



CALGARY NATIONS CUP

How Team Representation Works

Nations Cup is one of Calgary's most celebrated cultural soccer events. It brings together players from across our city to represent their heritage, share pride in their roots, and enjoy a weekend of high-level competition and community spirit.

Because this tournament is different from our regular league programs, we want to provide clear information about how teams are formed and what CUSA's role is.

What makes Nations Cup different?

Nations Cup is a cultural heritage tournament. Teams represent their nation of origin or cultural background, similar to international football events.

This means the structure is representational, not open-entry. It is designed to celebrate identity and community, not to guarantee placement for every interested player.

Who organizes each nation's team?

Teams are organized by members of their own cultural community.

CUSA does not:

- appoint community leaders
- decide who “owns” a nation
- select players
- govern internal community decisions

Communities decide for themselves who organizes and leads their team.

How does a nation keep its spot each year?

To ensure fairness and continuity, CUSA uses a right-of-first-refusal system:

- The previous year's team has the first opportunity to register again.
- If they choose not to return, the nation becomes open for any eligible community group to register.

This process is applied consistently across all nations.

What if more than one group wants to represent the same nation?

When multiple groups express interest, we encourage them to collaborate and determine a unified approach.

If they cannot reach agreement, and the previous year's team does not return, the first completed registration is accepted.

CUSA does not decide which group is the “official” representative of a cultural community.

Why is there only one team per nation?

Nations Cup follows the same model used in heritage tournaments across Canada and in international football: one team per nation.

Allowing multiple teams (e.g., “Canada A / Canada B”) would fundamentally change the nature of the event and its competitive balance.

Does CUSA decide who gets selected for a team?

No. Roster selection is an internal community process.

CUSA does not evaluate:

- player skill
- selection fairness
- internal politics
- who “should” represent a nation

We intervene only if there is a Code of Conduct violation.

What if a player’s heritage group is too small to form a team?

Players from smaller heritage groups have several options:

- join another nation as an import player
- join Team Canada (if space permits)
- participate in any of CUSA’s open-entry leagues and tournaments, which guarantee placement regardless of heritage

Nations Cup is not intended to replace open-entry programming.

What is the import rule?

Teams may include a limited number of import players (3) to help smaller nations field a competitive roster. Imports are a supplement, not the foundation of the team.

How does this compare to other tournaments?

The Nations Cup structure aligns with:

- heritage tournaments across Canada
- international representative football principles
- community-organized cultural events worldwide

These events typically feature:

- one team per nation
- community-organized rosters
- returning-team priority
- limited imports
- an organizing body that provides the framework, not player selection

Who do I contact with questions?

For questions about structure, eligibility, or tournament rules, please contact: Stacey Hatcher Executive Director, stacey@cusa.ab.ca OR Adelle Young League Operations Manager, adelle@cusa.ab.ca