US Youth Soccer State Cup

Information & Rules of Play

NCYSA State Cup Series

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Information

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PLEASE READ ALL THE INFORMATION BELOW, AS IT WILL PERTAIN TO YOUR ACCEPTANCE INTO THE NCYSA USYS NCS CUP!
Note: Subject to change pending publication of US Youth Soccer National Championship Event Rules.

1. EVENT INFORMATION

The NCYSA USYS State Cup is a tournament sanctioned and conducted annually by NC Youth Soccer. This event is part of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series (NCS) as a qualifying event.

All competitions shall be governed by the rules outlined in this document, along with any applicable regulations established by NC Youth Soccer and the US Youth Soccer National Championships. Winners of the NCYSA USYS State Cup advance to the US Youth Soccer National Championship. The NCYSA USYS State Cup is conducted under the direction of the Director/ State Cup Chair.

Any matters not provided for in this policy shall be decided by the Tournament Committee, and its decisions are final.

DATES AND SITE LOCATIONS

All dates and locations are listed on the State Cup website, www.ncsoccer.org.

THIS EVENT IS A PET-FREE ENVIRONMENT.

This State Cup will be a pet-free environment. Please be sure to alert your teams so they can adhere to this regulation.

ATTENTION: NC Youth Soccer will implement the local association's lock-down policy, if it is needed, during a State Cup series event.

2. TEAM APPLICATION FOR ENTRY

Team applications must be submitted online via the PlayMetrics system by the deadline listed on our State Cup overview page at www.ncsoccer.org.

***It is encouraged that applications be submitted ASAP as positions may be filled before the deadline date. Total applications will be complete once the application period has passed. There will no longer be cup qualifier (play-in) matches.**

- It is the responsibility of the local associations to make sure that all teams have access to this online application and that the teams applying are in good standing.
- Contact your association Head Registrar to review the registration process for your team regarding player passes and team rosters.

3. QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENTRY

TEAM ELIGIBILITY:

The NCYSA USYS State Cup and Kepner Presidents State Cup are open competitions for eligible boys' and girls' teams in the U13–U19 age groups that are properly registered with a U.S. Soccer Federation (USSF) affiliate.

Cup Competition Seasons:

- Fall Cup Series: U15–U19 Girls
- Spring Cup Series: U13–U14 Girls and U13–U19 Boys

Age Group Eligibility:

- Teams and players may compete in an age group above the age group designated on their official team roster and player cards.
- Teams and players may NOT compete in an age group below the age group designated on their official team roster.

Registration Requirements:

- All participating teams and players must be properly registered with their respective USSF affiliate for the current seasonal year. This includes completion of all applicable registration requirements, including verification of player birth certificates.

Official Team Roster Requirements:

To be considered valid for State Cup competition, an official team roster must meet the following requirements:

- **Roster Submission and Approval:** The roster must be uploaded into PlayMetrics and approved by NCYSA, as the hosting State Association, by the designated roster freeze date.
- **Roster Size:** Each team must have a minimum of 11 and a maximum of 22 registered players.
- **Player Eligibility:** All rostered players must satisfy the registration and eligibility requirements established by their respective State Association.
- **Roster Composition:** Rosters may include a combination of primary rostered players and club pass players, provided all players are properly registered and approved.
- **Multiple-Team Restrictions:** A player may not participate on more than one team within the same USYS National Competition.
- **State Association Roster Restrictions:** A player who is frozen on another USYS State Association's State Cup roster for the current seasonal year is ineligible to participate.

GAME DAY ROSTER REQUIREMENTS:

The following requirements apply to all U13–U19 State Cup matches:

- **Maximum Match Roster:** Teams may designate a maximum of 18 eligible players for each match, regardless of the total number of players on their official team roster.
- **Match Roster Submission:** Only the 18 designated players may appear on the official match roster, which must be provided to the referee before the start of the match.
- **Minimum Players:** A team must have at least seven (7) eligible players present to begin a match.
- **Nonparticipating Players:** Players not included among the 18 designated match-eligible players must change into clearly distinguishable street clothes. These players may remain on the team bench side but are **NOT permitted to participate** in the match.

STATE CUP ROSTER FREEZE DATE:

The State Cup Roster Freeze Date is the established deadline after which no changes may be made to a team's official State Cup roster.

All teams are responsible for ensuring their rosters are complete, accurate, and approved by the applicable deadline.

For roster freeze dates or questions regarding player registration and eligibility, contact your club's Local Head Registrar.

TEAM STAFF AND BENCH PERSONNEL: During State Cup competition, each team is permitted a maximum of five (5) properly credentialed team officials in the designated team bench area.

Authorized bench personnel may consist of any combination of the following:

- Coaches and team managers listed on the official team roster.
- Directors of Coaching (DOCs) holding valid, official DOC passes.
- Association officials holding valid Association Pass credentials.

All individuals occupying the team bench area must possess the appropriate credentials and comply with applicable NCYSA and competition regulations.

4. ENTRY FEES

- The entry fee for the US Youth Soccer State Cup is $1600 per team. This entry fee is required of each team and should be paid at time of completion of application or within 7 days via PlayMetrics Invoice.

5. REGISTRATION

- Teams will upload their State Cup roster into the PlayMetrics system prior to the roster freeze date.
- **THE LOCAL REGISTRAR SHOULD CONFIRM THAT ALL PASSES AND ROSTERS ARE CORRECT AND FREE FROM ERRORS.**
- Teams found with improper paperwork at the Cup, could face penalties ranging from player ineligibility to forfeits.
- Any player NOT listed on the team cup roster WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PLAY.
- **Player Passes and Match Rosters**
  The referees will check player passes (can be physical or electronic) before each game, along with the NCYSA official cup match roster.
  REMEMBER: NCYSA OFFICIAL CUP MATCH ROSTERS ARE REQUIRED FOR EACH GAME.

6. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

DIVISIONS/BRACKETS:
There is a maximum of 16 teams for any age group. If more than 16 teams apply, or the number that applied exceeds the selected bracket format, teams will be ACCEPTED in the order they applied so APPLY EARLY!
The State Cup Tournament Committee reserves the right to adjust bracket format/size as needed for the purposes of the state cup event.

SEEDING:
Seeding for the USYS State Cup will be conducted via a blind draw.

Any accepted Challenge teams and Recreation teams will be seeded after the Classic teams.

7. OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT MERCHANDISE AND AWARDS

NCYSA will sell merchandise for each cup event online and at some site locations.
There will be a separate T-shirt design for the Final Four event.
NCYSA will present individual awards to the champions and individual awards to the finalists. Coaches receive a team award.

8. FIRST AID

A certified athletic trainer will be available, as well as proper communication equipment in case of an emergency.

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NCYSA State Cup
Rules of Play

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PLEASE READ ALL THE INFORMATION BELOW, AS IT WILL PERTAIN TO THE RULES OF PLAY FOR THE USYS NCS STATE CUP!

1. FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME

All matches played during this tournament shall be governed by the FIFA Laws of the Game, including applicable youth soccer modifications, rules, and interpretations established by US Youth Soccer and NCYSA.

As certain age group competitions serve as qualifiers for representation at US Youth Soccer National Championship events, the applicable US Youth Soccer National Championships rules and regulations shall also be incorporated.

The following provisions establish additional tournament-specific rules, interpretations, and administrative procedures governing the organization, operation, and conduct of this competition.

2. DURATION OF PLAY, BALL SIZE AND FIELD SIZE

All matches shall be scheduled for the full regulation duration established by US Youth Soccer rules. Any Preliminary Round, Semifinal, or Final match terminated early by the referee due to the conduct or behavior of one or both teams shall be considered final, and the score at the time of termination shall stand.

Any Semifinal or Final match terminated early by the referee due to dangerous weather conditions shall be subject to an attempt to replay the match in its entirety.

Preliminary Round matches terminated early by the referee due to dangerous weather conditions shall be reviewed by the State Cup Tournament Committee on a case-by-case basis to determine the appropriate course of action.

Age Group	Game Length	Overtime Play	Ball Size	Field Size
U13-U14	Two 35' halves	Two 10' periods	5	60x110 (min), 70x120 (max)
U15-U16	Two 40' halves	Two 15' periods	5	60x110 (min), 70x120 (max)
U17-U19	Two 45' halves	Two 15' periods	5	65x110 (min), 75x120 (max)

SUBSTITUTIONS:

For the US Youth Soccer National Championships:

- 13U & 14U: Unlimited substitutions over three moments per half plus halftime.
- 15U–18/19U: Unlimited substitutions over four moments per match plus halftime.

Substitutions can occur at any stoppage with the referee's approval. Re-entry is permitted at designated substitution points or at any time during play if the referee permits.

- **Concussion/Head Injury Substitution Policy:** If a player is suspected of having a concussion, they may be temporarily replaced so they can be evaluated by a qualified health professional. The temporary substitute does not count toward the team's normal substitution limits. If the player is cleared, they may return to the match, and the temporary substitute player must come off. No substitution is charged to the team. If the player is not cleared and permanently removed, the change becomes a concussion substitution. In that case, both teams receive one additional substitution and the opponent can make one additional substitution of one, singular player.

3. INCLEMENT WEATHER

- Coaches must have their team on the field, ready to play, despite weather conditions.
- A forfeit may be awarded if a team is not prepared to play within **fifteen (15) minutes** after the scheduled match time.
- The Onsite Administration Committee, (*Site Director, Referee Coordinator, and the NCYSA Representative*) upon counsel of the State Cup Admin and approval of the State Cup Tournament Committee, has the discretion of modifying game times, locations, canceling in whole or in part the individual games or the tournament due to inclement weather or field conditions.

Guidelines for playing a tournament if weather or other circumstances threaten the completion of the event:

The possibility of adverse weather or other circumstances can and have affected the completion of tournaments sanctioned by the NCYSA. The most critical tournaments are the State Cup events where NCYSA is trying to crown a State Champion.

- **NOTE THE BELOW OPTIONS (1-4) ARE OFFERED AS A *GUIDELINE* WHEN THE COMPLETION OF A TOURNAMENT IS IN JEOPARDY WITH THE FOCUS OF IMPLEMENTING THEM TO BE COHESIVENESS ACROSS THE EVENT.**
  AS THE BELOW ARE **JUST SUGGESTIVE OPTIONS**, the final decision to play or not rests with the State Cup Tournament Committee.

  SUGGESTIVE DECISION GUIDE FOR SCTC (NOTE: FINAL DECISION FOR MODIFICATION OF GAME SCHEDULES LIES WITH THE STATE CUP TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE)

  1. The intention of the tournament committee shall be to apply the arrived upon solution uniformly among all teams involved.
  2. Reduce the time specified for the matches in specific age groups. Match considered complete after it reaches the end of the first half of the time established for the match. Any match not completed to the end of the first half in the same day will be considered incomplete and not played. All efforts will be made to play a complete game that weekend.
  3. If conditions will not allow regular match play, then organize a FIFA "Kicks from the Mark" (based on the team play size, i.e. U15 and above, 11 players) to determine the results of the matches that cannot be played. The results will be a win, or loss. The goalkeeper will come from this group of eleven, at the coaches' discretion. All eleven team members will compete and the final score will determine the result of the match.
  4. In the event that the State Cup must be canceled due to severe weather, NCYSA will be given the responsibility to determine the method used for advancing teams to the finals, crowning champions, or qualifying regional representatives.
     The cancellation of matches or a tournament is the right decision if the alternative decision puts our members' safety at risk.

4. FORFEITS AND WITHDRAWAL FROM CUP PLAY

- **Any team(s) that forfeit any tournament match subsequently forfeits all tournament matches. This team will have fines of no less than $1800. Additional fines, such as but not limited to, referee fees, field costs, etc, could be imposed by the State Cup Tournament Committee.** (*per the Classic Council – 12/2/01*)**.**

- **All forfeitures carry the possibility of teams, players, coaches and associations being put in "Bad Standing" by NCYSA and could affect their future participation in State Cup play.**

In round robin matches, forfeited matches will be reported as 5-0 for scoring purposes.

- In circumstances in which a forfeited match is (or forfeited matches are) involved with determination of advancement in the tournament, all tie breaking criteria involving bonus points or fewest goals allowed will be determined on a per match average (to the nearest tenth of a point) excluding the results of the forfeited match. In addition to match points, BONUS POINTS (up to a maximum of five (5) per match) will be awarded to winning teams based on goal differential for purposes of breaking ties in standings.
  BONUS POINTS are based on the *positive* goal differential in each game up to a maximum of five (5) per match.

  NOTE: THERE IS NO TIE BREAKING CRITERIA RELATED TO THE MOST GOALS SCORED. NO TEAM WILL GAIN ANY RANKING ADVANTAGE BY RUNNING UP A MATCH SCORE BEYOND A 5 GOAL DIFFERENTIAL determined on a per match average (to the nearest tenth of a point) excluding the results of the forfeited match. The forfeiting team(s) may be required to pay all necessary fines.

Withdrawal From The Cup:

- Once the application deadline has passed the entry fee is non-refundable.
  If a team withdraws from the event after the application deadline, they forfeit their entry fee.

5. SCORE REPORTING

The tournament will be responsible for completing an online match report. The referee will record the score and any cards at the pitch. Once returning to NCYSA Headquarters after the completion of the match, the Center Official will record those scores and cards online.
In case of a score discrepancy, please notify the Onsite Administrations Committee or email the State Cup Administrator at classic@ncsoccer.org as soon as possible.

6. DIVISION RANKING AND TEAM ADVANCEMENT CRITERIA

Teams will be awarded points based on match results as follows:
WIN = 3 POINTS TIE = 1 POINT LOSS = 0 POINTS

Tie Matches

All ties in round robin play will stand.

Bonus Points

Tie Breaking Criteria (for purpose of division ranking)

- At the conclusion of round robin play, teams will be ranked in their playing group based on tournament points (points earned from wins and ties). Any situation in which two or more teams have the same number of points will have the tie broken by using the following criteria in the order listed, one after the other as needed:
  1. Results of head-to-head competition
  2. Most Bonus Points
  3. Fewest goals allowed
  4. FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" rules will apply in order to determine the winner, at a time to be determined by the Tournament Director.

  If more than two teams are involved in a tie, the criteria will be followed in order until all ties are broken. The procedures are NOT restarted once one tie is broken. If more than two teams are tied, and those teams did not play each other to create 'head-to-head' competition, then the head-to-head criteria is not used. (For example: Team A, B and C are tied. Team A and B played each other, and Team B played Team C, but Team A did not play Team C. Head-to-Head cannot be used to break ties in that situation. However, if all three teams did play each other, then head-to-head will be used.) The top ranked team in each playing group will advance to the next round of the competition.

- When cross-over matches are used, those matches are counting matches, just as matches played within the bracket and count towards advancement to the next round.

Three-way tie to be determined by FIFA Penalty kicks

- If FIFA penalty kicks have to be taken (after exhausting the tie breaking criteria), there will be a draw by the Tournament 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 round robin winner. The bye team will be the home team.
  This is only if there are more than two teams tied after going through the Tie Breaking Procedures.

Determination of a Wildcard

In some divisions, the team (or teams depending on the number of teams in the bracket) with the highest number of tournament points (points earned from wins and ties), other than division winners, will be selected to advance as the Wild Card. If two or more teams have the same number of points, the tie-breaker system used to determine division winners will be used to determine the Wild Card.

Preliminary Play
All teams are guaranteed two preliminary games with the goal of three.
NOTE: The State Cup Tournament Committee reserves the right to adjust bracket format/size as needed for the purposes of the state cup event.

Final Four
Depending on the bracket set-up, the top 4 teams with the highest points in each group will advance to the Final Four. The Final Four traditionally consists of a Semi-Final match on Saturday and the Final match on Sunday.

There is no provision for moving the Best 2nd place team (ie: wildcard) if that team also comes from Bracket "A". In eight-team divisions (two four team brackets), the first-place team in bracket "A" will play the second-place team in bracket "B", while the first-place team in bracket "B" will play the second place team in bracket "A".

Intent To Travel/Compete In NCS Nationals Event:

- Teams who advance to the Final Four weekend will be required to complete an Intent to Compete/Travel to the US Youth Soccer National Championships. This Intent to Compete/Travel form will be due to Colby Morton at Classic@ncsoccer.org prior to the start of your semi-final match. Your club must be copied on the email submission of your Intent to Compete/Travel form when emailed to Colby Morton.

7. REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREE

- The referee shall keep a record of the game and keep the official time on the field. After the match, the Center Referee will post the score/cards/supplemental information for their match online via the provided method onsite. Referees for all State Cup matches come from the NC Soccer Referees Association and are USSF registered. The Tournament Director is responsible for coordinating the referee assignor who will determine the referee selection for the event.
- Referee fees are included in the tournament entry fee. Teams do not have to pay the referees at game time.
- A three-man referee system will be used at all State Cup matches. Under NO circumstances may a two-man system of officiating be used on any NCYSA Cup Series match.

8. PLAYERS EQUIPMENT

- NCYSA rules will be followed regarding player equipment. Any commercially manufactured soccer shoe may be used. The safety of the cleat will be at the referee's discretion, at the field.
- **JERSEY/KIT COLOR GUIDE:** *NOTE: For below, verbiage referencing "jersey" including corresponding color sock/shorts kit.*
    - Teams MUST have an alternate-colored jersey in case of conflicts.
    - Generally accepted "light" color jersey options include: white, yellow/gold, orange, neon, and similar colors. IF the color of your "light" jersey option is something other than the above *generally accepted* "light" colors, such as red or light blue, then your team MUST have another *back-up jersey* or *training shirt with numbers* that would fall into the *generally accepted* "light" colors.
    - In addition, if WHITE socks (or another *generally accepted* "light" color sock) are not your usual "light" jersey socks, your team must have the back-up of white (or another *generally accepted* "light" color) socks in case of a conflict.
    - If your player is wearing an undershirt beneath their jersey, the color of the undershirt MUST match the color of the jersey's sleeve.

(For example: An issue becomes when a team's "light" color jersey is RED because it could also be considered another team's "dark" color. Thus, teams with RED as their "light" for instance, must have another *back-up jersey* or *training shirt with numbers* that would fall into the *generally accepted* "light" colors and WHITE socks (or another *generally accepted* "light" color sock) as a back-up.)

- **The home team will wear "light" colored jerseys. The visiting team will wear "dark" colored jerseys. The team in the incorrect color will have to change.**
- All players, including goalkeepers, must have a number on the roster however the goalkeepers do not have to have their number on their goalkeeper jersey. NCYSA will not allow tape to be used for numbers on the jerseys unless in circumstances approved by the SCTC.
    - Jersey numbers should coincide with jersey numbers on the approved team roster and player pass.

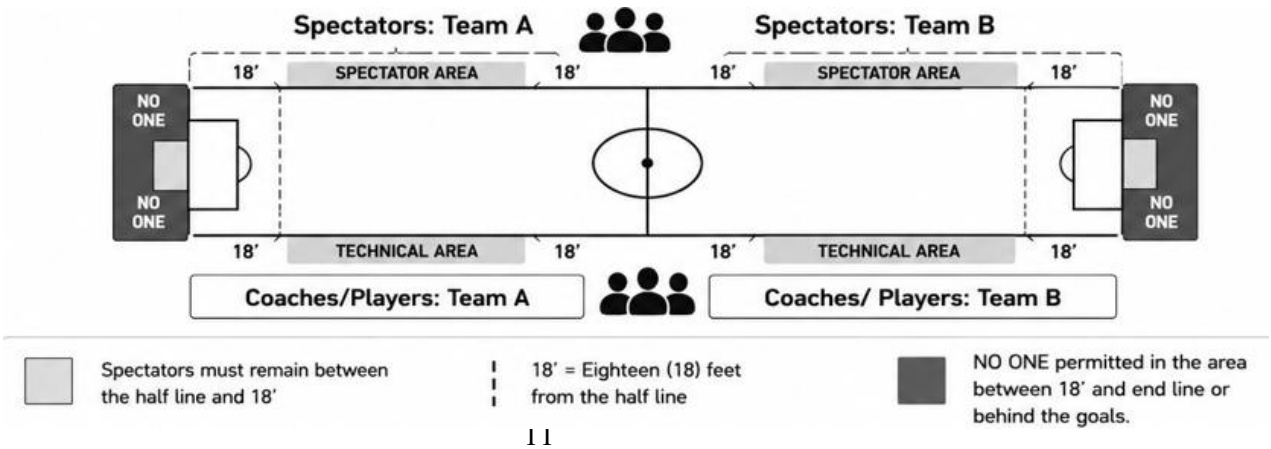
        At every level of the National Championships competitions, each player, team and team official may only have on his/her/their apparel the name, logo, or other identifying mark of US Youth soccer or a member directly or indirectly of US Youth Soccer.
        (1) A name, logo, or other identifying mark 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 presented by New York Life competition is being held.

9. SPORTSMANSHIP

The Onsite Administration Committee and/or the State Cup Tournament Committee may eject from individual games and facilities, players, parents, coaches, spectators and/or teams who demonstrate less than good sportsmanship behavior.
Notice of all such actions shall be sent in writing to that team's local association and to the State Cup Discipline and Appeals Committees, which could lead to further sanctions.

10. CONDUCT OF PLAYERS, COACHES AND SPECTATORS

- Coaches are responsible for the conduct of players, parents and spectators. Coaches not controlling the conduct of their players, parents, and spectators may be cautioned and/or ejected.
- The referee may terminate a game for coach, parent, player, or spectator misconduct. The referee will confer with the State Cup Tournament Committee or the Tournament Director prior to finalizing any decision. Such termination will result in game forfeiture of the offending team.
    - If it is determined that both teams are at fault, zero points will be awarded to each team.
- Coaches and spectators must remain between the penalty areas. The referee or referee assistants may, at any time, restrict the sideline movement of coaches, players and spectators. No one will be permitted behind the goal lines.
- The teams will sit on the opposite side of the field from the spectators. Teams will be separated, each designated onto their own side of the half. Spectators are to remain on the half of the pitch across from their own team's bench.
    - NCYSA reserves the right and will choose to move a parent/spectator back to the area directly opposite their team on the spectator side or from the complex completely if they deem their behavior or actions unsportsmanlike or disruptive.



11. EJECTIONS

- Any adult person being ejected, whether it is a ***parent, spectator, or coach***, must be "out of sight and sound" of the field.
- PLAYERS that are ejected from a match should remain in the team bench area until the conclusion of the match. COACHES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BEHAVIOR OF THEIR PLAYERS AT ALL TIMES.
    - IF the player continues to be a disturbance, the referee may call for an NCYSA state representative onsite to escort the player to an area designated by the Onsite Administration Committee.
    - If the player must be escorted to the designated area by the NCYSA state representative, the player must remain in that area until the completion of their team's match.
    - The ejected PLAYER must attend the next scheduled State Cup series match for the team the card was incurred with IN STREET CLOTHES and must sit on the bench for the sit-out sanction to count, unless noted otherwise by the SCTC or SC D&A Committee.
- An ADULT that is ejected, whether it is the COACH, PARENT, or SPECTATOR, must IMMEDIATELY LEAVE THE COMPLEX.
    - The ejected ADULT is NOT allowed back to the facility until COMPLETION of their teams NEXT scheduled State Cup match.

- IF THE EJECTED ADULT IS A COACH AND COACHES MULTIPLE TEAMS:
    - The sit out policy applies to coaches that coach multiple teams and have to sit out game(s) because of his/her accumulation of cautions and/or send offs in their previous match; **either penalty will follow the team the coach received the penalty with.**
      (Ex. A coach receives a 3rd Caution when coaching a U16 team, the required sit out must be fulfilled for that team's next scheduled State Cup match. OR A coach is sent off when coaching a U16 team, the required sit out must be fulfilled for that team's (U16s) next scheduled State Cup match.)
      Individuals caught ignoring this rule will be dealt with by the State Cup Discipline and Appeals Committee and could jeopardize their team's standing in this or future State Cup play.

Player Cards/Fines:

- There is no Penalty card accumulation (individual or team) that carries over from seasonal play to State Cup play.
- Card accumulation will carry over from State Cup to State Cup.
    - So, cards accumulated, and penalties given will roll over to the player's next State Cup event. Fines not paid from a previous State Cup penalty could impact your eligibility for this upcoming State Cup event.

  Any appeal to a State Cup sanction determined by the State Cup Discipline and Appeals Committee would be handled by the State Cup Tournament Committee. The appeal would need to be submitted to the NCYSA State Cup Admin ASAP upon being notified of the original sanction decision.

12. RULES INTERPRETATION

The State Cup Tournament Committee reserves the right to interpret the implementation of all tournament rules pertaining to matches being played as part of the Cup. The State Cup Tournament Committee's decisions are FINAL for the purpose of tournament play and play will continue even if such decisions are appealed.

Where rules per the National Championships are in use, the appointed State Cup Tournament Committee will be the governing body. Decisions of the committee shall be final and binding.

13. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

Protests including those concerning misapplication of the Laws of the Game should be submitted ***no more than 3 hours after the conclusion of the match being protested***. No protests will be entertained concerning interpretation of the Laws of the Game by the referee.

- **To Submit a Protest:**
  - Teams wishing to protest must submit their formal handwritten or typed protest to the NCYSA State Representative onsite at their Cup location within 3 hours after the conclusion of the match being protested and the protest must be accompanied by $100.00 in cash.
    (A copy of that protest should be immediately scanned/photographed and emailed to the State Cup Administrator at classic@ncsoccer.org in addition to the one submitted onsite.)
  - The $100.00 will only be returned if the protest is upheld. A quorum will consist of at least three (3) members of the committee for purposes of NCYSA State Cup play ONLY.
- **Next Steps…**
  - Once the official protest is received by the state cup administrator, all parties (both club Presidents, club Directors of Coaching, team coaches/managers included in the protest paperwork, the State Cup Tournament Committee (SCTC)) will receive notification of the submission.
  - After receiving that "notification of submission", all necessary parties will have an additional 2 hours from that point to submit any rebuttal/support evidence and testimony. This should be sent to the State Cup Administrator at classic@ncsoccer.org or simply reply all to the notification email.
  - NCYSA will schedule and set up a conference call/web call to provide all involved parties the opportunity to present applicable evidence and to allow the State Cup Tournament Committee (SCTC) the ability to ask questions.
  - After completion of the web call the SCTC will meet and render a decision.
  - Notification of said decision will be sent via email to the parties included in the above process from the VP of Tournaments and Travel.
  - A phone call or text message will also be sent (whichever is appropriate given the hour of the decision) to alert the President, Executive Director, and DOC of involved parties that the decision has been sent via email.

DECISIONS RENDERED WILL BE CONSIDERED FINAL.

14. MATCH MANIPULATION

As per the NCS Rules: FORFEITS FOR FAILURE TO COMPETE

- Match Manipulation at the National Championships presented by New York Life competitions at all levels. 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 disqualification from all levels of the competition.
  - (1) if failing to compete is observed and confirmed, the competition authority representative will give notice to the offending team or teams.
  - (2) if corrective action is not taken, the team or teams will be subject to disqualification.

15. QUESTIONS DURING THE TOURNAMENT

Questions may be directed onsite to the NCYSA Official Representative or to the NCYSA State Cup Administrator via email at classic@ncsoccer.org.

16. DEFINITIONS

The make-up of the committee is under review and will be detailed prior to the start of the event.

- **Onsite Administration Committee:** This committee consists of the Site Director, Referee Coordinator, and the NCYSA Representative. The Onsite Administration Committee simply implements the tournament rules as defined above at each official tournament site. Any questions not detailed in the rules above, the Onsite Administrative Committee will consult the State Cup Tournament Committee for further guidance.
- **State Cup Discipline and Appeals Committee (State Cup D&A Committee):** Designated by the State Cup Tournament Director, this committee prior to the start of the tournament. It will consist of three appointed

individuals by the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director would also sit on the committee as an Ex-Officio member if needed unless said TD is a member of the State Cup Tournament Committee which could create a conflict should appeals arise. This committee will be consistent throughout the seasonal State Cup's tournament duration. The NCYSA State Cup Administrator will act as an administrative assistant and will aid with any tasks needed by the State Cup Discipline and Appeals Committee**. The State Cup D&A Committee will be the body that determines any additional sanctions for red cards given during the tournament, any ejections, and any other disciplinary conduct decisions.**

- **State Cup Tournament Committee (SCTC):** Designated by the State Cup Tournament Director, this committee prior to the start of the tournament. It will consist of the Tournament Director and two other designated NCYSA staff of his/her choosing. This committee will be consistent throughout the seasonal State Cup's tournament duration. The State Cup Tournament Committee will act upon all duties as listed in the rules above, including but not limited to hearing any protests filed and any appeals to sanctions determined by the State Cup D&A Committee.