



EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH SOCCER CHALLENGE CUP | RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Team and Player Eligibility

- 1.1.** This competition is governed by the United States Youth Soccer Association – Challenge Cup Rules and Regulations. If a subject is not specifically covered in these rules, refer to the USYSA – Cup Rules and Regulation.
- 1.2.** Only Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer affiliated teams are eligible to participate in the Eastern Pennsylvania State Cup. The team roster must consist of at least 50% of players that reside in Eastern Pennsylvania.
- 1.3.** Teams are only eligible to enter one (1) cup competition per seasonal year. Players are only eligible to play for one (1) team in either the Eastern Pennsylvania State Cup (NCS), the Presidents Cup, or the Challenge Cup.
- 1.4.** Teams are only eligible for Cup Competitions if they compete in an Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer approved league during the seasonal year of the Cup Competition. Teams can also be eligible if participating in the US Youth Soccer - Regional League, the US Youth Soccer National League, or with Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer's permission in another State Association.
 - 1.4.1.** The league competition must consist of a minimum of one game against each of three (3) different teams. For teams playing in late winter or spring leagues, the team must have played at least one (1) league game prior to the start of the cup competition. The team must complete their full league schedule. Cup team rosters are restricted to the official team roster approved by Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer for the seasonal year by the Roster Freeze date.
 - 1.4.1.1.** Your League Registrar Roster Freeze date may differ from the Cup Competitions Roster Freeze Date. All roster changes must be executed and dated by an approved League Registrar by close of the specified Cup Competitions Roster Freeze date. After the Roster Freeze Date, no roster may be altered for league play by any team competing in the Challenge Cup until their cup competition is completed.
- 1.5.** The maximum number of players permitted on a roster at any one time is shown below:
 - 1.5.1.** U9 and U10 (7v7) – 12 players
 - 1.5.2.** U11 and U12 (9v9) – 16 players
 - 1.5.3.** U13 – U19 (11v11) – 22 players
 - 1.5.4.** Teams with 22 players rostered for Cup Competitions can ONLY dress 18 players per match. Only 18 players can be identified on the official team lineup and dressed in the Team Uniform. All 22 players on the Cup Competition Roster are allowed to sit in the designated team bench area. Players that are not eligible for the specific match occurring, MUST not be in the team uniform. If an eligible player is injured during the specific match occurring, under NO circumstance is an ineligible player allowed to dress and participate in the game in progress.
- 1.6.** Teams are permitted to have five (5) transferred players from their original league roster during the seasonal year.
- 1.7.** Cup Competition Rosters can only include PRIMARY PLAYERS. Secondary players, Guest player, Club Pass Players are not permitted on any Cup roster.

1.8. A team may have on its roster only players of the following age groups for the seasonal year in which the team is participating in the Challenge Cup:

- 1.8.1. U8 Teams playing in any divisions of approved leagues are not U9 Cup-eligible. To be eligible to play in the U9 Cup, there must be nine (9) age-pure U9 players on the original league roster.
- 1.8.2. U9 Teams playing in any divisions of approved leagues are not U10 Cup-eligible. To be eligible to play in the U10 Cup, there must be nine (9) age-pure U10 players on the original league roster.
- 1.8.3. U10 teams playing in any division of approved leagues are not U11 Cup-eligible. To be eligible to play in the U11 Cup, there must be nine (9) age-pure U11 players on the original league roster.
- 1.8.4. U11 teams playing in any divisions of approved leagues are not U12 Cup eligible. To be eligible to compete in the U12 Cup there must be nine (9) age-pure U12 players on the original league approved roster.
- 1.8.5. U12 teams playing in any divisions of approved leagues are not U13 Cup eligible. To be eligible to compete in the U13 Cup there must be nine (9) age-pure U13 players on the original league approved roster.
- 1.8.6. Teams competing in the U12 to U15 age groups, each player must be
 - 1.8.6.1. Of the age group competition in which the team is participating.
 - 1.8.6.2. Of the age in either of the next 2 younger age groups.
- 1.8.7. Teams competing in the U16 to U19 age groups, each player must be
 - 1.8.7.1. Of the age group competition in which the team is participating.
 - 1.8.7.2. Of the age of a younger age group to the U14 age group.
- 1.8.8. The team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between their league and the Challenge Cup competition by maintaining a minimum of nine (9) players common to the rosters used in both competitions.

2. Match Rules

- 2.1.** FIFA Laws of the Game shall govern all Cup Competitions play unless specifically noted in this document.
- 2.2.** U9 and U10 games must follow the US Soccer Build-out Line Procedure. For fields without build-out line, cones should be used. Punting and dropkicks are not allowed in the U9 and U10 age groups.
- 2.3.** U9, U10, and U11 age teams are not allowed to head the ball. This competition will follow US Soccer's Guidelines and Standards for Heading.
- 2.4.** Duration of the match:

Age Group	Match Duration	Overtime*
U9 and U10	Two 25-minute halves	Two 10-minute periods
U11 and U12	Two 30-minute halves	Two 10-minute periods
U13 and U14	Two 35-minute halves	Two 10-minute periods
U15 and U16	Two 40-minute halves	Two 15-minute periods
U17, U18, U19	Two 45-minute halves	Two 15-minute periods

- 2.4.1. Overtime periods are NOT "Golden Goal", each overtime period must be played to its conclusion. If the match is still tied after both overtime periods, then the Penalty Kick Procedure will be used.
- 2.4.2. Penalty Kick Procedure:
 - 2.4.2.1. Each team will select five (5) players to kick – only players on the field at the end of the game may be selected.
 - 2.4.2.2. Teams will alternate kicks – first team to kick will be determined by the referee's coinflip.
 - 2.4.2.3. If the score remains tied after five (5) kicks, teams will alternate kicks one at a time from the remaining players on the field until a winner is determined.
 - 2.4.2.4. No player may shoot more than once until all eligible players have taken a kick.
 - 2.4.2.5. Keepers may be changed after any shot from the list of participating players for the penalty kicks.
 - 2.4.2.6. If, at the end of the match and before the kicks start to be taken from the penalty mark, one team has a greater number of players than its opponents, it must reduce its number to equate with that of its opponents and the team captain must inform the referee of the name and number of each player

excluded. Any player thus excluded may not participate in kicks from the penalty mark or serve as the keeper.

2.4.2.7. Unless participating in the penalty kicks as a kicker or goalkeeper, team members, coaches, and other bench personnel shall remain on designated sideline (off the field).

2.5. Each team must provide a game ball to the referee prior to the start of the match, the size of the ball is based on the standards of play outlined by US Youth Soccer.

2.6. Substitutions:

2.6.1. For U9 through U19 age groups, substitutions are unlimited and can be made at any stoppage of play, with the referee's permission.

2.7. Forfeits:

2.7.1. Teams must be present at game field with at least seven (7) players no later than 15 minutes after the scheduled start time of the match. If a team is not present (with appropriate players) with 15 minutes of the scheduled start, the missing team will forfeit the match. If neither team is present with the 15-minute period after the scheduled start time, the game will result in a double forfeit.

2.7.1.1. Forfeit Score: 4-0

2.7.1.2. Double forfeit score: 0-0

2.7.1.3. Forfeit fee: \$150 per forfeited game

2.8. Abandoned Games:

2.8.1. A Cup game that is started and not completed on the scheduled day due to any cause shall be replayed in its entirety if neither team is at fault and play has not begun in the second half of the game.

2.8.2. If the game is stopped during the second half of a Cup game due to any cause and play cannot be resumed and completed on the scheduled date and if neither team is at fault, the Cup Committee may deem the game complete.

2.8.3. If a Cup game is started and not completed on the scheduled date due to one of the teams being adjudged to be at fault, it shall be at the discretion of the Cup Committee whether the game is to be replayed in its entirety or declared a forfeit.

3. Misconduct and Cards

3.1. All misconduct (yellow and red cards) MUST be reported with the score and entered into the scheduling software.

3.2. Card Accumulation:

3.2.1. Three yellow cards received by a player within the same Cup Competition year will constitute a 1 game suspension (must be the very next match after the accumulation occurs).

3.2.2. If a player receives a Direct Red Card or two yellow cards (resulting in a red card) they cannot play in their next scheduled match.

3.2.3. Suspensions are transferable to the Regional and National Competitions. Suspensions in Cup Competitions will carry over to the Cup Competitions of the next seasonal year.

3.2.4. Referees should RETURN ALL player and coach passes to the team official at the end of the match. Referees should NOT keep the player passes and send to the state office as in past Cup Competitions.

4. Referees

4.1. All 9v9 and 11v11 matches will be officiated with a three (3)-referee system: one (1) referee and two (2) assistant referees. 7v7 matches will use a one (1)-referee system.

4.1.1. Teams must play even if less than three referees are present. If the full official contingent does not appear, the game will be played with the available personnel using the following system:

4.1.1.1. 2 Referees: 1 Center Referee, 1 referee as an AR, 1 Volunteer Linesperson (referees' discretion)

4.1.1.2. 1 Referee: 1 Center Referee, 2 Volunteers for the lines (referees' discretion)

4.1.1.3. If the referees do not show up, you MUST contact your Cup Assignor and determine if the referee(s) has been delayed or no referee was assigned. Teams leaving without playing

their Cup game could be subject to Forfeit or Double Forfeit if they leave the field of play without confirming their referee through their assignor.

4.1.1.4. If less than 3 referees are present at the match, teams are only responsible for paying each official for their assigned role. If a referee is not assigned to the match but is able to fill in for the missing official then shall be paid.

4.1.2. A two-whistle system is NEVER approved in any Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer or US Youth Soccer sanctioned competition.

4.2. Referee Payment and Scenarios:

4.2.1. Each team is responsible for referee payment. Payment of the appropriate referee fees (in cash) for all games except the finals. Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer will pay the referee fees for all final games.

4.2.2. Referee Fees 2019- 2020:

Age Group	Referee	Assistant Referee	Assistant Referee	Total	Per team
U9/U10	\$36	N/A	N/A	\$36	\$18.00
U11/U12	\$46	\$33	\$33	\$112	\$56.00
U13/U14	\$53	\$37	\$37	\$127	\$63.50
U15/U16	\$62	\$42	\$42	\$146	\$73.00
U17/U18/U19	\$68	\$48	\$48	\$164	\$82.00

4.2.3. Referee payment scenarios:

4.2.3.1. If less than 3 referees are present, teams only pay the fee for each official present and for their role in the match. If a certified referee is not assigned to the game fills in for the missing referee, they should be paid by each team.

4.2.3.2. If the Center Referee does not show up but the 2 Assistant referees do show up; AR#1 is promoted to the Center Referee and AR#2 will be moved to AR#1.

4.2.3.3. If one Assistant Referee does not show up; the teams will keep the other AR payment if no certified referee is used to fill in.

4.2.3.4. 1-Man system; the referee may request to use Club Linesman's, **but the CL is only responsible for signaling "out of bounds" – no direction or possession can be indicated.** The CL has no authority and are only providing secondary assistance to the Referee. **The CL should have no authority to indicate offsides or fouls to the Center Referee.**

4.2.3.5. If the referee (one) shows up late but within the first half; they should be paid the full referee fee. If the referee arrives at halftime, they should be paid half the game fee.

4.2.3.6. If a referee is not notified in adequate time of a change in venue, time, or cancellation due to weather or unforeseen circumstance; all referees will be paid in full by the HOME TEAM.

4.2.3.7. If a game is cancelled by the referee at the field site prior to the start of the match for unplayable conditions, each team pays the referees half of the regular game fee.

4.2.3.8. Once the game has started, if the game is cancelled or abandoned due to weather, field conditions, or Force Majeure; the entire referee fee must be paid.

4.2.3.9. If a team shows up for a game and the opposing team forfeits by no-show, then the team that is present will not pay referee fees – referees will receive the fees at a later date.

5. Competition Check-in Procedure

- 5.1. All players must be registered and have current and proper Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer player pass or a US Youth Soccer player pass from their home National State association if they are not a resident of Eastern Pennsylvania.
- 5.2. Player passes, and roster should be exchanged and examined by the opposing coaches prior to the game.
 - 5.2.1. Proper procedure is to line up each team in a line, each player with his/her pass in hand.
 - 5.2.2. Opposing coach should check each player against their pass and roster.
 - 5.2.3. The Referee does NOT check player passes.
 - 5.2.4. Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Cups Staff is responsible for the team check-in process during the FINALS.
 - 5.2.5. All Player passes of ineligible players shall be surrendered to the referee prior to the match.
- 5.3. All team officials that will be on the game-day roster (and in the bench area) MUST have their pass available and will surrender it to the referee.
 - 5.3.1. A \$25 fine can be levied against any team official without their pass.

6. Elimination

- 6.1. The Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Challenge Cup is a World Cup Formatted event.
- 6.2. There is no overtime in the preliminary or group stage games. Group stage games tied at the end of regulation will be FINAL. Overtime is will not be played in group stage matches.

7. Competition Format

- 7.1. Teams will be placed into groups to play; division winners will be determined after the group stage matches.
- 7.2. At the conclusion of the group stage matches, division winners and wildcard (based on the structure of the age group) will compete in a single elimination World Cup bracket.

7.3. Standings and Determination of Division Winners

7.3.1. Group Stage Points:

- 7.3.1.1. Three (3) points for a Win
- 7.3.1.2. One (1) point for a Tie
- 7.3.1.3. Zero (0) points for a Loss

7.3.2. Tiebreakers: will follow the criteria below in the order listed. If a three-team tie, skip to the 2nd tie breaker (Goal differential)

- 7.3.2.1. Winner of Head to Head Competition
- 7.3.2.2. Goal Differential – from all group stage matches; Maximum of +/- 4 goals per game
- 7.3.2.3. Fewest goals allowed – total from all group stage matches; Maximum of +/- 4 goals per game
- 7.3.2.4. Playoff – if after applying the criteria above two or more teams remain tied, then a playoff will be set-up to determine the bracket winner.

7.3.3. Wildcard Selection and Placement

- 7.3.3.1. Once division winners are determined, wildcard teams may also advance to the bracket play; the number of wildcard teams is dependent of the size and structure of the age group.
- 7.3.3.2. Determination of wildcard teams
 - 7.3.3.2.1. Team that earns the most points from the group stage (minus the division winners that have advanced)
 - 7.3.3.2.2. If potential wildcard teams are tied in points, the tie breakers above should be used in order to determine who should advance.
 - 7.3.3.2.3. If the first three tiebreakers are used and a winner cannot be determined, the 4th tie breaker will be a coin flip, instead of a playoff game as listed above.
- 7.3.3.3. If a wildcard team is scheduled to play a team from their group stage play, the placement will be modified so they do not play a team they played in the group stage. The Cup Committee can make such adjustment if needed.

8. Scheduling Procedure

- 8.1. The home and away teams will be determined by the Cup Committee.
- 8.2. The scheduling of group stage matches deadline is March 1 at 11:59pm. The match must be scheduled and confirmed in the online scheduling software.
- 8.3. The scheduling of a knockout match (not semi-final or final) must occur before Monday at 5pm. The match must be scheduled and confirmed in the online scheduling software.
- 8.4. Failure to schedule the match by the required time will result in the State Office scheduling the match and will result in a \$25 Game Change Fee (fee subject to both teams).
- 8.5. Reschedule of a match within 7 days of the original scheduled date will result in a \$50 Game Change Fee (fee subject to both teams). (Non-weather related)
- 8.6. If the two teams receive approval to reschedule a Cup match, the burden for completing that match is the responsibility of the two teams. If the game is not played before the day of the next round of competition, the game will be declared a double forfeit and neither team will advance to the next round.
- 8.7. The Cup Committee may exercise discretion to change a game time or date if one of the participating teams will be missing players due to regional or national team commitments.
- 8.8. Coaches with multiple teams must recognize that Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer cannot accommodate requests to be able to attend all their games which occur on the same date. Coaches should be prepared to have alternate carded coaches available to cover their teams.
- 8.9. The Cup Competitions Director may also designate a common competition site for all or part of an age group in the Challenge Cup.
- 8.10. All matches are expected to be played by the schedule date and time. All group games must be completed by the age group/gender playoff round. Failure to get your games played before the playoff round could result in a forfeit or double forfeit.
- 8.11. The Cup Committee reserves the right to revise the schedule after it is published.
- 8.12. During playoffs, the Cup Director has the right to change the home and away venues, particularly when the home team may not be decided within 72 hours of the next playoff game.

9. Fields

- 9.1. Preparation of the field is the responsibility of the HOME team. Proper lining of fields, goal sizes, nets, and corner flags such be present on all fields. Protest made regarding field condition must be made prior to the start of the match.
- 9.2. It is the responsibility of both teams to communicate and ensure that each team knows the correct time, location/directions, and uniform color.
- 9.3. Field location changes will result in a \$50 fee if changed to an opponent's field and an additional \$50 fee if moved to a neutral location.
- 9.4. Carded players and coaches from both teams must be on one side of the playing field. Spectators from both teams must be on the opposite side of the field from the players and coaches.
- 9.5. All Cup games must be played on outdoor fields. No indoor or domed facilities may be used for outdoor cup games. Any game in violation of this will result in a double forfeit as it is both teams' responsibility to ensure games are played on outdoor fields.

10. Results

- 10.1. **Scores are reported by the referees and will be done so by Sunday at 11:59pm of the weekend in which the game was played.**
 - 10.1.1. Scores are required to be verified by **both** teams by Monday at 11:59pm following the game weekend. Scores are verified by reporting them into the system, as in years past. Scores will be updated in the Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer State Cup Software **only after they have been verified.**

- 10.2.** You must be logged into the correct Cup Competition to verify your scores. Scores are only able to be verified ONCE. If a score is saved incorrectly you must contact the Director of Competitions immediately.
- 10.2.1. You can find the SINC Tutorial on Reporting Scores on the individual Cup Competition website
- 10.3.** A \$25 will occur for any match score that is not verified by 11:59pm of the Monday following the game date.

11. Protests

- 11.1.** There are no protests on referee decisions. Only protests regarding player eligibility.
- 11.2.** If a team wishes to file a protest, it must be completed by midnight of the game date. Protests received outside these guidelines will not be considered.
- 11.3.** Protests must be presented in writing directly to the Cup Committee Chairperson, Dave Ash (epysacupchair@aol.com). Email submission is considered acceptable; however, you should also notify by phone (215-393-0272).
- 11.4.** Protests must be accompanied by a protest fee of \$200 which will be refunded if the protest is upheld.
- 11.5.** Playoff Round Protest
- 11.5.1. If the match is played and a protest is filed against the winner of the match by either the losing team or another Cup participant and the protest is upheld, the winner would be disqualified from competition. The Cup record will show the winner of the protested game as Vacant; the losing team will NOT advance.
- 11.5.2. If the winner of the Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer State Cup Championship game is disqualified after the match is played, the runner-up will be declared the State Champion. If this occurs before the start of the Regional event, the runner-up will represent the state in the Regional Competition. If the Regional Competition has begun, the Regional Committee will determine which, if any, team will fill that role in competition.
- 11.6.** The Cup Committee will evaluate any properly submitted protests and respond with a decision via email.
- 11.7.** If the team would like to appeal the decision of the Cup Committee, they may submit an appeal to the Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Arbitration Board following the submission guidelines of the Board.
- 11.7.1. Decisions of the Arbitration Board are final, and no further appeal is possible as described by the USYSA – NCS Rules.

12. Semi-final and Finals

- 12.1.** Semi-finals are scheduled by Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer. Matches will be played at either the home field of one of the teams or a designated field by Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer.
- 12.2.** The Finals are scheduled at the sole discretion of Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer. If inclement weather is received prior to the Finals, Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer may require back-to-back play on some weekends.
- 12.3.** Award Presentation:
- 12.3.1. At the conclusion of the Championship Match, teams will be presented awards for their participation in the Cup Competition. Teams are required to participate in the award presentation.

13. Cup Competition Organization

- 13.1.** Director of Competitions: Julian Fernandez | jfernandez@epysa.org | 610-238-9966
- 13.2.** Cup Commissioner: Dave Ash | epysacupchair@aol.com | 215-932-4347
- 13.3.** Discipline Commissioner: Julian Fernandez | jfernandez@epysa.org | 610-238-9966
- 13.4.** Any questions regarding the Rules and Regulations should be directed to the Director of Competitions.