



**SAM BOTHWELL CUP
RULES**

October 20-21, 2018

Plain Township, Diamond Soccer Complex

Application Deadline: September 21st

Roster Deadline: October 12th @ 4:00 PM EST



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The Bothwell Cup was established in 1991 in honor of the late Sam Bothwell, formerly of Mentor, Ohio, a well-known soccer activist who helped start travel programs within the Ohio North boundaries.

The Bothwell Cup rules are subject to change with or without notice. The Bothwell Cup Committee also reserves the right to decide issues not addressed or provided for in these rules as necessary.

Unless otherwise provided in these rules, all decisions by the Bothwell Cup Chairperson and/or the Bothwell Chairperson Designee are final and shall not be the basis of a protest or an appeal, nor shall any such decision be the basis for withdrawal of a refund of a team's application fee.

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1.0. EVENT FORMAT

- 1.1. All age groups will consist of pools. The Ohio North Sam Bothwell Cup Committee reserves the right to accept or deny teams based on prior Ohio North Bothwell Cup history, prior league play and/or tournament history.

2.0. TEAM ELIGIBILITY & ROSTERS

- 2.1. The Bothwell Cup is for current US Youth Soccer affiliated teams and/or U.S. Soccer affiliated teams only.
- 2.2. With the submission of the Bothwell Cup electronic application form, the coach, manager and team certify that they are registered and in good standing with their National Association or State Association.
- 2.3. All players must be properly registered with a U.S. Soccer Member Organization. For all teams that are not members of US Youth Soccer or a US Youth Soccer Affiliate, proof of medical and liability insurance must be provided by their organization of registration.
- 2.4. Age groups will be determined by the 2018-2019 US Youth Soccer Birth Year Registration as listed below.

Age Group	Birth Year
14U/15U*	2005/2004
13U	2006
12U	2007
11U	2008
10U	2009
9U	2010
8U	2011

**14U/15U Divisions: There is no limit to how many 15U players can be on a 14U/15U roster in the 14U/15U Division.*

- 2.5. Teams that participated in their home state association 2017/2018 State Cup or similar event for Premier Level Division 1 teams are not eligible to participate in the Bothwell Cup unless approved by the Bothwell Cup Committee. **IMPORTANT:** A team is considered the same team and not eligible for the Bothwell Cup if more than 50% of a team's rostered players were on the 2017/2018 State Cup roster.
- 2.6. **Roster Sizes:** Bothwell Cup game rosters may have the following maximum number of players:
 - 2.6.1. 9U-10U Teams: Maximum of 12 players;
 - 2.6.2. 11U-12U Teams: Maximum of 16 players; and
 - 2.6.3. 13U and Older Teams: Maximum of 18 players.
- 2.7. A player may only be rostered on one (1) team in the Bothwell Cup.
- 2.8. **Player Eligibility/Rosters:** All team's US Youth Soccer affiliated league team roster, tournament roster or U.S. Soccer affiliated team roster serves as the Bothwell Cup roster.
- 2.9. **Roster Deadline:** Seven (7) days prior to the start of preliminary games in the event registration system.
- 2.10. Failure to submit a roster by the established deadline will result in a \$50 per day late fee for each day the roster is late. Teams will not be permitted to play Bothwell Cup games until their roster and payment is received.
- 2.11. **Roster Additions:** May not take place after roster deadline.
- 2.12. **Guest Players:** No more than three (3) guest players from outside the team's club are permitted. Guest players must have permission from their home club.
- 2.13. **Out of State Teams and Players** must have an approved TRAVEL NOTIFICATION/PERMIT from their home state association. Travel notifications/permits are NOT needed for Ohio North teams.
- 2.14. **Ineligible Players:** Any team found to have used an ineligible player in any game shall forfeit all games by a 0-4 score. Such teams will also be fined and not permitted to continue to play in the event.
- 2.15. All Ohio North team officials must be Risk Management certified by Ohio North Youth Soccer. All non-US Youth Soccer teams are required to provide their official organization's Risk Management approval confirmation for all team officials participating with the team.
- 2.16. All parents, athletes, and coaches from all teams are required to complete the Ohio Senate Bill 252: Lindsay's Law requirements. Please visit http://www.ohionorthsoccer.org/events/bothwell_cup/ for requirements and Compliance Form. See Section 4.0.

- 2.17. All team officials from every team must be concussion certified in accordance to Ohio law, Bill 143 and attach copies of their completed certificate during the online check-in. For more information and to complete the concussion training, please visit http://www.ohionorthsoccer.org/concussion_training/ See section 4.0.

3.0. BRACKETING & SCHEDULING

- 3.1. Teams should not be scheduled to play more than two (2) Bothwell Cup games on any one (1) day; however, this cannot be guaranteed in the event of rain, weather and/or field challenges.
- 3.2. Where numbers provide, the top competitive division will be comprised of teams that play in the Ohio North State League or in the first division of larger competitive leagues. All teams will be placed into divisions of play at the Bothwell Cup Committee's discretion.
- 3.3. Bothwell Cup games should take precedence over all scheduled league games.
- 3.4. All games scheduled by member leagues are required to be rescheduled to permit all eligible teams to compete in the Bothwell Cup.

4.0. ONLINE CHECK-IN PROCEDURES

- 4.1. Each team is required to submit the online check-in information online at <https://bit.ly/2PMhZYX> by the Roster Deadline. See Section 2.9. The link will not open until registration closes.
- 4.2. Required Check-In Items:
- 4.2.1. Copy of member passes with pictures for coaches and players, including all guest players and/or club pass players, issued by the team's Federation Organization Member (USYS, AYSO, US Club, etc.). All member passes for the team must be from the same organization member. There can be no intermixing of different organizational member passes.
- 4.2.2. Copy of league roster validated by State Association or Federation organization member.
- 4.2.3. Lindsay's Law Compliance form for the team. See Section 2.16.
- 4.2.4. Concussion Certificate for all coaches and managers with member passes. See Section 2.17.
- 4.2.5. Teams and/or players outside of Ohio North jurisdiction must provide proof of permission to travel.

5.0. REFEREES

- 5.1. Designated certified assignors will schedule referees for all Bothwell Cup games.

6.0. RULES OF COMPETITION

- 6.1. **Application:** All games shall be played under FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by U.S. Soccer, Ohio North and/or unless otherwise stated in the Bothwell Cup rules.

6.2. Field of Play

- 6.2.1. Teams will report to the "field of play" at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start of game.
- 6.2.2. Both teams are to be seated on the same side of the field.
- 6.2.3. All team personnel who are not players must have a VALID member pass and be listed on the Bothwell Cup Game Report. All team personnel without a VALID member pass shall remain on the spectator side
- 6.2.4. All players must have VALID member passes at each and every game they participate in. Players or teams that do not have their passes prior to the start of a match must receive the Bothwell Cup Committee's approval prior to playing in any game.
- 6.2.5. The Bothwell Cup Committee may move teams from one location to another or from one field to another to accommodate changes in schedules, because fields have (or will be closed) or in an effort not to damage fields.

6.3. Game Lengths & Roster Sizes

Age	Game Length	Overtime	Format	Maximum Roster Size	Maximum Game Roster Size	Minimum Number of Players
8U	TBD	N/A	4 v 4 Festival	8	8	4
9U & 10U	25 Min Halves	N/A	7 v 7	12	12	5
11U & 12U	30 Min Halves	N/A	9 v 9	16	16	6
13U & 14U/15U	35 Min Halves	2 x 5 min	11 v 11	22	18	7

- 6.3.1. There will be no overtime or “Kicks from the Mark” in preliminary games.
- 6.3.2. If after two (2) halves during a Semifinal or Final game the game is tied, two (2) 5-minute overtime periods will be played. If the game is still tied after the two (2) overtimes, “Kicks from the Mark” will be conducted and the FIFA Laws of the Game shall apply.
- 6.4. **Uniform**
 - 6.4.1. With the exception of the goalkeeper, each player shall wear a unique number and similarly designed jerseys.
 - 6.4.2. Goalkeepers must wear colors that differentiate them from the field players.
 - 6.4.3. In cases of dispute over color, socks, or shorts; the referee will decide. The home team shall wear light jerseys and the visiting team shall wear dark jerseys
- 6.5. **Substitution**
 - 6.5.1. All age groups shall be permitted unlimited substitutions.
 - 6.5.2. Either team may make a substitution with the referee’s permission at any stoppage of play.
- 6.6. **Forfeitures**
 - 6.6.1. A 15-minute grace period shall be allowed beyond the official start time of the game if the minimum number of players are not available at scheduled start time. If at the end of the 15-minute grace period the team still does not have the minimum number of players, the referee will suspend the game and report the failure of the team to take the field on the Bothwell Cup game reports.
 - 6.6.2. The Bothwell Cup Chairperson may determine the game to be forfeited after examining the game report and conducting an investigation.
 - 6.6.3. In the event that any team is suspected of forfeiting a game with the design or purpose of controlling the advancement of any team from its own bracket or any other bracket, the Bothwell Cup Chairperson may require such an advancing team to play another qualifying game against the next highest ranking team that would otherwise be eligible to advance.
 - 6.6.4. A team that fails to take the field because of withdrawal from the Bothwell Cup (or game) after the deadline may be subject to sanctions levied by the Bothwell Cup Chairperson, Bothwell Cup Committee, or the Ohio North Board of Directors.
 - 6.6.5. Any team that forfeits a game may not be allowed to continue to play in the event as determined by the Bothwell Cup Chairperson.
 - 6.6.6. The score awarded to the winning team resulting from a forfeiture will be recorded as 4-0.
 - 6.6.7. Penalties/Fines: A forfeiting team will be fined up to \$500 PER GAME forfeited. Any team that does not pay the fine(s) will be placed in BAD STANDING and the team(s) will not be permitted to play in any future Bothwell Cup games and Ohio North sanctioned leagues and events until Ohio North receives the appropriate payment(s).
- 6.7. **Terminated Play**
 - 6.7.1. In the event a team does not have a coach or enough players to continue a game after ejections, the result is recorded 0-4, in favor of the opposing team. The game is NOT considered a forfeit.
- 6.8. **Irrelevant Games**
 - 6.8.1. In the event that weather or unforeseen circumstance prohibit a game from being played and the game is considered irrelevant to standings (the outcome does not affect a bracket’s scoring or a quarter/semi/final seeding) it may be determined by the Bothwell Cup Chairperson that the game will not be played. No refunds will be given.
- 7.0. **GAME REPORTS**
 - 7.1. The Home Team is always the first team listed on the schedule.
 - 7.2. The winning coach or team manager of each game shall return the game reports to any Ohio North event official at the headquarters within 30 minutes following the game. In the event of a tie, the Home Team coach or team manager is responsible.
 - 7.3. Failure to return the game reports to the event headquarters within 30 minutes following each game may result in disqualification of the winning team (or the home team in the event of a tie) and/or a \$100 fine for each score not reported.

8.0. SCORES & STANDINGS

- 8.1. **Scoring Method:** The standing of teams within a bracket or pool is based upon the number of points earned in the qualifying games. Team points shall be awarded as follows:
 - 8.1.1. A maximum of three (3) points for a win (including forfeits, but subject to the rule on forfeitures).
 - 8.1.2. One (1) point for a tie.
 - 8.1.3. Zero (0) points for a loss.
- 8.2. The maximum goals Ohio North will record for each team in each game is four (4).
- 8.3. The maximum goal differential shall be four (4). (Goals scored less goals allowed with maximum of four (4) goal differential.)
- 8.4. If there are two (2) brackets of three (3) teams in one (1) age division, the teams will be combined into a six-team pool with three (3) teams in one (1) bracket playing all three (3) teams in the other bracket. At the end of the preliminary rounds, the top two (2) finishers in the six-team pool will advance to the next round of the event.
- 8.5. **Tie Breakers:** In the event teams are tied on the basis of points earned during bracket or pool games, a team's advancement shall be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria:
 - 8.5.1. Winner of head to head competition; however, this criterion shall not be used when more than two (2) teams are tied in points for their respective pool.
 - 8.5.2. Winner of most games in their respective pool.
 - 8.5.3. Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of four (4) per game.
 - 8.5.4. Fewest goals allowed.
 - 8.5.5. Kicks from the Mark.
- 8.6. If more than two (2) teams are tied in points in the pool of play, the sequence shall be followed until one (1) or more teams are eliminated.
- 8.7. Once one (1) or more teams have been eliminated, the remaining teams still tied shall then restart the sequence above until the tie is broken.
- 8.8. **Wildcard Team Selection:** For age groups requiring a wildcard for Semifinal play, wildcard qualification shall be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria:
 - 8.8.1. Teams with the most points.
 - 8.8.2. Winner of head-to-head competition; However, this criterion shall not be used when more than two (2) teams are tied in points.
 - 8.8.3. Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of four (4) goals per game.
 - 8.8.4. Fewest goals allowed.
 - 8.8.5. Kicks from the Mark.
- 8.9. If more than two (2) teams are tied, the sequence shall be followed until one (1) or more teams are eliminated.
- 8.10. Once one (1) or more teams have been eliminated, the remaining teams still tied shall then restart the sequence above until the tie is broken.
- 8.11. Wildcard placement shall be at the discretion of the Bothwell Cup Chairperson.

9.0. WARNINGS, SENDOFFS & DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

- 9.1. A team receiving three (3) red cards (or more) or five (5) yellow cards (or more) in one (1) game may result in the team coach to appear before the Ohio North Board for review and/or sanctions.
- 9.2. The Bothwell Cup Chairperson shall hold all member passes for suspended participants.
- 9.3. Game suspensions received during Bothwell Cup will be served during the individual's next scheduled Bothwell Cup game(s) for Preliminary, Semifinal, and/or Final games.
- 9.4. All disciplinary sanctions will be a minimum of one (1) game suspension. If warranted, more game suspension(s) may be added. The Bothwell Cup Chairperson will decide on the length of ALL suspensions.
- 9.5. Players, coaches, or team officials striking or threatening an official will be suspended immediately. A separate Ohio North disciplinary hearing will be held for Referee Assault/Referee Abuse.
- 9.6. Disciplinary Sanctions:
 - 9.6.1. Player, Coach, or Team Official Ejection for Foul & Abusive Language
 - 9.6.2. Player Ejection for Violent Conduct or Serious Foul Play
 - 9.6.3. Player Fighting
 - 9.6.4. Coach Threats

- 9.6.5. Coach Fighting
- 9.6.6. Player, Coach, or Team Official Ejection for Accumulation of Two (2) Yellow Cards
- 9.7. If considered serious enough, a player, coach, or team official may face additional sanctions for other offenses as determined by the Bothwell Cup Chairperson and/or by the Bothwell Cup Chairperson Designee.

10.0. COACH & SPECTATOR RESPONSIBILITY

- 10.1. Coaches are responsible for the spectators that accompany his or her team.
- 10.2. Spectators will occupy the side of the field opposite the side the teams are located.
- 10.3. If it becomes evident that the spectator(s) becomes unruly and cannot be controlled, the field sidelines will be cleared of all spectators. If the spectators refuse to leave the field of play, the game will be suspended and possibly forfeited upon an investigation by the Bothwell Cup Chairperson.
- 10.4. If a game must be replayed because of a spectator's behavior, no spectators will be allowed at the game site of the replayed game.
- 10.5. Coaches should advise their team's spectators of the \$1,000 fine Ohio North may levy against a team as a result of unacceptable spectator behavior or referee abuse.

11.0. FIELD STATUS

- 11.1. Field status/playability is determined by the Host Organization and the Bothwell Cup Chairperson.
- 11.2. Prior to any decision to close fields, the Host Organization must consult with the Bothwell Cup Chairperson. The field status determination is final.
- 11.3. If the Host Organization approves the field for play, games may be cancelled and/or the fields may be closed at a later time if the Host Organization and/or the Bothwell Cup Chairperson deems the conditions to have changed.
- 11.4. The Bothwell Cup Chairperson may suspend games when he/she considers the field unsafe or unplayable.
- 11.5. In the event of inclement weather, everything possible will be done to play the games; however, cannot and will not be guaranteed. There are no refunds for games that could not be played due to inclement weather.
- 11.6. In the event any match is stopped before full time, all players must remain available at the site until a resolution is determined. If the game is stopped during the first half, if time permits, the game will be completed. If time does not permit completion of a game that is not reached at half-time, the Bothwell Cup Committee will determine the outcome of the game.

12.0. PROTESTS & APPEALS

- 12.1. Any protest must be presented in writing to the Bothwell Cup Chairperson within one (1) hour of the completion of the game in protest.
- 12.2. All protests must be accompanied with a \$100 bond. The protest must include a specific statement acknowledging that the required \$100 bond will be submitted to the Bothwell Cup Chairperson within 24 hours of the protest.
- 12.3. If a protest is upheld, the bond will be returned.
- 12.4. A referee's judgment shall not be accepted as a basis for protests; however, misapplication of the Laws of the Game may be a valid basis for a protest.
- 12.5. Although a protest may not be entertained by the Bothwell Cup Chairperson due to the lateness of the filing of the protest, the Bothwell Cup Chairperson may report any misconduct by any Ohio North player, coach or team, including the use of an ineligible player, during any portion of the Bothwell Cup to the Ohio North Board of Directors or a higher authority for their consideration.

13.0. SPIRIT OF THE GAME

- 13.1. If the Bothwell Cup Chairperson determines that a particular action by a team or any of its members or spectators is deemed unacceptable for any reason, the team may be disqualified, sanctioned, and/or face forfeiture of one (1) or more games.
- 13.2. Ohio North, its Board of Directors, staff, employees, volunteers, Bothwell Cup Committee, Bothwell Cup Chairperson and/or US Youth Soccer will not be responsible for any expense incurred by any team, club or person if the event is cancelled in whole or in part.
- 13.3. By entering this event, your team and all participants agree to accept the jurisdiction of the Bothwell Cup Committee and Ohio North. No official, coach, club, league, referee, player, team or their representative(s)

may invoke the aid of the Courts of any political or governmental entity without the first exhausting all available remedies within the appropriate affiliated soccer organizations as set forth in these rules, the Constitution and Bylaws of Ohio North and of US Youth Soccer. For violation of this rule, the offending parties shall be subject to the sanctions of suspensions and fines, and shall be liable to Ohio North for all expenses incurred by these Associations and/or their officers as appropriate, in defending each court action, including but not limited to, Court costs, attorney(s) fees and reasonable compensation for all time and expenses.

14.0. ALCOHOL, TABACCO & ILLEGAL DRUGS

- 14.1. Players and coaches participating in the Bothwell Cup are prohibited from consuming alcohol or using illegal drugs.
- 14.2. Players and coaches are also prohibited from using any form of tobacco at the playing site of the Bothwell Cup. The penalty for violation by player and/or coach may be disqualification from the Bothwell Cup.