



MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES
MASSACHUSETTS STATE CUP 2010

Rules and Procedures

ALL CHALLENGE ROUND MATCHES

1. **All Challenge and Entry matches are State Cup matches.** All Challenge round matches shall be single elimination matches.
2. All Challenge rounds must be completed by the dates established by the National Cup Director (hereafter called the Cup Director).

2A. DATES FOR THE 13'S & 14'S TO PLAY MATCHES:

ENTRY ROUND CHALLENGE MATCHES – must be played by September 28, 2010 (self-scheduled)

CHALLENGE ROUND 1 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2009 at Citizens Bank Fields, Lancaster

CHALLENGE ROUND 2 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2009 at Citizens Bank Fields, Lancaster

CHALLENGE ROUND 3 – MUST BE PLAYED BY MAY 11, 2010 (self-scheduled)

2B. DATES FOR THE 15'S, 16'S, 17'S, 18'S, & 19'S TO PLAY MATCHES:

ENTRY ROUND CHALLENGE MATCHES – must be played by April 13, 2010 (self-scheduled)

CHALLENGE ROUND 1 – must be played by April 27, 2010 (self-scheduled)

CHALLENGE ROUND 2 – must be played by May 11, 2010 (self-scheduled)

CHALLENGE ROUND 3 – must be played by May 25, 2010 (self-scheduled)

3. At all Challenge round matches, teams must have the following:

1. US Youth Soccer National Championship Series roster (called Cup Roster) – completely filled out
2. Laminated player pass cards for each player on roster
3. Adult pass cards for each adult on sideline – Maximum 4 per team
4. Copy of the 2010 Challenge Rules and Procedures

NO PLAYER WILL BE PERMITTED TO PLAY WITHOUT A LAMINATED PLAYER PASS CARD!

Referees will collect a copy of Cup Roster from each team and will check pass cards before the match begins.

The Cup Roster (including instructions) and “Team Statement of Compliance” are available on the Mass Youth Soccer website: www.mayouthsoccer.org – click on tournaments, then click State Cup and scroll down.

EACH TEAM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT OF ½ OF THE REFEREES’ FEES FOR EACH CHALLENGE MATCH (CASH ONLY)

U13 – U14 \$120.00 PER GAME (\$60 PER TEAM)

U15 – U19 \$150.00 PER GAME (\$75 PER TEAM)

4. TEAM ROSTER FREEZE DATES

For all teams in ages 13-19: Cup Team Rosters are frozen on the day the team plays its’ first State Cup match (this is the latest date possible by National rule) or June 1, 2010*, whichever occurs first.

The **Team Rosters** for all teams (U13 – U19) and “**Team Statement of Compliance**” must be in the hands of the **Mass Youth Soccer office** on the day the team plays its’ first State Cup match in the Challenge round or June 1, 2010*, whichever occurs first. The Team Rosters and Team Statement of Compliance must be **sent via e-mail**.

***Note:**

If a team is playing in the Region 1 Premier League, the team roster freeze date is the date the team plays its’ first match in the Region 1 Premier League, or first State Cup match, or June 1, 2010, whichever occurs first.

Important

Teams that were seeded using their 2009 State Cup results will be notified by the Cup Director. Only these teams that were seeded based on their submittance of a continuity of roster agreement (CORA) must submit their State Cup roster to the Cup Director **and** the State Registrar 72 hours prior to their roster freeze date. The Cup Director will review the current roster with the previous year’s Cup roster. Rosters that meet the continuity of roster requirement will be signed by the State Registrar and returned to the team contact. Changes to your team roster can be made up to the roster freeze date provided the CORA requirement is maintained. Teams not maintaining the continuity of roster requirement will forfeit out of Cup and be required to pay a \$1500 forfeit fee.

All teams must submit a copy of their official US Youth Soccer affiliated league roster (qualifying league roster) when they submit their Cup Team Roster to **Kate Murphy at the Mass Youth soccer office**.

Kate Murphy Email: kmurphy@mayouthsoccer.org Fax: 978-466-8817 Phone: 1-800-852-8111 x221

For all U16-U19 teams:

Teams must hand the referee a copy of their Cup **Game Roster** prior to all matches (referee check-in). A Cup Team Roster may have up to a maximum of 22 players but the Cup **Game Roster** is limited to a maximum of 18 players (taken from the 22 player Cup Team Roster). The Cup **Game Roster** is created simply by checking the “Game Active” box on your Cup Team Roster for each of the 18 players participating. The players not participating in the game may be on the team bench but they may not be in uniform,

AGAIN, ALL TEAM ROSTERS (Cup and League) and TEAM STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF THE Massachusetts Youth Soccer office prior to their first game. Kate will review your Cup Roster, sign it, and return it to you. If you do not receive your signed Cup Roster from Kate, you must play your game with a copy of the one sent to Kate. If all required paperwork is not submitted prior to the team’s first Cup match, the team will be subject to a \$50 fine.

All teams are required to submit a list of players requiring international clearance and/or out of state release with their roster.

5. Grace Period

Teams not ready to play at the scheduled start time of any match shall be granted a fifteen (15) minutes grace period unless otherwise specified beforehand. A minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a team. If either or both teams are not on the field of play within the 15 minute grace period, the referee will attempt to contact the referee assignor or the Cup Director for instructions. If neither the referee assignor nor the Cup Director can be reached, the referees may leave and the referee needs to complete the online State Cup report immediately. The Cup Director will review the circumstances surrounding the failure of a team to appear and may:

1. Order the game to be played at another time and place of the Cup Director's choosing
2. Award a forfeit to the other team if only one team has failed to appear

Only the Cup Director may decide that a forfeit will be awarded to a team. The decision of the Cup Director in this matter is final and not subject to appeal.

6. Game Balls

The home team will furnish the game ball. The referee will determine if the ball is suitable for use. If the home team does not have a suitable game ball, which is the sole discretion of the referee, the visiting team may furnish the ball. U-13 to U-19: Size 5

7. Home team – Visiting team

The home team shall be the higher seed (1 is the highest seed) for all challenge round matches, regardless of where the match is played. The visiting team shall have the choice of jersey colors. If in the opinion of the referee there is a color conflict, the home team shall change jerseys or wear pinnies.

Unless the Cup Director sets the match location, the home team shall provide a field for all Challenge and Entry Round matches. It will be incumbent on all teams to cooperate in the scheduling of challenge round matches. During each challenge round, it is up to both teams involved to set the Date, Time & Location for the match. Both teams should offer various dates (weekday and weekend). **Teams that have to travel at least 90 minutes on a school night, must schedule the game on a weekend (unless both teams agree otherwise), or teams should seek a neutral site. For a weeknight game, a field with lights should be used if distance or time is an issue.** If the home team is unable to provide a field, the visiting team will be given an opportunity to provide a field for the match. If there arises a situation where the Cup Director must get involved in the scheduling, the Cup Director will set a date, time and location for the match without benefit of input from either team (teams are strongly encouraged to avoid this option). If the Cup Director has to schedule the match at a neutral site, the teams involved will be responsible for the field rental fee. Once set that date cannot be changed.

If teams choose to schedule their Cup game on a **“deadline date”**, and the game can not be completed due to reasons not caused by either team, then the game **MUST** be played the following day. Therefore, teams that schedule their game on a **“deadline date” MUST** have a backup plan in place when they submit the original GNF.

8. Team Benches – sidelines

Teams and team officials (maximum of four (4) per team) will be on the same sideline – all must have a valid passcard. Parents and spectators will be on the opposite sideline (assuming the grounds permit this arrangement). Players, managers, coaches and fans are expected to conduct themselves within the letter and spirit of the “Laws of the Game.”

Coaches and Managers will be responsible for the behavior of their fans. Coaching from the opposite sideline is prohibited. Displays of temper, dissent, by word or action against opponents or referees are cause for ejection from the match and/or premises and/or suspension from the tournament.

9. PLAYER EQUIPMENT:

The following will not be permitted: Boxer shorts, Jams

SHIN GUARDS ARE MANDATORY: socks/stockings pulled up covering the shin guards.

All players must have numbers on the back of their jerseys with the exception of the goalkeeper (the goalkeeper is optional). No duplicate numbers will be permitted. The numbers must match the numbers on the roster (pen changes of a player's number will be permitted on the roster).

10. Laws Of The Game

Games will be played under the rules of F.I.F.A, U.S.Y.S.A., and Mass Youth Soccer except as modified herein:

Law I - Field of Play

The field of play shall be as is, except that the field shall be longer than it is wide.

Law II - Substitutions:

Substitutions shall be unlimited:

1. Prior to a throw-in (team in possession only)
2. Prior to a goal kick by either team
3. After a goal is scored
4. After an injury when the referee stops play
5. At start of second half

Law VIII - Duration of Game

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Game Time</u>	<u>Overtime</u>	<u>Required Time allotment</u>
U-19	2 x 45	2 x 15	142 minutes
U-18	2 x 45	2 x 15	142 minutes
U-17	2 x 45	2 x 15	142 minutes
U-16	2 x 40	2 x 15	132 minutes
U-15	2 x 40	2 x 15	132 minutes
U-14	2 x 35	2 x 10	112 minutes
U-13	2 x 35	2 x 10	112 minutes

In overtime, both halves will be played to completion. Overtime periods will be played to the full time limit. If the score is still tied, then teams will proceed immediately to kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with FIFA rules. **When scheduling games, teams must factor in the Required Time Allotment: that is, teams must allow time to play the overtime periods and complete kicks from the penalty mark prior to darkness.**

For all challenge round matches, unfinished games due to any cause shall be replayed if neither team is at fault and play has not begun in the second half. If play is stopped during the second half and play cannot be resumed and if neither team is at fault, the Cup Director may 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 Cup Director whether the game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit.

Any match, which has to be replayed, must be completed (assuming there is time) before the Final Cut-Off date by which all matches in that specific round must be completed. If not, both teams shall forfeit. If only kicks from the penalty mark need to be taken in order to determine a winner of the match, those kicks may be taken within 7 days of the match, as long as the final cut-off date has not passed.

11. YELLOW / RED CARD & EJECTIONS

Any player receiving a red card during the Massachusetts State Cup Competition will not be permitted to play in the immediate next Cup game competition (State Cup, Regional and/or National). The Cup Director shall have, in his/her sole discretion, the right to increase the suspension if the facts so warrant. If the red card was issued for fighting (punches are thrown), the Cup Director shall have the right to increase the suspension by up to two additional games at his/her sole discretion. A player sent-off during his/her match may remain on the bench throughout the match. If the coach chooses to keep the ejected player on the team's bench, the coach assumes responsibility for that player. If the sent-off player does not behave, the coach will be ejected and must leave the field immediately with the sent-off player.

Any team official who is asked to leave a match by the referee shall be suspended for one match. The Cup Director shall have, in his/her sole discretion, the right to increase the suspension up to two additional games if the facts so warrant. If a team official is suspended twice during the Cup competition, the Cup Director will determine what disciplinary action to take.

If a suspended team official shows up at the game site and/or attempts in any way to officially participate in the game or makes any effort to coach or instruct the team, his or her team will automatically forfeit the game.

Red card suspensions and team official suspensions shall be served for that team's next scheduled Cup (State Cup, Regional, and/or National) match or matches in consecutive order. If the team is eliminated from competition, the suspensions shall carry forward for that individual to the next Cup year and shall be served accordingly.

The Massachusetts State Cup program shall honor all suspensions occurring during cup play, whether at the state, regional or national level, and will enforce any carry over penalties from one season to the next so as to ensure the full suspension is served. In addition the Massachusetts State Cup program shall follow the provisions of the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association constitution and by-laws, section 111 and enforce any suspensions which result from the application of those provisions. The Massachusetts State Cup program shall not honor suspensions issued by a league, which, pursuant to league by-laws, only apply to that particular league.

Please ensure that the referees do not take the passcard for any player or coach who is ejected.

12. EXTERNAL CONDITIONS, WEATHER, ETC

In the event of unusual conditions, which necessitate rescheduling, suspension, or cancellation of games, the State Cup Director shall have absolute authority to make changes to best serve the interests of the tournament as a whole. When matches are played at a central State Cup venue (such as Citizens Bank fields) and play must be suspended, a single AIR HORN blast will sound indicating suspension of play. **All players, coaches, and spectators are to leave the field area and go to their car.** When play is to be resumed, there will be two AIR HORN blasts (immediate and consecutive).

13. GAMES PLAYED AT CITIZENS BANK FIELDS

NO DOGS OR PETS ALLOWED AT ANY TIME ON ALL MASS YOUTH PREMISES

NO SMOKING ALLOWED ON ALL MASS YOUTH PREMISES

NO FOOD, CHEWING GUM, OR GLASS CONTAINERS ALLOWED ON THE TURF FIELDS

14. Protest Procedure

Protests must be in writing and filed together with the fee of \$300 in Cash, money order, Club Check or Cashier's check. No personal checks will be accepted. If protest is successful, ½ of fee will be returned.

For all Challenge round matches, the protest must be filed with (postmarked [with evidence of mailing] or accepted by) the National Cup Director within 24 hours of the game in question. Written disposition of the protest will be given within 3 days of receipt of the protest.

Protests must be filed with:

Terri Filippetti
21 Winslow Street
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

No protest will result in the replay of a match under any circumstances.

Judgment decisions of the referee are not subject to protest.

No protest will be entertained relating to the grounds, goalposts, bars or other appurtenances of the game if the referee has approved them. A plea of ignorance of the rules and regulations of the Massachusetts State Cup championship is not sufficient grounds for protest.

When an appeal or protest is made to Mass Youth Soccer, the Appeals Committee shall hear that appeal. An appeal to Mass Youth Soccer is made in writing within ten (10) days of the incident or ruling by a lower protest. The written appeal must be accompanied by a check for the Appeal Submittal fee made out to Mass Youth Soccer. The appeal fee is non-refundable regardless of the outcome of the appeal. The appeal must include seven (7) copies of all documents pertinent to the appeal.

The Mass Youth Soccer Appeals Committee must hold a formal hearing to which all parties have been notified and invited within twenty (20) days of the receipt of the written appeal. This Committee will render a decision in writing to all parties in the appeal. Any decision rendered by the Mass Youth Soccer Appeals Committee may be appealed directly to the National Championships Committee through the National Office with the appropriate appeal fee, and then, if they want to appeal the National Championships Committee's decision, the final appeal for USYSA is the USYSA Board of Directors.

No party to an appeal or protest may invoke the aid of the Courts of any State or of the United States without first exhausting all-available remedies within USSF.

15. Game Field

If a confirmed field is not available, or is not suitable for play on the scheduled game date (in the judgment of the referee), the opposing team may be given the right to schedule the match at their home field. The team who failed to provide the field shall accept the terms and location of the match if reasonable.

16. Postponement

Once agreement between the teams has been reached and the challenge round match scheduled, the match may not be postponed without agreement of both teams **AND** the referee assignor.

17. Change of Field

A match may be relocated provided sufficient notice and directions have been provided to the opposing team and

referee assignor. If the match is relocated, it is the responsibility of the team relocating the match to ensure the opponents and referees have all information necessary, in a timely fashion, to show up at the proper location.

18. Referees

FOR ALL CHALLENGE ROUND GAMES – THE TEAMS MUST PAY THE REFEREES IN CASH @ THE FIELD PRIOR TO THE GAME. Fees are as follows:

U13 - U14 \$120.00 per game: \$50 for referee and \$35 each for assistant referee. Each team is responsible for ½ of fee.

U15 - U19 \$150.00 per game: \$70 & \$40 each. Each team is responsible for ½ of fee.

19. REFEREE ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURE

It is the **responsibility of both teams** to insure that the assignor is notified (via the Cup Game Notification Form*) with the date, time and location of the match, as soon as the game is scheduled (must be at least seven (7) days in advance of the scheduled match). To help insure this, the game must be scheduled by the date specified in the bracket/schedule, located on the Mass Youth website. **Be sure to comply with the required game time allotment as specified in Section 10 above.** The assignor will assign referees for the match and email a game confirmation to each club. For each match, three (3) referees will be assigned - however if less than 3 officials arrive for the match, the match must be played – as long as one (1) qualified official is present. In cases of less than three officials, it shall left to the discretion of the referee whether or not to use volunteers as assistant referees. If requested by the referee, each team must cooperate and provide someone to act as an assistant referee.

If a Cup match is postponed less than 48 hrs prior to the scheduled time, the home team and/or the opposing team may be responsible for all referee fees for the match (Cup Director to determine). If the match is to be played at a field that is NOT listed on the MAPLE website – the home team must EMAIL or fax field directions and map to the Referee Assignor and the opposing team.

The scheduling for all referees must be done through Rich Filippetti - he can be contacted in the following manner (in order of preference):

1. E-mail rfilippetti@townisp.com (preferred method)
2. Phone 508-845-6733
3. Cell phone 508-868-0170

***Cup Game Notification Form (GNF):**

To be used for all “self-scheduled” Cup matches. The form is located on the Mass Youth website under State Cup Tournament. **This form must be completed by both teams after both teams have agreed.** All questions must be answered – date, time, location, name and email address of opposing team official who agreed to the game specifics. After answering all the questions, click on the “Submit” button. The information will be sent to the referee assignor and Cup Director immediately.

20. REPORTING OF GAME RESULTS

BOTH TEAMS must report the score of each Challenge game immediately after the completion of the match. Scores may be reported via email to mastatecup@townisp.com. When you report the score, please include the following: game number, gender, age group, teams involved, and score. Please make sure that it is clear which team won the match. All scores will be posted on the State Cup score site which can be accessed through the Mass Youth Soccer website www.mayouthsoccer.org.

21. FORFEITURE FEE

Forfeiture fee is \$500. All forfeiture fees must be paid within 48 hrs of the forfeit. Failure to pay the forfeiture fee will result in both the Team and Club being placed in bad standing and all matches played by the team or club while in bad standing will also result in forfeiture of those matches. All forfeiture fees must be paid directly to Mass Youth Soccer or the Cup Director.

Any team which forfeits three (3) league matches in the league that the team is using for Cup Qualification purposes shall be declared ineligible for Cup play and shall pay a \$1000 fine. The team shall also be the last seeded team in the following year's age group. In addition, any team having been eliminated from Cup play, and forfeits three (3) matches in the league play shall pay a \$500 fine and shall be the last seeded team in the following year's age group. All fines must be paid before any other team from that club can play another Cup game.

22. GENERAL

Any matters not specifically covered herein are referred to the National Cup Director for decision and action, as he/she deems appropriate. The decision of the National Cup Director shall be final.

Terri Filippetti
Director, National Challenge Series
mastatecup@townisp.com