

2012 US Youth Soccer National Championship Series PA WEST SOCCER STATE CUP

Ground Rules for Entry

It is understood the purpose of this competition is to determine the PA West Soccer representative for the respective age groups at the Region 1 Tournament of Champions. Should a team win the regional competition, that team will represent PA West Soccer and Region 1 in the US Youth Soccer National Championships.

All teams representing PA West Soccer at the Region One Championships will be required to participate in the Opening Ceremonies. Parade Shirts supplied by PA West Soccer must be worn in the Region 1 Parade. Please note that the US Youth Soccer is the governing body for all of these competitions, and as such, we must also abide by their rules of competition found at:

<http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/assets/championships.usyouthsoccer.org/NationalChampionshipsPolicy2011-2012.pdf> as amended by the state association.

It is further understood that teams entering this competition will be expected to pay all necessary fees, travel and other expenses to meet its obligations for entry in this tournament.

A team entering the competition must play and complete all of its scheduled games. Therefore, a team that withdraws from the tournament prior to the start of the first game of the competition shall default their games and forfeit the sum of the entry fee; if the tournament schedule has been posted then the team is subject to additional disciplinary action as set forth by the State Cup Disciplinary Committee. After the start of tournament play, any team that fails to complete or to play any game in the PA West Soccer State Cup Competition will invalidate all of its results and will be fined a sum of \$500.00 in addition to losing its entry fee. A team failing to attend or to play all of its games to completion at the regional or national competition shall be fined a maximum of \$3,000.00 or whatever amount is assessed by the regional or national governing bodies. They shall also pay any additional costs that may be incurred.

It is understood that this competition shall be conducted in accordance with the Region I and US Youth Soccer Championship Series Rules and that PA West Soccer does not have the right to waive or change any of those rules except in the following pages. It is further understood that all PA West Soccer State Cup Rules receive approval from the Regional Committee prior to the actual state competition.

This is a restricted tournament. To be eligible to play in the PA West Soccer State Cup and subsequent Regional and National Championship games, a team must play in a PA West Soccer sanctioned League and be in good standing with said league. All U-12 and U-13 teams must play in both the fall and spring sessions of said PA West Soccer sanctioned league to be eligible to compete in the PA West Soccer State Cup.

Pre-Tournament Rules

1. An entry form and an entry check in the amount of **\$550.00** must be received by the State Office postmarked no later than March 1, 2012 or hand-delivered to the State Office by 4:00 PM on March 1, 2012. All team entries must be accompanied by a club check (club checks may cover entry fee for multiple teams). **No exceptions.**

Once a team's entry form and fees have been received, there will be **NO refund for withdrawals**. Refunds will be issued to teams losing in the first round following the completion of the tournament.

It is understood that a team must enter to be eligible to participate in the tournament and to advance to the regional tournament. At no time is entry a guarantee of games.

Teams entering in the U19 age group shall have a separate entry deadline of MAY 2, 2012. Please note: Youth Division Playing Rules require all teams intending to play during the spring playing session to declare their team by March 1, 2012.

There will be no exceptions.

Any club entering a U-19 team must declare their team no later than March 1, 2012 by completing the PA West Soccer spring classic registration form and paying the PA West Soccer registration fee.

2. Each Club is required to provide adult volunteers (over 21 years old). Each club's volunteer requirement will be determined by March 31, 2012 based upon the number of teams entered by that club in the State Cup.

Each club will then be assigned volunteer dates and times by the State Cup volunteer coordinator

For EACH volunteer who fails to complete his/her assignment, a \$300.00 fine will be assessed against that club. The fine must be paid by July 1, 2012 or the Club will be subject to further discipline action by PA West Soccer.

3. Scheduling variances forms must accompany the original application submitted. No other requests will be considered. **PLEASE NOTE:** SATs and graduations are the **ONLY** requests that will be considered – the SAT dates are May 5, 2012 and June 2, 2012.

4. U-12 up to, and including, U-18 rosters will be frozen by 4:00 PM on April 21, 2012. U-19 roster will be frozen 4:00 PM, May 26, 2012.

5. If authorized by the State Cup Director off-site games can be deemed "on-site" games.

6. All teams entered shall have their credentials checked at a date, time and place to be determined by the State Cup committee. Teams who fail to have their credentials checked on these dates will be disqualified from the tournament, will forfeit of all fees, and face possible disciplinary action from the State Cup Committee.

7. A separate credentials check for all finalists will be held prior to the final game.

All rosters will be validated as follows:

*Names and signatures on the roster must match names and signatures on player passes.

*Roster player pass numbers must match actual player pass. All player passes must be laminated before the first State Cup game.

*Birth dates must be correct for age level entered and must match on roster with that appearing on player pass.

*Should there not be a match between names on the front and the back of the player pass, or any other error on the pass, the pass must be redone.

8. It shall be the responsibility of the Youth Board President in consultation with the Tournament Director to certify the eligibility of competing teams for the Region I Tournament of Champions and it shall be his/her responsibility to sign the blue rosters for each designated team.

Tournament Rules

Competition Format:

11 v 11

The tournament shall offer 11 v 11 competition for all eligible age groups (U12-U19).

8 v 8

The tournament shall also offer 8 v 8 competition for the U12 age group.

Clubs may only enter one (1) U12 team per gender in the tournament. Their representative shall compete for either the opportunity to represent PA West Soccer in 8 v 8 competition or 11 v 11 competition. The winners of the respective PA West Soccer State Cup U12 competitions shall have the opportunity to represent PA West Soccer at the Region 1 Championships pending certification.

Tournament will be played using a single elimination format.

The top four teams seeded provided they maintain roster continuity (half plus one). The Champion will be seeded #1. The Finalist will be seeded #2. The semi-finalist losing to the Champion will be seeded #3. The semi-finalist losing to the Finalist will be seeded #4.

If any of the previous year's State Cup semi-finalists are not seeded for any number of reasons in this year's State Cup, no other team will be seeded. The remaining teams will be placed in a blind draw. Blind draw date will be announced via the web page, but will be completed by April 25, 2012.

In age groups with odd numbers of entries and/or pairing, the competition will incorporate byes as needed in the opening rounds dependent upon the total number of teams participating.

The State Cup Committee shall determine the nature and site(s) for all games.

GENERAL RULES

- 1) A team representative must report to the administration area 30 minutes before the team's first game for each day that the team is playing.
- 2) All schedules and field assignments are subject to change.
- 3) Final changes will be posted at Administration Tent.
- 4) It is the goal of the PA West Soccer State Cup committee to have every game decided on the field of play by the two opponents.
- 5) Teams are expected to be ready to play at the scheduled time of the match. Games will not be delayed or changed to accommodate missing information or players. Teams not ready to play at the scheduled start time of any match shall be granted ten (10) minutes grace period. A minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a team. Only the PA West Soccer State Cup committee may decide that a forfeit will be awarded to a team. The decision of the PA West Soccer State Cup committee in this matter is final and not subject to appeal.
- 6) All games will be played as scheduled, unless the referee deems conditions to be dangerous, at which time a team representative shall report to the administration area for a determination of game result and/or rescheduling information.
- 7) At no time should a team leave the field unless instructed to do so by the referee.
- 8) At no time should a team leave the site unless directed by the State Cup Committee.
- 9) Players will be required to report to their field sites one half hour before each game for a pre-game check-in by the Field Marshal. The player passes will be presented to the Field Marshal at each game. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit by the offending team.
- 10) The Under-14 and older age groups may have a maximum of twenty-two players on their team roster and a maximum of eighteen (18) players on each game roster. The PA West Soccer State Cup Committee will provide each of the U-16 and older teams copies of their team roster that was approved by the roster freeze date (Available at the administration tent)

The following applies for every U-14 and older team that has more than 18 players on the approved team roster.

- A. For each game, it will be the responsibility of the team official to report to the tournament site Administrative Tent no less than one hour before the scheduled

game, to cross out the names of the players who will not be participating in the team's game. The team's game roster can have a maximum of eighteen (18) PLAYERS.

B. The marked roster must be presented to the Field Marshal before the start of each game.

C. Once the team's official game roster has been given to the Field Marshal, the players not participating in the game are now considered spectators and must remain on their team's spectator sideline with their uniform covered.

D. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE CAN THE PLAYER NOW CONSIDERED TO BE A SPECTATOR BE ALLOWED TO PARTICPATE IN THAT PARTICULAR GAME.

E. The player passes of the players not on the game roster will be kept at the administration tent in the team's age group folder until the completion of said game. Upon completion of each game the team official will report to the Administration Tent to collect the player passes.

11) Each game will use the game balls provided by the State Cup Committee.

12) The team listed first is the home team. The home team will change uniform colors in case of a conflict.

13) An unfinished game due to any cause shall be replayed providing neither team is at fault and play has not begun in the second half. If play is stopped after the completion of the first half and cannot be resumed and if neither team is at fault, the State Cup Committee shall 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 discretion of the State Cup Committee whether the full game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit.

14) The State Cup Committee reserves the right to shorten the overall time of a game should rescheduling become necessary. Two halves of equal length shall be played.

15) Should fans behave in an unsportsmanlike manner or any other such manners that the site coordinator deems will jeopardize the safe and fair playing of the games, the committee reserves the right to eject the fans (by police if necessary). The club and the team will be reported to the Disciplinary Committee for possible action, which could include suspensions, and to declare the game a forfeit, which would result in the team being removed from the tournament this includes before and after scheduled games.

17) There shall be a team-designated side of the field. Only three team officials (with proper PA West Soccer bench passes) shall be permitted on the team sideline. NOTE: Team bench passes MUST be worn and visible to the Referees and Tournament Officials at all times during a match. All fans must use the opposite touchline or the area designated by the State Cup Committee. Failure to abide by the rule will result in stoppage of the game and potential forfeit should there be a failure to comply.

18) Each team shall have half of the touchline. The coach, etc., may not leave an area of Ten yards from the centerline (coaching box).

19) All teams must wear the uniform of the club listed on the roster. All goalkeeper shirts must have a number.

20) All Finalist coaches and teams must report to an area designated by the Cup Committee immediately at conclusion of the final match for pictures and trophy presentation.

21) Property should be respected. Teams must pick up trash at the end of each game. Failure to do so could result in a fine and disciplinary action.

22) Clubs and teams are liable for any property damage that its members cause. Failure to pay damage fee will result in a team's suspension and the club facing disciplinary action.

PLAYER AND TEAM OFFICIAL BREACHES OF RULES:

Player Cards: Four cautions in the entire tournament and a player shall be suspended from playing the balance of the tournament and be required to appear before the Disciplinary Committee. One red means that the player sits out the next game in the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series (State or Regional); any red card for serious foul play requires the player to meet with the Discipline Chairperson before the team's next game.

A player or coach who receives a red card for violent conduct shall be automatically suspended for two games; a hearing with the Discipline Committee shall be held to determine if this punishment is warranted for the act committed or if a more serious punishment is needed. Two red cards and the player is suspended from the tournament and required to appear before the Disciplinary Committee.

PLEASE NOTE: Any player receiving a red card will be escorted to the Administrative Tent for the remainder of the game. Any Coach ejected will be escorted to the Administrative Tent for the remainder of the game. Failure to do so will result in suspension of involved parties for the remainder of tournament.

Coach cards shall be the same as player cards. A coach shall be carded should there be fan disciplinary problems. Should a coach be ejected from the tournament, he/she will be required to appear before the Disciplinary Committee and face possible suspension.

*Disciplinary Committee referenced is that of the PA West Soccer Association US Youth Soccer National Championship Series, any other discipline beyond the tournament will be subject to PA West Soccer playing rules.

**The tournament committee reserves the right of final decision on any matter not expressly covered in these rules.

RULES OF PLAY

Except otherwise provided herein, the rules of the US Youth Soccer and FIFA “Laws of the Game” shall apply.

Substitutions

Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage of play. For the Under 14 and younger age groups, unlimited substitutions shall be allowed. For all other age groups, a maximum of seven (7) substitutions for each team shall be allowed in each game during each half and during 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 the overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game.

LENGTH OF GAMES, OVERTIME PERIODS AND BALL REQUIREMENTS

All overtimes are played in their entirety (There is no Golden Goal)

Age Group	Duration	Overtime pd.	Ball Size
Under 19	Two 45 min halves	two 15 min	# 5
Under 18	Two 45 min halves	two 15 min	# 5
Under 17	Two 45 min halves	two 15 min	# 5
Under 16	Two 40 min halves	two 15 min	# 5
Under 15	Two 40 min halves	two 15 min	# 5
Under 14	Two 35 min halves	two 10 min	# 5
Under 13	Two 35 min halves	two 10 min	# 5
Under 12	Two 30 min halves	two 10 min	# 4

PROTEST AND APPEALS

All game protests and appeals shall be in accordance with the National Championship Series rules or as provided herein:

1. The following rules apply to every protest:
 - a. Protest must be orally lodged with the referee and with the opposing coach at the game site before entering the field of play or leaving the game site, except as provided below; and must be filed with the State Cup Committee within two (2) hours after the completion of the game being protested.
 - b. Fee in the amount of \$100.00. This fee may be paid by club check, money order, cashiers check, or cash. Checks must be payable to PA West Soccer.
 - c. Five (5) written copies of the protest, which must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged
 - d. Five (5) written copies of any information to be presented by witnesses.
 - e. Any protest relating to the grounds, goalpost, bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained if the PA West Soccer State Cup Committee and the Referee Administrator have approved them.
 - f. A lawyer shall not represent a team at a hearing on a protest unless the lawyer is listed on the team’s roster as a coach, assistant coach, or team manager.

2. The chairman of the committee shall immediately upon receipt of the protest notify the team against which the protest is made and shall send a copy of the protest and all particulars to that team, which will then have the right to defend its case, with or without witnesses.
3. An appeal of decision regarding a protest may be appealed.

The following rules apply to every appeal:

Any appeal must be filed with the PA West Soccer State Cup Committee no more than five (5) hours after notification of the PA West Soccer State Cup Committee's decision.

Fee in the amount of \$200.00. This fee may be a club check, money order, cashiers check, or cash. Checks must be payable to PA West Soccer.

- a. Five (5) written copies of the protest, which must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged.
- b. Five (5) written copies of any information to be presented by witnesses.

4. A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of this competition is not sufficient grounds for a protest or appeal. Violators may expect appropriate action by PA West Soccer.
5. Decisions of the Referee on points of fact connected with play shall be final and not subject to appeal.

Other Protests and Appeals:

All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors, to interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest concerning the championship competition shall be referred to the State Cup Committee.

However, the State Cup Committee reserves the right to final decisions on rules interpretation and qualification of competitors.

Protests and appeals will be heard by a minimum of three (3) State Cup Committee Members.

All hearing times will be announced as needed.

Tie Breakers for all games:

1. For U-12, U-13, and U-14 age groups, the overtime period will be 2-10 minute halves. For older age groups (U-15 and above), the overtime period will be 2-15 minute halves.
2. If a game is still tied after the end of overtime play, FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" rules will apply in order to determine the winner.