

2008 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: www.usysa.org/competitions/rules.cfm 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 **\$475.00**, must be received by the State Office postmarked no later than March 3, 2008 or hand-delivered to the State Office by 4:00 PM on March 3, 2008. All team entries must be accompanied by a club check (club checks may cover entry fee for multiple teams).

Once a team's entry form and fees have been received, there will be **NO refund**. 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 7, 2008.

There will be no exceptions.

Any club entering a U-19 team must declare their team no later than March 1, 2008 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, 2008 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, 2008 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 date is June 7, 2008.

4. U-12 up to, and including, U-18 rosters will be frozen by 4:00 PM on May 7, 2008. U-19 roster will be frozen 4:00 PM, June 1, 2008.

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 format will be comprised of first round (single elimination games) and a second round with teams in sub groups (round robin group play), semi-finals, and finals.

The State Cup will use playing groups of four (4) teams up to four (4) sub groups. Teams U13 and older will be assigned to brackets in their respective age groups. The three top teams seeded in order of their finish from the previous State Cup will be seeded 1, 2, and 3.

If any of the previous year's State Cup semifinalists are not seeded for any number of reasons in this year's State Cup, no other team will be automatically 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 May 7, 2008.

If the total number of entered teams does not equal 4, 8, 12, or 16, there shall be a blind draw of the unseeded teams for the first round challenge games to determine.

- Placement of teams in the round robin brackets.

- Teams playing in the first round challenge games.

The State Cup Committee shall determine the nature, site, and fees for the first round games yearly.

The third seed for the next year's State Cup will be determined by the result of the final match. The team losing to the age group champion in the semi-final will be determined to be the third place team and the following year's third seed.

First Round Games

To determine the remaining positions in the Second Round (round robin) sub-groups. These games shall be scheduled using a blind draw at a date and time to be determined.

Standings will be available on the web site for the teams that advance to the Round Robin round by the following Tuesday after the last of the First Round games have been played.

Second Round-Round Robin

Each age group, both boys and girls, will be divided up to four sub-groups. The teams in each sub-group will play one another in a round robin. Advancement to the semi-final bracket of each age group, both boys and girls, is determined by the round robin results.

- a. **One Group of Four Teams:** Teams are seeded 1, 2, 3, 4. #1 will play #4, #2 will play #3. The winners of those two games will play in the final.
- b. **Two Sub-Groups of Four:** SF#1: Group A Winner vs. Group B Runner-up. SF#2: Group B Winner vs. Group A Runner-up.
- c. **Three Sub-Groups of Four:** SF#1: Group A Winner vs. the Wildcard. SF#2: Group B Winner vs. Group C Winner. If the wildcard comes from Group A, then the Group B Winner plays the wildcard in SF #2 and the Group A Winner plays the Group C Winner in SF#1.
- d. **Four Sub-Groups of Four:** SF#1: Group A Winner vs. Group D Winner. SF#2: Group Winner B vs. Group Winner C.
- e. **One Group of Three teams:** Winner will be determined by round robin play with #1 playing #2 in the final.
- f. **One Group of Two teams:** Two games aggregate goals

ALL U-12 Teams

Each U-12 team must play all other U-12 teams at least once during the playing season (Fall & Spring combined)

The committee will use the common number of regular season games (fall and spring) played by all teams in the age group beginning with the first game of the fall playing

session as the basis for determining the required seeding. The U-12 Standings of the Classic League shall be used to seed the top four teams determined by the standing from the combined fall/spring playing sessions, the remainder of the teams will be blind drawn into the tournament.

All common games must be played by April 23, 2008.

Only the first match between two (2) teams will count toward State Cup seeding.

The State Cup Committee reserves the right to determine eligibility for seeding purposes, including disqualification from the tournament, for any team that does not meet this obligation.

Classic Division rules shall be used to resolve any ties in the standings.

Ties after all tiebreaker rules are applied shall be resolved by a draw.

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-17 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-17 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-17 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.

16) Final standings and group winners will be determined using a point system.

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 twenty 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 REQUIRMENTS

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.

POINT SYSTEM

- a. Determination of standings within a sub-group - competition with 4, 8, 12 or 16 teams.
- b. Round Robin points:
 - Three** Points for a win
 - One** Point for a tie
 - Zero** Points for a loss
- c. Resolving a two (2)-way tie within a sub-group - competition with 4, 8, 12, or 16 teams. This system shall be used to determine the sub-group winner at the end of the round robin, when there is a two (2)-way tie and it is necessary to resolve a tie:
 - (1) Winner of head to head competition
 - (2) Most wins
 - (3) Goal differential - (Maximum 4 goals/game)
Example: 15-0 = 4-0 (+4)
8-1 = 5-1 (+4)
2-4 = 2-4 (-2)
 - (4) Least goals allowed (three [3] game total)
 - (5) FIFA Kicks from the Penalty Mark (immediately following the round robin games)
- d. Resolving a Three (3) way tie within a sub-group - competition with 4, 8, 12, or 16 teams.
Follow same format for c. (2), c. (3), c. (4) and c. (5). If FIFA Kicks from the Penalty Mark have to be taken there will be a draw by the PA West Soccer State Cup Committee. The first team drawn will receive the bye and the next team drawn will be the home team against the remaining team in the first contest of FIFA Kicks from the Penalty Mark. The winner of the first contest will then compete against the bye team in FIFA Kicks from the Penalty Mark to determine the group winner. The bye team will be the home team.
- e. Selection of wildcard teams for those age groups with 12 teams (three sub-groups of four). The same criteria as b. and c. above shall be used.
- f. To determine the second place team in age groups of 4 teams (one sub-group) or age groups of 8 teams (two sub-groups) in each group same criteria as b. and c. above.

Forfeits: A team participating in competition during the PA West Soccer State Cup and forfeiting a game(s).

- a. Each forfeited round robin game: The non-forfeiting team shall be awarded:

- (1) 3 points for a win.
 - (2) Goal differential by the winner of a forfeited game shall be equal to the average goals for game(s) in the same bracket against the team that forfeits.
 - (3) Zero goals against the winner of forfeited game.
- b. Each forfeited round robin game: The forfeiting team shall be awarded:
- (1) Zero points for the loss.
 - (2) Zero goals for.
 - (3) 4 goals against.
- c. Remaining teams in the bracket will receive:
- (1) 3 points for the win.
 - (2) 4 goals for.
 - (3) Zero goals against.

Should a referee terminate a game for other reasons other than weather or field conditions, the State Cup Committee will decide the result of the game if the game is unable to be replayed under the rules of this tournament.

The forfeiting team shall be withdrawn from the tournament and fined \$500.00 for each game forfeited.

Tiebreaker Rules for 2008 PA West Soccer State Cup

System of Play Second Round (Round Robin):

The system of play shall be the league system, each team playing one match against each of the other teams in the same sub-group, with 3 points for a win, one point for a draw, and none for a defeat.

Tie Breakers for semi and final games:

1. For U-12, U-13, and U-14 age brackets, 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.