



# **SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH SOCCER**

## **2008/2009 PUBLIX PRESIDENT'S MEDAL CUP MANUAL**



### **1. PURPOSE**

This manual documents the methods, procedures, and guidelines used to stage the PUBLIX President's Medal Cup games. These annual competitions determine which teams are PUBLIX President's Medal Cup Champions and who will represent the South Carolina Youth Soccer Association in the Region III President's Cup. In order to continue to improve the games, this manual may be updated by a majority vote of the SC Youth Soccer Board of Directors.

### **2. SCOPE**

This manual is applicable to the annual U13-U19 PUBLIX President's Medal Cup. The U15-U19 competitions will be held at the end of the fall season and the U13 -U14 competitions will be held at the end of the spring season. Dates, times and the locations of the Cup will be set by the SC Youth Soccer Board of Directors and posted on the SC Youth Soccer website.

### **3. APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS**

FIFA Laws of the Game as amended annually  
USSF Official Administrative Rule Book as amended annually  
Policy on US Youth Soccer National Championships as amended annually  
SC Youth Soccer Bylaws  
SC Youth Soccer Administrative Manual  
SC Youth Soccer Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
SC Youth Soccer Annual Calendar

### **4. COMPETITION DIVISIONS AND AGE GROUPS**

PUBLIX President's Medal Cup games are comprised of the following competition divisions and age groups: Girls and Boys Classic Teams U13 -U19. The winner of each division shall be the PUBLIX President's Medal Cup Champion. The winner of the PUBLIX President's Medal Cup in the U13 – U17 age groups may advance to the Region III President's Cup. More than one division winner could be necessary. If two or more division winners are awarded these teams will return on PUBLIX Challenge Cup weekend for a one game championship match to determine who will represent SC Youth Soccer at the President's Cup.

### **5. FEES**

Fees for entry into the PUBLIX President's Medal Cup are set prior to the cup by the SC Youth Soccer Board of Directors and will be listed on the PUBLIX President's Medal Cup entry form and the SC Youth Soccer website.

### **6. PERFORMANCE BOND**

Each team participating in the PUBLIX President's Medal Cup that did not play in the President's Medal Soccer League shall post a performance bond in addition to the team's registration fee. This performance bond must be in the form of a check payable to SC Youth Soccer with the name of the team placed on the check. The bond check will be destroyed at the conclusion of a team's last game or required activity (e.g. awards ceremony).

A team's performance bond will be forfeited by:

1. Improper registration.
2. Failure to have an adult representative at the coaches meeting prior to the PUBLIX President's Medal Cup.
3. Failure to be ready to play at the scheduled time plus grace period of ten minutes for any game.
4. Failure to participate in the entire awards ceremony if that team is a participant in the championship game.
5. Once a team has declared its intent to play, any failure to appear at Cup matches may result in the loss of the team's bond and a minimum suspension for one (1) year of the coach and assistant coach of the team in violation.
6. If a performance bond is forfeited, then a new performance bond must be posted before the team may continue as a part of the PUBLIX President's Medal Cup.

### **7. PLAYER/COACH PASSES**

Each player, coach and assistant coach in **the PUBLIX President's Medal Cup** must have an official US Youth Soccer pass (ID card). The pass shall have the player/coach signature, the signature of the State Registrar/designee, and a current photograph of the player/coach permanently attached. Players/coaches may not be photographed in hats or headbands. Laminated player passes are

required. NO pass – NO play. Each team roster must have a coach designated as a head coach while all others are assistant coaches. Only four people holding coaching passes may be on a team bench with players during a **PUBLIX President’s Medal Cup** match.

## **8. TEAM ROSTERS**

All teams entering this competition must have an Official SC Youth Soccer State Roster signed and sealed by the SC Youth Soccer State Registrar/designee prior to the PUBLIX President’s Medal Cup. The Roster shall list the team coach, team assistants and all team players. Rosters are frozen at a date chosen by the SC Youth Soccer Board of Directors. No player may be added or transferred on to a team after the team roster is frozen. No player may participate in more than one (1) cup tournament in a seasonal year.

## **9. RED CARD EJECTION NOTICE FORM**

The Red Card Ejection Notice form will not be used in the President’s Medal Cup play. The tournament committee will track red card ejections during cup play.

## **10. PLAYER EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS**

All teams shall wear matching uniforms consisting of jersey, shorts, and socks. Every field player shall have a unique and identifiable number attached to his jersey. Additional garments may be worn to protect against the elements, but all players must present a uniform appearance and all extra clothing is subject to the approval of the referee. Socks must be pulled up over each player’s shin guards and all shirts must remain tucked in for the duration of all matches. No jewelry of any type may be worn during a match under any circumstances. All players, including the goalkeeper, must wear shin guards during the duration of all matches. Additional equipment or clothing worn to reduce the chance of injury or to protect existing injuries shall be used only with the approval of the referee. The referee is the sole judge of whether player equipment, casts, or protective or other assistant devices shall be allowed as prescribed in the FIFA “Laws of the Game”. In general, hard casts will be allowed only if they are (a) wrapped in their entirety with a half inch of foam or other cushioning material and (b) are, in the opinion of the referee, safe. At the first indication that a player with a cast or other protective device is using it in an unsafe manner, or to gain an advantage, the player shall be removed from the match not to return for the duration of the competition, or until the cast or device has been removed.

Should the referee in any match determine that the equipment worn by a player does not meet the FIFA criteria as documented for non-dangerous player equipment, and prevents the player from match participation, that referee shall be required to submit a written report to the Tournament Committee detailing the reason(s) for the decision. The report is to be submitted within two hours of the match’s completion.

## **11. TEAM ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for the PUBLIX President’s Medal Cup, a classic team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered youth players and the team and its SC Youth Soccer affiliated organization must be in good standing with SC Youth Soccer. The team shall compete in an SC Youth Soccer approved league comprised of no fewer than four (4) teams during the cup season, and that competition shall consist of a minimum of one (1) game against at least three (3) other teams participating in the league. Any team having forfeited two (2) or more league games during the current cup season shall be reviewed by the SC Youth Soccer Board of Directors and may be deemed ineligible for play in the PUBLIX President’s Medal Cup. All teams U13– U19 shall demonstrate continuity of rosters between league and cup play by maintaining a minimum of nine (9) players common to the rosters of both competitions. State Select/ODP/Challenge teams may not compete.

## **12. FORMAT**

All registered classic teams that have met the requirements for state cup participation and did not play in the SC SCL or Premier Soccer Leagues are eligible to play in the PUBLIX President’s Medal Cup. Teams will be seeded in divisions based on their season standings (see Section 14 below).

## **13. TEAM PARTICIPATION**

The PUBLIX President’s Medal Cup will allow ALL classic teams requesting participation and meeting all requirements to participate and compete for the Championship in their division provided there are enough teams (minimum of three teams) to form a division.

## **14. SEEDING AND PAIRINGS**

**Seeding:** Seeding will be based on a team’s record during their playing season. Teams playing in the President’s Medal Soccer League will be seeded first in order based on their standings. Teams playing in a local classic league and playing in a division with only classic teams will be seeded second in order based on their standings (if any teams in this group are tied on points a blind draw will be used for seeding of the tied teams). Teams playing in a league with recreational teams playing in their division will be seeded third in order based on their standings (if any teams in this group are tied on points a blind draw will be used for seeding of the tied teams).

Example: 12 team division with 4 teams from the President's Medal Soccer League, 4 teams from a local classic league and four teams playing in a recreational league.

Season Record - 4 Classic teams in the President's Medal Soccer League:

Team 1	8 wins	0 losses
Team 2	6 wins	2 losses
Team 3	4 wins	4 losses
Team 4	0 wins	8 losses

Season Record - 4 Classic teams in Local Classic League:

Team 1	8 wins	0 losses
Team 2	6 wins	2 losses
Team 3	4 wins	4 losses
Team 4	0 wins	8 losses

Season Record - 4 Classic teams in Recreational League:

Team 1	8 wins	0 losses
Team 2	6 wins	2 losses
Team 3	4 wins	4 losses
Team 4	0 wins	8 losses

Seeding for President's Medal Cup for above teams:

<u>SEEDING</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>RECORD</u>		<u>SEASON LEAGUE</u>
1	Team 1	8 wins	0 losses	President's Medal Soccer League
2	Team 2	6 wins	2 losses	President's Medal Soccer League
3	Team 3	4 wins	4 losses	President's Medal Soccer League
4	Team 4	0 wins	8 losses	President's Medal Soccer League
5	Team 1	8 wins	0 losses	Local Classic League
6	Team 2	6 wins	2 losses	Local Classic League
7	Team 3	4 wins	4 losses	Local Classic League
8	Team 4	0 wins	8 losses	Local Classic League
9	Team 1	8 wins	0 losses	Recreational League
10	Team 2	6 wins	2 losses	Recreational League
11	Team 3	4 wins	4 losses	Recreational League
12	Team 4	0 wins	8 losses	Recreational League

The following pairing arrangements shall be used in the PUBLIX President's Medal Cup:

Three Team Division:

These teams will play a three-team round robin to determine the top two teams of the division. The two teams with the highest points total will play for the championship. If there is a three-way tie, then a three-way kicks from the penalty mark will be conducted to determine the top two teams.

Four Team Division:

These teams will play a four-team round robin. The two teams with the highest point total will play for the championship.

Five Team Division:

These teams will play a five-team round robin; the champion will be the team with the highest point total at the end of round robin play. If there is no outright point winner at the conclusion of the round robin play, the winner will be established using the Divisional Tie-Breaking Procedure.

Six Team Division:

These teams will be placed into two three-team brackets. These brackets will each play a three-team round robin and one crossover match. Crossover matches will be as follows: 1 vs 5, 2 vs 6 and 3 vs 4. The team from each bracket with the highest point total will play for the championship.

Eight Team Division:

These teams will be placed in two four-team brackets. Each bracket will play a four-team round robin and the team from each bracket with the highest point total will play for the championship.

Nine Team Division:

These teams will be placed into three three-team brackets. These brackets will each play a three-team round. The team from each bracket with the highest point total plus a wild card team will advance to semifinal play. (A vs wildcard [unless wildcard is from the A bracket then it will be the C bracket winner], B vs C [unless wildcard is from the A bracket then B will play wildcard].) The

wild card team will be determined by game points earned during bracket play. In the event there is a tie for the Wild Card spot, the Divisional Tie Breaking Procedure will be used. The semifinal winners will play for the championship.

Ten Team Division:

These teams will be divided into two divisions of five teams each.

Eleven Team Division:

These teams will be divided into one five team division and one six team division.

Twelve Team Division:

These teams shall be placed in four three-team brackets: A, B, C and D. These brackets will each play a three-team round robin.

The team from each bracket with the highest point total will advance to semifinal play (i.e. A vs D and B vs C). The semifinal winners will play for the championship.

#### **15. DETERMINATION OF SEMI-FINAL WINNERS**

Semifinal matches shall be played to a conclusion, including overtime periods. If the teams are still tied after two overtime periods the match will be decided by kicks from the penalty mark using FIFA guidelines with only those players on the field at the conclusion of play eligible to participate.

#### **16. DETERMINATION OF CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS**

Championship matches shall be played to a conclusion, including overtime periods. If the teams are still tied after two overtime periods the match will be decided by kicks from the penalty mark using FIFA guidelines with only those players on the field at the conclusion of play eligible to participate.

#### **17. DECORUM**

Coaches are responsible for the behavior of all players, coaches, parents, and spectators associated with their team. Coaches and their players shall be located on the opposite side of the field from the parents and fans.

The only persons allowed on the team bench during the PUBLIX President's Medal Cup matches are those players/coaches/assistant coaches listed on the approved Official SC Youth Soccer State Roster with a maximum of four (4) coaches/assistants. All players and coaches shall have approved SC Youth Soccer player/coach passes and must be checked in at the field by a tournament official before being allowed on the bench.

The only exceptions to this rule shall be:

- Any medical emergency requiring additional assistance, and
- During half-time visitors may approach the team bench with approval of a tournament official.

Upon verification by a tournament official or their designee, any team with unauthorized persons at their team bench when the match begins or at the start of the second half shall result in the coach for that team paying a \$50 fine to the tournament director at the conclusion of the match. This fine must be paid before the coach will be allowed to coach another match.

#### **18. DETERMINATION OF LEAGUE PLAY SEEDING AND DIVISION (BRACKET) STANDINGS**

During league play and divisional (bracket) play, teams will be awarded game points as follows:

- Three (3) points for a win
- One (1) point for a tie
- Zero (0) points for a loss

#### **19. DISMISSALS**

If a player/coach is dismissed from any match, the player/coach pass, together with the game report of the incident, shall be turned over to the Tournament Committee or its designee by the referee. The minimum penalty for a dismissal is that the player/coach shall not be permitted to participate in the remainder of the current match and the entirety of the team's next match. This penalty may be increased at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. If the red card/ejection was given in the last game of state cup, then the player/coach will sit out the first of subsequent league play and the first game of any state cup in the next seasonal year (no matter which club he/she played/is playing for). The club and district shall be notified of the red card/ejection by the Tournament Committee. The player/coach pass shall be returned following the disciplinary period. If a coach is "sent off", he/she will not be allowed to return to any venue of that PUBLIX President's Medal Cup in any capacity for the duration of the suspension.

#### **20. DIVISIONAL TIE BREAKING PROCEDURE**

Standings at the conclusion of division (bracket) play will be determined on the basis of game points. In the event of ties, standings will be established using the following tie breaking criteria in sequence until a winner has been determined:

1. Winner of head to head competition. (This criterion is not used if more than two teams are tied. See below.)
2. Most wins.
3. Teams with the greatest net goal difference (NGD) which is computed as “goals for” minus “goals against” with a maximum of 3 NGD per game.
4. Team with the least goals against (there is NO limit on the number of goals that will be counted to determine this tiebreaker).
5. Team with the most goals (maximum of 3 goals per game).
6. Kicks from the penalty mark per FIFA Laws.

More than two teams tied:

If more than two (2) teams are tied, the sequence will start at 20.2 and will be followed until a team is eliminated. When a team is eliminated the remaining teams will then restart the sequence at 20.2 above until the tie is broken.

If three teams are still tied after computing the listed tiebreakers and FIFA Kicks have to be taken, there will be a draw by the Tournament 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 FIFA Kicks. The winner of the first contest will then compete against the bye team in FIFA Kicks to determine the winner. The bye team will be the home team.

If four teams are still tied after computing the listed tiebreakers and FIFA Kicks have to be taken, there will be a draw conducted by the Tournament Committee. The first team drawn (home team) will compete against the second team drawn (away team) in the first contest of FIFA Kicks. The third team drawn (home team) will compete against the fourth team (away team) in the second contest. The winners of these two contests will then compete to determine the winner. The winner of the first /second draw will be the home team.

## **21. ADEQUATE REST**

All teams are entitled to sufficient and, to the extent practical, equal rest between matches. A minimum of three hours between the scheduled start of two successive matches is considered to be sufficient rest. Where field or bracketing limitations make equal rest impossible, a minimum of three hours between the scheduled start of two successive matches is also considered to be equal rest.

## **22. FORFEITS**

A team which forfeits any game shall have the scores of ALL of its games recorded as 0-3 losses, thereby awarding every other team played a 3-0 win over the forfeiting team.

## **23. GAME BALLS**

Game balls provided by tournament sponsors and approved by the Tournament Committee and referee shall be used for the entirety of all matches if they are available. Each team shall also furnish a playable game ball to the referee at the beginning of each match. Size five balls will be used for all U13-U19 matches.

## **24. GRACE PERIODS**

Teams not ready to play within 10 minutes after the scheduled starting time of any match shall forfeit the match. Any team not ready to play after this 10- minute grace period shall be reported to the Tournament Committee or its designee by the referee and the game shall be recorded as a forfeit (3-0 win for the non-forfeiting team). The team not ready to play shall forfeit its performance bond.

## **25. HOME TEAM**

The team listed first in each pairing on the schedule is the home team. The home team shall change jerseys if, in the opinion of the referee, there is a color conflict.

## **26. LENGTH OF MATCHES AND OVERTIME PERIODS:**

- Under 19: Two 45-minute halves, two 10-minute overtimes, if applicable\*
- Under 18: Two 45-minute halves, two 10-minute overtimes, if applicable\*
- Under 17: Two 45-minute halves, two 10-minute overtimes, if applicable\*
- Under 16: Two 40-minute halves, two 10-minute overtimes, if applicable\*
- Under 15: Two 40-minute halves, two 10-minute overtimes, if applicable\*
- Under 14: Two 35-minute halves, two 10-minute overtimes, if applicable\*
- Under 13: Two 35-minute halves, two 10-minute overtimes, if applicable\*

\* In divisional (bracket) play, the score at the end of regulation time shall stand, unless otherwise noted. If any semifinal or final match is tied at the end of regulation play, two (2) full overtime periods as outlined above will be played. If the match remains tied,

kicks will be taken from the penalty mark using FIFA guidelines with only those players on the field at the conclusion of play eligible to participate.

If a match is abandoned by the referee for any reason not related to the performance of a team, it shall be replayed in its entirety if the second half of play has not begun - after the second half has begun the score will stand. If a match is abandoned for cause due to actions of a team, coach, or spectators, the Tournament Committee shall determine whether to allow the score at the time of termination to stand, to forfeit the match in favor of the non-offending team, or to replay the match in its entirety. The referee shall report, with explanation, all abandoned games to the Tournament Committee or its designee within one hour of the termination.

## **27. PROTESTS**

All questions relating to the qualifications of the competitors or interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest whatever, shall be referred to the Tournament Committee or its designee. The Tournament Committee shall then refer the protest to a protest and appeals committee appointed by the Tournament Committee. The decisions of the latter committee shall be binding on both teams.

To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest must (1)(a) if involving the field of play, be lodged verbally with the referee and the opposing coach at the game site before entering the field of play, (b) be filed within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the game with an SC Youth Soccer tournament official and (2) be filed in writing with the SC Youth Soccer tournament official and include a protest fee in the amount of \$250.00 (cash, cashier's check, or money order only), five written copies of the protest (which must include a description of the grounds on which the protest is lodged), and five written copies of any information to be presented by witnesses.

All written copies of the protests must be received by the Tournament Committee or its designee within two hours of the completion of the game being protested.

All protests relating to the grounds, goal posts, bars, or other appurtenances of the game shall be entertained only if a written objection has been lodged with the referee and the opposing coach prior to the start of the game.

The Tournament Committee shall immediately upon receipt of a protest notify the team against which the protest is made and shall send 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, should it desire to do so.

A lawyer shall not represent a team at the hearing of a charge or protest unless he is a bona fide member of one of the teams concerned (coach or assistant coach as specified on a team's official SC Youth Soccer State Roster).

A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the competition is not sufficient grounds for appeals or protests.

Judgment decisions of the referee are not subject to appeal or protest.

## **28. RULES OF COMPETITION**

All PUBLIX President's Medal Cup matches will be conducted in accordance with FIFA's "Laws of the Game" and the SC Youth Soccer Administrative Manual (including all SC Youth Soccer Board of Directors updates).

## **29. SUBSTITUTIONS**

Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at the following times:

- Prior to a throw-in in your favor.
- Prior to a goal kick by either team.
- After a goal by either team.
- After an injury by either team when the referee stops play (unlimited substitutions).
- At the beginning of the second half.
- When the referee stops play to caution a player, only the cautioned player may be substituted prior to the restart of the game.