



U13 & U14 Iowa Director's Cup Rules and Interpretations

1001 GENERAL INFORMATION

1001.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Iowa Director's Cup is to provide a club state championship competition for Iowa Soccer Association teams not competing in the Iowa State Cup. It is open to Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 teams.

1001.1.1 If the regional format is appropriate, Iowa will send its Director's Cup Champions to a regional competition.

1001.2 Dates

The Iowa Director's Cup shall be conducted annually, on such dates and at such sites as shall be determined by the Iowa Soccer Association. The Under-13, Under-14 age divisions shall hold their competition in the Spring season.

1001.3 Communications

All questions and communications regarding the Iowa Director's Cup are to be between a team official (Club Director of Coaching, team coach, team coordinator) and the Tournament Director.

1001.4 Alcohol, Tobacco

Alcohol and/or tobacco products in any form will not be allowed on any playing field or areas adjacent to playing areas.

1002 ENTRY and ELIGIBILITY

1002.1 Age Groups

The Iowa Director's Cup accepts teams in the following Boy's and Girl's age groups: U13, U14.

- There are no limits as to how many teams clubs may enter in an age division.

1002.2 Fees and Entry

Each team wishing to enter the Iowa Director's Cup shall deliver its entry in a format determined by Iowa Soccer, along with a non-refundable entry fee to Iowa Soccer on or before the deadline for entry to be considered for the competition. Iowa Director's Cup fees include a team entry fee, and the corresponding online registration fee. All teams submitting an entry to compete in the Iowa Director's Cup agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Iowa Director's Cup, the Iowa Soccer Association, US Youth Soccer, the US Soccer Federation and FIFA where applicable.

1002.3 Team Eligibility Requirements

Final determination of having met team eligibility requirements will be made by Iowa Soccer. They are as follows:

- Team will not or did not enter the Iowa State Cup in the same seasonal year as its entry in the Iowa Director's Cup.
- Team is properly registered with the Iowa Soccer Association and is in "Good Standing".
- Each player and each coach is listed on the Iowa Soccer-certified team roster for that team, and each has a current US Youth Soccer pass that is signed in cursive, has a current picture affixed and is laminated. Passes must be laminated, no exceptions (open-ended "pouches" are not considered laminated).
 - For those players designated as "Guest Players", they must be rostered to an Iowa Soccer team. See 1002.6 below for additional qualification.
 - Guest players must carry the player pass that corresponds to their primary team.
- Each player has on record a signed "Medical Release Form" given to the team coordinator.

- Each player has submitted a birth certificate or other acceptable proof of age to the team coordinator. Acceptable proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, a Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (DD Form 1173) issued by the uniformed services of the United States, birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, board of health records, driver's license, passport, alien registration card issued by the United States government, or a certificate of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. *Hospital, baptismal or other religious certificates will not be accepted.*

1002.4 Good Standing

1002.4.1 The club or affiliate of any team whose entry fee is returned for insufficient funds may be determined by the Iowa Soccer Board of Directors to not be in "Good Standing" with Iowa Soccer.

1002.4.2 A club or affiliate whose team has unpaid fines from prior years' Iowa Director's Cups may be determined by the Iowa Soccer Board of Directors to not be in "Good Standing" with Iowa Soccer

1002.4.3 The club or affiliate of any team who submits inaccurate information to support its entry in the Iowa Director's Cup may be determined by the Iowa Soccer Board of Directors to not be in "Good Standing" with Iowa Soccer.

1002.5 Team Roster Sizes

For U13 and U14 teams, the team roster shall not have more than 18 players. If utilizing the guest player allowance, the up to three guest players count against the maximum roster size of 18.

1002.6 Guest Players

The intent of the guest player allowance is to help teams that do not have enough players to enter the Director's Cup assemble enough players to enter. It is not intended to allow teams to load up with players in an attempt to assemble a "stacked" or "tournament" team, or to exclude available players in favor of guest players. Final determination of allowable guest players will be made by Iowa Soccer.

At the time a team's roster is frozen, it is allowable that up to three guest players may be included as playing with this team. These up to three players count against the maximum roster size. Proper guest player paperwork and procedures must be completed.

1002.6.1 For teams classified through the registration process as Level 1 (select/premier), the up to three guest players must be registered as players with the club whose team he/she is guest playing for.

1002.6.2 For teams classified through the registration process as Level 2 or Level 3 (classic or recreational), the up to three guest players may be registered as players with a club other than the one whose team he/she is guest playing for.

1002.6.3 Guest players from a State Cup roster are allowable, but may not be from among the starting or top-tier players. The intent of the allowance is so that the last few players on a State Cup roster who are least likely to play in State Cup are able to play in Director's Cup. Final determination of allowable State Cup guest players will be made by Iowa Soccer prior to the competition.

1002.6.4 Guest players must carry to the tournament the player pass that corresponds to his/her primary team.

1002.7 Team Seasonal Year Entry

Each team may only compete in one age division per seasonal year at the Iowa Director's Cup.

1002.8 Player Eligibility

Final determination of having met player eligibility requirements will be made by Iowa Soccer. They are as follows:

- Each player may only compete in one age division per seasonal year at the Iowa Director's Cup.
- Players must be properly registered, rostered, added or released to a team, or properly designated as a guest player.

1002.9 Final Materials

In addition to team entry and payment of fees by the entry deadline, supplemental materials will be required to complete a team's entry. These must be received in the Iowa Soccer office by a date that shall be up to two weeks prior to the team's first scheduled Director's Cup match. **All materials may be submitted via email, by snail mail, or dropped off at the Iowa Soccer office.**

1002.9.1 Iowa Soccer Association-Certified Team Roster

Each team is required to submit a copy of its Iowa Soccer-Certified Team Roster; rosters will be frozen as of the "Final Materials" date (i.e. changes to it are no longer allowed). If utilizing any guest players, handwrite their information on the certified roster; and the proper Guest Player Form must also accompany the certified team roster as part of the Final Materials (see 1002.8.5 below).

1002.9.2 Verification of Eligibility Form

Each team is required to submit the Verification of Eligibility Form. Final determination of having met eligibility requirements will be made by Iowa Soccer.

1002.9.2.1 If it is determined that an ineligible player or coach participates in an Iowa Director's Cup match, the match shall be forfeited.

1002.9.2.2 Any team found guilty of knowingly using an ineligible player shall not be eligible to compete further in the Iowa Director's Cup competition in the current seasonal year.

1002.9.2.3 Any coach, team coordinator or team/club official found guilty of knowingly using an ineligible player shall be prohibited from competing further in the Iowa Director's Cup competition in the current and subsequent seasonal year.

1002.9.2.4 Any coach, team coordinator, team/club official, and/or player found guilty of knowingly submitting falsified birth information or knowingly falsifying information on the Verification of Eligibility Form shall be prohibited from competing further in the Iowa Director's Cup competition in the current and subsequent seasonal year.

1002.9.3 Code of Conduct Form

Each team is required to submit the Code of Conduct Form.

1002.9.4 Official Game Roster Form

Each team is required to submit a Game Roster form. If utilizing guest players, the Game Roster must include the names and information of the guest players. **Player signatures are NOT required on the Game Roster.**

1002.9.5 Guest Player Form

If a team is utilizing up to three guest players, it must submit a Guest Player Form by a date that is in advance of the opening date of the competition. If this form is not received by this date, the use of guest players by the team will not be allowed.

1002.10 Withdrawal

Refunds for withdrawing a team between the entry deadline and the night prior to the "Draw" will be considered for reasonable conflicts. A notice of withdrawal stating the reason must be given to the Tournament Director in writing by the night prior to the Draw. A team withdrawing from the Iowa Director's Cup after the Draw has been conducted shall forfeit its entry fee and its Club/Affiliate is subject to an additional fine up to \$400.

1002.11 Forfeits

Teams that forfeit a match at any level of the Iowa Director's Cup will not be allowed to advance.

Forfeits for failure to compete in any game in the Iowa Director's Cup by any team will result in having the Club/Affiliate fined up to \$400 and the team forfeiting its entry fee. Any such actions may be appealed to the Iowa Soccer Association Appeals Committee.

Any team, club or affiliate failing to give notice of intention to forfeit or forfeiting a match may, at the discretion of the Iowa Soccer Association Board of Directors, have additional sanctions levied against them. Any such additional sanctions may be appealed to the Iowa Soccer Association Appeals Committee.

Additionally, any team proven guilty of violating any of the rules of the Iowa Director's Cup, the Iowa Soccer Association, US Youth Soccer, or the US Soccer Federation shall forfeit all matches and the preceding competition(s) shall not be replayed.

2001 COMPETITION FORMAT

2001.1 Format

The format of the competition is pool play, with advancement to a Championship match. In the interest of the competition, the Tournament Director may modify the competition format/brackets to best fit the number of team entries in a division, with consideration given on a case-by-case basis.

2001.2 Competition Dates

Teams must plan to be available for matches at any time on the scheduled competition dates. In no case will matches be rescheduled off established play dates unless inclement weather forces changes. The Tournament Director will not entertain date or schedule changes.

2001.3 Matches

All matches will be regulation in length, as stated in "Standings and Advancement" and "Playing Rules".

2001.4 Standings and Advancement

In Semifinals (if applicable) and in Championship matches

2001.4.1 Matches are played to a win/loss result (no ties). If a match ends in regulation tied, two overtime periods will be played in their entirety. If the match is tied at the end of the overtimes, teams will go directly to FIFA Kicks from the Mark to determine the winner of the match.

In pool play, standings are based upon the number of points earned

2001.4.2 Win = 3 points; Loss = 0 points; Tie = 1 point

2001.4.3 If a match ends in regulation tied, overtime is not played and the result is recorded as a tie.

Advancement for a division of four teams (one group of four)

2001.4.4 The top two point-getters in the group advance to a Final.

2001.4.5 Group winner is the home team.

Advancement for divisions with six teams (two groups of three)

2001.4.6 The top two point-getters from among all six teams advance to a Final.

2001.4.7 The top point-getter is the home team.

Advancement for divisions with eight teams (two groups of four)

2001.4.8 The top point-getter in each group advances to a Final.

2001.4.9 Group A winner is the home team.

Advancement for divisions with 12 teams (three groups of four)

2001.4.10 The top point-getter within each group advances to the semifinals, along with a "Wildcard". The Wildcard team is the team with the highest point total from among the remaining teams.

2001.4.11 Semifinal pairings are: Group A winner vs. Wildcard; Group B winner vs. Group C winner. If the Wildcard team comes from Group A, then the semifinal match-ups are Group A winner vs. Group C winner; Group B winner vs. Wildcard.

2001.4.12 Winners of each semifinal advance to the Final.

2001.5 Tiebreaker Criteria and Procedures

If two or more teams are tied in pool play standings, the following sequence will be followed until a team is eliminated. Once a team has been eliminated, the remaining teams will then restart the sequence at the second criteria.

2001.5.1 Criteria, in order:

- 1) Winner of head-to-head competition (this criteria is not used if more than two teams are tied)
- 2) Winner of most games in team's respective pool
- 3) Goal differential (goals scored minus goals allowed), with a maximum differential of four goals per game
- 4) Most goals scored
- 5) Fewest goals allowed
- 6) FIFA Kicks From the Mark

2001.5.2 Criteria for a bracket of six (two groups of three), in order:

- 1) Goal differential (goals scored minus goals allowed), with a maximum differential of four goals per game
- 2) Most goals scored
- 3) Fewest goals allowed
- 4) FIFA Kicks from the Mark

If three teams remain tied after going through the tiebreakers, thus requiring Kicks From the Mark, there will be a draw by the Tournament Director to determine which two teams kick first.

2001.5.3 The first team drawn will receive a bye

2001.5.4 The second team drawn will be the home team and will kick against the remaining team in the first contest of Kicks From the Mark.

2001.5.5 The winner of the first contest will then compete against the bye team in Kicks From the Mark to determine the team that will advance. The home team will be the bye team.

If four teams remain tied after going through the tiebreakers, thus requiring Kicks From the Mark, there will be a draw by the Tournament Director to determine which teams kick against each other.

2001.5.6 The first team drawn will compete against the second team drawn in Kicks From the Mark. The first team drawn will be the home team.

2001.5.7 The third team drawn will compete against the fourth team drawn in Kicks From the Mark. The third team drawn will be the home team.

2001.5.8 The winners of each of the first two contests will then compete in Kicks From the Mark to determine the team that will advance. The home team will be the winner of the first drawn vs. second drawn contest.

2001.6 Scheduling

The competition schedule shall be completed between the team entry deadline and the Draw. Teams must plan to be available for matches at any time on the scheduled competition dates. In no case will matches be rescheduled off established play dates unless inclement weather forces changes. The Tournament Director will not entertain date or schedule changes.

2001.7 The Draw

The "Draw" is held on a date in advance of the competition and is open for any team representative to attend. Its purpose is to determine the bracket positions of each team. There is no seeding in the Iowa Director's Cup, so all teams are placed into the Draw.

Group Placement Draw

2001.7.1 The double-blind group placement draw determines 1) group position and 2) the team that will fill that group position.

3001 PLAYING RULES

3001.1 Laws of the Game

The playing rules for the Iowa Director's Cup shall conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game except where noted in the following.

3001.2 Duration of Matches, Overtimes

Age Group	Game Length	Overtime	Ball Size	Circumference	Weight
Under 14	Two 35' halves	Two 15' periods	5	27-28"	14-16 oz.
Under 13	Two 35' halves	Two 10' periods	5	27-28"	14-16 oz.

3001.3 Substitutions

Unlimited substitution is allowed for U13 and U14 teams. Substitutions can be made at any stoppage of play at the discretion of the referee.

3001.4 Player and Team Equipment

Each player of a team is required to wear like uniforms within a team (jerseys, shorts, socks). Each player will have a number on the player's jersey and the number will be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team. Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from other players and game officials. The referees will be the final authority of uniform colors.

Each team should be prepared to provide an alternate color jersey. It is the responsibility of the home team to change to a different color uniform if necessary. The home team is the team listed first on the match schedule.

Players occupying the Bench Areas as substitutes, as players who have been substituted for, or as "game inactive" players shall wear bibs that distinguish them from on-field teammates and opposing players. A substitute standing at the halfway line waiting to enter the match shall hand his/her bib to the player he/she is substituting for as his/her teammate exits the field.

Wearing age- and size-appropriate guards will be enforced by referees, and players will start the match with shirts tucked in and socks pulled up. Casts are allowed if properly padded, keeping in mind the safety not only of the player wearing the cast, but of the other players. Referees shall be the final authority of properly-sized guards and properly-padded casts.

3001.5 Official Game Rosters

Prior to each match, coaches must submit a *photocopy* of their team's completed Official Game Roster (see 1002.9.4) form to the referee crew. It will remain with the fourth official and will be filed with Tournament Officials immediately following each match.

3001.6 Credentials

The players and coaches listed on the Iowa Soccer Association-Certified Roster, the Official Game Roster and, if applicable, the Guest Player Form, must correspond. Players and coaches must carry a current and valid US Youth Soccer player or coach pass that corresponds with the team that is playing; the exception is the Guest Player, who must carry a current and valid card from his/her primary team. The passes must have a securely-affixed current photograph, must be signed in cursive and must be laminated (no exceptions; open-ended "pouches" are not considered laminated).

If all eligibility and entry requirements have been met, the photo side of the passes will also include an official Director's Cup sticker. These player and coach passes must be presented to and checked by the referee crew prior to each match. No player pass, no play. No coach pass, no coaching.

3001.7 Bench Personnel

A team may have a maximum of four coaches on the team bench during a match and each shall go through the pregame check-in procedures conducted by the referee crew. Only those coaches listed on the Certified Team Roster and the Official Game Roster for that team, who have properly approved credentials for that team, are allowed on the team bench. At no time is it allowable for a coach not associated, rostered or credentialed with a team playing to be on the team bench or sideline, even if the coach is from the same club as the team that is playing. This rule will be strictly enforced by game and tournament officials.

Coach arriving to a match already in progress

3001.7.1 Properly rostered and credentialed coaches who arrive at their team's match after it is already in progress must report immediately, with their coaching pass for that team, to the fourth official, who will compare the pass to the Official Game Roster. If the coach is not on the Official Game Roster, or if the coaching pass is not credentialed for that team, the coach is not allowed on the team bench or sideline during the match, including halftime. This rule will be strictly enforced by game and tournament officials.

3001.8 Send-Offs, Ejections, Red Cards

Players

3001.8.1 Players who are sent off/ejected must immediately leave the field and the match. The player may not remain at the match, must leave it in a timely manner, and must be out of sight and out of sound of the match. *It is recommended that an adult associated with the team accompany the player out of sight and sound of the match.*

3001.8.2 A team may not substitute for a player who is sent off, and the team will play down a player for the remainder of that match.

3001.8.3 Players who are sent off/ejected will not be allowed to participate in the next immediately following Iowa Director's Cup match played by the player's team. If the send-off/ejection occurs during the last match of the Iowa Director's Cup competition, the player will not be allowed to participate in his/her first match of the next Iowa Director's Cup.

3001.8.4 If the player is sent off/ejected during the last match of the Iowa Director's Cup competition, and the player's team advances to a Regional competition, the player will not be allowed to participate in the next immediately scheduled Regional game played by the player's team.

3001.8.5 The fourth official will keep the player's pass and turn it in to Tournament Officials immediately following the conclusion of the match. Tournament Officials will ensure the return of the player's pass to a Team Official.

3001.8.6 At the discretion of the Iowa Soccer Association Tournament Director, and in consultation with the Iowa State Youth Referee Administrator, the player's suspension may be increased and a player may receive a more than one game suspension. Suspensions may be extended into the regional level of the competition.

Coaches and Other Team Officials

3001.8.7 Coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules contained herein, including cautions, send-offs/ejections, and standard suspensions.

3001.8.8 Coaches and other team officials who are sent off/ejected must immediately leave the field and the match. The coach may not remain at the match, must leave it in a timely manner, must be out of sight and out of sound of the match, and may not have contact with the team or other coaches during the remainder of the match. [NOTE: If the coach and/or other team official is properly credentialed to a team that has a match being played concurrently on a field whose bench sideline is back-to-back with the bench

sideline for the match from which he/she was ejected, the out of sight and sound standard will be applied, which results in not being allowed on that team's bench either.]

3001.8.9 Coaches or team officials who are sent off/ejected will not be allowed to participate in or attend the next immediately following Iowa Director's Cup match played by the team that was being coached when the send-off/ejection occurred. If the send-off/ejection occurred during the last match of the Iowa Director's Cup competition, the coach or team official will not be allowed to participate in or attend his/her first match of the next Iowa Director's Cup for that team.

3001.8.10 If the coach is sent off/ejected during the last match of the Iowa Director's Cup competition, and the coach's team advances to the Regional competition, the coach will not be allowed to participate in the next immediately scheduled Regional game played by that team.

3001.8.11 The fourth official will keep the coach's or team official's pass and turn it in to Tournament Officials immediately following the conclusion of the match. Tournament Officials will ensure the return of the pass to a Team Official.

3001.8.12 At the discretion of the Iowa Soccer Association Tournament Director, and in consultation with the Iowa State Youth Referee Administrator, the suspension may be increased and may result in the ineligibility of the team.

Associated with the Team

3001.8.13 Teams and coaches shall take one side of the field and parents/spectators will be on the opposite side of the field. Any other individuals who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team such as relatives and spectators, shall also be subject to the jurisdiction and authority of the Iowa Soccer Association, tournament and game officials. Any coach or team official will be responsible for the actions of any individual(s) at any match that in the opinion of the officials is a supporter of that team.

3001.8.14 Coaches or team officials who are sent off/ejected for the action(s) of any such individual(s) at a match are subject to the same send-off/ejection penalties as detailed in these rules, sections 3001.8.7 through 3001.8.12.

3001.8.15 At the discretion of the Iowa Soccer Association Tournament Director, and in consultation with the Iowa State Youth Referee Administrator, the suspension may be increased and may result in the ineligibility of the team.

3002 OFFICIAL GAMES

3002.1 Official Games

Games played short time due to any cause may be, at the discretion of the Iowa Soccer Association Tournament Director, and in consultation with the Iowa State Youth Referee Administrator, restarted or replayed in their entirety. Should one of the teams be adjudged at fault, it shall be at the discretion of the Iowa Soccer Association Tournament Director, and in consultation with the Iowa State Youth Referee Administrator, as to whether the game will be restarted, replayed in its entirety, or that a forfeit will be declared.

3002.2 Grace Period

A minimum of seven players constitutes a team; a team with seven players present must start the game at the scheduled time. If seven players are not available, a 10-minute grace period will be extended beyond the scheduled kick-off time. If at the end of the 10-minute grace period the team does not have seven players, the referee will suspend the game and report it as a forfeit to Tournament Officials. Any team that forfeits a game will not advance any further in the tournament.

3002.3 Referees

A certified referee assignor will be used to assign referee crews to Director's Cup matches. Any referee appointed to officiate any game shall be neither a past or present member of either competing team, nor shall they have any personal relationship with either team involved in the match.

Immediately following the match, the Referee must complete the Official Referee Match Report Form, which will include the names and passes of anyone sent off/ejected, and return the Form to the Tournament Director along with each team's Official Game Roster.

4001 BREACH OF RULES, PROTESTS

4001.1 Investigation

It is the responsibility of the Iowa Soccer Association Tournament Director to investigate a properly protested violation at the Iowa Director's Cup immediately following its receipt. Failure of parties involved to cooperate with such investigation shall result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension.

4001.2 Protests

All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors, to interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest whatsoever, shall be referred to the Iowa Soccer Association Tournament Director. Decisions will be made by the Tournament Director and shall be binding on both teams. Decisions of the Tournament Director may be appealed to the Iowa Soccer Association Appeals Committee within one hour of the Tournament Director's announcement of the decision.

The Tournament Director may appoint an onsite tournament protest advisory committee. The advisory committee shall consist of not fewer than three and not more than five persons, at least one of whom shall be a coach and one a player.

4001.2.1 To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest

- Must be verbally lodged by a team official listed on the team roster involved in the game with the referee and with the opposing coach at the game site before entering the field of play or before leaving the game site at the conclusion of the match.
- The Tournament Director must be verbally notified of the intent to lodge a protest within 30 minutes of the end of the match or decision being protested.
- The protest must be filed with the Iowa Soccer Tournament Director within two hours after the completion of the game being protested and include:
 - A fee in the amount of \$100.00
 - Five (5) written copies of the protest, which must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged
 - Five (5) written copies of any information to be presented by witnesses.

4001.2.2 If relating to grounds, goal posts, bars, or other appurtenances of the game, a protest 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 Director, after having received a properly lodged protest, shall immediately upon receipt of such protest notify the team against which such 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.

A plea of ignorance to all rules and regulations governing this competition is not sufficient grounds for appeals or protests. Violators may expect appropriate action by the Iowa Soccer Association.

A lawyer shall not represent a team at the hearing of a charge of protest unless he or she is a bona fide member of one of the teams concerned.

5001 WEATHER

5001.1 Weather

The Tournament Director will make the decision to clear the field with the safety of all participants – players, fans, referees, tournament officials -- as the primary concern. Three long horn blasts, followed by referees blowing their whistles to stop play, will indicate play has been suspended. When matches are stopped due to weather, and the Tournament Director has

indicated such with the three long horn blasts, participants are expected to seek shelter immediately inside their vehicles and not leave the premises unless and/or until directed to do so by the Tournament Director. Multiple short horn blasts will indicate that play will resume and participants should return to the field at that time.

If the delay is lengthy and significantly affects the remainder of the day's schedule, any decisions made regarding the schedule will be relayed by the Tournament Director to team managers, who will be responsible for getting that information to their team coaches and team members. Tournament officials ask for and appreciate your patience in weather situations.