USASA Region I Cup Policy

Part I – General

101 – Competitions

The Region may organize competitions annually for the benefits of their members, including but not limited to the following:

1. Werner Fricker Open Cup
2. US Amateur Cup
3. Gerhard Mengel Over-30 Cup
4. Region I Over-40 Cup
5. Region I Women's Championship
6. Gus Xikis Trophy for the Region I 23 & Under Championship
7. Any other competition that may be of interest for men, women or coed teams that the Region may deem necessary.

102 – Awards & Trophies

Awards, trophies and any subsidies granted each year shall be subject to the budget approved by the Regional Council

103 – Administration of Competitions

1. Each Organization Member may conduct its own cups competitions to determine which team qualifies as its entry in the respective cups. The administration at the Regional level shall be the responsibility of the Regional Cup Committee. Responsibilities include establishing requirements and procedures to carry out this policy, conducting the competitions and adjudicating protest and disciplinary matters.
2. Matches played under these competitions shall take precedence over all other USASA affiliated games.

Part II – Competition Procedure

201 – Competition Format & Qualifications

The Region and each Organization Member shall establish the format and qualification procedures of its competition. Such procedures shall be published by the Organization Member.

202 – Entries & Fees

1. Each Organization Member shall assess the entry fee necessary to administer the competitions at its level. Each Member will report the number of entries per competition to the Region.
2. The Region shall assess the entry fee of each qualified team as determined by the Regional Council. The entry fee shall be sent by the Organization Member.
3. Each Organization Member shall send to the Region the contact information of each team entered into the competitions by the deadline set by the Region.

203 – Team Eligibility

1. To enter a competition, a team must be properly affiliated and its players registered with USASA through an Organization Member.
2. Only teams competing in a USASA affiliated league consisting of at least four (4) teams may enter the Werner Fricker Open Cup and/or the US Amateur Cup.
3. For all other competition, the team must be registered with a USASA Organization Member.
4. A club may enter more than one team in a competition. Players may only participate for one team within that club per competition.
5. For a team from a USASA National or Multi-State League whose league does not conduct a competition to determine an entry from that Organizational Member, then that team may enter the competition in the State Association of which that team is located. If the Organization Member does conduct a competition, then the teams are not eligible to compete through a State Association.
6. A team may enter and compete a particular competition only once through one Organization Member. For purposes of defining a team for this circumstance, the team is composed of the players on the roster. Once the players on a team have competed in a competition, that team with the players on that roster may no longer enter and compete through another Organization Member.

204 – Player Eligibility

1. Each player taking part in these competitions must be properly registered through a USASA Organization Member at least seven (7) days prior to playing in any competition.
2. Player Status
   a. Players are either classified as professional or amateur in accordance with USSF policies.
   b. In the Amateur Cup, players who hold professional status with the USSF are not eligible to participate.
   c. For all other competitions, player status is not a restriction to participation.
   d. Any player classified as professional status must be properly registered with USSF in accordance with their registration procedures for such players.
3. Age Requirements
   a. Amateur Cup & Werner Fricker Cup
      There are no age requirements.
   b. Gerhard Mengel Cup & National Over-40 Cup
      For the Over-30 and Over-40 competitions, a player is eligible as long as the player will attain the age of that competition within the calendar year of the competition. For example, a player born in 1992 or earlier is eligible for the Over-30 competition in 2022.
   c. 23 & Under Cup
      For the 23 & Under competition, a player is eligible as long as the player attains the age of 23 or younger within the calendar year of the competition. For example, a player born in 1999 or after is eligible for the 23 & Under competition in 2022.

4. A player registered and listed in a player pool for a competition may not be included on the player pool of another team in the same competition. Such player is considered cup tied and not eligible to compete with any other team in that competition.
5. A player registered and listed in a player pool in one competition is eligible to be included and play for another team in a separate competition. Players are cup tied to a team in each competition but eligible to play for different teams in separate competitions.

205 – Player Pool

1. Teams must submit a player pool of registered players that will take part in a competition. The player pool must be reviewed and verified by the team's respective Organization Member.
2. Teams may submit a player pool with a maximum of 30 players. There is no requirement for the team to list 30 players from the start of the competition. Players may be added to the player pool as the competition progresses as long as the team has not reached its maximum limit of 30 players. Once a team reaches 30 players on its roster, no new players may be added.
3. In competitions that are played in a tournament format, the player pool may be restricted to less than 30 players.
4. The dates that player pools are to be submitted for a competition shall be published. It may be a fixed date or certain number of days prior to playing of a particular match.
5. Teams that add players to their player pool must submit revised player pools forms by the deadlines established. Players previously listed in the player pool may not be removed.

Part III – Playing Rules

301 – FIFA Laws of the Game

The FIFA Laws of the Game apply to all of the competitions. Substitution rules may be established for each competition and shall be published.

302 – Uniforms

1. When the uniforms colors of the two competing teams are determined similar by the referee, the home team shall change its color.
2. A clear visible number at least 8 inches in height must be worn on the back of each player's jersey. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the numbers of the other players on the same team.

303 – Player Identification

1. Each team must present to the referee crew an identification pass or team roster issued from the team's respective Organization Member prior to entering a match. The pass or roster shall include the player's name, date of birth, photograph and indicate the Organization Member that issued the pass or roster.
2. Player or players without the proper identification are not eligible to play the match.

304 – Match Procedures

1. General Scheduling Matters

   a. The Region dates for each competition will be set by the Regional Cup Committee.

   b. The start time for interstate matches at Regional rounds will be between 12:00 to 5:00 unless agreed otherwise by both teams and approved by the Regional Cup Commissioner.

   c. The designated home team must provide the name, location and direction of the field 7 days prior to the scheduled match. If the information is not provided, the Regional Cup Commissioner may grant the designated visiting team the option to host the match and be designated as the home team.

   d. Each team will report the result of the match to the Regional Cup Commissioner no later than 9:00 pm of the date of the match.

2. Match Day Roster

   a. Teams will be allowed to select no more than 18 players from its official Player Pool to be designated for its match day roster.

   b. A match day roster must be submitted to the referee no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the match. The form must indicate no more than 11 players that shall start the match and include the players who may enter as substitutes. The roster form shall include the first and last name of each player and the jersey number of the player.

   c. For competitions played in a tournament format, the match day roster may be modified in accordance to tournament rules.

3. Field & Equipment Requirements

   a. 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.

   b. The goals, nets, balls, field markings and flag posts shall meet the requirements in accordance to the FIFA Laws of the Game.

4. Length of Match

   a. Each match shall be comprised of two 45-minute halves with a halftime interval not to exceed 10 minutes. In matches where a winner must be determined, if tied after regulation, the winner will be determined by kicks from the penalty mark as prescribed by FIFA.

   b. For competitions played in a tournament format, the length of the match and procedure to determine a winner in cases where a match is tied and a winner needs to be determined may be modified. Such modifications shall be published as part of the tournament rules.

5. Start of Match

   Matches will start at the scheduled time. Teams must have a minimum of seven (7) players on the field for the start of the match. If a team fails to appear or has less than seven (7) players and the opposing team has seven (7) or more players ready to play, the latter team shall claim the match by forfeit. The forfeiting team is responsible for all officiating fees.

6. Substitutions

a. Amateur Cup & Werner Fricker Cup

A maximum of 7 substitutions shall be allowed. A player who has been replaced by a substitute may not re-enter the match.

b. Gerhard Mengel Cup & National Over-40 Cup

Substitutions shall be unlimited in numbers among the 18 players listed on the match day roster. A player who has been substituted may reenter the match at any time. The referee may stop play and allow substitution in the following situations:

- After a goal by either team.
- On a goal kick by either team.
- On a throw-in by the team in possession.
- By either team at half time.
- For an injured player, when play is stopped for the injury.
- When a yellow card is given for the player given the yellow card. The substitution is not mandatory.

In any situation above where players are at midfield waiting to come onto play as a substitute, players from both sides may come on as substitutes

c. For competitions played in a tournament format, the substitution rule may be modified. Such modifications shall be published as part of the tournament rules.

7. Match Officials

The Regional Cup Committee shall be responsible to assign all match officials and determine the amount of compensation for the officials for all Regional rounds. If one or more of the teams are responsible for the compensation of the officials, such amounts including any travel and per diem shall be published by the Regional Cup Committee.

8. Match Not Completed in its Entirety

a. A match terminated before completion of regulation shall be replayed in its entirety with the exception of the following two circumstances:

1) If the match is terminated clearly as the result of misconduct of one of the teams, its management and/or its followers, then the match shall be determined a forfeit by the offending team and awarded to the opposing team. Review and disposition of such a situation shall be conducted by the Regional Cup Committee for that competition.

2) If the match is terminated due to one of the teams no longer able to field the minimum required seven (7) players to continue the match, then the match shall be determined a forfeit by the team that no longer could continue with the minimum required and awarded to the opposing team.

b. For matches played in a tournament format where the match was terminated due to weather conditions or other extenuating circumstances that no longer allowed the match to be playable, the Regional Cup Committee shall determine the outcome for that competition and any scheduling changes.

9. Technical Area

Teams will be permitted to have no more than four (4) team officials (coaches, assistant coaches and trainers) along with no more than the eighteen (18) players listed on the Match Day Roster in the team's technical area.

10. Spectators/Supporters

Spectators/supporters must be seated on the opposite touchline from the team benches or designated seating areas in the stands. Spectators are not permitted on the field or technical area. Teams are responsible for the conduct of their supporters. If it is determined that a match is disrupted or terminated due to the conduct of a team's supporters, sanctions may include forfeiture of match, disqualification from future cup matches and a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000).

305 – Player & 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 scheduled match of the official's team. The Regional Cup Committee reserves the authority to impose further sanctions necessary to uphold the integrity of the game.

2. Player Suspensions

a. A player issued a red card, including as a result of being issued two (2) yellow cards in the same match, shall be suspended at minimum for one (1) game in that competition.

b. A player issued a red card for violent conduct due to fighting or striking another player shall be suspended a minimum of two matches.

c. The Regional Cup Committee shall review the circumstances concerning all red cards issued. If the Committee determines that the actions of the player warrants greater penalty than the minimum penalties imposed, then it reserves authority to impose further sanctions necessary to uphold the integrity of the game.

d. A suspension shall be served by the player at the next match of that competition. If the team has been eliminated from that competition, the player shall serve the suspension in the following season.

306 – Withdrawal from the Competition

1. Any team withdrawing from the competition must give notice of its intention to withdraw to Regional Cup Committee. Notice must be given 72 hours in advance of the schedule match and must state the reason for the withdrawal.

2. A team that has withdrawn from a competition is subject to losing its participation bond, removal from any other competition it has entered and participation from any competition in the following year. The Regional Cup Committee shall review the circumstances of the withdrawal and make a determination of any sanctions to be applied.

308 – Disqualifications

A team found to be ineligible to participate in competition or ~~is~~ found to be using an ineligible player may be disqualified from the competition as determined by the Regional Cup Committee. Sanctions may also include loss of participation bond, removal from any other competition it has entered and participation from any competition in the following year.

Part IV – Administrative Matters

401 – Team Bond Requirement

Teams may be required to post a performance bond in order to participate in a competition. The bond may be used in case of a forfeit to reimburse referee fees or costs of field rental. It may also be used towards a penalty imposed to a team for misconduct. The Regional Cup Committee shall publish the amount and method to deposit the bond.

402 – Protests

1. A protest related to a competition must be given in writing to the referee and the opposing team. For matters concerning ineligible players or field conditions, the protest must be given prior to the presentment of match day rosters. For matters concerning the match itself, the protest must be given after the match is completed and before the referee and opposing team leave the pitch.
2. The protest shall then be filed in writing to the Regional Cup Commissioner no later than 5:00 PM the day after a match. It may be sent by facsimile, overnight mail or electronic mail. A fee of $500 must accompany the protest by the second day after the match.
2. The protest must describe in detail the grounds of the protest.
3. A protest may be withdrawn in writing after it has been submitted but withdrawal of a protest may result in forfeiture of the protest fee. The determination shall be made at the discretion of the Regional Cup Committee.
4. The protest fee shall be returned if the protest is sustained
5. The Regional Cup Committee shall adjudicate protest~~s~~. The determination of the Regional Cup Committee is final and may not be appealed.

403 – Application of this Policy

This policy is primarily for the administration of cup competitions at the Regional level. Each Organization Member shall establish its policies, rules and formats to conduct their competitions.

Approved at the 2021 Region I Annual Meeting on 18 September 2021.