

**2026 ENYSSA/National Championship Series (NCS) Cup Rule Book**



**US YOUTH SOCCER™**  
**EASTERN NY**  
**STATE CUP**  
**2026**

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## 2026 ENYYSA/National Championship Series (NCS) Cup Rules

### **1.0 GENERAL**

- 1.1** The ENYYSA/National Championship Series Cup championships (State Cup) are part of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series (NCS). The NCS rules shall be applicable from the beginning of the first intrastate game through the Regional or National finals.
- 1.2** The ENYYSA/NCS State Cup is a single elimination competition with the final two teams meeting to determine the State Cup champion. Champions (U13-U19) advance directly to the National Championships.
- 1.3** Except as otherwise provided herein, the Cup Competition will be played using FIFA "Laws of the Game", these rules and guidelines, and the Rules and Guidelines of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and the policy of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series.
- 1.4** All games will follow the USYSA concussion protocol.
- 1.5** Notwithstanding any provisions in the following rules & guidelines, the Cup Chairperson and/or Cup Administrator may take any action necessary to ensure the efficient and timely completion of the competitions. This includes but is not limited to switching home and away teams as well as changing playing dates and times.
- 1.6** All games will adhere to the US Youth Soccer Code of Conduct Policy including but not limited to Section 103; Prohibited Substances which states:

*"US Youth Soccer prohibits the use and possession of illegal drugs, alcohol, or, in the case of minors, tobacco for any and all coaches and participants at any and all sanctioned programs, events, activities and competitions."*

### **2.0 ADMINISTRATION**

#### **2.1 CUP CHAIRPERSONS**

Mike Segreto – 917-747-4575; [msegreto@enysoccer.com](mailto:msegreto@enysoccer.com)

Gregg Knight – 516-996-7408

#### **2.2 CUP ADMINISTRATOR**

State Office 516-766-0849

#### **2.3 STATE CUP COMMISSIONERS**

##### 2.3.1

	<b>COMMISSIONER</b>	<b>TELEPHONE</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>
BU12 – BU19	Mark Delaney	845-590-5594	Mdelaney23@gmail.com
GU12 – GU19	Tom Beattie	516-287-5165	<a href="mailto:4tommyb@gmail.com">4tommyb@gmail.com</a>

2.3.2 Administrators/Commissioners shall not be telephoned before 7:30 AM or after 9:00 PM. If

a call is received prior to 7:30 AM or after 9:00 PM, the caller will be fined \$25.00 per call.

## **2.4 STATE YOUTH REFEREE ADMINISTRATOR**

[Cheryl Aronson](mailto:syra@enysreferee.org) - [syra@enysreferee.org](mailto:syra@enysreferee.org)

## **2.5 APPEALS COMMITTEE**

ENYYSA Appeals Chairperson: Mike Finnegan – [mfinn37@hotmail.com](mailto:mfinn37@hotmail.com)

## **2.6 ENTRY FEE PER TEAM**

2.6.1 The entry fee for the Open Cup

- Sept. – Oct. 31, 2025 \$400 team
- Nov. 1, 2025 –Jan 29, 2026 \$500 per team
- Entry fees must be paid in full at the time of acceptance into the tournament. If payment is not received in full at that time, any discounted rate will be forfeited.

2.6.2 After the cup draw (see official cup calendar at [www.enysoccer.com](http://www.enysoccer.com)), entry fees will not be refunded. Any requests for a refund prior to the Open Cup draw must be made writing to the ENYYSA office.

2.6.3 All refund requests are subject to the approval of the State Cup Chairperson.

2.6.4 Teams and or clubs may be subject to posting a \$500 performance bond as result of prior years' forfeits or infractions. The determination of the bond is at the discretion of the State Cup Chairperson.

## **2.7 CLOSING DATES FOR ENTRY FORMS**

2.7.1 All entries for the Open Cup must be entered using the online registration system no later than Jan. 29, 2026 for the U12 - U17 age groups and Mar. 25, 2026 for U18/U19 age groups.

2.7.2 Thirty-two (32) teams will be accepted for any gender/age group and teams will be accepted on a first come/first served basis. There will be a wait list for teams registering after the first 32.

2.7.3 The Eastern New York Cup Committee ("Cup Committee") has the discretion to not to hold a competition for a specific age group/flight if fewer than 8 teams register.

2.7.4 Any team not accepted will have its registration fee fully refunded.

## **2.8 CUP DRAW DATE**

2.8.1 The date(s) for the Cup Draws are published on the official cup calendar at [www.enysoccer.com](http://www.enysoccer.com).

2.8.2 Teams may be seeded based on the immediate previous year's state cup competition's results.

2.8.3 Teams are considered full participants of the competition at the time of the Cup Draw.

2.8.4 If any team withdraws or is disqualified after the initial cup draw, the Cup Chairperson, at his discretion, may order a cup redraw.

## **2.9 ENYYSA CUP ROSTER DUE DATES**

2.9.1 Cup Rosters will be cloned using the competition's online registration system (GotSport).

State Cup team names must match exactly as entered in league registration in order to clone correctly.

2.9.2 ***Each Team is responsible for the entry, accuracy and completeness of its team roster in accordance with the below dates:***

- U12-17 age groups; rosters freeze on February 18, 2026 at 3:00PM for boys; February 25, 2026 at 3:00PM for girls
- U18/U19 age group; rosters freeze on April 22, 2026 at 3:00PM

### **3.0 TEAM ELIGIBILITY**

#### **3.1 TEAMS INELIGIBLE TO COMPETE**

- 3.1.1 League Select and Tournament teams are not eligible to enter the State Cup.
- 3.1.2 Any properly registered USYS team U12 and above is eligible to enter this competition.

#### **3.2 TEAM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS/QUALIFICATIONS**

- 3.2.1 Teams must be in good standing and meet all eligibility requirements.
- 3.2.2 Teams must be comprised of properly registered USYS youth players (as defined by the Rules of US Youth Soccer) in all age groups.
- 3.2.3 With the exception of the U18/U19 age group, each team must play in a league, comprised of a minimum of four (4) teams., This can include but is not limited to other leagues' play. Additionally,
  - The team must play three (3) league games to be eligible to participate in State Cup competition. State Cup competition games (group play and/or single elimination round games) ***DO NOT*** count toward this three game minimum requirement.
  - All qualifying games should be completed prior to the Cup finals.
- 3.2.4 Teams and players may enter only one of the State Cup competitions.
- 3.2.5 A Team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the league and every level of the National Championships Competitions by maintaining a 50% players common to the frozen state cup roster of the Team at every level of the competitions

### **4.0 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

#### **4.1 A player must be properly registered and rostered in accordance with the rules of US Youth Soccer and the State Association.**

*(a) Any youth player wishing to play on a team of a member of a State Association other than the State Association where the player is registered, will receive a written release from the State Association where the player is registered.*

#### **4.2 AGE RULES**

- 4.2.1 A team may have on its team roster only players of the following age groups for the seasonal year in which the team is participating. A team may not play up an age group ex. U11 playing in the U12 group:

<b>Age</b>	<b>DOB</b>
U12	Born in calendar year 2014 & later

U13	Born in calendar year 2013 & later
U14	Born in calendar year 2012 & later
U15	Born in calendar year 2011 & later
U16	Born in calendar year 2010 & later
U17	Born in calendar year 2009 & later
U18	Born in calendar year 2008 & later
U19	Born in calendar year 2007 & later

- 4.2.2 There is no prohibition of a team playing in a younger age division than its home league age division. However, only players of the appropriate cup age are eligible to participate and to be entered on the approved cup roster and must be on their Club's Team Roster.
- 4.2.3 For teams competing in the U12 to U15 age groups, each player on the team must be
- (a) of the age of the age group competition in which the team is participating, or
  - (b) of the age in either of the next 2 younger age groups of that age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year.
- 4.2.4 For teams competing in the Under 16, U17, U18 and U19 age groups, each player on the team must be
- (a) of the age of the age group competition in which the team is participating, or
  - (b) of the age of any younger age group, through the Under 14 age group, of that age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year.
- 4.2.5 All eligible players registered to a club may be rostered on a State Cup Roster other than what they play in league competition; There are no "Club Pass" players at the state level. A recreational player must be part of the club by the freeze date to be eligible. .
- 4.2.6 Players registered in this competition are Cup tied to that team and age bracket. A player CANNOT play on two (2) or more teams or in two or more state cup competitions. Ex. ENY State Cup and ENY Challenge Cup
- 4.2.7 Players who are registered and rostered on two different teams can only play for one of those teams throughout all levels of the competition and must declare for which team they will be playing prior to the date that rosters are frozen.

### **4.3 INELIGIBLE PLAYER**

Any team that fields an ineligible player, such as, a player who is over age, a player not registered in the club prior to the roster freeze date and/or a player, who has signed a senior form and has not been released by the senior association, a player serving a red card suspension, shall forfeit the game(s) in which that player takes part. In addition, the team, its club, and/or its adult supervisor(s) may be fined and or suspended.

US Youth Soccer Policy on the National Championship Series

*Section 4. A Team shall forfeit each game of the Team in which -*

- (1) an unregistered player was with the Team at the game in a uniform; or*
- (2) a player was improperly entered on the team's roster.*

(3) the Team no longer has a recognized Team official as required by Rule 241, sections 1 and 2, on the Team bench.

#### 4.4 APPROVED ROSTERS

- 4.4.1 All players must be registered and listed with the club prior to the State Cup Roster freeze date
- 4.4.2 There is no limitation to the number of registered adults on a Cup Roster, but only four (4) may be on the team bench during the game. All rostered adults must have been certified by the ENYYSA Risk Management Committee. Additionally, only Trainers with an ENYYSA Trainer Pass are allowed on the team bench during games.
- 4.4.3 If a match is terminated before reaching its conclusion, the rosters used when the match first started must be the same identical rosters used when the match is rescheduled or continued to its conclusion on a later date.

#### 4.5 ROSTER MAXIMUMS

The maximum number of players on an ENYYSA Cup Roster for the U13 to U19 age group is twenty-two (22). Only eighteen (18) players from that roster will be eligible to compete in any one match. The eighteen (18) eligible players to compete in the match will be clearly designated on the approved cup roster for each match. Players that are listed on the ENYYSA State Cup Roster but not on the game roster may be on the team bench but they may not be in uniform.

Age Group	Roster Maximum	Dressed Players Maximum
U13 & above	22	18
U12	18*	18*

### 5.0 SCHEDULE

#### 5.1 DATES OF PLAY

- 5.1.1 Please refer to the official State Cup Calendar posted on the ENY Website for a complete list of the dates of play, including the National competitions.
- 5.1.2 **Any game, except the final, can be played before the scheduled date, provided that both coaches agree to the date, time, and location,** and written approval from the State Cup Commissioner, State Cup Administrator, or State Cup Chair is received.
- 5.1.3 Teams should be cognizant of any conflicts they may have with other tournaments and must reschedule their State Cup game to be played on a date earlier than the scheduled date, **provided that both coaches agree to the date, time, and location.**

#### 5.2 SCHEDULING A GAME

- 5.2.1 ENY/NCS State Championships games take precedence over all games under the ENYYSA auspices.
- 5.2.2 **No game may be scheduled to be played on a date after the weekend of the scheduled round.**
- 5.2.3 **The Home team is listed on the top line of the bracket pairing, unless that team was the Home team in its preceding Cup game and the team on the bottom line of the**

**bracket pairing was the Visiting team in its preceding Cup game. In this case, the team listed on the bottom line of the bracket pairing will be the Home team.**

- 5.2.4 Any team with a scheduled bye that did not play in that round maintains its Home team advantage.
- 5.2.5 First round games must be scheduled within seven (7) days from release of draw. Games for subsequent rounds must be scheduled by the Home team by 8:00 PM of the next business day after the date of the previous round's game. Failure to comply may result in a one hundred dollar (\$100) fine and potential loss of the home field at the discretion of the Cup Chairperson.
- 5.2.6 With the exception of the Finals, all games shall start play at or after 9:00 AM or at or before 9:00 PM. Teams traveling in excess of 100 miles are not expected to start play before 11:00 or after 6:00 PM on Saturdays. On Sundays games are not expected to play before 11:00 AM or after 5:00 PM Teams may agree to play earlier or later, but both teams must advise the State Cup Commissioner that they agreed to the time
- 5.2.7 The home team determines the kickoff time (subject to travel distance restrictions in 5.2.6 above) and whether the game will be played on Saturday or Sunday of the specified weekend. This must be established in accordance with the scheduling calendar and scheduled by 5:00 PM of the first business day after the date of any canceled game or games and confirmed with the appropriate State Cup Commissioner. Failure to comply will result in the potential loss of home field and/or fine at the discretion of the Cup Chairperson or Cup Administrator.
- 5.2.8 The home team ***does not require the away team's agreement or approval of day or kickoff time selected for the game, provided that it is on the published weekend of play and conforms to the kickoff time restrictions in 5.2.6***
- 5.2.9 The home team is responsible for entering the game details into the competition's online scheduling system (GotSport).
- 5.2.10 In the event the home team is unable to provide a field for a scheduled match in accordance with the scheduling calendar, the State Cup Commissioner, the Cup Administrator or the Chairperson may decide to reschedule the match either:
  - On the home team's field on an alternate, available date (including weekdays) The team originally designated as the home team will remain with the status of "home team" when scheduling the next round.
  - On the opposing team's field. The team originally designated as the "away team" will become the "home team" when scheduling the next round.
  - At a neutral site. The team originally designated as the home team will remain with the status of "home team" when scheduling the next round.
- 5.2.11 All Semifinal games must be completed by the dates listed on the calendar posted to the ENYYSA website. Teams can agree to play on a date earlier than the published Semifinal round weekend (including weekdays), provided that both coaches agree to the date, time, and location, and written approval from the State Cup Commissioner, State Cup Administrator, or State Cup Chair is received.
- 5.2.12 **Once a game has been scheduled in the State Cup Scheduling System, ENYYSA will provide the game details to the appropriate Referee Assignor for the assignment of a referee crew. There can be no change in game date, time or location without the approval of the State Cup Commissioner / Cup Administrator and confirmation by the appropriate Referee Assignor.**
- 5.2.13 The game details in the State Cup scheduling system are the ***only*** official details for a game.

5.2.14 Both teams should exchange the coaches' and team managers' cell numbers, so the home team can inform the visiting team immediately of a field closure

5.2.15 **ENYYSA will schedule and provide fields for the Final games.**

### **5.3 RESCHEDULING A GAME**

If a game is canceled for any reason and needs to be rescheduled, the home team must reschedule it by 5:00 PM of the next business day after the date of the canceled game. The Home team must contact its opponent and the State Cup Commissioner no later than 8:00 PM with the game details. Failure to comply will result in a one hundred dollar (\$100) fine and potential loss of the home field at the discretion of the Cup Chairperson.

### **5.4 NATIONAL OR REGIONAL PLAYER CONFLICTS**

Teams that have more than one (1) National or Regional ODP player that has a National or Regional team conflict for the scheduled cup match may petition the Cup Chairperson in writing to reschedule the match. Documentation must be provided verifying the conflict. The Cup Chairperson has the authority to change the match date, time and location. The decision of the Cup Chairperson shall be final and not subject to protest or appeal.

### **5.5 NATIONAL OR LEAGUE SCHEDULING CONFLICTS**

5.5.1 Teams playing in a recognized US Youth Soccer North Atlantic Conference shall be allowed to have their ENY State Cup game scheduled on their "league off day" of the ENY State Cup weekend.

5.5.2 Teams playing in the USYS National League Showcase Series and USYS League Championship Finals to have their ENYYSA State Cup game scheduled on the weekend prior to the scheduled round, but shall forfeit their home field if necessary, at the discretion of the Cup Administrator.

## **6.0 ROUNDS OF PLAY**

### **6.1 BYES**

All byes, if needed, shall be on the first weekend of play.

### **6.2 GAME DURATION**

Each game will consist of two equal halves of play as follows:

<b>Age</b>	<b>Game</b>
U17 - U19	2 x 45 min.
U15 & U16	2 x 40 min.
U13 & U14	2 x 35 min.
U12	2 x 30 min.

### **6.3 SINGLE ELIMINATION PLAY**

6.3.1 All games must be played to a decision. If a game is tied at the end of regulation, the game will proceed directly to Penalty Kicks, with **no Extra Time played.**

6.3.2 The winner will be determined by FIFA Penalty Kicks as detailed in section 6.5.

## 6.4 FINALS

- 6.4.1 The Finals are arranged by ENYYSA at a site to be determined by the Cup Committee. Once the game times are officially released for the finals, they shall not be changed without the consent of both teams, the SYRA and the Cup Chairperson, notwithstanding circumstances beyond the control of ENYYSA (e.g., weather).
- 6.4.2 All referee fees at the finals will be paid for by ENYYSA.
- 6.4.3 For the Finals matches, digital passes will **NOT** be accepted; teams must possess USYS certified player's passes that are laminated. Players who do not possess a laminated pass will not be permitted to play
- 6.4.4 ***Both finalists shall present their players and coaches to the awards ceremony immediately following the completion of the game or they shall forfeit their awards and be subject to a five hundred (\$500) fine. This also applies to all National Championship Series awards ceremony events.***

## 6.5 TIE BREAKERS - Penalty (penalty shoot-out)

- 6.5.1 Only players on the field of play are allowed to participate.
- 6.5.2 Before penalties (penalty shoot-out) start unless there are other considerations (e.g. ground conditions, safety etc.), the referee tosses a coin to decide the goal at which the kicks will be taken, which may only be changed for safety reasons or if the goal or playing surface becomes unusable.
- 6.5.3 The Referee shall toss a coin a second time, and the team whose captain wins the toss shall decide whether to take the first or second kick
- 6.5.4 Both teams shall take five (5) kicks.
- 6.5.5 The kicks shall be taken alternately.
- 6.5.6 If, before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could, even if it were to complete its five (5) kicks, the taking of kicks shall cease.
- 6.5.7 If no winner is determined, after 5 penalty kicks, each team will continue to take penalty kicks, alternately (each must complete the round), until a winner is determined.
- 6.5.8 No player may take another turn until all players, including the goalkeepers, have taken their turn.

## 7.0 GAME DAY

### 7.1 PRE GAME

#### COMPLIANCE WITH THE NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW (PHL)

#### SECTION 3000-F REGARDING AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AEDs) RELATED REQUIREMENTS IS MANDATORY!

- 7.1.1 ENYYSA State Cup Competition is requiring all clubs/teams playing in ENYYSA State Cup to comply with New York State Public Health Law (PHL) Section 3000-F. Each time a club/team hosts a game, it must be able to demonstrate compliance. This requirement is not optional.
- 7.1.2 **It is the Home Team's responsibility to ensure that the assigned referee has contacted the Home Team to confirm the game details (i.e., field location and**

directions, kick off time). If Home Team has not been contacted by the assigned referee by the Thursday before date of a weekend game (or three (3) days before the date of a weekday game), the Home Team must contact and advise its State Cup Commissioner and/or the ENY office immediately.

7.1.3 In the event that home team did not confirm referee coverage and away team travels to game that is canceled for no referee coverage, home field will be awarded to away team and the game must be scheduled within 24 hours of canceled game.

7.1.4 Home team will be listed first on all schedules and will wear light colors. The away team will wear dark colors. Should a conflict arise with uniform colors, the home team shall change to an alternate uniform. **All teams must have alternate color uniform available at the field to change upon request if necessary.** Before the start of the game, Teams are to print and bring:

1. 2 copies of the **Match Card (with Photos)** printed from the online registration system within 48hrs of the scheduled game time

--OR--

2. 2 copies of the **stamped ENY State / Challenge Cup roster** (received via email) AND 2 copies of the **Match Card (standard)** printed from the registration system within 48hrs of the scheduled game time

- For the Championship matches, digital passes will ***NOT*** be accepted; teams must possess USYS certified player's passes that are laminated. Players who do not possess a laminated pass will not be permitted to play. Only coaches, players & personnel with approved League/State passes may be on the team's side of the field. Players that are listed on the ENYSA State Cup Roster but not on the game roster may be on the team bench NOT in uniform **Additionally, only Trainers with an ENYSA Trainer Pass are allowed on the team bench during games.** Only four (4) registered adults may be on the team bench during the game. All other personnel and fans must remain with spectators on the sideline opposite the teams. Both Home and Away teams will share opposite halves of the same side of the field.

7.1.5 Players with visible hard casts are not permitted to play.

7.1.6 At every level of the National Championship competitions, including US Youth Soccer / ENY Championship Cup games, a player or team official at a game site to participate in a game of the competitions may only have on the outer wear of the player or team official a name, logo, or other identifying mark of a youth soccer organization that is an affiliate of US Youth Soccer. A name, logo, or other identifying mark of any other youth soccer organization must be removed, replaced, or covered before the player or team official may continue to remain at the game site for the game. Teams that do not comply may be subjected to a \$500.00 fine.

7.1.7 **Both Coaches MUST have Cup Rule booklet at each game.**

## **7.2 REFEREES**

7.2.1 A three man certified referee system shall be assigned for all U15 and above age groups. A three man certified referee system shall be assigned for all other age groups whenever available. There should be **at least one adult referee** present for every match to serve as the point of communication with coaches. **Minor referees are not permitted to communicate directly with coaches.**

7.2.2 The Referee shall have the power from the time he/she enters the field of play and until he/she departs from it to deal with any person(s) guilty of violent conduct, unsportsmanlike conduct, or using threatening or abusive language. The Referee shall forward the name(s) of any offender(s) within two (2) day thereafter to the Cup

Chairperson for action.

7.2.3 Except for the State Cup Finals, **each team is responsible for ½ of the Referee and Assistant Referee fees.** ENYYSA will pay the Referee fees for the State Cup Final games.

7.2.4 Cup Referee Fees:

Age	Referee	Asst. Referee (Each)
U17, U18 & U19	\$120	\$60
U15 & U16	\$110	\$55
U13 & U14	\$90	\$45
U12	\$80	\$40

7.2.5 The assigned Referees and Assistant Referees will be paid **on the field before the game.** A team that fails to pay its half of the referee fees will be fined \$250. If the fees for the game officials are erroneously or deliberately not paid on the field, the team will be assessed a \$250.00 fine in addition to being responsible for the referee fees. Referees are Sub Contractors, as such; records of payment to game officials and any IRS reporting associated with these payments are the responsibility of the payee

7.2.6 Any team which fails to appear at the scheduled game date, time and/or place, shall pay the entire Referee Fee in full.

7.2.7 Each Team shall supply one club linesman, when needed.

### **7.3 NO SHOW OF REFEREE**

7.3.1 For the U15 and older age groups, if the Cup Assigned Referee has not appeared after the end of the grace period stated below in 7.5.2, the game must be rescheduled (see 5.3).

7.3.2 For the U14 and younger age groups, if the Cup Assigned Referee has not appeared after the end of the grace period stated below in 7.5.2, and another certified referee is not available in a reasonable time frame, the opposing teams' coaches, or in their absence, the team managers, should agree to one mutually acceptable Referee for the game. The game can then be played but no protests will be allowed concerning that referee or his/her judgment calls made during that game. Once the game has started without the assigned Referee, the mutually agreed upon Referee must complete the entire match.

If the teams cannot reach an agreement on a replacement Referee, the game shall be rescheduled (see 5.3).

### **7.4 UNPLAYABLE FIELD**

7.4.1 If a Referee determines that the playing field is unplayable (except because of weather conditions) and there is no alternate field immediately available, the home team pays the Referees' fees in full and reports circumstances to the state cup commissioner .

7.4.2 If a referee determines a field is unplayable because of weather conditions, the home team shall pay the referee \$25.00, plus tolls, where applicable, as a travel expense fee. The game must be scheduled as per 5.3.

### **7.5 GRACE PERIODS**

7.5.1 A fifteen (15) minute grace period shall be allowed for teams without the minimum number of players to start match. For U13-U19 a minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a team. For U12, a minimum of six (6) players constitute a team. Any team not on the field ready to play by the time grace period expires will be declared in forfeit for that match and must be

reported by the Referee to the Cup Committee Chairperson and ENYYSA Office in writing within forty-eight (48) hours of the scheduled game. The offending team, if found to be at fault by the Cup Committee, shall forfeit that game and be fined in accordance with the rules set forth for this competition. Additionally, the forfeiting team will be responsible for 100% of referee and associated assigning fees.

- 7.5.2 Referees are sometimes delayed while in-route to a game. If the referee has not contacted the teams, they are required to give the referee a minimum 30-minute grace period past the scheduled start time of the match. When a referee has contacted the teams about a delay en-route they are required to give the referee 60-minute grace period and should, if at all possible, play the match with the assigned referee upon his/her arrival.

## **7.6 WEATHER**

- 7.6.1 Under adverse weather conditions of cold players shall be permitted to wear clothing to ward off the elements provided their uniforms are worn as the outermost layer visible to the Referee and are deemed safe.
- 7.6.2 Other than the game referee, only State Cup Chairperson, municipal or school district officials or club officials (not coach) may close a field due to weather or field conditions. This must be provided in writing to the Cup Administrator and State Cup Commissioner.

## **7.7 GAME CANCELLATIONS**

- 7.7.1 In the event a scheduled match is canceled, both teams must contact and inform the State Cup Commissioner IMMEDIATELY. The State Cup Commissioner will then coordinate rescheduling of the match (see 5.3). A SCHEDULED MATCH IS NOT CONSIDERED CANCELLED UNLESS THE STATE CUP COMMISSIONER HAS CONFIRMED THE CANCELLATION. Referee Fees shall be Due & Payable should the Referee Assignor not be informed by the State Office of the cancellations with sufficient time to notify the assigned referee
- 7.7.2 In governmental declared states of emergency games may be rescheduled at the discretion of the Cup Chairperson or Cup Administrator

## **7.8 TERMINATIONS OF GAMES**

- 7.8.1 Once a referee has jurisdiction of a game, the game may be terminated only by the referee as provided for in the FIFA "Laws of the Game".
- 7.8.2 If a game is terminated before the second half of the game has begun, and the termination is not due to the conduct of one of the teams, the game shall be replayed in its entirety.
- 7.8.3 If a game is terminated after play has begun in the second half of the game, but before the end of the second half and the termination is not due to the conduct of one of the teams, the game may be considered complete, and the score would stand. The reason for the termination shall be reported on fully by the referee. If a match is terminated before reaching its conclusion with a tied score and the termination is not due to the conduct of one of the teams, the rosters used when the match first started must be the same identical rosters used when the match is rescheduled or continued to its conclusion on a later date with full referee fees applicable to the newly assigned referee crews.
- 7.8.4 If a game is terminated due to non-natural factors, the game may be rescheduled within 24 hours to the visiting teams field.
- 7.8.5 If a game is terminated because of the conduct of one team, the offending team will be deemed to have forfeited the game.
- 7.8.6 If a game is terminated because of the conduct of both teams both teams will be deemed to have forfeited the game.

## **7.9 FORFEITS**

- 7.9.1 Any team intending to forfeit must give advance notice of such intention to its State Cup Commissioner no less than seven (7) days prior to the scheduled date of the game to be forfeited. Such notice shall include the reason(s) for the forfeit. The Cup Chairperson shall review each such notice and shall have authority to take such action against the team as is deemed appropriate. Any team failing to give notice of its intention to forfeit shall, at the discretion of the Cup Chairperson, be declared ineligible to enter this competition in the following year.
- 7.9.2 For any match forfeited 48 hours before the scheduled date of play, the team requesting the forfeit will be responsible for paying the assigned referees 100% of the full fees for the forfeited match in addition to the prescribed fines.
- 7.9.3 If a team is disqualified from the competition, the last team that the disqualified team played will be awarded a win by forfeit and advance to the next round.
- 7.9.4 A team winning by forfeit shall be awarded a 3-0 victory.
- 7.9.5 Any team that forfeits is eliminated from the competition.
- 7.9.6 Any team refusing to play will be declared a forfeit
- 7.9.7 If any team forfeits a game, that team's club, organization or sponsoring group shall be fined according to the below schedule and that teams club, organization or sponsoring group will be required to post a \$500.00 bond with the following years state cup application that will be forfeited should any team from that club, organization or sponsoring group forfeit a game in the following year's competition.

<b>Round</b>	<b>Fine (per game)</b>
Rounds prior to Quarterfinals	\$400
Quarterfinals	\$1,250
Semi-Finals	\$1,500
Finals	\$3,000

- 7.9.8 Late fees apply to all fines rendered.
- 7.9.9 If the Club, Organization or Sponsoring Group of any team that forfeits does not pay the subscribed fine, all teams of that Club, Organization or Sponsoring Group will be suspended from all future State, Regional and National Youth Competition, and all approvals to Host Tournaments, and/or travel to other tournaments, will be withheld until such time as the Club Organization, or Sponsoring Group is in good standing with Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association.

## **7.10 REPORTING OF RESULTS**

All results must be entered into the Scheduling System (by Smartphone bar code scan, phone call or enter on team account). Scores must be reported by the winning team no later than 2 hours after the completion of the match. Teams failing to report game results may be fined \$50.00.

## **8.0 PLAYING GAME/ TIMES/FIELDS**

### **8.1 SPECIFICATIONS FOR U13 – U19**

- 8.1.1 Ball Size: A size 5 ball is to be used
- 8.1.2 Field dimensions, goal size and number of players on field shall conform to FIFA.
- 8.1.3 The penalty spot shall be 12 yards from the goal.

### **8.2 SPECIFICATIONS FOR U12:**

#### **8.2.1 FIELD DIMENTIONS**

- Length 80 yds. Max.  
70yds. Min.
- Width 55 yds. Max. 45  
yds. Min.
- Penalty Box 14 yds.x 36  
yds
- Goal Box 5 yds x 16  
yds; minimum
- Penalty Kick Arcs 8 yds.
- Corner Arcs 1 yd.
- Center Circle 8 yds.

- 8.2.2 Competition is 9v9
- 8.2.3 Ball Size: A size 4 ball is to be used
- 8.2.4 Field and goal specifications shall conform to U.S. Soccer's best practices, effective Fall, 2016, including the minimum and maximum allowable dimensions.

### **8.3 SUBSTITUTIONS**

- 8.3.1 For the U12 age group, unlimited substitutions shall be allowed. For 13U & 14U: Unlimited substitutions over three (3) moments per half plus halftime (7 moments total).
- 8.3.2 For 15U–18/19U: Unlimited substitutions over four (4) moments per match plus halftime (5 moments total).
- 8.3.3 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.
- 8.3.4 Temporary Substitution for Head Injuries:  

During a match, if a player is suspected of suffering a head injury, a temporary substitution may be made for evaluation purposes. This temporary substitute does not count against the team's substitution moments unless the player is diagnosed with a concussion. If the player is cleared by the healthcare professional, they may re-enter the game upon approval of the referee, replacing the temporary substitute. If not cleared, the original player remains out, and the temporary substitution does not count as a used substitution. Any disciplinary actions issued to the temporary substitute will apply for the remainder of the game. This measure ensures player safety while maintaining fair play according to the guidelines specified within US Youth Soccer regulations.
- 8.3.5 A substitute is **NOT** allowed for a player sent off (ejected) from the field of play by the Referee.

- 8.3.6 A player shall **NOT** leave the field of play or enter onto it without the consent of the Referee.

## **9.0 PROTESTS**

- 9.1.1 There will be no protests heard on game length unless discussed with the referee before the kickoff of the match.

### **9.2 Lodging a Protest:**

- 9.2.1 Must be orally lodged with the match referee and opposing coach before leaving the field.
- 9.2.2 Must be noted on the match card.
- 9.2.3 Orally lodged with the Age Group Commissioner within one hour of match completion, with written follow-up and a \$250 filing fee within three hours.
- 9.2.4 Once a decision has been rendered on a protest filed with the State Cup Chairperson there shall be no further discussions or new evidence accepted on the protest. The decision of the State Cup Chairperson shall be appealable to the ENYYSA Appeals Committee. Protests will not be accepted, entertained or heard via phone calls or personal discussions.
- 9.2.5 Any protest or subsequent appeal which may result in ruling of a replay of the entire match, or any portion thereof shall be immediately rescheduled. Refer to section 6.3 for rules applying to the rescheduling of the game.

## **10.0 APPEALS**

### ***10.1 PROCEDURE FOR APPEALS***

- 10.1.1 Must be filed in writing with the ENYYSA Appeals Committee.
- 10.1.2 The written appeal must be received by ENYYSA no later than two (2) business days following the date and time of the State Cup Chairperson's decision from which the appeal arises, following formal procedures.
- 10.1.3 Filing Procedures:
- Must include details, violated policies, desired resolution, relevant documents, and a \$500 fee (cash, certified check, or e-payment).
  - The ENYYSA Appeals Committee reviews the submission, and their decision is final. If upheld, the fee is refunded; otherwise, it is non-refundable
  - Appeal must include full particulars of grounds upon which the protest is based on.
  - Appeal and enclosures must be either typewritten or printed legibly so as to be clearly readable.
- 10.1.4 All appeals and enclosures must be delivered to:
- ENYYSA – State Cup  
167 Nassau Blvd.  
Garden City South, NY 11530  
Attention: Chairperson of the Appeals Committee

- 10.1.5 The Chairperson of the ENYYSA Appeals Committee with which the appeal is lodged, shall immediately upon receipt of each appeal, notify the Cup Chairperson and the team against which the appeal is being made. He shall send them both a copy of that appeal and its particulars, and that team will then have the right to defend its case, with or without witnesses.
- 10.1.6 A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of this competition is not sufficient grounds for appeals or protests. Violators can expect appropriate action by this Association.
- 10.1.7 If these conditions are not met in full, an appeal will not be considered and the appeal fee will be forfeited.
- 10.1.8 Appeals will not be accepted, entertained or heard via phone calls or personal discussions.
- 10.1.9 The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on both teams.

## 11.0 VIOLATIONS AND SUSPENSIONS

- 11.1.1 A player that has been sent off during a match must remain in the team bench area until the conclusion of the match and must cover their player jersey. A player who is ejected will be suspended from at least the next State, or National Cup Game and any additional games determined by the Cup Chairperson. Suspensions beyond one game are appealable and must follow the procedures as outlined in Rule 10.0; however an appeal will not interrupt the continuance of the cup schedule.
- 11.1.2 **Racial / Spitting / Discriminatory/Derogatory and/or a Gross Misconduct Incident – Automatic Suspension**
  - Any official reports from a referee or league official involving a racial, spitting, discriminatory, derogatory, or a gross misconduct incident will be subject to a minimum suspension as follows: at least a five (5) game suspension for making racist, discriminatory, derogatory, or gross misconduct remarks at or about any person; at least a five (5) game suspension for spitting at a person and may be subject to a fine of up to \$1000.
- 11.1.3 Disciplinary action for a player, who is ejected after being eliminated from cup play, will be referred to the player's league or carried over to next year's state cup competition at the discretion of the Cup Chairperson.
- 11.1.4 Disciplinary action for a player, who is ejected from league play, does not carry over to state cup competition.
- 11.1.5 A list of the names and pass numbers of all ejected players/coaches, and the Referee's Report, will be sent to the State Office, within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of the match.
- 11.1.6 If a Coach or Team Official is dismissed from any game, they must leave the field out of sight and sound of game, which includes the use of technology to contact the team. Coaches who are ejected will be disciplined by the Cup Chairperson.
- 11.1.7 The Cup Chairperson may, at his/her discretion, levy disciplinary action against a team and/or player for any match related issues, inappropriate behavior or other incidents as noted in the referee's official match report.
- 11.1.8 ENYYSA enforces all sportsmanship rules for players and coaches. ENYYSA will not tolerate negative statements or actions between opposing players, especially trash-talking, taunting, or baiting opponents including racial, discriminatory, derogatory, or gross misconduct comments or slurs. If such comments or actions are heard or seen, or actions of this nature are reported, disciplinary action may be levied at the discretion of the Cup Chairperson. Let

each State Cup match reflect mutual respect.

## **12.0 NATIONAL COMPETITION (U13 to U19)**

- 12.1.1 It is the responsibility of the coach to notify his/her club of the team's advancement (winner/wildcard) to the Nationals.
- 12.1.2 Any team competing in the Nationals that forfeits will be fined **\$3000** in addition to any fees imposed by the Nationals.

## **13.0 CLUB/PLAYER GUIDES**

### ***13.1 CLUB OFFICIALS' GUIDE***

- 13.1.1 Many clubs enter teams in competitions. In so doing, they agree to play by the governing rules and guidelines of that competition, in addition to the FIFA "Laws of the Game".
- 13.1.2 Each club official should understand what is expected of him/her to preserve the name of their club, the competition, and of the game. In order to avoid any misunderstandings, a copy of these Rules & Guidelines **MUST** be in the possession of the coach and club official at all Cup Competition games.
- 13.1.3 Noisemakers such as vuvuzelas, cow bells, whistles, horns, etc. are not allowed at any Open Cup competition.
- 13.1.4 Every Club is responsible for the conduct of its coaches, officials and spectators.
- 13.1.5 Every Club hosting a home game is responsible for providing a properly marked field within FIFA "Laws of the Game".
- 13.1.6 Wherever possible, both teams will be stationed on one side of the field and spectators on the opposite side.
- 13.1.7 All State Cup Games take precedence over all games, under the ENYYSA auspices.

### ***13.2 PLAYERS' GUIDE***

- 13.2.1 Soccer, to be universally enjoyed, must be played to a standard of conduct.
- 13.2.2 Decisions of match officials are to be accepted without questions, on all points of fact, since they are final and not subject to dispute and/or discussion.
- 13.2.3 Respect should be shown at all times for all opponents and officials.
- 13.2.4 Fair Play without danger to your opponents, teammates or self.
- 13.2.5 Discipline should be exercised to keep your temper under control in all circumstances.
- 13.2.6 Disputes should be avoided; support the Referee immediately.
- 13.2.7 ENYYSA enforces all sportsmanship rules for players and coaches. ENYYSA will not tolerate negative statements or actions between opposing players, especially trash-talking, taunting, or baiting opponents including racial, discriminatory or derogatory comments or slurs. If such comments or actions are heard or seen, or actions of this nature are reported, disciplinary action may be levied at the discretion of the Cup Chairperson. Let each State Cup match reflect mutual respect.
- 13.2.8 ENYYSA has adopted a Zero Tolerance Policy. This policy applies before, during and after the game at the soccer field and its immediate surrounding areas. Details are available on [www.enysoccer.com](http://www.enysoccer.com)

### **13.3 COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

- 13.3.1 The ENYYSA/NCS State Cup will strictly adhere to all COVID-19 regulations set forth by the State of New York and U.S. Soccer's Play On initiative
- 13.3.2 All teams are expected to strictly adhere to the Game Day Protocols set forth by ENYYSA, local government, clubs and/or organizations.

