



# Cal North Association Cup Directives, Rules & Regulations

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

## I. CAL NORTH ASSOCIATION CUP COMPETITIONS

- A. The Cal North Association Cup is an Association-wide event. 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.

## II. JURISDICTION

- A. The Cal North Association Cup competition shall be under the jurisdiction of the Cal North 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 Association Cup competitions are open to any team that is registered for the current season with a US Soccer affiliated organization. All teams and players must meet Cal North Association Cup entrance and eligibility requirements, be in good standing at the time of entry, and remain in good standing throughout the competition.
- B. In order to qualify for Cal North Association Cup the team must have participated in an approved Cal North playing league.
- C. No player may participate in the Cal North Association Cup if rostered on a team that participated in a sanctioned playing league for Premier or Gold teams in the current seasonal year. Exception: A player who was originally rostered on a team that participated in a sanctioned playing league for Premier or Gold teams during the current seasonal year, who transferred off that team due to bona fide reasons may still be eligible to participate in Cal North Association Cup competition. Approval may only be granted after a written request from the team's League President and written approval by the team's District Commissioner.
- D. All teams playing in the Cal North Association Cup must have competed at the Silver or lower level. Exception: Teams that competed at a level higher than Silver when approved by the Board of Directors upon the recommendation of their District Commissioner or by the placement of their Cal North playing league representative to compete in a Gold or Premier level division in their Cal North playing league in order to have a viable playing league may still be eligible to participate in Cal North Association Cup. The exception must be submitted in writing by the District Commissioner.
- E. A team or player that participates in Cal North Association Cup may play in only one (1) Cal North Cup competition within the same current seasonal year or until such time as the team has completed the cup competition in which the team first participated. (i.e. team or player may not play simultaneously in Cal North Association Cup and in the Cal North State Cup, Cal North Presidents Cup or Cal North Founders' Cup)
- F. Once a team has completed their competition in Cal North Association Cup, the team may submit an application to another Cal North Cup for which they meet eligibility requirements.
- G. Teams may be invited by Cal North Cup staff to submit an application to a subsequent Cal North Cup once they have completed participation in the Cal North Association Cup.
- H. All rostering of individuals on Cal North Association Cup teams, including transfers, adds and releases will be processed in accordance with the Cal North and US Youth Soccer player eligibility rules and registration requirements.

- I. A player must be on the team's Cal North team roster for the current seasonal year at the time of the roster freeze deadline for Cal North Association 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 Cal North Association Cup. .
- J. Any player on a frozen cup roster is considered to have participated in cup play with that team.
- K. Players must be properly registered with a US Soccer affiliated organization and their credentials properly approved for the current seasonal year in accordance with Cal North and US Youth Soccer Rules.
  - 1. The rostering of such players with such league shall be made in compliance with the registration rules of Cal North.
  - 2. 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)
- L. Roster Freeze: Transactions involving player movement on or off the team roster (adds, transfers and/or releases) should be submitted to the required Registrar no later than the Friday prior to the roster freeze deadline. At 11:59 PM 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 finalized by the required Registrar in the data management system before midnight on the Tuesday prior to the first game scheduled for cup play. Beginning at 12:01 AM on the Wednesday following 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 Association Cup Competitions
- M. Registered team officials may be added to or removed from a team roster at any time prior to the Cal North Association Cup competition beginning or after the Cal North Association Cup Competition has begun.

#### **IV. TEAM ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

- A. In order for a team to be eligible for Cal North Association Cup Competition the following steps must be completed by the published deadline
  - 1. Complete and submit online the Cal North Association Cup Competition Entry Form including the section that requires the electronic acknowledgement of a registered team official.
  - 2. Submit the published Cal North Association Cup Team Entry Fees in the form of a credit card payment, electronic check, or a check or money order payable to Cal North
- B. Completed applications submitted by teams consisting of items 1 and 2 in Section IV, item A above, must be received at the Cal North office (1040 Serpentine Lane, Suite 206, Pleasanton, CA 94566) by the published deadline.
- C. Late receipt of entry through delay by the U.S. Mail, other carriers, or delivery by person cannot and will not be accepted. Entries on anything but a Cal North Association 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 Association Cup a team must be registered with A US Soccer affiliated Organization and must have played in a recognized, sanctioned playing league 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 Association Cup. Participation in a league for "paper teams" does not fulfill the league play eligibility requirement for Cal North Association Cup. In a district where a team's league does not begin play until Cal North Association 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 Association Cup Chairman in writing of the team's conflict with this rule and explain why there is a conflict. If the team is accepted for play in Cal North

Association 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 Association Cup Competition. The District Commissioner shall notify the Cal North Association 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 requirements if the team registers and fulfills all other Cal North Association Cup eligibility and application requirements. Any team that participates in Cal North Association 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, will any team be eligible to participate in Cal North Association Cup unless it participated as a Cal North team in an approved Cal North league.

- E. Any team that enters Cal North Association 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 Association Cup to be in receipt of 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 Association Cup application process. Claims of not having read these documents before submitting a team entry are not admissible. Each team representative's signature or electronic acknowledgement on the Cal North Association 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 Association Cup after the published application deadline and which 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 Association Cup are subject to all Cal North Association Cup eligibility requirements.
- C. Teams must meet entry form and roster submission requirements as cited in the Cal North Association Cup Team Entrance Requirements.
- D. Any team that applies to Cal North Association Cup as a Reserve Pool team may be assessed an additional fee of \$100.00 above the regular Cal North Association Cup entry fee.
- E. Teams' Reserve Pool entry fees must be paid by certified check, money order, bank cashier's check, or credit card.
- F. Prior to the Cal North Association Cup draw the Cal North Cup Committee or designees may, by means of a blind draw or by invitation of teams from Cal North Cups already completed select additional teams from the Reserve Pool for teams in a particular age group in order to make that division divisible by four.
- G. The Cal North 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 Association Cup in the specific age/gender above the number of teams that have entered Cal North Association Cup at the time of the entry deadline. The selection will be made through a blind draw from the teams that have entered Cal North Association Cup Reserve Pool in the specific age/gender at the time of the Association Cup Reserve Pool entry deadline.
- H. The deadline to adjust and add teams to flights divisible by four (4) shall be 5:00 PM on the Monday preceding the draw for each age/gender division of play.
- I. The Cal North Cup Committee or designees may draw from the Reserve Pool if a team drops from Cal North Association Cup play in the team's proper age/gender division.
- J. After the Cal North Association Cup draw has taken place, whenever a team is needed to fill a vacancy in a bracket in Cal North Association Cup Play, 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 its entry fee returned to the team within thirty (30) days from the first day of play in the team's age/gender division.

## **VI. CREDENTIALS**

- A. Prior to participating in any round of Cal North Association Cup competition, proper credentials that have been approved in accordance with Cal North registration requirements by the appropriate Registrar(s) for each participating team, player and registered team official shall be presented. Credentials must be properly checked in by designated Cal North officials beginning with the first preliminary round game.
- B. Properly approved team, player, and registered team official credentials that meet Cal North Association Cup requirements will be required at each and every game in order to participate in Cal North Association Cup Competition
- C. Any improper player's or registered team official's member pass shall be retained by the Cal North Association 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 Cup Credentials Committee for clearance.
- D. A properly approved member pass must be presented for each player and team official.
- 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 Third Vice Chairman and the on-site cup staff, as well as confirmation by the team's District Registrar and/or the 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. A Cal North Cup Credentials Exception Agreement form must be completed and signed by a registered team official prior to the exception being granted and prior to the game(s) in question. In the absence of the Third Vice Chairman the Chairman of the Board or the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman may be consulted.
- 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(s) 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 Association Cup forfeiture and fine policies.
- H. An ineligible player, participating in a Cal North Association Cup Competition Game 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 the player by the Cal North Board of Directors.

## **VII. TEAM FORMATION**

- A. Any team entering Cal North Association 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 Association 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 between the team's league roster and the team's Cal North Association Cup roster by maintaining a minimum of nine (9) players common to the rosters of both competitions.

## **VIII. BRACKETING**

- A. All properly received Cal North Association Cup applications 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 Cup Committee or designees. During the blind draw, no two (2) teams from the same district will be placed in the same bracket unless there are more teams from a given district than there are brackets.
- C. If a team drops after the draw, no adjustment of brackets will be made if the replacement team is from the same district as another team already assigned to that bracket.
- D. The Cal North 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.
- E. The winners of each bracket will advance to single elimination round competition. If necessary for the formation of the next round of single elimination competition, the Cal North Cup Committee reserves the right to advance runner-up teams from brackets pre-designated by random selection prior to the draw taking place
- F. The bracket winners and runners-up will be determined by the scoring point system outlined in Section XV of the Cal North Association Cup Competition Directives, Rules & Regulations.
- G. The Cal North Cup Committee reserves the right to restructure 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).
- H. If in the opinion of the Cal North Cup Committee 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 has taken place, the Cal North Cup Committee Chairman and his/her 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Cup Committee may schedule a redraw of that age group. In addition, the Cal North Cup Committee or designees 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.

## **IX. SCHEDULING**

- A. Requests for scheduling accommodations or adjustments on behalf of any specific team will not be taken into consideration when creating the schedules.
- B. A complete schedule of games, playing dates, and opponents will be mailed to all teams as soon as possible 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 or participation in the events hosted by other soccer organizations 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 Association Cup competition on any and all dates for which play is scheduled (both primary dates for play and alternate dates for play) for its age group.
- E. A game upon which a protest/appeal is upheld will be replayed as called for by the Cal North Cup Competition Authority. It shall be the responsibility of the Cal North Association Cup Chairman or his/her designee to reschedule the game and set a time and place for the game that will allow all Cal North Association 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.
- G. Scheduling changes may be considered for single elimination round games up to and including the semifinals when the following stipulations are met:
  1. The opposing teams must be registered in the same affiliated league
  2. Both teams must agree to the game being reassigned to a “home” field
  3. The teams must have the agreement of the affiliated league, the Cal North Cup Committee Representative from the team’s District, and the Cup Committee Chairman
  4. The league must agree to host the game and to provide at no cost to Cal North:
    - a. A regulation field in accordance with Cal North Cup rules
    - b. Referees as stipulated by Cal North Cup rules
    - c. Field Marshals
  5. The Cal North Cup Committee Representative from the team’s District must ensure that there is a qualified site coordinator to administer the credentials check in and Cal North Cup operations including but not limited to score reporting, filing any applicable cup-related reports/paperwork, consult with the Cup Committee Chair and/or Cup Director regarding any send offs and suspensions
  6. The teams and their league must agree in writing that there will be no protests filed based on the assignment of the field or referees.
  7. The request for rescheduling a game to a home field must be submitted in writing to the Cal North Cup Committee Chairman and Programs Coordinator within 24 hours of qualifying for the single elimination game in question.
  8. The Cup Committee Chairman, Cup Director and Third Vice Chair will confer to consider all relevant information and circumstances regarding the request. After a determination has been made, the Cup Committee Chairman will notify both teams, their league, the Cal North Cup Committee Representative from the team’s District and the Cal North Programs Coordinator within 24 hours of receiving the request.
  9. If the request is approved the Cal North Programs Coordinator will make the changes in the schedule and notify the SYRA of the schedule change so that the referee assignments can be cancelled.

**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, Cal North Constitution, Bylaws, General Procedures, Specific Rules and PIMs unless the rules of this competition determine otherwise.
- B. For this competition Cal North unlimited substitution rules as indicated in PIM 10-3 item E will be in effect.
- C. For preliminary round games, the host district is responsible for supplying referee and game fields (and/or alternative fields).
- D. It is recommended that field marshals be available for crowd control, etc.
- E. 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.
- F. 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.
- G. 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.

## XI. 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. 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.
- C. 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 Cal North Referee's Game Report (game card).
- D. Stockings/socks must be of the same color, (a player must wear stockings/socks of a matching color), should be correctly worn in the pulled-up position covering shin pads or guards.
- E. Shirts/ jerseys shall be neatly tucked into their shorts.
- F. The wearing of tracksuit trousers or long tights in a color that coordinates with the team's colors is permissible in adverse weather.
- G. Cyclists' pants, tights, etc., may be worn under a player's shorts if they are the same color as the shorts.
- H. 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.
- I. All Cal North Association Cup referees will be instructed to enforce this uniform rule in all games.
- J. 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 under garments.
- K. 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.

## XII. 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 U13; 100 yards long x 70 yards wide for U14 through U19.
- C. The Cal North Cup Chairman may place games on different sized fields if the use of such fields is necessary for the timely play of Cal North Association Cup games.
- D. The 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:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Preliminary Round Halves</u>	<u>Single Elimination Round Halves</u>	<u>O.T. Periods</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>	<u>Ball Circumference</u>	<u>Ball Weight</u>
U19	Two 40 min halves	Two 45 min halves	Two 15 min	#5	27"- 28"	14-16 oz
U15, U16	Two 35 min halves	Two 40 min halves	Two 15 min	#5	27"- 28"	14-16 oz
U13, U14	Two 30 min halves	Two 35 min halves	Two 10 min	#5	27"- 28"	14-16 oz

- B. The length of preliminary round games in 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.

#### **XIV. GAME REPORT**

- A. Cal North Association 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 Association 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.

#### **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 feasible to re-schedule 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 to determine goal differential, fewest goals allowed and goals scored (as designated in the tie breaker 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
- 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 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 XV, 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

## **XVI. 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 Cup Committee Chairman, and the Cal North Cup Committee members as soon as possible before games if fields are unplayable. Only the Cal North 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 Cup Committee Chairman to schedule such changes. District Cal North Association Cup Coordinators may, if necessitated by inclement weather, make last minute changes to different playing sites.
- B.** The Cal North Cup Committee Chairman may schedule makeup games necessitated by inclement weather or reentry games due to a Protest and Appeals decision on consecutive days (Saturday and Sunday) or between scheduled dates (weekdays). The Cal North Cup Committee Chairman's decisions are not protestable.

## **XVII. ABANDONED/TERMINATED GAMES**

- A.** Should a scheduled game be terminated or abandoned before its completion and the situation is not covered by Cal North Association Cup Competition Rules, the status of the game shall be determined by the Cal North Cal North Cup Competition Authority.
- B.** The terms abandon and terminate are interchangeable and mean the same thing for purposes of Cal North Association 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 Association Cup Competition Administrator to abandon/terminate for a specific purpose related to Cal North Association 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 Association 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 Cup Competition Authority regardless of at what point during the game it was abandoned/terminated. The Cal North Cup Competition Authority shall render a decision as to the status of the game within seventy-two (72) hours which shall allow the competition to continue pending any further action by the Cal North Cup PAD Committee. The Cal North Cup Competition Authority may determine that the game that was abandoned / terminated must be played over again in its entirety.
- F. The Cal North Cup PAD Committee and/or the Cal North Protest, Appeal and Disciplinary Committee may also take separate action regarding team's or individual's behavior that is 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.

## **XVIII. 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 Association Cup Competition Schedule. It is the team's responsibility to know when and where they are assigned to play any Cal North Association 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 Association 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 Association 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 Association Cup Competition Rules and who are dressed in uniforms that meet the Cal North Association 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 Association 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 Association 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 Association 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.

## **XIX. AWARDS**

- A. Awards commemorating Cal North Association Cup will be presented.

## **XX. ADVANCEMENT**

- A. The age group champions from Cal North Association Cup do not advance to US Youth Soccer Regional or National Cup competition.

## **XXI. 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 or registered team official send off or expulsion for any team, the team shall immediately be eliminated from the competition for the remainder of the current Cal North Association 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 that 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, on site, a Cup Protest, Appeals, Disciplinary (PAD) Committee to determine penalties for red card sendoffs and expulsions. Cup PAD Committee decisions shall be communicated to applicable players, coaches or team officials. Any appeals of decisions made by the Cup PAD committee will be considered by different individuals than those who were involved in the original determination.
- 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 Cup PAD Committee if the circumstances of the offense warrant it.
- D. Sendoffs 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 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 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 Association Cup Competition the suspension shall carry over to the following season'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 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 National Championship Series 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. Any individual who 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 in the Cal North Referee's Send Off Report the reason for the additional suspended games, or an attachment to the Cal North Referees Send Off Report that indicates 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.
- J. Suspension penalties that cannot be served in the current season will carry over to the next seasonal year.
- K. 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.

## **XXII. PROTEST, APPEALS AND DISCIPLINE**

- A. The Cal North Cup Suspension Status Report form will be used to record all decisions regarding send-offs and expulsions. 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 question regarding the eligibility of any team, player and/or registered team official participating in a Cal North Cup must be submitted in writing to the Cup Committee Chairman and/or the Association Cup Director within 24 hours of the issue in which the eligibility question is a factor.
- C. With cause, the Board of Directors may remove from Cal North Association 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.
- E. Referees will retain member passes, for those individuals who have been sent off or expelled, and along with the Cal North Referee Sendoff Report and the game report will turn them in to the on-site Cal North Cup Protest, Appeals and Discipline (PAD) Committee for disciplinary action. The member passes along with a copy of the Game and Referee Report card and a copy of the Cal North Referee's Sendoff Report will 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. Disciplinary action that exceeds Cal North's recommended minimum penalty for an offense for an age group may be appealed.
- H. In order for a protest of a competition to be valid, a member of the Cal North Cup Competition 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 along with the \$200 filing fee to 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. The Cup Competition Authority 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 Competition Authority, the decision will be final and all affected teams will be notified.
- I. In order to appeal a decision of the Cup Competition Authority, a member of the Cal North Cup Competition staff must be notified by a registered team official of the appealing team immediately

following the decision being rendered. Within 2 hours of the Cup Competition Authority's determination being issued the appeal must be filed in writing and submitted to Cal North Cup staff at the cup venue along with the \$200 filing fee. The Cup PAD Committee 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 PAD Committee. In the instance when a decision is rendered by the Cup PAD Committee following the conclusion of competition on the weekend during which the decision being appealed was rendered, arrangements will be made by the Cup Committee Chair or his/her designee to accept the appeal and filing fee at the Cal North Office within a time frame as established by the Cup Committee Chair or his/her designee.

- J. A protest or appeal that pertains to a specific Cal North Cup Competition game result may be heard by the Cal North Cup PAD Committee 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 Committee within three days of the filing of the protest or appeal.
- K. Notification of the decision of the Cal North Cup Competition Authority or the Cup Protest & Appeals Committee shall be communicated by email to the affected parties at the time the decision is rendered with a hard copy notification of the decision being mailed to the affected parties within 48 hours of the Cup PAD Committee's or Cup Competition Authority's decision.
- L. Game results and determinations of the Cal North Cup Protest & Appeals Committee will stand, and scheduled Cal North 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.
- N. The Cal North Cup Competition Authority and Cup Protest & Appeals Committee also reserve the right to make decisions regarding appeals and protests by conference phone call or other electronic communications amongst the members of the Cup Committee relying solely on the written testimony that is submitted by the parties to the appeal or protest.
- O. By entering a Cal North Association Cup Competition Tournament a team agrees to waive any appeal rights other than to the Cal North Cup Protest & Appeal Committee.

### **XXIII. WITHDRAWALS**

- A. In order to withdraw from Cal North Association 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 Association Cup AFTER their application has been received by Cal North, but prior to the draw, may forfeit their entry fee.

### **XXIV. FINES**

- A. Any team that withdraws from Cal North Association Cup play after the draw, but at least one week prior to the start of scheduled play, will forfeit their entry fee and be fined \$300.00.
- B. Any team that withdraws from Cal North Association Cup less than one week prior to the start of scheduled play, but before 5:00 p.m. the Friday before scheduled play will forfeit 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 Association Cup Competition Directives, Rules & Regulations will forfeit their entry fee and be fined \$750.00.
- D. Any team that participates in Cal North Association 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.

- E.** Any team found to have participated in Cal North Association 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.
- F.** 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.
- G.** It is the responsibility of each League to ensure that all Cal North Association Cup fees and fines are paid to Cal North. Leagues with outstanding fees and fines may be ineligible for Cal North Cup play until they pay their fees and fines.

#### **XXV. AUTHORITY**

- A.** The Cal North Cup Committee and, as necessary, other Cal North designees, shall serve as the Competition Authority in oversight of the cup competitions.
- B.** The Cal North Board of Directors reserves the right to change any rule prior to 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.
- C.** During the competition, questions regarding interpretation of these rules and matters not addressed herein shall be resolved by the Cal North Association Cup Coordinator(s) on site or the Cal North Cup Committee Chairman.