

Nevada State Cup Rules 2026

US Youth Soccer Nevada State Cup (“State Cup”)

Section 1. The Nevada State Cup serves as the primary State Association–level competition for all boys’ and girls’ age groups and is the initial stage of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series (“NCS”).

Section 2. The Nevada State Cup competition rules supplement Nevada Youth Soccer policies and the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series (“NCS”) policies, reflecting Nevada’s application of those guidelines. In the event of any omission or conflict within these supplemental rules, NCS policies shall take precedence.

US Youth Soccer National Championships – Regional Competition

Section 1. State Cup competition serves to identify the teams that will represent Nevada in the National Championship Series at the West Region level of US Youth Soccer.

Section 2. The regional level of competition includes the National Championships and the Far West Presidents Cup.

US Youth Soccer National Championships

Section 1. Regional NCS competitions determine which teams in each age group advance to represent their region at the National Championships.

Section 2. Teams representing each region in every boys' and girls' age group will compete in the National Championships to determine a national champion in each division. The competition format is established by the US Youth Soccer National Championship leadership.

Rules

Registration and Eligibility

Section 1. To be eligible, teams must meet the following requirements:

1. Be properly registered and in full compliance with all NYSA policies;
2. Have no outstanding balances, dues, or unmet obligations owed to NYSA;
3. Have a coach holding at least a USSF D License on the roster, who may coach no more than two (2) teams (see 13:02:02:03);
4. Include no more than five (5) player transfers during the seasonal year (see 13:02:02:01);
5. Have no active suspensions or disciplinary actions; and
6. Be prepared to participate in the US Youth Soccer Regional Championships if qualified (see 13:01:05:01).

Section 2. Teams are required to be available for the established game dates posted on the NYSA Website.

Section 3. Teams are required to meet all established deadlines for registration, payment, roster freeze, and age verification. Failure to comply may result in removal from the State Cup.

Rosters

Section 1. Only players whose ages have been verified in accordance with NYSA Policy 5:02:03 will be eligible to remain on the roster after the roster freeze date.

Section 2. All players must have an assigned jersey number listed on the official frozen roster.

Player Cards

Section 1. Official player passes will be issued for each player listed on the approved (frozen) roster. These passes are valid only for National Championship Series (NCS) matches and may not be used for any other league or tournament play.

Section 2. Players must present valid NCS player passes at every match. This year we are accepting Digital cards but must be USYS member passes not watermark of gotsport. Without player passes will forfeit the match and may be subject to applicable forfeit fines. Any disputes regarding player eligibility or passes must be resolved at least Two (2) hours prior to kickoff. Paper sub-passes may be used upon NYSA Staff Approval

Section 3. NCS player passes will include a US Youth Soccer watermark and identifying language distinguishing them from standard player passes. Passes lacking these identifiers are not valid for State Cup (NCS) matches. Teams without valid passes will forfeit the match and may incur the associated forfeit fine.

Section 4. Replacement player passes may be issued but the manager needs to go to the main tent to get emailed to them.

Schedules

Section 1. Teams must be available to play during the scheduled week of competition, including weekday evenings.

Section 2. State Cup competition will be held over a single weekend (Friday through Sunday) as published on the NYSA website.

Section 3. Additional State Cup matches may be scheduled on weeknights, if necessary.








Part III – Game Play

Playing Rules

Section 1. These rules and policies may be amended or supplemented at any time without prior notice.

Section 2. All State Cup matches shall be played in accordance with the FIFA *Laws of the Game*, except as modified herein.

(a) Unless otherwise specified in this section, match duration and any overtime periods for each age group shall be as outlined below:

 Age Group	 Game Length	 Overtime (Finals)	 Referees	 Roster Size
 19/18 and Under	Two 45' halves	Two 15' periods	3 or 4	22 (18 rostered)
 17 and Under	Two 45' halves	Two 15' periods	3 or 4	22 (18 rostered)
 16 and Under	Two 40' halves	Two 15' periods	3 or 4	22 (18 rostered)
 15 and Under	Two 40' halves	Two 15' periods	3 or 4	22 (18 rostered)
 14 and Under	Two 35' halves	Two 10' periods	3 or 4	22 (18 rostered)
 13 and Under	Two 35' halves	Two 10' periods	3 or 4	22 (18 rostered)
 12 and Under	Two 30' halves	Two 10' periods	3 or 4	16
 11 and Under	Two 30' halves	Two 10' periods	3	16

Substitution Team/Referee Protocol

Section 1. Prior to the start of each match, the referee or designated official will collect NCS player cards for the starting nine (9) to eleven (11) players from each team. Any substitute player must present their player card to the official before being permitted to enter the field of play. At the end of each half, all player cards will be returned to the teams, and the process will be repeated for the second half. Teams are responsible for retrieving their player cards after each match. NYSA and its staff are not responsible for lost, missing, or damaged cards. Paper sub passes may be handed out with approval by Nevada State Cup Staff.

Concussion Policy

Section 1. A player suspected of having a head injury may re-enter the match at any stoppage of play only after receiving clearance from a qualified healthcare professional. A player diagnosed with a possible concussion may return to US Youth Soccer participation only after being cleared by a licensed medical doctor (MD) or doctor of osteopathy (DO) with expertise in concussion evaluation and management.

Field of Play

Section 1. Teams must report to the field at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff to allow sufficient time for player check-in.

Section 2. Teams will be on opposite touchlines of the field as their supporters and facing each other across the field of play. Parents will have a buffer between each supporters section starting 5 yards down from the halfway line for the total of 10 Yard gap. No supporters are to enter the other area. Supporters may be asked to leave the premises and must do so promptly if requested by event staff.

a. Spectators who fail to comply may be removed from the field.including proper disposal of all trash and debris such as seed shells. Failure to comply will result in a warning for the first offense, with subsequent violations subject to a \$100 fine per occurrence. All fines must be paid prior to the next scheduled match via cashier's check or money order payable to NYSA. Unpaid fines will result in a forfeit, including applicable forfeit fees, until resolved.

Section 3. Each team is limited to a maximum of four (4) credentialed team officials (coaches, assistant coaches, or managers) within the team bench area. All officials must possess valid Nevada Youth Soccer Association NCS-specific passes or official club Technical Director credentials. Under no circumstances may more than four (4) officials be present in the bench area, regardless of credentials. No exceptions will be permitted.

Section 3. Clubs may submit their official Technical Directors to NYSA no later than seven (7) days prior to the start of competition.

Section 4. For 13U–19U age groups, players listed on the NCS roster but not selected to the eighteen (18) player game-day roster may remain in the bench area; however, they may not wear the official match jersey. These players may wear an alternate team jersey or plain street clothes. All non-participating players must be clearly crossed off the game card at check-in.

Section 5. The home team is responsible for providing three (3) game balls for use during the match.

Uniforms

1. The home team shall wear white or light-colored jerseys, while the visiting team shall wear dark-colored jerseys.
2. If the referee determines there is a color conflict, the team in violation of Section 404(1) must change jerseys.
3. The referee will determine whether undershorts or long sleeves create a color conflict. It is recommended that such items match or closely resemble the team jersey color.
4. Any tape applied to socks must match the primary color of the socks.
5. Religious Jewelry must be exposed and shown to the referee for verification and subsequently taped to the body/wrist. If the time risks player safety, the referee has the ability to tell the player to remove the item or not play.
6. All players must wear matching uniforms (jersey, shorts, and socks) to participate, except the goalkeeper, who must wear a distinctly different jersey color.
7. The referee has final authority in determining whether teams are distinguishable.
8. Nevada State Cup officials may assign jersey colors to teams when deemed necessary.
9. No jewelry is allowed, including earrings, necklaces, or any items that could cause injury to the player or an opponent. Bandages or tape may not be used to cover jewelry. All jewelry must be removed, even if the piercing is recent. **Double numbers are not allowed on the field at any time.**
10. Regarding shin guards nothing smaller than 4 inches

Coaching from the Sidelines

Section 1. A rostered coach may provide instruction from within the technical area, provided that no mechanical devices are used, communication remains instructional in nature (not abusive or excessive), and the coach remains within the designated area.

1. Failure to comply with these standards may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal of team officials, suspensions, forfeiture of matches, and/or fines.
2. Rostered coaches must be able to present valid credentials upon request by officials at any time. Failure to do so will result in removal from the technical area.

Spectators

Section 1.

1. Coaches are responsible for the conduct and behavior of all spectators associated with their team.
2. Teams will be on opposite touchlines to the field as their supporters and facing each other across the field of play. Parents will have a buffer between each supporters section starting 5 yards down from the halfway line for the total of 10 Yard gap. No supporters are to enter the others area. Supporters may be asked to leave the premises and must do so promptly if requested by event staff.
 - a. Spectators who fail to comply may be removed from the field.
3. Spectators are prohibited from standing/Sitting behind the goals or within 18 yards of each goal post.
4. Field orientation will determine team placement: the home team (listed first on the schedule) will occupy the north or east side of the field, while the visiting team will occupy the south or west side.
5. No noisemakers of any kind, including electronically enhanced devices, are permitted. Any individual using a noisemaker will receive a warning. Continued use after a warning will result in the individual being escorted off the field and possible loss of points for team.
6. The referee or any Nevada Youth Soccer representative has the authority to remove any spectator whose behavior is deemed inappropriate or whose presence poses a risk to players, officials, or others at the facility.

Section 2.

1. The State Cup Committee reserves the right to deduct points from a team's standings as a result of inappropriate behavior by its spectators toward players, referees, or other spectators.
2. Teams will receive a warning for each instance of sideline misconduct. Upon receiving two (2) warnings, all spectators associated with that team will be prohibited from attending any remaining State Cup matches.
3. All warnings will be communicated via email to the team's rostered coaches and club leadership.

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (DRONES)

Section 1. In accordance with US Youth Soccer policy, the use of non-approved unmanned aircraft systems (e.g., drones) is strictly prohibited at all NCS State Cup matches. Any individual found in violation of this policy will be subject to immediate removal from the field, facility, and/or event.

League Points

Section 1. Points shall be awarded as follows:

- Three (3) points for a win
- One (1) point for a draw
- Zero (0) points for a loss

Section 2. Goals scored do not earn additional points; however, ties in league standings will be resolved using the following criteria, in order:

1. Goal differential
2. Number of wins against common opponents
3. Fewest losses against common opponents
4. Results against the lowest-ranked team removed
5. Results against the second lowest-ranked team removed
6. Continue removing teams in order of standings until a tie is broken
If a tie remains after all criteria are applied, the outcome will be determined by FIFA kicks from the penalty mark.

Substitutions

1. For the 13U–14U age groups, unlimited substitutions are permitted in all matches.
2. For the 15U–19U age groups, you get 7 subs in the first half of regulation and 7 subs in the second half of regulation. For additional time you get 7 subs for the entire additional time periods combined. To be eligible for kicks from the mark you must end the match on the field to participate. Players may re-enter with the referee's permission at a normal substitution opportunity or when signaled by the referee.
3. Substitutions may be made by either team, with the referee's approval, at any stoppage of play.
4. If a player sustains a significant head impact, is suspected of a concussion, or shows signs of a head injury, the player must be removed for evaluation by a qualified healthcare professional. This substitution will not count toward the team's substitution limit.
5. If the player is cleared by a healthcare professional, they may re-enter the match at any stoppage of play and must replace the original substitute.
6. Any cautions (yellow cards) issued to a substituted player remain with that player for the duration of the match. If a substitute is issued a red card, the team must play short and, if applicable, use a substitution to remove another player from the field.

Forfeitures

1. A team must have a minimum of seven (7) players present to constitute a legal team.
2. A fifteen (15) minute grace period will be granted beyond the scheduled kickoff time if a team does not have the required seven (7) players. If seven (7) players are present, the match must begin. If, at the conclusion of the grace period, a team still does not have seven (7) players, the referee will suspend the match and document the team's failure to appear on the official NCS game report.
3. NCS officials will review the game report and may conduct an investigation to determine whether the match will be officially recorded as a forfeit.
4. If a team is suspected of intentionally forfeiting a match to influence advancement, NCS officials reserve the right to require the advancing team to compete in an additional qualifying match against the next highest-ranked eligible team.
5. Any team that fails to take the field due to withdrawal from the NCS or a scheduled match after the established deadline may be subject to disciplinary action by Nevada Youth Soccer.

6. In the event of a forfeit, the match will be recorded as a 4–0 win in favor of the opposing team.
7. A team that forfeits a match may be subject to a minimum fine of \$500 per occurrence. Teams with unpaid fines will be considered not in good standing and will be ineligible to participate in future State Cup matches until payment is received by NYSA. Additionally, coaches affiliated with a forfeiting team will not be permitted to coach other teams in State Cup competition until all fines are paid.

Warnings, Send-Offs, and Disciplinary Actions

1. Any team receiving three (3) or more red cards, or five (5) or more yellow cards in a single match, may be required to have its coach appear before the NYSA Board for review and possible disciplinary action.
2. A coach may receive a verbal warning from the referee for dissent.
3. A coach may be dismissed, either verbally or through a referee's signal, for the use of abusive or inappropriate language, or for irresponsible behavior.
 - a. A coach dismissed from two (2) matches must appear before the NCS Committee before being permitted to participate in further matches.
4. The absence of a physical red card does not negate a dismissal. All applicable disciplinary sanctions will still apply.
5. The NCS Officials will determine the duration of all suspensions.
6. Minimum disciplinary sanctions are as follows:
 - **Ejection (Player, Coach, or Team Official) for Foul and Abusive Language:** Minimum one (1) game suspension
 - **Player Ejection for Violent Conduct or Serious Foul Play:** Minimum two (2) game suspension
 - **Ejection for Accumulation of Two Yellow Cards (Player, Coach, or Team Official):** Minimum one (1) game suspension
 - **Coach Ejection for Irresponsible Behavior:** Minimum two (2) game suspension
 - **Player Fighting:** Minimum two (2) game suspension
 - **Striking an Official (Player, Coach, Team Official, or Spectator):** Immediate suspension and a minimum one (1) year ban from all soccer-related activities, subject to a separate hearing
 - **Striking Another Individual (Player, Coach, Team Official, or Spectator):** Immediate suspension from all remaining NCS matches, with additional sanctions subject to a hearing

- **Threats (Player, Coach, Team Official, or Spectator):** Minimum two (2) game suspension
 - **Coach Fighting:** Minimum two (2) game suspension
7. State Cup Officials may impose additional sanctions for serious offenses at their discretion.
 8. If a coach or team official is dismissed and no other properly credentialed official is present, the match will be declared a forfeit, regardless of the score at the time of dismissal.
 9. Any parent, spectator, player, or team official who enters the field of play to intervene in an altercation will be removed from the tournament, regardless of the circumstances.

 10. Any parent, spectator, player, or team official who makes threats or engages in violent behavior may be removed from the event, and any associated player may be subject to suspension.

Inclement Weather

Section 1. Matches postponed or canceled due to inclement weather may be rescheduled at the discretion of State Cup officials.

Protests and Appeals

Section 1. Decisions made by Nevada State Cup officials are final and are not subject to protest.

Section 2. Disciplinary rulings issued through formal hearings may be appealed in accordance with the NYSA appeals process. Relevant appeal procedures will be provided at the time of the decision. There is a \$75 Fee for filing appeals.

