the filing of the protest or appeal.

K. Notification of the decision of the Cal North Cup Staff shall be communicated by email to the affected parties at the time the decision is rendered.

L. Game results and determinations of the Cal North Cup Staff will stand, and scheduled Cal North State Cup Competition games will continue. No further protest or appeal shall be allowed.

M. 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.





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N. The Cal North Cup Staff also reserves the right to make decisions regarding appeals and protests by phone call, virtual meeting or other electronic communications amongst the members of the Cup Staff relying solely on the written testimony that is submitted by the parties to the appeal or protest.

O. By entering a Cal North State Cup Competition Tournament a team agrees to waive any appeal rights other than to the Cal North Cup Staff.

XXII. WITHDRAWALS

A. In order to withdraw from Cal North State Cup play, a team must submit a notice in writing to the Cal North State 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 registration has been accepted by Cal North will lose their entry fee with no possibility of a refund to be issued.

XXIII. AUTHORITY

A. The Cal North Cup Staff shall serve as the sole authority in oversight of all cup competitions, including but not limited to, the Cal North State Cup..

B. The Cal North Cup Staff reserves the right to change any rule prior to, during or after the competition.

C. During the competition, questions regarding interpretation of these rules and matters not addressed herein shall be resolved by the Cal North State Cup Staff on site.

XXIV. ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY / “CAPTAIN FIRST”

A. Zero Tolerance for Referee Interference: All coaches, players, and spectators are prohibited from addressing referees during or after the game, except in specified cases outlined below.

B. Captain-Only Communication: Only team captains may speak with referees, and only to respectfully request rule clarifications. This applies to on-field discussions and excludes any other form of commentary, criticism, or feedback.

C. Coaches’ Limited Role: Coaches may ask questions pre-game or point out urgent safety issues during the game. Post-game discussions with referees are prohibited. Coaches may submit feedback through the Cal North Cup Committee.

D. Spectator Conduct: Spectators may not address referees, players, or opposing coaches. Any concerns should be directed to the team’s coach after the game.

E. Disciplinary Measures: Violations of this rule can result in ejections and additional disciplinary action. This rule emphasizes good sportsmanship, fosters a respectful environment, and protects young referees from undue pressure.





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About Us

Established in 1969 by Donald Greer, Cal North started as a small collection of teams looking for an organized format for their youth soccer competitions. Cal North (then CYSA) was the prototype and predecessor for other state soccer associations as well as for the formation of US Youth Soccer in 1974 also founded by Donald Greer, which is now the largest youth sports organization in the United States. Our vision of "kids first" has been the constant that guides us throughout our evolution and remains our primary motivation for kids in Northern California to play the beautiful game.

The mission of the California Youth Soccer Association is to serve all children and our communities by providing opportunities that allow each child to grow, learn, mature and succeed by becoming productive adult members of society through the development, promotion, and offering, regardless of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin and/or ability, comprehensive community based leagues that offer a complete range of youth soccer opportunities for all children of all ages and abilities.

www.calnorth.org

