

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

The following policy amendment was passed at the February 13, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting.

Policy 601-6—International Clearances

For a player who comes to the United States on or after the player is ~~10~~2 years of age, the player must request and receive an international clearance from the Federation.

The following policy amendments were passed at the May 31, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting.

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

Section 201. Categories of competition

(a) ~~The Open Cup shall have~~ **Teams shall qualify for the Open Cup through one of** the following ~~categories~~ **divisions** of competition: ~~(1) Adult Council category; (2) Division III Outdoor Professional League Team category; (3) Division II Outdoor Professional League Team category; and (4) Division I Outdoor Professional League Team category~~ **(1) Division I Outdoor Professional League; (2) Division II Outdoor Professional League; (3) Division III Outdoor Professional League; and (4) Open Division.** All ~~professional outdoor~~ teams registered and competing in a **Division I, Division II or Division III outdoor** professional league shall be required to enter the Open Cup competition annually. A youth amateur team applying to compete shall compete through the ~~Adult Council category~~ **Open Division.**

Section 202.

(a) To enter the Open Cup, a team must be an outdoor soccer team of a club or league of an Organization Member of the Federation. The team must be playing in a regular club or league competition of at least ~~four~~ **(4)** teams and the competition must consist of at least ~~ten~~ **(10)** matches **for each team in the competition** each fiscal year.

(b) Division I, II and III Outdoor Professional League Teams:

(1) To remain eligible throughout the tournament:

- (i) A team must remain a playing member in good standing within its club/league competition from December 31 of the competition year until the Open Cup Final;**
- (ii) A team's league must be in operation from December 31 of the competition year until the Open Cup Final.**

- (2) Any team whose league is starting its first season of competition:**
 - (i) Must have its league schedule set and announced to the public by January 31 of the competition year;**
 - (ii) Must have its first league game scheduled for no later than seven (7) days prior to the first scheduled Open Cup round of competition involving the team's division.**

- (3) Any team starting its first season of competition in an existing Division I, II or III Outdoor Professional League:**
 - (i) Must have its league schedule set and announced to the public by January 31 of the competition year;**
 - (ii) Must have its first league game scheduled for no later than seven (7) days prior to the first scheduled Open Cup round of competition involving the team's division.**

(c) Teams Entering Through the Open Division:

- (1) To remain eligible throughout the tournament:**
 - (i) A team must remain a playing member in good standing within its club/league competition, starting from the Open Division entry deadline and continuing until the Open Cup Final for the competition year;**
 - (ii) A team's league must be in operation from the Open Division entry deadline until the Open Cup Final for the competition year.**

- (2) Any team whose league is starting its first season of competition must have started its league schedule at least thirty (30) days prior to the Open Division entry deadline.**

- (3) Any team starting its first season of competition in an existing league must have started its new league's schedule at least thirty (30) days prior to the Open Division entry deadline.**

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 league 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.); or 2) players on loan from other US clubs for a period of greater than 90 days. 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).

(b) **Roster rules for competing teams:**

(i) For teams entering the tournament by competing through Open Division qualifying rounds: Each team shall submit its roster, together with additional player information that has been requested, to the Open Cup Commissioner by a date set by the Open Cup Committee. Rules with respect to the maximum number of players, roster approval and freeze deadlines, and other features shall be determined by the Open Cup Committee and communicated and enforced by the Commissioner.

(ii) For teams entering the tournament after all Open Division qualifying rounds have concluded: Two weeks prior to the first Open Cup Round in which a team participates, that team shall submit to the Open Cup Commissioner its Open Cup roster, together with additional player information that has been requested by the Commissioner. A team's Open Cup roster shall not be frozen at any time during the competition. For Open Cup matches, a team may add players to or drop them from its league roster under the league rules currently in place. Any changes to a team's roster must be communicated to the Open Cup Commissioner and all clearances obtained, including approval from U.S. Soccer's player registration department, no later than 4 p.m. CT on the first business day prior to any Open Cup match in order for such changes to be in effect for said match.

(c) Any player who plays in any part of an Open Cup match for a team, **including any match in any Open Division qualifying round,** may not be included in the Open Cup roster or play for any other team in the Open Cup competition for that **competition** year.

(d) If any team plays an ineligible player in an Open Cup match, that team is subject to fines or other penalties, including game forfeiture, as determined by the Adjudication and Discipline Panel.

Section 204. Entering the Cup

(b) **Prior to the 2015-16 competition,** ~~the~~ the annual Open Cup application fee shall be as follows:

- (1) Each ~~Adult Council~~ team **competing through the Open Division** \$200
- (2) Each Division III Outdoor Professional League team \$350
- (3) Each Division II Outdoor Professional League team \$550
- (4) Each Division I Outdoor Professional League team \$650

Starting with the 2015-16 competition, the annual Open Cup application fee shall be as follows:

<u>(1) Each team competing through the Open Division</u>	<u>\$200</u>
<u>(2) Each Division III Outdoor Professional League team</u>	<u>\$400</u>
<u>(3) Each Division II Outdoor Professional League team</u>	<u>\$600</u>
<u>(4) Each Division I Outdoor Professional League team</u>	<u>\$700</u>

Section 301. FIFA Laws of the Game

FIFA Laws of the Game apply to Open Cup competition matches. If changes to the Laws are adopted ~~in a year~~ to be effective after matches are first played **involving any** ~~between the Adult Council and Division III~~ Division I, Division II, or Division III Outdoor Professional League teams, those changes will apply to the **next** Open Cup competition **and not the competition in progress** ~~for that year beginning on the day after FIFA gives permission to apply those changes to the competition or beginning with the matches between the Adult Council and Division III Outdoor Professional League teams, whichever is later.~~

Section 304. Match officials

The Federation will assign all match officials, and determine the amounts of compensation for them, for all Open Cup matches except **for those matches assigned by the Open Cup Committee to be overseen by an Organization Member of the Federation** ~~Adult Council matches held before Adult Council regional Open Cup competition.~~

Section 305. Player and team official match discipline

(c) A suspension shall be served by the individual at the next Cup match or matches of the team of that individual. If the individual has no remaining Cup matches during the year, the suspension shall **carry forward for up to the next ten year's Open Cup competitions (or twenty years in the case of suspensions imposed by the Adjudication and Discipline Panel) and** be served at the **individual's next Open Cup match for which he would otherwise be eligible** ~~following year's Open Cup competition's matches first played.~~

Section 306. Protests and General Discipline

(f) Where the matches are played solely under the auspices of, and delegated to, **an Organization Member of the Federation** ~~the Adult Council and/or an Outdoor Professional League team~~, such as in any qualifying matches prior to Round 1 of the Open Cup, the protest or 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.

The following policy amendment was passed at the September 8, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting.

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

Section 202. Team eligibility

(d) Any Outdoor Professional League Team that is majority owned by a higher-level Outdoor Professional League Team shall be ineligible to participate in the Open Cup. The Open Cup Committee shall review and determine team eligibility annually pursuant to this provision and report its decisions to the National Board of Directors.