

Florida State Soccer Association **National Cup Information and Policies 2010**

Application deadlines (for all cups except U23):

Amateur/Open Cup deadlines:

Open and Amateur Cup entries due in FSSA office	February 8, 2010
Games played in Florida	Feb/March/April
State Winners Declared	April 18, 2010
Rosters due and frozen for Region III tournament	May 13, 2010
Region III coaches meeting and schedule draw (mandatory)	May 27, 2010 (Thursday)
Region III competition, Tuscaloosa, Alabama	May 28-31, 2010
USASA National Cup Finals, Philadelphia	July 30-Aug 1, 2010

The Region III tournament will be held at the University of Alabama Recreational Center. Tuscaloosa is located approximately 60 miles southwest of Birmingham.

U23 Competition

The U23 Competition for Men and Women will again be held as a separate Regional event.

U23 Cup entries due in FSSA office	May 12, 2010
Games played in Florida	late May/early June
State Winners Declared	May 30, 2010
Rosters due and frozen for Region III U23 tournament	June 1, 2010
Region III U23 competition – tentative Memphis, TN	June 11-13, 2010 (tentative)
U23 National Cup Finals, Overland Park, Kansas	July 23-25, 2010
(Finals being held in conjunction with US Youth Soccer National Championships)	

All competitions

National Cup Rules

There have been rule changes since the 2009 competition. By entering the tournament you are acknowledging that you have read and understand the national cup rules. Copies of the rules are at www.region3adultsoccer.net (go to Competitions Tab, National Cup, Rules and Forms).

Tournament format

Within Florida national cup games are single elimination and played home or away based on the draw. The FSSA web site will be updated after each round (www.floridastatesoccer.com). There will be no neutral site games – this is a travel tournament so be prepared to travel. The regional tournament is a round robin format. The USASA finals are single elimination. Depending on the number of teams in a tournament games could start on February 28, 2010. National cup games take priority over state and league games – when entering this competition your team should be prepared on any weekend between February 28 and April 18, 2010. The schedule will be available following the draw the week of Feb. 8.

Entry fee plus bond due at time of entry

The entry fee (see application) PLUS the \$500 national cup travel bond is due at the time of entry. All fees are payable to FSSA – *checks not made payable to FSSA will be returned to you and the team will not be entered until correct payment is received.* Once winners have been declared in Florida the travel

bonds will be sent to USASA for the teams going on to the regional tournament. Remaining bonds will be returned to teams provided they have met all obligations of the tournament.

Player eligibility: This is a BIG deal so read carefully

All players must have current season FSSA player passes and be registered correctly according to USSF rules. Players must have passes that show the correct name of the team. Each team must be registered to an FSSA affiliated league of at least 4 teams who are playing a regular season.

Pro players (not allowed in amateur cup) must be registered on pro registration forms and approved by USSF. Pro players can be reinstated to amateur status using the USSF Amateur Reinstatement Form (available at www.floridastatesoccer.com). Allow at least 2 weeks for processing of pro registration and reinstatement.

International Clearance: Any player who comes to the US on or after the player is 12 years of age must request and receive an international clearance from USSF. If a player has played outside the USA at any time his/her international clearance may have been sent to the other country and need to be requested. Players arriving in the US before age 12 must have proof of such or must request and international clearance.

It can take over 30 days to get an international clearance. **If you even suspect a player fits into one of these categories have them complete an international clearance request** and turn it into USSF at least 32 days prior to your first national cup game. It's free - apply NOW if you are even considering entering the national cup and any of your players need it or you even think they might need it. If even one player on your team plays one game in the competition and is not properly registered or have an international clearance your team will be eliminated from the tournament. This has happened to at least one Florida team each year for the past 3 years – don't let it happen to you!! The form is available at www.floridastatesoccer.com under national cups.

Men's Open Cup

Florida can send two men's teams to the regional tournament for the US Open Cup. The Florida Open Cup champion and finalist will both go to the regional tournament.

Women's Cups and U23 Cups

Florida can send two teams for each women's cup and two teams per gender for the U23 Cups to the regional tournament. The top two teams from each of the interstate competitions will go on to the regional tournament.

U23 Finals

The new national format for this year's finals call for the top 2 teams, per gender, to advance to the National Finals where a round robin competition will be played. The U23 National Finals are being played in conjunction with the USYSA National Championships in Overland Park, Kansas the weekend of July 24-25, 2010. Travel subsidy allowed per team for travel to the National Finals is \$5416.50.

Games Schedule

The default time for all games is 1:00pm on the game date specified on the draw unless both managers agree to an alternate time. If the home team's field is not available at 1:00pm on the game date then the home team may choose another field in their area or we will schedule the game at the opponent's home field.

Referee Fees

Referee fees for national cup games are \$60 center and \$35 for each assistant. Referee fees will be split between the teams and are payable in cash prior to the start of the game. At cup final games we will likely have a 4th official who will also receive \$35 (also to be split between the teams).

Funding for Continuing in the Tournament

The Florida State Soccer Association will be providing some funds to qualifying teams to help national cup winners attend further levels of the national cup for which they qualify. Funds will be determined once the number of qualifying teams from Florida is known.

All forms can be found at www.floridastatesoccer.com and www.usasa.com.

If you have questions contact:

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