2026/2027 – PA West Soccer State Championships

TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors, to interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest concerning the competition shall be referred to the State Championship Committee. All decisions of the Committee are final.

Ground Rules for Entry

The purpose of this competition is to determine the PA West Soccer representative for the respective age groups (U11-U14) at the next level of the competition toward a national championship.

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 committee. After the start of tournament play, any team that fails to complete or to play any game in the PA West Soccer 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 by PA West Soccer and whatever amount is assessed by the regional or national governing bodies. They shall also pay any additional costs that may be incurred.

This competition shall be conducted in accordance with the US Youth Soccer Championship Rules. PA West Soccer does not have the right to waive or change any of those rules except in the following pages.

This is a restricted tournament. To be eligible to play in the PA West Soccer State Championships 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.

The entry fee is 395.00, includes first two games. The per game cost is $155.00 for each additional game played beyond two games.

Pre-Tournament Rules

1. Teams need to be declared by the published deadline and a non-refundable entry check in the amount of $395.00 must be received by the State Office postmarked or hand delivered to the State Office by 4:00 PM on the published deadline. Once a team is declared and fees have been received, there will be NO refund for withdrawals.

2. Credentials check for all teams will be held prior to each game. Game day roster (one for each game) and passes (GDR will have player pictures) are required— handwritten players are not allowed.
3. 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 next round and it shall be his/her responsibility to sign the blue rosters for each designated team.

TOURNAMENT RULES

Inclement Weather

In the event that inclement weather affects the competition the committee reserves the right to make all decisions concerning this competition. The decisions of the committee are FINAL, and not subject to appeal.

Competition Format

The tournament shall offer 9v9 competition for U11/12 and 11v11 for U13/14.

In age groups with odd numbers of entries and/or pairing, the competition will incorporate byes as needed.

Round Robin Play

The teams in each group will play one another in a round robin. The winner, or the advancement to the final or semi-final bracket of each age group, both boys and girls, is determined by the round robin results.

a)	One team	Age Group Champion
b)	Two teams	Home and Away Game (aggregate result)
c)	1-5 teams	Round Robin with the winner being Age Group Champion
d)	6 teams	Two sub groups of 3 the winner of each proceed to Final
d)	7 teams	One sub group of 4 one group of 3 the winner of each proceeds to Final
e)	8 teams	Two sub groups of 4 the winner of each proceed to Final
f)	9 teams	Three sub groups of 3…3 winners and wild card advance to Semi-finals
g)	10 teams	Two Sub groups of 5 the winner of each proceeds to Final

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

GENERAL RULES

1. A team representative must report to the field marshal 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 online.
4. It is the goal of the PA West Soccer 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. A minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a team. Only the PA West Soccer committee may decide that a forfeit will be awarded to a team. The decision of the PA West Soccer 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 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 Game Day Roster (GDR) that includes players' photos will be presented to the Field Marshal at each game. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit by the offending team.
10. Players not participating in the game are considered spectators and must remain on their team's spectator sideline with their uniform covered.
11. Each game will use the three game balls provided by the Home team.
12. The team listed first is the home team. The home team will change uniform colors in case of a conflict. Away teams will assume to have won the coin toss.
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 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 committee whether the full game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit.
14. The 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. There shall be a team-designated side of the field. Only three team officials shall be permitted on the team sideline. All fans must use the opposite touchline or the area designated by the committee. Failure to abide by the rule will result in stoppage of the game and potential forfeit should there be a failure to comply.
17. Each team shall have half of the touchline. The coach, etc., may not leave an area of Ten yards from the centerline (coaching box).
18. At every level of the competitions, a player or team official at a game site to participate in a game or associated activity of the competitions may only have on the outer wear of the player or team official a name, logo, or other identifying mark of a youth soccer organization that is US Youth Soccer, a State Association or other member of US Youth Soccer, a member of a State Association, or an organization that is a member of an organization that is a member of a State

Association. A name, logo, or other identifying mark of any other youth soccer organization must be removed, replaced, or covered before the player or team official may continue to remain at the game site for the game or associated activity.

19. 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 awards presentation.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. 13U through 19U teams must maintain a roster continuity of nine (9) continuous players throughout the State, Regional and National levels of the competitions. For regions that host competitions in the U11/12 age group, U11/12 teams must maintain a roster continuity of eight (8) continuous players throughout the State and Regional Presidents Cup competitions.

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 shall be suspended for the remainder of the tournament. 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.

Clubs may also be subject to fines for spectator behavior resulting in disciplinary action.

*Disciplinary Committee referenced is that of the PA West Soccer Association, 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

Unlimited substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage of play except penalty kicks.

LENGTH OF GAMES, OVERTIME PERIODS AND BALL REQUIRMENTS All overtimes are played in their entirety (There is no Golden Goal).

Age Group	U19	U18	U17	U16	U15	U14	U13	U11/U12
Duration	2 40:00 Halves	2 40:00 Halves	2 40:00 Halves	2 35:00 Halves	2 35:00 Halves	2 30:00 Halves	2 30:00 Halves	2 25:00 Halves
Overtime	2 5:00 Periods	2 5:00 Periods	2 5:00 Periods	2 5:00 Periods	2 5:00 Periods	2 5:00 Periods	2 5:00 Periods	2 5:00 Periods
Ball Size	#5	#5	#5	#5	#5	#5	#5	#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 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, cashier's 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 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:
    a. Any appeal must be filed with the PA West Soccer committee no more than five (5) hours after notification of the PA West Soccer committee's decision.
    b. Fee in the amount of $200.00. This fee may be a club check, money order, cashier's 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.
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 committee.

However, the 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) committee members.

All hearing times will be announced as needed.

Tie Breakers for Semi and Finals:

1. For all age groups, the overtime period will be 2-5 minute halves. No golden goal; both overtime periods must be completed.
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.

Wild Card Determination

1. Most Wins
2. Least goals allowed
3. Goal differential (4 goal max)
4. Goals scored
5. FIFA penalty kicks

Selection of wildcard teams for those age groups with 9 teams (three sub - groups of three) will follow same criteria as above.

If FIFA penalty kicks have to be taken there will be a draw by the committee. The first team drawn will receive the bye, the next team drawn will be the home team against the remaining team in the first contest of penalty kicks. The winner of the first contest will then compete against the bye team in penalty kicks to determine the wild card. The bye team will be the home team in the second.

POINT SYSTEM –TIE BREAKERS

1. Determination of standings within a sub - group.
2. Round Robin Points:
    a. Three Points for a win
    b. One Point for a tie
    c. Zero Points for a loss
3. Resolving ties within a sub-group
   This system shall be used to determine the sub - group winner at the end of the round robin, when here is a tie and it is necessary to resolve a tie:
    a. Winner of head to head competition
    b. Most Wins
    c. Least Goals allowed
    d. Goal differential (4 goal max)
    e. FIFA Penalty Kicks (immediately following the round robin games)
4. Three (3) way tie within a sub-group:
   Follow same format as Wild Card Determination using 2.,3, 4., 5. If FIFA penalty kicks have to be taken there will be a draw by the Presidents Cup Committee. The first team drawn will receive the bye, the next team drawn will be the home team against the remaining team in the first contest of penalty kicks. The winner of the first contest will then compete against the bye team in penalty kicks to determine the group winner. The bye team will be the home team.

5. Eleven (11) players from the roster of the final game will be selected by each coach to participate, and said roster will be handed to the referee assigned to break the tie on a field assigned by the committee.
6. FORFEIT
   A team participating in the Presidents Cup and forfeiting a game(s)
   a. Each forfeited round robin game: The non-forfeiting team shall be awarded 3 points for a win.
   b. 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
   c. Zero goals against the winner of forfeited games
7. Each forfeited round robin game: the forfeiting team shall be awarded
   a. Zero points for the loss
   b. Zero goals for
   c. 3 goals against
8. If a referee terminates a game for reasons other than weather or field conditions, the committee will decide the results of the game.