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**OREGON ADULT
SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

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**2007 NATIONAL
CUP COMPETITIONS**

November 8, 2006

Dear Team Manager:

The United States Adult Soccer Association (USASA) and the Oregon Adult Soccer Association (OASA) invite your team to participate in the 2007 National Cup Competitions in one or more of the following categories:

<u>Men's</u>	<u>Women's</u>
Open	Open
Amateur	Amateur
Over-30	Over-30
Under-23	Under-23

The National Cup Competitions have been held continuously since 1914 and are the nation's oldest national soccer competitions. This is the only program in which **any** team affiliated with the USASA can enter and have the opportunity to play at a higher level of competition against other teams at the same competitive level throughout the United States and be declared a National Cup Champion. The opportunity is here for you to take advantage — do it NOW!

If you are interested in the Men's Open Cup or Women's Open Cup, please call or e-mail for more information. The Open Division entry fee is \$300. The Men's Open Cup is the event that professional teams, including MLS teams, enter and is our equivalent of the English FA Cup.

Please understand that the National Cup Competitions operate under special rules which need to be taken seriously. The rules and procedures are determined by the USASA and are intended to be formal. **The Cup rules will be strictly enforced.** In some parts of the U.S., lawsuits relating to the failure to comply with the National Cup Competitions rules are filed on a regular basis. We do not intend to allow that to happen here.

We are here to help you with complying with the rules, within reason, but ultimately you will be responsible for compliance. Failure to follow the rules, including mundane things such as using the uniform colors that you have declared, could lead to forfeit.

You will receive a full copy of the rules after your entry has been accepted. The playing rules of significance relate to substitutions and breaking ties. During the regional event, each team in the Open division will be allowed four substitutions, with no reentry allowed; all teams in the Amateur, Over-30 and Under-23 divisions are permitted a maximum of seven substitutions, with no reentry allowed. In all national, regional and state playoff games in which a winner must be determined, if a game is tied after 90 minutes, the teams will play a 30-minute overtime, and if the game is still tied at that point, kicks from the mark will be utilized.

There are some rules that are enforced for the National Cups Competitions that are not enforced for OASA league and tournament play. We strongly encourage you to have all of your players comply with these rules if you enter the Cups. The Cups administrators (and some of your opponents) will be actively looking for violations, which if found likely will lead to forfeitures. Now is the time to deal with them, while there is time, not two weeks before the regional finals, when there is not enough time.

- Under the Cup rules, only amateur players are permitted to play in the Amateur and Under-23 divisions. If any player has ever signed a professional contract or otherwise played on a professional form with an affiliated team (such as with the Portland Timbers or the Seattle Sounders), and has not been reinstated to amateur status through United States Soccer Federation (USSF) Policy 601-4, a copy of which is included with this letter, then that player may still be a professional player.
- If one of your players has any doubt, please have him or her call the USSF Professional Player Office at (312) 808-1300 for help. The OASA office can assist a player in filing the paperwork leading to reinstatement, but we do not have the ability to interpret the rules. If you use a professional player in a division requiring amateur players, you should assume that someone will notice and file a protest and that the protest will succeed and lead to your team forfeiting.
- Furthermore, if you are a former professional who has not reinstated to amateur status, you will be viewed as improperly registered and ineligible for any of the divisions unless you are currently registered with the USSF as a professional. Your Oregon player card will not be considered valid.
- Finally, any player who came to the United States after age 11 must obtain an International Clearance Certificate from the USSF. A copy of USSF Policy 601-6 is included with this letter.

If your adult team has not registered with the OASA since September 1, 2006 (i.e., your team did not register to play in an OASA league this fall), then the team must register with the OASA before submitting a National Cup Competitions entry. Contact the OASA office for information.

If your team desires to participate in the National Cup Competitions this year, complete (in full) the enclosed entry form and return the form and indicated fees to the OASA office. Make sure that your entry form is completely filled out **and typed**. This includes your team's uniform colors, including socks (you must have two pairs of socks, in different colors). If the information changes later, be sure to let us know. THIS FORM MUST BE TYPED. (If you do not have access to a typewriter, you are welcome to borrow the one in the OASA office.)

Payment must be made to the "Oregon Adult Soccer Association" by cashier's check or money order — **no personal checks will be accepted**.

Here are the deadlines:

- Entry forms completed **fully** and accompanied with payment in the **proper form** and in the **proper amount** must be received at the OASA office by the close of business of the OASA office on Wednesday, February 20th, 2007 (except Under-23 – the Under-23 deadline is May 1st).
- Entry forms will not be accepted if received at the OASA office after the close of the OASA business day on February 20th, 2007.
- Incomplete or illegible entry forms and payment in the wrong form or in the wrong amount will be returned.

Here is how the fees have been determined:

- \$150 for all of the events (except the Men's Open Cup and Women's Open Cup that was noted above), which are the USASA fees.
- \$25 Region IV fee.
- \$75 State fee (to help defray the OASA's costs of administering the Competitions).
- \$500 as a bond to assure that your team plays all of its scheduled games and complies with the Cup rules. If your team fails to play a scheduled game, the bond probably will be forfeited; it also will be used to pay any fine levied against your team. Otherwise, the bond will be returned when your team has no more games to play (when it has been knocked out of the Competitions or when it has become the national champion).

If multiple teams enter in the same division, OASA will hold a state round of competitions. Therefore, OASA requires you submit the following information with your entry form and fees:

- A list of dates and times that are available to your team for intrastate playoffs.
- A home playing field.

OASA will schedule the intrastate playoff games and have referees assigned to these games at the locations and, to the extent possible, using the dates/times you provided. If a certificate of insurance is required for your home field, please contact the OASA to request the certificate.

After the February 20th, 2007, deadline, we will contact the teams that have entered about intrastate playoffs. The format will be based on the number of teams and the information you submitted about availability and home playing fields. If your team is the only team entered in your division, then your team will advance directly to regional play.

The Oregon representatives will go to the Region IV finals, which will be held in a round robin format. The good news is that you will play more than one or two games; the bad news is that it might be a four-day event which would include two week days.

Before you sit down to fill out the entry form, be certain that your team is serious about entering the National Cups Competitions. Make sure that your worst nightmare is not having your team actually qualifying to go to the regional finals or the national finals. Absolutely no one will have any sympathy if you ask to be excused later because your team cannot afford the travel costs or the time off from work. If those are a problem, then your team probably should not enter.

- You have to consider the potential expenses your team might incur (Thursday through Sunday). If your team advances to the national finals, the USASA will provide a subsidy, but your team will have to pay for the balance of your team's airfare, lodging, food and other expenses.
- You have to consider the time off from work that your players may need to travel to and play at these events. One final reminder – the regional and national finals involve playing games on weekdays.

Decide **now** whether you have the money, or can raise the money, to cover these expenses and have the necessary commitment from your players to play and to take time off from work. Do not come around later telling us that you cannot afford to participate. You will not like the answer or the long-term consequences and could lose your bond money.

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If you have questions, please try contacting the OASA office by telephone or e-mail. If the person there cannot answer the question, it will be relayed to me and I will get the answer.

All teams are encouraged to consider entering the National Cup Competitions. We have highlighted the potential problems with entering only because we know from past experience that some teams struggle with foreseeing the costs and following the rules. Before entering, determine (1) you have considered the costs you might incur and are prepared to deal with them and (2) you have considered that, unlike other competitions that you have entered, this one has rules that are rigorously followed.

For those who take the plunge and do enter, best of luck to all! We will do everything reasonable we can to support you. Remember that once you enter regional play you will be representing the OASA — so do your best and play hard but fairly and follow all of the Cup rules.

Sincerely,

Anne Braghero
State Cup Commissioner

United States Soccer Federation, Inc.
POLICY MANUAL
(www.ussoccer.com)

Policy 601-4 – Amateur Reinstatement

Section 1.

A professional player may be reinstated as an amateur player as provided by this policy.

Section 2.

A professional player who is currently registered as a professional player with any club can apply to the Federation to be reinstated as an amateur only with the permission of that club and the Adult State Association or Professional League with which that club is affiliated.

Section 3.

An application for reinstatement as an amateur must be made on the Federation reinstatement form and both the completed form and the applicable fee must be filed with the Secretary General of this Federation.

Section 4.

The Registrar shall issue approval of the reinstatement to amateur status within fourteen (14) days after receipt of the request, appropriate fees, and compliance with these rules. However, the player's reinstatement to amateur status is not effective until the day after 30 days have elapsed from the day that player competed in his last match with his club as a professional player.

Section 5.

A professional player who is not currently registered as a professional player with any professional division club or league, who has not been a party to a professional player contract with a professional division club or league for a period of one year or longer, and who has not applied for reinstatement as an amateur under Sections 3 and 4 of this Policy, shall be automatically reinstated to amateur status by the Secretary General unless the player affirmatively states to the Secretary General in writing that he or she does not wish to be reinstated to amateur status. Reinstatements under this Section 5 shall take effect on the 366th day after the date the player was last a party to a professional player contract with a professional division, club or league. An updated list of professional status players shall be published by the Federation on a bi-weekly basis.

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Policy 601-6 – International Clearances

For a player who comes to the United States on or after the player is 12 years of age, the player must request and receive an international clearance from the Federation. However, an international clearance is not required of a player who is 12, 13, 14, 15, or 16 years of age if the player and the player's parent or guardian signs a statement that the player has not signed a professional contract or received money from any team for playing soccer.