



2009-2010 Region I Championships

Rules and Regulations

REGION I CHAMPIONSHIPS

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 Under 12 and Under 13 age groups.

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.

The games shall be governed by these Rules and Regulations, the US Youth Soccer National Championships Rules, and the Laws of the Game (FIFA) , in that order.

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 Director. 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
- 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: U19, U18, U17, U16, U15, U14, U13, and U12 11v11 and 8v8. All entries are to be submitted on the appropriate Region I Entry Form and must be sent to the Region I Championships Committee Chair on or before the second Monday in January.
2. The Region will establish a Region I administrative fee at the regional meeting in October. The initial administrative fee will be due on or before the second Monday in January. The administrative fee for additional teams will be due on or before March 31st.

3. The US Youth Soccer Blue Roster for each team entered must be submitted to the appropriate Region I Championships Committee designee on the date designated by the Committee Chair. The following criteria **MUST** be adhered to by all teams participating in the Region I Championships:
 - a. The US Youth Soccer Official Blue Roster Form **MUST** be typed.
 - b. Season: 2009-2010
 - c. Name of the State Association: **MUST** type in the name of the State Association, not the club or team name.
 - d. Region: Type in I
 - e. Division: (Example – U19 Boys) If a state is sending two (2) teams, type in Champion or Runner-up, whichever title pertains correctly to the team.
 - f. All players **MUST** be listed alphabetically, **LAST** name first.
 - g. Player signatures: Signature **MUST** match signature on the US Youth Soccer member pass
 - h. US Youth Soccer member pass numbers **MUST** be typed where applicable.
 - i. Jersey Numbers **MUST** be listed on the roster for **ALL** players.
4. US Youth Soccer Member Passes **MUST** be completely filled out with the signature of the players. **Note:** Signatures **MUST** match the signature on the US Youth Soccer Blue Roster Form. In order for the US Youth Soccer Member Pass to be valid, it must be duly authorized by the State Association. **Member Passes for the age groups going onto the National Championships MUST be laminated.**
5. Teams competing in the final match of the age groups going onto the National Championships will have their team pictures taken after the championship game. All arrangements and costs will be that of the Region I Championships Committee. Champion team photos will be forwarded to the Program Chair of the National Championships to be included in that event's program.
6. A State Association may withdraw any of its teams from the Region I Championships without penalty up to 31 days prior to the start of play; however, the administrative fee will not be refunded. Any State Association that withdraws team(s) from the Region I Championships less than 31 days prior to the start of play will be subject to a fine of \$1,500.00 per team. In addition, any State Association that withdraws team(s) from the Region I Championships less than five (5) days prior to the start of the event will be subject to an additional fine of \$1,500.00 per team. These fines are to be made payable to Region I and **MUST** be submitted to the Region I Championship Chair within thirty (30) days upon completion of the Region I Championships. 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 \$500.00 per game forfeited and will not advance to the next round of competition.
8. 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.
9. 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

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 \$225.00 stipend, which is for the entire competition. Each State Association will be required to pay Region I a per official fee of \$25.00. 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 than May 1st.
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

1. Age groups will consist of 4, 8, 12, or 16 team divisions, which will then be divided into sub-groups of four (4) teams. To meet these requirements, wildcards will be drawn if necessary.
2. **Under 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 Age Groups:** If the Spring Region I Premier League has age groups that have 12 or more teams the following will apply: The boys and Girls Under 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 Champions of the Spring Region I Premier League will be the **AUTOMATIC FIRST** wildcard (regardless of their team's actual age level). If the Premier League Champion is the State Associations' State Champion then the wildcard of that age group will go to the Premier League's Runner-Up. If the Runner-Up is the State Champion then the wildcard of that age group will go to the Premier 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 Premier 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 Premier 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 Premier League's sixth place team (unless they are their State Association's State Cup Champion for said age group). If the Spring Region I Premier 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.

3. At the Regional meeting during the US Youth Soccer Workshop, wildcards will be drawn to balance the Under 12, 13 and 19 age groups. To be eligible for wildcards, a State Association must enter at least twelve (12) teams. The draw for the wildcards will be as follows:

Under 12 Boys

Under 12 Girls

Under 13 Boys

Under 13 Girls

Under 19 Boys (Age Group goes on to the National Championships)

Under 19 Girls (Age Group goes on to the National Championships)

POLICY: Once your state is drawn for a wildcard, you will be removed from the draw until all states eligible have had a chance for the wildcard slots remaining. If all states receive a wildcard and there are still wildcard slots remaining, then all states eligible will be put back in the draw for a chance at a second wildcard slot.

States **MUST** be prepared to accept or decline a wildcard slot at the Region I meeting held during the US Youth Soccer Workshop. Upon acceptance of a wildcard slot, it will be the responsibility of the State Association to immediately inform its teams entered in that age group competition that they will be sending two (2) teams to the Region I Championships.

4. If a State Association has the opportunity to enter a second team or even a third team, it will have to pay the required Region I administrative fee. The additional team(s) will be included in their count of how many referees and assessors to send.
5. The Region I Championships Committee will draw alternates, during the US Youth Soccer Workshop. The Committee Chairman will notify the states in writing of the alternate draw. Upon receipt of this information, it will be the responsibility of the State Association to notify its teams that they are alternates.

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.
2. Teams will be scheduled by a blind draw to be held by the Region I Championships Committee during the US Youth Soccer Workshop. The draw and schedule will not be published until two (2) weeks before the Region I Championships.
3. In the event that a State Association has the opportunity to enter a second team in an age group at the time of the original draw, it will not be in the same sub-group as the State Champion.
4. If a State Association withdraws a team after the draw, the alternate will replace the withdrawn team in whatever group it was in.
5. Regardless of its State Association, the Wildcard/Alternate (Premier League Champion for the U14, 15, 16, 17 & 18 Age Groups and a drawn participant in the remaining age groups) will be placed in the sub-group in which it was originally drawn.
6. If the Premier League Champion, in the U14, 15, 16, 17 & 18 age groups is also the State Association Champion, the wildcard will then go to the appropriate "Alternate" (i.e. Premier League Runner-Up, Premier League Third Place, Premier League Fourth Place, Premier League Fifth Place, Premier League 6th Place or drawn alternate). The "Alternate" (regardless of its State Association) will replace the Premier League team's location in the original draw.

E. REGION I CHAMPIONSHIPS PROCEDURES

1. Mandatory Registration

- a. The Mandatory Registration check-in for all State Association teams will be done on the first day at the Tournament Headquarters. The time will be designated by the Region I Championships Committee
- b. Team packets with programs will be handed out.
- c. All teams **MUST** have their US Youth Soccer Member Passes with photographs attached and player's signatures duly authorized by their State Association. Teams or player(s) without their US Youth Soccer Member Passes cannot play in the Region I Championships.

REMINDER: The Member Pass **MUST** have the player's signature. The signature on the player pass **MUST** match the signature on the US Youth Soccer Blue Roster Form.

- d. All team officials **MUST** have their State Team Official Passes with photographs attached and signatures duly authorized by their State Association. Team officials without their State Team Official Passes will not receive their Team Bench Pass (maximum four (4) per team).
- e. 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).
- f. Players who are unable to sign the US Youth Soccer Blue Roster Form at their state final (i.e. absent due to illness, injury etc.) are still eligible to compete in the Region I Championships, but must come to registration with their US Youth Soccer Member Pass and sign the roster. **NOTE:** This is the only exception for signing the Blue Roster at the Region I Registration. Each State Association is responsible for making sure the roster is signed by players at their State Final.
- g. **REMINDER:** A team's roster is frozen prior to the team's first intrastate game. (Begins with State Competition).

2. Mandatory Parade of States

- a. There will be a **MANDATORY** Parade of States on the first day. The Hosting State Association will announce the site and time.
- b. All teams **MUST** be uniformly dressed and march along with their coaches and or assistant coaches. (Shirts in and socks pulled up are required).
- c. Teams should march with their State Flags/Team Banners.
- d. If a team fails to attend the **Mandatory Parade of States**, and/or leaves the ceremony before being dismissed by the Region I Director, that team will be fined \$1,000.00. In addition said team will not be eligible for the Region I Team Fair Play Award in their age group. The fine, made payable to Region I, **MUST** be paid by the team's State Association to the Region I Office, within thirty (30) days of completion of the Region I Championships.
- e. Under 19 teams that choose to attend the Parade of States are then bound by same attendance rules described in Paragraph 2(d). If they leave before being dismissed they will be fined \$1,000.00 and in addition, will be ineligible for the Region I Team Fair Play Award in their age group. The fine, made payable to Region I, **MUST** be paid by the team's State Association to the Region I Office within thirty (30) days of completion of the Region I Championships.
- f. Each NSA **MUST** declare a State Delegate to march with their teams. The Delegate's name **MUST** be given to the Region I Championships Chairman one (1) week before the Regional Competition.

3. 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 sites for the Team Officials meetings will be determined by the Region I Championships Committee.

F. COMPETITION FORMAT

1. Each age group, both boys and girls, will be divided into two, three, or four sub-groups. The teams in each sub-group will play one another in a round robin. Advancement to the semi-final bracket of each age group, both boys and girls, is determined by the round robin results.

Two Sub-Groups of Four: SF#1: Group A Winner vs Group B Runner-up. SF#2: Group B Winner vs Group A Runner-up.

Three Sub-Groups of Four: SF#1: Group A Winner vs the Wildcard. SF#2: Group B Winner vs 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.

Four Sub-Groups of Four: SF#1: Group A Winner vs Group D Winner. SF#2: Group B Winner vs Group C Winner.

2. Game Balls

The home team will furnish the game ball if not furnished by the Region I Championships Committee. **Note:** The game ball for each age group **MUST** meet the US Youth Soccer requirements listed in section 10. It will be the responsibility of the referee to measure the game ball before the game and make sure it meets the requirements of Section 10. Once the game begins, a protest cannot be lodged because of an illegal ball.

3. 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 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 that a forfeit will be awarded to a team.

The decision of the Region I Championships Committee 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 will not be allowed to advance.

4. 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.

5. **Team Bench - Sidelines**

Teams and team officials (maximum of four (4) people can represent the team officials, e.g. coach, assistant coach, manager, trainer) will be on one sideline. Parents and spectators will be on the opposite sideline. Team official identification passes (maximum four (4) per team) will only be issued to those individuals who have State Team Official Passes and are duly authorized by their State Association and are on the Blue Roster. The Region I Championships Committee will issue the identification passes at Registration. The Committee will make 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.

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

The Region I Championships Committee, State Reps (one per state) and official press will be given identification passes which will enable them to be on the sidelines with their teams and team personnel. The Committee will issue identification passes at registration.

7. **Scorecards**

Each coach will be provided, at registration, scorecards for each game. It will be the responsibility of every coach or team manager (winner, tie, loser) to fill out the scorecard in its entirety and submit the scorecard to the Region I Championships Committee's tent immediately after the game. In the event of a dispute, the referee's game report card will be the official record of the game. Results will be posted as quickly as possible. Each coach is responsible for being at the right place at the right time. If only one scorecard is received, the referee's game report card will be the official record of the game.

8. **Uniforms**

Each player **MUST** wear an official uniform with a six-inch minimum size number on the back of the shirt (**this includes goalies**). Duplicate numbers are not permitted. Teams **MUST** bring an alternate jersey with a six-inch minimum size number on the back.

9. **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.

10. **Player/Team Official Passes for the Under 15 & Younger Age Groups**

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., Ejection**).

11. **Player/Team Official Passes for the Under 16 & Older Age Groups**

The Under 16 & 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. The Region I Championships Committee will provide each Under 16 & Older team copies of their Team Roster that was approved by their State Association. For each game, it will be the responsibility of a Team Official to cross out the names of the players who will not be participating in the team's game. The team's game roster can have a maximum of eighteen (18) players. The marked roster must be presented to the Game Officials before the start of each game. The player passes of the players who are not on the game roster will be given to the Game Officials.

Upon completion of each game the Game Officials will return the player passes to the appropriate Team Officials

The players 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.

12. Length of Games, Overtime Periods, Ball Requirements

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Game Length</u>	<u>Overtime Periods</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>	<u>Circumference</u>	<u>Weight</u>
*U19	Two 45' halves	Two 15' halves	#5	27-28 in	14-16 oz
*U18	Two 45' halves	Two 15' halves	#5	27-28 in	14-16 oz
*U17	Two 45' halves	Two 15' halves	#5	27-28 in	14-16 oz
*U16	Two 40' halves	Two 15' halves	#5	27-28 in	14-16 oz
*U15	Two 40' halves	Two 15' halves	#5	27-28 in	14-16 oz
*U14	Two 35' halves	Two 10' halves	#5	27-28 in	14-16 oz
U13	Two 35' halves	Two 10' halves	#5	27-28 in	14-16 oz
U12	Two 30' halves	Two 10' halves	#4	25-26 in	11-13 oz

***Region I Champions** represent Region I at the 2009-2010 US Youth Soccer National Championships.

- In the preliminary round robin portion, ties scores at the end of regulation time shall stand.
- 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.
- 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.

13. Point System

- Determination of standings within a sub-group. Competition with 8, 12, or 16 teams.
- Round Robin Points:

Three	Points for a win
One	Point for a tie
Zero	Points for a loss
- 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:

- Winner of head to head competition
- Most Wins
- Goal differential - (Maximum 4 goals/game)

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

- Least goals allowed (three (3) game total)
- FIFA Penalty Kicks (immediately following the round robin games)

- Three (3) way tie within a sub-group. Competition with 8, 12, or 16 teams. Follow 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. The first team drawn will receive the bye, the next team drawn will be the home team against the remaining team in the first contest of penalty kicks. The winner of the first contest will then compete against the bye team in penalty kicks 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 (three sub-groups of four)

Same criteria as b and c above..

14. **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

15. **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. If a player is sent-off from any game, the player's pass together with the referee's report of the incident shall be turned over, by the referee, to the Region I Championships Committee. A player that has been sent off during a match, must be immediately escorted to the Region I Championships Site HQ for the remainder of the match. If the resulting suspension is to be served at the current Region I Championships, then the player will report to the Site HQ 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 side 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 five (5) 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. The team official 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. If a Team Official is dismissed from any game, 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. A team official that has been dismissed during a match, must be immediately escorted to the Region I Championships Site HQ for the remainder of the match.
7. The minimum penalty is that the team official shall not be permitted to coach or be on the team bench 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 five (5) 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 team official should show up at the game site, and in any way officially participate in the game, his or her team will automatically forfeit the game.
10. The expelled team official 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 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 five (5) hours of notification of increased suspension.

The Following Rules Apply to Every Appeal

1. The appeal **MUST** be filed with the Region I Appeals Chairman with the following:
 - a. Fee in the amount of \$200.00. 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 Region I.
 - b. The appeal **MUST** be submitted in writing with a minimum of five (5) copies.
 - c. Any information to be presented by witness **MUST** be in writing.
2. The Region I Appeals Chairman no more than five (5) hours after notification of the Region I Championships Committee's decision **MUST** receive the appeal.

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 Under 14 and younger age groups, unlimited substitutions shall be allowed; and
 - c. 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.

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 a member of the Region I Championships Committee.

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 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 game site except as noted in 4 below.
2. The protest must be filed with the Region I Championships Committee’s Protest Administrator with the following:
 - a. Fee in the amount of \$100.00. 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 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 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. TEAM TROPHIES OR PLAQUES

Each Champion Team, both boys and girls will receive a Team Trophy or Plaque which they will keep.

L. MEDALS

All age groups, both boys and girls, will receive 1st, 2nd, and Semi-Finalist Medals.

M. FAIR PLAY AWARD – one winner each age group both boys and girls – Team will receive a plaque

1. Objectives of the Region I Fair Play Award are
 - a. Respect for self and others through fair play
 - b. Elimination of any and all un-sportsmanlike conduct
 - c. Promotion of safety and development of skills
 - d. Appreciation of opponents
 - e. Respect for officials who ensure fair and safe play

2. All teams participating in the Region I Championships will be rated on each game by the referees. The game officials in the following categories will award points:

a. Cooperation of Players	Maximum	20 points
b. Cooperation of Coaches	Maximum	20 points
c. Overall Game Conduct	Maximum	10 points
	Maximum	50 points Total

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

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 any red cards will be eliminated from the competition for the Fair Play Award.
- * Teams receiving two (2) yellow cards in preliminary games will be eliminated from the competition for the Fair Play Award.
- * The Region I Championships Committee will meet at the end of the preliminary games to select the winning teams for boys and girls in each age group, However, if a team selected is going on to the Championship rounds (semi-finals/final), the winner of that age group will not be announced at the end of the preliminary games, but at the end of the Championship game. This will be done to ensure that the team chosen continues to play in a manner to warrant the award.

For a team going on to the Championship rounds to be eliminated from the Fair Play Award, it would have to receive a red card or two yellow cards in the Championship rounds. If this should happen, the Region I Championships Committee will meet again to award the Fair Play Award to another qualifier in that age group.

U12 Small Sided Competition Rules

Region I has introduced the U12 Small Side Competition at the Regional level to support the development of the small sided game. The Region I U12 Small Sided Competition is defined as an 8-v-8 competition. The U12 Small Sided competition is a separate competition from the U12 Full sided competition just as the U13 Competition is a separate competition from the U14 competition. Thus the competition rules that prohibit a player from playing in two competitions apply here also.

The U12 Small Sided Competition will be conducted under the existing Region I National Championship rules with the following amplifications:

1. U12 Small Sided Region I competition is played with seven (7) field players and a goalkeeper for each team. It is strongly recommended that all U12 Small Side competitions be played on a field that has the field dimension recommended by US Youth Soccer. See US Youth Soccer website for a complete definition
2. All U12 Small Sided teams should play in a small sided league competition in a State Association approved league. State Associations that enter a state champion into the Regional Small sided competition are encouraged to assure that these small sided leagues are developed. A qualifying league must consist of a minimum of four teams and each team must play each of three opponents a minimum of one time.
3. There must be a U12 Small Sided state level competition to determine the State Association U12 Small Sided champion and entry into the Region U12 Small Sided Competition.
4. A U12 team is either U12 Small Sided team and will compete in the U12 Small Sided state cup and Region I competition or the team is a U12 Full Sided team and will compete in the U12 Full Sided state cup and Region I competition. However, a team cannot play in both the U12 Small Sided and U12 Full Sided competitions.
5. A player can play either in U12 Small Sided state cup competition or U12 Full Sided state cup competition but cannot play in both state cup competitions.
6. A U12 Small Sided team may have a maximum of 14 players on its roster at any one time and is subject to the five (5) player previously rostered player rule (transfer rule).
7. Each U12 Small Sided team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the league and cup by maintaining a minimum of 7 players common to the rosters of both competitions

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