



2009 USYS/EPYSA National Championship Series **Presented by Angelo's Soccer Corner**

Spring Cup Competition

U-12 to U-14 GIRLS AND U-12 to U-17 BOYS

Rules and Regulations

I. Eligibility

1. This competition is governed by the United States Youth Soccer Association National Championship Rules. In the event that an issue arises that is not specifically covered by these EPYSA NCS rules then the USYS NCS rules shall be used to resolve the issue.
2. Only US Youth Soccer/EPYSA affiliated teams will be accepted into either the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series or EPYSA Challenge Cup competition.
3. Teams may enter only one (1) cup competition. Players may play for only one team and in only one cup competition--either the US Youth Soccer NCS or the EPYSA Challenge Cup.
4. Teams applying for cup competition must compete in an EPYSA approved, cup-qualifying travel league during the current seasonal year and have played at least one (1) league game prior to the start of the cup competition.
5. All cup team rosters are restricted to the official team roster filed in the state office.
 - 5.1 The maximum number of players permitted on a roster at any one time is eighteen (18) for U-15 and below aged teams. Teams are permitted five (5) transferred players from their original league roster.
 - 5.2 The maximum number of players permitted on a roster at any one time is twenty two (22) for U-16, U-17, U-18, and U-19 teams. Teams are permitted five (5) transferred players from their original league roster.

5.3 No roster may be altered for spring league play by any team competing in the USYS NCS Cup until their cup competition is completed. All roster changes must be executed and dated by an approved League Registrar by March 15th, 2009. **There are No Exceptions!**

6. For teams participating in the Spring Region 1 Directors League please note the following. Rosters for those teams freeze on either the EPYSA freeze date (3/15/09) or the date that they play their first Directors League game, whichever occurs first. No changes may be made to their roster until they complete their League play and EPYSA NCS play and are eliminated from eligibility for advancement to USYS NCS Region 1 competition. Also please note that any players released from a team in the Directors League after the appropriate freeze date, are also considered 'frozen' and can not be added to another team's USYS National Championship Series roster or Challenge Cup roster.

For teams that are using the Colonial League to qualify for state cups, rosters freeze on March 15, 2009.

7. Cup team rosters can include only primary players. Secondary players are not permitted on cup rosters.
8. U-10 teams playing in U-11 divisions of approved leagues are not Cup eligible. To be eligible and to play in the U-11 Cup there must be nine (9) age-pure U-11 players on the original league approved roster.
9. The team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between their league and the National Championship competitions by maintaining a minimum of nine (9) players common to the rosters used in both competitions.

II. Competition Rules

A. Player Check-in

Check-in Rules for U-15 and Below Age Groups

1. All players must be registered with a current and proper EPYSA player pass. Pass numbers are not required by EPYSA.
2. Player passes should be exchanged and examined by the opposing coaches prior to the game. Proper procedure is to line up each team in a line, each player with his/her pass in hand. Opposing coach should check player against pass. Referee does not check player passes. The only exception is for the Finals where the EPYSA Cup Staff or their designee will check in the players prior to the game.

3. A line-up form must be presented to the referee prior to the game, in triplicate, properly completed, listing jersey number and player name. A player whose name does not appear on the line-up form who plays is considered an ineligible player. A player whose name appears on the line-up form is considered to have played in that game. Coaches must sign the line-up form.
4. Coaches! You must have a coach's pass available and surrender the same to the referee prior to the start of the game. There will be a \$25.00 fine for any coach not having his pass. NO EXCUSES. If you don't have a coach's pass, see your league registrar. The referee will return the coaches passes at the end of the game.

Check-in Rules for the U-16, U-17, U18, and U-19 Age Groups

5. All players must be registered with a current and proper EPYSA player pass. Pass numbers are not required by EPYSA.
6. A line-up form must be presented to the referee prior to the game, in triplicate, properly completed. The guidelines for completing the form are as follows:
 - 6.1 For U-16 to U-19 Teams the coach must submit the specific U-16 to U-19 Line-up form. A copy is attached at the end of these rules.
 - 6.2 On this form the coach must list every player on their approved EPYSA Roster even if the player is not present at the game
 - 6.3 The coach must designate which players will be playing in the game up to a maximum of 18 players by marking an 'X' in the appropriate box on the line-up form.
 - 6.4 The coach must designate which players will NOT be playing in the game by marking an 'X' in the appropriate box on the line-up form AND Initial next to the 'X' to confirm that a player is ineligible for a game.
 - 6.5 If a coach needs to change a player's status before the game the coach must inform the referee and the opposing coach, change all 3 line-up sheets in the presence of the referee and initial the changes.
 - 6.6 The coach should submit a line-up sheet with the player passes of the ineligible players to the referee before the start of the game.
 - 6.7 Once the game starts no changes may be made to the eligible player list.
 - 6.8 Players that are ineligible for the game may sit with their team but they can not wear the game jersey being used by their team for that game.
7. Coaches must sign the line-up form.

8. Player passes should be exchanged and examined by the opposing coaches prior to the game. Proper procedure is to line up each team in a line, each player listed on the line-up sheet as eligible with his/her pass in hand. Opposing coach should check player against pass. The coaches should identify which players are ineligible for the game. Referee does not check player passes. The only exception is for the Finals where the EPYSA Cup Staff or their designee will check in the players prior to the game.
9. Coaches! You must have a coach's pass available and surrender the same to the referee prior to the start of the game. There will be a \$25.00 fine for any coach not having his pass. NO EXCUSES. If you don't have a coach's pass, see your league registrar. The referee will return the coaches passes at the end of the game.

B. Referees

1. All games will be officiated under the three (3)-referee system: one (1) referee and two (2) assistant referees. You must play even if less than three referees are at the game. If the full official contingent does not appear, the game will be played with the available personnel using the following system:

2 Referees: 1 Center Referee, 1 referee as an AR, 1 volunteer linesperson
 1 Referee: 1 Center Referee, 2 Volunteers for the lines

A two-whistle system is not allowed in the EPYSA NCS or Challenge Cup competition.

Any issues contact Dave Ash (215-932-4347)

2. **If the referees do not show you must play the game. Do not leave until you reach Dave Ash (215-932-4347). Teams leaving without talking to Dave will forfeit the game.**
3. Each team is responsible for paying one-half of the appropriate referee fees (in cash) for all games except the finals. EPYSA will pay the referee fees for all final games.

Referee Fees - Three Referee System

U-12	\$ 88.00	Ref.	\$36.00	A	\$26.00	A	\$26.00
U-13 & U-14	\$102.00	Ref.	\$42.00	A	\$30.00	A	\$30.00
U-15 & U-16	\$118.00	Ref.	\$50.00	A	\$34.00	A	\$34.00
U-17, 18, & 19	\$136.00	Ref.	\$56.00	A	\$40.00	A	\$40.00

If less than 3 referees are present at the game you only pay the fee for each official present and only for their assigned role in the game. If a referee not

assigned to the game fills in for a missing official they are to be paid for the role that they fulfill for the game

PLEASE NOTE: If a game is canceled by the referee at the field site prior to the start of the game, each team pays the referee one-half (1/2) the regular fee. Once the game has started and must be called due to weather or field conditions, the entire fee must be paid. If a team shows for a game and the opposing team forfeits by a no-show, the team that shows does not pay the referee any fee. The referee will receive the fee at a later date.

C. Elimination Rules

1. All U-12M to U17M and U12F to U14F USYS NCS Cup games will be single elimination. A team that loses in any of these age groups is finished with its EPYSA NCS State Cup competition.

D. Scheduling

1. The home team and game schedule is determined by the Cup Committee Chairperson.
2. If after the schedule is published, both teams in a game wish to play the game before the scheduled date, they must agree on a date, time, and location and then both coaches must advise the EPYSA office of the proposed change (at least 4 days in advance) **for approval**. The teams must submit a request for change form with the details as required by the form and we will advise the teams of the decision. The reschedule will be contingent upon the availability of fields and referees for the proposed change. EPYSA reserves the right to decline a requested schedule change.
3. If one team wishes to play early and the other team does not, the request to change the schedule can be sent to the Cup Committee Chairperson 7 days in advance for consideration. The decision of the Cup Committee Chairperson on any schedule changes will be final and can not be appealed.
4. Additionally, the Cup Committee Chairperson and/or EPYSA President may exercise discretion to change a game time or date if the participating team will be missing players due to regional and/or national team commitments.
5. To accommodate the three (3) referee system and ensure availability of officials, it may be necessary to change home field advantage to Home AREA advantage. The Cup Committee is the sole authority in determining field locations.
6. The Cup Committee may also designate a common competition site for all or part of an age group in the USYS National Championship Series.

7. All games must be played by the scheduled date and time.
8. The Cup Committee reserves the right to revise the schedule after it is published.
9. Region 1 Directors League and Colonial League games will be played on several Saturdays concurrent with the EPYSA NCS and Challenge Cup competition. EPYSA NCS and Challenge Cup games for teams participating in that league will have their cup game on Sunday if they have a Saturday Directors or Colonial league game the weekend scheduled for EPYSA NCS or Challenge Cup play.

E. Fields

1. Preparation of the field is the responsibility of the home team. If it is a home area game, the home team is still responsible for the field. Proper lining, goal nets, and corner flags are required for all fields. Protests made in regard to field conditions must be made prior to the start of the game.
2. Teams can have home and away games in the Cup competition. It is the responsibility of **BOTH** teams to contact each other to ensure that both teams have the correct game time, game location and directions.
3. Field changes will carry a fee of \$50 if changed to the opponent's field and an additional \$50 if changed to a neutral site. Fees will be waived if the field change is due to extenuating circumstances (as deemed by the Cup Committee, EPYSA Executive Director, or President).
4. Coaches and players from both teams should be on one side of the playing field. Spectators from both teams should stay on the other side of the field.

F. Game Rules

1. Duration of the game:
All games including play-in games must be played to a conclusion.

<u>Division</u>	<u>Game Duration</u>	<u>Overtime</u>
U-12	2 - 30-minute periods	2 - 10-minute periods
U-13 & U-14	2 - 35-minute periods	2 - 10-minute periods
U-15 & U-16	2 - 40-minute periods	2 - 15-minute periods
U-17, U-18 & U-19	2 - 45-minute periods	2 - 15-minute periods

The overtime periods are NOT sudden death so you must play both overtime periods. If the game is still tied after the overtime periods, five (5) alternating penalty kicks will be taken. If, after the five (5) penalty kicks, the game is still tied, then single alternating kicks will be taken until the tie is broken. Each

penalty kick shall be taken by a different player. No player shall repeat until all eleven (11) players of the team have taken a kick. Only those players on the field at the end of the overtime period last played will be eligible to participate in the penalty kicks. If a team has less than 11 players on the field at the end of the game those players are the only ones eligible to shoot and no one shall repeat till each of those players has taken a kick.

2. Each competing team shall present a game ball to the referee prior to the start of the game. U-12 use a #4 ball, all other ages will use a #5 ball.
3. Substitutions rules are dependent on the age group.
 - 3.1 For U14 and below Substitutions shall be unlimited and may be made at the following times with the consent of the referee:
 - a. Prior to a throw-in in your favor
 - b. Prior to a goal kick (either team)
 - c. After a goal (either team)
 - d. After an injury when referee stops play (either team--unlimited)
 - 3.2 For U15 and above there is no re-entry in a half. A half is defined as one of the following three segments: 1st half, 2nd half, Overtime period (even though the overtime is divided into two periods it is considered as one half for substitution purposes). Examples of the rule are presented below:
 - 3.2.1 When a player is substituted in the 1st Half they may not reenter the game again during the 1st half of play. They may reenter at the start of the 2nd half or anytime after the start of the 2nd half.
 - 3.2.1.1 At halftime the referee will return the passes of all game eligible players to the coach. To enter the field at the beginning of the 2nd half the starters will surrender their pass to the referee.
 - 3.2.2 When a player is substituted in the 2nd Half they may not reenter the game again during the 2nd half of play. They only may reenter if overtime is required. They may reenter at the start of overtime or anytime after the start of overtime play.
 - 3.2.2.1 If overtime is required, at the end of regulation, the referee will return the passes of all game eligible players to the coach. To enter the field at the beginning of the Overtime the starters will surrender their pass to the referee.
 - 3.2.3 If a player is substituted during Overtime they may not reenter the game at any time and can not participate in penalty kicks if they are required.

- 3.2.4 Substitution is defined when a player leaves the field of play and is replaced by another player from the bench.
- 3.2.5 If a player leaves the field of play and is not replaced (their team plays down a player during this time) this player may reenter the game at the discretion of the referee.
- 3.2.6 For a player to enter the game they must report to midfield with their player pass. The referee will take the pass when the player is allowed into the game.
- 3.2.7 When a substitute reports to the midfield the substitution may be made at the following times with the consent of the referee:
 - a. Prior to a throw-in in your favor
 - b. Prior to a goal kick (either team)
 - c. After a goal (either team)
 - d. After an injury when referee stops play (either team, unlimited)

4. Forfeit Rules

Forfeit score: 4 - 0
Forfeit fee: \$150.00 per forfeited game

- 5. Forfeit Time – teams must appear with at least seven (7) players no later than 15 minutes after the scheduled start time of the game otherwise the game will be declared a forfeit by the referee. The forfeit score of 4-0 will apply. In the event that neither team appears within 15 minutes with the required 7 players the game will be declared a double forfeit. The score will be reported as 0-0.

G. Cards

- 1. If any cards (yellow or red) are issued in the competition, the coach/team manager of the cautioned/ejected player(s) must email **Dave Edgcombe** at edgerock1@comcast.net immediately after the game with the following information:
 - a. USYS NCS/Challenge Cup
 - b. age group and division (male or female)
 - c. team name
 - d. carded player name and jersey number
 - e. type of card
 - f. date of game
 - g. name and phone number of the person sending this information
- 2. Reminder: Three cautions (yellow cards) given in cup play equal a red. If a player receives a direct red card or two yellow cards in a game or receives their 3rd yellow of the competition, they can not play in at least their next

scheduled cup game. So even if you do not hear from Dave Edgecombe after you report a direct red card or a 3rd yellow card for a player prior to your next game Do NOT play such a player in that game!

3. Also remember that any un-served suspensions for Red cards or accumulations carry over into Regional Competition or into next year's cup competition if your team does not advance to Regionals!

H. Results

1. The winning coach of a game is required to report the score of their game to the EPYSA Score link found on the EPYSA website by 7:00 p.m. the night of the game.
2. How to report the score:

Go to the EPYSA website www.epysa.org

Click on the link "Report Score for Coaches" which is
<http://www.epysa.org/cupscores/coach/index.htm>

Login with Username = cup Password = score (all lower case)

Click on "Add new" to enter new score

Follow the input screen, then hit "Save." You will get the message"<<<record was added>>>"

Then click on "Back to List." You should see your score entry in the database.

Click on "Logout."

You will be able to view all scores by clicking on the link to "EPYSA Scoreboard" also at the EPYSA Cup webpage

If no challenge is made (by the opposing team) of the reported score by the Tuesday following the game, then the reported score will be considered accurate and valid.

3. There is a \$25 fine if the score is not reported by 7:00 p.m.
4. Individual and team awards will be presented to both the champion and runner-up. A presentation will be made immediately following the championship game. Your team is expected to participate.

I. Protests

1. There are no protests on referee decisions. The only protests allowed are regarding player eligibility.
2. In the event that a team wishes to file a protest they must submit the protest within 48 hours of the game. In the event that the next game is scheduled in less than 48 hours after the game being protested, the protesting team must notify the Cup Chairperson ASAP and no later than 2 hours before the next scheduled game. Protests received that do not comply with these rules will not be evaluated and will be considered void.
3. Protests must be presented in writing to the Cup Chairperson. Email submission is considered acceptable as long as the Cup Chairperson is notified by phone of the pending protest.
4. The protest must be accompanied by a protest fee of \$200 which will be refunded if the protest is upheld.
5. In the event that a game was played and a protest is filed against the winner of the game by either the loser of the game or another Cup participant and the game winner is disqualified from the competition, the cup record will show the winner of the game as Vacant. The loser on the field will NOT advance. No one from that game will advance to the next round. The opponent in the next round will be awarded a forfeit win.
6. In the event that the winner of the NCS State Championship game is disqualified after the game is played the Runner-up will be declared the State Champion. If this disqualification occurs before the start of the Region 1 competition, the Runner-up (now called the State Champion) will represent EPYSA in the Region 1 Competition. If the Region 1 competition has begun the Region 1 committee will determine who if any team shall fill that slot in the competition.
7. The EPYSA Cup Committee will evaluate properly submitted protests and render a timely decision.
8. If the team wishes to appeal the decision of the EPYSA Cup Committee they may do so by submitting an appeal to the EPYSA Arbitration Board following the submission guidelines of that Board.
9. Decisions of the Arbitration Board are final and no further appeal is possible as described by the USYS NCS Rules.

J. Semi-Finals and Finals

1. Semi-finals - the objective is to schedule these games on neutral fields

2. The Finals are scheduled for the weekend of May 16th and 17th. If we have bad weather prior to the finals we may have to play back-to-back on some weekends.

K. Regional Competition

Dates: Thursday, July 2 through Tuesday, July 7, 2009
Location: Barboursville, West Virginia

2009 EPYSA/USYS National Championship Series

Coaches Check List

Before Competition Begins

- Did you get your schedule and did you check it to make sure that it is correct. Report any issues to the State Office.

The Week of the Game

- Did you call opposing coach early in week to go over game details, directions, uniform colors, etc. Home team coach should take the initiative and call. Please don't wait until the last minute.
- If you are playing at a common site, do you know how to get there?
- If you are the Home team did you make sure that the field is properly prepared (lines, nets, corner flags)?

Pre-game Preparation

- Bring your player passes
- Bring your coach's pass
- Bring line-up form (in triplicate) to present to referee prior to game
- Bring Referee fee in cash
- Bring a copy of the Rules & Regulations
- Bring Soccer Balls

After the Game

- Were you or any of your team members issued any cards? If so did you email their name(s) and the infraction to Dave Edgecombe at edgerock1@comcast.net as required
- Are you responsible for reporting the score? If so did you do it?

To report the score you can find a link at the EYSA website www.epysa.org

Cup Commissioner: Dave Ash epysacupchair@aol.com

Discipline Commissioner: Dave Edgecombe: edgerock1@comcast.net

2009 EPYSA National Championship Series

U-16 - U-19 Game Line-up Card

Line-up of: _____

Date: _____

Home Team: _____

Age Group: U- _____

Visiting Team: _____

Referee: _____

Last Name	First Name	Jersey #	Playing	Not Playing	Coach Initial
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Coach Signature: _____