



2016-2017 Region I Championships

Rules and Regulations

The Region I Championships are the most important US Youth Soccer registered team competition conducted by the Region, or by any State Association within each State Association each year. As such, this competition requires that each State Association and all members of State Associations support the Championships as their first priority.

The US Youth Soccer Championships Policies prescribes the requirements of the Championships competitions. The Region I Championships Rules and Regulations are designed to supplement that policy and establish the procedures to be followed in Region I. Except as otherwise provided in these Rules and Regulations, the US Youth Soccer Championships Policies and the Region I Championships Rules and Regulations apply to the 12 and under age group.

The entire US Youth Soccer Region I Championships are under the jurisdiction of the US Youth Soccer Region I Championships Committee, which has the final decision in all Region I Championships competition. The US Youth Soccer Region I Championships Committee shall determine the Region I representative to the National Championships Competition.

These Rules and Regulations, the US Youth Soccer National Championships Rules, and the Laws of the Game (FIFA) in that order shall govern the games.

Region I will vote on a volunteer state to host the Region I Championship within the boundaries of that State Association. The state receiving the bid will be given the opportunity to host for two (2) consecutive years, the second year upon recommendation from the Region I Championships Committee along with the approval of the Region I Chair. States wishing to host the Region I Championships must adhere to the procedures outlined in the Region I bid package.

Team competition in the Region I Championships will follow World Cup format. The competition will take place over a six (6) day period.

- Day 1: **MANDATORY** Registration, Team Officials Meeting and the Parade of States/Opening Ceremony
- Day 2: Preliminary Games (all age groups will have one game)
- Day 3: Preliminary Games (all age groups will have one game)
- Day 4: Preliminary Games (all age groups will have one game)
- Day 5: Semi-Finals for all age groups
- Day 6: Final Matches for all age groups.

A. TEAM ENTRY

1. Each State Association may enter one boys and one girls team in each of the following age groups: 19and under, 18and under, 17and under, 16and under, 15and under, 14and under, 13and under, and 12and under 9v9. All entries are to be submitted on the appropriate Region I Entry Form and must be sent to the Region I Office on or before the First Friday in January at 5PM EST except for 19 and under age group. They will enter at a later date determined by the Region 1 Championships Committee.
2. The Region will establish a Region I administrative fee at the regional meeting in October. The initial administrative fee and NCS Entry Fee will be due in the Region I Office on or before the first Friday in January at 5PM EST. The administrative fee for wildcard teams will be due in the Region I Office on or before the 2nd Monday in February (2017 February 13th).
3. On or before the deadline date set by the Region I Championships Chair, the Region I Championships designated committee member must receive the US Youth Soccer NCS competitions roster for every team entered in the competition. The Region I Roster Instruction Policy must be adhered to.

4. 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 club pass identifying the 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, as the case may be, and be signed by the appropriate official of the State Association. This includes club pass players added from a recreation program.
5. 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 that event's program.
6. A State Association may withdraw any of its team from the Region I Championships without penalty up to 45 days prior to the start of play; however the entry fee will not be refunded. Any State Association that withdraws team(s) from the Region I Championships less than 45 days prior to the start of play will be subjected to a fine of \$ 1500.00 per team. In addition, any State Association that withdraws team(s) less than 5 days prior to the start of the event will be subject to an additional \$ 1500.00 per team. These fines are to be made payable to Region I and MUST be submitted to the Region I office within thirty (30) days upon completion of the Region I Championships competition. Any team that withdraws from the competition without the approval of their State Association will be fined \$1,000.00. Any State Association that is unable to send its Champion team has the option to send its runner-up team.
7. Any unreasonable forfeits determined by the Region I Championships Committee will be subject to a fine of \$1,000.00 per game forfeited and will not advance to the next round of competition.
8. Any team who withdraws from the competition after it has started will be subject to a fine of \$2,000.00.
9. Any State Association 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 Region I Championships competition until the fine(s) are paid.
10. The State Association will be responsible for collecting any fine(s) from the team that withdraws or forfeits any games in the Region I Championships. These fines are to be made payable to US Youth Soccer Region I and must be submitted to the Region I Office within thirty, (30) days upon completion of the Region I Championships.

B. REFEREES AND ASSESSORS

1. It will be the responsibility of each State Association to pay the lodging and meals for its referees and assessors. Each State Association has the responsibility to negotiate the mileage with its referees and assessors. Each State Association is required to pay its referees and assessors a minimum \$225.00 stipend, which is for the entire competition. Each State Association will be required to pay Region I a fee of \$25.00 per official. Region I will be responsible for purchasing shirts, which will be worn by the Referees and Assessors at the Mandatory Parade of States.
2. Each State Association is responsible for identifying referees and assessors to the Region I Championships. The referee and assessor formula will be recommended by the Region I Referee Administrator and approved by the State Associations.
3. If a State Association does not identify referees and assessors to the Region I Championships, the Region I Referee Administrator will recruit referees and assessors either from the hosting state or other states in Region I. A State Association not identifying the required number of referees or assessors will be assessed \$500.00 per referee/assessor by the Region I Championships Committee.

If an identified referee or assessor fails to keep part or all of their assignment, the State Association will hold a disciplinary hearing and impose penalties on the referee as appropriate. The State Association will report the results of its hearing to the Region I Championships Committee.
4. Each State Association must submit a list of its Referees and Assessors to the Region I Referee Administrator no later May 15th.
5. There will be a Pre-Tournament clinic for all referees and assessors on the eve of the Preliminary

Games.

6. All Referees and Assessors will march in the Mandatory Parade of States.

C. WILDCARD TEAMS

Age groups will consist of 4, 8, 12, or 16 team divisions, which will then be divided into sub-groups of four (4).

13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 under Age Groups: If the Spring Region I Eastern Regional League has age groups that have 12 or more teams the following will apply: The boys and Girls 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 and under Champions of the Spring Region I Eastern Regional League will be the **AUTOMATIC** first wildcard (regardless of their team's actual age level). If the Eastern Regional League Champion is the State Associations' State Champion then the wildcard of that age group will go to the Eastern Regional League's Runner-Up. If the Runner-Up is the State Champion then the wildcard of that age group will go to the Eastern Regional League's third place team. If the third place team is the State Champion then the wildcard of that age group will go to the Eastern Regional League's fourth place team. If the fourth place team is the State Champion then the wildcard of that age group will go to the Eastern Regional League's fifth place team, If the fifth place team is the State Champion then the wildcard of that age group will go to the Eastern Regional League's sixth place team. If the 6th place team is the State Champion then the wildcard determination will go back to the Region I Championships Committee. If the Spring Eastern Regional League has age groups that have less than 12 teams then the wildcard will be extended to the League Champion and the League Runner-Up ONLY.

At a Regional meeting during the US Youth Soccer Workshop, wildcards for the 12 (9v9) and under age group through 18 and under age group will be drawn if needed. States MUST be prepared to accept or decline a wildcard slot. If wildcards are needed for the 19 and under age group a draw will be conducted by Region I Championships Committee members in May.

1. If a State Association has the opportunity to enter a second team or even a third team as a wildcard or alternate team, it will have to pay the required Region I administrative fee and entry fee.
2. The Region 1 Championships Committee will draw alternates, during the US Youth Workshop. The Committee Chairman will notify in writing of the alternate draw. Upon receipt of this information, it will be the responsibility of the States Association to notify its teams that they are alternates.
3. The Region 1 Championships Committee will notify in each state association the total number of teams they entered, including age group and gender.

D. SCHEDULING

1. The Region I Championships Committee will schedule preliminary rounds on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th day, Semi-Finals on the fifth day and Finals on the sixth day.

Teams will be scheduled by a draw to be held by the Region I Championships Committee

2. Teams will be scheduled as follows:
2017 Eastern Regional League playoff teams (top 4) who also claim their 2016/2017 state championship will be seeded for group play. For instance, if all four Eastern Regional League playoff teams also claim their state titles they will be seeded into four different groups or if only two Eastern Regional League playoff teams are also state champs then they will be seeded while the other two playoff teams will be subject to the blind tournament draw.
Teams not involved in the Eastern Regional League playoffs will be scheduled in a blind draw.
3. In the event that a State Association has the opportunity to enter a second team as a wildcard in an age group at the time of the original draw, it will not be in the same sub-group as the State Champion.

1. If a State Association withdraws a team after the draw, the alternate will replace the withdrawn team in whatever group it was in and remain in the slot for which the withdrawn team was originally placed.
2. Regardless of its State Association is drawn, the Wildcard/Alternate (Eastern Regional League Champion for the 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18 and under Age Groups or drawn participant in the remaining age groups) will be placed in the sub-group for which it was originally drawn.
3. If the Eastern Regional League Champion, in the 13, U14, 15, 16, 17 & 18 and under age groups is also the State Association Champion, the wildcard will then go to the appropriate "Alternate" (i.e. Eastern Regional League Runner-Up, Eastern Regional League Third Place, Eastern Regional League Fourth Place, Eastern Regional League Fifth Place, Eastern Regional League 6th Place or drawn alternate). The "Alternate" (regardless of its State Association) will replace the Eastern Regional League team's location in the original draw.
4. Each State Association **MUST** designate a person(s) from their state who will be the official representative/liaison to the Region 1 Championships Committee. Should an issue arise at any time during the tournament, this person(s) will be notified regarding communications, emergencies, etc. involving your state association and its participating teams. The official representative/liaison **MUST** remain at the event until all teams from their respective state have completed their competition and awards (if any) have been presented.

E. REGION I CHAMPIONSHIPS PROCEDURES

1. Mandatory Registration

- a. The Mandatory Registration check-in for all State Association/Eastern Regional League teams will be done on the first day at the Tournament. Site for Registration will be named by the Region 1 Championships Committee. The time will also be designated by the Region I Championships Committee
- b. **Each player and team official** listed on a team's National Championships roster **MUST** present their State Association duly authorized US Youth Soccer Club Member Pass. Any player without their US Youth Soccer Club Member Passes cannot play in the Region I Championships. **Any Team Official (maximum four (4) per team) without their member pass will not receive their Team Bench Pass and therefore prohibited from being present on the team bench side.**
- c. Teams may be registered either by a team representative or by a State Representative. (i.e. a designated person for both boys and girls or two (2) designated people, one for boys and one for girls). That person **MUST** have the required documents (passes & roster) in order to register their teams.

2. Mandatory Team Officials Meeting

- a. A Team Official from each team attending the Region I Championships **MUST** attend one (1) of the three (3) **MANDATORY** Team Official meetings on the first day.
- b. The times and site for the Team Officials meetings will be determined by the Region I Championships Committee.
- c. Attendance will be taken at the Team Official meeting. (Age group, gender, state association, name of team and name/title of person attending).

F. COMPETITION FORMAT

Each age group, both boys and girls, will be divided into two, three, or four sub-groups of four teams unless the max number of teams entered is four and or six. If only four teams entered then there will be a round robin followed by a final between the top two teams. If only six teams entered, there will be two sub-groups of three teams for scheduling purposes only. Their preliminary

games will be 2 games within your group and 1 crossover game with the top 4 teams in point standings advance to semi-finals. The teams in each sub-group of four will play one another in a round robin format. Advancement to the semi-final bracket of each age group, both boys and girls, is determined by the round robin results.

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

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.

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.

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

1. **Game Balls**

The home team will furnish the game ball if not furnished by the Region I 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.

2. **Grace Period**

It is the goal of the Region I 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 Region I 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 Region I Championships Committee may decide if a forfeit will be awarded to a team. The Region I 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 Region I 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 A8.

3. **Home Team - Visiting Team**

The team listed first is the home team. The visiting team will have the choice of jersey colors. If in the opinion of the referee there is a color conflict, the home team shall change jerseys.

4. **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. The Region I 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.

5. **Region I Championship Committee, State Reps, and Press**

The Region I 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 registration.

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

7. **Apparel-Uniforms**

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.

(1) 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.

Each player **MUST** wear an official uniform with a six-inch minimum size number on the back of the shirt. Duplicate numbers are not permitted. Teams **MUST** bring an alternate jersey with a six-inch minimum size number on the back. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are optional.

8. **Equipment**

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

9. **Player/Team Official Passes for the 12and under Age Group**

The referee or the Assistant Referee, before each game, will receive the player and team official passes from either the field marshal or each coach. 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).**

10. **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 Officials will return the player and Team Official passes to the appropriate Team Officials. **(Exception: See Part G., Send Offs).**

Players that are listed on the Region I 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 Region I Championships Committee.

11. 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
18 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

***Region I Champions** represent Region I at the US Youth Soccer National Championships.

- a. In the preliminary round robin portion, ties scores at the end of regulation time shall stand.
- b. 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.
- c. At the Regional event unfinished games due to any cause shall be replayed providing, neither team is at fault and play has 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.

12. Point System

- a. Determination of standings within a sub-group. Competition with 6, 8, 12, or 16 teams
- b. **Round robin points:** **Three** Points for a win
One Point for a tie
Zero Points for a loss
- c. Resolving ties within a sub-group. Competition with 8, 12, or 16 teams

This system shall be used to determine the sub-group winner at the end of the round robin, when there is a tie and it is necessary to resolve a tie:

- (1) Winner of head to head competition
- (2) Most Wins
- (3) Goal differential - (Maximum 4 goals/game for games with a ending score of 4 or higher)

Example: 15-0 = 4-0 (+4)
8-1 = 5-1 (+4)
2-4 = 2-4 (-2)

- (4) Least goals allowed (three (3) game total)
 - (5) FIFA Penalty Kicks (immediately following the round robin games)
- d. Three way tie within a sub-group. Competition with 8, 12 or 16 teams: Follow the same format for c.(2), c.(3), c.(4) and c.(5). If FIFA penalty kicks have to be taken, there will be a draw by the Region I 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.

- e. Selection of wildcard teams for those age groups with 12 teams (3 sub-groups of 4). Same criteria as b and c above
- f. Resolving ties within a sub-group: competition with 6 teams. Same format as 13.c and 13.d except head to head competition cannot be used

13. **Forfeits:** A team not showing up for the Region I Championships and gives no notification to the Region I Championships Committee. Remaining teams in the bracket will receive:

- (1) 3 points for the win
- (2) 4 goals for
- (3) Zero goals against

14. **Forfeits:** A team participating in competition during the Region I 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) Goal differential by the winner of a forfeited game shall be equal to the average goals, for game(s) in the same bracket against the team that forfeits.
- (3) Zero goals against the winner of forfeited game.

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 Region I Championships Committee will decide the results of the game.

G. TEAM AND PLAYER BREACHES OF RULES

1. **Player Send Off:** A player that has been sent off during a match must leave the field of play and **MUST** be supervised by either a credentialed team representative or a State Rep and must remain with them until the completion of the match. Field Marshal shall notify Region 1 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 Region I Championships 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 Region 1 Championships Committee upon review of incident. The Region 1 Championships Committee has the right to modify and change the player send off policy/rule at any time during the competition.

If the resulting suspension is to be served at the current Region I 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 Region I 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 Region I Championships Committee. Any appeal of an increased suspension by the Region I Championships Committee **MUST** be submitted in writing to the Region I Appeals Committee within two (2) hours of notification of increased suspension.
3. A member of the Region I 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 Region I 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 to the Headquarters tent and must remain there till the completion of the match. The team official's pass together with the referee's report of the incident shall be turned over to the Region I 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. 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 Region I Championships Committee. Any appeal of an increased suspension by the Region I Championships Committee **MUST** be submitted in writing to the Region I Appeals Committee within two (2) hours of notification of increased suspension.
8. A member of the Region I Championships 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 Region I Championships 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 Region I Championships due to disciplinary action by the Region I Championships Committee may appeal their decision to the Region I Appeals Committee no more than two (2) hours of notification of increased suspension.

The Following Rules Apply to Every Appeal

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

H. RULES OF PLAY

1. Except as otherwise provided herein, the rules of the US Youth Soccer and the FIFA "Laws of the Game" shall apply.
2. **Substitutions**
 - a. Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage of play.
 - b. For the 14 and under age groups, unlimited substitutions shall be allowed; and
 - d. For 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.
 - e. If a player is suspected of suffering a head injury they may be substituted for evaluation without the substitutions counting against the teams 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.

I. PROTESTS

All questions relating to the qualifications of the competitors or interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest, shall be referred to the Region I Championships Protest Administrator who shall be designated by the Region I Championships Chair.

For game protests, the Administrator shall compile the necessary information, to hear the protest, from all available sources before the protest is heard. This shall include, if possible, both coaches, field marshals, referees, assessors, available witnesses if necessary, etc. All materials will be treated with confidentiality. Both coaches and or their designated representatives **MUST** remain at the game site until the protest is decided.

After completion of compiling the necessary information, the Administrator will meet with the Region I Championships Committee, of which there must be four (4) members present, to conduct the protest meeting. The Administrator will only vote in case of a tie. The decision of the Committee shall be binding on both teams. Should a member of the Region I Championships Committee be a representative of either State involved in the protest, that member shall abstain from hearing and voting on the said protest.

The Region I Championships Committee's Protest Administrator will notify both coaches of the Committee's decision.

If the protest is upheld and the game has to be replayed, it will be up to the Region I Championships Committee to schedule the game as it sees fit.

THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY TO EVERY PROTEST

1. **The protest must be verbally lodged with the referee and with the opposing coach at the game site** before entering the field of play or leaving the field of play except as noted in 4 below. This will be noted by both coaches initialing the game report which will state the game is being protested.
2. The protest must be filed with the Region I Championships Committee's Protest Administrator with the following:
 - a. Fee in the amount of \$500.00. This fee may be in cash, cashier's check, money order or a personal check. All checks and money orders must be made payable to US Youth Soccer Region I.
 - b. The protest must be submitted in writing with a minimum of five (5) copies and must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged.
 - c. Any information to be presented by witnesses must be in writing.
3. The Region I Championships Committee's Protest Administrator **MUST** receive the protest within two (2) hours of the completion of the game being protested.
4. Any protest relating to the grounds, goalpost, bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained if the Region I Championships Committee and the Referee Administrator have approved them.
5. The Region I Championships Committee's Protest Administrator shall immediately upon the receipt of a protest notify the team against which the protest is made and shall give 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.
6. 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, assistant coach, or team manager.
7. A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the Region I Championships is not sufficient grounds for protest.
8. Judgment decisions of the referee are not subject to protest.

J. REGION I CHAMPIONSHIPS – PERPETUAL TROPHIES

1. The winner in each of the age groups both boys and girls, will be awarded custody for one year, the Region I Perpetual Trophy.
2. The coach of the team/State Association will be responsible for returning the Region I Perpetual Trophy prior to the play of the Region I Championships the following year.
3. In the event that the trophy is lost, damaged or not returned, the coach of the team given custody of the trophy will be responsible for the payment necessary to repair or replace the trophy.
4. The team's State Association will be responsible for paying the cost of the trophy if its team does not pay for the lost or damaged trophy.

K. AWARDS

Each Champion Team will receive a Team Plaque. All age groups both boys and girls will receive 1st and 2nd place medals. Semi-Finalists in the 17 and under age groups will receive bronze medals.

L. FAIR PLAY

One winner each age group both boys and girls – Teams to be honored on Region I Website. Objectives of the Region I Fair Play Award are:

All teams participating in the Region I Championships will be rated on each game by the referees. Points to be awarded as follows: (Maximum points to be awarded is 50)

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------|
| 1. Cooperation of Players: | Maximum | 20 points |
| 2. Cooperation of Coaches: | Maximum | 20 points |
| 3. Overall Game Conduct: | Maximum | 10 points |

Criteria for Awarding Points – Cooperation By Players

- * Observe the Laws of the Game
- * Enthusiasm for the game.
- * Plays to their utmost potential
- * Respect for teammates, officials, and opponents
- * Participates in a Sportsmanlike Manner

Criteria for Awarding Points – Cooperation of Coaches

- * Encourages their players, not berates them
- * Respect for officials, players, and opponents
- * Observe the Laws of the Game
- * Knowledge of the game
- * Sets a good example of sportsmanship for players and sidelines

Overall Game Conduct

- * Participates as an ambassador of their state in both conduct and performance
- * Teams receiving red cards will be eliminated from the Fair Play Award.
- * Teams receiving 2 yellow cards in prelim games will be eliminated from the Fair Play Award.

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