

ALASKA STATE CUP FORMAT AND RULES

DISCLAIMER

The Alaska Youth Soccer Association (ASYA), in administering the US Youth Soccer National Championships; Alaska State Cup competition, reserves the right to make changes to these policies and rules as it deems necessary, and when needed, to provide interpretations of the policies and rules as to their intent. Typographical errors, omissions, and other errors do not change the scope, intent, or spirit of the policies herein.

The Alaska State Cup is part of the National Championships Series, the next-to-highest level of a nationwide competition whose objective is to determine National Champions in the age groups listed below.

NOTE: The 18U and 19U age groups have been combined and will compete under the 19U age Group.

Winners of the 13 and under, 14 and under, 15 and under, 16 and under, 17 and under and 19 and under will advance at a Two-Tiered National Championship competition. All National Championships Series games played at the state and national levels are conducted under the authority of US Youth Soccer and are played and administered in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the US Youth Soccer National Championships Policy. Team competition in the National Cup Championships will follow group play and playoff format.

JURISDICTION

1.1. The US Youth Soccer Alaska State Cup is part of the US Youth Soccer National Championships. The competition shall be under the jurisdiction of the Alaska State Cup Committee as authorized by the Alaska Youth Soccer Association (AYSA). AYSA, the Board of Directors and the Alaska State Cup Committee reserves the right to make all decisions concerning the Alaska State Cup competitions, keeping in mind the best interest of US Youth Soccer and the safety and welfare of the players, coaches, administrators, and spectators.

1.2. Unless otherwise provided in this policy, the decisions of the Alaska State Cup Committee are final.

1.3. Under US Youth Soccer National Championship Series Policy, each State Association will operate a qualifying event or competition that will provide a champion to represent them at a Two-Tiered National Championship. As such, the Rules of Competition are determined solely by the Alaska State Youth Soccer Association (AYSA). AYSA, and the Alaska State Cup Committee as authorized by the AYSA Board of Directors and are not bound to any other rules of competition.

1.4. Per US Youth Soccer National Championships Policy, AYSA shall determine which age groups, and whether boys or girls, or both, for which it will conduct state championship competitions.

1.5. Alaska State Cup shall take precedence over all other AYSA sanctioned league games.

1.6. Unusual Situations/ Matters not Provided for; Alaska Youth Soccer officials have the authority to modify any of these rules as deemed necessary to ensure the orderly progression of the event. The Alaska Youth Soccer officials shall also determine any matter not provided for in the tournament rules. The decision of the Alaska Youth Soccer officials shall be final.

MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS

2.1. The mission of the Alaska State Cup is to provide a final competition for the best teams in Alaska to advance to the National Championship and represent Alaskan Soccer at the highest level of competition.

2.2. The goals of the Alaska State Cup include, but are not limited to:

2.2.1 Determine a state champion in each applicable age group (11-Under to 18/19-Under), within each gender.

2.2.2 Advance and foster the highest level of soccer competition for youth players in the State of Alaska.

2.2.3 Provide an equitable format for due process and adjudication within the competition through properly established rules and procedures for players, coaches, Referees, participants and spectators.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

3.1 Except as otherwise provided, the following definitions apply to this policy.

3.2 Affiliation: The process of associating as members of the successive organizations administering soccer programs for US Soccer and/or US Youth Soccer. AYSA is an affiliate of US Soccer and is therefore responsible for governing all affiliated soccer programs in the state

and for collecting and forwarding national registration fees for all players registered with the clubs/teams under their jurisdiction.

3.3 Club: The basic organization providing soccer to youth players that is a member of a State Association; provided however, a “club” need not have the word “club” as part of its official name.

3.4 League: A scheduling entity responsible for the arrangement of sanctioned league games between affiliated teams.

3.5 Alaska Youth Soccer Association (AYSA): The administrative body within Alaska determined by the National Council to carry out US Youth Soccer’s programs for youth players.

3.6 Federation International de Football Association (FIFA): The world governing organization for soccer, headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland. The highest authority for administration of international playing rules, international competitions and technical/educational development programs.

3.7 United States Soccer Federation, Inc. (USSF): The national governing organization for soccer in the United States, headquartered in Chicago, IL. The USSF is affiliated with FIFA and is recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC).

3.8 United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc. (US Youth Soccer or USYS): The division of US soccer which governs youth soccer, headquartered in Frisco, TX.

3.9 US Youth Soccer National Championships: National Championships Series, Regional and National Competition.

3.10 Add: The addition of a player to a team’s roster.

3.11 Club Pass: US Youth Soccer pass which is:

3.11.1 Registered youth player by a club in compliance with the rules of the AYSA of which the club is a member.

3.11.2 Issued as provided by this policy and specifies the club of which the youth player is a registered member.

3.12 Eligibility to Play: A player or team which is properly registered, not under suspension or in bad standing, and which is eligible to participate according to the rules of the competition.

3.13 Foul / Abusive Language: Verbal abuse, threats, racial or ethnic slurs, whether directed to one or more individuals.

3.14 Game Roster: The list of players who will participate in a particular match.

3.15 Rostering: Assignment of an AYSA registered player to an affiliated team.

3.16 Seasonal Year: Established by US Soccer, extends from Sept 1 calendar year through Aug 31 of the following calendar year.

3.17 Spectator: Any person who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team present at a youth soccer event who is not a participant or official. Spectators are subject to all competition rules and procedures applicable to participants.

3.18 Suspension: The temporary withdrawal of rights and privileges, such as the right to play, coach, or otherwise administer or participate (directly or indirectly) in soccer, and the suspension is for the entire term of the suspension with all rights and privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending authority.

3.19 Team Roster: A list of the registered players eligible to play for a team.

3.20 Team Representative: coach, manager, representative, parent, club official who is delegated the right to represent a team.

3.21 Member: Members of this corporation are individuals (representative, coach, manager, parent, official, participant) who are associated with or active participants in the affiliated leagues, associations, and clubs under Alaska Youth Soccer.

3.22 Precedence of Games: Alaska State Cup games shall take precedence over all other youth games.

3.23 Notices: All notices and other communications required to be given under this policy shall be in writing and shall be addressed to participating teams.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

4.1 Levels of Competition:

4.1.1 The US Youth Soccer National Championships Cup Series shall be conducted at the following levels:

4.1.1.1 The first level of competition is at the State Association Level (Alaska State Cup).

4.1.1.2 The second level of competition is at the Two-tiered National Level (US Youth Soccer National Championships).

4.2 Alaska Championships: Are administered by the Alaska Youth Soccer Association. AYSA falls under the auspices of US Youth Soccer. Champions advancing out of the Alaska State Cup are governed by additional rules and policies of the various higher organizations.

4.3 State Champions: Teams (12U through 19U) will represent Alaska at the next stage of the National Championships Series; National Championships or Presidents Cup Tournaments.

4.3.1 State Champions will advance to the National Championships.

4.3.2 State Runner-ups will advance to the Presidents Cup Tournament.

COMPETITION MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT

5.1 Tournament Director: The Alaska State Cup will be managed by a Tournament Director appointed by the Executive Director. The Tournament Director will administer the tournament under the oversight of the Alaska State Cup Committee and AYSA, and shall:

- 5.1.1 Schedule games between teams participating in the competition.
- 5.1.2 Work with the Alaska SYRA to assign Referees for scheduled games.
- 5.1.3 Track game results (scores) and team standings.
- 5.1.4 Notify the State Cup Committee and Protest & Appeals committee, also known as the Conduct committee of any issues.

5.2 Alaska State Cup Committee: The Committee will be appointed by AYSA Executive Director and AYSA Board of Directors. The committee shall:

- 5.2.1 Provide clarification and/or interpretations to competition policies and rules where no policies/rules exist or are otherwise unclear.
- 5.2.2 Provide clarification and/or interpretations relating to the qualifications of competitors, any dispute or protest concerning the competition.
- 5.2.3 Provide recommendations to the policies and rules of the competition.
- 5.2.4 Provide recommendations regarding inclement weather concerning competition.
- 5.2.5 The decision of the AYSA officials and the Alaska State Cup Committee shall be final, not subject to appeal.

5.3 Protest & Appeals Committee (P&A Committee): The P&A Committee is appointed by AYSA Board of Directors. Protest & Appeals will first be reviewed by the Executive Board prior to submission to the P&A Committee.

- 5.3.1 Oversee disciplinary matters, including, but not limited to:
 - 5.3.1.1 Participant and Spectator Behavior
 - 5.3.1.2 Game Ejections
 - 5.3.1.3 Game Protests

5.4 Protest & Appeals Committee (P&A Committee): also known as the Conduct committee, reviews Referee Game Ejections Reports they will be reviewed daily and within an hour of the conclusion of the last match of the day. The committee shall:

- 5.4.1 Assesses appropriate penalties based on published guidelines.
- 5.4.2 Findings are to be posted at tournament headquarters.

5.4.3 P&A Committee has the authority to impose more severe penalties if warranted.

5.4.4 Coaches and players must be notified immediately of extended penalties.

5.5 Appeals of Penalties: in excess of posted minimums must be made according to established Protest and Appeals Procedures. The deadline for submitting appeals is 11:00 AM on the day following the game in which the send-off occurred. If the appeal is based on a send-off from a game on the last day of the tournament, the AYSA officials must receive the appeal within seven (7) days of the end of the tournament.

5.6 Suspensions and Disputes: All questions relating to suspensions and to disputes or protest shall be deferred to the Tournament P&A Committee whose decision shall be final and binding.

5.6.1 To be valid and eligible for consideration, protests relating to the grounds, goal post, bars and the apparatus of the game should be in writing and submitted to the State Cup Tournament Headquarters prior to the start of the game.

5.6.2 To be valid and eligible for consideration, protests shall be lodged to the State Cup Tournament Headquarters within fifteen (15) minutes after the end of the game.

5.6.3 To be valid and eligible for consideration, protests regarding a game must be filed in writing with the P&A Committee within two (2) hours after the completion of the game in question.

5.7 Form: All Protests and Appeals must have the official Protest & Appeals Form completed.

5.7.1 All Protest and Appeals must include the following:

5.7.1.1 A fee of \$500.00 in cash or certified check.

5.7.1.2 Five (5) copies of the protest and appeal form.

5.7.1.3 Five (5) copies of all information to be presented by witnesses.

5.8 Opposing Team: The coach of the opposing team has the ability to write down his point of facts without seeing the other coach's written statement.

5.8.1 The coach of the opposing team has up to three (3) hours to file their points of fact or other relevant information and submit it to State Cup Tournament Headquarters.

Chairman: Chairman of the P&A Committee shall notify teams and/or players of the committee's findings and possible hearing dates/ times. Notification shall be via team representative if coach or player cannot be contacted.

5.9 Protest Hearings

5.9.1 All protest hearings will be held within 24 hours of the filing of the protest at State Cup Tournament Headquarters. If the protest occurs on the last day of the tournament, the Alaska Youth Soccer officials must receive the appeal within seven (7) days of the end of the Tournament. The P&A Committee will be convened via a conference call.

5.9.2 The Alaska Youth Soccer State Office will notify both coaches of the P&A Committee decision.

5.9.2.1 The decision of the P&A Committee is final.

5.9.2.2 A protest may not be filed against the P&A Committee decision.

5.10 What Can and Cannot be Protested:

5.10.1 Plea of ignorance to the rules of this competition is not sufficient grounds for protest or appeal. Violators may expect appropriate action by the Alaska State Cup Committee and/ or AYSA Executive Board of Directors.

5.10.2 A team cannot protest the draw, or schedule.

5.10.3 A team can protest an illegal player.

5.10.4 Red Cards: Judgment Calls cannot be appealed.

5.10.5 A referee can be protested if the referee is incompetent due to dehydration, illness, or heat stroke.

ELIGIBILITY

6.1 Affiliates: The Alaska State Cup is open to qualified affiliated Alaska competitive teams. The competitions provided under the US National Championships Policy for the following age groups: 12U through 19U.

6.1.1 Note: Alaska State Cup competition is also provided for the Under 11 (11U) age group but is not provided at a National Championships level.

6.1.2 A team may compete in only one age group of the US National Championships during the seasonal year.

6.1.3 Qualified teams will register for the Alaska State Cup and pay the registration fee by the required deadline.

6.1.3.1 Up until three (3) weeks prior to the Alaska State Cup date any team that withdraws their registration by giving a written notice to AYSA; only receive 50% of their registration fee as a refund.

6.1.3.2 Any team that withdraws after the three (3) week window prior to the Alaska State Cup will not receive a refund.

6.2 Teams and Players: Prior to participation in the Alaska State Cup, each team and its players shall:

6.2.1 Be properly registered with AYSA and rostered with AYSA in accordance with the rules of US Youth Soccer (Policy on Players and Playing Rules, 201 and 209) and the AYSA.

6.2.1.1 Valid team roster and current seasonal year.

6.2.1.2 Players may only play for one team entered in a State Cup (any state/region) during a seasonal year.

6.2.1.3 Players must be current Alaska residents and registered to play as a member of AYSA.

6.2.1.4 Players are to be properly registered and/or transferred to the team by the July 30th deadline.

6.2.2 Player Eligibility Placement Deadline (July 30th of the year of the event): player MUST be properly registered as a member of AYSA by this date.

6.2.2.1 No out of state players may be rostered to AYSA teams. (Split custody in between different states situations must be discussed with the State Office prior to the eligibility placement deadline).

6.2.3 Good Standing: Teams and players are in good standing with AYSA, their respective leagues, in compliance with, and have not violated, any of the bylaws and policies of US Youth Soccer and the AYSA.

6.2.4 Sanctioned League: Teams must be registered and compete in a four-team Alaska Approved Sanctioned league during the current seasonal year to be eligible to compete in the State Cup Tournament.

6.2.4.1 The team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the league during the current seasonal year and National Championships competitions by maintaining a minimum of nine (9) players that are common to the rosters of all competitions.

6.2.5 Geographic Constraints: Teams who have geographic constraints will be eligible to qualify for participation during the current seasonal year by registering and competing in an Alaska Approved Sanctioned qualifying state league.

6.2.5.1 The team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the state league during the current seasonal year and National Championships competitions by maintaining a minimum of six (6) players that are common to the rosters of all competitions.

6.2.5.2 Any exceptions to this must be granted by the Alaska State Cup Committee.

6.2.6 Amateur League: The Alaska State Cup Committee. Shall determine whether participation in any Amateur League (adult league) shall qualify a youth team for participation under this policy (SC42007).

6.3 Technical Area Staff: Each team roster must include Technical Area Staff (coaches, managers etc.). Only 4 Technical Area staff are allowed per roster and only 4 may be on the team bench at any time. Each adult must have a current US Youth Soccer adult member pass that matches the roster.

6.3.1 Team or Club Trainers: A team may use their own Athletic Trainer as one of their four (4) credentialed team officials. The competition Athletic Trainers are primary to any team trainers, who are deemed secondary.

6.4 Application: Reserves the right to reject any club or team application to the competition, at its sole discretion, if it is determined acceptance of the team would be detrimental to the competition, and/or AYSA mission statement.

6.5 Ineligible Player: Any team found guilty of using an ineligible player is not eligible to compete further in the National Championships competitions in the current seasonal year and subsequent seasonal year.

6.4.1 Any coach, manager, representative, member, or official found guilty of knowingly using an ineligible player or violating the unethical conduct of the Code of Conduct policy is not eligible to compete further in the National Championships competitions in the current and subsequent seasonal year.

6.4.2 A player found guilty of submitting falsified birth information is prohibited from competing further in National Championships competitions in the current and subsequent seasonal year.

6.4.3 Age Verification: At any point prior to or during the competition, the AYSA may request a team to verify a player's age. Teams will have 24 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) to produce the original (no copies) proof-of-age documents to the AYSA office.

6.4.4 At any point using ineligible player(s) or ineligible player (s) listed on roster regardless if the player did not participate in a game, all games are to be considered a forfeit and fines applied accordingly.

CREDENTIALS

7.1 Roster: The Alaska State Cup Roster freeze within the State registration platform will occur 1 week prior to the event.

7.2 Requirements: Prior to the Roster Freeze Date, teams will validate the roster information on the State platform.

7.2.1 Team rosters limits will be set at 11U - 12U (18 players) and 13U -19U (22 players)

7.2.2 Twenty-Two: 22 player rosters may dress 22 players for games.

7.2.3 All players listed on the team roster must display:

- 7.2.3.1 Name as shown on proof of age document; and
 - 7.2.3.2 Correct birth date for player; and
 - 7.2.3.3 Jersey number, and
 - 7.2.3.4 Player registration number
- 7.2.4 The team roster must display:
 - 7.2.4.1 Name of State Association; and
 - 7.2.4.2 Name of team, club, age group, and gender of team; and
 - 7.2.4.3 Names, addresses, phone numbers of team officials (coach(s) and manager)
- 7.2.5 Player and coach member passes:
 - 7.2.5.1 Players and coaches must have a current seasonal year US Youth Soccer member pass with a current individual photograph.
 - 7.2.5.2 Member pass must be hole-punched in the upper left-hand corner and placed on a lock ring
 - 7.2.5.3 State electronic member pass platform if accessible; players and coaches must have current individual photograph uploaded.
 - 7.2.5.4 Member passes (paper) must be available during the team check-in and games
- 7.3 Team Credentials Requirements:
 - 7.3.1 Team Affidavit of Certification (signed by Club ED/TD/DOC or Head Coach)
 - 7.3.2 Provide one signed Team Roster
- 7.2.3 Current seasonal year US Youth Soccer player and coach member passes
- 7.2.4 Verification that no player is restricted from playing due to a concussion

UNIFORMS

- 8.1 Identical Jerseys: Each player must wear same jersey style (exception: keeper); jersey must have sleeves. Player number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Duplicate numbers are NOT permitted.
 - 8.1.1 Clubs are to ensure they provide teams the same uniform style and have available prior to the start date.
 - 8.1.2 Minor variations may be allowed prior to the start date, subject to approval by AYSA officials and SYRA.
- 8.2 Home Team: Team listed as Home in schedule will wear light colored; visiting team listed second will wear dark.

8.2.1 If, in the opinion of the referee, there is a color conflict, the team causing the conflict must change. The referee's decision is final.

8.2.2 Teams must bring an alternate-colored jersey.

8.2.3 Referees will use discretionary judgment to resolve sock color conflict, and materials covering socks. Tape or any other material applied or worn externally must be the same color as that part of the sock it is applied.

8.2.4 No jewelry may be worn (allowances medical alert bracelet/necklace as approved by the referee).

8.3 Logos: A player/ team official may only wear the logo of US Youth Soccer, or a member directly or indirectly of US Youth Soccer. the logo of Alaska Youth Soccer, their individual club and/or team logo or team sponsor logo, manufacturer uniform logo.

8.3.1 Logos not conforming to the above must be removed, replaced, or covered before the player or team official may continue to remain at the game site or field of play. (Refer to the Team Uniform Policy).

8.3.2 A name, logo or other identifying mark of any youth soccer organization other than US Youth Soccer or its member must be removed, replaced, or covered before a player, team or team official may enter or remain at the game site or field of play.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

9.1 Inclement Weather: In the event of inclement weather (Lightning and Air Quality Guidelines) or unforeseen circumstances affects the Alaska State Cup competition. Alaska Youth Soccer officials and/ or State Cup Committee reserves the right to make decisions concerning competition. Decisions are final, not subject to appeal.

9.1.1 Always assume the game will be played unless official notification is given. If a game is suspended, the following may apply:

9.1.1.1 Unfinished games, due to any cause, will be replayed from the start or the point of stoppage, provided that neither team is at fault nor play has not begun in the second half.

9.1.1.2 If play is stopped after completion of the first half and cannot be resumed as determined by the Alaska Youth Soccer officials, and provided neither team is at fault, the Alaska Youth Soccer officials may deem the game completed.

9.1.1.3 If the game has less than 15 minutes remaining, and the score is the 3 points or more in differences, the game will be called complete, and winner declared. Games called for weather may not be protested.

9.1.1.4 Should play be stopped at any time due to one of the teams being adjudged at fault, it shall be at the discretion of the Alaska Youth Soccer officials and/ or State Cup Committee as to whether the game is to be replayed, stand as is, or declared a forfeit.

9.2 High Heat Guidelines: Game officials shall implement mandatory hydration breaks at least once during each half of play when the temperature exceeds 85, and twice per half of play when the temperature exceeds 95. Where scheduling problems occur due to set game starts, periods of play may be shortened evenly to accommodate the stoppage of play.

9.2.1 Player Hydration Stations will be located throughout the facility for players to re-hydrate during the event.

EQUIPMENT

10.1 Shin Guards: Mandatory and no metal/ removable cleats they are prohibited during tournament play.

10.2 Protective Equipment: Non-dangerous protective equipment; headgear, facemasks, knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight padded material is permitted, as are goalkeepers caps and sports spectacles.

10.3 Game Balls: Home team will supply game balls. Official ball size #4 11U and 12U, size #5 13U –19U. The game referee has final say if the ball is proper quality to play and may request an alternative ball provided by the home team, or the visiting team if the home team has none.

MEDICAL

11.1 Athletic Trainers: The competition trainers are primary to any team trainers, or team bench personnel official.

11.1.1 Athletic Trainers will be called onto the field by the referee for medical situations.

11.1.2 Any player, coach, bench personnel, or team official who refuses the referee or Athletic Trainers request for their name, or gives a false name, while they gather data to report/ care on medical condition, shall have a minimum of two (2) match added to the suspension that would normally be levied by the Alaska State Cup Committee.

11.2 Concussion Protocol: All US Youth Soccer Concussion procedures and protocols, as well as any state or local laws regarding concussions, will be followed.

11.2.1 Teams are required to utilize the AYSA Possible Head Injury/ Concussion Notification form guidelines, and clearance for Return to Play if a possible concussion occurs.

11.3 Heading: Players in the 11U – 12U divisions are prohibited from deliberately heading the ball. If a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick (IFK) should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.

11.3.1 If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.

FORFEITURE PROCEDURES

12.1 Forfeiture Rule: In the event a team forfeits one of its preliminary games, the opposing team shall be awarded three (3) points for a win, and the forfeiting team zero (0) points for the loss. In the event a goal differential becomes a factor in tie-breaking procedures, the 4 goals awarded for the forfeited game shall be included in the calculation to determine cumulative goal differential. (Refer to the State Cup Withdraw, Refund and Forfeiture Policy)

12.1 During knockout rounds, a team forfeiting a match will result in the opponent advancing.

12.2 If a forfeit occurs, the forfeiting team will be fined \$500 (per game) and will forfeit its team entry fee.

12.3 Team using an ineligible player(s) in a game or ineligible player(s) listed on roster regardless of if the player did not participate in a game will forfeit the game to the opponent a score of 4-0. Team will not be allowed to continue to play in the Alaska State Cup; fined \$1,000 and will forfeit its team entry fee.

12.4 In the event a team cannot produce player/ coach member passes at game time; only the Alaska Youth Soccer officials and/ or State Cup Committee will determine team eligibility to play; with the understanding, the member passes, or State printed passes will be provided by half time.

12.2 Grace Periods: Any team not ready to play at the scheduled start time shall be granted a 15-minute grace period. A minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a legal team. Any team not ready to play at the expiration of the grace period shall be deemed to have forfeited the game.

All situations will be assessed by Alaska Youth Soccer officials.

DIVISIONS AND DURATION OF GAMES

13.1 Divisions will be created to provide the fairest level of competition for all teams. The following outlines divisions/brackets based on the number of teams entered. Play will consist of pool play then semi-finals and finals. No consolation matches take place at State Cup.

Two teams: Teams will play each other twice using aggregate scoring. (See scoring.)

Three teams: All teams play each other once then 2nd vs 3rd in semi-final to meet 1st in the championship match.

Note: If divisions of two or three teams have all teams from outside the vicinity of the State Cup location the Executive Director of AYS has authorization to create a separate event on a different date in their region.

Four teams: All teams play each other once then 1st vs 2nd meet in the championship.

Five teams: All teams play each other once then 1st vs 2nd meet in the championship.

Six teams: Two brackets of three determined by random draw. Three teams from each bracket will play the three teams from the other bracket in “crossover” format. Semifinals will be based on overall points (not bracket standings). Semifinal matches 1st vs 4th in points and 2nd vs 3rd in points; semi-final winners meet in the championship match.

Seven teams: No seven-team brackets; the AYS director has authority to either remove one team (based on past performance) for a six-team division.

Eight teams: Two-brackets (A and B) of four determined by random draw. All teams play other teams in their bracket. Semifinals 1st A vs 2nd B and 1st B vs 2nd A; semi-final winners meet in the championship match.

Nine teams: No nine-team brackets; they AYS director has authority to either remove one team (based on past performance) for an eight team division.

Ten teams: Two-brackets (A and B) of five determined by random draw. All teams play other teams in their bracket. Semifinals 1st A vs 2nd B and 1st B vs 2nd A; semi-final winners meet in the championship match.

13.2 Game length

U11-U12 30-minute halves, 10-minute halftime, 2x5 minute overtime knockout games

U13-U14 35-minute halves, 10-minute halftime, 2x10 minute overtime knockout games

U15-U16 40-minute halves, 10-minute halftime, 2x15 minute overtime knockout games

U17-U19 45-minute halves, 10-minute halftime, 2x15 minute overtime knockout games

13.3 Overtime Periods: For semifinal/championship games tied at the end of regulation play, two complete overtime periods will be played.

13.3.1 If a game is still tied at the end of the prescribed overtime play, FIFA “Kicks from the Penalty Mark” rules will apply to determine the winner using the 9 or 11 players on

the field at the conclusion of the second overtime and following the FIFA Laws of the Game.

13.4 Match Manipulation: Teams failing to compete in the spirit of the competition, or involved in the manipulation of a game result are subject to forfeiture and disqualification from all levels of Alaska State Cup competition, and the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series

13.4.1 If failing to compete is observed and confirmed by the Alaska Youth Soccer officials and/ or State Cup Committee will give notice to the offending team or teams, and

13.4.2 If corrective action is not taken, the team or teams will be subject to disqualification.

SCORING METHOD

14.1 Preliminary Rounds: In the preliminary rounds, team standings shall be determined by the accumulation of points awarded. There will be no overtime periods in the preliminary games. Ties will stand. Game Schedules and Results can be obtained on-line on the AYSA website. On-line scores should be available within one hour after the conclusion of each match.

Win: 3 points

Tie: 1 point

Loss: 0 points

14.2 Two Team Divisions: The age groups (11U- 19U) with only two (2) teams entered the division will use the Aggregate Score Format to determine the champion. The two (2) game series using the aggregate format (Aggregate- the sum of the scores obtained over 2 -legged match) will be scheduled over a three-day period, each team hosts one match.

14.2.1 The Aggregate Score: To determine the winner, the scores are calculated by adding the goals scored of both teams across two matches. The team with the higher Aggregate Score against their opponent is declared the champion (example- if a team loses 2-1 the first game and wins 3-1 the second game, overall, they have won by scoring 4 goals and conceding only 3).

14.1.2 If the teams have the same number of points AND the same goal difference, after the two games, the teams will play an overtime period, followed by FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" to decide the overall winner. The award ceremony will be held directly after the final match conclusion.

TIE BREAKERS

15.1 Procedure: In the event where two or more teams have accumulated an equal number of points within a group and are tied based on points earned at the conclusion of preliminary play, the team's placement will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria. Tiebreakers will be considered in order until the tie is broken, then restarted to break the remaining tie. This tie-breaking procedure shall be used, if necessary, to determine 1st and 2nd place standings within a flight, as well as determining the best 3rd place teams:

15.1.a Winner in head-to-head competition

15.1.b Winner of the most games. The team with the most wins advances

15.1.c Cumulative goal differential between goals scored and goals allowed in all games played within the team's flight. maximum difference allowed is four (4) goals per game

15.1.d Fewest goals allowed in all games played within the team's flight

15.1.e Kicks from the penalty mark per FIFA law. This tie-breaking procedure shall be used, if necessary, to determine 1st and 2nd place standings within each flight

15.1.f If, in the opinion of the event State Cup Committee, additional steps are required to ensure the safe conclusion of the competition are needed, those decisions will be communicated to all affected teams before they are implemented.

15.2 Two or More Teams Tied: If more than two (2) teams are tied at the end of the preliminary round, the remaining teams will then restart the sequence at "15.1.b", until the tie is broken.

15.3 If FIFA penalty kicks must be taken, there will be a draw by the State Cup Committee. First team drawn will receive the bye. Next team drawn will be the home team against the remaining team in the first contest of PK'S. The winner of the first contest will then compete against the bye team in PK'S to determine the group winner. The bye team will be the home team. This is only used if there are more than two (2) teams tied after going through the Tie Breakers.

FIELD COMPLEX and GAME DAY

16.1 Rules of Play: The US Youth Soccer Alaska State Cup Competition shall be governed by the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series Policy and under the "Laws of the Game" as published by FIFA with those modifications stated herein. A plea of ignorance to the rules of this competition will not be sufficient grounds for appeal or protest.

16.2 Tournament Headquarters: Will be located onsite. All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors, to interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest concerning the State Cup competitions, shall be referred to the Alaska Youth Soccer officials. The decision of the officials shall be final, not subject to appeal.

16.2.1 Lost and Found, will be located at the tournament headquarters area.

16.3 Game Rosters: AYSA will provide game rosters for each team and bring them to the fields for Referee check-in.

teams are responsible to provide the player and coach member passes.

16.4 Field Marshals: Each team will provide a Field Marshal for each game. refer to the AYSA Field Marshal policy.

16.4.1 Field Marshals must wear the Field Marshal Identification or vest during the match. And Field Marshals must have a cell phone available during the match.

16.4.2 No mechanical devices may be used to cheer (includes canned fog horns of any nature). Approved - songs, chants, cheers, and clappers etc.

16.5 Unmanned Aircraft: The use of non-approved Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), more simply known as a “Drone”, at any event that is sanction by US Youth Soccer is strictly prohibited. The use of an UAS at any US Youth Soccer event may be approved by US Youth Soccer for a specified promotional activity at an Event, in a designated area/area that are away from youth soccer players, spectators and not over any field of play/practice. Any violator of the policy shall be immediately removed from the Event by Alaska Youth Soccer officials.

16.6 Animals: Dogs or other animals are not allowed at the complex, and/or headquarters (exception: service animals).

16.7 Substances: Are not allowed (alcoholic beverages, containers, tobacco, or controlled substances).

16.8 Parking: Spectators and participants are to park only in the designated parking; stay off grass or reserved areas.

16.9 Technical Area: The coach may convey tactical instructions to players during a match. The coach and other team officials, however, must stay within the confines of the technical area where such an area is provided, and they must conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Team officials must have on hand/ display when asked their US Youth Soccer/ Alaska Youth Soccer adult member passes. No coaching is allowed from other than the technical area.

16.9.1 Technical area will extend to six feet from the touchline, and ten yards to either side of the half-way line for a total of twenty yards.

16.9.2 There will be a “no-man’s land” of ten yards between the two technical areas.

16.9.3 Coaching will be restricted to tactical instructions and positive encouragement of one’s own team.

16.9.4 Addressing the referee directly/indirectly, addressing the other team or negative remarks even to own team will not be permitted.

16.9.5 Spectators (parents, relatives and/or other individuals) will not be on the same sideline as the team benches. No one is permitted behind the goal area.

16.9.6 Spectators who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team are subject to the jurisdiction and authority of Alaska Youth Soccer officials and the event State Cup Committee. The actions of these individuals are the responsibility of the credentialed team officials appearing on the roster.

16.9.7 The AYSA officials reserve the right to restrict where spectators may sit depending on the field situation.

16.10 Substitutions: Unlimited and can be made with the consent of the referee during any stoppage of play. except Penalty Kicks, the same applies to overtime periods. Substitutes must be waiting at the half line when the referee calls for the substitution. They enter the field when the substituted player has left and can take any restart.

16.11 Player Injury: In accordance with Rules of Play, Article X, Rule 9b, "No player should be allowed to play in regularly scheduled game with an injury that can be aggravated by playing or which constitutes a danger to others.

16.11.1 Game officials have the final say on clearing a cast protector; NCAA approved cover are acceptable.

16.11.2 May not play with casts that extend to above the elbow and inhibit the player's ability to move the arm.

16.11.3 Any supportive orthopedic device must be padded to the satisfaction of the referee administrator.

16.11.4 Team Manager must have a medical release from the player's doctor allowing the player to participate.

PLAYER/ COACH/ SPECTATOR MISCONDUCT

17.1 Second Caution: Player, coach, or bench personnel who receive a second caution; in any game, will be suspended the remainder of that game and the next the game.

17.2 Ejection: Player, coach, or bench personnel ejected in any game shall be suspended to participate the next game.

17.2.1 Players ejected from a match may continue to sit in the technical/ bench area unless removed by the referee for continued inappropriate behavior once they have been sent to the bench.

17.2.2 Players must remove their game jersey for the remainder of the match.

17.2.3 If a player is removed from the technical/ bench area they will be escorted from the area; accompanied by a team staff member.

17.2.4 Coach or bench personnel are not permitted to have any contact with players, team management or other coaches during the game from which they are dismissed. The coach or bench personnel that is ejected by the referee or Alaska Youth Soccer officials must leave the game/ field/ technical/ bench area immediately for the remainder of the match.

17.2.5 Once dismissed from the game, you may not approach the referee crew during or after the match. No communication including following the referee crew during or after the match will be allowed. Ejected coaches or bench personnel returning to the field to confront the referee crew at the completion of the match will result in automatic two (2) game suspension.

17.2.6 Coach or bench personnel who is ejected shall sit out a minimum of the next scheduled match of the team with which the ejection was awarded. No communication with players or team management is permitted during the reminder of the game the ejection occurred and the suspended game.

17.2.7 If that team is no longer participating in the tournament, the coach or bench personnel will serve their suspension with the next team they are coaching in the Alaska State Cup or US Youth Soccer National Championships Series.

17.2.8 If a player, coach, or bench personnel participates in a game in which they should been suspended, the team will be deemed to have used an ineligible player and will forfeit the game; may also be removed from the competition.

17.2.9 The player, coach, or bench personnel member pass will be retained at the Tournament Headquarters; it may be picked up by a team representative at the completion of the suspension.

17.3 Code of Conduct: Players, coach, bench personnel, team official, or spectator that have displayed activities in violation of the competition's Code of Conduct, US Youth Soccer and AYSA rule/ policy and/or local ordinances or laws (including, but not limited to, theft or property) may be denied participation for the duration of the competition.

17.3.1 Violations of guidelines, policies, and rules will result in additional disciplinary action being taken by the Conduct Committee, including but not limited to additional games suspended or recommendations to the state disciplinary board.

17.4 Player, coach, or bench personnel who receive two red cards throughout the tournament, will be ineligible to continue.

17.5 Referee Abuse: Abuse of Officials will not be tolerated, a zero-tolerance policy in effect within regards to Dissent.

17.5.1 Dissent includes any words or actions that show disdain for or opposition to the referee's rulings.

17.5.2 Dissent by action includes any physical display of anger after a refereeing decision.

17.5.3 Referee has the right to eject a player, parent, coach, bench personnel or spectator from any game for continual disobedience or because of an incident that warrants ejection.

17.5.4 Parents, spectators are not allowed to verbally question, address, or critique (criticize) any game official's judgment during or after the match. The game official will ask the appropriate coach to address the situation.

17.5.4.1 If there is a second instance, a second warning will be given to the coach.

17.5.4.2 If there is a third instance, game official will ask the coach to remove the offending Parent/Spectator(s).

17.5.5 If the parent or spectator is using "offensive vulgar language" at any game official during or after the match, that parent or spectator will be instantly removed on the first instance.

17.5.6 The parent, coach, bench personnel or spectator that is ejected by the referee or Alaska Youth Soccer officials must leave the game/ field/ technical/ bench area immediately for the remainder of the match.

17.5.7 If the individual refuses to leave, the game will be forfeited in favor of the opposing team; (players ejected from a match may continue to sit in the bench area unless removed by the referee for continued inappropriate behavior once they have been sent to the bench).

17.6 Two (2) or more Game Suspensions: Any dismissal of a coach or bench personnel due to Abuse of Officials will result in automatic two (2) game suspension; Any player, substitute, coach or bench personnel who refuses the referee's request for their name, or gives a false name, while the referee is gathering data to report an infringement of the "Laws of the Game", involving them, shall have a minimum of one (1) game added to the suspension that would normally be levied by the Conduct Committee.

17.6.1 Violent Conduct: Examples include but are not necessarily limited to: Striking or attempting to strike another player, team official or spectator, unlawfully entering the field of play during an altercation.

17.6.2 Spits at an Opponent or any other Person: Examples include but are not necessarily limited to spitting or other unseemly acts on or at another person.

17.6.3 Racial: Any coach or bench personnel dismissed for using racial or ethnic slurs or offensive language that includes derogatory comments about gender, sexual orientation, physical ability or religion shall serve a minimum of a two-game suspension.

17.6.4 Violent Conduct: Player, or Coach sent off the field of play for Violent Conduct shall be ineligible to participate for the remainder of the tournament; based on the severity of the incident further penalties may occur.

17.6.4.1 If entire teams or portions of teams are involved in a fight, a determination will be made as to the guilty team.

17.6.4.2 If it is found that one or both teams are at fault, the guilty team(s) may be removed from the Alaska State Cup competition.

17.5 Protests: All protests of additional suspensions must follow the proper hearing request procedures. Appropriate paperwork must be filed within the proper timeline, but the fee will be waived.

RIGHT TO CHANGE

18.1 Changes/ Updates: AYSA reserves the right to change any rule during the competition and such changes will take effect twenty-four (24) hours after written notification has been emailed to all teams entered/remaining in this competition and/or posted to the website.