



2018 US YOUTH SOCCER MASSACHUSETTS STATE CUP

Round Robin Rules and Procedures

1. TEAM REGISTRATION

Players do not need to come to the registration area. A team official must check-in at the registration area a minimum 60 minutes prior to their first Round Robin match during the Round Robin weekend.

A separate email and attachment detailing registration requirements will be sent to all team contacts of record prior to the May 19th Round Robin check in. The team representative who is responsible for registering a team must consult and comply with those requirements.

2. FIELD CHECK-IN

Teams must hand the referee a copy of their approved State Cup Game Roster, signed by the Director, NCS, National Championship Series (NCS), prior to all matches (referee check-in). In addition, teams must provide valid US Youth Soccer approved passes for all game active players, as well as valid US Club Soccer passes for all ADULTS who will be on the player sideline (maximum of four [4] per game). *[Please note that a League roster will not be accepted as a State Cup Game Roster.]*

For all age groups, a State Cup Team Roster may have up to a maximum of 22 players but the State Cup Game Roster is limited to a maximum of 18 players (taken from the 22 player State Cup Team Roster). The State Cup Game Roster is created simply by *crossing out* the inactive players on your State Cup Team Roster. The players not participating in the game may be on the team bench but they may not be in uniform. The State Cup Game Roster may use different players for each Round Robin game as long as the players appear on the State Cup team Roster.

Games will not be delayed for late arrivals. Teams unprepared for their starting time will be subject to game forfeiture. Teams will be subject to a forfeit if not ready to begin match with at least 7 players within 10 minutes of scheduled start time.

3. TEAM BENCH - SIDELINES

Teams and team officials (maximum of four [4] people can represent the team) will be on one sideline. Parents and spectators will be on the opposite sideline. Team officials' (maximum of 4 per team) must have a valid 2017/2018 US Club Soccer Team Official pass card and must be listed on the State Cup Team Roster.

If a game day coaching change to the roster is needed, you must have the Director, NCS approve the change prior to the match. The substitute coach must have a valid US Club Soccer pass card in their

possession to coach the game.

4. GAME ASSIGNMENTS

Round Robin game assignments (including dates, times and fields) will be published in advance as soon as reasonably possible. The Director, NCS or designee reserves the right to change the games assigned to specific fields at any time and without notice. A team official must verify the field assignment at the registration area prior to each match. A current schedule will be posted at the pavilion. If a last minute change needs to be made, teams will be advised of the change by the Director, NCS or designee, with as much advance notice as is practical.

5. LAWS OF THE GAME

Games will be played under the rules of F.I.F.A, US Youth Soccer and Mass Youth Soccer except as modified herein:

- A. Law I Field of Play
The field of play shall be as is, except that the field shall be longer than it is wide.
- B. Law III - Substitutions:
 - a. Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage of play.
 - b. For the 13 Under and 14 Under age groups, unlimited substitutions shall be allowed; and
 - c. For all other age groups, a maximum of 7 substitutions for each team shall be allowed during each half. After leaving the game during a half of play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game during the same half of play.
- C. Law VII - Duration of Game

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Game Time</u>
19U	2 x 45
18U	2 x 45
17U	2 x 45
16U	2 x 40
15U	2 x 40
14U	2 x 35
13U	2 x 35

Round Robin matches will end at the end of regulation time. Ties are permitted.

All Round Robin matches unfinished due to any cause shall, at the sole determination of the Director, NCS, be replayed in their entirety if neither team is at fault and play has not begun in the second half. If play is stopped during the second half and play cannot be resumed, and if neither team is at fault, the Director, NCS may deem the game complete. However, if play is stopped at any time due to one of the teams being adjudged to be at fault, it shall be at the sole discretion of the Director, NCS whether the game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit.

6. COMPETITION FORMAT

During the Round Robin phase of the tournament, teams will be awarded three points for a victory, one point for a tie and zero points for a loss. The team with the highest cumulative point total shall be the winner of the applicable group. If two or more teams in the same group have identical point totals, the winner of the group shall be determined by the tie-breaking rules described below. This latter rule shall also apply if there are identical point totals for teams competing for the runner-up position, if applicable.

Please remember that, this year, there is also a separate single elimination pathway that will be underway, resulting in advancement to the Semi-Finals. As a result, only two teams from each Round Robin age/gender competition will advance to the Semi-Finals.

For all games, the team listed first (considered to be the higher seed) will be classified as the Home Team. In the event of a uniform conflict, the Home Team will be required to use its alternate jersey, or if it has none, use pinnies to distinguish the two teams. The Home Team will also provide the game ball which must be suitable by the referee; otherwise, the Visiting Team will be asked to provide the game ball.

TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES:

Two Way Tie within a Group (in order of application):

- a. Head to head result
- b. Goal differential; to a maximum of four (4) per game.
The goal differential in each game will be added together
Example: 7 - 0 = 4-0 (+4); 4 - 1 = (+3); 2-4 = (-2) Total is +5
- c. Fewest cumulative goals allowed – Round Robin total (normally, a three game total).
- d. FIFA kicks from the penalty mark: Penalty kicks are to be taken immediately after the round robin phase has been completed. Teams must not leave the site until all tie breaker situations have been resolved by State Cup Tournament officials.

Three (or Four) Way Tie within a Group

In the event of a three or four way tie within a group, head to head results will not be considered. Each tie breaking rule (#2 - #4 above) will be applied in order until all ties are broken or teams reach penalty kicks. If three (3) teams are involved in penalty kicks – each team will draw a number (numbers will be 1, 2 & 3). The team drawing number one (1) will not kick in the first round but will kick against the winner of teams 2 & 3.

If four (4) teams are involved in penalty kicks – each team will draw a number (numbers will be 1, 2, 3 & 4). The team drawing number one (1) will kick against the team drawing number four (4), and the teams drawing numbers two (2) and three (3) will kick against each other. The winners of each kick-off will face each other to determine the winner.

FORFEITS:

The non-forfeiting team shall be awarded 3 points for a win.

The goal differential for the winner of a forfeited game shall be equal to the highest goal differential from the other game(s) in the same bracket against the team that forfeits, or a goal differential of +1, whichever is larger. The winner by forfeit will be charged with 0 goals against.

The forfeiting team shall be awarded:

Zero points for the loss

Zero goals for

Four (4) goals against

If the referee terminates a game for reasons other than weather or field conditions, the Director, NCS shall decide the results of the game.

Teams / Clubs forfeiting games will be subject to \$500.00 fine per game. Such fine must be paid by the offending team/club before any other member team of said club may compete in the tournament.

7. CONTROL OF SIDELINES / CONDUCT

Players, managers, coaches and fans are expected to conduct themselves within the letter and spirit of the "Laws of the Game." The Director, NCS or his/her designee(s) shall have the authority and responsibility to remove any person(s) from the Tournament for abuses to good conduct as they may determine. In addition to the rules of good conduct, the following rules will apply to this tournament:

Coaches and Managers will be responsible for behavior of their fans. Coaches, Managers or other Team Officials with proper pass cards, to a maximum of 4, will be allowed with the team. Teams will be on the same sideline and all spectators and fans will be on the opposite sideline. Spectator coaching from the opposite sideline is prohibited. Displays of temper, dissent, by word or action against opponents or referees by spectators are cause for ejection from the match and/or premises and/or suspension from the tournament.

Immediately before leaving the field after completion of a game, the Coaches and Managers shall be responsible for ensuring that both the player and fan sidelines are cleared of trash (bottlers, tape, etc.) Teams that fail to comply shall be assessed a fine of \$50.

8. PLAYER EQUIPMENT:

- A. The following will not be permitted:** Jewelry and hair barrettes.
- B. Player Uniform Numbers:** All players (except for goalkeepers) must have jerseys with numbers on the back. No two players on the same team may have the same number.
- C. SHIN GUARDS ARE MANDATORY:** socks/stockings pulled up covering the shin guards.
- D. CASTS/OTHER PROTECTIVE GEAR –** Referees have sole authority to determine if casts or other protective equipment on a player endangers other players and is permitted for any match. Tournament officials have no authority to overrule a referee decision in this regard, nor is a referee decision on this topic subject to appeal. Decisions made on this matter by a referee in one game is not binding upon a referee decision in any subsequent game, nor

can it be used to challenge a decision made in any prior game.

9. RED CARD & EJECTIONS

Any player receiving a red card during the Massachusetts State Cup Competition will not be permitted to play in the next Cup game competition (State Cup, Regional and/or National). The Director, NCS shall have, in his/her sole discretion, the right to increase the suspension if the facts so warrant. A player sent-off during his/her match may remain on the bench for the remainder of the match but may not be in uniform. Notwithstanding this provision, the referee team responsible for the game in which a player is ejected shall have the right to request the player be removed from the sideline/field of play. The Cups Director shall have the right, in his/her sole authority, to comply with the referee's request and require the player to be removed to the Administration pavilion for the remainder of the match, but no such player shall be removed until escorted by the Director, NCS or his/her designee. The match may not be delayed while waiting for the escort. If the player remains at the field and the coach chooses to keep the ejected player on the team's bench, the coach assumes responsibility for that player.

Any team official who is asked to leave a match by the referee during the Massachusetts State Cup Competition shall be suspended for that team's next Cup match. That person must leave the field of play, may not observe the game from the parent sideline or close proximity to the game field and may not, in any manner, be in communication with the team officials or players. The Director, NCS shall have, in his/her sole discretion, the right to increase the suspension games if the facts so warrant. If a team official is suspended twice during the Cup competition, the Director, NCS will determine what disciplinary action to take.

Red card suspensions for players and team official suspensions shall be served for that team's next scheduled Cup (State Cup, Regional, and/or National) match or matches in consecutive order, as applicable. If the team is eliminated from competition, the suspensions shall carry forward for that individual to the next Cup year and shall be served accordingly.

If a suspended team official shows up at the game site and/or attempts in any way to officially participate in the game or makes any effort to coach or instruct the team, his or her team will automatically forfeit the game.

The Massachusetts State Cup program shall honor all suspensions occurring during Cup play, whether at the state, regional or national level, and will enforce any carry over penalties from one season to the next so as to ensure the full suspension is served. In addition the Massachusetts State Cup program shall follow the provisions of the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association "Policies and Procedure", section 9 and enforce any suspensions which result from the application of those provisions. The Massachusetts State Cup program shall not honor suspensions issued by a league, which, pursuant to league by-laws, only apply to that particular league and not Cup competition.

Coaches & Team Officials - Please ensure that the referees do not take and retain the pass card for any player or coach who is ejected.

10. EXTERNAL CONDITIONS, WEATHER, ETC

In the event of unusual conditions, which necessitate rescheduling, suspension, or cancellation of games, the State Director, NCS shall have absolute authority to make changes to best serve the interests of the tournament as a whole. When matches are played at Progin Park and play must be suspended, a single AIR HORN blast will sound indicating suspension of play. **All players, coaches, and spectators are required to leave the field area and go to their car.** When play is to be resumed, there will be two (2) AIR HORN blasts (immediate and consecutive).

11. PROTEST PROCEDURE

Protests must be in writing and filed together with the fee of \$300 in Cash, money order, Club Check or Cashier's check. No personal checks will be accepted. If protest is successful, ½ of fee will be returned. For all Round Robin, Semifinal and Final matches, the protest must be presented to the Director, NCS (or site Director) within 2 hours of completion of the completed match. The protest that is submitted will be reviewed, and decision rendered by a committee ("protest committee") of at least three (3) non-involved individuals, chosen by the Director, NCS, one of whom will be the Director, NCS. No protest will result in the replay of a match under any circumstances.

Judgment decisions of the referee(s) are not subject to protest.

No protest will be entertained relating to the grounds, goalposts, bars or other appurtenances of the game if the referee has approved them. A plea of ignorance of the rules and regulations of the Massachusetts State Cup championship is not sufficient grounds for protest.

Any decision made by the protest committee may be appealed to Mass Youth Soccer in accordance with the established appeal procedures of Mass Youth Soccer.

12. GENERAL

Any matters not specifically covered herein are referred to the Director, NCS for decision and action as he/she deems appropriate. The decision of the Director, NCS shall be final.

13. GAMES PLAYED AT PROGIN PARK FIELDS

Team officials are responsible to communicate the following to all player families:

NO DOGS OR PETS ALLOWED AT ANY TIME ON ALL MASS YOUTH SOCCER PREMISES

NO SMOKING ALLOWED ON ALL MASS YOUTH SOCCER PREMISES

NO FOOD, CHEWING GUM, OR GLASS CONTAINERS ALLOWED ON THE TURF FIELDS

ALL NOISE-MAKING DEVICES ARE PROHIBITED

NO DRONES ARE ALLOWED AT ANY TIME ON ALL MASS YOUTH SOCCER PREMISES