

LSA POLICY MANUAL

Policy 311-1 Division 1 Teams & State Tournaments

A. DIVISION 1 TEAMS

1. DIVISION 1 TEAM DEFINITION

- a. Div 1 teams, as defined in By Laws Section 302 C, are eligible to participate in the LA Division 1 State Cup Tournament. To be eligible to send teams to the LA Division 1 State Cup tournament competition, a club must maintain a minimum of forty-four (44) players by October 1 of the current soccer year and be in good standing with LSA for the entire year.
- b. New clubs will be subject to a one-year waiting period to be eligible for the LA Division 1 State Cup tournament competition. However, if they are in good standing and meet all other criteria, they could be invited by the LSA to fill a vacancy.
- c. Div 1 teams can be formed by selection, tryouts, chosen or picked processes. For example:
 1. Tryouts from an association level, neighborhood level, school level and geographical area, church leagues, YMCA groups, club groups and any other organizational groups or levels,
 2. Any process to include players on a team to the exclusion of other players from that team based on skill level.
 3. Any process designed to put any particular player on any particular team.
- d. It is recommended that all coaches of teams participating in Div 1 should have a USSF "D" license, National Youth license, NSCAA National Diploma, or equivalent as approved by LSA.

2. TRYOUTS

The LSA Recreation Committee will administer Div 1 Team Tryouts as per LSA Policies And Procedures.

In general, open team tryouts for the following soccer year shall be conducted by member clubs forming Div 1 and Premier Teams after the conclusion of the State Cup Tournaments in that age bracket. To consolidate resources, member clubs may hold evaluations for both Premier and Division 1 teams simultaneously. Results from these evaluations/tryouts may be used to form both Premier and Division 1 teams. Member clubs must be properly affiliated and constituted at the start of the Tryout Period in order to form Div 1 and Premier Teams for the following year.

General announcements concerning dates of registration, tryouts, and team formations may be widely distributed prior to the Premier Division Dead Period for a given age group by club administrations. Clubs, Coaches, Parents, and players are prohibited from soliciting any players during the Premier Division Dead Period in that age bracket. Violations will be addressed by the Ethics Committee, and may result in fines, and/or disqualification of the team of the offending party from State Competitions.

Beyond the start of the tryout period, there are no further timing requirements related to tryouts, offers, or acceptances for Division 1, except teams may not host tryouts or directly solicit players during the dead period and invitations to join Div 1 teams are not permitted until after the premier dead period for the applicable age group. Individual clubs are responsible for determining their own schedules, as long as deadlines for other reporting requirements for team registration to LSA are met.

B. LA DIVISION 1 STATE CUP TOURNAMENT

1. ENTRY FORMS

All entry forms and tournament fees must be submitted to LSA not later than March 15th. Only qualified teams shall be admitted to LA Division 1 State Cup Tournament upon receipt of entry fees and the Entry Form which has been signed by both the team's head coach and team's Club President. All team rosters, tournament fees and entry forms for the state tournament must be submitted to the LSA State Office by the home clubs. The entry form submitted by the club for each team will contain the exact team name, coach's name and address and a copy of the current roster, signed by the club administrator and signed, dated and verified by the coach and must be attached to the entry form. Failure to timely submit the information above may result in an application being declared incomplete and the tournament place forfeited to the next available team.

Only the Club President or an Official Designee will communicate with the State on LA Division 1 State Cup tournament matters. Clubs must designate in writing who will handle tournament affairs for each club.

Each club participating in the LA Division 1 State Cup tournament may be required to post a performance bond with LSA.

2. ROSTERS AND FEES

The roster freeze date for U11 through U19 teams is the last business day two weeks prior to the start of the tournament. A team that drops out of the tournament after March 15th or fails to play ALL tournament matches will forfeit its entry fee, and their club will be assessed a fine of \$ 1,000.00 (payable to LSA) plus the club will be denied participation in the following year's tournament by any team. Failure to pay the fine within thirty (30) days of receipt of the assessment in writing from LSA shall result in that club being deemed henceforth "not in good standing" and shall be denied participation in all age/sex groups in any State competition until said assessment is paid.

3. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- a. The LSA Div 1 Committee will conduct a random draw to decide the brackets for the LA Division 1 State Cup tournament no later than April 7th.
- b. If more than sixteen (16) teams submit bids for one age-group in a District the Div 1 Committee will, by random draw, divide teams into multiple brackets to promote fairness.
 1. The LA Division 1 State Cup tournament shall be completed in two weekends of play on the dates selected by the Div 1 Committee. The first weekend of play LSA will hold two open District qualifying tournaments with separate competitions for each age/sex group. The district

qualifying teams in each age/sex group will advance to the LA Division 1 State Cup Tournament Championship Tournament to be held the second weekend.

2. Once the number of qualifying teams is determined, the LSA Div 1 Committee will schedule a blind draw to place teams in slots that will determine time of game and opponent. In the 1st round only, teams from the same association/club will not be placed in competition with each other if sufficient teams are available to prevent this. Teams will advance in District round-robin play through the qualifying round until such time as there are four (4) teams remaining, called District Champions, from each sex/age group, who will advance to the Championship Tournament on a following weekend. The Committee may adjust the number of teams advancing from each district by prorating slots based on the total number of teams divided by the number of teams in each district. Round Robin games can end in a tie.
3. The LA Division 1 State Cup Tournament Championship weekend will be the District Champions playing quarter and semi-final games Saturday and the final game Sunday. Teams will be placed in the quarterfinals by a random draw to be held in the LSA Office the Monday following the District Championship. If possible, teams from the same district and/or club would not play each other in the Quarterfinal round. Following the quarterfinal round, winners would be placed in a hat and pairings for the semi-finals drawn. Teams from the same district or club can play each other in the semi-final round.
4. The Non-Seeded Single Weekend State Tournament Format listed in Policy 310 C. will be used for the LA Division 1 State Cup Tournament. The sequence of games may be modified to accommodate field availability.
5. If a team drops out of the tournament following the bracket draw and more than seven (7) days remain to the tournament the age group involved will be re-drawn and teams notified. If a team drops out of the tournament following bracket draw and less than seven (7) days but at least two (2) days remain until the tournament, the age group involved may be re-drawn if the Commissioner determines that it is in the interests of the competition and that all teams can be notified. If fewer than **two (2)** days remain to the tournament, the games will be played as previously scheduled and the points awarded for forfeited games in Policy 310-Youth Tournaments, Section 13 Point Awards for Games, shall apply.
6. District competition may be combined when, in the judgment of the D1/Recreation Committee, there are insufficient teams in any district to justify separate tournaments. When district competition is combined, it shall be scheduled for the first weekend of play using the single-weekend format, except that when the combined district competition calls for playing of a semi-final match, the final match shall be scheduled for Championship weekend.

4. DIRECTOR'S CUP

Only Div 1 teams participating in the LA Division 1 State Cup Tournament may represent LSA at Region 3's Director's Cup. Invitations to attend will be offered to state champions and if unable to attend to state finalist in order of finish.

5. GUIDELINES GOVERNING DIVISION OF CLUBS INTO DISTRICTS

- a. Only clubs will be assigned into Districts, not individual teams.
- b. Placement will be effective prior to clubs bidding tournament slots and will remain in effect indefinitely or until application to change is made to LSA or the LSA Div1 Committee finds a need to make a change. The division of clubs into districts shall be based on geographic considerations.

c. The Districts as of January 1, 2005 are:

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
Lafayette	BRSA	St. Joan of Arc (Laplace)
CABOSA	Mandeville	Magnolia Park (Folsom)
Acadiana	Slidell	St. Bernard
Lake Charles	Lafreniere	LaPlace
NELSA	Gonzales (Ascension)	Madisonville
Crossroads	Covington	Lee Road
RAPSA	STYSA	E. Feliciana
Iberia	Carrollton	Point Coupe
Sulphur	PAC	Tangi
Evangeline	Lakeview	St. Peter
Natchitoches	Zachary	Westbank
Cecilia	St. Charles	Houma/Terreborne
Iowa	PARDS (Denham Sprgs)	Lafourche
Springhill	Livingston	
Moss Bluff	Pearl River	
Franklin	W. Feliciana	
Fort Polk		
Oakdale		

6. RULES OF PLAY

All rules of play shall be in accordance with General Tournament Rules (Policy 310-B: General Tournament Rules).