

USYS NEVADA CHAMPIONSHIPS

PART I - GENERAL

The Nevada Championships is the state-level of the National Championship Series. The Nevada Championships also serve as the State Cup for Nevada. The USYS National Championships Policy, with the following additions, governs the USYS Nevada Championships.

The USYS National Championships Policy applies only to age groups U14 and above. USYSNV will apply USYS National Championships Policy to all age groups in the USYS Nevada Championships.

TITLES

The revolving Nevada State Cup trophies will be named as follows:

U12 Boys:	Blake's Holiday Marine Cup
U12 Girls:	Ellen Gutwald Memorial Cup
U13 Girls:	Nicole McMeans Cup
U14 Girls:	Caesars Palace Cup
U16 Girls:	Sahara Hotel Cup
U17 Girls:	Pat Angelo Memorial Cup

AWARDS AND TROPHIES

The champion team in each age/gender group of the USYS Nevada Championships shall be presented with a trophy at the awards ceremony for its retention. The champion team will also be presented with the revolving Nevada State Cup for photography purposes. The champion team is to return the revolving Nevada State Cup to the USYS Nevada Championship Committee before leaving the game venue.

Players and coaches on the champion and finalist teams will be presented with champion and finalist medals, respectively. Players and coaches on the third place team will be presented with medals.

The name of the champion team will be engraved on the permanent USYS Nevada Championships wall plaques in the USYSNV office.

ADMINISTRATION

The entire administration of the competition is vested in the USYS Nevada Championships Committee, which will consist of the USYSNV First Vice-president and members as nominated by the USYSNV BOD.

The USYS Nevada Championships Committee will decide any matters not provided for in this policy, and its decisions are final.

The USYS Nevada Championships Committee is to set the following for the competition before January 1st of the competition year, and to publish such on the State web site and in the Goal magazine:

- The date for team registration to begin.
- The date for team registration to close.
- The date for team rosters to be frozen.
- The entry fee.
- The dates and venue for the competition.

Registration Procedure.

Teams are to register for the USYS Nevada Championships on-line via the USYSNV web site. Teams must complete the on-line registration form and make payment before the registration close date for them to be accepted.

Upon receipt of a team registration, the State Registrar is to print the team's official roster from the on-line registration system. The roster is to be annotated with any original birth certificate requirements and mailed to the team Head Coach along with confirmation of the team's registration. There will be no refunds once a team registration has been confirmed by the issuing of the roster.

The team Head Coach is to complete any transfer paperwork and provide original birth certificate copies to the State Registrar by the roster freeze date. In extenuating circumstances, a Head Coach may obtain a dispensation from the USYS Nevada Championships Committee for late submission of an original birth certificate. Typical extenuating circumstances are for a lost birth certificate for which an application for a replacement was made in reasonable time, but for which the replacement birth certificate has not been received. The Head Coach must complete the birth certificate dispensation form available on the State web site and submit it to the USYS Nevada Championships Committee and have received a notification of dispensation before the roster freeze date. For players that have an original birth certificate dispensation agreed by the USYS Nevada Championships Committee, the original birth certificate must be presented to the committee before the kick-off of the subject player's first game in the USYS Nevada Championships, or the subject player will be ineligible for the whole of the National Championship Series.

On the roster freeze date, the State Registrar is to print each team's roster from the on-line registration system, deleting any players from the printed roster for whom an original birth certificate has not been provided without dispensation. These are the teams' final USYS Nevada Championship rosters. The rosters are to be mailed to the respective Head Coaches and copies passed to the USYS Nevada Championships Committee.

FINANCES

The Nevada Championships are to be financially self-sufficient.

PART II – ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION

LEVEL OF COMPETITION

The USYS Nevada Championships will be contested for boys and girls in the age groups U11 to U19.

TEAMS, PLAYERS AND COACHES

A team is only eligible for the USYS Nevada Championships if it has had no more than five (5) transfers on to the team during the seasonal year.

A team is only eligible for the USYS Nevada Championships if it did not participate in the USYSNV America Cup during the seasonal year.

A team participating in the USYS Nevada Championships may only be coached during the competition by coaches registered with USYSNV as part of that team. The registered head coach of each team participating in the USYS Nevada Championships must have a minimum state-level 'D' coaching license. Any other registered team coach that coaches the team during the USYS Nevada Championships in the absence of the head coach must have a minimum state-level 'E' coaching license. The head coach of the team may only be absent for a legitimate reason, such as coaching a second team at the same time.

Out-of State Players.

A player that is resident outside of Nevada may participate in the Nevada Championships if the player meets the following conditions:

- Resides in an area that is zoned for a high school that participates in the Nevada Intercollegiate Athletics Association.
- Is registered to a team that participates in a competitive league that is affiliated to USYSNV.
- Has the permission of their home state USYS association to participate in the Nevada Championships.

TEAM AND PLAYER BREACHES OF RULES

If a player receives a red card, or if a coach is sent-off, the referee shall deliver the player/coach pass along with his/her game report to the State Youth Referee Administrator (SYRA). The player/coach in question shall be ineligible to continue play in the USYS Nevada Championships until the player/coach pass is returned to the subject player/coach.

All USYS Nevada Championships suspensions must be served during the USYS National Championship Series. If the individual does not complete their suspension in the current Championship series, the suspension shall carry over to the next USYS National Championship Series in which he/she participates.

Any team official that is coaching more than one team in the USYS National Championship Series, and is suspended on one team, is automatically suspended from any other team or teams until the suspension has been served with the original team. A team official that is suspended in the last game for a team that is eliminated from the competition, and who is coaching more than one team in the USYS National Championship Series, is to serve the suspension during the next game for one of his/her other teams in the current Championship series.

When a player is given a red card, minimum game suspensions will occur as follows, but may be increased at the discretion of the USYS Nevada Championships Committee:

- A. Serious Foul Play:** One (1) game.
- B. Foul and Abusive Language:** One (1) game.
- C. Foul and Abusive Language Directed at a Game or Championship Official:** Two (2) games.
- D. Second Cautionable Offense:** One (1) game.
- E. Violent Conduct:** Two (2) games.

Ejected and Suspended Coaches: A coach that is sent-off during a game must leave the facility at which the game is being played immediately. A suspended coach cannot have contact of any kind or by any means with the team, players, or team officials from thirty (30) minutes before kick-off until the conclusion of the game. If the coach is sent-off or is suspended he/she must not indulge in unacceptable conduct. The USYS Nevada Championships Committee has the authority to suspend a coach for more than the statutory minimum for infringing these rules.

To prepare teams for the Regional and National Championships, **THERE SHALL BE MINIMAL COACHING FROM THE SIDELINES.** This ruling will be enforced.

Teams failing to show at a scheduled game time will be fined up to \$500.00 and will be called before the USYSNV Disciplinary Committee. If a team releases, or does not show up at registration, the USYS Nevada Championships Committee has the option to reseed teams.

If a team forfeits at game time, it shall be fined up to \$500.00 and will be called before the USYSNV Disciplinary Committee.

The only people allowed to discuss any matters pertaining to the USYS Nevada Championships and their team will be registered team officials and the USYS Nevada Championships Committee.

PROTESTS AND APPEALS

All questions, disputes, protests and appeals relating to the USYS Nevada Championships are to be referred to the USYS Nevada Championships Committee. To be eligible for consideration, all such must meet the following:

- A. Be lodged verbally with the referee and with the opposing coach before leaving the game field, except as noted in subparagraph C.
- B. Be filed with the USYS Nevada Championships Committee within two (2) hours of the end of the scheduled game, as follows:
 - a. Five (5) written copies of the protest or appeal, to include full particulars of the grounds for the protest or appeal.
 - b. Five (5) written copies of any information presented by witnesses.
 - c. A \$100.00 fee.
- C. Any protest relating to the field, goals, 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.
- D. The Chairman of the USYS Nevada Championship Committee is, immediately on receipt of a protest, to notify the team against which the protest is made, if applicable. The Chairman is to send a copy of the protest and all particulars to that team, which will then have the right to defend its case.
- E. A lawyer may not represent a team at the hearing of a charge of protest unless he/she is a bona fide member of one of the teams concerned.
- F. A plea of ignorance of the National Championships Series Policy or USYS Nevada Championships rules is not sufficient grounds for protest or appeal.

Disciplinary decisions made by the USYSNV Nevada Championships Committee concerning the USYS Nevada Championships shall be binding.

PASSES AND ROSTERS

The game officials must review and verify all team official and player passes, game roster forms, and the game card prior to the start of each game.

PLAYING RULES

The length of games, overtime play periods, and ball size for each age group shall be as follows:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Game Length</u>	<u>Overtime Play</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>
U11 and U12	Two 30' Halves	Two 10' periods	4
U13 and U14	Two 35' Halves	Two 10' periods	5
U15 to U16	Two 40' Halves	Two 15' periods	5
U17 to U19	Two 45' Halves	Two 15' periods	5

The following points system will be used to determine positions in group play in all rounds:

- A. Win (including forfeit) 3 points
- B. Tie 1 point
- C. Loss 0 points

If necessary, the following tie-breaking rules will be used to determine the order of team advancement. If more than two (2) teams are tied the tie-breaker criteria are applied in the order below, to either advance or eliminate one team. Criterion A is to be omitted if the teams did not play in the same group. The remaining teams will then be compared, beginning at the top of the list, to determine the final placement/winner.

- A. Head to head if all tied teams have played each other.
- B. Goal differential with a maximum of four (4) goals per game.
- C. Fewest goals allowed.
- D. Fewest disciplinary points.
- E. Kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with FIFA rules.

Disciplinary points will be recorded during the Championships to determine the fourth tiebreaker category. One (1) disciplinary point will be awarded for each yellow card and two (2) disciplinary points for each red card, including coach discipline. The team with the lowest number of disciplinary points will win the tiebreaker. Disciplinary points will only be applied as a tiebreaker where the teams concerned have played the same number of games.

In situations where two games are played with aggregate scoring, in the event of an aggregate score tie, the team scoring the most goals away from home will be the winner. Should aggregate score and the number of away goals be tied, the teams will play overtime with the final aggregate score determining the winner; away goals count to no additional benefit in overtime. If the aggregate scores are tied at the end of overtime, the winner is to be determined by kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with FIFA rules.

Unlimited substitutions are allowed. Teams may only substitute with the referee's permission on their own throw-in, at a goal kick for either team, prior to the restart of play after a goal has been scored, or at half time. At the referee's discretion, an injured player may be substituted if the game has been stopped because of an injury to that player.

GAME OFFICIALS

It is the responsibility of the SYRA to assign officials for each game. Should an assigned game official fail to appear for a game, the matter is to be reported to the SYRA for resolution.

FORMAT

The USYS Nevada Championships will consist of three rounds. A limited first round will be played on a round-robin basis between lower seeded teams to reduce the teams in that age/gender group to a lesser number for the second round. A second round played on a regional round-robin basis will be used to reduce the pool in each age/gender group to four (4) teams for the final round. For age/gender groups in the final round held in southern Nevada, there will be one (1) team from northern Nevada and three (3) teams from southern Nevada. For age/gender groups in the final round held in northern Nevada, there will be two (2) teams from both northern and southern Nevada. Should either district be unable to field their requisite number of teams in the final round, their unused places will be given to the other district to keep the final round at four (4) teams.

The final round for the U13 and U16 boys and girls will be held in northern Nevada. The final round for all other age/gender groups will be held in southern Nevada.

The northern and southern final rounds will take place on separate weekends. The final round will consist of semi-final games on the Saturday, and final and third/fourth place games on the Sunday.

Teams will be scheduled to play no more than one (1) game per day, and to play on no more than two consecutive days, unless weather conditions or field problems cause game cancellations.

The USYS Nevada Championships Committee has the right to change the distribution of age/gender groups in extenuating circumstances.

SEEDING

Prior to the first round, southern Nevada teams will be seeded at a meeting of the coaches in each age/gender group and the State Director of Coaching. In northern Nevada, seeding should not be necessary as the team numbers will be limited and the teams will go directly to the second round and play on a round-robin basis. Should the number of teams participating in an age/gender group in northern Nevada be six (6) or greater, then seeding is to be conducted in the same manner as in southern Nevada.

Teams participating in the first round will be reseeded based on their position at the end of the first round.

In the second round, where there are two groups of teams, the group winners will be seeded #1 and #2 in line with their previous seeding. The second placed team winning through will be seeded #3. Where there are three groups, the group winners will be seeded #1, #2 and #3 in line with their previous seeding.

As a general rule for group play, where the teams advancing did not play each other, the previous seeding is retained. Where the teams advancing played each other, their group placement dictates their seeding.

FIRST/SECOND ROUND BRACKETING

Thirteen (13) and above brackets: The number of teams in the first round will be the total number of teams in the bracket minus ten (10). The lowest seeded teams will participate in the first round and will play each other once, with the teams in the top two (2) group places advancing to the second round. For the second round see the twelve (12)-team bracket.

Twelve (12)-team bracket: Three (3) groups of four (4) teams. Teams are placed in groups by seeding as follows: 1, 6, 7, 12; 2, 5, 8, 11; 3, 4, 9, 10. Each team will play the other teams in their group once. Where one (1) or two (2) teams are required to advance to the final round, the group winners will play each other once with advancement by group placement. Where three (3) teams are required to advance to the final round, the group winners advance. Should either district be unable to provide one or more of its quota of teams, the unused place(s) will be allocated to the other district based on points gained in the second round games. Should two or more teams tie on points, the tie breaking policy will apply.

Eleven (11) and ten (10)-team brackets: The number of teams in the first round will be the total number of teams in the bracket minus seven (7). The lowest seeded teams will participate in the first round and will play each other once, with the teams in the top two (2) group places advancing to the second round. For the second round see the nine (9)-team bracket.

Nine (9)-team bracket: Three (3) groups of three (3) teams. Teams are placed in groups by seeding as follows: 1, 6, 9; 2, 5, 8; 3, 4, 7. Each team will play the other teams in their group once. Where one (1) or two (2) teams are required to advance to the final round, the group winners will play each other once with advancement by group placement. Where three (3) teams are required to advance to the final round, the group winners advance. Should either district be unable to provide one or more of its quota of teams, the unused place(s) will be allocated to the other district based on points gained in the second round games. Should two or more teams tie on points, the tie breaking policy will apply.

Eight (8)-team bracket: Two (2) groups of four (4) teams. Teams are placed in groups by seeding as follows: 1, 4, 5, 8; 2, 3, 6, 7. Each team will play the other teams in their group once. Where one (1) team is required to advance to the final round, the group winners will play a single elimination game. Where two (2) teams are required to advance to the final round, the group winners advance. Where three (3) teams are required to advance to the final round, the group winners advance and the second placed teams will play a single elimination game for the third place. Should either district be unable to provide one or more of its quota of teams, the unused place(s) will be allocated to the other district based on points gained in the second round games. Should two or more teams tie on points, the tie breaking policy will apply.

Seven (7)-team bracket: The three (3) lowest seeded teams will participate in the first round and will play each other once, with the teams in the top two (2) group places advancing to the second round. For the second round see the six (6)-team bracket.

Six (6)-team bracket: Two (2) groups of three (3) teams. Teams are placed in groups by seeding as follows: 1, 4, 6; 2, 3, 5. Each team will play the other teams in their group once. Where one (1) team is required to advance to the final round, the group winners will play a single elimination game. Where two (2) teams are required to advance to the final round, the group winners advance. Where three (3) teams are required to advance to the final round, the group winners advance and the second placed teams will play a single elimination game for the third place. Should either district be unable to provide one or more of its quota of teams, the unused place(s) will be allocated to the other district based on points gained in the second round games. Should two or more teams tie on points, the tie breaking policy will apply.

Five (5) and four (4)-team brackets: One (1) group of five (5) or four (4) teams. Each team will play the other teams once. Advancement to the final round will be by group placement. Should either district be unable to provide one or more of its quota of teams, the unused place(s) will be allocated to the other district based on points gained in the second round games. Should two or more teams tie on points, the tie breaking policy will apply.

Three (3)-team bracket: Where three (3) teams are required to advance to the final round, all teams in the bracket advance without playing any games. Where one (1) or two (2) teams are required to advance to the final round, each team will play the other teams once, and advancement to the final round will be by group placement. Should either district be unable to provide one or more of its quota of teams, the unused place(s) will be allocated to the other district based on points gained in the second round games. Should two or more teams tie on points, the tie breaking policy will apply.

Two (2)-team bracket: Where two (2) teams are required to advance to the final round, all teams in the bracket advance without playing any games. Where one (1) team is required to advance to the final round, the teams will play two games home and away with the winner determined by aggregate score (see above). Should either district be unable to provide one or more of its quota of teams, the unused place(s) will be allocated to the other district based on points gained in the second round games. Should two or more teams tie on points, the tie breaking policy will apply.

One (1)-team bracket: The team qualifies for the final round.

FINAL ROUND BRACKETING

Four (4)-team bracket (three (3) southern, one (1) northern): Semi-finals: #S1 v #S3; #N1 v #S2. The winners of the semi-finals will advance to the final, with the winner of the first semi-final being the home team. The losing semi-finalists will advance to the third/fourth place game, with the winner of the second semi-final being the home team. Should teams be tied at the end of regulation time, overtime will be played, followed by kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with FIFA rules, if required.

Four (4)-team bracket (two (2) teams from each district): Semi-finals: #S1 v #N2; #N1 v #S2. The winners of the semi-finals will advance to the final, with the winner of the second semi-final being the home team. The losing semi-finalists will advance to the third/fourth place game, with the winner of the first semi-final being the home team. Should teams be tied at the end of regulation time, overtime will be played, followed by kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with FIFA rules, if required.

Three (3)-team bracket: Each team will play the other teams once on the Friday/Saturday. Should two or more teams tie on points in the bracket, the tie breaking policy will apply. Top two teams play the final on the Sunday. Should the teams in the final be tied at the end of regulation time, overtime will be played, followed by kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with FIFA rules, if required. Third team will be awarded third place.

Two (2)-team bracket: Teams will play two games home and away with the winner determined by aggregate score (see above).

One (1)-team bracket: Team awarded championship.