

NATIONAL COED COMPETITION RULES
Revised July 2004

TITLE AND TROPHIES

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

- (1) U.S. National Adult Coed Championship
- (2) U.S. National Over-30 Coed Championship

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

The trophies presented to the teams will be the property of the winners, while the national trophies to be displayed at the Federation or USASA office will be the property of the USASA.

The USASA Executive Committee shall appoint a Coed Championship Committee (Coed Committee) to administer and oversee this Coed Competition. The Coed Committee shall consist of a chair, who shall be the National Coed Commissioner, and four Regional Coed Commissioners, one appointed in each of the four administrative regions.

TEAM ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate in any Coed Competition, a Federation affiliated adult team must be comprised of players that are each registered as a player in an affiliated National State Association (NSA). Any amateur adult team affiliated with USSF is eligible to enter any competition so long as the players on the team meet eligibility criteria relating to age or registration status.

ENTRIES AND ENTRY DEADLINES

Section 1. The Coed Committee must establish the closing date by which a definite entry of a team must be received by the NSA. (All state deadlines must occur before the national deadline.)

Section 2. The entry fee will be \$300 per team.

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

Section 4. The NSA may assess additional fees to cover referee and administrative expenses.

FORM OF COMPETITION

Provided that the NSA championships are completed no later than the scheduled deadline, State Coed Commissioners may organize state competitions in a fashion preferred by the respective NSA to determine a state winner in each of the two Competitions.

Each USASA Region may qualify up to four teams in each of the two competitions. Sixteen teams will advance to the National Finals in each of the two Coed Competitions. If a region does not fill all four of its spots in the National Finals, other regions may qualify additional teams in a manner to be determined by the Coed Committee.

Provided that the regional competitions are completed no later than the scheduled deadline, the Regional Coed Commissioner may organize interstate competitions in a fashion preferred by the respective USASA region to determine qualifying teams in each of the Coed Competitions.

A team may compete at the state level in both the Over-30 and Amateur Coed Competition. At the interstate or National Finals, a team may only compete in one competition. A team, which wins both state Coed Competitions, must advise the State Coed Commissioner of its decision regarding which competition it will enter at the National Finals within 24 hours of winning the state championship.

NATIONAL FINALS

The National Finals shall be played at a site or sites approved by the USASA Executive Committee. The Coed Committee shall be responsible for the supervision and organization of the National Finals and coordination with the hosting NSA.

NATIONAL COMPETITION--TEAM BOND

Section 1. All teams participating in the Regional or National competitions must post a bond in the amount of \$500.00 in the form of a certified cashier's check, money order or NSA check payable to USASA. The bond must be received by the Regional Coed Commissioner by a deadline established by the Committee. No team shall be scheduled in any Regional or National Finals unless such bond was received by the Regional Coed Commissioner by the deadline. The bond will be returned upon team's fulfillment of their commitments.

Section 2. A team, which does not honor its commitment by failing to participate in any interstate, Regional or the National Final match, shall forfeit its bond to the USASA.

STATE ENTRIES IN INTERSTATE PLAY

Each NSA will be entitled to enter at least one team to interstate competition in each of the Coed Competitions.

FORFEITS--GENERAL

Section 1. A team, which was determined to have used an ineligible player, must forfeit the game in which the player participated to its opponent, and will be expelled from the Coed Competition.

Section 2. The Coed Committee has the authority; in its discretion, to order forfeiture of games or expulsions from the competition for failure to comply with the rules of the Coed Championship or for any other just cause.

Section 3. The Coed Committee has the authority, in its discretion, to order forfeiture of a team's bond based upon a violation of these rules.

TEAM UNIFORMS

Section 1. A team's uniforms must be the same in style and color for each member of the team, excluding the goalkeepers, including shirts, shorts and socks. Goalkeeper uniforms must be different than both competing teams' uniforms.

Section 2. Where the uniforms or parts of 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 must change their uniform, unless the visiting team is wearing colors other than those submitted on the Coed Competition entry form, in which case the visiting team must change.

Section 3. Clearly visible, permanent numerals must be worn on the back of the players' jerseys (including the goalkeeper). Each player on a team must wear a different number. For the National Finals, a description of the team's uniform must accompany the roster forwarded.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. General

(a) Each player of a team competing in the Coed Competitions must be duly qualified according to the rules of the Federation and the USASA. Each player must be properly registered and rostered with the competing team at least seven (7) days prior to any game in the competition in which the player may participate. Proper registration includes complying with all appropriate registration rules of the Federation, the USASA, and the respective NSA.

(b) A Coed Competition player may not actually play for more than one team in the same Coed or Over-30 Coed Competition. A registered player who has not actually played may transfer to another team in the same individual Coed Competition and remain eligible. A player may be registered and play in different Coed Competitions.

(c) Teams qualifying for the National Finals must submit a roster of twenty-five (25) players certified by their NSA Registrar no later than seven (7) days prior to the start of the National Finals.

(d) A player under suspension is not eligible to participate in the Coed Competitions until the suspension has been served.

(e) A player who has not achieved the required age for participation in the Over-30 Coed Competition may be included on a roster if the player will have achieved the required age by the day before the game for which the roster is submitted.

(f) Only a player holding amateur status with the Federation shall be eligible to participate in the Coed Competitions.

Section 2. Each player must provide proof of age and identification to a NSA representative or Coed Committee member before they may be certified on a Coed Registration Roster.

PLAYER PASSES

Section 1. Prior to each game in the competition, all players must present laminated or otherwise tamper resistant Federation approved identification passes bearing their photograph.

Section 2. For the National Finals, passes shall be verified by the player's NSA representative and shall be presented to the referee and the representative of the opposing team before the game.

PLAYING RULES

In all games played in the Coed Competitions, the playing rules shall be the FIFA Laws of the Game in effect at the time of the deadline for entry with the following exceptions:

1 The length of the field may not be more than 120 yards, nor less than 100 yards, and the width of the field may not be more than 80 yards, nor less than 65 yards.

2 Goal nets shall be used. The field should 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 An unlimited number of substitutes will be allowed in all Coed Cup games with approval of the referee.

4 No more than twenty-five (25) players may participate in a given game. Substitutes are required to be named on the game report prior to a game.

5 Except for games played in a round-robin format, when the score of a game is tied at the end of the regulation periods, a thirty (30) minute overtime period (golden goal sudden death format), which is divided into two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes, shall be played. 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 knockout competition in effect at the time of the entry deadlines. During the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, players must alternate genders. The first kicker will be a male, the second kicker will be a

female, the third kicker will be a male, and so on until a winner is determined. If all eleven players from each team have taken kicks and no winner is determined, the 12th kicker will be a male, then the 13th player a female, then the 14th a male, and so on until a winner is determined.

6 If a game is not completed for any reason, it must be replayed in its entirety, unless the National Coed Committee can clearly trace the cause or non-completion to the misconduct of one of the competing teams or other circumstances (for example, inclement weather). In that event, the National Coed Committee has the authority to decide the disposition of the game, taking into consideration that the home team is generally responsible for the proper conduct of the game.

TEAM PLAYING COMPOSITION

A Coed Competition team shall have on the field a maximum of eleven (11) players. The goalkeeper may be of either gender. The remaining ten (10) field players shall contain a maximum of 5 male field players.

In order to prevent a forfeit, a team shall field at least 7 players, of which 3 must be male. A team must play with a minimum of 3 male players at all times.

If a male player is sent off, the team cannot play with more than four male field players. If a female player is sent off, the team cannot play with more than six female field players. Additional player send-offs shall be handled in a comparable manner.

The roster of 25 players is not required to have any specific gender composition.

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 appointed as referee and assistant referee for games in these competitions.

2 Neither a member of the USASA Referee Committee nor a member of the Coed 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 these games, unless both teams waive this restriction in writing.

PLAYER DISCIPLINE

Suspension of ejected players shall be for a minimum of one (1) following pre-scheduled league or Coed Competition game. Exhibition games or indoor games do not count. Ejected player passes together with referee report(s) must be promptly sent to the player's NSA, which has the authority to increase the period of suspension.

TEAM AND PLAYER BREACHES OF RULES

Section 1. The National Coed Commissioner has 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 Federation or this Coed Competition.

Section 2. All notices of disqualification or suspensions must be forwarded by certified mail or overnight delivery to the affected team(s), except that the minimum one (1) game suspension is effective without notice and notice may be given verbally to the player at the national competition.

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

PROTESTS

1. National Finals

The Executive Committee may appoint a Protest Committee consisting of a Chair and four Federation members to hear protests at the National Finals. All decisions of the Protest Committee will be final. No member of the Protest Committee may participate in a protest involving a team from the Protest Committee member's NSA.

All protests must be made as follows:

- (a) The protest must be made in writing and must describe in detail the grounds for the protest.
- (b) The original signed protest and a protest fee of \$100 cash must be submitted to the National Coed Commissioner within one hour of the conclusion of the game being protested. A copy of the protest must be provided to the opposing team concurrently with delivery of the protest to the National Coed Commissioner.
- (c) A protest may be withdrawn in writing after it has been submitted, but withdrawal of a protest will result in forfeit of the protest fee, which must be forwarded to the USASA.
- (d) The protest fee must be forwarded to the USASA if the protest is not sustained, or must be returned if the protest is sustained.
- (e) The Protest Committee must hold a hearing to 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.

2. Intrastate and Interstate Coed competitions

Any protest concerning a game played in an intrastate Coed Competition must be referred to the NSA Coed Commissioner. He/she must determine the protest and that decision shall be final. Any protest concerning a game in Interstate competition must be referred to the Regional Coed Commissioner and the Coed Committee decision will be final.

(a) The protest must be made in writing and must describe in detail the grounds for the protest.

(b) The original signed protest with five (5) additional copies, and a protest fee of \$300 must be submitted to the NSA Coed Commissioner for Intrastate competitions and the Regional Coed Commissioner for Interstate coed games within three (3) days of the match to which it relates, and must provide documentation that a copy was forwarded to the opposing team. Such notice shall be submitted to the Regional Coed Commissioner and the opposing team either via receipted hand delivery or by overnight delivery. Any hand delivery must be shown by a written receipt.

(c) The opposing team will have seven (7) days from the date the copy of the protest was forwarded to it, to submit to the NSA or Regional Coed Commissioner respectively its statement regarding the protest, if any. Such statement by the opposing team must be submitted to the Regional Coed Commissioner and the opposing team either via receipted hand delivery or by overnight delivery.

(d) No protest may be based upon the alleged use of an unqualified player whose name appears on the list of eligible players received by the opposing team, unless prior to the game an objection, in writing, is lodged with the referee and the opposing team for the game.

(e) The appropriate Commissioner must determine the protest as quickly as possible. The Commissioner may further evidence relating to the protest and that evidence must be provided as quickly as possible..

Notice of Protest Determination

(a) Protests of NSA Games

Notice of the State Coed Commissioner's determination must be sent, by overnight delivery, telephone facsimile or electronic mail, to both teams competing in the game, which was the subject of the protest. Within three (3) days of the decision, the NSA Coed Commissioner must forward a copy to the appropriate Regional Coed Commissioner a copy of the decision and copies of the documentation available in the case to the appropriate Regional Cup Commissioner.

(b) Protests of Interstate and National Level Games

Notice of the Coed Committee's determination must be sent by overnight or hand delivery to both teams competing in the game, which was the subject of the protest.

AWARDS--TEAMS AND PLAYERS

National Finals

- (a) The National Coed Champions and runner up teams will be awarded trophies and player medals. Additional awards may be made to the teams at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- (b) The winning teams will be entitled to call themselves the Federation champions of their respective Coed Championship.

ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. National Coed Commissioner

- (a) The Chairman of the USASA must recommend to the USASA Executive Committee a National Coed Commissioner who will be responsible for administering the Competitions with the assistance of the staff of the USASA and Federation.
- (b) The National Finals will be managed directly by the appointed USASA National Coed Commissioner, and shall be independent from any NSA influence.
- (c) Responsibilities:

The National Coed Commissioner must report to the USASA Chairman and will be responsible for coordinating the administration of the Competition on behalf of the Federation and USASA. The National Coed Commissioner's specific responsibilities shall include the following:
 - (d) Recommending a National deadline to the USASA Executive Committee.
 - (e) Coordinating with the local hosting committee in the staging of the National Finals.
 - (f) In conjunction with the Coed Committee, rejecting team entries for failure to comply with the Rules and Regulations of the Coed Competition.
 - (g) Coordinating with the USASA Referee Committee the appointment of game officials.
 - (h) Determining, in consultation with the Coed Committee, player or team suspensions and fines related to breaches of the rules.
 - (i) Ensuring timely distribution of entry forms, Official Player Roster Forms, promotional materials and rules to the Regional Coed Commissioners and the NSAs.
 - (j) Coordinating the selection of game venues for the National Finals.

(j) Coordinating and assisting in the processing and determination of protests at the National Finals.

(k) Supporting the USASA Executive Committee in marketing of the Coed Championships.

(l) Other duties as assigned by the Chairman of the USASA.

Section 2. Regional Coed Commissioners

The USASA Executive Committee, in consultation with the National Coed Commissioner, must appoint Regional Coed Commissioners. One Regional Coed Commissioner will be appointed to coordinate and administer each region as defined by USASA.

The Regional Coed Commissioner is responsible for the coordination and administration of all Coed Competitions in the Regional Coed Commissioner's designated Region. The Regional Coed Commissioner's specific responsibilities will include the following:

(a) Consulting with the appropriate NSAs in the appointment of State Coed Commissioners and insure that with written appointment letters to the State Coed Commissioners.

(b) Ensuring that all state entries are received prior to initiation of state play and that all state play is completed in a timely manner.

(c) Consulting with the National Coed Commissioner, establish the date by which all state competitions and interstate competitions in the region must be completed.

(d) Forwarding all entry forms, Player Roster Forms, and fees received from the NSAs to the USASA Administrator in a timely manner.

(e) Periodically reporting to the National Coed Commissioner the ongoing results of the competition. Immediately reporting to the National Coed Commissioner and the USASA Administrator the final determination of State winners in all categories of the Coed Competitions.

(f) Ensuring timely distribution of Coed Competition entry forms, Player Roster Forms, promotional materials and rule books to the State Coed Commissioners.

(g) Supporting the National Coed Commissioner and the Executive Committee in marketing of the Coed Competition program.

(h) Providing advice to the State Coed Commissioners regarding conduct of the competition and rule interpretations.

(i) Coordinating the scheduling of all interstate games, notifying the State Coed Commissioners and teams of the date, time, and site for games.

(j) Resolving all disputes regarding the site, date, and time of interstate games.

- (k) Coordinating with the Regional Referee Administrator for the scheduling and assignment of referees for all interstate games.
- (l) Providing the Regional Referee Administrator with rules of the competition to distribute to referees assigned to all interstate games.
- (m) Other duties as assigned by the Regional Director and National Coed Commissioner.

Section 3. State Coed Commissioners

Each participating NSA must appoint a State Coed Commissioner and advise the Regional Director and Regional Coed Commissioner of the person so named.

The State Coed Commissioner is responsible for the coordination and administration of the competition in the NSA to determine a state winner who will advance to the Regional or National finals. Each NSA shall qualify only one team in each of the two Competitions. The State Coed Commissioner's specific responsibilities shall include the following:

- (a) Consulting with the NSA to establish closing dates for the state by which entries must be received. Notify the Regional Coed Commissioner of all state competition dates.
- (b) Distributing entry forms, Player Roster Forms, rulebooks and other promotional materials to all affiliated adult leagues and teams in the state.
- (c) Forwarding all entry forms, Player Roster Forms and fees received from the NSA to the Regional Coed Commissioner in a timely manner.
- (d) Coordinating the state competition and make all decisions related to games and format of competition.
- (e) Coordinating with the State Referee Committee and/or State Referee Assignor for the scheduling and assignment of referees for all Intrastate games, as well as distribution of rules to appropriate parties, including referee assignors and teams.
- (f) Providing the State Referee Administrator with the appropriate game report forms to be completed following all games, with directions on submission of the completed reports.
- (g) Periodically reporting to the Regional Coed Commissioner the ongoing results of the competition. Immediately reporting to the Regional Coed Commissioner the final determination of state winners in all categories of the Coed Competitions.
- (h) Supporting the Coed Competition Committee and the Executive Committee in marketing of the Coed Competition.
- (i) Other duties as assigned by the NSA and the Regional Coed Commissioner.

NOTICES

All notices required to be given to the USASA or Regional Coed Commissioners by any of these rules shall be addressed to the proper person and a copy must be sent to the National Coed Commissioner.

MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

Any matters not provided for in these Rules will be determined by the National Coed Committee whose decision will be final.