

# **NATIONAL VETERAN'S CUP COMPETITION RULES REVISIONS FOR 2006**

## **TITLES AND TROPHIES**

Section 1. The United States Adult Soccer Association (USASA or Adult Association) and United States Soccer Federation (USSF or Federation) shall organize a National Championship Competition (Competition) for men and women entitled as follows:

- (1) U.S. National Over-30 Men's Championship
- (2) U.S. National Over-30 Women's Championship
- (3) U.S. National Over-35 Men's Championship
- (4) U.S. National Over-40 Men's Premier Championship
- (5) U.S. National Over-40 Men's First Division Championship
- (6) International Division Championship Over-40 Men's
- (7) U.S. National Over-40 Women's Premier Championship
- (8) U.S. National Over-40 Women's First Division Championship
- (9) U.S. National Over-45 Men's Championship
- (10) U.S. National Over-45 Women's Championship
- (11) U.S. National Over-50 Men's Championship
- (12) U.S. National Over-50 Women's Championship
- (13) U.S. National Over-55 Men's Championship
- (14) U.S. National Over-55 Women's Championship
- (15) U.S. National Over-60 Men's Championship

A sponsor's name(s) may be incorporated in the title of any National Championship herein, at the discretion of the organizers of the Competition.

The trophies presented shall be the property of the winners, while national trophies, to be displayed at the Federation, or Adult Association office, shall be the property of the Adult Association

The Executive Committee of the Adult Association shall appoint a Veteran's Championship Committee (Veteran's Cup Committee) to administer and oversee this Competition. The Committee shall consist of a chair and four members, one appointed in each of the four administrative regions.

## **TEAM ELIGIBILITY**

Section 1. To be eligible to participate in the Competition any team affiliated with USASA is eligible to enter the competition so long as the players on the team meet eligibility criteria relating to age and registration status.

Section 2. International Division teams must receive clearance from their national association to travel to the United States and have their applications approved by the Veteran's Cup Committee. A team may enter the competition if the players on their roster meet the specific competition eligibility relating to age.

Section 3. The Veteran's Cup Committee will review all applications for acceptance.

Section 4. Preliminary certified team rosters must be sent to your respective regional cup commissioner, no later than twenty-one (21) days before the national finals. Failure to do so will result in a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) fine.

Section 5. Teams will present (6) copies of their final certified roster at the tournament designated check-in. Final rosters must be approved and signed by an officer of the team's National State Association. The final roster shall contain no more than five (5) changes from the preliminary roster.

Section 6. Teams are required to attend opening ceremonies and must have representatives at all mandatory tournament functions, as defined by the Veteran's Cup Committee.

Section 7. Player passes must be presented at the tournament designated check-in.

## **ENTRIES AND ENTRY DEADLINES**

Section 1. The Adult Association Executive Committee shall establish the closing date by which a definite entry of a team must be received by the Veterans Cup Committee.

Section 2. The entry fee shall be determined by the USASA Executive Committee.

Section 3. Only money orders, National State Association checks or cashier's checks shall be accepted. No other form of payment shall be honored.

Section 4. Only Official Veteran's Cup entry forms and roster forms will be accepted.

## **FORM OF COMPETITION**

The number of entries in each of the various divisions will determine the form of the competition. State or regional playoffs may be established at the discretion of the Veteran's Cup Committee. A four-team minimum is required to hold a championship in any division.

A team may only compete in one competition. Players that play on a Premier team cannot play on a Division I team in the same competition.

Teams that enter the International Division need to establish their eligibility and receive an invitation through the Veteran's Cup Committee. The winner(s) of the U. S. National Over-40 Men's Championship will automatically receive an invitation to participate in the next years International Division the following year.

## **NATIONAL FINALS**

The National Finals shall be played at a site or sites approved by the USASA Executive Committee. The Veteran's Cup Competition Committee shall be responsible for the supervision and organization of the National Finals and coordination with the hosting National State Association.

## **NATIONAL COMPETITION-TEAM BOND**

Section 1. Each team shall be required to post a bond in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) in form of a certified cashier's check or money order or National State Association check payable to USASA and send it to their respective Veterans Cup Regional Commissioner by the entry deadline. Bond checks will be returned to teams following the National Finals.

Section 2. In the event a team does not fulfill its obligations, by participating in the National Finals, as scheduled; submitting forms, rosters and any other paperwork on time, registering, checking your team in at the prescribed date and time set by the committee, or to follow any other competition guidelines including an intentional forfeit etc, will result in the forfeiture of the performance bond, which will be retained by the USASA.

Section 3. The International Division teams shall be required to post a bond in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00 U.S.) in the form of a certified cashier's check or money order payable to USASA and must send it to the Veteran's Cup Committee Chairman by the entry deadline.

Section 4. A team that does not meet the qualifications for the International Division shall have its bond returned in total.

## **FORFEITS**

Section 1. A team using an ineligible player shall forfeit the game to the opposing team, and shall be expelled from the competition and shall forfeit their bond.

Section 2. A team shall also forfeit a game to the opposing team for just causes as determined by the National Veteran's Cup Committee. Teams forfeiting the game due to Just Causes shall lose their performance bond.

### Section 3.

- (a) A team that causes a game to be forfeited or abandoned shall not advance in the National finals competition beyond that game. Further, such team shall forfeit its bond and may be further sanctioned by the Veteran's Cup Committee, subject to the review of the Executive Committee. Such sanctions may include but not be limited to making recommendations for further sanctions by the team's National State Association or national association for teams in the International Division.
- (b) If a player is included on team rosters for more than one Championship (for example lets say teams in both the Over-40 and Over-50 competitions), and one of the teams with which the player is rostered forfeits a game or causes a game to be abandoned in the national finals, such player shall not be allowed to participate further on the second team on which the player is rostered.

Section 4. Teams that choose to not complete any assigned game at the National finals, including the championship game, shall not advance and will not be awarded a title or a finishing place in the tournament. A completed game consists of two equal and fully completed periods as assigned to that specific game. The Veterans Cup Committee assigns duration of games. Such team shall forfeit its bond, and may be further sanctioned by the Veteran's Cup Committee, subject to review by the Executive Committee. Such sanctions may include, but not be limited to making recommendations for further sanctions by the National State Association or national association for teams in the International Division.

Section 5. Teams are responsible for finishing all games. Teams that cannot finish a game due to not enough eligible players on their roster or not enough players available for the competition whether it is due to disciplinary action or any other absence will be considered as causing the abandonment, termination or forfeiture of a game. In such a case all sanctions apply as outlined in Section 3 and 4.

## **TEAM UNIFORMS**

Section 1. Where the uniforms of the two competing teams are so similar as to create possible player identification problems on the field, as determined by the referee, the home team shall change their uniform, unless the visiting team is wearing colors other than those submitted on the Competition entry form, in which case the visiting team shall change.

Section 2. Clear visible numerals must be worn on the back of the player's jerseys. Each player on a team must wear a different number including the goalkeeper. For the National Finals, a description of the team's uniform shall accompany the roster forwarded.

## **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

### Section 1. General

- (a) Each player of a team competing in these competitions must be duly registered and must be properly rostered with that team by the tournament deadline.
- (b) International Division players and teams must comply with their local league registration requirements as well as the requirements of their national association and have their roster be reviewed by the Veteran's Cup Committee.
- (c) A player shall not play for more than one team in the same age group. **For example should you play on a team in an 0-40 Championship you can not play on any other 0-40 team whether it be Premier, Division I or International.** However; a player may be registered and play in different age groups, providing they meet the age requirements of each group.
- (c) Teams qualifying for the National Finals must submit a roster of not more than twenty-five (25) players no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the start of the National Finals.
- (d) A suspended player is ineligible to participate in any competition until the suspension has been served.
- (e) Players must achieve the required age for participation in the competition anytime during the calendar year the competition occurs.

Section 2. Players must submit proof of age to the National State Association.

Section 3. Players who are professional status players are eligible to participate if properly registered.

Section 4. International Division players must submit proof of age to the Veteran's Cup Committee Chairman no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the National Finals.

## **PLAYER PASSES**

### Section 1.

- (a) Registered player shall present laminated or otherwise tamper resistant Adult Association appointed identification passes bearing their photographs prior to the start of each game in the Competition.

- (b) Passes shall be verified by a National State Association and shall be presented to the referee before each game. Except in the International Division the Veteran's Cup Committee will verify affiliation, which shall be presented to the referees before the game.

Section 2. In the International Division the Veteran's Cup Committee Chairman will determine appropriate identification for players.

## **PLAYING RULES**

In all games in the Competition the playing rules shall be the FIFA Laws of the Game in effect at the time of the deadline of entry with the following exceptions:

- (1) The length of the field shall not be more than 120 yards, nor less than 100 yards, and the width of the field shall not be more than 80 yards, nor less than 65 yards.
- (2) Goal nets shall be used. The field shall be properly marked. A flag on a post not less than five (5) feet high and having a non-pointed top, shall be placed at each corner.
- (3) Substitutions shall be unlimited.
- (4) A team roster is limited to twenty-five (25) players, all of whom are eligible to suit-up for each match.
- (5) In the event the score of any game is tied at the end of regulation periods, in a preliminary round match, the tie score will stand. In the event a semi-final or Championship match is tied at the end of the regulation periods, a thirty (30) minute overtime period, which is divided into two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes, shall be played. The first team to score in overtime wins (Golden Goal). In the event the score is tied at the end of the overtime period, the winner shall be determined according to the FIFA method of obtaining a result in knock-out competition in effect at the time of the entry deadlines.
- (6) Competition in the National Finals shall be based on a ten (10) point scoring system. In each qualifying game, a team shall be awarded six (6) points for a win, (3) points for a tie, one (1) point for a shutout, and one (1) point for each goal up to a total of three (3) win or lose. The maximum possible points per game is ten (10). Forfeits shall be scored as 1-0 with eight (8) points awarded.

The following sequence shall be used to break ties in the standings. For a three or more way tie, after the first tie is broken the tiebreaker shall start at the beginning to break the next tie.

**Tiebreaker:**

- (a) Head to head, if still tied.
- (b) Goals for, if still tied.
- (c) Goals against if still tied.
- (d) A thirty (30) minute mini-game.
- (e) If tied at the conclusion of the mini-game. The FIFA Tiebreaker Method of Kicks from the penalty mark shall decide the match.

(7) If, for any cause, a game is not completed, the Veteran's Cup Committee shall decide the disposition of the game.

## **GAME OFFICIALS**

The selection of game officials shall be subject to the following limitations:

- (1) Only officials registered with the Federation shall be eligible to be selected as referee and assistant referee for games in these competitions.
- (2) Neither members of the USASA Referee Committee nor a member of the National Veteran's Cup Committee shall be eligible as game officials. Present or past members of either of the competing teams shall not be eligible as game officials for the game between the two teams, unless both teams waive the restriction in writing.

## **PLAYER DISCIPLINE**

- (1) Players who are sent off for two subsequent cautions shall be suspended for a minimum of one (1) following prescheduled league or cup competition games. Exhibition or indoor games do not qualify as satisfying the suspension period.
- (2) Players sent off for any other reason shall be suspended for a minimum of one (1) (or more at the discretion of the Cup Committee) following cup competition game. Exhibition or indoor games do not qualify as satisfying the suspension period. Passcards for players sent off together with a copy of the referee report(s) must be promptly sent the player's National State Association or national association, which has the authority to increase the period of suspension.

## **TEAM AND PLAYER BREACHES OF RULES**

Section 1. The National Veteran's Cup Committee Chairman shall have the power to disqualify and remove from further participation in the competition any team, team official or player(s) of any competing team who may be proven to be guilty of any breach of the rules of the Adult Association or Federation.

Section 2. All notices of disqualification or suspensions shall be forwarded by certified mail or overnight delivery to the affected team(s), except that the minimum two (2) game suspension is effective without notice.

Section 3. In the event of a dispute (other than referee assault or abuse) arising from a game in any of the Competitions in which suspensions or sanctions of six (6) months or more are levied against an individual, an opportunity shall be provided for the individual to appeal such decision of the Veteran's Cup Competition Committee to the USASA Appeals Committee. The decision of the USASA Appeals shall be final. The process for appealing the decision of the Veteran's Cup Competition Committee shall conform to that outlined in these rules.

Section 4. Theft of Veterans Cup tournament items is not only considered a breach of the rules but the involved parties will face additional sanctions including but not limited to the following: team performance bond forfeiture, fines, replacement costs, etc. It will be the position of the Veterans Cup Committee to ask the National State Association to further sanction the guilty party by expulsion from their association.

## **PROTESTS**

### National Finals

The Veteran's Cup Committee shall appoint a Protest Committee consisting of a Chair and a minimum of three (3) USASA members to hear protests at the National Finals. All decisions of the Protest Committee shall be final. No member of the Protest Committee may participate in a protest involving a team from the Committee member's National State Association.

All protests shall be made as follows:

- (1) The protest must be made in writing and must describe in detail the grounds for the protest.
- (2) The original signed protest and the protest fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) shall be submitted to the National Veteran's Cup Chairman within one



(1) hour of the conclusion of the game being protested. A copy of the protest must be provided to the opposing team concurrently with delivery to the National Veteran's Cup Committee.

(3) A protest may be withdrawn in writing after it has been submitted, but withdrawal of a protest shall result in forfeit of the protest fee, which shall be forwarded to the Adult Association.

(4) The protest fee shall be forwarded to the Adult Association if the protest is not sustained, or shall be returned if the protest is sustained.

(6) The Protest Committee shall hold a hearing and determine whether to uphold or deny the protest. The Protest Committee may request additional information be provided by either team or the tournament staff in determining the protest. The protest must be rendered prior to the next scheduled game.

## **AWARDS – TEAMS AND PLAYERS**

### National Finals

(a) National Finals winning and second place teams shall be awarded trophies and player medals. Additional awards may be made to the teams at the discretion of the Executive Committee. All division winners receive an automatic berth to defend their championship title, with the entry fee waived in the following year's competition.

(b) The winning teams shall be entitled to call themselves the United States Soccer Federation Adult Association National Champions of their respective competition level. The Executive Committee may incorporate a sponsor's name(s) in the title of any cup at its discretion.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### Section 1. Veteran's Cup Committee Chairman

(a) The Chairman of Adult Association shall recommend to the Executive Committee a Veteran's Cup Committee Chairman who shall be responsible for administering the Competitions with the assistance of the Veterans Cup Committee, the staff of the Adult Association and the Federation.

(b) The National Finals shall be operated directly by the appointed Adult Association Veteran's Cup Committee.

(c) The National Veteran's Committee Chairman shall report to Adult Association Chairman and shall be responsible for coordinating the

administration of the National Veteran's Cup Competition on behalf of the Association. The National Veteran's Cup Committee Chairman's specific responsibilities shall include the following:

- (1) Recommend a National deadline to the Executive Committee.
- (2) Notify and coordinate with the local hosting committee in the staging of the National Finals.
- (3) In conjunction with the Veteran's Cup Committee, reject team entries for failure to comply with the Rules and Regulations of the Veteran's Cup Competition.
- (4) Notify and coordinate with the USASA Referee Committee of the proposal to be used for the appointment of game officials.
- (5) Determine, in consultation with the Veteran's Cup Committee, player or team suspensions and fines related to breaches of the rules.
- (6) Insure timely distribution of Competition entry forms, promotional materials and rules to the Regional Committee Members.
- (7) Coordinate the selection of game venues for conducting the National Finals.
- (8) Coordinate and assist in the processing and determination of protests at the National Finals.
- (9) Support the Executive Committee in marketing of the Veteran's Cup Competition.
- (10) Other duties as assigned by the Chairman of the Adult Association.

## Section 2. Veterans Cup Regional Committee Members

The Chairman of the Adult Association, in consultation with the National Veteran's Cup Committee Chairman, and Regional Directors shall appoint Regional Committee Members.

The Regional Committee Members shall be responsible for the coordination and administration of all Veteran's Cup entries in their respective Regions. And their specific responsibilities shall include the following:

- (a) Forward all entry forms, fees and bond monies received from teams in their Region to the Veteran's Cup Committee Chairman in a timely manner.
- (b) Insure timely distribution of Competition entry forms, promotional materials and rule books to the National State Associations and or individual teams.
- (c) Support the National Veteran's Cup Committee Chairman and Executive Committee in the marketing of the National Veteran's Cup Competition program.
- (d) Provide advice to the National State Associations regarding conduct of the competition and rule interpretations.

- (e) Other duties as assigned by the National Veteran's Cup Committee  
Chairman

## **NOTICES**

All notices required to be given in the Adult Association by any of these rules shall be addressed to the proper person with a copy to the National Veteran's Cup Committee Chairman.

## **TIMELINE AND IMPORTANT DATES**

All entries must be in the hands of the respective Veterans Cup Committee Regional Member along with the entry fee and the performance bond on the entry deadline date set by the USASA Executive Committee each year.

The final Official Veterans Cup Roster certified by a National State Association is due to the appropriate Veterans Cup Committee Member twenty-one (21) days prior to the first game of the competition. Only five (5) changes to the roster are allowed after that date.

Team Representatives are required to check-in and register their teams on the date and at the times the Veteran's Cup Committee designates. They shall submit (6) copies of the roster, the tamper resistant player passes and the team contact persons name, location and contact mode during the competition.

Teams in their entirety are required to attend the opening ceremonies.

## **MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR**

The Veteran's Cup Competition Committee whose decision shall be final shall determine any matters not provided for in these Rules.

## 2005 USASA VETERAN'S CUP COMMITTEE

### **Chairman:**

**Timothy W. Busch**  
820 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Mount Vernon, WA 98274  
Tel: (360) 336-2240  
Fax: (360) 419-9840  
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### **Region I**

#### **Includes the following State Associations:**

Connecticut, Delaware, Eastern New York, Eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, Massachusetts, Metropolitan D.C-Virginia, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania-West, Rhode Island, Vermont, Western New York, and West Virginia. For more information or to submit a tournament application contact:

### **Region I Commissioner**

Lawrence W. Frisoli  
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Belmont, MA 02278  
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Email: [frisoli67@concast.net](mailto:frisoli67@concast.net)

### **Region II**

#### **Includes the following State Associations:**

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio-North, South Dakota, Southern Ohio, and Wisconsin. For more information or to submit a tournament application contact:

### **Region II Commissioner**

Don Keller  
502 Rupert rd.  
Waunakee, Wi 53597  
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Email: [kdonald893@aol.com](mailto:kdonald893@aol.com)

### **Region III**

#### **Includes the following State Associations:**

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Texas, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas-South. For more information or to submit a tournament application contact:

### **Region III Commissioner**

Tom O'Shea  
3718 Hazel Lane  
Greensboro, NC 27408  
Tel: (336) 282-1211  
Fax: (336) 282-4382  
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### **Region IV**

#### **Includes the following State Associations:**

Alaska, Arizona, California-North California-South, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. For more information or to submit a tournament application contact:

### **Region IV Commissioner**

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