President's Cup Rules

Player Eligibility: The top four US based teams in the Pan-Am Final Standings are eligible to represent their school in the President's Cup Tournament to crown a Collegiate National Champion. If one of the qualifying teams cannot attend the President's Cup Tournament, then the next highest finishing team shall take their place as long as that school is not already qualified. See below for possible eligibility circumstances that may affect how a school organizes their individual teams.

1. When a team qualifies for the President's Cup, the players on the qualifying team must be the same players shown on that team's official Roster from the Pan-Am Tournament. See Rule #6 for substitutions.
2. If a school has more than one team finish in the top four of the Pan-Ams, then only the school's highest finishing team shall qualify for the President's Cup Tournament.
3. School's must first use one or both alternates from the team's President Cup qualifying team according to the most recent Pan-Am official Roster before requesting substitute players.
4. A player who played for one school in the Pan-Ams and transfers to a President's Cup-eligible school during the same college academic year ***is not eligible*** to play in the President's Cup as part of the player's new school.
5. Eligibility forms for all players are due at least thirty (30) calendar days before Day 1 of the President's Cup to the College Committee Chair at andrewschley@gmail.com. Rosters will be shared with the coaches the following day of the deadline including tentative substitutions.

Substitutions: The intent is to have player's on the qualifying President's Cup Team represented in the tournament please see below for the procedure of substitutions if necessary.

6. All President's Cup Tournament teams desiring to substitute players for legitimate reasons such as **graduation, illness, GPA ineligibility, family emergency, etc.**, must do so in the following order:
    - First substitute(s) for the ineligible player(s) must come from those players who participated in the most recent Pan-Ams as members of the school's other teams that did not qualify from the Open Section.
    - If a team has no eligible players from another of their school's team(s) in the Open Section they may add a new player who did not participate at the Pan-Ams. This excludes transfer students as stated in Rule #4.

7. All proposed substitutions on President's Cup Tournament Rosters shall be reviewed and adjudicated no later than twenty (20) calendar days before Day 1 of the President's Cup tournament by a 3-person subcommittee formed from the College Chess Committee. The subcommittee shall not contain anyone associated with the schools participating in the President's Cup Tournament.

Appeals
If you would like to appeal any substitution decision please use the following procedure & note the deadlines for appealing.

8. Teams who wish to appeal the sub-committee's decision(s) must do so by email to the College Chess Committee Chair no later than fifteen (15) calendar days before Day 1 of the President's Cup Tournament. The College Chess Committee Chair shall forward the appeal to the US Chess Director of Events for ruling. The Director of Events shall rule no later than ten (10) calendar days before the start of the President's Cup. The Director of Events ruling is final and cannot be appealed.

Teams: Each team has four players and up to two alternates. Board-order is based on March ratings descending rating sequence (50-point transpositions allowed) is also the same as for the Pan- American.

Scoring: The President's Cup is a Team Round Robin scored by total individual points. In the event of a tie, the teams are declared Co-champions. The following tie-breaking systems are for sole possession of the President's Cup and will be applied in this order:

1. Total team match wins.
2. Head-to-head outcome.
3. Armageddon (5-4 minute "shootout"). White must win with 5 minutes, and Black must win or draw with 4 minutes. There is no delay or increment time. Winner of a coin toss chooses color. Each team selects one team member to represent them.

Team rosters: Official team roster must be presented to the Tournament Director on Friday before the pairings. Team lineup for each round must be submitted to the Tournament Director at least ninety minutes prior to the beginning of the round. Otherwise, the initial roster (for round one) or prior round's lineup is used for rounds two and three.

Pairings: The team pairings/seeds are predetermined by March USCF ratings. There will be a drawing for Round 1 and Round 3 colors on Board 1 at the Friday evening meeting before the tournament.

Rd 1: 1 vs. 4; 2 vs. 3
Rd 2: 1 vs. 3; 2 vs. 4
Rd 3: 1 vs. 2; 3 vs. 4

Official Time Controls: Game 90 with a 30-second increment each move.

No electronic devices will be allowed into the playing area, that includes players, spectators, captains, coaches. This mandate includes phones, smart watches, or any other electronic device that is capable of transmitting or receiving information.

There will be no communication allowed between players, or players and captains. Anyone with a game in progress and visitors to the playing area shouldn't be talking. We all know what this means, and yes players can offer a draw to their opponent or speak to the arbiter if necessary.