

**NATIONAL VETERAN’S CUP COMPETITION RULES
REVISED November 22, 2003**

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 Women’s Championship
- (2) U.S. National Over-35 Women’s Championship
- (2) U.S. National Over-40 Men’s Premier Championship
- (4) U.S. National Over-40 Men’s First Division Championship
- (5) International Division Championship Over-40 Men’s
- (6) U.S. National Over-40 Women’s Championship
- (7) U.S. National Over-45 Women’s Championship
- (8) U.S. National Over-45 Men’s Championship
- (9) U.S. National Over-50 Men’s Championship
- (10) U.S. National Over-50 Women’s Championship
- (11) U.S. National Over-55 Men’s Championship
- (12) U.S. National Over-55 Women’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 or 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) fine.

Section 5. Teams will present five (5) 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 USASA Executive Committee shall establish the closing date by which a definite entry of a team must be received by the National State Association

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. The National State Association or region may assess additional fees to cover referee and administrative expenses.

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.

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 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 from each National State Association shall be required to post a bond in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) in the form of a certified cashier's check or money order or National State Association check payable to USASA and send it to their respective Veteran's 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 interstate competitions *or* the National Finals, as scheduled, submitting forms, rosters and any other paperwork on time, registering/checking your team in at the prescribed date/time set by the committee, or to follow any other competitive guidelines, including an intentional forfeit etc, will result in the forfeiture of the 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 performance 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. Should the Veteran's Cup Committee determine that a game should be forfeited for just cause, the team forfeiting the game 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 the roster of 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. 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.

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 (including goalkeepers). Each player on a team must wear a different number. 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 qualified according to the rules of USASA, and must be properly registered and rostered with the competing team by the tournament registration deadline, in order that the players may participate. Proper registration shall include complying with all appropriate registration rules of USASA.

(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 competition. However, a player may be registered and play in different competitions.

(d) 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.

(e) A suspended player is ineligible to participate in any competition until the suspension has been served.

(f) Players must achieve the required age for participation in the competition during the calendar year the competition occurs.

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

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 players 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) For the National Finals passes shall be verified by the player's National State Association affiliated with the Adult Association and shall be presented to the referee before the 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 will determine appropriate identification for players.

PLAYING RULES

In all games played in the competition, the playing rules shall be the FIFA Law 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 who 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 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, three (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 number of 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 result, 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 or Veteran's Cup Regional Commission 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) game 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) game (or more at the discretion of the Cup Committee) following the 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) shall be promptly sent to the player's National State Association or the 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 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. Confirmation 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.

PROTESTS

1. 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 Commissioner 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.
- (5) 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

National Finals winners 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.

(a) The winning teams shall be entitled to call themselves the United States Soccer Federation- Adult Association 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.

ADMINSTRATION

Section 1. Veteran's Cup Competition Commissioner

(a) (1) The Chairman of the 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 Veteran's Cup Committee, the staff of the Adult Association and Federation.

(a) (2) Neither a player registered with nor an official of a team entered in the competitions may be selected as the Veteran's Cup Commissioner, Regional Commissioners (Regional Commissioner), State Veteran's Commissioner (State Commissioner) or a person to whom any responsibility for administering the competitions is delegated.

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

(c) The Veteran's Cup Committee Chairman shall report to the Adult Association Chairman and shall be responsible for coordinating the administration of the National Cup Competition on behalf of the Association. The Veteran's Cup 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 procedure 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) Ensure timely distribution of Competition entry forms, promotional materials and rules to the Regional Commissioners.

(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. Veteran's Cup Regional Commissioners

The Chairman of the Adult Association, in consultation with the Regional Directors, shall appoint Regional Commissioners. The Regional Commissioner shall be responsible for the coordination and administration of all Veteran's Cup Competitions in their respective Region. The Region Commissioner's specific responsibilities shall include the following:

- (a) Forward all entry forms or fees received from National State Associations to the Veteran's Cup Committee Chairman in a timely manner.
- (b) Ensure timely distribution of competition entry forms, promotional materials and rulebooks to the National State Associations 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 under these rules shall be addressed to the proper person so designated with a copy to the National Veteran's Cup Committee Chair.

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.

2004 USASA Veteran's Cup Committee

Chairman:

Timothy W. Busch

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Hawaii Site Coordinator

Frank Doyle

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96825
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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 02478
Tel: (617) 489-3732
Fax: (617) 354-6939
Email: frisoli67@comcast.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
5385 NW 91st Court
Johnston, IA 50131
Tel: (515) 276-0022
Fax: (515) 252-7676
Email: 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

Gordon Redshaw
90 West Viking Drive
Cordova, TN 38018
Tel: (901) 755-4947
Fax: (901) 753-5696
Email: RGRedshaw@aol.com

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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