



COLORADO STATE CUP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES RULES AND PROCEDURES 2012 Series

I. PURPOSE OF THE COMPETITION

The US Youth Soccer National Championship Series represent the first level in a three stage competition held annually to establish State, Regional and National Champions within US Youth Soccer. The Colorado competition is conducted in a tournament format to establish State Champion teams in age brackets U12 and older. By winning a State Championship in their respective age bracket, a team concurrently earns the privilege and responsibility of representing **Colorado** at the Region IV US Youth Soccer National Championship Series. A team in the U14 through U19 age brackets that achieves a Regional Championship concurrently earns the privilege and responsibility of representing Region IV and their state association in the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series.

II. AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The following Specific Rules shall apply to all US Youth Soccer National Championship Series games.
- B. The authority for approval of dates of the competition shall be vested in the Colorado Youth Soccer Board of Directors.
- C. 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. **Match rescheduling for the purpose of allowing a team or members of that team, to compete in another event will not be permitted.**
- D. **The CYS State Cup Tournament Committee is responsible for developing the scheduling of games.**
 - 1. **Hosting sites may be asked to provide information on field size, location and availability to assist in the scheduling process.**
 - 2. **Within the limits imposed by these rules and current CYS Cup Process Guidelines and by uncontrollable external conditions, the schedule is developed in an objective manner with no favoritism shown to specific teams or Clubs.**
 - 3. **Schedules will be played as published by CYS.**

- E. The entrance fees for this competition shall be established and approved by the CYS Board of Directors.

III. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- A. US Youth National Soccer Championship Series shall be open to any age appropriate youth soccer team that is duly registered with CYS, 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 CYS 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 State Cup team roster may not include more than five (5) previously rostered players outside their league roster in any seasonal year. Transferred players are included as part of the five.
- E. For U15 and younger teams, the team roster shall not have more than 18 youth players on the team roster at any given time during the seasonal year.
- F. For U16 and older teams, the roster may have up to 22 youth players on the team roster at any given time during the seasonal year. Every team roster shall have a minimum of 7 players on the roster at all times.
- G. 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.
- H. 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 match. The Referee shall line out those players not participating **on the provided game day roster**.

Ultimate Level of Competition		
Age	Boys	Girls
Under 19	National	National
Under 18	National	National
Under 17	National	National
Under 16	National	National
Under 15	National	National
Under 16	National	National
Under 14	National	National
Under 13	Regional	Regional
Under 12	Regional	Regional

IV. TEAM CREDENTIALS

- A. By entering the US Youth National Soccer Championship Series, each team agrees to appear for and to compete in every scheduled match for whom it qualifies, including any and all Regional and National Championship matches. 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 CYS office on or before the close of business on the due date specified on application documents.
- C. At every cup match each team must have valid player passes for all players listed on the roster. Coaches must also have valid **pass for each team they are rostered** at every cup match.

V. PROCEDURES OF THE COMPETITION

- A. **VENUE:** In State Cup Competition, pairings, sites and format of play shall be determined by the Cup Committee of CYS.
- B. **FORMAT:** Teams in each age group will be seeded into flights. The number of flights shall be determined by the number of teams entered.
- C. **FLIGHTING:** Structure of the competition shall be as follows:

Teams	Number of Flights	Competition Structure
2-7	1	Round Robin
8-11	2	Semi and Final Match
12-15	3	Quarter , Semi and Final Match
16-19	4	Quarter, Semi and Final Match
20+	5 or more	Quarter, Semi and Final Match

- D. **SEEDING OF FLIGHTS:** In each gender/age category seeding will be conducted **by the CYS League Operations Committee (LOC)** according to the following order of criteria.
 - 1. Previous year champion and finalist in **National** State Cup, first and second seed.
 - 2. Previous season league standings.
- E. **Officials:** The **CYS** State Referee Assignor shall **select** the referees for **all** State Cup Competition matches. Every effort will be made to supply (3) three referees. However, club lines shall be used in extreme situations. **The Referee Assignor shall make every effort to properly balance the experience, assessing of Official performance and utilization of qualified referees to support the event.**
- F. **NO SHOWS:** Any Cup team failing to appear for a single scheduled cup match without the prior approval of the Cup Committee will be assessed a forfeit, and the Cup

Committee shall review the circumstances of the no show for possible disciplinary review and/or a fine.

1. **A catastrophic event (one regarded as a great misfortune) outside the control of the Team will only be considered for rescheduling a missed match. The CYS Cup Committee decision is final upon review of the event.**
2. Any **State** Cup team failing to appear for two or more of its scheduled Cup matches 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 the Cup Committee 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.

G. **TEAM EXPULSION:** A team removed from Cup Competition for any team fault for one or more matches shall be required to post a bond of no less than \$2,000 in certified funds with the CYS 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 matches for whom it qualifies.

H. **PLAYER/COACH/SPECTATOR MISCONDUCT**

1. 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.**
2. Any coach rostered to more than one team in the competition who is ejected shall sit out **a minimum** of the next **TWO SCHEDULED MATCHES** of the team with which the ejection was awarded.
3. 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. **TEAM/CLUB COACHES RECEIVE DOUBLE THE SUSPENSION DESCRIBED IN THE PENALTIES BELOW.**
 - a) **Serious foul play (S1)**
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 the penalty shall be: ALL AGE GROUPS Suspend for minimum of one (1) game.
 - b) **Violent Conduct (S2)**

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. ALL AGE GROUPS – Suspend for a minimum of two (2) games.

Pushing in an act of aggression, striking or attempting to strike a referee, linesperson or fourth official. ALL AGE GROUPS- Suspend for a minimum of one (1) year, unless serious injuries are inflicted then the minimum suspension period will be at least five (5) years.

c) **Spits at an Opponent/other Person (S3)**

Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to: spitting or other unseemly acts on or at another person. ALL AGE GROUPS – Suspend for a minimum of two (2) games.

d) **Denies opponent goal or goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (S4).**

ALL AGE GROUPS – Suspend for a minimum of one (1) game.

e) **Denies obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the players' goal (S5).**

ALL AGE GROUPS – Suspend for a minimum of one (1) game.

f) **Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language (S6)**

Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to: uttered in frustration and in the referee's opinion, loud enough to be heard. ALL AGE GROUPS – Suspend for a minimum of one (1) game. Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to: words or actions directed towards any person. ALL AGE GROUPS – Suspend for a minimum of two (2) games.

g) **Second Caution (S7) Second Yellow card after a previous yellow card in same game.**

ALL AGE GROUPS – Immediate suspension from that game and a minimum of one (1) additional game (next scheduled match). See (J) below for possible additional action to repeat offenders.

h) **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 Disciplinary Committee. Actions listed above are to be regarded as minimum suspensions.

COACHES AND ASSISTANT COACHES SENT OFF THE FIELD OF PLAY FOR AN INFRINGEMENT OF THE "LAWS OF THE GAME" SHALL HAVE ONE (1) ADDITIONAL GAME ADDED TO THE SUSPENSION THAT WOULD NORMALLY BE LEVIED AGAINST A PLAYER FOR A SIMILAR INFRINGEMENT.

i) Coaches listed on multiple rosters who are suspended will serve their suspension during the next scheduled games involving the team they were coaching at the time of their suspension.

j) In specific situations, the State Cup Committee 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 the State Cup Committee for evaluation.

I. **SCORING:** Scoring will be:

Points	
11	Beneficiary of forfeiture
7	Win
3	Tie
0	Loss
1	Each goal scored up to a maximum of three goals
1	Shut-out (unless a 0-0 tie)

J. **DETERMINATION OF WILD CARD TEAMS WHEN NECESSARY:**

Because of the variance in flight sizes in some State Cup Divisions, the wild card team will be determined by point averaging. That is to say, the total points accumulated at the end of first round play will be divided by the number of games played. Formats for advancement games are presented as projections only. They are subject to change because no wild card team will be scheduled to play a former opponent.

K. **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.

L. **THE TECHNICAL AREA (SIDELINES):**

The technical area is a designated area for rostered substitutes and no more than four (4) technical staff members.

1. No more than four (4) rostered technical staff members are allowed in the designated area during the game.
2. The occupants of the technical staff in the bench area must be rostered to the team occupying the bench.
3. **Technical Staff occupants of the technical area shall be identified to the referee by wearing a CYS Cup Team Technical Staff badge stating the team and age group. No more than 4 Technical Staff passes will be issued per team.**
4. 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.**

M. **DURATION OF GAME:**

Age	Game Length	Half Time	Overtime – Playoff
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			Rounds ONLY
U19	2 X 45	5 Minutes	2 X 15
U18	2 X 45	5 Minutes	2 X 15
U17	2 X 45	5 Minutes	2 X 15
U16	2 X 40	5 Minutes	2 X 15
U15	2 X 40	5 Minutes	2 X 10
U14	2 X 35	5 Minutes	2 X 10
U13	2 X 35	5 Minutes	2 X 10
U12	2 X 30	5 Minutes	2 X 10

Overtime Periods (for Quarter Finals, Semifinals, and Championship Final Games Only): no overtime periods shall be played in preliminary-round games. If a quarterfinal, semi final 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.

In Round Robin flights, if the last match of the round is between the two top point teams, the match will be played to decide a champion. If the match is tied at the end of regulation play, it will proceed to overtime periods, and kicks from the mark if necessary.

N. TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES:

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:

1. Head to head
2. Least goals allowed
3. Most goals scored up to a maximum of six (6) per game
4. Full match with overtime and kicks from the mark if necessary.

Note: If more than two teams are tied, the sequence will be followed until a team is eliminated. The remaining teams will then restart the sequence at Point “2” above until the tie is broken.

O. PROTEST AND APPEALS:

1. To be valid and eligible for consideration, protests shall be lodged verbally with the referee and the opposing coach at the game site within five minutes 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.
2. All protests must be made in writing within one hour after the end of the game in which the protest incident occurred, accompanied by a non-refundable \$100.00 protest fee to the State Cup Commissioner or the State Cup Commissioner’s designated representative.
3. If these conditions are not met in full, the protest will not be considered.

4. Upon receiving a properly filed protest, the 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.
5. 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 the CYS Cup Committee.
6. In State Cup competitions at the State Association level, decisions made on protests and appeals by the CYS State Cup Committee protest and appeal authority are binding and allow the competition to proceed.

P. UNFINISHED GAMES:

1. Any game that is stopped for any cause except team fault before the end of the first half will be replayed.
2. Any match 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.**
3. A playoff round match stopped for any cause may be reviewed by the CYS Cup Committee for determination of status.

Q. RULES OF PLAY:

FIFA rules as modified by CYS will be in effect.

R. 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 match, subject to referee approval.

S. SUBSTITUTIONS:

1. **U14 and below age groups; unlimited substitutions shall be allowed with the referees permission at the following stoppages:**
 - a) **Prior to a throw-in, only by the team throwing in.**
 - b) **Prior to a goal-kick, by either team.**
 - c) **After a goal, by either team.**
 - d) **After an injury when the referee has stopped play, by either team.**
 - e) **Between periods, by either team.**

2. 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.

VI.

MATTERS NOT COVERED:

1. Any matter not addressed in these rules or the US Youth Soccer National Championship State Cup Rules will be decided by the CYS Cup Committee. Decisions in such matters **specific to State Cup Rules** will be final and binding.
2. **If a party has reasons to appeal a decision made by the CYS Cup Committee other than what is covered within these rules, an appeal may be filed with the CYS Board of Directors which must follow the Appeal process as described within CYS Rules and Procedures.**
3. **Awards: CYS provides awards for teams finishing (1st) and (2nd) in each age bracket of the State Cup Tournament. The First Place team also receives a "Traveling Cup" that will have to be returned to CYS by the end of August for previous Fall Series Participants and the end of January for previous Spring Series Participants for awarding to the next series winners.**

(Subject to Change)

Proposed for CYS Board Review

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