

POLICY AMENDMENTS PASSED BY USSF BOARD OF DIRECTORS SINCE LAST NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

The following policy amendments were passed at the April 7, 2018 Board meeting.

Policy 102(4)-1—Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup

Section 201. Categories of competition

(a) Teams shall qualify for the Open Cup through one of the following divisions of competition: (1) Division I Outdoor Professional League; (2) Division II Outdoor Professional League; (3) Division III Outdoor Professional League; and (4) Open Division. All teams registered and competing in a Division I, Division II or Division III Outdoor Professional League (excluding those teams based outside the United States and teams otherwise ineligible under this Policy) shall be required to enter the Open Cup competition annually. A youth amateur team applying to compete shall compete through the Open Division.

Section 204. Entering the Cup

(a) To compete in the Open Cup, a team must apply each year, on a form provided by the Federation, and pay an entry fee with the application for each year the team enters the competition. The entry fee shall be paid by cashier's check or money order made payable to "USSF". The application and entry fee must be submitted to the Federation by the deadline established by the Open Cup Committee. The Committee may establish different entry deadlines for different categories of competition. The Committee may also establish a requirement for teams entering the competition to submit a performance bond in a form and at levels as the Committee may deem appropriate.

Section 306. Protests and General Discipline

(a) A protest related to an Open Cup match must be filed in writing with the Open Cup Commissioner and delivered via hand-delivery, courier, certified mail, facsimile or electronic mail not later than 54:00 p.m., CT, the day after the match ~~(faxed to 312-808-9535)~~. A cashier's check or money order for \$500 made payable to "USSF" must be received by the second business day after the match. The Commissioner shall immediately refer the protest to the Adjudication and Discipline Panel for decision.

The following policy amendments were passed at the August 16, 2018 Board meeting.

Policy 102(4)-1—Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup

Section 102. Open Cup Committee

- (a) The President shall appoint annually, subject to approval of the National Board of Directors, an Open Cup Committee. The President shall designate one of the members as ~~Chairman~~Chairperson of the Committee.

Section 104. Adjudication and Discipline Panel

- (a) The Open Cup shall have an Adjudication and Discipline Panel. The ~~Chairman~~Chairperson of the Open Cup Committee shall appoint the members of the Panel, to be composed of one representative from the Adult Council and one representative from each outdoor league in the Professional Council participating in the Open Cup during the competition year of appointment and ~~an athlete at least one Athlete~~ not ~~otherwise~~ competing in ~~the that year's~~ Open Cup during the competition year of appointment. The ~~Chairman~~Chairperson of the Open Cup Committee shall be the ~~Chairman~~Chairperson of the Panel but shall not vote when serving as ~~Chairman~~Chairperson of the Panel.

Section 201. Categories of competition

- (a) Teams shall qualify for the Open Cup through one of the following divisions of competition: (1) Division I Outdoor Professional League; (2) Division II Outdoor Professional League; (3) Division III Outdoor Professional League; and (4) Open Division. All teams registered and competing in a Division I, Division II or Division III Outdoor Professional League (excluding those teams based outside the United States) shall be required to enter the Open Cup competition in each year in which they compete in an Outdoor Professional League annually. A youth amateur team applying to compete shall compete through the Open Division.

Section 203. Player eligibility

- (a) Teams entering the Open Cup shall use their official league roster as their Open Cup roster. Except as specified in this Policy or except as the result of discipline matters imposed by U.S. Soccer, all players on an official roster will be eligible for Open Cup competition, regardless of any status (e.g., injured reserve) each player may have with regard to league competition. Players on loan from another team or league may not be included on an Open Cup roster, with the exception of the following: 1) Loaned players originating from teams competing in leagues that are not active participants in the Open Cup Tournament or qualifying process (professional indoor leagues, foreign clubs, etc.); 2) players on loan from other US clubs for a period of greater than 90 days; or 3) players from teams who have been deemed ineligible for the current Open Cup competition due to the provisions of Section 202(d) and are loaned to the team exercising roster control

pursuant to Section 202(d). A team may list up to 18 players on its game day roster. Professional teams may have no more than 5 foreign players listed. Amateur teams are not restricted as to the number of foreign players they may list. Foreign players shall be those players who are not protected individuals as defined in 8 U.S.C. § 1324b. (e.g., U.S. Citizens, lawful permanent residents, asylees and refugees) Any conflicting Outdoor Professional League roster rules shall not apply to the number of foreign players allowed to compete in the Open Cup.

Section 306. Protests and General Discipline

(a) A protest related to an Open Cup match must be filed in writing with the Open Cup Commissioner not later than 5:00 p.m., CT, the day after the match (faxed to 312-808-9535). A cashier's check or money order or wire transfer for \$500 made payable to "USSF" must be received by 4:00 p.m. CT the second business day after the match. The Commissioner shall immediately refer the protest to the Adjudication and Discipline Panel for decision.

(b) Anyone may file a complaint with the Panel about an action or inaction of an Open Cup team, individual, or group or organization participating in the Open Cup competition. The Panel shall determine if the conduct complained of is or would be contrary to the good of the game. The Panel shall take action it considers appropriate in regard to anyone involved in the complaint as provided by subsection (c) of this section.

(c) Except for overturning match results or mandating a replay of the match, the Panel may take any action it considers appropriate, including suspension or fine, or both, for any matter considered by it under this policy. The Panel may only consider mandating a replay of a game or advancing a team that lost if a protest has been filed. ~~The Panel may also consider dismissing a team advancing to the next round of competition and awarding a victory via forfeit to the dismissed team's scheduled opponent if either a protest or a complaint has been filed.~~ The Panel may exercise discretion in cases where a team submits a protest to the Commissioner after the deadline has expired in the event that circumstances regarding the availability of information after the deadline warrant this discretion.

(d) A decision of the Panel under this policy is final and binding unless appealed to the Open Cup Committee. An appeal of a decision of the Panel must be filed in writing with the Open Cup Commissioner not later than ~~54~~4:00 p.m., CT, of the day after receiving the decision of the Panel, accompanied by a cashier's check, ~~or~~ money order or wire transfer of \$500 made payable to "USSF". The record on appeal is limited to the record before the Panel. A decision of the Committee about the appeal is final and binding.

(e) A party subject to a decision of the Panel or the Committee under this policy may not resort to the courts or other means for relief or restitution from the Federation. As a condition to entering or otherwise participating in the Open Cup, teams, players, and other individuals agree not to seek resort to the courts or other means for relief or restitution from the Federation.

(f) Where the matches are played solely under the auspices of, and delegated to an Organization Member of the Federation, such as in any qualifying matches prior to Round 1 of the Open Cup, the protest or complaint~~grievance~~ shall be referred to the

appropriate Council or Member's Competition Authority and shall be determined according to the Competition Authority's, Bylaws, Rules, Policies and Procedures then in effect.

U.S. Open Cup Stadium Requirements

- **All Open Cup Matches from Round 1 to the Final must guarantee:**
- A playing surface of at least 68 yds by 110 yds Smooth, flat, and level playing surface with natural grass
- Clear and distinct field markings according to FIFA specifications
- Goal nets and corner flags
- Adequate lighting for night play
- Electronic scoreboard in working order that counts up to 45 minutes when possible
- Clear and audible public address system
- Team benches to accommodate 164 personnel per team
- Fourth official's table
- An enclosed stadium for controlled ticket access; adequate tickets sales staff, ushers, security
- Minimum seating capacity that is appropriate for the scheduled match/round
- Press box areas w/ phone and fax capabilities to accommodate at least 20 media members
- Dressing rooms with working showers (either connected to stadium or in an adjacent structure) for teams, with an additional separate dressing area for the match officials
- EMS vehicle on site, or emergency response procedures written and distributed
- Flag of the United States displayed and United States National Anthem played
- Sufficient floodlights for TV broadcasts
- Suitable area to park TV production truck
- The U.S. Open Cup Commissioner shall have the authority to waive or modify the stadium requirements for good cause, or may place additional conditions or requirements for hosting an Open Cup game

The following policy amendment was passed at the October 3, 2018 Board meeting.

**POLICY 401-1—USSF NOMINATION AND CAMPAIGN PROCESS FOR
USSF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT**

Section 1. Eligibility

Candidates for the office of President or Vice President of the Federation must meet the following requirements to be eligible:

(a) Nomination and Support.

- (1) The candidate must be proposed by either (i) an Organization Member or (ii) an Athlete member of the Board of Directors (“Athlete Director”). This proposal will be considered a declaration of support. The candidate also must be supported by declarations of support from at least two (2) additional Organization Members and/or Athlete Directors. A candidate proposal or declaration of support does not commit the Organization Member or Athlete Director to vote for such candidate. The deadline for proposing candidates is 60 days before the annual general meeting at which the National Council will conduct the election.
- (2) An Organization Member’s proposal of a candidate or declaration of support must be in writing, on letterhead of the Organization Member, signed by an officer, director, or senior executive of the Organization Member and submitted directly to the liaison for the Nominating and Governance Committee by the Organization Member. An Athlete Director’s proposal of a candidate or declaration of support must be in writing, signed by the Athlete Director and submitted directly to the liaison for the Nominating and Governance Committee by the Athlete Director.
- (3) An Organization Member or Athlete Director (each a “Declared Supporter”) may not propose or submit a declaration of support for more than one individual for the same position at the same time. Before submitting another candidate proposal or declaration of support for the same position, a Declared Supporter must withdraw, in writing, any previously-submitted candidate proposal or declaration of support. Once the Nominating and Governance Committee has announced the candidature of a candidate in accordance with Section 2(e) below, a Declared Supporter may not withdraw a letter of support/nomination. If a potential candidate publicly declares that the potential candidate declines to seek office prior to the deadline specified in the Federation Bylaws, any declaration of support already submitted for that declining candidate will be deemed withdrawn, and the Declared Supporters for the declining candidate may choose to propose, or submit a declaration of support for, another candidate, provided the Declared Supporter can do so by the deadline noted in Section 1(a)(1), above. If a candidate proposal or declaration of support is received for more than one

candidate from the same Declared Supporter, all declarations from that Declared Supporter will be considered invalid.

(b) Background Check and Conflicts Disclosures.

- (1) the candidate must submit to and pass a background check to be completed by the vendor selected by the Nominating and Governance Committee; and,
- (2) the candidate must complete a conflict of interest disclosure form in compliance with the Federation's Policy Concerning Conflicts of Interest and Business Ethics, which must be submitted to the Nominating and Governance Committee.

Section 2. Submission of Candidatures

- (a) Candidates either directly or through Organization Members must notify the USSF CEO/Secretary General, in writing, of candidature for the office of USSF President or Vice-President no later than sixty (60) days before the National Council Meeting as provided in Bylaw 401. The notification must include an initial conflicts of interest disclosure form required by Section 1(b)(2), above, which disclosure must be supplemented as provided in Section 2(d) below.
- (b) The USSF CEO/Secretary General shall forward all candidatures without any undue delay to the Nominating and Governance Committee for examination and for passing a decision on admission of the candidate.
- (c) Upon receipt of the proposed candidature, the Nominating and Governance Committee shall require the proposed candidates to complete a background check authorization form. The Nominating and Governance Committee will complete the background check within thirty (30) days of receiving the authorization form. Should the candidate submit the authorization form more than six months before the Annual General Meeting, the Committee will repeat the background check within thirty (30) days of the National Council Meeting.
- (d) Each Candidate will be required to supplement their conflict of interest disclosure form, consistent with the Federation's Policy Concerning Conflicts of Interest and Business Ethics, no later than thirty (30) days prior to the National Council Meeting and again no later than three (3) days prior to the National Council Meeting. The disclosures on these forms will be made public on the page dedicated to the election at www.ussoccer.com. In addition, any candidate who is elected remains obligated to supplement his or her disclosure to the RAC Committee promptly following his or her election.
- (e) The Nominating and Governance Committee shall announce each candidature upon review of the background check and accompanying paperwork to confirm compliance with the Federation Bylaws and this Policy.

Section 3. Campaign

- (a) Campaign Conduct. Candidates shall conduct campaigns with dignity and moderation and with respect for any other candidate(s), for the Federation and its Organization Members. In conducting the campaign, all candidates shall comply with the Bylaws and Policies of Federation, including without limitation the Policy Concerning Conflicts of Interest and Business Ethics, and all applicable law.
- (b) Delegate Lists. The Nominating and Governance Committee shall oversee the creation of a list of registered delegates, which list will be made available to all requesting candidates, who have been announced as a candidate by the Nominating and Governance Committee, have executed and returned an appropriate release and indemnity agreement in favor of Federation, and agree to use the delegate list information solely for the Federation campaign and no other purpose. The Nominating and Governance Committee will make the delegates list available to such candidates starting not more than 120 days before the National Council meeting and will provide updated lists of registered delegates to such candidates sixty (60) and thirty (30) days before the National Council Meeting.
- (c) Campaign Finance Disclosures. In compliance with the Federation's Policy Concerning Conflicts of Interest and Business Ethics, all candidates must disclose to the Nominating and Governance Committee any financing or donations in excess of \$50 that they receive from any third party, individual, entity, Organization Member or otherwise, and the identity of the donor. The limit of \$50 shall also apply to in-kind donations. If a candidate decides to utilize crowd funding to support his or her campaign, the candidate shall be responsible for identifying and disclosing all donors who donate more than \$50. The Nominating and Governance Committee will provide a disclosure form to the candidates and will make these disclosures available to the Risk, Audit and Compliance Committee pursuant to Federation policy. The disclosures on these forms will be made public on the page dedicated to the election at www.ussoccer.com.
- (d) Candidate Compliance. A candidate's failure to comply with these requirements may result in a candidate being declared ineligible or subject to other disciplinary actions as determined by the Independent Ethics Committee.