





## SANCTIONED TOURNAMENT HOSTING TERMS

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- 1) **Tournament Rules:** The host member and participating teams shall abide by rules submitted with the hosting application, as well as statements made in the tournament invitation and US Club Soccer Policies applicable to tournaments and competitions generally.
- 2) **Participants:** The host member shall make the tournament rules available on the tournament website and provide a copy to participating teams. The host agrees that all decisions regarding acceptance of teams into the tournament shall be fairly and impartially made, and shall not be based upon race, creed, color or national origin. A copy of the approved Sanctioned Tournament Hosting Application shall be available to participants on an as-requested basis.
- 3) **Tournament Cancellation:** If the tournament is cancelled, the host member shall comply with any tournament cancellation policy provided as part of the application process. US Club Soccer must be notified in the event of tournament cancellation.
- 4) **Insurance:** The host member and all teams carded by US Club Soccer are covered by US Club Soccer's liability and secondary medical insurance policies. All non-US Club Soccer teams shall utilize insurance of their respective U.S. Soccer Federation affiliate member. Otherwise, if the host member is not providing supplemental insurance covering all participating teams, teams you may join US Club Soccer as a tournament team and receive passcards and insurance coverage accordingly.
- 5) **Referees:** The host member agrees to use only U.S. Soccer Federation-registered referees who are in good standing, unless a waiver has been granted by the U.S. Soccer Federation or US Club Soccer to allow the use of other referees, including those from another country. The host member shall provide to US Club Soccer the name, address and phone number of its referee assignor if it has not previously done so in the application, and indicate in the post-tournament report whether a 1- or 3-referee system was used, and in which age groups. *NOTE: U.S. Soccer does not permit two-referee systems.*
- 6) **Medical Authorizations:** All participating teams shall have available medical treatment authorizations for each player in a form adequate for use at the site of the tournament. These authorizations shall be presented to the host member at team check-in, and kept at the field and available for use by the team and host member.
- 7) **Certified Athletic Trainers:** Pursuant to the U.S. Soccer player safety campaign, any tournament projected to have 64 or more teams at U-11 and older age groups must have an adequate number of certified athletic trainers or other healthcare providers in attendance. For more information on this requirement, please visit the ["Sanction Your Tournament" Web page](#).
- 8) **Passcard Verification:** All participants shall use a passcard issued by a U.S. Soccer member organization. The passcards shall be verified and checked against the team roster at check-in. Domestic teams must be registered to a U.S. Soccer member organization.
- 9) **Tournament Procedures:** The host member agrees that written procedures will be produced and distributed and sufficient staff will be available at all times to supervise and administer the tournament. Procedures shall include:
  - a) Notifying local police, ambulance or other emergency response organizations of the tournament, and confirming of the procedures by which they can be summoned to the tournament.
  - b) Utilizing field marshals at all times at each venue.
  - c) Providing a system of communication between all field marshals and the tournament director, and establishing an internal emergency communications protocol for summoning medical personnel or addressing other emergencies.
  - d) Promptly posting results and resolving any questions or disputes regarding game results or competition incidents.
  - e) Complying with FIFA's [Laws of the Game](#), unless written permission to do otherwise has been received from US Club Soccer.
- 10) **Disciplinary Committee:** The host member shall comply with [US Club Soccer's Disciplinary Procedures](#) (part of the US Club Soccer Policies). Among other rules, the host member shall establish a disciplinary committee to expeditiously hear and act upon discipline matters and rule interpretations. Under no circumstances may a referee's decision, issuance of a red or yellow card, or a coach or team staff ejection be reviewed or overturned.
- 11) **International Teams:** The host member must obtain approval from the U.S. Soccer Federation if any international teams will be participating. Instructions are available [here](#) and will be included in the tournament sanctioning approval letter.
- 12) **Requirements:** The host member shall also comply with the following requirements further detailed in the approval letter –
  - a) Per U.S. Soccer Federation Bylaw 603, post the US Club Soccer sanctioned tournament logo on the tournament website. The logo will be sent with the approval letter.
  - b) If the tournament is unrestricted, post the following verbiage on the tournament website: *This tournament is unrestricted. Teams registered and in good standing with any U.S. Soccer Federation affiliate are eligible to apply.*
  - c) Submit a list of attending teams and contact information to US Club Soccer within 10 days of the tournament's conclusion. Minimally, this shall include club, coach and manager names, e-mail addresses and states of all attending teams. By providing this information, US Club Soccer is authorized to contact the tournament attendees.
  - d) Include the US Club Soccer-provided document in the tournament program and each team's registration packet.



# FACT SHEET FOR US CLUB SOCCER-SANCTIONED TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANTS

## 1. APPROVAL OF US CLUB SOCCER TOURNAMENT SANCTIONING

An approved Sanctioned Tournament Hosting Application confirms that a particular tournament is sanctioned by US Club Soccer. This fact sheet alone neither confirms nor denies US Club Soccer sanctioning.

As a National Association member of the U.S. Soccer Federation, US Club Soccer is authorized by U.S. Soccer Federation Bylaws to sanction tournaments.

## 2. US CLUB SOCCER TEAMS:

Teams may attend a US Club Soccer-sanctioned tournament using their US Club Soccer passcards without restriction. Your players and staff are covered by a secondary accident insurance policy. Your club is covered by liability insurance.

## 3. NON-US CLUB SOCCER TEAMS:

Under [U.S. Soccer Federation Policy 601-7](#), you may not be denied the right to attend an “open/unrestricted” tournament (as nearly all are) sanctioned by a U.S. Soccer Federation member, other than for legitimate disciplinary reasons.

However, non-US Club Soccer teams attending a US Club Soccer-sanctioned tournament may be denied insurance coverage or passcard usage by their state association.

Each state association has different rules, and you may need to obtain travel permission or provide travel notice. You should clarify what will be done well in advance of the event. If your state association has denied the use of your passcards, contact the tournament host to see what form of player identification is accepted. It is suggested that you apply at the earliest possible time. If you have complied with your state association’s travel permission procedures, they are required to approve your travel.

If you are unable to obtain insurance coverage or travel permission from your state association (if required) or have been denied use of your passcards, here are your options:

- 1. Determine whether the tournament host has obtained supplemental insurance covering all attending teams.**  
This is the first step you should take. US Club Soccer offers this supplemental insurance coverage to tournament hosts, which applies only to youth tournaments, not to adult tournaments.
- 2. [Join US Club Soccer as a tournament team](#), and obtain passcards.**  
If the tournament host has not obtained supplemental insurance coverage for all attending teams, those that have been accepted to a US Club Soccer-sanctioned tournament may [join US Club Soccer](#) as a tournament team. Your team will receive passcards and insurance coverage that is valid for the entire registration year. This option is not available for teams wanting to participate in the National Cup, which is open only to teams that are part of a full US Club Soccer member club.

## 4. QUESTIONS:

Please contact your respective [Membership Services Representative](#). We will assist in clarifying these matters with your state association if necessary.

# U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION POLICY 601-7: COMPETITION PARTICIPATION

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## Section I.

- (A) Any properly registered team has the right to enter any competition involving Organization Members or their members provided that it is eligible under the rules of that competition, pays all required fees, and is in good standing.
- (B) No Organization Member or member of an Organization Member shall interfere with the opportunity of a player, coach or team to travel to compete in a competition, including a game, scrimmage, tournament or League governed by Section 1 (A) above and shall not deny permission to travel unless that player, coach or team has been prohibited from doing so for disciplinary reasons pursuant to the due process requirements set forth in Bylaw 701. The foregoing shall not prevent Organization Members and their members from having bylaws, rules, or policies that penalize teams or players for failing to meet their previously scheduled game commitments or prevent Organization Members from enforcing reasonable notification requirements prior to travel.
- (C) Any Organization Member or member of an Organization Member, player, coach or individual denied the right to participate in any competition involving Organization Members or their members has the right of appeal and/or grievance through the applicable procedures set forth in Federation Bylaws and Policies.

## Section 2.

- (A) Tournaments hosted by Organization members or their members shall fall within one of the following two classes:
  - (1) Unrestricted Tournament: A tournament that is open to all Federation affiliated participants. Any tournament that allows international participants must be an Unrestricted Tournament.
  - (2) Restricted Tournament: A tournament that is open only to members of a single Organization Member or a subset thereof.
- (B) Organization Members and their members shall be entitled to sponsor and/or approve tournaments in and according to reasonable requirements they establish as long as done so in a fair and timely manner. No Organization Member or member of an Organization member shall have a bylaw, rule or policy that prohibits their members from participating in Unrestricted Tournaments. Organization Members may not deny approval to host a tournament on the basis that the tournament is Unrestricted.

## Section 3.

This policy does not apply to Professional Leagues or Indoor Professional Leagues.

### **RATIONALE**

To ensure that players have as many opportunities as possible to participate in tournaments and competitions, and to make the policy consistent with U.S. Soccer's organizational structure.