

STATE CUP COMPETITIONS US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Section 4

401-1 Cup Committee Each seasonal year the CJSA President shall appoint, with the approval of the CJSA Board of Directors, a Cup Committee, which along with the State Administrator, shall organize the State Cup and Connecticut Cup competitions. The Cup Committee shall include the CJSA Cup Chairman, the Girls Cup Chairman, and the Boys Cup Chairman. The Cup Committee shall oversee the competitions and shall appoint Cup Directors of each cup for each age division. The dates, times, places, and form of the competition shall be as determined by the Cup Committee and approved by the CJSA Board of Directors.

401-2 State Cup Age Divisions Each spring season CJSA shall administer a State Cup competition to determine CJSA representatives to US Youth Soccer Region I Championships in the U12-U19 age divisions for both boys and girls.

401-3 Team Eligibility Requirements The competitions shall be open to all CJSA teams composed of properly registered and rostered youth players (as defined by the rules of US Youth Soccer) and coaches provided such team is in good standing with CJSA and is in compliance with the special eligibility rules governing the State Cup competitions. (See US Youth Soccer National Championship Series Rule 221.1). The State Cup competition is subject to US Youth Soccer National Championship Series rules. Where there are inconsistencies, US Youth Soccer National Championship Series rules take precedent.

- **Special Eligibility Rules.**

1. The team must be in good standing with CJSA and must be in compliance with, and has not violated any of the bylaws and policies of CJSA and/or US Youth Soccer.
2. The team must have at least fifty percent of its players registered with CJSA.
3. The team (except for the U19 age group) must compete in at least a four-team sanctioned league during the current seasonal year within CJSA, Region I or the US Youth Soccer National League.
4. Every team in the State Cup competitions shall have a roster, a National Championships (State Cup) roster determined under this rule based on the players on the team's roster, and a game roster for every match or competition.
 1. Team Roster. A team roster shall have a minimum of 9 registered players on its roster at all times.
 2. National Championships Roster (State Cup). A team shall have an approved State Cup roster based on its team roster at the State level. The team roster for U12 small sided (9v9) may have up to 16 youth players on the roster at all levels of the competitions. The team roster for U13 and older may have up to 22 youth players on the roster at all levels of the competitions.
 3. Game Roster. The game roster shall be prepared by the team and submitted to the competition authority at a time set by CJSA for State Cup play, by the Region for Regional Cup play and not later than 60 minutes prior to each scheduled game in National Championships play at the national level. The U13 and older game roster shall have a maximum of 18 players and a minimum of 7 players and the U12 game roster shall have a maximum of 16 players and a minimum of 7 players. Every player listed on the game roster must be included on the team's National Championships roster to be eligible to participate with the team in the National Championships competitions.

4. A team may have on its team roster only players of the following age groups for the seasonal year in which the team is participating in the State Cup:
 1. For teams competing in the Under 14 and Under 15 age groups, each player on the team must be (A) of the age of the age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year, or (B) of the age in either of the next 2 younger age groups of that age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year.
 2. For the teams competing in the Under 16, Under 17, Under 18, and Under 19 age groups, each player on the team must be (A) of the age of the age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year, or (B) of the age of any younger age group, through the Under 14 age group, of that age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year.”
5. A full-sided team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the league and every level of the Cup competitions by maintaining a minimum of 9 players common to both rosters, small-sided is 8 players.
6. A club may issue a club pass to any player who is a registered youth player of the club prior to the freezing of cup rosters by CJSA for that age group. Only at the state level of the National Championships competitions (but not at the regional and national levels of the competition) –
 - A. A team may roster any player not having a club pass of that team’s club if a written request, stating the reason why this action has been requested, has been made to and approved by the CJSA on a form provided: and
 - B. At the time a team’s roster is frozen by CJSA for State Cup, the team may not have more than 5 rostered youth who were previously rostered during the current seasonal year with a club other than the club of which the team is a member, the rostering of such youth players with such club shall be made in compliance with the rules of CJSA.
 - C. Players that were only rostered within a club will not be considered a previously rostered player for that club.
7. A player may be rostered to only one team’s State Cup roster at each level of the Cup competitions during the seasonal year.
8. A team may compete in only one age group of the National Championships competitions during the seasonal year.
9. A player who has been suspended may play after the player’s term of suspension has expired.

401-4 Entries/Rosters/Passes. Clubs wishing to enter teams in any of the State Cup competitions must submit their team entry thru the CJSA website (cjsa.org) and pay the appropriate fee for each team.

- **Rosters.** All rosters must be uploaded into the CJSA Registration System and submitted for approval for State Cup. The State Office will verify all players and approve the roster in the system. Submitting a roster alone does not enter the team into the cup competition; an entry and payment are also required.
- **Entry Fees.** The entry fee is \$225.00, if received prior to the early deadline date, or \$325.00 if received after the early deadline date and before cup deadline. (This includes

a Region I fee of \$25.00 that must be paid by all teams entered in the cup.) Entry Fee is non-refundable. All U19 teams will be charged an additional \$500 to enter this cup. When the team has fulfilled its obligation at all levels of the competition, the \$500 will be returned, if however the team fails to fulfill its obligation at any of the levels, the State will retain the \$500.

- **Deadline for Entries.** Entries must be submitted into the CJSA website (cjsa.org) on or before 3:00PM of the applicable deadline date.
- **Withdrawals**
 - Teams may withdraw from the Cup up to seven days prior to the draw and will only forfeit their entry fee.
 - Teams withdrawing between 7 days prior to the draw up to the Cup finals, will be fined \$360.
 - When a team in a match forfeits and the game is not played the team moving on will be charged a home game.
 - A Team advancing to the Region I Championships that withdraws from the Region 1 Championship less than 31 days prior to the start of play will be subject to a fine of \$1500.00 per team.
 - Any team that withdraws from the Region 1 Championship less than 5 days prior to the start of play will be subject to an additional fine of \$1500.00 per team or a total of \$3000.
 - All clubs are responsible for their teams and may be fined and/or sanctioned by CJSA for problems incurred by them on and off the field. State Cup winners that withdraw from Region I Championships will also lose their title of State Cup Champions.
- **Open Draw.** The State Administrator shall submit to the Cup Committee all teams whose entries and rosters were received by their respective deadlines. The committee shall oversee an open draw where the teams are drawn by chance with the following exception: up to 4 teams may be seeded. The remaining entries will be drawn by chance. The Cup Chairperson will then post the draws on www.cjsa.org.
- **Rosters Frozen.** A current team roster must be submitted into the CJSA Registration System and designated for State Cup. A team must upload any changes to the roster prior to the freezing deadlines as follows:
 1. At the state level, the team's roster, one which has been approved by the state, will be frozen no earlier than 14 days prior to the beginning of U17 and younger age group competitions and no earlier than 7 days prior to the beginning of U18 and older age group competitions. (Note: Only players are frozen on a roster - coaches are not frozen and may be changed at any time.) The CJSA Registration System will freeze and stamp all submitted rosters at 3:00 PM on the deadline dates. Teams are required to submit a roster for approval by the appropriate deadline. Late rosters received after the deadline, but within 48 hours of the deadline date will be accepted and accessed a \$100 fine. Cup rosters received after 48 hours of the deadline will not be accepted and the team will be disqualified. Teams failing to submit and receive an

approved roster by the deadline will forfeit their cup entry fee and their right to participate in that cup for that season.

2. at the regional level, at the time of the team's registration for the team's age group competition at that level that shall be determined by the region which shall be no later than 7 days prior to the beginning of the team's age group competition at the regional level; and
3. at the national level, at the time of the team's registration for the team's age group competition at that level that shall be determined by the National Championships Committee which shall be no later than 7 days prior to the beginning of that team's age group competition at the national level.

At the regional and national levels of the National Championships competitions, a team of a club may have on its National Championship roster an eligible player of the that club who was not on the team's National Championships roster at the prior level of the teams National Championships competition.

- **Passes.** Player passes, coaches passes (maximum of 4), and a copy of the team's frozen state approved roster must be available in all cup games. Coaches have the right to inspect player passes, coach's passes, and to request a copy of the certified roster prior to the start of the game. Coaches do not have to be named on the roster to be eligible for the competition however teams must have a registered adult present at all cup games. The adult does not have to be a part of the team or club, but they must be a registered adult with CJSA. In the event that player and/or coaches passes are not present at the match, the players and/or coaches may sign the roster or a piece of paper. If the roster is not present the players will print and sign their name and their date of birth. The referee shall submit the signed roster/paper with his/her referee report and the office will confirm the eligibility of players.
- **Fines.** Teams must pay a fine of \$60 for each rule/policy infraction unless another fee is specified.

401-5 Game Day Information

The length of the Cup Game will be as follows:

Age	Game Length	OT Periods	Ball Size
U19-U17	Two 45 minute halves	Two 10 minute periods	5
U16-U15	Two 40 minute halves	Two 10 minute periods	5
U14-U13	Two 35 minute halves	Two 10 minute periods	5
U12 (9v9)	Two 30 minute halves	Two 10 minute periods	4

In all State Cup competitions after a match has been drawn, two complete overtime periods of 10 minutes will be played. If a game is still tied, taking kicks from the penalty mark will be used to determine the winning team.

- **Field Size**

- The **minimum field size** is 100 yards long and 50 yards wide for full sided games.
- The **minimum field size** is 70-80 yards long and 45-55 yards wide for small sided games.

- **Substitutions**

- a) Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage of play.
- b) For the Under 14 and younger age groups, unlimited substitutions shall be allowed;

c) For all other age groups, a maximum of 7 substitutions for each team shall be allowed in each game during each half and during any overtime play. After leaving the game during a half of play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game during the same half of play. After leaving the game during overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game.

- **Game times**

Weekend games must be scheduled for start between 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM. If teams mutually agree games may be scheduled outside of stated hours but must be played **by date specified by cup committee. Games played on the designated day and between the stated hours DO NOT require agreement of away team.**

- All preliminary games will be played on the assigned day unless, by mutual agreement, the game can be played before the assigned date. In special circumstances the Cup Committee will have final say as to time, day and location of the game. If the game is not played by the assigned date, without the consent of the Cup Committee, both teams will forfeit the match.
- The game must be played in its entirety to be official (full duration, two overtime periods of ten minutes, and FIFA Kicks from the mark if necessary).
- Conflicts arising from the coaching of more than one team will not be considered a cause for rescheduling games
- **Grace Period:** A 20 minute grace period, beyond the scheduled match time, will be allowed for the arrival of a team (a minimum of 7 players). The referee shall notify the Cup Committee of either or both team's failure to appear within the grace period(s). Whether the game will be rescheduled or declared a forfeit will be the decision of the Cup Committee. NOTE: Games may be played with 7 players.

- **Rescheduling of Games.**

- CJSA will not reschedule games because there is a conflict with another event.
- **The schedule for the Cup Finals will be posted prior to the date – game times will not be changed for team conflicts**
- Every attempt will be made to play the game on the day scheduled, beginning with using the visitor's field. The hosting team will pay the referees. (In the event this occurs, the original home team in the bracket will still be charged with a home game for purposes of the competition.)
- If your field becomes unplayable on the day of competition, the home team **MUST** notify the visiting team **AND** your Cup Chairperson by 10:00am or three hours prior to the scheduled game time – whichever is earlier.
- When the visiting team has travelled to the field and a game is cancelled or abandoned because of inclement weather or the referee deems the field unplayable, the game shall be played in its entirety the following day. The visiting team will host this match. The original home team is responsible for the referee fees for the cancelled or abandoned game. The hosting team will be responsible for referee fees for the replayed match. A member of the cup committee must be notified of the change in schedule.
- State wide weather concerns will be posted on www.cjsa.org. For isolated storm issues the teams needs to contact a member of the Cup Committee.
- **Lightning – Recognizing the threat.** Apply the 30-30 rule: When you see lightning, count the time until you hear thunder. If this time is 30 seconds or less, seek proper shelter. If

you can't see the lightning, just hearing the thunder is a good back-up rule. Wait 30 minutes or more after hearing the last thunder before leaving shelter. Referees must protect the safety of all participants by stopping game activities quickly, so that participants and spectators may retire to a safer place before the lightning threat becomes significant. Remember, if you can hear the thunder, you are within reach of lightning.

- **Home Team**

- The home team for each game shall be the team having played the fewest number of home games in the competition. If each has played the same number of home games, then the team listed on the top of the bracket shall be the home team.
- Byes and forfeits count as a home game.
- In the event that the scheduled away team travels and through no fault of this team, the game is not played or needs to be replayed, then the game will now be played on the field of the team that has traveled.

- **All coaches awarded a home game shall:**

1. Contact their Club Referee Assignor upon notification that they are the home team
2. Contact opponent within 48 hours and schedule game.
3. Each team should inquire as to jersey color so that any adjustments can be made prior to the match. In case of conflict, AWAY team must change.

- **Reporting Scores.** Each winning team **must** report the game score **on-line** on the CJSA website by midnight of scheduled game day. Scores via phone calls will not be accepted. All updated Cup brackets will be posted no later than Monday night.

The Cup Committee will determine home fields.

Failure to report the score by the above time will result in:

- 1) Loss of the team's next home field. Team will be charged with a home game (team benefitting from forfeiture of opponents home field loss will be charged with an away game);
- 2) Host team will pay referees.
- 3) The @ symbol within a bracket designates that team is being penalized for reporting their score late on a prior weekend.

- **Coaches, Teams and Spectators.** Both teams should, whenever possible, be on the same side of the field with all spectators on the opposite side. Coaches must remain in their technical area or ten (10) yards off the center line of the field: on his/her own half of the field and on the same side as the "bench". A three (3) yard spectator line is recommended.

- Coaches are responsible for their own conduct AND the conduct of their players and spectators. Abuse of referees will not be tolerated. Misconduct by coaches, players, parents and/or spectators may be referred to the CJSA's Appeals/Discipline Committee for disciplinary action.

401-6 Rules and Coaches Responsibilities regarding Referees

- The Diagonal System of Control (DSC), using only US Soccer currently registered referees, shall be used for all CJSA State Cup matches.
- In situations where 3 USSF referees are not available, club assistants should be supplied. The dual or two (2) person system is not permitted in CJSA games or competition.

- Failure to provide the referee and two assistants, US Soccer currently registered referees, in the quarterfinals thru the semifinal matches will result in the game being rescheduled at the home field of the team which had traveled.
- CJSA will provide referees and assistant referees for all final competitions
- The center referee must be at least two age groups older than the level they officiate in U14 and below matches. (See Rule 4212).
- A thirty (30) minute grace period will be granted for the arrival of the referee. If the entire referee team does not show up for the match, the home team shall notify the Cup Committee of the referee's failure to appear within the grace period. The away team will become the host team for the rescheduled game.
- **Referee Assignments.** Referees are assigned by the District Referee Assignor (DRA) of the home team (except for State Cup U18 & 19, which will be assigned by the SYRA). No referees will be assigned by the home coach. The certified club referee assignor may assist the District Assignor with cup assignments. All referees assigned by the club assignor and/or the DRA must be neutral (no club affiliation).
- **DRA Notification.** The District Referee Assignor of the home team must be notified at least 4 days in advance of all games or changes to game schedule. Penalties for failure to adhere will be at the discretion of the cup committee.
- **Referee Confirmation.** In all rounds except the finals, the home coach will be responsible to confirm that a referee(s) has been assigned by the appropriate person to the match 48 hours in advance of the game.
- **Referee Payments.** In all rounds except the finals, the home team is responsible for the referee and assistant referee fees. Clubs may not pay less than the following amounts for Connecticut or State Cup Referees and Assistant Referees:
 - U12 - 14 \$50 referees; \$30 assistant referees
 - U15 – 19 \$60 referees; \$35 assistant referees
- **CJSA will provide referees** and assistant referees for all final competitions.
- **Referee Reporting.** The referee report must be submitted online through Central Assign, the state referee assigning system. CJSA will then distribute them accordingly.
- **Red Card - Sending Off Policy and Coach Ejection.** See Appendix H; for additional sanctions related to referee assault or referee abuse, see Appendix J.

401-7 Protest Committee Each seasonal year the CJSA President shall appoint, with the approval of the CJSA Board of Directors, a Cup Protest Committee composed of 3 members of the CJSA Board of Directors. In the event that a member(s) is not available the President may appoint another member of the CJSA Board of Directors to serve. The Cup Protest Committee shall hear all protests of State Cup and Connecticut Cup games. The committee shall interpret the rules of the competitions and the decisions of the committee shall be final and binding on all parties. Protests must be in writing and be accompanied with the appropriate fee (\$300) and may only be lodged by a CJSA registered Team Official or the team's Club President. Protests relating to the grounds, goal posts, field, etc. must be in writing and presented to the referee along with the appropriate fee before the start of the game. Protests based upon the judgment of referees, including duration of games, will not be entertained. Additional information concerning protests may be found on the CJSA website - www.CJSA.org - Protests, Section 12. Written complaints may be filed with the CJSA State Office without fee but they will not result in a change of game results.

401-11 Cup Committee Decisions All decisions by the Cup Committee are final.