

The **Eastern Pennsylvania State Cup** is the start of competition in the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series (NCS). The Eastern Pennsylvania State Cup competition is an open competition that draws teams from the highest levels of competition throughout the state. The State Cup champion advances to US Youth Soccer Region I Championships. Regional champions advance to compete in the US Youth Soccer National Championships in July.

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:

U12 – U17 Boys and Girls	March to May
U18 - U19 Boys and Girls	May to June

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.

NCS Competition format will be single elimination for all ages for Boys and Girls. Competition will start after the roster freeze date specified by Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer on [www.epysa.org](http://www.epysa.org).

***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’. Please contact the Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Registrar to “unfreeze” your roster.***

The Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer State Cup (NCS) U12 age group has adopted a 9v9 format.

U12’s will play the 9v9 format

U13 – U19 will play the 11v11 format.

The Age Group Breakdown for the 2017/2018 seasonal year will be:

- U12 - Born on/after Jan 1, 2006 (Maximum roster size of 16)
- U13 - Born on/after Jan 1, 2005 (Maximum roster size of 22)
- U14 - Born on/after Jan 1, 2004 (Maximum roster size of 22)
- U15 - Born on/after Jan 1, 2003 (Maximum roster size of 22)
- U16 - Born on/after Jan 1, 2002 (Maximum roster size of 22)
- U17 - Born on/after Jan 1, 2001 (Maximum roster size of 22)
- U18 - Born on/after Jan 1, 2000 (Maximum roster size of 22)
- U19 - Born on/after Jan 1, 1999 (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. That adult individual should be listed on the team's Cup roster. 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 qualify and participate in 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 Championships and the US Youth Soccer National competition, if necessary. Should the Eastern Pennsylvania State Cup (NCS) champion renege on this obligation, the championship may be forfeit and the team subject to fines from both the Region and the State. If the fine is not paid, the sponsoring organization, including all of its teams, players, etc., may be placed in "bad standing" until the fine is paid.

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

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 are scheduled to be played the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> and May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

**The U18 - U19 NCS Finals will be played Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018.**

**The Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer U12-U17 State Cup application will open in December of 2017 and will close on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 4:00 PM EDT. Late applications will not be accepted under any circumstances.**

**The Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer U18-U19 State Cup application will open in December of 2017 and will close on Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 4:00 PM EDT. Late applications will not be accepted under any circumstances.**

**The NCS application fee is \$300.00**