

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.

Winners of the 13 and under, 14 and under, 15 and under, 16 and under, 17 and under and 19 and under will advance to 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 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, officials/referees, 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) and the Alaska State Cup Committee, as authorized by the AYSA Board of Directors, and are not bound to any other rules of competition.

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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 State Cup Committee and/or Executive Director 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 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, 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.

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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 Fayette County, GA. 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, Two-tiered 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, including removal from immediate proximity of the game if warranted.

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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 (13U to 19U) will advance to the National Championships.

4.3.2 State Runner-ups (13U to 19U) and 12U State Champion will advance to the Presidents Cup Tournament.

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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 and SDA, or appointed designee, to assign referees for scheduled games.

5.1.3 Track game results (scores, ejections/send-offs, etc.) 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 for changes 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 within one hour of the conclusion of the last match of the day. The committee shall:

5.4.1 Assess appropriate penalties based on published guidelines.

5.4.2 Notify all parties involved of a final decision by the end of the day the protest was filed.

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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 recorded on the Match Game Card at the immediate conclusion of the game.

5.6.3 To be valid and eligible for consideration, protests regarding a game must be completed on the AYS Protest/Appeals Form and returned to the Tournament Director within two (2) hours after the completion of the game in question.

5.7 As agreed on when completing the Protest/Appeals form, if the protest/appeal is not granted the team/club agrees a \$300 fee will be assessed to the team/club filing the protest/appeal.

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.

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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 Misapplication of the FIFA Laws of the Game (LOTG) by the referee: A team can protest a misapplication of the Laws of the Game (e.g., player not sent-off following 2nd Caution, etc.)

5.10.6 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. Note that 18U/19U is a combined division.

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 Clubs may only enter one team per age/gender division. Exceptions may be granted by AYS for second teams that have placed in semifinals during the previous AYS State Cup or other AYS-sanctioned tournaments.

6.1.4 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.

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

6.1.5.1 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.

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6.1.5.2 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 All teams participating in AYSA State Cup must participate in at least one AYSA sanctioned event during the previous year. Exceptions may be granted by AYS to teams with geographical constraints.

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.

6.3 Technical Area Staff: Each team roster must include Technical Area Staff (coaches, managers, etc.). Only three (3) Technical Area staff are allowed per roster and must be listed on the official event roster printed on each game card.

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6.3.1. Each club will be provided three (3) Club Passes (for TDs, goalkeeper coaches, athletic trainers...) to be in the technical area with any team; maximum of six (6) staff in the Technical Area.

6.4 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 ethical 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, AYSA may request verification of 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 listing ineligible player(s) 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 one (1) week prior to the event.

7.2 Prior to the Roster Freeze Date teams are responsible for ensuring accuracy of all information on the team roster within the registration platform system.

7.2.1 Team rosters limits will be set at 11U - 12U (18 players) and 13U -19U (22 players) both on the roster and for each game.

7.2.3 Team rosters in the registration platform must be accurate including:

7.2.3.1 Name of team, club, age group, and gender of the team.

7.2.3.2 Name of all registered coaches/managers with this team. *Note see 6.3.1 club officials do not need to be listed on each roster and will have their own passes to be in the technical area with any team within that club.*

7.2.3.2 Name as shown on proof of age document when registered.

7.2.3.2 Player registration number

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7.2.3.3 Correct birth date for player.

7.2.3.4 Jersey number.

7.3 Player passes are not required for AYS State Cup as players will be checked against the event roster. *Note: Players passes will be required at US Youth Soccer National Championships.*

UNIFORMS

8.1 Identical Jerseys: Each player must wear the same jersey style (only exception: keeper); jersey must have sleeves. Player number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible for all players, including goalkeepers. 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 Uniform colors: The home team listed first will wear light colored; the 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). Using tape to cover jewelry is not permitted.

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.

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INCLEMENT WEATHER

9.1 Inclement Weather: In the event of inclement weather (Lightning, High Winds or 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 and 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 3 goals or more in difference, the game will be called complete, and a 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 judged 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 °F, and twice per half of play when the temperature exceeds 95 °F. Where scheduling problems occur due to set game starts, periods of play may be shortened evenly to accommodate the stoppage of play. Otherwise, the hydration break times will be added to stoppage time by the referee.

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 must be worn by all players and must be made of a suitable material and be of age appropriate size to provide reasonable protection and be completely covered by the socks.

10.2 Metal or removable cleats are prohibited.

10.3 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.

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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 of 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 Trainer's 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.

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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 by a score of 4-0. The 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 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 primarily consist of pool play then semi-finals and finals, with some exceptions based on bracket sizes. No consolation matches take place at AYS State Cup.

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

Note: If both teams reside outside of the tournament location and in the same geographical area, and both teams agree to an alternate location, these two games will be scheduled to take place the following weekend in the home city for both of the teams.

Three teams: All teams play each other once with all three of these games taking place in one day. The order of these games will be determined by a random draw. The second day 1st vs 2nd meet in the championship.

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: Seven team division will be one bracket with each team playing four games determined by a random draw, followed by semi-finals of overall 1st in points vs 4th in points, 2nd in points vs 3rd in points with winners of those games meeting in the championship.

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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: Nine team divisions will have three brackets of three determined by a random draw playing two games. Following pool play the top two teams from each division and two wildcards will progress to quarter-finals with the following matches: A1 vs WC 1, B1 v WC 2, C1 v A2, B2 v C2. Winners of those games progress to semifinals then to the championship match.

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 9v9, 30-minute halves with 10-minute halftime interval. Heading is not allowed.

U13-U14 11v11, 35-minute halves with 10-minute halftime interval.

U15-U16 11v11, 40-minute halves with 10-minute halftime interval.

U17-U19 11v11, 45-minute halves with 10-minute halftime interval.

13.3 Overtime Periods: There are no overtime periods during pool play. Quarterfinal, semifinal and championship games tied at the end of regulation play will have an overtime period to determine a game winner.

13.3.1 There will be a 10-minute interval between the end of regulation and the start of the overtime period.

13.3.2 During this interval the referee will conduct a coin toss with the winner selecting either side or kickoff.

13.3.3 Overtime periods consist of two (2) 10-minute "Golden Goal" periods with a 2-minute break to change sides after the first period. The game is concluded as soon as one team scores.

13.3.3 If a game is still tied at the end of the prescribed overtime play, FIFA "Penalties (penalty shoot-out) 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.

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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 confirmed by the Alaska Youth Soccer officials and/ or State Cup Committee then notice will be given to the offending team or teams.

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 online on the AYSA website. Online 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 in the division will use the Aggregate Score Format to determine the champion. 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).

14.2.1 If the teams are tied on aggregate score at the conclusion of two games, overtime procedures (13.3) will begin immediately at the end of the second game. 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.

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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 Penalties (penalty shoot-out) 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 all three progress with the above criteria until one team is determined higher (i.e. better goal-differential) the remaining teams then begin the process again at 5.1.b to determine the next seed.

15.2.1. If teams remain tied to 15.1.3 and progress to Penalties (penalty shoot-out) in double-elimination. The order is determined by a random draw by AYS. The first team drawn will be the home team against the second drawn team. The winner of this advances to meet the third team in kicks from the mark to determine final seeding.

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.

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

16.4 Game Rosters: AYSA will provide game rosters and match reports (or match card) brought to each game by the referee of that game.

16.4.1 Referees will use this game roster to check in players at the game.

16.4.2 If a player is ineligible for that game (i.e., suspension or concussion) they will be crossed off the roster and unable to play in that game.

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16.4.3 Game scores, yellow/red cards, and referee notes shall be recorded and signed off by the coach from both teams within fifteen (15) minutes of the game conclusion.

16.4.4 Referees return the game roster and match report (or match card) to the referee assignor to note game scores and any infractions/suspensions to note prior to that team's next game.

16.5 Unmanned Aircraft: The use of non-approved Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), more simply known as a "Drone", at any event that is sanctioned 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 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).

16.78 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 for 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 (6) feet from the touchline, and ten (10) yards to either side of the half-way line for a total of twenty (20) yards.

16.9.2 There will be a "no-man's land" of ten (10) 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 one's 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

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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 Penalties (penalty shoot-out), 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 covers 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 also be suspended for 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

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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 have 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's name will be crossed off the rosters/match report for the given number of suspension games at the Tournament Headquarters.

17.3 Code of Conduct: Players, coaches, bench personnel, team officials, referees, or spectators 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 is in effect in regards to Dissent.

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

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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).

17.5.8 If multiple spectators from one or both teams are exhibiting disrespectful behavior towards match participants and/or game officials, then another option would be to completely clear the sidelines of ALL spectators prior to resuming the game.

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.

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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, player, 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 (2) 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.