



2023 US YOUTH SOCCER MASSACHUSETTS STATE CUP Rules and Procedures

Note: The 2023 US Youth Soccer Massachusetts State Cup Competition consists of all games played in a Play-In phase, and all games played in the Round of 16, Quarter-Final, Semi-Final and Final phase for each Age/Gender Group. These Rules and Procedures apply to each such game.

New for 2023

- Laminated Player and Coach USYS Passcards required at each match
- Coach needs to present his credentials (USYS Passcard and either MYSA Adult Credential or USClub Passcard) and Player passcards at Referee team check in
- Game Ineligible Players may be with team but not in uniform and must wear inactive badge

1. CHECK IN PRIOR TO FIRST CUP GAME (excluding round of 32 matches)

Team Administrator/Representative will bring player and coach passcards for review by administration staff. They will note any issues that need fixing. They will also remind the team of any missing paperwork. If a 13U-19U team has more than 18 players, they will pick up the correct number of inactive badges to be used during all State Cup games when more than 18 players show up to the match.

Wednesday Prior to Weekend Match 5:00 PM is the deadline to add coaches for the weekend match as the match cards are printed Thursday morning. Coaching changes after that are at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

Prior to Semi-Finals.

Any players without verified proof of date of birth in the GotSport system (green lock icon in Birth Certificate column) must present proof of date of birth at the administration site. All teams must have a team representative report to administration at least 30 minutes prior to kick off to ensure all paperwork is complete. Any defect not corrected by the semi-finals may result in player disqualification from finals.

Finals Check in.

Only required if there is an issue requiring correction (such as player eligibility, passcard update or coach qualifications). Otherwise proceed to the field for referee check in.

2. ROSTERS

Team Rosters are entered into GotSport under the event 2023 Massachusetts State Cup. Rosters are frozen prior to the first match and the player list may not be changed for the duration of the tournament, Teams moving on to Regionals have the opportunity to alter their roster before being frozen for the East Regional Tournament. Coach changes may be made with concurrence of the Mass Youth Soccer NCS Director

Players may only be on one state cup roster and duplicate players will be removed with notice given to all teams rostering the player. If a player is on a frozen roster and attempts to be added to another roster, the player will not be approved for the second roster.

Use of un-rostered or ineligible players will result in forfeiture of the game and removal from the tournament.

3. FIELD / REFEREE CHECK-IN

Teams with at least one qualified Coach must hand the referee all player passcards and coach credentials for any adult wishing to be on the sideline with the team. Uncredentialed adults may not be on the team sideline. Should a coach obtain their credential after the Wednesday deadline for printing, they may report to the administration area no less than 2 hours prior to kick off so the tournament official may hand write the coach's name on the list of permissible adults..

For 13U-19U age groups, a State Cup Team Roster may have up to a maximum of 22 players, but the State Cup Game Day Roster is limited to a maximum of 18 players (taken from the 22 player State Cup Team Roster). The coach during referee check in indicates which players are to be made game ineligible. Once the election is made, the referee records it on the match card and the selection may not be changed for that match. For oversized rosters, the individuals made game ineligible for a game do not have to be the same for every game.

For 12U-14U teams, passcards of individuals present and those that are game ineligible are returned to the coach after check in. The Senior A/R will retain the ones that are late and may be attending and will return those after the match after correcting the match card.

For 15U-19U teams, the passcards are used for single entry half and returned to the players to be given to the Senior A/R at the beginning of the half if starting or if substitution as they enter the game. At the end of the half the cards are returned to the players. Players arriving after the referee check in, must let the Senior A/R know so the equipment inspection happens prior to entering the match.

Games will not be delayed for late arrivals. Teams unprepared for their starting time will be subject to game forfeiture. Teams will be subject to a forfeit if not ready to begin match with at least 7 players for 11 v 11 games and 6 players for 9 v 9 games within 10 minutes of scheduled start time.

4. TEAM BENCH - SIDELINES

Teams and team officials (maximum of four [4] people can represent the team) will be on one sideline. Parents and spectators will be on the opposite sideline. Team officials (maximum of 4 per team) must be listed on the Match Card that is in the possession of the referee. It is requested that coach changes be made prior to 5PM on Wednesday preceding the match (coach unavailable or coach finishing their

credential requirements).

If a game day coaching change to the roster is needed, you must have a Mass Youth Soccer NCS Director approve the change prior to the match. The substitute coach must have a valid coaches' pass or Mass Youth Adult Credential in their possession to coach the game.

5. GAME ASSIGNMENTS

Game assignments (including dates, times and fields) will be published in advance as soon as reasonably possible. Mass Youth Soccer NCS Director, reserves the right to change the games assigned to specific fields at any time and without prior notice. A current schedule will be available at the Administration Area near Field 13 if only using the back fields (Field 11-16) or the Pavilion is front fields or all fields are being used. If a last minute change needs to be made, teams will be advised of the change by the Mass Youth Soccer NCS Director or designee, with as much advance notice as is practical.

6. LAWS OF THE GAME

Games will be played in accordance to IFAB Laws of the Game, US Youth Soccer and Mass Youth Soccer except as modified herein:

A. Law I - Field of Play

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

B. Law II - Ball

For 12U a #4 Ball will be used. For 13U-19U a #5 Ball will be used.

C. Law III - Players and Substitutions:

For 12U there will be 9 players on the field. For 13U-19U there will be 11 players on the field

a. Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage of play.

b. For the 14U and younger age groups, unlimited substitutions shall be allowed; and

c. For all other age groups, a maximum of 7 substitutions for each team shall be allowed during each half in each game and during any 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 overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game.

d. If a player is suspected of suffering a head injury they may be substituted for evaluation without the substitutions counting against the teams total number of allowed substitutions during each half or overtime period. If the player with the suspected head injury has received clearance from the events "Health Care Professional", the player may re-enter at any stoppage of play. The evaluated player must replace the original substitute and will not count as a substitution. The temporary substituted player may re-enter the game as a regular substitute. A team may only make a temporary substitution if they have a substitution available.

D. Law VII - Duration of Game (Halves / Minutes per half)

Age Group Game Time Overtime

19U 2 x 45 2 x 15

18U 2 x 45 2 x 15

17U 2 x 45 2 x 15

16U 2 x 40 2 x 15

15U 2 x 40 2 x 15

14U 2 x 35 2 x 10

13U 2 x 35 2 x 10

12U 2 x 30 2 x 10

All games MUST have a winner.

In overtime, both periods will be played to completion. If the score is still tied, then teams will proceed immediately to kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with IFAB rules.

All State Cup matches unfinished due to any cause shall, at the sole determination of a Mass Youth Soccer NCS Director, be replayed in their entirety if neither team is at fault nor 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, a Mass Youth Soccer NCS 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 sole discretion of a Mass Youth Soccer NCS Director, whether the game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit.

7. COMPETITION FORMAT

The 2023 Massachusetts State Cup competition is a single game elimination format. The basic format calls for qualifying rounds, leading to Quarter Finals, Semi-Finals and the Championship game. If more than 16 teams entered any age/gender group, a Play-In competition will be held to reduce the field for that age/gender group to 16 teams.

A blind draw was held to “seed” teams for each age/gender group. This seeding process did not take into account prior State Cup or prior League or Tournament records, except the immediately prior year’s State Cup finalists meeting the continuity of roster requirements were guaranteed the top two seeds. . The brackets for each age/gender group have been established and published on the Massachusetts Youth Soccer website. Winners at each stage of the competition advance to the next stage.

For all games, the team listed first will be classified as the Home Team. In the event of a uniform conflict, the Home Team will be required to use its alternate jersey, or if it has none, use pinnies to distinguish the two teams. The Home Team will also provide the game ball which must be deemed suitable by the referee; otherwise, the Visiting Team will be asked to provide the game ball.

FORFEITS:

Teams / Clubs forfeiting games will be subject to \$500.00 fine. Such fine must be paid by the offending team/club before any other member team of said club may compete in the tournament.

Teams declining to go Regionals after being qualified will be fined \$3000.00

Any team incurring a fine at Regionals or Nationals including failure to appear will be required to reimburse Mass Youth for any fines.

8. SIDELINES / CONDUCT

Players, managers, coaches and fans are expected to conduct themselves within the letter and spirit of the “Laws of the Game.” Mass Youth Soccer NCS Director or their designee(s) shall have the authority and responsibility to remove any person(s) from the Tournament for abuses to good conduct as they may determine. In addition to the rules of good conduct, the following rules will apply to this tournament:

Coaches and Managers will be responsible for the behavior of their fans. Coaches, Managers or other Team Officials with proper passes, to a maximum of 4, will be allowed with the team. Teams will be on the same sideline and all spectators and fans will be on the opposite sideline. Spectator coaching from the opposite sideline is prohibited. Displays of temper, dissent, by word or action against opponents or referees by spectators are cause for ejection from the match and/or premises and/or suspension from the tournament.

Immediately before leaving the field after completion of a game, the Coaches and Managers shall be responsible for ensuring that both the player and fan sidelines are cleared of trash (bottles, tape, etc.) Teams that fail to comply shall be assessed a fine of \$50.

9. PLAYER EQUIPMENT:

- A. **The following will not be permitted:** Fitness trackers, e.g. Fitbits, watches, jewelry and hair barrettes/clips.
- B. **SHIN GUARDS:** Shin guards complying with USSF specifications are mandatory for all players. The Shin Guard must be professionally manufactured, be size appropriate, not altered in any way, not have any exposed sharp edges and must be placed under the uniform socks and completely covered. No player will be allowed to participate in a game without Shin Guards. Ankle guards may be worn over socks. Tape may be used over the socks to keep Shin Guards in place.
- C. **CASTS/OTHER PROTECTIVE GEAR** – Referees have sole authority to determine if casts or other protective equipment on a player endangers other players and are permitted for any match. Tournament officials have no authority to overrule a referee decision in this regard, nor

is a referee decision on this topic subject to appeal. Decisions made on this matter by a referee in one game is not binding upon a referee decision in any subsequent game, nor can it be used to challenge a decision made in any prior game.

10. APPAREL-UNIFORMS:

All players (including the goal keepers) must have jerseys with numbers on the back. No two players on the same team may have the same number.

At every level of the National Championships Series competitions, each player, team and team official may only have on his/her/their apparel the name, logo, or other identifying mark of US Youth soccer or a member directly or indirectly of US Youth Soccer.

(1) A name, logo, or other identifying mark of any youth soccer organization other than US Youth Soccer or its member must be removed, replaced, or covered before a player, team or team official may enter or remain at a field complex where the National Championships Series competition is being held.

11. RED CARD & EJECTIONS

Any player receiving a red card during the Massachusetts State Cup Competition will not be permitted to play in the next Cup game competition or possibly the next NCS match (Regional and/or National). Mass Youth Soccer NCS Director shall have, in his/her sole discretion, the right to increase the suspension if the facts so warrant. A player sent-off during his/her match may remain on the bench for the remainder of the match but may not be in uniform. Notwithstanding this provision, the referee team responsible for the game in which a player is ejected shall have the right to request the player be removed from the sideline/field of play. Mass Youth Soccer NCS Director shall have the right, in his/her sole authority, to comply with the referee's request and require the player to be removed to the Administration pavilion for the remainder of the match, but no such player shall be removed until escorted by the Mass Youth Soccer NCS Director or his/her designee. The match may not be delayed while waiting for the escort. If the player remains at the field and the coach chooses to keep the ejected player on the team's bench, the coach assumes responsibility for that player.

Any team official who is asked to leave a match by the referee during the Massachusetts State Cup Competition shall be suspended for that team's next Cup match. That person **must** leave the field of play, **may not** observe the game from the parent sideline or close proximity to the game field **and may not** in any manner, be in communication with the team officials or players. Mass Youth Soccer NCS Director shall have, in his/her sole discretion, the right to increase the suspension if the facts so warrant. If a team official is suspended twice during the Cup competition, the Mass Youth Soccer NCS Director will determine what disciplinary action to take.

Any player receiving a red card during the Massachusetts State Cup Competition will not be permitted to play in the next Cup game competition or possibly the next NCS match (Regional and/or National). 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.

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.

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 "Policies and Procedure", section 9 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 and not Cup competition.

12. EXTERNAL CONDITIONS, WEATHER, ETC

In the event of unusual conditions, which necessitate rescheduling, suspension, or cancellation of games, the Mass Youth Soccer NCS Director shall have absolute authority to make changes to best serve the interests of the tournament as a whole. When matches are played at Progin Park and play must be suspended, a single AIR HORN blast will sound indicating suspension of play. **All players, coaches, and spectators are required to leave the field area immediately and go to their car.** When play is to be resumed, there will be three (3) AIR HORN blasts (immediate and consecutive).

13. PROTEST PROCEDURE

Protests must be in writing and filed together with the fee of \$300 in Cash, Club Check or Cashier's check. No personal checks will be accepted. If the protest is successful, ½ of the fee will be returned. For qualifying rounds, Quarter Final, Semifinal and Final matches, the protest must be presented to the Mass Youth Soccer NCS Director within 2 hours of completion of the completed match. The protest that is submitted will be reviewed, and decision rendered by a committee ("protest committee") of at least three (3) non-involved individuals, chosen by the Mass Youth Soccer NCS Director one of whom will be the Mass Youth Soccer NCS Director. No protest will result in the replay of a match under any circumstances.

No protest will be entertained relating to judgment decisions of the referee(s), 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.

Any decision made by the protest committee may be appealed to Mass Youth Soccer in accordance with the established appeal procedures of Mass Youth Soccer.

14. GENERAL

Any matters not specifically covered herein are referred to the Mass Youth Soccer NCS Director for

decision and action as he/she deems appropriate. The decision of the Mass Youth Soccer NCS Director shall be final.

145 GAMES PLAYED AT PROGIN PARK FIELDS

Team officials are responsible to communicate the following to all player families:

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

PREMISES NO SMOKING OR VAPING ALLOWED ON ALL MASS YOUTH SOCCER

PREMISES

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

ALL NOISE-MAKING DEVICES ARE PROHIBITED

NO DRONES ARE ALLOWED AT ANY TIME ON ALL MASS YOUTH SOCCER PREMISES

**ALL USE OF PHOTOGRAPHY OR VIDEOGRAPHY EQUIPMENT MUST COMPLY WITH
THE [Mass Youth Soccer Photography and Videography Policy](#)**

**FOR A FULL LIST of Rules of Conduct at Progin Park, VISIT THE MASS YOUTH SOCCER
WEBSITE, PROGIN PARK SECTION.**