



2019-2020 COLORADO STATE CUP RULES AND PROCEDURES

2020 National Championship Series Revised July 2019

- I. Purpose of the Competition
 - a. The Colorado State Cup represents the first level in a three-stage competition, known as the US Youth Soccer (USYS) National Championship Series. The second stage is Far West Regionals and the third stage is the USYS National Championship. This competition is held annually to establish State, Regional, and National Champions. The Colorado State Cup is conducted in a tournament format to establish a State Champion in the 11U-19U age groups.
 - b. By winning a State Cup Championship in the 13U-19U age groups, a team concurrently earns the privilege and responsibility of representing Colorado at Far West Regionals. By winning a State Cup Championship in the 12U age group, a team concurrently earns the privilege and responsibility of representing Colorado at Far West Presidents Cup. There is no Regional event for winners of the 11U age group.
 - c. By winning in the 13U-19U age groups of Far West Regionals, a team earns the privilege and responsibility of representing the West Region and Colorado at the USYS National Championship.
 - d. By entering the Colorado State Cup, the team understands and agrees to participate at the Regional level should the team become Colorado State Cup champions and representing the Region should the team become Far West Regionals champion.
- II. Authorities and Responsibilities
 - a. The following Rules and Procedures shall apply to all Colorado State Cup games.
 - b. State, Regional, and National Championship competitions shall take precedence over all other games, whether they are league or tournament play, including out-of-state play. Games rescheduling for the purpose of allowing a team or members of a team participate in another event will not be permitted.
 - i. The only league competition that is an exception to this rule is teams who also participate in the USYS Desert Conference. If a team competes in USYS Desert Conference and State Cup, their State Cup game will be rescheduled to a date that does not conflict with their USYS Desert Conference schedule.
 - c. In the event that inclement weather or field closure affects the competition, CSA will reserve the right to suspend and reschedule all matches. Inclement weather and field closure is determined by the city/county/parks & rec department that oversees the facilities.

- d. Colorado Soccer Association (CSA) is responsible for developing the schedule of games. Schedules will be played as published by CSA.

III. Team Eligibility

- a. The USYS National Championship Series shall be open to any age appropriate youth teams that is duly registered with CSA, providing that such team is in good standing. State Cup competition shall not be open to select teams.
- b. All players shall be registered with CSA affiliated clubs and teams.
- c. The team roster for US Youth National Soccer Championship Series and all levels of Cup Competition for which the team qualifies, shall be the team league roster at the time the roster is frozen. The team roster for this competition shall be frozen no later than 9 calendar days (at the close of business) prior to the first scheduled Cup game.
- d. A team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the league and every level of the USYS National Championship Series by maintaining a minimum of 9 players common to the roster of the team at every level of the competitions.
- e. A club may issue a club pass to any youth player who is a registered youth player of the club before the team to which such youth player is to be rostered for the State level of Cup competition. Each player with a club pass will be assigned to a team roster competing in State Cup.
- f. Players with a club pass whose team is eliminated from State Cup play are eligible for other teams within the Club advancing from State Cup competition to Regional competition.
- g. 11U-12U teams may have up to 18 players on their roster.
- h. 13U-19U teams may have up to 22 players on their roster.
- i. For those teams utilizing the 22-man roster, only 18 players may be suited up in game day uniforms to play at any given game. The team may allow the remaining 4 players to sit on the bench provided that they are not suited up in game day uniforms. These players are subject to the Laws of The Game.
- j. Any team utilizing the 22-man roster must inform the game assigned game day referee as to which players will be participating in their upcoming game. The Referee shall line out those players not participating on the provided game day roster.

Ultimate Level of Competition	
Age Group	Level
11 and under (11U)	State
12 and under (12U)	Regional
13 and under (13U)	National
14 and under (14U)	National
15 and under (15U)	National
16 and under (16U)	National
17 and under (17U)	National
18 and under (18U)	National
19 and under (19U)	National

- k. Teams advancing to the regional level may only club pass players that were registered within your club at the time roster were frozen for the Colorado State Cup.

IV. Team Credentials

- a. By entering the US Youth National Soccer Championship Series, each team agrees to appear for and to compete in all scheduled games for whom it qualifies, including any and all Regional and National Championship games. Each team also agrees to assume full responsibility for the financial and travel requirements associated with competition at the Regional and National levels.
- b. All fees and forms required for State Cup registration must be submitted to the CSA office on or before the close of business on the due date specified on application documents.
- c. At every cup game, each team must have valid player passes for all players listed on the roster. Coaches must also have a valid coach pass for the club they are registered with. It is highly recommended the coach have a pass for each team for which they are coaching. In the event if a coach is ejected and the pass is taken, the coach would still have a coach pass to be able to coach their additional teams.

V. Procedures of the Competition

- a. VENUE: In State Cup Competition, pairings, sites and format of play shall be determined by CSA.
- b. FORMAT: Teams in each age group will be guaranteed three games. Should an odd number of teams register for an age group, home-and-away play-in games will be played between the two lowest seeds to bring the number down to the nearest even number.
- c. FLIGHTING: Structure of the competition shall be as follows:

# of Teams in Pool Play	# of Pool Play Brackets	Pool Play Game Structure or Bracket Structure*	Playoff Structure**
1	0	None	Team automatically declared champion
2	1	Two games between teams	Highest points after two games declared champion
3	1	Round robin	Highest points after round robin declared champion
4	1	Round robin	Top two teams to final
6	2	3/3	Bracket winners to final
8	2	4/4	Top two teams from each bracket to semifinals
10	3	4/3/3	Three bracket winners and top wildcard*** to semifinals
12	3	4/4/4	Top two teams from each bracket and two wildcards to quarterfinals
14	4	4/4/3/3	Four bracket winners and four wildcards to quarterfinals
16	4	4/4/4/4	Top two teams from each bracket go to quarterfinals
18	5	4/4/4/3/3	Five bracket winners and three wildcards to quarterfinals
20	5	4/4/4/4/4	Five bracket winners and three wildcards to quarterfinals

*Bracket Structure: If there are two brackets of three teams (3/3), the game structure will involve playing the two teams in your bracket and one crossover game, which is determined by seeding.

**Playoff Structure: The first round of playoffs will be reseeded should it contain a matchup that was played in pool play.

***Wildcard: To determine who wildcards are, please refer to Colorado State Cup Rule VIII.

- d. SEEDING OF FLIGHTS: In each gender/age category seeding will be conducted by CSA according to the following order of criteria:
 - i. Previous year's State Cup champion will be seeded number one.
 - ii. Previous year's State Cup runner-up will be seeded number two.
 - iii. The remaining teams will be seeded based upon the age group's standings of the most recent completed league season.
 - iv. If a team played in younger age group in league play, their seed will come after the seeds listed above in V.d.i., V.d.ii., and V.d.iii.

VI. Play-In Games

- a. Play-In Games will be played in the event that an odd number of teams register for an age group. The Play-In Games are played between the two lowest seeds at the time of bracketing.
- b. CSA will determine the play-in game dates. There will be no deviation from the dates provided. If teams do not play on the dates provided by CSA the teams will not be in consideration for the State Cup tournament, and no refund will be given.
- c. The two teams will play each other in two games, with each team hosting a game. The higher seed will host the second game. The team to score more goals across the two games will advance to the Colorado State Cup Pool Play. The tiebreaker in the event that both teams score the same amount of goals is away goals.
- d. In the event that both teams are tied on goals scored across both games with the same number of away goals, kicks from the mark will be used immediately after regulation to determine the team advancing to State Cup Pool Play.
- e. Since each team will be hosting a game, teams must work with their club to host a game at the cost of the team. If the home team is unable to provide a field, CSA will find a neutral field with no consideration to the location of either club.
- f. CSA will provide officials for both legs.
- g. Play-in teams who do not advance to Colorado State Cup Pool Play will be issued a refund of 30% of their registration fee.
- h. The Play-In Game roster will be frozen on a date specified by CSA. Should the team advance into the tournament, that frozen play-in roster, will become the cup roster for the state competition and no changes can be made. The players of the teams that do not advance to Pool Play may be assigned to rosters of teams that are participating in pool play of State, Presidents, or Centennial Cup, so long as it is prior to the tournament roster freeze date and does not violate any CSA Cup rules.

VII. SCORING: Scoring for pool play shall be:

- a. 3 point for a win
- b. 1 point for a draw
- c. 0 points for a loss
- d. In the event of a forfeit, a 4-0 win shall be awarded to the affected team.

VIII. DETERMINATION OF WILDCARD TEAMS WHEN NECESSARY: When determining the wildcard, the standings from each bracket will be compared. The top wildcard is the team that finished with the most points that didn't not win the bracket. The second wildcard is the team that finished with the second most points outside

of the bracket winners. The third wildcard is the team that finished with the third most points outside of the bracket winners.

- IX. Officials: The CSA State Referee Assignor shall select the referees for all State Cup Competition games. Every effort will be made to supply (3) three referees. However, club lines shall be used in extreme situations.
- X. Late withdrawals: Teams who are accepted to the competition and then withdraw prior to their first scheduled game will forfeit their entry fee. In addition, the team will be placed on probation for State Cup play (President's or National Championship Series) for 2 years. Subsequent withdrawals under these conditions will result in the team being fined and not being accepted into competition.
- XI. NO SHOWS: Any Cup team failing to appear for a single scheduled cup game without the prior approval of CSA will be assessed a forfeit, and CSA shall review the circumstances of the no show for possible disciplinary review and/or a fine.
 - a. A catastrophic event (one regarded as a great misfortune) outside the control of the Team will only be considered for rescheduling a missed game. The CSA decision is final upon review of the event.
 - b. Any State Cup team failing to appear for two or more of its scheduled Cup games will be eliminated from the competition, and all game results involving that team will be voided from the standings, whether earned or lost by competition or forfeiture. Should CSA find that the team's "failure to appear" was willful or negligent, the coach and/or club officials of said team would be referred for disciplinary action and fined.
- XII. TEAM EXPULSION: A team removed from Cup Competition for any team fault for one or more games shall be required to post a bond of no less than \$2,000 in certified funds with the CSA office prior to being admitted to any future state championship competitions. The bond will only be refunded after the team has played in all Cup games for whom it qualifies.
- XIII. PLAYER/COACH/SPECTATOR MISCONDUCT
 - a. Penalties received by players/coaches in State Cup Competition, be it red or yellow cards, will be served only within the context of Cup play, and will not carry over into league or tournament play. If applicable, penalties will be served in Regional/National competition or carried over to the players/coaches next State or Presidents cup enrollment regardless of their team affiliation. If the coach is participating in both State and Presidents Cup, the penalty will be applied to the event in which it occurred.
 - b. Any coach rostered to more than one team in the competition who is ejected shall sit out a minimum of the next SCHEDULED GAME for the team with which the ejection was awarded.
 - c. If a game is abandoned due to coach/spectator/player, the team for which the coach/spectator/player is with shall forfeit the game and the other team awarded points based on the score or a 4-0 victory whichever is greater.
 - d. If a player/coach/spectator is sent off/dismissed for misconduct, the referee will submit the game report to the State Cup Commissioner or designated alternate. The player/coach/spectator shall be subjected to penalties described below and shall be ineligible until he or she is reinstated by cup administration.

IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION FROM CURRENT GAME AND A MINIMUM ONE (1) GAME SUSPENSION FROM NEXT SCHEDULED GAME

- i. S1: Serious foul play (SFP). Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to: when a player, in a violent or dangerous manner intentionally trips, holds, pushes, charges, or tackles an opponent from behind
- ii. S4: Denial of goal or goalscoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball. This does not apply to a goalkeeper within his/her own penalty area (DGH).

- iii. S5: Denial of obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick (DGF).
- iv. S6: Using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures (AL). Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to: language uttered in frustration and, in the referee's opinion loud enough to be heard. Derogatory Language or inappropriate gestures displayed and directed at others. If persistent in obstinate behavior, CSA can enforce additional penalties.
- v. S7: Receiving a second caution in the same game (2CT).

IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION FROM CURRENT GAME AND A ONE (1) OR MORE GAME SUSPENSION FROM NEXT SCHEDULED GAMES UPON REVIEW

- vi. S2: Violent conduct (VC). Examples include but are not necessarily limited to: Striking or attempting to strike another player, team official or spectator, unlawfully entering the field of play during an altercation.
 - 1. Pushing in an act of aggression, striking or attempting to strike a referee, linesperson or fourth official will result in immediate suspension from all CSA sanctioned activities and, upon CSA Disciplinary Committee review, a potential minimum of one (1) year suspension from all US Youth Soccer sanctioned activities, unless serious injuries are inflicted then the minimum suspension period will be at least five (5) years.
- vii. S3: Spitting at an opponent or any other person (S). Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to: spitting or other unseemly acts on or at another person.
- viii. Miscellaneous: Any player, substitute or coach who refuses the referee's request for their name, or gives a false name, while the referee is gathering data to report an infringement of the "Laws of the Game", involving them, shall have a minimum of one (1) game added to the suspension that would normally be levied by the CSA Disciplinary Committee. Actions listed above are to be regarded as minimum suspensions.
- ix. Team personnel dismissed from the field of play are guilty of irresponsible behavior (IB). A report written by the referee will be provided about the incident. A team official will serve a one game suspension at minimum, Based on the severity of the incident, CSA may refer the incident to the CSA Disciplinary Committee for further review and action, which may result in more than a one game suspension.
- x. In specific situations, CSA may place an individual on probation in addition to the suspension. The probationary period is to be served immediately following the suspension period and is intended to monitor the individual's degree of reform. Should an individual on probation be sent off the field of play and shown the red card during the probationary period the matter shall be referred to CSA for evaluation.

XIV. CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

- a. If a player is evaluated by medical trainers present at the field and is found to exhibit concussion-like symptoms, Colorado State Cup will adhere to the USYS Concussion Procedures and Protocol.
- b. The player will be evaluated by on-site medical trainers and if a suspected head injury is determined, the player's pass will be pulled and given to a CSA State Cup designated staff member. The player and parents will receive information documents from the medical trainer and will need to be evaluated and cleared by a medical profession before participating in any further league or cup matches. Once the clearance paperwork is sent to the CSA office, the player pass will be provided to the club via USPS Mail so the player can resume participation in league and cup games.

- XV. **KICK OFF AND WAITING TIME:** Kick off will be at the time shown on the tournament schedule. A 15-minute grace period will be allowed from the scheduled kick off time. If a team is not ready for play at the end of the grace period, the game is a FORFEIT.
- XVI. **THE TECHNICAL AREA (SIDELINES):** The technical area is a designated area for rostered substitutes and no more than four (4) technical staff members.
- a. No more than four (4) rostered technical staff members are allowed in the designated area during the game. Team or Club Medical or Sports Management Trainers are considered one of the four staff members on the sideline. Clubs are responsible to ensure that Medical or Sports Management Trainers are certified in their expertise.
 - b. The occupants of the technical staff in the bench area must have a club coach or team coach pass for the respective bench.
 - c. Technical Staff occupants of the technical area shall be identified to the referee by presenting a US Youth Soccer Coaches pass with current picture during team check in. Each Coach or other Club Technical person will need to have a pass for each club/team they represent on the side-line.
 - d. Both teams shall be located on the same side of the field. Spectators of both teams shall occupy the opposite side of the field from the teams and coaches. Teams and spectators will not occupy a common side of adjacent fields.
- XVII. **DURATION OF THE GAME:**

Age Group	Half Length	Halftime	Overtime Half Length (Playoffs Only)
11U	30 minutes	5 minutes	10 minutes
12U	30 minutes	5 minutes	10 minutes
13U	35 minutes	5 minutes	10 minutes
14U	35 minutes	5 minutes	10 minutes
15U	40 minutes	5 minutes	15 minutes
16U	40 minutes	5 minutes	15 minutes
17U	45 minutes	5 minutes	15 minutes
18U	45 minutes	5 minutes	15 minutes
19U	45 minutes	5 minutes	15 minutes

- a. **No Overtime Periods for Play-In Games or Pool Play Games:** no overtime periods shall be played in play-in or pool play games. If a play-in matchup is tied on aggregate at the end of the second leg and the two teams are tied on the away goals tiebreaker, the winner will be determined by FIFA kicks from the mark immediately after regulation play. If a pool play game ends in a tie after regulation, the result will be recorded as a draw.
 - b. **Overtime Periods for Playoff games:** If a quarterfinal, semifinal or final game is tied at the end of the second regulation period, there shall be two full overtime periods. If a quarterfinal, semi-final or final game is still tied at the end of the second overtime period, the winner shall be determined by FIFA kicks from the mark.
- XVIII. **TIE-BREAKING PROCEDURE**
- a. Should there be a tie at the completion of a round that determines advancement, the tie will be broken by the following order of criteria:
 - i. Head-to-Head results.

1. NOTE: If more than two teams are tied, the sequence will be followed beginning with the second tiebreaker until a team is either advanced or eliminated. The remaining teams will then be compared, beginning with the second tiebreaker to determine final placement.
 - ii. Winner of most games.
 - iii. Cumulative goal differential between goals scored and goals allowed in all games played within the team's flight. Maximum goal difference allowed is four (4) goals per game.
 - iv. Least goals allowed in all games played within the team's flight.
 - v. Kick from the penalty spot per IFAB Laws of the Game
 1. NOTE: If two teams are tied on all tiebreakers and the two teams in question are playing each other the final pool play game, the game will go straight to kicks from the mark. No overtime periods will be played.

XIX. PROTEST AND APPEALS:

- a. To be valid and eligible for consideration, protests shall be lodged verbally with the referee and the opposing coach at the game site immediately after the end of the game, except protests relating to the grounds, goal posts, bars, and their appurtenances of the game must be in writing and submitted to the referee and opposing coach prior to the start of the game.
- b. All protests must be made in writing within two hours after the end of the game in which the protest incident occurred, accompanied by a non-refundable \$100.00 protest fee to the CSA State Cup Commissioner or the State Cup Commissioner's designated representative.
- c. The judgment decision of a game official cannot be protested, only the misapplication of the laws of the games.
- d. If these conditions are not met in full, the protest will not be considered.
- e. Upon receiving a properly filed protest, the CSA State Cup Commissioner or designate will determine the time and location of the protest hearing and shall designate the members of the ad hoc protest committee. This committee will meet in a closed meeting to make a ruling on the protest. A hearing will be held immediately upon receiving filed protest and protest fee if it requires immediate action. Otherwise, a decision will be rendered within 48 hours.
- f. A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the State Cup competitions is not sufficient grounds for a protest or appeal. Violators may expect appropriate action by CSA.
- g. In State Cup competitions at the State Association level, decisions made on protests and appeals by the CSA ad hoc protest committee and appeal authority are binding and allow the competition to proceed.

XX. UNFINISHED GAMES:

- a. Any game that is stopped for any cause except team fault before the end of the first half will be replayed.
- b. Any game that is stopped in the second half for any reason except team fault will be considered complete. However, if the second half is started, there has to be confidence that the half will be completed. The Official, Cup Commissioner (or designated alternate) and site coordinator will assess the specific situation prior to starting the second half.
- c. A playoff round game stopped for any cause may be reviewed by CSA for determination of status.

- i. If a game is abandoned due to coach/player/spectator behavior, the team for which the coach/player/spectator is with shall forfeit the game and the other team awarded point based upon the score of a 4-0 victory, whichever is greater.

XXI. RULES OF PLAY: IFAB Laws of the Game as modified by CSA will be in effect.

XXII. HOME TEAM DETERMINATION: The home team is always listed first on the cup schedule. If both teams are wearing similar jerseys, the home team shall wear dark jerseys and the visiting team shall wear light colored jerseys. If the visiting team does not carry a light-colored jersey, then the visiting team shall wear an alternate dark color that does not conflict with the home team's colors. Either team's goalkeeper shall change jerseys as the referee directs regardless of home/visitor status. Each team will provide a game ball for the game, subject to referee approval.

XXIII. SUBSTITUTIONS:

- a. U14 and below age groups; unlimited substitutions shall be allowed with the referee's permission at the following stoppages:
 - i. Prior to a throw-in, only by the team throwing in.
 - ii. Prior to a goal-kick, by either team.
 - iii. After a goal, by either team.
 - iv. After an injury when the referee has stopped play, by either team.
 - v. Between periods, by either team.
- b. For U15 and up age groups; a maximum of 7 substitutions for each team shall be allowed in each game during each half of play and during overtime play. After leaving the game during a half of play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game during that same half of play. After leaving the game during overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game. Substitutions can enter at any stoppage of play.

XXIV. Awards: CSA provides awards for teams finishing as Champions and Runners-Up. Both teams in the final should plan to stay at least one hour after the final whistle for an awards presentation. The Champions of each age group will receive a trophy to keep in their possession. The Runners-up of each age group will receive a plaque to keep in their possession. Each rostered player and coach will receive a medal for their placement in Colorado State Cup. The coach of each team in the final will provide their Most Valuable Player's (MVP) name to a tournament staff member. The MVP will receive an award during the awards presentation.

XXV. MATTERS NOT COVERED:

- a. Any matter not addressed in these rules or the US Youth Soccer National Championship State Cup Rules will be decided by CSA. Decisions in such matters specific to State Cup Rules will be final and binding.
- b. If a party has reasons to appeal a decision made by CSA other than what is covered within these rules, an appeal may be filed with the CSA Board of Directors which must follow the Appeal process as described within CSA Rules and Procedures.

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