



State Championship Cup Tournament Rules



State Championships

- A) The US Youth Soccer (USYS) Washington State Championships - hereafter referred to as State Championships - will consist of one tournament. It will be open to all boys and girls teams Under 12 through Under 19, comprised of properly registered Washington Youth Soccer (WYS) players affiliated with Member Associations, provided such teams entering and their Association is in good standing with Washington Youth Soccer and the team is in compliance with, and has not violated, the rules of WYS.
- B) Any teams wishing to participate in the USYS National Championship Series should enter this tournament.
- C) This is not a single-elimination tournament.
- D) The State Championships will determine the teams representing WYS in the Under 13 through Under 19 age groups at the USYS Far West Regional Championships. If applicable, regional champions in the Under 13 through Under 19 age groups would then advance to the USYS National Championships.
- E) The u12 State Champions will determine the team representing WYS at Far West Regionals Championships but travel the same week and location as President Cup Regionals. The Nationals Championship Series is not available for the under-12 age group.
- F) Eligibility for the USYS Far West Regional Championships will be according to placement in the State Championships. The State Champion has the first option to advance, but should they decline, the next-placed team will be given the spot, and so on.

II. ADMINISTRATION

Tournament Committee

The State Cup tournaments will have a Tournament Committee consisting of Member Associations/Club and WYS Soccer Operations Staff. The WYS Soccer Operations Staff will have final authority in all decisions.

- a. The WYS Soccer Operations Staff will select the venues for the State Cup Semi and Finals matches.
- b. Each participating Member Association/Club shall designate a Representative to form the Tournament Committee. Teams are to direct any questions or concerns to their Association/Club's Tournament Representative.

III. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- A) In the current seasonal year, teams must compete in a fall WYS-sanctioned league consisting of a minimum of 4 teams, USYS Regional League or USYS National League, or with WYS's permission in another State Association, except for the Under 19 age group for boys and girls. The league competition must consist of a minimum of one game against each of 3 different teams participating in the league.
- B) Teams may only register and play in one State Cup at a time.
- C) Applications for each tournament must be accompanied by the proper entry fee before the application is accepted.
- D) Teams advancing to the semifinal round shall be required to submit a team photo to the WYS office.
- E) All team rosters and any revisions will be verified for player and coach eligibility by the Member Association/Club Registrar. WYS will accept roster additions, releases, and transfers up to the roster freeze date.
- F) Roster Freeze is Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. before the first divisional game.
- G) Teams must demonstrate a continuity of rosters between the Fall WYS League Registration roster and the State Cup Team Tournament roster. U13 and older (11v11) by maintaining a minimum of nine (9) players common to both rosters, U12 teams (9v9) must maintain a minimum of seven (7) players common to both rosters.
- H) Prior to the roster freeze, the State Cup Team Tournament Roster may not have more than five (5) transferred and/or Club Passed players activated on the State Cup Team Tournament Roster. Players transferred from a WYS club to another WYS club and/or are in the "Drop and/or District Pool" will be considered transfers to the receiving team. For all teams that qualify for USYS Regionals and/or Nationals, WYS will comply with the rules and regulations as established by US Youth Soccer.
- I) Championship State Cup teams:
 - a. U12 teams can have a maximum of 16 players on the roster.
 - b. U13 - U19 teams can have a maximum of 22 players on the roster.

Age Group	Team Continuity	Registration Roster	Tournament Roster	Game Time Roster	Minimum to Play
U12	7	16	16	16	7
U13-U19	9	22	22	18	7

IV. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A) A player must be properly registered and rostered in accordance with the rules of USYS and WYS.
- B) Any team using ineligible player(s) will forfeit all its tournament games and be disqualified from participation.
- C) Players may participate in any of the four state cup tournaments but in only one tournament at a time and on only one roster in each state tournament regardless of age groups that are scheduled at various times of the seasonal year.
 - a. A team must be finished with their state cup tournament before a player from that team is eligible to participate in a different state cup tournament.
 - b. Players may not play on a team in a lower or equal-level tournament if they have played in a higher-level state cup tournament in the same seasonal year.
 - c. Any player on a team advancing to a regional or national competition is ineligible to play for another team, without written approval from WYS and USYS. For players entering the State Championships, they must meet the [US Youth Soccer National Championships Series](#) Policies and Protocols and Rules of Competition.
- D) Any player rostered and playing full-time on an ECNL or Girls Academy (GA) team, except for u19 teams, in the current seasonal year is ineligible to participate in the WYS President Cup, or WYS State Championship Cup.
- E) RCL players that have player passed to ECNL or GA teams are eligible to participate in the WYS President Cup, WYS State Championship Cup, USYS Far West President Cup Regional or Nationals, and USYS Far West National Championship Series Regional or Nationals.
- F) All players 18 years of age or older are required to have completed the full core SafeSport training and have the certificate uploaded to their player profile prior to the roster freeze date, otherwise the player will be removed from the roster and will be ineligible for the entire WYS State Cup.

The SafeSport Act of 2017 is a Federal Law S.534 — 115th Congress (2017-2018) Due to federal law S.534 The Center for SafeSport was given authority over National Governing Bodies (NGB) to safeguard amateur athletes against abuse. Washington Youth Soccer (WYS) is an organizational member of the NGB US Soccer. As an organizational member, WYS is required to follow and enforce the mandated US Soccer Policy 212.

V. TEAM REGISTRATION

- A) Team(s) are required to be registered in Washington Youth Soccer's registration platform (Sports Connect Association) in the current seasonal year.
- B) Payment is required at the time of registration.

C) Refund and Fines

- a. Teams that drop before the registration deadline will receive a refund after the refund request form is completed and approved by WYS Soccer Operations Staff.
- b. Teams that drop after the registration deadline will not receive a refund. Unless an age group is canceled due to a single entry. The team may be given the option of playing "up" an age level, but no refund will be given.

Any team dropping from a state cup tournament shall be subject to the following:

- a. If a team drops out before the first game, the team's Member Association/Club will be fined \$500.00.
- b. Forfeit of a game is subject to a \$500 fine.
- c. If a team drops out during the preliminary round, the team's Member Association/Club will be fined \$600.00. However, if a team drops out of the tournament immediately prior to their last scheduled preliminary game or anytime thereafter, the team's Member Association/Club will be fined \$700.00. A portion of the fines may be used to defray reasonable and documented expenses of the home team to include referees and field rental, at the approval of the Tournament Committee and WYS Soccer Operations Staff.
- d. If a team withdraws after the quarterfinals, the team, the coach, and the players may be suspended for one (1) full year from entering all Washington Youth Soccer State Cup tournaments.
- e. If Washington Youth Soccer incurs any fines from the Regional or National level of competition due to a team's forfeiture or conduct, these fines will be assessed to the team's Member Association/Club and the Member Association/Club will not be allowed to participate in future WYS State Cups until fines are paid to WYS/USYS.
- f. If a team requests to change their state cup tournament preference after the registration deadline but before the brackets are completed, they will incur a \$50.00 change fee, if approved by WYS Soccer Operations Staff. If this request to change occurs after the brackets are posted, there will be a \$200.00 change fee, if approved by WYS Soccer Operations Staff.

VI. CREDENTIALS

- A) All team admins and players on the roster are required to have USYS membership cards. The USYS card is required to be laminated and include a current color photograph of the player and team admins with matching team ID number.
- B) No more than four (4) bench personnel per team will be allowed on the designated team sideline.
- C) Team Admins are required to be Risk Management approved through WYS.

- D) The cards are to be surrendered to the referee prior to each game. In the event a player or team official does not possess a card, they cannot participate in that match and they cannot be in their team's technical area.
- E) Any non-credentialed or improperly credentialed player or coach shall have their passes pulled and they may not play or participate in that game. Players must remove their jersey and will not be considered an active member of the team. A coach will be asked to be removed from the field of play and not be involved in the instruction/direction of the team before, during, and after the game.
- F) WYS may issue Directors Credentials, which will permit Club Directors to be on team sidelines without being listed on a roster.

VII. TOURNAMENT AND GAME SCHEDULES State Cup Format

- A) The WYS Soccer Operations Staff is responsible for providing match pairings and preferred playdates for all tournament games. Preliminaries and quarterfinals may be scheduled at the home team fields or a neutral location if agreed upon by the home team. All Semi-final and Final games and referees will be scheduled by the WYS Soccer Operations Staff. The WYS Soccer Operations Staff may also mandate any game date change if there are conflicting issues with either team.
- B) Responsibilities of Coaches and Managers of home and away teams, if games are not hosted at one venue:
 - a. The following are the responsibilities of the assigned home team:
 - i. Provide the visiting team confirmation of game time and adequate directions to the home team's venue no less than 72 hours prior to the game and no later than 9:00 PM Wednesday via phone and email.
 - ii. Marking the field of play per regulations for age-appropriate sizes, as well as proper goal sizes.
 - iii. Providing proper game ball for the appropriate age
 - iv. Providing nets and corner flags
 - v. Confirm that a referee has been assigned by their Member Association referee coordinator for any game that has had a change in time, place, or date since originally scheduled and confirmed with the opposing team.
 - b. Responsibilities of the assigned visiting team:
 - i. Visiting teams must confirm to the home team receipt of the above directions, game time and field location on the Thursday night prior to the game, by no later than 9:00 PM, and changes within 72 hours of the game must be re-confirmed by the visiting team.
- C) Travel Policy:
 - a. If a team travel is more than seventy-five (75) miles one way from their club address to the opponent's club address to play a game, the home team must schedule the game at a reasonable time for travel. (10:00 AM - 4:00 PM)

Unless games are hosted at one central host site. Exceptions to this rule may apply if the traveling team agrees to the change in writing.

- b. Teams that are scheduled to travel from Western WA to Eastern WA or Eastern WA to Western WA are scheduled to only play one game a weekend. Teams may choose to play two games on the same weekend but is not required.
 - c. If there is more than one game scheduled on the same day, there will be a minimum of 6 hours between game start times.
- D) Teams that are from the same club and in the same bracket must play their game first, prior to other bracket games.
- E) Divisional and Quarterfinal reschedule requests shall be directed to the opponent's team manager and coach. Once the home and away teams have mutually agreed to a reschedule date, time, and location, the reschedule information is required to be reflected in Sports Connect Association. If a game is not played due to inadequate communication by either team, the Tournament Committee and WYS Soccer Operations Staff will review the communications and determine which team will receive a forfeit.
- F) If both teams are properly notified per "B" above and one fails to show up, following a 15-minute grace period, the game will be forfeited to the showing team. Extenuating circumstances may be favorably considered by the Tournament Committee and the WYS Soccer Operations Staff.
- G) WYS will follow [US Soccer Recognize to Recover Heat and Cold Guidelines](#) for inclement weather conditions and [AirNow](#) for any concerns regarding air quality.
- H) If games are canceled due to an unplayable field or adverse weather that prevents a team from traveling to the venue site, The Tournament Committee and the WYS Soccer Operations Staff will assist in the rescheduling. A game may be left not played if applicable, in which case no points will be awarded to either team.
- I) On match day to declare a field unplayable due to unforeseen circumstances will be the decision of the referee. The Tournament Committee and the WYS Soccer Operations Staff will assist in the rescheduling. A game may be left not played if applicable, in which case no points will be awarded to either team.
- J) Failure of a referee to show up will not be the cause for canceling or protesting the game. A substitute official must be chosen upon agreement by both coaches and that official's decision will be final and must be in writing.

VIII. TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULES

- A) All games will be played in accordance with [FIFA Laws of the Game](#) except as specifically modified under “Washington Youth Soccer Rules of Competition” or unless stated herein.
- B) It shall be the responsibility of each team to maintain proper spectator conduct. Every coach, manager, member association, or club official shall be held primarily accountable for the conduct of spectators for or from their respective teams.
- C) At all State Championship Cup matches there is zero tolerance for foul and/or abusive language which includes racial slurs, offensive or insulting language, or behaviors directly or indirectly made at or by a player, parent, coach, team manager, match official, a tournament representative or staff before, during or following a match. Violations of this rule in accordance with FIFA laws of the game, the WYS Code of Conduct, and SafeSport will result in a Washington Youth Soccer Disciplinary hearing, in which the determination of the committee will be final.
- D) Each player shall have a number affixed to the back of their jersey. The number must be a minimum of six (6) inches high and clearly visible. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team. The jersey number must match the number on the match-day roster. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are optional.
- E) The designated home team will be responsible for changing the color of the uniform jersey in the event of a color conflict. All teams are required to carry contrasting-colored jerseys to all games.
- F) The referee will return all USYS membership cards to the coach after the game. The USYS membership cards will be used to copy accurate information for the referee's misconduct report.
- G) Divisional and Quarterfinal games each team coach or team manager must submit a Sports Connect state cup tournament match roster to the referee showing players' names and jersey numbers prior to the start of each game. Semi-Finals and Finals WYS will provide the match roster.
- H) Divisional and Quarterfinal each team coach or manager must record the final score and misconducts from the official match report in Sports Connect Association 24 hours after the completion of a game. Semi-Finals and Finals WYS will record the final score and misconduct(s).
- I) Violations and Penalties:
Any infraction or violation of Washington Youth Soccer State Cup Rules may result in any of the following penalties:
- a. Ineligibility of a player or team for tournament play
 - b. Forfeiture of a game or games
 - c. Return of tournament trophy and/or medals
 - d. Revocation of the title "Tournament Champion" and all rights associated with such title.

- J) In accordance with US Youth Soccer National Championship Series rules, the State Championships will follow the below rules regarding substitutions:
- For the U12-14 age groups, unlimited substitutions shall be allowed.
 - For all other age groups, a maximum of 7 substitutions for each team shall be allowed in each game during each half of play and during overtime play. After leaving the game during a half of play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game during that same half of play. After leaving the game during overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game.

- K) Game Duration, Ball Size, and Overtime Periods
- Ties will stand in preliminary rounds
 - Quarter, Semi, and Final matches must have a winner
 - If tied at the end of the Quarter, Semi and Final matches. Overtime period is to be played if still tied, then FIFA kicks from the mark's procedure

Age Group	Duration	Ball Size	Overtime Periods
19 under	2 x 45 Min	#5	2 x 10 Min
18 under	2 x 45 Min	#5	2 x 10 Min
17 under	2 x 45 Min	#5	2 x 10 Min
16 under	2 x 40 Min	#5	2 x 10 Min
15 under	2 x 40 Min	#5	2 x 10 Min
14 under	2 x 35 Min	#5	2 x 5 Min
13 under	2 x 35 Min	#5	2 x 5 Min
12 under	2x 30 Min	#4	2x 5 Min

- L) U11-12 Heading, Punting, Build-Out line Rule Modification:
All WYS State Cup Competitions will follow the new u11-12 [2023 Rule Modification](#).

Age Group	Format	Heading	Punting	Build-Out Line	Offsides Line
U8	League Rules Apply	No	No	Yes	No Offsides
U9	7v7	No	No	Yes	Midfield Line
U10	7v7	No	No	Yes	Midfield Line
u11	9v9	No	No	Yes	Midfield Line
U12	9v9	No	No	Yes	Midfield Line
U13+	11v11	Yes	Yes	No	Midfield Line

- M) Small-Sided Field and Goals:
For all state cup competitions, WYS will adhere to the [US Soccer Player Development Initiatives](#) for small-sided games unless stated otherwise. WYS requires that Presidents Cup and Championship Cup participants adhere to the published competition standards.

	U9	U10	U11	U12
	9 yrs. old and younger	10 yrs. old and younger	11 yrs. old and younger	12 yrs. old and younger
Field Size Range (yards)	Length 55-65 Width 35-45	Length 55-65 Width 35-45	Length 70-80 Width 45-55	Length 70-80 Width 45-55
Max Goal Size (feet)	Height 6-6.6 Width 12-18	Height 6-6.6 Width 12-18	Height 6.6-7 Width 18.6-21	Height 6.6-7 Width 18.6-21
Ball Size	4	4	4	4
Game Time (min)	2x25	2x25	2x30	2x30

- N) In all cases where a game has been postponed or abandoned by a referee due to inclement weather, the Tournament Committee Chair(s) and the Competition Development Manager shall determine whether the game is to be replayed in its entirety or whether the score at the time of postponement or abandonment shall stand and the game be counted as a completed game. Game(s) may be left not played if applicable, in which case no points will be awarded for either team. Please refer to Washington Youth Soccer’s Travel Policy for further details.
- O) Failure to Compete:
 Match Manipulation during any WYS State Championship, President Cup, Founders or Rec Cup competitions will not be tolerated. Teams failing to compete in the spirit of the competition or are involved in the manipulation of a game result are subject to forfeiture and/or disqualification from all levels of the competition.
- a. if failing to compete is observed and confirmed, the WYS Soccer Operations Staff will give notice to the offending Team(s) and/or Club(s).
 - b. Team(s) and/or Club(s) may be subject to fines up to a maximum penalty fee of \$500.00 to off-set expenses for team(s) and/or club(s) not limited to travel, referees, field, lights and any other applicable expenses incurred, subject to approval by WYS Soccer Operations Staff
 - c. If corrective action is not taken by the Club(s) and/or Association(s), the Team(s) will be subject to disqualification.
- P) Forfeits will be reported as a 1-0 win for the opponent. The committee reserves the right to penalize a team for any forfeits deemed inappropriate and/or intentional. This may cause the team to forfeit all games with no refunds.
- Q) Teams that forfeit any match during bracket play regardless of the reason, will forfeit all bracket matches and will be deemed ineligible for Quarterfinals or Semi-finals.

- R) Game Abandonment:
- a. If it has been determined that a game is abandoned by the referee due to actions of the coach, players, spectators, or any combination thereof, **NO REPLAY WILL BE GRANTED.**
 - b. Furthermore, if at the time of the abandonment:
 - i. The opposing team is ahead, the score will be the final score.
 - ii. The team causing the abandonment is ahead, the game shall be considered forfeited and a score of 1-0 in favor of the opposing team will be awarded.
 - iii. The score is tied, the game shall be considered forfeited and a score of 1-0 in favor of the opposing team will be awarded.
 - iv. It has been determined that both teams caused the abandonment, then both teams will be given a loss, zero points for both teams. If this occurs in single-elimination games the decision goes back to the Tournament Committee and the WYS Soccer Operations Staff.

IX. STANDINGS AND TIE-BREAKERS

- A) Teams will be awarded points based on the following point structure:
- a. 3 points for a win
 - b. 1 point for a draw
 - c. 0 (zero) points for a loss
- B) Ties in divisional standings between two (2) teams will be resolved as follows:
- a. Head-to-Head (winner of match between 2 teams)
 - b. Winner of most games
 - c. Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of ten goals per game
 - d. Most goals scored with a maximum of ten per game
 - e. Midweek game for teams to decide who is to go on
 - f. flip of coin for seeding purposes in the elimination phase
- C) Ties in divisional standings between three (3) teams will be resolved as follows:
- a. Winner of most games
 - b. Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of ten goals per game.
 - c. Most goals scored with a maximum of ten per game
 - d. Midweek game for teams to decide who is to go on

X. DISCIPLINARY, MATCH PROTESTS & APPEALS

All Misconducts, Match Protests, and Appeals will follow the WYS Judicial and Ethics Committee Policy and Procedures and IFAB/FIFA Laws of the Game.

- A) Misconducts:
- a. Will be reviewed and determined by the WYS Disciplinary Committee
- B) Match Protest:

- a. Any match protest is required to follow WYS Judicial and Ethics Committee Policy and Procedures and must be submitted to WYS Soccer Operations Staff within 48 hours from completion of the match.
 - b. Upon receiving the match protest the Tournament Committee and WYS Operations Staff will review and provide a determination of the match protest within 48 hours.
 - a. Any Tournament Committee representative from where the match protest originated will recuse themselves from the process.
 - b. Match day misconducts cannot be submitted as a Match Protest.
- C) Appeals:
- a. The determination from a match protest may be appealed to the WYS Judicial and Ethics Committee and will be appointed by WYS Operations Staff.

All necessary forms and procedures can be accessed through the Washington Youth Soccer website at www.WashingtonYouthSoccer.org.

Additional Tournament Rules or Changes:

Any additional tournament rules, special rules, requirements, procedures, administrative and organizational information necessary for staging the State Cup Tournaments will be published separately. See below:

State Championship Regional and National Rules:

[USYS National Championship Series](#)

[President Cup Regional and National](#)