

# Ohio Soccer Association State Cup Policies

Ohio Soccer Association (OSA) will follow these State Cup policies along with the US Youth Soccer 25-26 Cups Competition rules. For anything not covered below, please refer to the National policies and rules.

## 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

Any games who need a winner will advance straight to Penalty Kicks if tied, no Overtimes will be played.

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

## Substitutions

Substitutions for U11 and U12 will be unlimited

Substitutions for U13 and U14 will be unlimited over **three** moments **per half** plus halftime.

Substitutions for U15 and older will be unlimited over **four** moments **per match** plus halftime.

## Tie Breakers

**Two (2) Team Tiebreaker Sequence** If two (2) teams are tied based on points earned, the team's placement will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria:

- Winner of head-to-head
- Winner of most matches
- Goal difference (Max Goals of +5)
- Fewest goals allowed
- Fair Play (fewest total player/coach dismissals)

Penalty Kicks If both teams are not present, the Competition Management Team may replace the Penalty Kicks tiebreaker with a coin toss to break the tie.

**Three (3) Team Tiebreaker Sequence** If three (3) teams are tied based on points earned, the final rankings will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria. If a criterion creates a situation where the three-way tie is completely broken, then that determines the final order of finish between those three (3) teams. If a criterion separates just one (1) team, then the two (2) teams that are still tied based on that criterion will resort to the two-team tiebreaker to determine the order of finish between those two (2) teams.

- Points earned in head-to-head competition among the tied teams
- Winner of most matches (all matches)
- Goal difference in matches among the tied teams (max 5 goal differential per game)
- Goal difference in all matches (max 5 goal differential per game)
- Fewest goals allowed in matches among the tied teams

- Fewest goals allowed in all matches
- Fair Play (fewest total player/coach dismissals)
- Drawing of lots

### **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 following year's event.

Any team who plays an ineligible player or forfeits a match for any reason will be disqualified from the competition. Match results will be recorded as a 5-0 score in favor of the disqualified team's opponent(s).

### **Protests**

A **Protest** is a written objection to a match result, filed by a Team Official, Club Director, or Director of Coaching of the team involved. Only the teams involved in the match may file a protest, and protests must be based on violations of published OSA/USYS rules, national policies, or IFAB Laws of the Game. Referee decisions on matters of fact and judgment are final and cannot be protested.

**Lodging a Protest:**

- Must be orally lodged with the match referee and opposing coach before leaving the field.
- Noted on the match card.
- Orally lodged with OSA within two hours of match completion, with written follow-up to [office@ohio-soccer.org](mailto:office@ohio-soccer.org) and a \$200 (cash, certified check, or e-payment) filing fee within three hours.

**Filing Procedures:**

- Must include details, violated policies, desired resolution, relevant documents, and a \$200 fee (cash, certified check, or e-payment).
- The Competition Management Group reviews the submission, and their decision is final. If upheld, the fee is refunded; otherwise, it is non-refundable.

## **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