



2024/2025 Eastern Regional Championships

Rules and Regulations

The US Youth Soccer Eastern Regional Championships, as part of the National Championships Series, is one of the four regional competitions comprising the next-to-highest level of a nationwide competition whose objective is to determine regional and national champions in the age groups listed below.

NOTE: The 18U and 19U age groups have been combined and will compete under the 19U age Group.

Winners of the 13 and under, 14 and under, 15 and under, 16 and under, 17 and under and 19 and under will advance and represent the East Region at the National Championship competition.

All National Championships Series games played at the state, regional and national levels are conducted under the authority of US Youth Soccer and are played and administered in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the US Youth Soccer National Championships Policy.

The Eastern Regional Championships Rules and Regulations are designed to supplement the National Championship policy and establish the procedures to be followed in the East Region. Except as otherwise provided in these Rules and Regulations, the US Youth Soccer Championships Policies and the Eastern Regional Championships Rules and Regulations apply to the 12 and under age group.

These Rules and Regulations, the US Youth Soccer National Championships Policy, and the Laws of the Game (IFAB) shall govern the games.

The US Youth Soccer East Region is one of four administrative regions comprising the United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc (US Youth Soccer) and is composed of the following 15 state associations: Connecticut, Delaware, Eastern New York, Eastern Pennsylvania, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York West, Pennsylvania West, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia.

East Region will determine a state association or interested party to host the Eastern Regional Championship within the boundaries of the East Region. States or organizations wishing to host the Eastern Regional Championships must adhere to the procedures outlined in the East Region Proposal bid package (RFP) or Hosting Agreement.

Team competition in the Eastern Regional Championships will follow World Cup format. The competition will take place over a six (6) day period for 2025.

A. TEAM ENTRY

1. Each State Association may enter one boys and one girls team in each of the following age groups: 19u and under, 17u and under, 16u and under, 15u and under, 14u and under, 13u and under, and 12u and under 9v9.

Entries for 12U through 19U are to be submitted before the deadline which is: **Thursday, January 9th, 2025 at 12:00Noon, EST.**

USYS East Region National League Conferences are guaranteed one (1) slot in each age group. Additional slots available in each age group (up to maximum of 16 teams in an age group) will be allotted to the NL Conferences. The deadline for the NL Conferences to accept those additional slots is Friday, January 24th at 5:00PM. This does not include the 12U age group.

2. The entry fee for all teams will be due to US Youth Soccer by **Friday, March 14th, 2025**. Entry fee for 2025 is \$1400.00 per team entered for 13U – 19U. Entry fee for 12U is \$1000.00 per team
Entry fees are non-refundable.
3. A wildcard/alternate draw (if necessary for any state or conference team that drops after deadline of **April 28th**) will take place on **Friday, May 9th, 2025**. Entry fee is the same for wildcard/alternate team(s) and payment is due upon acceptance into the Regional competition.

B. WITHDRAWALS

A State Association/Conference may withdraw any of its teams from the East Regional Championships without an additional penalty up to **60 days** prior to Official team check in at the event. Entry fees are non-refundable once the age group is entered. Deadline to drop a team 60 days prior is **April 28th, at 5PM for 2025 competition**. Any State Association/Conference that withdraws team(s) from the Eastern Regional Championships less than 60 days prior to the Official Team check in will be subjected to a fine of \$2000.00 per team in addition to forfeiting their entry fee. In addition, any State Association/Conference that withdraws team(s) less than 10 days prior to the Official Team Check in at the event will be subject to an **additional \$ 3000.00** per team plus their entry fee. These fines are to be made payable to USYS East Region and **MUST** be submitted to US Youth Soccer/East Region within thirty (30) days upon completion of the Eastern Regional Championships competition. Any team that withdraws from the competition at any time without the approval of their State Association/Conference will be fined \$1,000.00. Any State Association/Conference that is unable to send its Champion team has the option to send its runner-up team.

Any unreasonable forfeits determined by the Eastern Regional Championships Committee will be subject to a fine of \$1,000.00 per game forfeited and the team will not advance to the next round of competition.

Any team who withdraws from the competition after it has started will be subject to an additional fine of \$3,500.00 plus their Entry fee.

Any State Association/Conference that does not pay the fine(s) will be considered not in good standing and its teams will not be permitted to play in any future Eastern Regional Championships competition until the fine(s) are paid.

The State Association/Conference will be responsible for collecting any fine(s) from the team that withdraws or forfeits any games in the Eastern Regional Championships. These fines are to be made payable to US Youth Soccer and must be submitted to the US Youth Soccer within thirty, (30) days upon completion of the Eastern Regional Championships.

It is expected that teams who win the Eastern Regional Championship will represent the region at the National Championships. If a team withdraws from the National Championship at any point following the

award ceremony for their age group at East Regional Championships, the team shall be fined \$5,000. The State Association/Conference shall be responsible for payment of any fine(s) and is responsible for collecting any fine(s) from the teams that are penalized.

If a team withdraws from the National Championships, the finalist will be given the first opportunity to represent the region at the National Championships. If the finalist is not available, the remaining semi-finalist teams will be given the opportunity in order of highest points to their respective brackets.

C. INITIAL DRAW FOR SCHEDULING

1. Teams will be placed into brackets by a **double-blind** draw to be held by the East Region Championship Committee. The State Association/NL Conference will be drawn from bowl #1 and the bracket placement will be drawn from bowl #2.
2. **Seeding** The semi-finalist states from the previous year at Regionals will be seeded in each of the competitive brackets.
Remaining slots would be drawn using the double-blind format. In age divisions that only have three (3) brackets, the two finalists would be placed in bracket A & C All others would be drawn using the double blind format. This seeding applies to the 14u through 19u age divisions.
3. If a State Association or Conference has the opportunity to place a second team in the competition (through wildcard or alternate draw) at the time of the initial draw, both teams shall be placed in the blind draw. If a second team is drawn into a bracket with the same State Association, that position would exchange positions with the comparable position in the bracket to the right in an A-B-C-D or A-B-C scenario. The NL Conf representative would also be treated as a State Association in that two NL Conf. Representatives would not be in the same drawn bracket. Upon receipt of the final qualifying representatives from the NL Conferences, a subsequent blind draw will be conducted to place the NL representative into the NL slot. Should the final NL representative be drawn into the same bracket with a team from the same state, that position would exchange with the NL place holder in the bracket to the right until there are no conflicts as defined above.
4. If a State Association withdraws after the initial draw and another State Association or NL Conference is permitted to enter a second team, the second team shall be placed in the same draw location as the team from the State Association that dropped from the East Regional Championships.

Brackets: Maximum number of teams in any age group is 16. Brackets will be A,B,C,D.

D. ALTERNATE TEAMS

Age groups will consist of 4, 8, 12, 16 team divisions (based on # of entries, which will then be divided into sub-groups of three (3) or four (4) teams.

13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 19 under Age Groups: The National League Conferences managed by Three Step Sports will be guaranteed 1 slot in each age group (except 12U) as well as first choice for any additional open slots in age groups after deadline for age group entry occurs. (see Team Entry, section 1).

If a team qualifies for the Regional Tournament as the State Champion and the NL Conference Champion, that team shall be entered as the State Representative. If the NL Conference Champion is not the State Associations' State Cup Champion, then the Regional Championship slot will go to that NL Conference Champion.

1. The Eastern Regional Championships Committee will conduct a blind draw for wildcards/alternates on May 9th, 2025 consisting of States/National League Conference that choose to be included in the wildcard/alternate draw. The Committee Program Manager will notify in writing who has been awarded those slots (if available).
2. Upon receipt of this information, it will be the responsibility of the States Association to notify its teams that they are wildcard or alternate. Alternates would be utilized after all wildcards in the age group divisions have been depleted.
3. The Eastern Regional Championships Committee will notify each state association the total number of teams they entered, including age group and gender.

ROSTERS/TEAM/PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

On or before the deadline date set by the Eastern Regional Championships Program Manager, the Eastern Regional Championships designated committee member must receive the US Youth Soccer NCS competitions roster for every team entered in the competition. The East Region Roster Instruction Policy must be adhered to with no exceptions.

Each player and team official listed on a team's NCS competition roster must carry a current US Youth Soccer member pass. The member pass issued to a player shall be a pass identifying the state and club by name or other appropriate means of identification. The US Youth Soccer member pass must carry a **current photograph** of the player or team official, and be signed or stamped by the appropriate official of the State Association. **This includes players added from a recreation program.**

Teams competing in the championships games and going on to the National Championships will have their team picture taken after the Final match. Champion team photos will be forwarded to the US Youth Soccer office to be included in any type of program or website to recognize and promote teams advancing to the National Championships.

E. REFEREE ADMINISTRATION

1. Each state association is strongly recommended to send one referee per team attending the regional tournament up to a total of 16 referees. In addition, each state association will be strongly recommended to send one advisor for every 4 teams attending up to a total of 4 advisors.
2. If additional referees are required, they will be secured using the following priorities:
 - *First Priority* – individual referees that have been seen and evaluated at US Youth events and recommended by the East Referee Committee to attend.
 - *Second Priority* – Individual referees that contact US Youth Soccer with a desire to work at the East Regional Championships. The deadline to submit an individual application to the Regional Referee Administrator is April 1st.
 - *Third Priority* – Regional Referee Administrator will work with the local SRC(s) based on where Championship event is being held.
3. All referees working the Eastern Regional Championships will be confirmed/selected by the Regional Referee Administrator. All selected referees will have their room and board covered by US Youth Soccer in addition to a travel stipend.
4. There will be a Pre-Tournament clinic for all referees and assessors on the eve of the Preliminary Games.

5. Official Game Card: The official records of NCS games (at regional level of competition) are the game cards completed by the game referees and retained by the East Region Program Manager. The format and contents of the card are established by the USYS National Championships Management Group and electronic scoring system.

F. EAST REGION CHAMPIONSHIPS PROCEDURES

Registration

- ☐ **Each player and team official** listed on a team's National Championship roster **MUST** have their State Association duly authorized US Youth Soccer Member Pass to present at Registration/Check in. Any player without their US Youth Soccer Member Passes cannot play in the Eastern Regional Championships until member pass is produced and checked against the frozen roster. **Any Team Official (maximum four (4) per team) without their member pass will not receive their Team Bench Pass and therefore will be prohibited from being present on the team bench side.**
- ☐ **Each State Association/Conference MUST** designate a person(s) from their state/conference who will be the official representative to the East Regional Championship Committee. Should an issue arise at any time before/during/after the competition, this person(s) will be notified regarding all communications and emergencies involving your state association/conference and its participating teams. The office representative/liaison **MUST** remain at the event until all teams from their respective state/conference have completed their competition and awards (if any) have been presented.
 - ☐ **Informational meetings** will be held throughout the time leading up to the competition for both State Representatives and/or coaches. Invites will be sent to State Representatives to share with their coaches/team officials.

G. SCHEDULING

The Eastern Regional Championships Committee will schedule preliminary rounds on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd day. Semi-Finals on the 5th day and Finals on the 6th day. Rest day will be on 4th day for teams advancing to semi finals and finals.

H. COMPETITION FORMAT

Each age group, both boys and girls, will be divided into two, three, or four, sub groups.

1. Four teams are entered in an age group, there will be a round robin followed by a final between the top two teams.
2. Six teams are entered in an age group, there will be two sub-groups of three teams for scheduling purposes only. Their preliminary games will be 3 crossover games. The top 4 teams in point standings from both sub groups combined advance to semi-finals.
3. Eight teams are entered in an age group, there will be two sub-groups of four teams. Top two teams from each sub group would advance to the semi-finals.
4. Twelve teams are entered in an age group, there will be three sub groups of four teams. The top team from each sub group would advance along with the team with the highest points from all remaining teams within all sub groups. That team would be listed as a wildcard team advancing.
5. Sixteen Teams are entered in an age group, there will be four sub groups of four teams. The sub group will play one another in a round robin format. The top team in each sub group will advance to the semi-finals.

Advancement to the semi-final bracket of each age group, both boys and girls, is determined by the round robin results. Wild card teams are determined by using the rule 12-Point System/Resolving Ties.

Point System

- a. Determination of standings within a sub-group. Competition with 4, 6, 8, 12, 16, teams. Standings of teams within sub-groups are based upon the number of points earned in qualifying games. Teams earn points as follows.
- b. **Round robin points:**
 - Three** Points for a win
 - One** Point for a tie
 - Zero** Points for a loss
- c. **Tie Breakers: In the event teams are tied on the basis of points earned, the team's placement/ advancement will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria.**
 - 1. Winner of head-to-head competition (these criteria cannot be used if more than two teams tied).
 - 2. Winner of most games.
 - 3. Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of five goals per game.
 - 4. Fewest goals allowed.
 - 5. Kicks from the penalty mark (as described in National Championships Rule 242 Section 2 (c)).

NOTE: If more than two teams are tied, the sequence will be followed until a team is eliminated/advanced. The remaining teams will then restart the sequence at **Point "b" above until the tie is broken.**

If FIFA penalty kicks have to be taken, there will be a draw by the Eastern Regional Championships Committee. First team drawn will receive the bye next team drawn will be the home team against the remaining team in the first contest of PK'S. The winner of the first contest will then compete against the bye team in PK'S to determine the group winner. The bye team will be the home team. This is only used if there are more that two (2) teams tied after going through the Tie Breakers.

d. Selection of wildcard teams for those age groups with 12 where wildcard teams are needed to even out groups into playoff rounds (semi-finals), the same criteria will be used without head to head competition as all potential wildcard teams from different sub-groups may not have played each other. The wildcard team cannot play a team from their group in the initial knock-out round.

- e.** Resolving ties within a sub-group: competition with 6 teams. Same format as above except head to head competition cannot be used unless all teams played each other.

6 Teams

2 Sub-Groups of 3 Teams: SF #1 First team in points verses 4th team in points. SF#2 Second team in points v. 3rd team in points.

8 Teams

2 Sub-Groups of 4 Teams: SF#1: Group A Winner v Group B Runner-Up. SF#2: Group B Winner v Group A Runner up.

12 Teams

3 Sub-Groups of 4 Teams: SF#1: Group A Winner v the Wildcard. SF#2: Group B Winner v Group C Winner.

**If the wildcard comes from Group A, then the Group B Winner plays the wildcard in SF #2 and the Group A Winner plays the Group C Winner in SF#1.

16 Teams

4 Sub-Groups of 4 Teams: SF#1: Group A Winner v Group D Winner. SF#2: Group B Winner v Group C Winner.

Grace Period

It is the goal of the Eastern Regional Championships Committee to have every game decided on the field of play by the two opponents. However, circumstances may not allow this to take place.

Teams are expected to be ready to play at the scheduled time of the match. Teams not ready to play at the scheduled start time of any match shall be granted a ten (10) minute grace period. A minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a team.

If either one or both teams are not on the field of play within the ten-minute grace period, the referee, (through either the Fourth Official or Junior Assistant Referee), shall notify the Eastern Regional Championships Committee of the failure of the team to arrive within the grace period.

The Committee shall review the circumstances surrounding the failure of a team to appear and may:

1. Allow an additional grace time
2. Order the game to be played at another time and place of the Committee's choosing
3. Award a forfeit to the other team if only one team has failed to appear

Only the Eastern Regional Championships Committee may decide if a forfeit will be awarded to a team. The Eastern Regional Championships Committee's decision in this matter is final and not subject to appeal.

All participants in the match shall remain on the field of play until dismissed by the Eastern Regional Championships Committee. If a team leaves before being dismissed, that departure may be considered a forfeit.

Any team with an unreasonable forfeit is subject to the fines and penalties detailed in Section D under withdrawals.

I. PLAYING RULES

Home Team - Visiting Team: Home team will be listed first on all schedules and will wear light colors. The away team will wear dark colors. Should a conflict arise with uniform colors, the home team shall change to an alternate uniform. **All teams must have alternate color uniform available at the field to change upon request if necessary.**

Uniforms: All teams must wear uniforms that conform to National Championships Policy Rule 241 Section 3. Each team shall wear the "State Champion" patch presented to them at their state championships on the right sleeve of one (1) set of jerseys. Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team. No taped or altered numbers will be allowed.

At every level of the National Championships Series competitions, each player, team and team official may only have on his/her/their apparel the name, logo, or other identifying mark of US Youth soccer or a member directly or indirectly of US Youth Soccer.

A name, logo, or other identifying mark of any youth soccer organization other than US Youth Soccer or its member must be removed, replaced, or covered before a player, team or team official may enter or remain at a field complex where the National Championships Series competition is being held.

The wearing of shin pads/guards will be **MANDATORY** for all players. A player will not be allowed to play without shin pads/guards at any time during the game. There are no restrictions as to the tape color to be used if needed for shin pads/guards and/or socks.

Game Balls: The home team will furnish the game ball if not furnished by the Eastern Regional Championships Committee. The game ball for each age group **MUST** meet the US Youth Soccer requirements listed in Section 11. It will be the responsibility of the game officials to ensure the game ball meets the requirements of Section 11. Once the game begins, a protest cannot be lodged because of an illegal ball.

Team Bench - Sidelines

Teams and team officials (maximum of four (4), e.g. coach, assistant coach, manager, trainer) will be on one sideline. Parents and spectators will be on the opposite sideline across from their team. The Eastern Regional Championships Committee will make the selection of sidelines. **NOTE:** Team Bench Passes **MUST** be worn and visible to the Referees and Tournament Officials at all times while your match is going on.

Club/State Medical Trainer – the trainer will choose if they want to take 1 of the 4 credentials in order to stay on the bench. Each trainer must be licensed/certified in order to receive the credential. This credential allows them to come onto the field or bench area in a supporting secondary role to the main tournament medical staff.

East Region Championship Committee, State Reps, and Press

The Eastern Regional Championships Committee, State Reps, State officials/VIP, college coaches and official press will be given ID badges which will enable them to be on the team side of the field, however keeping the **team bench area clear and reserved for the team**. The Committee will issue ID badges at the tournament headquarters.

NOISE-MAKING DEVICES (I.E. DRUMS, HORNS, COWBELLS, TRUMPETS, ETC.) ARE PROHIBITED.

Roster Size/Player Passes

Player/Team Official Passes for the 12and under Age Group. A 12 and under 9v9 team may have a maximum of up to 16 players on its roster at any one time.

The referee or the Assistant Referee, before each game, will receive the player and team official passes from either the team coach/manager. The passes will remain with them for the duration of the game. **It will be the responsibility of each coach, at the end of the game, to obtain his or her passes.** (Exception: See Part G., Send Offs).

Player/Team Official Passes for the 13 & Older Age Groups

The 13 & Older Age Group may have a maximum of twenty-two (22) players on their team roster and a maximum of eighteen (18) players on each game roster. Each team **MUST** present to the referee or A/R a game roster (designating the 18 players) and ALL players and team official passes. The passes will remain w/the Game Officials and upon completion of each game the Game **It will be the responsibility of each coach, at the end of the game, to obtain his or her passes.** (Exception: See Part G., Send Offs).

Players that are listed on the Eastern Regional Championships Roster but not on the game roster may be on the team bench but they may not be in uniform and they must wear a credential around their neck provided by the Eastern Regional Championships Committee.

Length of Games, Overtime Periods, Ball Requirements

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Game Length</u>	<u>Overtime</u>	<u>Ball</u>	<u>Circumference</u>	<u>Weight</u>
19 and younger	Two 45' halves	Two 15' halves	#5	27-28 inches	14-16oz
17 and younger	Two 45' halves	Two 15' halves	#5	27-28 inches	14-16oz
16 and younger	Two 40' halves	Two 15' halves	#5	27-28 inches	14-16oz
15 and younger	Two 40' halves	Two 15' halves	#5	27-28 inches	14-16oz
14 and younger	Two 35' halves	Two 10' halves	#5	27-28 inches	14-16oz
13 and younger	Two 35" halves	Two 10' halves	#5	27-28 inches	14-16oz
12 and younger	Two 30' halves	Two 10' halves	#4	25-26 inches	11-13oz

***East Region Champions** represent the East Region at the US Youth Soccer National Championships in the 13U-19Uage groups. U12 competition does not move onto National Championships, therefore it is completed at Regionals.

- a. Halftime shall consist of 10 minutes.
- b. In the preliminary round robin portion, ties scores at the end of regulation time shall stand.
- c. For Semi-Final, and Final games, if a game is tied at the end of regulation play, two complete overtime periods will be played at the end of normal playing time. The time of the overtime periods will be as provided above. If a game is still tied after the end of overtime play, FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" rules will apply in order to determine the winner.
- d. At the Regional event unfinished games due to any cause shall be replayed providing, neither team is at fault nor has play not begun in the second half. If play is stopped during the second half and play cannot be resumed and provided neither team is at fault, the Regional Championships Committee may deem the game complete. But should play be stopped at any time due to one of the teams being adjudged at fault, it shall be at the discretion of the Regional Championships Committee as to whether the game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit.

Forfeits: A team not showing up for the Eastern Regional Championships and gives no notification to the Eastern Regional Championships Committee. Remaining teams in the bracket will receive:

- (1) 3 points for the win
- (2) Goals for shall be equal to the average goals, for games in same bracket rounded up.

- (3) Zero goals against

A team participating in competition during the Eastern Regional Championships and forfeiting a game(s).

- a. Each forfeited round robin game: The non-forfeiting team shall be awarded:
 - (1) 3 points for a win
 - (2) Goals for shall be equal to the average goals, for games in same bracket rounded up.
 - (3) Zero goals against
- b. Each forfeited round robin game: The forfeiting team shall be awarded:
 - (1) Zero points for the loss.
 - (2) Zero goals for.
 - (3) 4 goals against.
- c. If a referee terminates a game for reasons other than weather or field conditions, the East Region Championships Committee will decide the results of the game.

Substitutions:

- a. Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage of play.
- b. For the 14u and under age groups, unlimited substitution shall be allowed.
- c. All other age groups, a maximum of 7 substitutions for each team shall be allowed in each game during each half and during any overtime play. After leaving the game during a half of play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game during the same half of play. After leaving the game during overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game.
- d. If a player is suspected of suffering a head injury, they may be substituted for evaluation without the substitution counting against the team's total number of allowed substitutions during each half or overtime period. If the player with the suspected head injury has received clearance from the events "Health Care Professional", the player may re-enter at any stoppage of play. The evaluated player must replace the original substitute and will not count as a substitution. The temporary substituted player may re-enter the game as a regular substitute. A team may only make a temporary substitution if they have a substitution available.

J. TEAM AND PLAYER BREACHES OF RULES

- 1. **Player Send Off:** A player that has been sent off during a match must remain in the team bench area until the conclusion of the match. Field Marshal shall notify East Region HQ that a red card was shown at the match. The referee's report of the incident and the player's pass shall be turned over to the Eastern Regional Championship Committee by the Referee Committee. Players that remain with their credentialed team rep. in game/bench area must remove their player jersey. If a sent off player continues to be disruptive or a distraction to anyone in the bench area, they will be escorted from the area to Headquarters and the suspension may be increased by the Eastern Regional Championships Committee upon review of incident. The Eastern Regional Championship Committee has the right to modify and change the player sendoff policy/rule at any time during the competition.

If the resulting suspension is to be served at the current Eastern Regional Championships, then the player will report to the HQ Site one (1) hour prior to said game to receive an Inactive Player

Badge (from the Eastern Regional Championships Committee). The player may sit on the team bench providing he/she is dressed in street clothes and wearing the Inactive Player Badge.

2. The minimum penalty for a send-off is that the player shall not be permitted to play in the immediate next Cup (State Cup, Regional and/or National – whichever comes first) competition of his or her team. A competition is defined as a game, match, or taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark to determine the team to advance. This penalty may be increased at the determination of the Eastern Regional Championship Committee. The State Representative will be notified if a penalty has been increased beyond the next match for sent off player or team official. Any appeal of an increased suspension by the Eastern Regional Championship Committee **MUST** be submitted in writing to the East Region Appeals Committee within two (2) hours of notification of increased suspension.
3. A member of the Eastern Regional Championships Committee will inform the Referee Administrator and the team official of the sent-off player's next opponent that the sent-off player cannot compete in the forthcoming game.
4. If the team of a sent-off player allows the player to participate in the game he or she is to be sitting out, that team will automatically forfeit the game.
5. A credentialed team official or a State Rep of the sent-off player may come to the Eastern Regional Championships Committee's tent to pick up the pass after the completion of the game(s) he or she had to sit out.
6. **Coach or Credentialed Team Official:** If a Coach or Team Official is dismissed from any game, they will be escorted by a Regional Official or a State Rep out of sight and sound of game, which includes the use of technology to contact the team. The team official's pass together with the referee's report of the incident shall be turned over to the Eastern Regional Championships Committee by the referee.
7. The minimum penalty is that the coach or team official shall not be permitted to coach nor be on either the team bench or spectator sideline in the immediate next Cup (State Cup, Regional and/or National whichever comes first) competition of his or her team. The ejected coach must be away from sight and sound of game, this includes the use of technology to contact the team. A competition is defined as a game, match, or taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark to determine the team to advance. This penalty may be increased at the determination of the Eastern Regional Championships Committee. The State Representative will be notified if the penalty is increased beyond the next match for the team. Any appeal of an increased suspension by the Eastern Regional Championships Committee **MUST** be submitted in writing to the East Region Appeals Committee within two (2) hours of notification of increased suspension.
8. A member of the Eastern Regional Championship Committee will inform the Referee Administrator and the team official of the expelled team official's next opponent that the team official cannot participate in the forthcoming game.
9. If the coach or team official should show up at the game site, and in any way attempt to participate in the game, his or her team will automatically forfeit the game.
10. The expelled coach or another team official may come to the Eastern Regional Championship Committee's tent to pick up the team official pass after the completion of the game(s) he or she had to sit out.
11. Any Player, Coach or Team Official who has been suspended from the Eastern Regional Championships due to disciplinary action by the Eastern Regional Championship Committee may appeal their decision to the East Region Appeals Committee no more than two (2) hours of notification of suspension.

The following rules apply to every appeal regarding discipline.

The appeal **MUST** be in writing and filed with the East Region Protest/Appeals Chair within **two (2) hours** after notification of the Eastern Regional Championships decision. The appeal **MUST** be submitted in writing with two (2) copies and the appeal fee is \$700.00. The appeal fee may be in cash, cashier's check, money order or personal check and **MUST** be made payable to US Youth Soccer—East Region. In addition any information to be presented by a witness **MUST** be in writing.

K. PROTESTS

All questions relating to the qualifications of the competitors or interpretation of eligibility and/or the rules, or any dispute or protest shall be referred to the East Region Committee. **Judgement decisions of the referees may not be protested.**

Validity

To be valid and eligible for consideration each protest:

1. must be orally lodged by a Team official listed on the Team Roster involved in the game with the reference and with the opposing coach at the game site before entering the field of play or leaving the game site, except as provided in Section (B) Timing; and
2. must be filed with the appropriate committee with two (2) hours after the completion of the game being protested, accompanied by---
 - a.. Fee in the amount of \$700.00. This fee may be in cash, cashier's check or money order. Personal checks will not be accepted. Checks or money orders must be made payable to US Youth Soccer East Region.
 - b. Three (3) written copies of the protest, which must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged; and
 - c. Three (3) written copies of any information to be presented by witnesses.

Any protests relating to the ground, goal posts, bars or other appurtenances of the games shall be entertained only if a written objection has been lodged with the referee and the opposing coach prior to the start of the game.

The Protest Administrator of the committee with which the protest is properly lodged shall immediately upon receipt of the protest notify the Team against which the protest is made and shall send a copy of the protest and all particulars to that Team, which will then have the right to defend its case, with or without witnesses. The State Representative of the Team to which the protest is lodged against will be notified of the protest.

Timing

1. Game situations: Notification of protest must be received by the Protest Administrator or his/her designee within two hours of the completion of the game being protested. If a protest is upheld and the game has to be replayed, it will be up to the East Regional Championship Committee to schedule the game as it sees fit.
2. Non-game situations: Notification of protest must be received by the Protest Administrator or his/her designee within two hours of completion of the last game in the bracket or division in question, whichever is latest.

Procedure

A plea of ignorance to the rules and policies of the US Youth National Championship Series and/or the East Regional Championships is not sufficient grounds for protest. Judgement decisions of the referees are not subject to protest.

The Protest Administrator shall compile the necessary information to hear the protest from all available sources before the protest is heard. This shall include, but not limited to, coaches, field marshals, referees, assessors, witnesses, if necessary, etc. All materials will be treated with confidentiality.

After compiling the necessary information, the Easts Region Committee will need to conduct the protest hearing. The decisions of the committee shall be binding on all parties.

The East Regional Protest Administrator will notify the State Representative who will notify their respective parties of the committee's decision.

A lawyer shall not represent a team at the hearing of a protest unless the lawyer is listed on the team's roster as a coach, assistance coach, or team manager.

L. AWARDS

Each Champion Team will receive a Team Plaque. All age groups both boys and girls will receive 1st and 2nd place medals.

As part of the East Region Championship competition—teams who placed 1st or 2nd are required to attend the award presentation immediately following the completion of their final game.

L. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Teams heading to National Championships will be given information regarding the next step in their journey to become a US Youth Soccer National Champion.

Should the following occur at Regional finals, below will be the order for determination for Nationals.

- 1. Regional Champion is a National League Pro Qualifier---Finalist at Regionals would attend Nationals as the Regional Representative.**
- 2. Both Champion and Finalist are National League Pro Qualifiers---Playoff game between remaining Semi-finalists to determine Regional Representative at Nationals.**
- 3. 3 of 4 Semi-Finalists are National League Pro Qualifiers---Remaining Semi-finalist would be Regional Representative at Nationals.**
- 4. All 4 Semi-Finalists are National League Pro Qualifiers---Playoff game between next two highest point earning teams (not already National League Pro Qualifiers) to determine Regional Representative to Nationals.***

*** Subject to event tie-breaker protocols for determination of next two highest point earning teams.**

