



RULES: 2016 USCS Hawaii State Cup



Updated December, 2015

1. ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION.

The USCS Hawaii State Cup is a restricted tournament open only to teams in good standing with valid US Club Soccer passcards. Winners shall advance to the National Cup XV Finals.

- a. Participants shall consist of U12* and U13 through U17 boys and girls teams.
- b. There is a limit of 6 or 8 slots available per age group in each gender.
- c. The application deadline is four weeks month prior to the first day of the USCS Hawaii State Cup. Teams should review the application for this information. If an age group is over-subscribed, or if the number of applicants cannot be accommodated in an acceptable competitive format, the following criteria can be considered in determining entries:
 - Prior State Cup results (if applicable)
 - Team's competitive level (if applicable)
 - If the U12/U13 age groups are oversubscribed, consideration for entry may be given to clubs that have also entered teams in older age brackets
 - Date of a team's application, regardless of the application deadline
- d. US Club Soccer reserves the right to accept or reject any application.
- e. In all other cases, the application fee is non-refundable. A \$1,000 penalty will be imposed for any team that drops within three weeks of the State Cup for which the team applied.

2. TOURNAMENT AUTHORITY.

The Tournament Director shall have ultimate authority over all tournament competitions and discipline matters. The interpretation of the rules and all decisions of the Tournament Director are final. The Tournament Director may be assisted by Regional Competition Directors and the Tournament Rules and Discipline Committee. For the purposes of these rules, the authority of any Competition Director and the Tournament Director shall be synonymous.

The Tournament Rules and Discipline Committee shall be appointed by the US Club Soccer Executive Director and will minimally consist of the Tournament Director, Competition Director and any US Club Soccer Board of Directors member in attendance. The US Club Soccer Executive Director shall serve as an ex officio committee member and has the authority to appoint additional members to the Tournament Rules and Discipline Committee.

In all matters of discipline, with the exception of an alleged incident of misconduct towards a game official, the Tournament Rules and Discipline Committee shall render a determination, and send a report to the US Club Soccer Discipline Committee pursuant to this section.



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3. COMPETITION FORMAT.

Teams will play a minimum of 3 games, unless the size of the division does not allow it. In most cases, the competition will consist of round-robin play and a single game between two group winners on the last day to determine the champion. The Tournament Director, in consultation with the Tournament Rules and Discipline Committee:

- a. Reserves the right to determine the size of each competitive group, and the right to alter the groups and format to account for larger or uneven numbers of teams in a given competitive division.
- b. Shall determine the schedule and start times of all games, including adequate rest time between games, and altering the schedule of one game per day where necessary.
- c. Champions in the U13 through U17 age groups at the USCS Hawaii State Cup will advance to the National Cup XV Finals, to be held July 22-25, 2016. There is no additional entry fee for advancing to the National Cup XV Finals.

4. ROSTER RULES.

Any player, who is a member of the designated age group or younger, is eligible to be placed on the tournament roster. No guest or loan players shall be allowed. No players may be added to a tournament roster other than pursuant to these rules unless an emergency situation arises and permission is obtained in writing from the Tournament Director.

- a. **Maximum Tournament Roster Size:** Up to 26 players. Teams are expected to register all known players three weeks prior to the USCS Hawaii State Cup (including submitting paperwork and fees). Please note that there may be an increased wait period for passcard processing due to high demand. Individual players may be added up to any roster freeze.
- b. **Playing on more than one team:** A player may play on only one team at the USCS Hawaii State Cup, other than as set forth herein. If a USCS Hawaii State Cup team does not qualify to the National Cup XV Finals, the player may play on another team for the same club at a later Regional competition or at the Finals. If a player is properly dual-carded to another team with another organization, the same rule set forth above shall apply to such player. Unless properly dual-carded, a player is Cup-tied to his/her first Cup club. Under no circumstances may a player play for one team in the Cup, then be released by the club, and play for a second Cup team.
- c. **Players at National Cup Finals:** After the USCS Hawaii State Cup, players may be dropped or added without limitation up to the maximum roster size, as long as any new players to be added were registered with the member club or league team at the start of the team's USCS Hawaii State Cup competition. If the club has had tryouts since the USCS Hawaii State Cup, they may add up to three new players from such tryouts that have committed to and registered with the club for the next registration year. Any other roster emergency requests shall be determined by the Tournament Director on a case-by-case basis.
- d. **Roster freeze for National Cup Finals:** 5 p.m. ET, seven (7) days prior to the team's first Finals game. Thereafter, the team's tournament roster shall be frozen. A player may only play on one Cup team during the Finals.



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- e. **Game roster size:** Up to 18 players, selected from the tournament roster of up to 26 players. A roster may have up to 18 players, selected from the tournament roster of up to 26 players.
- f. **Substitutions:** Unlimited substitutions and unlimited re-entry. Substitutions may occur at any stoppage. However, the referee shall have discretion over all substitutions, and may refuse to allow any substitution if, in his/her opinion, the purpose is to disrupt the game**

**In allowing for unlimited substitutions, US Club Soccer wishes to remind all coaches that it is their responsibility to handle their substitutions in a professional manner so as not to detract from the game.

5. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS.

- a. Valid player passcards and official roster.
- b. Valid staff passcards will be required for all coaches and the team manager.
- c. Teams are expected to register all known players three weeks prior to the USCS Hawaii State Cup competition.
- d. US Club Soccer also reserves the right to impose a \$1,000 penalty for any team that drops within three weeks of the USCS Hawaii State Cup.
- e. See *Attachment A: Team Check In Procedures* for more information.

6. COMPETITION RULES.

The following rules shall govern all Tournament competitions:

- a. All games shall be played pursuant to FIFA Laws of the Game, unless stated otherwise in these rules.
- b. Length of Games (All halftimes should last 10 minutes):

U12*	30 minute halves
U13/U14	35 minute halves
U15/U16	40 minute halves
U17	45 minute halves
- c. In excessive heat conditions, water breaks can be allowed by the referee at his/her discretion, after prior consultation with the Competition Director.
- d. For all round robin games, games ending in a tie will be recorded as a tie, with each team receiving one point.
- e. Overtime (if needed): Games shall end in a tie, other than in a single-elimination game to determine a given competitive division winner or in the last game of the Finals. If an overtime period is required, it shall consist of two 10-minute halves (five minutes between halves) and then, if necessary, penalty kicks from the mark.



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- f. Ball size: Size 4 for U12*, Size 5 for U13 to U17.
- g. All players must wear shin guards. All other equipment rules shall be pursuant to FIFA Laws of the Game.
- h. The home team shall be listed first. In case of uniform color conflicts, the designated home team shall change uniforms.
- i. No hard casts will be allowed to be worn by players. All other casts will be up to the discretion of the referee and the Competition Director.

7. STANDINGS AND TIEBREAKERS.

- a. Game Points: 3 points awarded for a win; 1 point for a tie; zero (0) points for a loss. A forfeit shall be recorded as a 3 – 0 win, with one goal being credited.
- b. Tiebreakers: For teams tied in points at the end of a round-robin competition, tiebreaker criteria shall be:
 - 1) head to head competitions (but not in the case of a three-way tie);
 - 2) goal differential (max of 3 per game);
 - 3) total goals (max of 4 per game);
 - 4) fewest goals allowed;
 - 5) penalty kicks from the mark.

In a case where three teams are tied in points but one team has defeated the other teams tied in points, the winner of the two games will advance. In addition, once a tiebreaker is used to eliminate one team (i.e. head-to-head, goal differential, etc.), the next tiebreaker in line will be used to determine the winner or team that advances.

****Bracket of 2 Tiebreaker:** If at the end of regulation time of the second match, the aggregate score is tied, the match shall proceed to overtime. If still tied, the match shall proceed to penalty kicks from the mark.

- c. Uneven number of games: If a tiebreaker calculation between two or more teams would be based on a different number of games, total goals and fewest goals allowed will be converted into a percentage per game.
- d. Only the Super Group and Premier Group winners from each age group should report to the specific award area after the completion of the team's final game.

8. GAME AUTHORITY AND DISCIPLINE.

- a. The referee's decision in all matters related to the field and the game itself shall be final. There shall be no protests of any referee's decision or game result. Referee Evaluation Forms (to be completed by a coach only) are available on our website, www.usclubsoccer.org. No other forms will be provided.



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- b. Red cards awarded to players or substitutes during a tournament game or dismissals of team officials shall result in that player or team official being suspended for the next tournament game. The team official shall serve his/her suspension in a game involving the same team when the dismissal occurred, unless the team has no more such games remaining. In this case, the club official shall serve the suspension on the next available game. The Tournament Rules and Discipline Committee shall have the authority to take further disciplinary action should it be deemed necessary.
- c. There shall be no yellow card accumulations. Note that FIFA Circulars #866 and #821 require that a sendoff for a red card or a sendoff after two yellow cards in a game be treated the same. Thus, in both cases, the player must sit out the remainder of that game and the next tournament game.
- d. Suspensions for normal red cards and staff ejections shall not extend beyond the State Cup tournament or Finals.
- e. At all times, all coaches shall have complete responsibility and control for the conduct of their players, bench area, parents, family and friends.
- f. If, in the opinion of the referee, it is necessary to terminate a game due to the misconduct of a team or others associated with that team, the game shall be forfeited to the opposing team and the matter shall be referred to the Tournament Rules and Discipline Committee, which may, among other penalties, suspend the team for the remainder of the tournament. If, in the opinion of the referee, the termination is the result of substantially equivalent misconduct by both teams or by persons associated with both teams, the matter will be resolved by the Tournament Rules and Discipline Committee.
- g. At the end of each game, the referee's game report shall be submitted to the Competition Director.
- h. In the event a red card is distributed, the referee shall obtain the delinquent player's/staff member's passcard and take it to the US Club Soccer headquarters tent. After the suspension is served, the coach may come pick up the passcard, unless there is the allegation of referee abuse or the Competition Director/referee feels that additional action is warranted.
- i. For serious discipline matters with the potential to incur penalties beyond the issuance of a red card or staff ejection, a *Competition Incident Report* and a referee's report shall be completed and sent to US Club Soccer. Also, the referee should give the delinquent players' passcards to US Club Soccer.

9. GAME START TIMES AND RESCHEDULING.

- a. All games shall start at the designated time. A forfeit shall be declared if a team cannot field a minimum of seven (7) players at the start time of the game. However, the Tournament Director shall have the authority to adjust the schedule in cases where a team's arrival has been delayed due to unforeseen travel or weather conditions.
- b. Every reasonable effort will be made to complete a game as long as the safety of the participants and spectators is not jeopardized. Should a game not be able to be started or should a suspension of play be required due to safety concerns or unplayable conditions, the referee, coaches, Tournament Director and Competition Director shall consult, but the referee shall have the ultimate authority to either suspend or terminate the game.



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- c. If it is not possible to complete a game for the reasons set forth in this section, if the first half is completed, the results shall stand. If the first half is not completed, or if the game is tied, the Tournament Director or Competition Director shall determine whether it shall be rescheduled or another resolution of the matter shall be implemented. The schedule of remaining games shall be a factor in any determination. The teams involved shall be consulted, but the ultimate decision on such resolution shall rest with the Tournament Director and Competition Director.
 - d. In all cases, the Tournament Director has the ultimate authority to adjust the schedule of any or all remaining games, including shortening the length of games, to arrive at an equitable result and in consideration of the overall integrity of the competition.

10. DISCIPLINE.

Discipline for the Tournament shall be under the jurisdiction of US Club Soccer.



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ATTACHMENT A: Team Check In Procedures

Tournament Check In Procedures:

1. The check-in times and locations shall be determined by the Tournament Director.
2. At check-in, teams shall present the following:
 - Official team roster (up to 26 players) downloaded and printed from the team's Web site information.
 - US Club Soccer Player passcards for all players on the roster.
 - US Club Soccer Coach and manager staff passcards.
3. Player passcards shall be checked against the official roster and stamped accordingly.
4. A player may only be rostered to one team for the USCS Hawaii State Cup or the National Cup Finals, or unless specified in section 2.

Pre Game Check In Procedures:

1. Twenty (20) minutes prior to the start of each game, the coach shall present his/her team (up to 18 players) to the referee for check-in. The referee shall check player passcards against the individual players, and assure the cards have been properly stamped.
2. It is not necessary to present a copy of the team's official roster to the referee. However, the coach should have extra copies of the roster available should any questions arise. (referees should receive a copy of the game roster)
3. Passcards shall be held by the referee or his/her designee and returned to the coach at the end of the game, except for any red cards, which shall be kept together with the game report. Red cards shall be turned in to the scorer's tent, and held until the player has sat out the required game.
4. In the case of other disciplinary matters, the player's passcard shall be held by the Competition Director until the matter is adjudicated by the Tournament Rules and Discipline Committee or US Club Soccer.
5. All cards shall be returned to the coach at the end of the tournament, unless a questionable card has been confiscated by the Competition Director or his/her designee, an allegation of misconduct against a game official has been filed or in the event of violent conduct or other behavior that warrants a Competition Incident Report to be filed.



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ATTACHMENT B: Playing Format – Hawaii State Cup

The group winners, which advance to the championship match, will be determined as follows:

Bracket of 2*:

Played as a home and away series with the team accumulating the highest aggregate score being declared the champion. **Tiebreaker: If at the end of regulation time of the second match, the aggregate score is tied, the match shall proceed to overtime. If still tied, the match shall proceed to penalty kicks from the mark.

Bracket of 3*:

Played as a single group of three teams in a round-robin format, with the top two teams meeting in a championship match.

Bracket of 4:

Played as a single group of four teams in a round-robin format, with the top two teams meeting in a championship match.

Bracket of 5:

Played as a single group of five teams in a round-robin format, with the team accumulating the most points declared the champion. A limited number of teams will likely play more than one game per day.

Bracket of 6:

Played as two groups of three teams. Each team will cross over and play the three teams in the other group. The two teams accumulating the most points from all six teams will play a final game to determine which team is declared the champion.

Bracket of 8:

Played as two groups of four. The winner of each round-robin group will play a final game to determine which team is declared the champion.

* **Teams scheduled to play less than the 3 games minimum will receive a partial refund**

** **For tiebreaker criteria, go to section 7. Standings and Tiebreakers**