

Ohio Soccer Association State Cup Policies

Ohio Soccer Association (OSA) will follow the [US Youth Soccer National Championship Policy](#). Please make sure you are familiar with both those policies and the OSA State Cup Policies below.

Format

Single Elimination Preliminary/Play in Games will be used to get to 16, 12, 8, 6 or 4 teams.

Round Robin games will be played in pools of 4 for 16, 12, 8 or 4 teams, and in pools of 3 for 6 teams.

Teams will advance to the Semis/Finals based on Appendix One

Age	Type	Length of game	Overtime Periods	Ball
Under-11s/12	9 v 9	Two (2) 30-minute halves	Two (2) 10-minute periods	4
Under-13s/14	11 v 11	Two (2) 35-minute halves	Two (2) 10-minute periods	5
Under-15s/16	11 v 11	Two (2) 40-minute halves	Two (2) 15-minute periods	5
Under-17s-U19	11 v 11	Two (2) 45-minute halves	Two (2) 15-minute periods	5

Substitutions

Substitutions for U14 and Younger shall be unlimited.

Substitutions for U15 and older will be allowed a maximum of seven (7) substitutions for each team 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.

Tie Breakers

In the Round Robin, if teams are tied on the basis of points earned, the team's placement will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria.

- a) Winner of head-to-head competition (this criterion is not used if more than two teams tied).
- b) Winner of most games.
- c) Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of five goals per game.
- d) Fewest goals allowed.
- e) Kicks from the penalty mark.

Note 1: If more than two teams are tied, the sequence will be followed until a team is eliminated. The remaining teams will then restart the sequence at point "b" above until the tie is broken. *Note 2:* Note 1 is pertaining to one advancement slot. If a second advancement slot is necessary, the process will restart the sequence at "a".

For brackets requiring a wildcard for semi-final play, team placement will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria:

- a) Team with most points.
- b) Winner of head-to-head competition (this criterion is not used if more than two teams are tied).
- c) Winner of most games.

- d) Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of five goals per game.
- e) Fewest goals allowed.
- f) Kicks from the penalty mark.

Note: If more than two teams are tied, the sequence will be followed until a team is eliminated. The remaining teams will then restart the sequence at point "c" above until the tie is broken.

Team Eligibility

All teams must be registered to and play through an OSA Member League, except for U19.

Event Rosters

Event rosters are frozen three (3) business days prior to the kickoff of the team's first game. A player may only be on one (1) state tournament event roster in any seasonal year.

Player Passes

All teams should have their Player and Coach Passes with photographs attached and duly authorized by OSA.

If a team is missing a coach or player pass at the game, referees are not to allow those players to compete without OSA approval. If OSA can verify that player/coach is eligible, the team will have one business day from the scheduled start of the game where the passes were not available to produce those passes and verify the identity of the game's participants to the satisfaction of the tournament chair and/or Chief Officer.

Any team participating in any of the OSA state tournaments that does not have their coach and/or player passes at a state tournament game may be fined \$100.00, payable to OSA prior to the team's next game in the state tournament or within 14 days, whichever comes first.

Scheduling

Teams participating in one (1) of the state tournaments should not be scheduled to play any more than two (2) games on any one (1) day during the state tournament.

Referees

State Cup Assignors must be used to schedule referees for all State Cup games.

OSA is responsible for payment of referee fees for all state tournament games beyond the preliminary level. Participating teams are responsible for payment of referee fees for all preliminary/play in games.

Team Withdrawal/Forfeits

If a team withdraws before the application deadline, the entry fee will be returned. If a team withdraws after the application deadline, the team's entry fee may be forfeited and the team may be fined and/or placed in bad standing. The team may also be prohibited from entering the next year's event.

During group play, a team must forfeit any match where they fall below the required minimum number of players; seven (7) for 13U through 19U teams and six (6) for 12U teams. Subsequent matches will not be forfeited if the team has sufficient players.

If ineligible player(s) were rostered to or participated in a match with a team, the team must forfeit all matches involving the ineligible player(s). Any subsequent matches contested without the ineligible player(s) will not be forfeited.

A team forfeiting a match for any other reason will result in all of their group matches being declared a forfeit.

Forfeited matches will be reported as a 3-0 loss for scoring purposes. In circumstances where forfeited matches are involved in the determination of team advancement (i.e. tie breakers), all tie breaking criteria involving goal differential or fewest goals allowed will be determined on a per match average, excluding the results of the forfeited match.

Should a team fail to appear for a match, regardless of circumstances, a fine may be assessed, the team could be placed in bad standing and/or prohibited from entering the next year's event.

Protests

Any protest must be presented in writing to the State Tournament Chairperson or their representative within one (1) hour of the completion of the game in protest, except as noted below. If the Chairperson or his/her representative is not available at the site of the game, protests must be submitted, via e-mail to the OSA office at office@ohio-soccer.org within four (4) hours of the completion of the game that is being protested. All protests must be accompanied by a \$175.00 bond that will be returned only if the protest is upheld. If the protest is being submitted via e-mail to the OSA office, the protest must include a statement acknowledging that the required \$175.00 bond will be submitted to the OSA office within 24 hours of the submission of the protest. Protests based upon the judgment of referees will not be entertained. Misapplication of Laws of the Games may be a valid basis for a protest.

A protest regarding the use of an ineligible player may be made by anyone at any time during the current year's:

- Ohio South State Tournaments
- US Youth Soccer Midwest Presidents Cup Regional or National Championship
- US Youth Soccer National Championship at either the Regional or National level

Any protest against a team that has already been eliminated from any of the current year's events as listed in the 3 bullet points shown in the preceding sentence shall not be entertained. Although a protest may not be entertained by the State Cup Chairperson due to the lateness of the filing of the protest, the Chairperson may report any misconduct by any OSA player, coach or team, including the use of an ineligible player, during any portion of the current year's events as listed in the 3 bullet points shown to the OSA Conduct Committee for their consideration.

Upon receipt of any protest, the state tournament chairpersons shall refer the matter to the State Tournament Conduct Committee for a hearing in the matter. The State Tournament Conduct Committee, after holding an open and fair hearing in which all parties to the protest shall be provided an opportunity to be heard, shall make a determination as to the validity of the protest. If the State Tournament Conduct Committee determines that an ineligible player participated in a state tournament game, the validity of any protest may be appealed to the OSA Appeals Committee.

If the determination by the State Tournament Conduct Committee requires the forfeit of the protested game, the winner as determined by their decision will advance in the state tournament. If the team that was determined to have lost the game upon which the protest was based has already participated in the next game of the competition, their opponent in the last game in the competition played by the team shall be declared the winner and shall be allowed to proceed in the competition.

Appendix 1

Four Team Division

Championship

Winner of Bracket "A" versus Second Place of Bracket "A"

Six Team Division

Semi Finals:

Winner of Bracket "A" versus Second Place of Bracket "B"

Winner of Bracket "B" versus Second Place of Bracket "A"

Championship: Winners of each game above

Eight Team Division

Semi Finals:

Winner of Bracket "A" versus Second Place of Bracket "B"

Winner Bracket "B" versus Second Place of Bracket "A"

Championship: Winners of each Game above

Twelve Team Division

Semi Finals:

Winner of Bracket "A" versus Wildcard Winner *

Winner of Bracket "B" versus Winner of Bracket "C"

**If wildcard comes from Group A, then*

Winner of Bracket "A" versus Winner of Bracket "C"

Winner of Bracket "B" versus Wildcard Winner

Championship: Winners of each game above

Sixteen Team Division

Semi Finals:

Winner of Bracket "A" versus Winner of Bracket "D"

Winner of Bracket "B" versus Winner of Bracket "C"

Championship: Winners of each game above