



JOSEPH L. RODRIGUES TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS *RULES OF COMPETITION*

Midwest Regional Championship Event(s) – All Divisions

Founded in 1980 by former Region II Director, Joseph Rodrigues, the Tournament of Champions provides players of Region II the highest level of competition within the region, and to honor of his vision and leadership, the competition named the Joseph L. Rodrigues Tournament of Champions, and the Region 2 Championships.

The Tournament of Champions features state and league champion teams of the USASA Midwest Region. Competition is conducted in eight categories:

1. Men's Open
2. Men's U23
3. Men's O30
4. Men's O40
5. Women's Open
6. Women's U23
7. Women's O30
8. COED

(note) – Divisions listed above are based on number of entries and may not be included in any individual event.

1.0 TEAM AFFILIATION / QUALIFICATION

- A. The Tournament of Champions (TOC) is open only to affiliated teams within the Midwest Region (Region II) of the United States Adult Soccer Association (USASA). Teams shall be registered and in good standing with a State Association, National League or Regional League. Leagues domiciled within Region II that are Direct Affiliates in good standing with the USASA shall also be allowed to submit entries. Direct Affiliate leagues shall be allowed to enter two teams per division of play.
- B. Team Qualification matrix:
 1. State Association champion, as designated by the State Association
 2. State Association runner-up, as designated by the State Association
 3. National League champion
 4. National League runner-up
 5. Regional League champion
 6. Regional League runner-up
 7. Winner of previous year's Tournament of Champions
 8. Runner-up of previous year's Tournament of Champions
 9. Direct Affiliated League champion & Runner up
 10. Team designated by the host State Association to round out competition, if necessary
- C. A minimum of three teams (3) teams must enter for a division of competition to be hosted. Final determination shall be made by the Tournament Director.
- D. Men's Open will be limited to 2 Teams per State, Regional League, National League, or Direct Affiliate.

2.0 TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

- A. Tournament Administrator



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1. The Regional Director shall appoint a Tournament Administrator.
2. The Tournament Administrator with the advice and consent of the hosting association and the Regional Director may appoint a Tournament Committee.
3. The Tournament Administrator with the advice and consent of the hosting association and the Regional Director may appoint a Tournament Disciplinary Committee.

B. Tournament Committee

1. The Tournament Committee shall be responsible for the management and administration of the Tournament of Champions.
2. The Tournament Committee shall be responsible for the scheduling of games and the determination of player eligibility.
3. The Tournament Committee has the discretion to enforce all Rules of the Tournament of Champions.

C. Tournament Disciplinary Committee

1. The Tournament Disciplinary Committee shall be responsible for the disposition of protests and disciplinary matters.
2. The decision of the Tournament Disciplinary Committee shall be final.

D. Referee Committee

1. The Regional Referee Administrator shall assign and coordinate the referees.

3.0 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A. Fees

1. No entry fees shall be charged.
2. Players, coaches, referees and administrators shall not be charged an admission fee

B. Bonds and Entry Requirements

1. Bonds

- a. State associations or Regional Leagues shall submit a completed entry form with a performance bond check in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each team entered.
- b. In lieu of a bond check, a State Association may provide a letter of guarantee to the Tournament Administrator. This letter shall indicate that the State Association will guarantee payment of fines levied by the Tournament Committee or forfeiture of the performance bond if the team does not complete its responsibility for attendance.



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- c. Bond checks or letters of guaranty shall be submitted to the Tournament Administrator by the Tournament entry deadline.

2. Entry Forms

- a. Entries must be submitted using the Tournament of Champions entry form.
- b. Entry forms shall include all required information.
- c. Entry forms must be submitted to the Tournament Administrator by the Tournament entry deadline.

3. Game Officials

- a. State Associations and Regional Leagues shall send a minimum of one qualified referee for each of its teams entered into the Tournament of Champions.
- b. No State Association or Regional League shall be required to send more than four (4) qualified referees.
- c. State Associations and Regional Leagues Referee Associations shall incur the cost of sending referees to the Tournament of Champions.
- d. State Associations and Regional Leagues that do not meet the minimum referee requirement shall be fined five hundred dollars (\$500.00)

4.0 TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Roster

1. Each team shall provide an original Player Pool Roster, signed by the Registrar of its State Association or Regional League at the time of registration.
2. The roster shall include each player's first name, last name, date of birth, team name, league name, and date of registration.
3. Team rosters may have no more than 22 players of which 18 shall be eligible for any one game.
4. Rosters shall not be changed after completing check-in with the Tournament Committee.

B. Tournament Check In

1. A minimum of one representative of each team shall register 1 hour prior to the first match by the Tournament Administrator.
2. The team representative shall have a valid player pass for each player named on the team roster.
3. Five (5) copies of the Individual Game Roster Form shall be provided to the Tournament Administrator or designated official at the Team Check In. Only players on the Player Pool



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Roster can be used. Players can NOT be added to the Player Pool Roster once the team has been checked in.

5.0 TEAM AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

A. Team Eligibility

1. To be eligible, a team shall be registered with an affiliated State Association, National League, Regional League, or Direct Affiliate League.
2. A team shall enter the Tournament of Champions through their State Association, National League, Regional League, or Direct Affiliate League.

B. Player Eligibility

1. A player shall meet the age and gender requirements of the competition in which s/he enters.
2. A player shall be properly registered with an affiliated State Association, National League, Regional League, or Direct Affiliate League.
3. A player shall be properly registered on the team roster by an affiliated State Association, National League, Regional League or Direct Affiliate League.
4. A player shall have a valid player passcard approved by the State Association, National League, Regional League, or Direct Affiliate League. Players shall not be permitted to compete without a valid player passcard.
5. A player must be registered to the team for which s/he is rostered.
6. A player who required a Professional Player Release, International Player Clearance (International Transfer Clearance), Previous Team Release or any other document for eligibility shall have those documents available for review at the Tournament Venue.
7. A player who plays in an age-appropriate division shall be of that age on the day of the game in order to participate.
8. A player shall be named on the roster of only one team in any division.

6.0 UNIFORMS

- A. All players on the same team shall have the same shirts, shorts and socks.
- B. Each player's shirt shall have clearly visible numbers a minimum of six (6) inches in height. The numbers shall be sewn, pressed, silk screened or permanently affixed to the back of the shirt, including the goalkeeper.
- C. Each player on a team shall wear a different number.
- D. The primary and secondary uniform colors of the team shall be provided on the Player Roster Form.



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- E. If the referee determines that the uniforms of two competing teams are so similar as to create possible player identification problems on the field, the home team shall change its uniform.
- F. The first named team on the schedule is the home team.

7.0 PLAYING RULES

In all competitions, the playing rules are the FIFA Laws of the Game in effect at the time of the entry deadline, with the following exceptions:

- A. Teams shall be at their match site for player check-in by the referee no less than thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off.
- B. Team managers or coaches shall be entitled to verify the eligibility of opponent's players.
- C. The Tournament Committee shall determine the length of all games. Games shall be no less than sixty (60) minutes. US Soccer Regulation time intervals may be used, where appropriate. No overtime time periods will be used for this event.
- D. Unlimited substitutions shall be permitted. Substitutions may be made by either team during any stoppage of play.
- E. No more than eighteen (18) players from the Player Roster shall be in uniform for a match.
- F. A team that fails to field a minimum of seven (7) players at the scheduled kick-off time shall forfeit the game by a score of 5:0.
- G. Team Bench Area
 - 1. No more than twenty-one (21) people shall be in the bench area of each team.
 - 2. No more than eighteen (18) players shall be in the bench area of each team.
 - 3. No more than three of those people shall be support staff such as a coach, manager or trainer.
 - 4. Children under the age of twelve years old shall not be permitted in the bench area of a team.

8.0 SCHEDULING

- A. Teams shall be grouped for round-robin play or other form of elimination to determine the finalists.
- B. The semi-final and final games shall be played on the last day of the tournament.
- C. If possible, pairings shall be made so that teams that have competed against each other are not placed in the same bracket.

9.0 SCORING AND ELIMINATIONS

- A. Teams shall be awarded three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie and no points for a loss.



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- B. A team that fails to field a minimum of seven (7) players at the scheduled kick-off time shall forfeit the game by a score of 5:0. If teams are tied at the end of round-robin play, the following criteria shall be used to break the tie:
 - 1. Head to Head. The winner of “head to head” competition between tied teams shall advance.
 - 2. Goal Differential. The team with the greater goal difference (goals scored minus goals allowed) (refer to G.)
 - 3. The team that has allowed the least number of goals shall advance.
 - 4. The team that has scored the greater number of goals shall advance. (refer to G.)
- C. If teams remain tied after applying the criteria detailed in 9.0 B, the teams shall use “kicks from the penalty mark” to determine which team shall advance. If due to a lack of daylight and the absence of artificial lighting, or if due to prohibitive weather conditions this is not possible, the Tournament Committee shall determine the winner by coin toss, a drawing of lots, or similarly fair alternative method.
- D. If a semi-final or final game results in a tie, “kicks from the penalty mark” shall be used to determine the winner. If due to a lack of daylight and the absence of artificial lighting, or if due to prohibitive weather conditions this is not possible, the Tournament Committee shall determine the winner by coin toss, a drawing of lots, or similarly fair alternative method.
- E. If a game is not completed due to the misconduct clearly traceable to one of the competing teams, its management or its followers, the Tournament Committee has the authority to decide the disposition of the game.
- F. If a game is not completed due to the inability of one of the teams to field at least seven (7) players, the score shall stand of termination or abandonment. If the team responsible for the termination or abandonment of the game has more goals than its opponent or if the game is tied, the opposing team shall be awarded a forfeit victory of three (3) points and five (5) goals.
- G. All games played in preliminary rounds shall be counted toward the determination of which teams should advance to the Semi Final and Final rounds of play.

10.0 AWARDS AND TROPHIES

A. Traveling Cup

- 1. A “Traveling Cup” shall be entrusted to the State Association and/or the Regional League of the winning team.
- 2. The Traveling Cup shall remain in the possession of the State Association for one year when it shall be returned to the Region for the following year’s competition.
- 3. A State Association or Regional League that wins the Traveling Cup three times shall be awarded that cup in perpetuity with the exception of the Joseph Rodrigues Trophy.



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4. Traveling Cups shall be named for a person who has significantly contributed to the game of adult soccer in Region II. The naming shall be decided by the Regional Council at the next meeting following the retirement of the previous cup.

B. Joseph Rodrigues Trophy

1. The Joseph Rodrigues Trophy shall not be retired but shall remain the property of Region II.
2. The Joseph Rodrigues Trophy shall be entrusted to the State Association and/or the Regional League of the winning team.
3. The Joseph Rodrigues Trophy shall remain in the possession of the State Association for one year when it shall be returned to the Region for the following year's competition.

C. Team Trophies

1. Trophies shall be awarded to the first and second place teams of each division of competition.
2. The trophies shall be provided by the host State.

D. Other Awards

1. The host State Association may issue other awards with approval of the Regional Board.
2. Region II may issue other awards approved by the Regional Board.

11.0 DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

- A. State Associations, Regional Leagues or National Leagues whose teams fail to complete their scheduled games may forfeit the bond money, to be determined by the Tournament Committee.
- B. A player sent off the field by the referee shall be suspended from the next scheduled game as a minimal penalty. The Disciplinary Committee shall have the authority to suspend the player for additional games in the competition.
- C. A player sent off the field by the referee for a second time during the competition shall be suspended for the remainder of the competition.
- D. Protests shall be submitted in writing to the Tournament Administrator within one hour after the conclusion of the match and include a one hundred-dollar (\$100.00) cash protest fee. The protest fee shall be returned if the protest is upheld by the Disciplinary Committee.
- E. A team found to have played an ineligible player shall be suspended from the tournament and shall forfeit its bond. All games in which the ineligible player competed shall be declared a forfeit with a forfeiture score of 5:0, unless the opponent was the winner in which case, the game score shall stand. All games scheduled but not played due to the team's suspension shall result in a forfeiture score of 5:0 and three points.
- F. A team not in compliance with the Entry Requirements and Player and Team Eligibility rules of the Tournament of Champions shall be fined one hundred dollars (\$100.00).



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- G. The Tournament Committee may impose sanctions or fines against a player, coach, or team for displaying vulgar or unsporting behavior. Sanctions may include, but are not restricted to, prohibiting future participation in the Tournament of Champions. The State Association, Regional League or National League of the sanctioned party may appeal the Committee's decision to the Regional Council at its next business meeting.
- H. All fines, protest, bonds collected will go to the Midwest Region, to be distributed by the Tournament Committee.

12.0 MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THESE RULES OF COMPETITION

Matters not provided for by these Rules of Competition shall be determined by the Tournament Committee with the approval of the Regional Executive Committee. The decision shall be final and shall not be appealed.

13.0 AMENDMENTS

Rules of the Joseph L. Rodrigues Tournament of Champions shall only be amended by a majority vote of the Regional Council.

*****NOTE*** ANY AMMENDMENTS or CHANGES TO THE RULES OF THE COMPETITION WILL BE POSTED AT THE TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS, OR HANDED OUT TO EACH TEAM MANAGER AT THE INITIAL EVENT CHECK-IN.**