



Maryland State Cup Rules 2012

The rules of the 2012 Maryland State Cup competition for all boys and girls age groups will be the rules governing the U.S. Youth Soccer National Championship Series as published by U.S. Youth Soccer, as modified below.

1. Competition Format

1.1. The competition will be single elimination format consisting of four stages: (1) For those age groups with more than 16 teams, a first single elimination round to reduce the field to 16 teams; (2) A second and third round to reduce the age groups to 4 teams; and (3) a semi-final to reduce the age groups to 2 teams and (4) a final to determine the Maryland State Cup Champion. For age groups with less than 16 teams entered a single elimination format will also be used and will incorporate first round byes, dependent upon the total number of teams participating.

1.1.1. The champion, finalist and semi finalists from the prior year, if they are entered, will be seeded into the next older age group. In order to meet roster continuity requirements for seeding, a majority of the players from the prior year team must be rostered to the current year team. No other teams will be seeded before the State Cup Draw. The champions and finalist from the previous year will be placed in the competition format so that they cannot face each other until the final.

1.1.2. Participation in State Cup in the lowest age bracket, U-13, is limited to teams that are rostered as U-13 teams, and whose roster includes a majority of players born between August 1, 1998 and July 31, 1999.

1.2. Cup Director will announce the competition format for each age group at the Cup Draw.

1.3. All matches will be scheduled by MSYSA, with possible exception of play-in matches as defined in Section 7.2. Per the Region I State President's vote, State Cup games take precedence over all league games, except for the Region I, Premier and Colonial League games that are played on Saturdays.

2. Conditions for Play

2.1. Team Related Conditions

2.1.1. At least 50 percent of the players on the State Cup roster must be registered with MSYSA and be Maryland residents, and the team must be in good standing. Each team may be required to provide volunteers to assist with State Cup activities as directed by

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the Cup Director.

- 2.1.2. During the current seasonal year all teams, except U19, must play in a fall, winter, or spring affiliated US Youth Soccer league, which meets the requirements of the US Youth Soccer National Championships Rule 221 Section 1(4):

The team must compete in at least a 4-team approved league during the current seasonal year in its State Association, US Youth Soccer Regional League or US Youth Soccer National League, or with its State Association's permission in another State Association, except for the U-19 age group for boys and girls. The league competition must consist of a minimum of one game against each of 3 different teams participating in the league.

- 2.1.3. MSYSA will accept teams that play in a mixed US Youth Soccer and other US Soccer Federation member league. A team that participates in a mixed league must certify that it has played a minimum of 3 games against other teams that utilize their US Youth Soccer roster to qualify to participate in State Cup. Teams must agree to honor all sponsorships/contractual obligations of MSYSA while representing MSYSA. Specifically, teams must use the MSYSA tournament balls provided to each team for the competition. If a team loses their game ball they must purchase a new game ball prior to their next scheduled match.

- 2.1.5. Teams registered for the Maryland Presidents Cup may not register for the Maryland State Cup.

2.2. Financial Conditions

- 2.2.1. The appropriate fees must accompany each application for each team entered as set forth in the Cup Announcement.

- 2.2.2. A performance bond, as set forth in the Cup Announcement, is required and must be submitted with the Cup application. The performance bond will be returned to the team provided they have fulfilled all of the team obligations specified in the Cup Rules.

2.2.2.1. A team forfeiting a Cup match shall forfeit its performance bond.

2.2.2.2. Any penalties for non-performance that are assessed on MSYSA (i.e. at regional or national levels) will be passed along to the team/club.

2.2.2.3. Teams failing to fulfill obligation regarding the supply of and completion of duties of volunteers requested by MSYSA will result in the forfeiture of the team's performance bond.

2.2.2.4. Failure of teams to clean and dispose of all trash from their bench area after the conclusion of their match will result in the forfeiture of the team's performance bond.

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- 2.2.2.5. Misconduct by Coaches, Team Officials, or spectators resulting in the termination of match will result in the forfeiture of the performance bond of the team responsible for the match termination.
- 2.2.2.6. A team whose performance bond has been forfeited for violation of the above rules must submit a new performance bond to MSYSA prior to the team's next scheduled match.
- 2.2.3. Any fine assessed to a team for violation of competition rules must be paid in full prior to the teams next scheduled match.
- 2.2.4. Each team is responsible for paying in cash prior to the start of the match, one-half the total referee fees for each match. A team unable to pay its portion of the referee fees will forfeit the match.

- 2.2.4.1. The referee fee schedule;

Age Group	Amount /Team	
	Single Game Scheduled*	2 or More Games Scheduled
U13-U14	\$62.00	\$55.00
U15-U16	\$68.00	\$60.00
U17-U19	\$74.00	\$65.00

*Single Game Scheduled means that there is no other State Cup Game scheduled to be played immediately prior to or after the State Cup match

3. Application Deadlines

- 3.1. Completed Cup applications must be mailed to the MSYSA office, postmarked no later than the application deadline date for the age group listed on the MSYSA web site. Metered postage is not acceptable as proof of postmark. Hand delivered applications to the MSYSA office will be accepted, but must be delivered no later than the published deadline date, by 5:00 PM. Applications sent by registered or certified mail, requiring a receipt, will not be accepted. Applications that remain incomplete after application deadline are not considered to have met the entry deadline.

4. Notification of Acceptance

- 4.1. Teams who have met all of the eligibility and other conditions of acceptance will be notified of their acceptance. The acceptance is conditional subject to verification of the League participation requirement as set forth in §2.1.2 and verification of "good standing" of the Club, Team, and Players.
- 4.2. Should an age group have less than 16 teams applying, the Cup Director may extend the deadline to within one week of the Cup draw or until the age group has 16 teams participating.

5. Cup Draw

- 5.1. Teams will be provided ample notice of the time and location of the Cup drawing. Each participating team must be represented at the Cup Draw by a Team Official listed on their roster, their designee, or the State Cup Club Representative for their club. *Teams not represented will be subject to a \$200 fine, which must be paid within one week of the Cup Draw.* All teams will be responsible for information discussed and materials distributed at the Cup Draw.

6. Rosters

6.1. Team Roster

- 6.1.1. The team roster shall be approved by MSYSA. U13 teams shall not have more than 18 players on the team roster at any given time during the seasonal year. U14 and older teams, the roster may have up to 22 players on the team roster at any given time during the seasonal year. Every team roster shall have a minimum of 7 players on the roster at all times.
- 6.1.2. A team may make changes to its roster, consistent with US Youth Soccer rules pertaining to added, released, and transferred players no later than a freeze date specified each year in information distributed at the Cup Draw. The MSYSA State Registrar or Associate State Registrar must approve all roster changes.
- 6.1.3. After the freeze date, players may not be added to the team roster for Cup play.
- 6.1.4. Team Official movement is not limited by the roster freeze; they may be added to or removed from the team roster at any time, in accordance with MSYSA procedures.
- 6.1.5. Players may always be released from the team upon their request. Players released after the roster freeze date, however, are not eligible for Cup play under any State Association for the current seasonal year.
- 6.1.6. Players registered on secondary (multi-rostered) passes are not eligible to play in the Cup for the team of their secondary registration.
- 6.1.7. Teams are allowed to roster a maximum of five (5) previously rostered (transfer) players during the seasonal year.
- 6.1.8. Teams are advised to become familiar with US Youth Soccer National Championship Rules regarding player eligibility and team roster changes, including adding, dropping and transferring players. A copy of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Rules is available on the Region I website.

6.2. Roster Submissions

- 6.2.1. Every team must provide a copy of its most recent MSYSA-approved team roster with their application for State Cup according to the deadline posted on the MSYSA website.

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6.3. Maryland State Cup Game Day Roster and Referee Report

- 6.3.1. The Maryland State Cup Game Day Roster and Referee Report shall be prepared by the team and submitted to the opposing team manager no less than thirty (30) minutes prior to each scheduled game in State Cup play.
- 6.3.2. The Maryland State Cup Game Day Roster and Referee Report shall have a maximum of 18 players and a minimum of 7 players.
- 6.3.3. Only players listed on the approved MSYSA State Cup Roster are eligible to be listed on the Maryland State Cup Game Day Roster and Referee Report.
- 6.3.4. Prior to each State Cup match, every team must attach a copy of its official MSYSA State Cup Approved Roster to the Maryland State Cup Game Day Roster and Referee Report.
- 6.3.5. The Maryland State Cup Game Day Roster and Referee Report must contain the signature of the opposing manager verifying that the game roster was completed in accordance with the rules listed above.
- 6.3.6. Any team failing to provide both the MSYSA State Cup Approved Roster and the Maryland State Cup Game Day Roster and Referee Report will forfeit that Cup match.
- 6.3.7. After the match, the Maryland State Cup Game Day Roster and Referee Report must contain the signature of the opposing manager verifying the final score and cards issued during the match.

6.4. Semi-Final and Championship Matches Additional Roster Requirements

- 6.4.1. In addition to the roster requirements listed in section 6.3 above, each team competing in a Semi-Final or Championship match must complete a US Youth Soccer Region I National Championship Series Competition Roster. This roster and instructions are available on the US Youth Soccer Region I website. This additional roster must be attached as part of the game roster.
- 6.4.2. All players on the approved MSYSA State Cup Roster should be included on the Region 1 National Championship Series Competition Roster whether or not they were at the semi-final and final matches.
- 6.4.3. It is the responsibility of each team in a Semi-Final and Championship match to complete this roster for their team.

7. Scheduling

- 7.1. All Cup matches will be scheduled by MSYSA.

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- 7.2. For play-in matches for age groups with greater than 16 teams entered, the Cup Director, at his discretion, may designate that the home team provide a field and schedule the match at a field of their choice.
 - 7.2.1. If agreed to by the home team and at the away team's request, the away team may provide the home field for the play-in match.
 - 7.2.2. Failure of the teams to schedule and complete games prior to the designated deadline will result in the forfeit of the game by both teams and the loss of their performance bond.
 - 7.2.3. Teams must notify the State Cup Director no less than 7 days prior to the scheduled match of the date, time, and place of the match.

8. Bad Weather Procedures

- 8.1. During inclement weather, Cup Director will make the final decision to reschedule a match. The Cup Director will notify the teams and the Referee Assignor. Rescheduling procedures of Section 9 will be used.

9. Rescheduling

- 9.1. All schedule changes must be approved by the Cup Director. Changes to match schedules may not be made within 72 hours of the scheduled start time unless due to weather or other factors making a field unplayable.

10. Referees

- 10.1. The diagonal system of control will be used for all Cup matches. USSF certified referees will be used for all matches, consistent with US Youth Soccer rules. The State Youth Referee Administrator will have the responsibility for assignment of all Cup matches. Under no condition will the two-man system be used. A fourth official will be utilized for all Semi-final and Final matches for ages U15-U19.

11. Field and Equipment Responsibilities

- 11.1. Any team requested to schedule a home match must have access to use the field without requiring assistance from MSYSA.
- 11.2. Fields must meet the standards as established under Law 1 of the FIFA Laws of the Game.
- 11.3. The home team shall be required to provide all necessary equipment for the field including goals, nets, corner flags, and field lining.
- 11.4. Cost for field usage will be reimbursed by MSYSA up to an amount of \$150 per game. Any field cost above \$150 will be the responsibility of the team that scheduled the match on their field.

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- 11.5. Field must be in good playing condition, including keeping the grass cut, and consistent with FIFA and US Youth Soccer National Championship Rules regarding field layout and dimensions. An "observer's line" shall be marked 2 yards outside of each touch line and is recommended on all fields. Restraining areas should be set up to accommodate both teams, who will occupy the same side of the field. This area will begin one yard from the mid-field line and continue for ten yards parallel to the touchline at a distance of 1 yard.

12. Appeal and Protest Procedures

- 12.1. Protests based upon field conditions, including field layout and dimensions must be registered with Referee prior to the start of the match and noted on the Maryland State Cup Game Day Roster and Referee Report. Protests based upon player eligibility must be filed in accordance with section 12.2
- 12.2. All protests may be emailed directly to the Cup Director and must be submitted in writing to the Cup Director at the State Office with a \$200 protest fee, payable to MSYSA, within 48 hours after the match or incident (non-match incident). Mail postmarked or registered more than 48 hours after the match being protested will not be considered. Metered mail will not be acceptable proof of timeliness

13. Reporting Scores

- 13.1. The winning team shall report the score and any disciplinary action within 24 hours following the completion of the match to the Cup Director via email.
- 13.2. The winning team must collect the completed match reports, which includes the Maryland State Cup Game Day Roster & Referee Report and MSYSA Roster from both teams and mail to the State Office. Match Reports must be mailed within 48 hours following the match.
 - 13.2.1. A completed match report includes all signatures, Maryland State Cup Game Day Roster & Referee Reports and Maryland Official State Cup Rosters for both teams competing in the match.
 - 13.2.2. Failure to submit a completed match report in a timely manner will result in a forfeit for the winning team.
- 13.3. For Semi-Final and Championship Matches, the additional US Youth Soccer Region I National Championship Series Competition Rosters must also be submitted as part of the completed Match Report. These Match Reports should be brought to the Cup Headquarters tent immediately following the completion of the match.

14. Rules of Play

- 14.1. The FIFA Laws of the Game will apply to all age group competitions except as noted herein or in the US Youth Soccer National Championship Rules.

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- 14.2. Enforcement of procedural rules as outlined in this section shall be the responsibility of the both team's managers prior to the start of the match for all preliminary rounds. The State Cup Committee will enforce all procedural rules during the Semi-Final and Final Rounds.
- 14.3. Teams shall occupy the same side of the field and be restricted to one side of mid-field. Substitutes should remain in the Technical area unless warming up, then restricted to their half of the field. Coaches are restricted to the Technical Area. If no Technical Area is marked, it shall be defined as the area in front of the team bench and extends one yard on either side of the bench and 1 yard away from the touchline.
 - 14.3.1. Teams shall be limited to players in uniform and 4 carded team officials. Teams will be issued credentials for team officials listed on the official state roster. Credentials must be worn at all times while in the team area of the field.
 - 14.3.2. It will be the choice of the home team (team listed first on the schedule) as to which side of mid-field it will occupy.
- 14.4. Spectators will be required to remain on the opposite side of the field to the side chosen by the teams. Spectators are not restricted to either half of the mid-field.
- 14.5. Uniforms - MSYSA, consistent with the directives from FIFA and US Youth Soccer, considers team appearance to be important elements within the spirit and integrity of the game. Accordingly, the following will be strictly enforced:
 - 14.5.1. Teams shall wear contrasting colored uniforms, with the home team wearing light-colored shirts and the visiting team wearing contrasting colors.
 - 14.5.1.1. In the spirit of the game, both teams should make an effort to have a complete set of alternate shirts and socks to avoid a color conflict. If in the judgment of the referee, the team's uniforms are not sufficiently distinguishable; the designated home team shall change to a contrasting color.
 - 14.5.1.2. All player uniforms, including goal keepers, must have clearly visible numbers, at least 4" in height, on the back of the uniform shirts.
 - 14.5.1.3. Each player, including goal keepers, on an individual team must have a different number, which shall be the same number for that player that appears on the game roster and match report. These numbers may not be hand written.
 - 14.5.1.4. All player jerseys, shorts and socks must be identical in style and color. Referees should have an alternate jersey available to avoid a problem of conflicting with the jersey colors of the participating teams.
 - 14.5.2. Shin guards must be worn by all players participating in Cup play. Players not in compliance will be removed from the field by the referee. The player may return when properly attired, during a dead ball situation with the referee's permission.

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14.5.3. Player jerseys must be tucked into their shorts and the socks must be pulled up over the shin guards.

14.5.4. Undergarments

14.5.4.1. Long sleeve shirts, compression shirts, and any other clothing under the uniform jersey that extends beyond the uniform sleeve may be worn provided they are of the same color as the uniform jersey.

14.5.4.2. Undergarments, such as “spandex” shorts and sliding pads (excluding boxer shorts) may be worn provided they are of the same color as the uniform short but may not extend beyond the knee.

14.5.4.3. It is permissible for the goalie to wear a contrasting undergarment under his or her shorts.

14.5.4.4. Tights, sweatpants, or other full length leggings may not be worn by field players regardless of if these items are worn under the shorts and are of matching color

14.5.5. Players with blood on their uniform will be removed from the field by the referee. The player may not return to the field until the blood has been removed from the jersey or neutralized by a disinfecting agent.

14.5.5.1. Teams are highly recommended to carry an extra uniform, commonly referred to as a blood kit, for use in situations involving blood on a uniform. Blood kits consist of an extra pair of shorts, socks, and a jersey with a number not rostered to a player on the team. A player with blood on their uniform may use the blood kit to replace their own so they may re-enter the field.

14.5.5.2. Players removed by the referee due to blood may not re-enter the field until they have been inspected by the referee, assistant referee, or fourth official and determined to be free of blood on their uniform and person.

14.6. The length of matches, ball size and tie-breaking rules for each age group shall be as follows:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Match Length</u>	<u>Overtime Period</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>
Under-19	Two 45' halves	Two 15' halves	5
Under-18	Two 45' halves	Two 15' halves	5
Under-17	Two 45' halves	Two 15' halves	5
Under-16	Two 40' halves	Two 15' halves	5
Under-15	Two 40' halves	Two 15' halves	5
Under-14	Two 35' halves	Two 10' halves	5
Under-13	Two 35' halves	Two 10' halves	5

14.7. Single Elimination Format Rules

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14.7.1. Matches in all rounds of the competition must have a winner. If a game is tied at the end of regulation play, an overtime period (2 complete halves) will be played after the end of regulation play. If the game is still tied at the end of the overtime period, FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" rules will apply in order to determine the winner.

14.7.2. If a team forfeits a match, its performance bond will be cashed and the team will be removed from the competition. Any forfeited match will be recorded as 1-0 loss.

14.8. Player Passes and Rosters

14.8.1. Each team must have their official MSYSA State Cup roster available at every match.

14.8.2. The US Youth Soccer player passes must be brought to every match to be checked against the official MSYSA roster by a Tournament representative and/or a field marshal for the game.

14.9. Match Conduct

14.9.1. Coaches, managers and parents are not permitted on the playing field during the match, unless called on by the referee. Violations of this rule will subject the offender to removal from the match site. Repeated violations by the same team may result in the referee terminating the match.

14.9.2. Players who are sent off (red carded) by the referee from any Cup match will not be permitted to play in the next Cup match played by his/her team (including the Cup final). A player may receive more than a one match suspension for being sent off (red carded) as deemed appropriate by the Cup Committee.

14.9.2.1. Players sent off by the referee will be removed from the field by the Field Marshall or MSYSA staff and will not be permitted to return to the field until the conclusion of the match.

14.9.3. Coaches, managers or supporters who have been removed from a match will be barred from the sideline and having any contact with their team during their next Cup match in the same age group competition, nor shall they give any direction during the match.

14.9.4. The referee may terminate a match for unsportsmanlike conduct or use of foul language by players, coaches, managers or supporters. The referee may request the Cup Director to remove any person violating this rule from the site.

14.9.5. No alcoholic beverages are permitted at the match site. The referee or the Cup Director will suspend play until alcoholic beverages and consuming individuals are removed from the area.

14.9.6. Smoking is not permitted at any of the State Cup match sites. Repeated violations will result in removal from the site.

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14.9.7. MSYSA reserves the right to review all match conduct and ejections. The minimum one match suspension for being sent off will be automatically imposed. Further penalties may be imposed by MSYSA. A team's poor behavior can affect their future participation in State Cup play. Teams not in "good standing" with MSYSA will not be accepted into the State Cup Competition.

14.9.8. A player/team official who is sent off (red carded) in his/her team's last Cup match at the State level will not be permitted to play in the first match at the Region I Tournament should their team advance to said competition.

14.9.8.1. If their team does not advance to the Region I Tournament, said player/coach must sit out the first Cup match of the following year's State Cup tournament, regardless of whether the player or team official is rostered to the same team during the following year.

14.9.8.2. A player/team official who is sent off in their team's final match at the Region 1 Tournament and/or National Championship game must sit out the first match of the following year's State Cup tournament, regardless of whether the player/team official is rostered to the same team during the following year.

14.10. Player Substitutions During Match Play

14.10.1. Substitutions may be made during any stoppage of play at the discretion of the referee. A stoppage in play does not guarantee the allowance of a substitution by the referee.

14.10.1.1. In the U-13 and U-14 age groups, an unlimited number of substitutions shall be allowed.

14.10.1.2. For the U15 – U19 age groups, a maximum of 7 substitutions for each team shall be allowed during each half of play and during all overtime play.

14.10.1.3. After leaving the game during a half of play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game during that same half of play.

14.10.1.4. After leaving the game during overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game, including any subsequent play such as the penalty shootout, FIFA's "Kicks from the Penalty Mark"