

The **Eastern Pennsylvania State Cup** competition is the first leg of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series (NCS). It serves as an open competition that draws teams that participate at the highest levels of youth soccer throughout Eastern Pennsylvania. The State Cup champion advances to the US Youth Soccer Region I Championships. Regional champions advance to compete in the US Youth Soccer National Championships.

For purposes of this Cup, Age Group designations such as "U14" will be used interchangeably with "14U".

The Eastern Pennsylvania State Cup (NCS) competition will be conducted in two specific time periods that align the play with the age groups and selected external soccer conflicts. The competition is divided as follows:

**March to May** – During this period the Eastern Pennsylvania State Cup or National Championship Series (NCS) for the U12 to U17 boys and girls age groups is conducted.

**May to June** – During this period the June Eastern Pennsylvania State Cup (NCS) for the U18 and U19/20 boys and girls age groups is conducted.

Any team participating in the Eastern Pennsylvania State Cup (NCS) competition will be ineligible to participate in the Eastern Pennsylvania Presidents Cup or Eastern Pennsylvania Turkey Hill Challenge Cup of the same season.

The State Cup competition is single elimination for all ages for boys and girls.

Competition will start after the designated roster freeze date.

***All roster freeze dates will "freeze" at 4:00 PM EDT of that particular day. Team rosters will remain frozen (no adding or transferring players) until elimination from the competition or being crowned champion. Teams must request to have their roster 'Unfrozen'. Upon confirmation of Cup elimination or being crowned champion, a team may have its roster 'Unfrozen'.***

The Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer State Cup (NCS) U12 age group has adopted the US Soccer initiatives.

U12's will play the 9v9 format

U13 – U19/20 will play the 11v11 format.

The Age Group Breakdown for the 2016/2017 seasonal year will be:

U12 - Born on/after Jan 1, 2005 (Maximum roster size of 16)

U13 - Born on/after Jan 1, 2004 (Maximum roster size of 22)

U14 - Born on/after Jan 1, 2003 (Maximum roster size of 22)

U15 - Born on/after Jan 1, 2002 (Maximum roster size of 22)

U16 - Born on/after Jan 1, 2001 (Maximum roster size of 22)  
U17 - Born on/after Jan 1, 2000 (Maximum roster size of 22)  
U18 - Born on/after Jan 1, 1999 (Maximum roster size of 22)  
U19/U20 - Born on/Aug 1, 1997 (Maximum roster size of 22)

The Finals will be scheduled by Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer at their sole discretion. Teams, regardless of age, may be scheduled to play their Final on a Saturday or Sunday of Championship Weekend. Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer cannot accept any scheduling requests. Coaches with multiple teams in The Finals should make arrangements to have – AT LEAST ONE ADDITIONAL ADULT with a valid coaching pass present for The Final. Any teams losing their coach during the course of The Final (send off, obligation etc.) cannot proceed unless a valid team official with a current coach/administrator pass is present and assumes the duties of said coach.

The Eastern Pennsylvania State Cup (NCS) winners will advance to the US Youth Soccer Region I Championships. The winners of the Region I Championships will then go on to represent Region I at the US Youth Soccer National Championships.

Entry into the Eastern Pennsylvania State Cup (NCS) competition acknowledges the above and also represents an agreement to participate in the Region I and US Youth Soccer National competitions. Should the Eastern Pennsylvania State Cup (NCS) champion renege on this obligation, the championship may be forfeit and the team subject to a fine. If the fine is not paid, the sponsoring organization, including all of its teams, players, etc., will be considered in "bad standing" until the fine is paid.

Should Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer receive a Wild Card slot for the Region I competition, the Eastern Pennsylvania State Cup (NCS) runner-up will represent Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer and is subject to the fine and rules and regulations as described above.

### **The NCS application fee is \$260.00.**

This application fee represents the entrance fee ONLY and does not include referee fees. Referee fees are split between the two competitors according to the current seasonal year referee fee schedule. Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer pays all referee fees for The Finals.

**The U12 - U17 NCS Finals will be played the weekend of May 20<sup>th</sup> and May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017.**

**The U18 - U19/20 NCS Finals will be played Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**