

## CHAPTER 8

### ASSA STATE CUPS

Revised 09/19/2007

The State Cups are co-sponsored by the ASSA and the local association selected by the Board of Directors to host each Cup. The Cups provide opportunity for all ASSA registered players and teams to meet and enjoy the competition these events offer. ASSA strives to provide levels of play that accommodate all teams throughout the state.

## CUPS

- 8.1.1 **The Kohl's American Cup** is a state-wide event for properly registered recreational teams in the Under-7 through Under-19 age groups. A jamboree is available for Under-7 through Under-10.
- 8.1.2 **The President's Cup** includes Under-11 through Under-19 age groups and determines the state soccer champions in the Under-11 – Under-13 age groups. Any properly registered Level 2 recreational team, All-Star team or Classic team may enter the President's Cup without affecting a player's eligibility for participation in the American Cup or the Arkansas State Championship. Winners from the President's Cup (U13 – U17) have the opportunity to advance to the Region III President's Cup.
- 8.1.2.1 **Gold and Silver Divisions:** There will be a gold and silver division offered for the U11 – U13 age groups. The winners in the gold division will be declared the state champion. Each silver division must have a minimum of three (3) teams in order to form. Trophies and metals will be provided to the first and second place teams of the gold and silver divisions. Records of teams entering the silver division will be taken into consideration and the cups committee has the right to move a team to the gold division if they believe it will better balance the divisions.
- 8.1.2.2 **Advancement to the Region II I President's Cup:** The Presidents Cup determines which teams in the U13 - U17 age groups will represent Arkansas in the Region III President's Cup. Advancement to the Region III Presidents Cup will be offered to teams in the following order:
- Presidents Cup: First place team
  - Presidents Cup: Second place team
  - Presidents Cup: Third place team
  - Continued down the list of Presidents Cup contestants until a commitment is achieved.
  - Teams must decide at the conclusion of the Presidents Cup of their intent to play in the Region III Presidents Cup. Teams cannot participate in both the Region III Presidents Cup and the AR State Championships. If a team has entered both the AR Presidents Cup and State Championships and commits to attending the Region III Presidents Cup its entry fee for the State Championships will be refunded.
- 8.1.3 **The Arkansas State Championship** determines the state soccer champion teams and runner-ups in each age division (coed and girls) for Under-14 through Under 19. The winner advances to the US Youth Soccer Region III Southern Championship as the representative of Arkansas. It is the responsibility of all teams participating in this Cup to comply with the US Youth Soccer National Championship Policies. Attending the Region III Southern Championships is mandatory for the winning teams. Teams should not enter the AR State Championships unless they can meet these requirements.
- 8.1.3.1 **Advancement to the Region III Southern Regionals**  
Teams entering the AR State Championships are expected to represent Arkansas in the Region III Southern Regionals

**8.1.3.2 Withdrawal Fee:** If a team advances (either by winning the state cup or being unopposed) to the Southern Regionals, and then withdraws or does not complete every scheduled Southern Regional game, the team will be fined in accordance to the Region III rules:

45 days from the beginning of the tournament - \$750  
30 days from the beginning of the tournament - \$1000  
20 days from the beginning of the tournament - \$1500  
15 days from the beginning of the tournament - \$2000  
10 days from the beginning of the tournament - \$3000

There is not an additional fee to participate in the Southern Regionals but teams are required to stay in their assigned hotel. Teams are also required by Region III and ASSA to attend the entire opening ceremonies event. Leaving the event early is a show of bad sportsmanship and will not be tolerated. Teams that do not comply with either of these rules will be fined \$500 by Arkansas State Soccer Association.

**8.1 .4 The Scholastic Cup** is open to any properly registered ASSA scholastic junior high or middle school team.

**8.1.5 The Amateur Cup** is open to any properly registered Adult team and shall be conducted in accordance with the policies and rules governing the Amateur Cup.

## **FEES**

**8.2.1** Applications and fees for entry to any state cup competition must be sent together to the ASSA state office before the deadline for acceptance of entries. Entry fees are set on a yearly basis and posted on the ASSA website and applications.

**8.2.2** Entry fees along with the correct application form and an initial roster must be received in the state office no later than the published date for entries. Late applications will not be assured a spot in the tournament.

**8.2.3** Entry fees are only refundable at the discretion of the Cup Committee. Fees will not be returned to teams that withdraw following formal acceptance into the tournament without good cause.

**8.2.4** During a state cup, if a team withdraws from the tournament within 48 hours of the tournament or forfeits a match during the tournament, the teams association will be fined \$500.

## **DATES FOR CUP COMPETITION:**

**8.3.1** The Board of Directors of the ASSA shall establish dates for the Cups.

## **DIVISIONAL AGE GROUPS:**

**8.4.1** Each Cup is open to and shall have, if possible, the following age groups:

American Cup Jamboree: U7, U8, U9, U10,  
American Cup Competitive: U9, U10, U11, U12, U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U18, U19  
Presidents Cup: U11, U12, U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U18, U19  
Gold and Silver divisions: U11, U12, U13  
Arkansas State Championship: U14, U15, U16, U17, U18, U19  
Scholastic Cup: Middle school and junior high school team

## TEAM PARTICIPATION RULES

8.5.1 In the Jamboree division of the American Cup up to three (3) guest players are permitted to play on a team from the same association. No guest players are allowed to participate in any other tournament governed by this Chapter.

8.5.2 A level 1 recreational team may **only** participate in the Jamboree division of the American Cup.

8.5.3 A properly registered and formed level 2 recreational team may participate in the American Cup, the Presidents Cup, and, if the team meets the requirements of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Policies, the Arkansas State Championship.

8.5.4 A properly registered All-Star team may participate in the President's Cup.

8.5.5 A Classic team, level 3, properly registered under ASSA rules may participate in the Presidents Cup. A Classic team, level 3, properly registered under ASSA rules and US Youth Soccer National Championship Policies may participate in the Arkansas State Championship.

**8.5.5.1 Teams formed utilizing the pool/ club roster will NOT qualify for the AR State Championships, US Youth Soccer National Championships or the Region II I Premier League.**

8.5.5.2 No team may enter a level 2 or level 3 state cup if more than 25 percent of its rostered players reside out-of-state.

8.5.6 Only junior high or middle school teams may participate in the Scholastic Cup and they may not participate in any other tournament governed by this Chapter.

## PLAYER PARTICIPATION RULES

8.6.1 A **Recreational Player** must play with his/her primary team if such team is participating in the Cup. A primary registered recreational player may play with his/her secondary team in a state cup if his/her primary team does not participate in that cup. A player may play for his/her secondary team only with the consent of his/her primary team coach.

8.6.2 A **Classic Player** must play with his/her primary team if such team is participating in the Cup. A primary registered Classic player may play with his/her secondary team if his/her primary team does not participate in the Cup. A player may play for his/her secondary team only with the consent of his/her primary team coach.

8.7.1 **No** player who has been transferred to a team is permitted to participate in the American Cup except for:

- A. If a recreational player relocates (changes zip codes) the player should be considered a free agent.
- B. When teams are abandoned, players may be moved to other teams. No more than six (6) players from any one abandoned team may be moved to a particular team.

For the Presidents Cup, teams are limited to three (3) incoming player transfers in a seasonal year (fall/spring) at age U-11 U13 and five (5) incoming player transfers in a seasonal year at ages U14 U19. For the Arkansas State Championship, teams must comply with the US Youth Soccer National Championship Policies, which currently allow five (5) incoming player transfers in a seasonal year.

8.7.2 A change in player status (e.g., secondary to primary) will be considered a player transfer.

8.7.3 For the Presidents Cup, all player transfers and additions must be properly completed by the local registrar and submitted to state office one week prior to the tournament. "Submitted" means post-marked or actually in the state office. Metered-mail is not included.

8.7.4 For the Arkansas State Championship, all teams and players must comply with the US Youth Soccer National Championship Policies. Rosters are frozen and all properly completed player transfers or additions must be in the state office before 4:00 pm the Tuesday prior to the start of the Arkansas State Championships.

### **TEAM ELIGIBILITY, PLAYER PASSES, BIRTH CERTIFICATES AND TEAM ROSTERS**

8.8.1 All teams (and the team's association) must be in good standing with the ASSA.

8.8.2 Any team playing with a player or players over the age limit concerned shall forfeit all the games in which that player participated.

8.8.3 No team shall be allowed more players on their roster than could lawfully participate under the rules of a given competition.

8.8.4 No team may enter a level 2 or level 3 state cup if more than 25 percent of its rostered players reside out-of-state.

#### **8.8.5 Player Passes**

- a. All players must have a current player pass for State Cup competition (except for the Jamboree.)
- b. The ASSA Registrar or his/her agent can only issue passes.
- c. The players current (within the last two years) photograph must be affixed to the back of each pass.
- d. Passes must be signed and laminated.
- e. Players who do not possess a player pass will not be allowed to participate.

#### **8.8.6 Bench Credentials AR State Championships and Presidents Cup only**

- a. Each player and all coaches on the player side of the field must possess a laminated US Youth Soccer player pass. Passes will be given to the referee or assistant referee prior to the start of the game and returned at the end of the game. In addition to the player pass all adults on the players sideline must possess a credential. Credentials will be distributed at team check-in for adults list on the roster; up to four (4) credentials per team. Only four (4) people, including the coach, may be on the players sideline at any one time during a game.
- b. The bench pass request must be submitted with the final roster and credentialed personnel must be listed on the team roster.
- c. If a club has a director of coaching he/she will be issued an all access pass. The DOC must be registered with the state.

#### **8.8.7 Birth Certificates**

- a. Birth certificates or other proof of age acceptable to the Tournament Cups & Games Committee must be available for inspection at the tournament check-in.
- b. Coaches must also carry copies of player's birth certificates or other accepted proof of age should a dispute about age arise.

#### 8.8.6 Official Rosters

- a. The ASSA Registrar will submit official rosters to both the coach and the state tournament officials.
- b. A coach is expected to carry a copy of the most current team roster to games.
- c. Rosters (except for AR State Championships) are frozen 7 days prior to the first day of competition and cannot subsequently be changed.
- d. It is the coach's responsibility to clear up problems with passes or rosters before the date rosters are frozen.

### Coaching Certification

8.9.1 Minimum requirements are listed below; however, each coach is strongly encouraged to pursue more advanced training for his/her benefit, as well as the benefit of the children under his/her care.

Level 3 classic or all-star coach: "D" License

Level 2 recreational coach: "E" License

Level 1 recreational coach: Coaches are highly encouraged to attend an age appropriate state coaching module.

### Bracketing of teams for tournament play

8.10.1 Bracketing of teams shall be as follows:

- 2 teams- best of three-game series
- 3 teams- double round robin
- 4 teams- round robin
- 5 teams- round robin
- 6 teams- two groups of three-teams, round robin play within group
- 7 teams- seven-team groups will be avoided if at all possible
- 8 teams- two groups of four-teams, round robin play
- 9 teams- nine-team groups will be avoided if at all possible
- 10 teams- two groups of three with one crossover game and one group of four, round robin play
- 11 teams- eleven-team groups will be avoided if at all possible
- 12 teams- four groups of three-teams, round robin play
- 14 teams- two four-team and one three-team
- 16 teams- four groups of four-teams

NOTE: The Cup Committee reserves the right to implement additional cup entry qualifications as needed toward achieving the aims indicated in the 7-, 9-, and 11-team bracketing. The Cup Committee also reserves the right to exclude the last registered team in a 7-, 9- or 11-team bracket based on time of delivery to the ASSA office. The Cup Committee reserves the right to seed teams when appropriate to do so. For bracketing purposes if there are an odd number of teams entered, the postmark on the entry envelope will determine that the last 2 entries received will play each other for entry into the cup.

### Referees

8.11.1 Commitment: If an association has at least one team entered in a given cup that association is asked to provide at least one referee capable of officiating a game for its oldest age team competing for the Cup. The host association will be asked to provide referees for the Cup, but to ensure neutral officiating, referees from around the state will be used.

8.11.2 Game Reports: The referee shall be responsible for the game reports and submit same to the designated ASSA tournament official before receiving any compensation for officiating the game. Coaches and referee must sign the report form to validate its accuracy and authenticity.

8.11.3 Compensation: Referees will be paid the approved and agreed rate.

8.11.4 Fourth Official: When used, a fourth official shall be paid no more than an assistant referee.

### **Rules of play**

8.12.1 FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by the USYS shall be used for all Cup competitions. Any ASSA modifications shall be made known to all participants prior to competition. The Arkansas State Championship must follow all rules and policies governing the competition.

8.12.2 Substitutions may be made with the consent of the referee in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by USYSA.

8.12.3 In the American Cup (except in case of illness, injury or discipline) all players MUST play at least one half of every game. Failure of a coach to play any player for a total of one half of a game may lead to the forfeiture of the game and the score being recorded as a 0-3 loss. In the case of illness, injury or discipline, the coach must inform the opposing coach and the referee that a player is sitting out. In all cases of dispute, the referees report, written or verbal, or that of any other game official or ASSA-recognized field marshal will be considered by the Cup Committee before any ruling is given.

8.12.4 The length of the game and ball specifications shall be in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by USYSA. The ASSA may further modify game times at any time to facilitate the completion of competition

### **HOST ASSOCIATION SELECTION AND CUP RESPONSIBILITIES**

8.13.1 The local association selected to host a Cup is responsible for providing all facilities, funding, organization manpower and other supporting elements as may be required and agreed upon between the ASSA and the local association. The conduct of the tournament shall be in accordance with the rules set forth in the current edition of the ASSA Administrative Handbook and will be administered by and under the direction of the Tournament Cups & Games Committee. Variances as may be dictated by local circumstances may be agreed upon between the local association and the Tournament Cups & Games Committee.

8.13.2 All applications to host a State Cup must be submitted in writing to the Tournament and Games Committee no later than September 30. After review of the bid and proposed facilities by the Committee the bid shall be submitted to the ASSA Board of Directors for their consideration and award of the bid. In the event an adequate Bid is not received the Board may solicit Bids to Host.

8.13.3 All associations hosting state cups must have 100% of their players registered with ASSA. Any association that does not comply will not be allowed to host the state cup, which will be offered to the other associations that originally bid on the cup.

8.13.4 No fixed proposal format is required; however, certain pertinent information must be provided in the bid package. All items need to be addressed in reasonable detail sufficient for adequate review. Other relevant items should also be included. An oral presentation to the ASSA Board of Directors may be required at the discretion of the BOD. The BOD may choose to accept any qualified bid or to place

competing bids before the membership, either with or without recommendation. Potential host should be prepared for either contingency.

8.13.5 The Bid shall, at the least, specify how the local association will provide the following:

1) Team Hotel Rooms: 10 to 12 two- or four-person non-smoking rooms per team will be required. The actual number of rooms will be influence by the location of the tournament.

2) Expected number of teams:

American Cup	140 Teams
Presidents Cup	110 Teams
AR State Cup	40 Teams
Scholastic Cup	20 Teams
Amateur Cup	8 Teams

3) Tournament headquarters: Coordination and communications center for tournament staff located at the complex. An indoor facility is preferred.

a) Other rooms required:

- i) Team check-in, credentials, evening before the tournament
- ii) Coach's meeting: evening before the tournament
- iii) Referee's meeting: evening before the tournament

b) Complimentary housing:

- i) Referees: depends on the number of out-of-town referees (an average of 1 room for every 6 teams but may require more) Maximum is 12 hotel rooms for referee use. ASSA strongly recommends that associations work with local hotels prior to submitting a bid to secure complimentary rooms.
- ii) State Representatives: two rooms

4) Fields: sufficient number of fields to accommodate the tournament. The actual number will depend on the age divisions and the number of teams that register. The cups committee will inspect the fields several weeks prior to the tournament for final approval.

- a) U15 through U19: min. of 65 yards wide by 110 yards long
- b) U13 through U14: min. of 50 yards wide by 100 yards long
- c) U12 and below: US Youth Soccer modified

Fields and goals must meet FIFA standards. Bid proposals must include any deviations from the standards and include the size of U10 fields and goals.

Recommended Goal Sizes in Arkansas		
Age Group	# of Field Players	Goal Size (h x w)
U 5/6	3 v 3	4' x 6'
U 7/8	4 v 4	6' x 12'
U 9/10	6 v 6 w/ keeper	6' x 18'
U 11/12	8 v 8 w/ keeper	7' x 21'

**\*\* NOTE \*** Bids for the American Cup should include the maximum number of teams the tournament site(s) can accommodate within each age division, along with any contingency plans for overages by age division. This is due to the tremendous response to this tournament from our Recreational teams over the past several years.

The proposal should describe the sites and organization resources available to host the tournament. Hotel facilities and their proximity to playing fields are needed. Availability of hotel rooms for the specific weekend must also be addressed; i.e. are there other events in town that will reduce the number of available hotel rooms. Maps are required. Key staff or committee persons need to be identified. Amount of parking fee (if any), or any other charge, for those attending the tournament must be included in the proposal. Deviations from the bid specifications must be clearly identified.

### **8.13.6 ASSA RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 1) Dates for the State Cups
- 2) Applications, entry fees and verification of eligibility of players and teams
- 3) Cup game schedules
- 4) Scheduling of referees
- 5) Payment of referee game fees
- 6) Tournament format
- 7) Team information for the tournament program
- 8) Posting of scores, score-sheets
- 9) Awards and presentation of awards for players and/or teams
- 10) Protest and Appeals
- 11) Approval of artwork or logos for souvenirs
- 12) Credential check-in, material and supervision
- 13) Emergency Medical Personnel
- 14) Watercoolers for players during games
- 15) Referee lunch and snacks
- 16) Lightning detector

### **8.13.7 HOST RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### Host Responsibilities

- 1) Housing for out of town referees (an average of 1 room for every 6 teams, Max:12)
- 2) Site preparation and maintenance
- 3) Grass playing surfaces free of defects
- 4) Regulation white painted goals with regulation nets
- 5) Corner flags and midfield flags
- 6) 3 – 4' white striping, to include spectator line and coaching boxes
- 7) Player boxes on the opposite side of parents
- 8) Field marshal at each field
- 9) Manage spectator access and movement, plus crowd control
- 10) Transportation between fields for tournament officials, minimum of two carts for state officials, actual number will depend on complex size.
- 11) Assist with credential check-in, minimum of four volunteers plus one extra per 10 teams entered in the tournament.
- 12) Assist with medical emergencies (communications, etc.)
- 13) Communications Requirements - cell phones and walkie-talkies.
  - a) Each game field (field marshal)
  - b) State Cup Chairperson
  - c) Tournament Director
  - d) Referee assignor
  - e) Scorekeepers
  - i) A contact list of all tournament officials should be available.
- 14) Adequate restroom facilities at all sites
- 15) Tournament program in compliance with all state and national sponsorship requirements – Required for all tournaments, except the Scholastic Cup, at least five programs per teams entered.
- 16) Concessions available at the complex.
- 17) Rest area with water and sports drinks available for referees. Indoor preferred, shaded mandatory
- 18) Water and ice provided, at all times and at each field, during games
- 19) Maps to hotels, soccer complex, and nearest hospital
- 20) T-shirts, with logo approval by ASSA
- 21) Scoreboard at complex
- 22) Publicity and media coverage
- 23) Post tournament report (provided by ASSA) is due within 30 days of the completion of the tournament

8.13.8 The host association shall receive \$20.00 for each team competing in the tournament (\$10.00 for Jamboree teams) from the ASSA following successful completion of the tournament and submission of the tournament report. The local host association also retains profits from T - shirt sales, concessions, other product sale and from any local sponsorship interest generated. All fundraising activity must be approved by the ASSA, including T-shirt designs and tournament logos. Failure to abide by the Host Responsibilities contained herein can result in forfeiture of the all payments from ASSA to the host association.

In addition to the team payments referred to above, the local association shall also receive the following payment:

<u>CUP</u>	<u>PAYMENT</u>
American Cup	\$1,000
Presidents Cup	\$1,000
AR State Championship	\$1,000
Scholastic Cup	\$250
Amateur Cup	\$250

8.14.1 The Tournament Cups & Games Committee may change, amend and interpret these rules to the best intent and outcome of the overall Cup where any case of ambiguity is discovered. The Tournament Cups & Games Committee may also, where necessary, alter, amend or add to these rules to the overall benefit of the Cup though no changes should be made unless absolutely required for the smooth running and ultimate overall success of the event.