



2021 US YOUTH SOCCER MASSACHUSETTS STATE CUP

Rules and Procedures

Note: The 2021 US Youth Soccer Massachusetts State Cup Competition consists of all games played in any 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.

1. TEAM REGISTRATION

During the Play-In Phase, Qualifying Rounds and Quarter Finals the Team Administrator and Coaching staff will check in at the registration desk, not the players. Team Administrator/Coach will print out the approved roster in GotSport (no photos on it needed until Semi-Finals and Finals). Registration staff will check it for appropriate birth years. There must be no more than 22 players, 18 active (4 names/players crossed out) Registration staff will write "Roster Approved" on it, Sign, and Print their name.

- Coaches will show their drivers license or other govt. issued ID for Identification.
- Coaches will show their covid waiver.
- Admin/Coach will present the player covid waivers.
- Admin/Coach will present the player medical waivers. (will NOT need copy of the insurance card)

Semi-Finals and Finals Check in.

Team Administrator and Coaching staff will check in at the registration desk, not the players. Team Administrator/Coach will print out the approved roster in GotSport (WITH **PHOTOS**). Registration staff will check it for appropriate birth years. There must be no more than 22 players, 18 active (4 names/players crossed out)

- Registration staff will compare the roster to the player **birth certificates**.
 - Name spelling, DOB, etc.
- Registration staff will write "Roster Approved" on it, Sign, and Print their name.
- Coaches will show their drivers license or other govt. issued ID for Identification.
- Coaches will show their covid waiver.
- Admin/Coach will present the player covid waivers.
- Admin/Coach will present the player medical waivers. (will NOT need copy of the insurance card)

A separate email and attachment detailing registration requirements will be sent to all team contacts of record prior to the June 5th Semi-Final competition. This email containing registration

requirements will be sent only to teams advancing to the Semi-Finals. The team representative who is responsible for registering a team must consult and comply with those requirements. It is each team's responsibility to ensure that the contact information for the individual responsible for registering their team has been provided to the Director, National Championship Series (NCS).

2. FIELD / REFEREE CHECK-IN

Teams with Head Coach must hand the referee a copy of their approved **US Youth Soccer Massachusetts State Cup Game Roster**, signed by a Mass Youth Soccer NCS Director, prior to all matches at the time the referees check in the teams.

For all age groups, a State Cup Team Roster may have up to a maximum of 22 players, but the State Cup Game Roster is limited to a maximum of 18 players (taken from the 22 player State Cup Team Roster). The State Cup Game Roster is created by simply crossing-out the "inactive" players on your State Cup Team Roster. The players not participating in the game may be on the team bench but they must not be in uniform. The State Cup Game Roster may use different players for each game as long as the players appear on the approved US Youth Soccer Massachusetts State Cup Team Roster.

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 within 10 minutes of scheduled start time.

3. 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 State Cup Team Roster.

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 in their possession to coach the game.

4. 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 posted at the pavilion. 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.

5. 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 III - Substitutions:

- a. Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage of play.
- b. For the 14 and under 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 in each game during each half 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.

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

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Game Time</u>	<u>Overtime</u>
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

All games **MUST** have a winner.

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 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.

6. COMPETITION FORMAT

The 2021 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 web site. 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.

1. A State Association may withdraw any of its teams from the Eastern Regional Championships without penalty up to 30 days prior to the start of play: however the entry fee will not be refunded. Any State Association that withdraws team(s) from the Eastern Regional Championships less than 30 days prior to the start of play will be subjected to a fine of \$ 1500.00 per team. In addition, any State Association that withdraws team(s) less than 5 days prior to the start of the event will be subject to an additional \$ 1500.00 per team. These fines are to be made payable to the East Region and MUST be submitted to the East Region within thirty (30) days upon completion of the Eastern Regional Championships competition. Any team that withdraws from the competition without the approval of their State Association will be fined \$1,000.00. Any State Association that is unable to send its Champion team has the option to send its runner-up team.
2. Any unreasonable forfeits determined by the Eastern Regional Championships Committee will be subject to a fine of \$1,000.00 per game forfeited and the team will not advance to the next round of competition.
3. Any team who withdraws from the competition after it has started will be subject to a fine of \$2,000.00.

7. CONTROL OF 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 his/her 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.*

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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).

12. 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 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 judgement 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.