

USASA Men's National Amateur Cup Rules

All entries must be made through the USASA registration system. Teams will be required to register, pay the entry fee & upload their player roster information into the system.

Every team must submit their entry fee with their team registration prior to participating in any portion of the Cup Competition. Only teams that enter by the entry date are eligible to participate. Preliminary rounds will be administered by the USASA Regions.

Upon receipt of the entry forms the USASA Regions with assistance from the respective State Associations will start scheduling the first round of games.

USASA Regions with assistance from the USASA Referee Committee will appoint the referees.

The USASA Men's National Amateur Cup Semi-Final & Final rounds will be played the first weekend in August each year.

TEAM ELIGIBILITY

The USASA Men's National Amateur Cup competition shall be open to any team whose players are registered with USASA through a USASA Member Organization if the team is in compliance with all of the following requirements.

A club may have more than one team in a competition as long as each player pool meets the requirements of USASA Men's National Amateur Cup Rules.

1. The team must be comprised of properly registered players and must be in good standing with its Organization Member and must be in compliance with the bylaws and policies of USASA.
2. The team must compete in a USASA Regional or National League or an affiliated league of an Organization Member that consists of at least four (4) teams playing in the current seasonal year to be eligible for the USASA Men's National Amateur Cup. The National Office may waive this requirement if there are no affiliated leagues within a state association.
3. Teams may have a maximum of 30 players in their player pool. Once a player is added to the team roster the player is locked for the duration of the competition. No team is permitted to enter and play in any USASA National Cup Competition by entering that competition more than once.
4. Any team participating in any game of the USASA Men's National Amateur Cup must be:

- (a) Duly registered with USASA in accordance with USASA National Player Registration policy.
- (b) Have submitted a national cup entry form with the appropriate fee to the USASA National office before that competition begins.
- (c) failure to comply with (a) or (b) above will render such team ineligible to compete in any game of the USASA Men's National Amateur Cup competition.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. Proper registration includes complying with all appropriate registration requirements of USASA, the national state association as well as any other USASA member organizations.
2. In the USASA Cup competition a player who is found to require, but has not obtained, International Clearance is provisionally assumed to be an "eligible player." Within a week of being notified that International Clearance for such a player is required, International Clearance for that player must be applied for. If International Clearance is received, no further action is taken. If International Clearance is denied that player is ruled ineligible, and the game in question decided in accordance with the rules of the competition.
3. Players competing in the USASA Men's National Amateur Cup must have amateur status.
4. A player may not actually play for more than one team in the same competition. A registered player who has not actually played in a given competition may be registered and play for another team in the same competition. A player may also play in different competitions.
5. A player under national or competition specific suspension is not eligible to participate in the USASA Men's National Amateur Cup, until the suspension has been served.

PLAYER POOL

1. Players are entered into the USASA Registration system where the team registers for this competition.

2. Teams may have a maximum of 30 players in their player pool. Once a player is added to the team roster the player is locked, for the duration of the competition. No team is permitted to enter and play in the USASA Men's National Amateur Cup by entering the cup more than once in the duration of the current competition.
3. All rounds of play are national rounds of competition. The roster is frozen 3 days prior to each match of the competition. If the roster is not entered by 3 days prior to the first game of the national rounds of competition, the team shall be disqualified and removed from the national rounds of competition.
4. Prior to the scheduled date of a game, every team playing in any rounds of competitions shall have access to the opposing team's pool form (via email or website) of eligible players from which the team will be selected.
5. The National Office may check the entered roster after the game to verify if team/players are properly registered. If a player is found to not be eligible, the game will be forfeited by that team.

ENTRIES

1. The entry fees shall be determined annually by the USASA Regional Officers/Cup Committees.
2. Only money orders, cashiers or certified checks, or Credit Card payment directly into the USASA registration system are accepted.

UNIFORMS

1. When the referee determines that the uniforms of the two competing teams are so similar as to create possible player identification problems on the field, the home team shall change its uniform. However, if the visiting team is wearing colors other than those submitted on the Official Entry Form, the visiting team shall change.
2. Clearly visible numbers, at least six inches high and sewn, pressed, or silk screened on, must be worn on the back of each player's jersey. Each player on a team must wear a different number. A description, photo or graphic of the team's uniforms shall be provided on the "Official Entry Form" and on the Player Pool Form.

PLAYER PASSES

1. Each player shall present a laminated or tamper-resistant, USASA-approved identification pass bearing the player's photograph and indicating the player's membership on the team or an authorized pictured player roster. The pass or roster shall be presented to the referee before entering the game and shall be made available to the representative of the opposing team on request.

2. Each player pass or pictured roster shall be verified by the player's state association, national or regional league, affiliate or other organization member, as appropriate, and by the designated representative of the state association, league, or member.

PLAYING RULES

In all rounds played in the USASA Men's National Amateur Cup, the playing rules are the FIFA Laws of the Game in effect at the time of the deadline of entry, with the following exceptions:

1. The length of the field 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 60 yards.
2. Goal nets must be used. The field shall be marked in accordance with the plan in "The Laws of the Game". A flag on a post not less than five feet high and having a non-pointed top shall be placed at each corner.
3. Each team will be allowed to select not more than 18 players from its player pool to participate in any particular game. Thirty minutes prior to the start of the game, each team will provide to the referee and the other team, a game roster designating not more than 11 starting players, and not more than 7 players from the player pool list, from which substitutions may be made.
4. In all rounds of the competition, a maximum of seven substitutions shall be allowed in each game. A player who has been replaced by a substitute may not re-enter the game at any time.

COMPETITION FORMAT

The USASA Men's National Amateur Cup competition shall be conducted at the following levels:

1. The competition shall be for teams of the state associations, for teams of affiliates of USASA and for teams of national leagues and regional leagues.

2. In all rounds of competitions in which the score of any game is tied at the end of the second half, there will be two overtime periods of 15 minutes each. If the game remains tied at the end of the two overtime periods, the winner will then be determined by kicks from the penalty mark as prescribed by FIFA.

3. If for any cause, a game is not completed, it must be replayed in its entirety.

A. However, if the non-completion of a game results from misconduct clearly traceable to one of the competing teams, its management, or its followers, the National Office shall decide on the disposition of the game.

B. If a game is not completed because one of the teams is unable to field at least seven players, the score will stand as of the moment of termination or abandonment. If the team responsible for abandonments more goals than the opposing team, or the game is tied, the opposing team will be awarded a forfeit victory.

C. If the team awarded the forfeit has scored fewer than three goals, it shall be awarded the forfeit victory of three goals.

4. When severe weather or other extenuating circumstances prevent the playing or conclusion of a game, USASA will determine the resolution of any un-played or unfinished games using the guidelines listed below:

A. In regional rounds, if the first half of a game has been completed, the score of the game when terminated shall stand.

B. In national semi-final & final games the USASA will determine the resolution of any un-played or unfinished games.

PLAYER AND TEAM OFFICIAL DISCIPLINE

1. Team officials (coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, and others allowed to be in the technical area) are expected to behave in a responsible manner. A team official may be expelled from the field by the referee, in which case the team official must leave the technical and playing area of the field entirely and no longer participate directly or indirectly in the match. The dismissed team official will also be suspended from participating in the next USASA Men's National Amateur Cup match of the official's team, but the USASA National Office may increase or add other penalties as the behavior warrants.

2. Players shall be suspended for a minimum of one game if they were sent off the field by the referee for a second cautionable offense.

3. Suspension of an ejected player for all other reasons shall be for a minimum of the two subsequent, USASA Men's National Amateur Cup games. The ejected player's pass or pictured roster, along with a copy of each referee and assistant referee report must be promptly sent to the player's state association, national league, regional league, or organization member, which shall have the authority to increase the period of suspension.

TEAM AND PLAYER BREACH OF RULES

1. The USASA has the authority to suspend and/or disqualify and remove from further participation in any National Cup competition, any team, team official, or player of any competing team who has been proven guilty of any breach of the rules of USASA or the Federation.

2. All notices of disqualification or suspension shall be forwarded by electronic mail or overnight delivery to any affected team, except that the minimum of one game or two games suspension is effective without notice.

3. If there is a dispute (other than one involving referee assault or abuse) arising from a National Cup game under the jurisdiction of the USASA in which suspensions or penalties of greater than 30 days or more are imposed against an individual, an opportunity shall be provided for the individual to appeal any such decision to the USASA Appeals Committee. The decision of the USASA Appeals Committee shall be final. The procedures for appealing a decision shall follow the provisions of the appropriate USASA Bylaw.

4. The USASA has authority to establish a policy for imposing fines for games of the National Cups competition. At its discretion, USASA has the authority to impose additional penalties and suspensions for unsportsmanlike conduct, including requiring such team to reimburse the USASA for all expenses incurred to the appropriate round of National Cup competition.

5. Any team which abandons a game in progress shall be disqualified and removed from the competition and shall forfeit their entry fee, as well as any awards to which they would otherwise be entitled to by completing the game.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COMPETITION

1. Any team withdrawing from the competition must give notice of its intention to withdraw to the USASA National Office along with the reason for the withdrawal. The withdrawal must be within 72 hours after being declared eligible to advance to the next level.
2. If any team notifies the USASA National Office of their intent to withdraw after the 72 hours, the team will be subject to removal from participation in the National Cup program for up to two years, and penalties and fines associated with the team's withdrawal, at the discretion of the USASA National Office.
3. Any team, and players registered to that team, which does not pay the fines or penalties imposed within the required deadline shall be suspended. The team and each player listed on the last known submitted player pool form will be considered "not in good standing" with the league and all other affiliations until the fines and penalties have been paid.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

1. (a) A team that is found to be ineligible to participate in the USASA Men's National Amateur Cup competition or is found to be using an ineligible player at any level of the USASA Men's National Amateur Cup competition shall be disqualified from the competition.

(b) A claim of player ineligibility shall be resolved by the USASA Appeals Committee.
2. A team may also be disqualified from the USASA Men's National Amateur Cup competition for failure to comply with the rules of the competition, or for other just causes as determined by the USASA.
3. A player who participates in a match or who falsely represents him/herself as a player whose name appears on the player pool form will be disqualified and, any game in which the player participated in will be forfeited by the team.
4. If a team is disqualified from any round of competition, the USASA shall have absolute discretion to appropriately adjust the structure or form of the remainder of the competition.

FORFEITS

1. Any team that forfeits, is considered to be disqualified.
2. Any scheduled game that is forfeited will result in a 3:0 score for the opponent

PROTESTS

1. Any protest concerning a game played in the USASA Men's National Amateur Cup competition shall be decided by a panel appointed by USASA and the decision of the panel may not be appealed.
2. (a) The protest must be made in writing and must describe in detail the grounds for the protest.

(b) (2) The protest fee must be sent to the National Office in the form of cashier's check, certified check or money order, made payable to "USASA".

(c) The opposing team shall have three days from the date the copy of the protest was forwarded to it, to submit to the National Office its statement regarding the protest, if any. A copy of the statement shall be submitted to the opposing team by overnight express mail, telephone facsimile, electronic mail.

(d) No protest shall be considered for the alleged use of an ineligible player whose name appears on the player pool form received by the opposing team under unless prior to the game a written protest, accompanied by the \$500 protest fee, is lodged with the referee and the opposing team for that game.

(e) The protest shall be decided as soon as possible and may require further submission of evidence related to the protest.

(f) A protest may be withdrawn in writing after it has been submitted, but withdrawal of a protest shall result in forfeiture of the protest fee, which shall be forwarded to USASA.
4. The protest fee shall be returned if the protest is sustained or retained by USASA if the protest is not sustained.