



## I. STATE SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS

### US Youth Soccer Washington State Championships

- A) The US Youth Soccer Washington State Championships - hereafter referred to as "State Championships" - will consist of one tournament. It will be open to all boys and girls teams Under 12 through Under 19, comprised of properly registered Washington Youth Soccer players affiliated with Member Associations, provided such teams entering, and its Association, are in good standing with Washington Youth Soccer and the team is in compliance with and has not violated the rules of Washington Youth Soccer. Any team using an ineligible player(s) will forfeit all of its tournament games.
- B) Any teams wishing to participate in the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series should enter this tournament. If applicable, all teams that finished in the quarter finals and/or higher in the previous year's State Championships will be required to enter into this tournament.
- C) This will not be a single elimination tournament. There will be a random draw held that will determine team position (after the previous year's quarter finalist have been seeded).
- D) The State Championships will be used to determine Regional entries in age groups U-12 through U-19 where applicable.
- E) Eligibility for Regionals will be according to placement in the State Championships:
  - a. A team placing higher in the State Championships will be eligible before a lower placing team in the appropriate age group.
  - b. If more than one team is at a placement under consideration, those teams will play off for the right to represent Washington Youth Soccer.

### Challenge Cup

- A) The Washington State Challenge Cup - hereafter referred to as "Challenge Cup" - will consist of one tournament with divisions as determined by the Tournament Committee Chair(s). It will be open to all boys and girls teams U-11 through U-19, comprised of properly registered Washington Youth Soccer players affiliated with Member Associations, provided such teams entering, and its Association, are in good standing with Washington Youth Soccer and the team is in compliance with and has not violated the rules of the Washington Youth Soccer, EXCEPT, those teams that were quarter finalist and above in the previous year's State Championship. Individual exceptions may be approved by the Tournament Committee Chair(s). Any team using an ineligible player(s) will forfeit all of its tournament games.
- B) This will not be a single elimination tournament. There will be a random draw held that will determine team position.



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- C) Players entering the Challenge Cup are ineligible to enter the State Championships if their team is moving forward to the US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup Regionals. Players may not play on a team at a lower level of play than their league team, without specific written permission from the Tournament Committee Chair(s).
- D) If applicable, the Challenge Cup will be used to determine Regional entries into the US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup in age groups U-14 through U-17 where applicable.
- E) Eligibility for Regionals will be according to placement in the Challenge Cup:
  - a. A team placing higher in the Challenge Cup will be eligible before a lower placing team in the appropriate age group.
  - b. If more than one team is at a placement under consideration, those teams will play off for the right to represent Washington Youth Soccer.

### **Commissioner's Cup**

- A) The Washington State Commissioners' Cup - hereafter referred to as "Commissioners' Cup" - will consist of one tournament with divisions as determined by the Tournament Director. It will be open to all boys and girls teams U- 11 through U-19, comprised of properly registered Washington Youth Soccer players affiliated with Member Associations, provided such teams entering, and its Association, are in good standing with Washington Youth Soccer and the team is in compliance with and has not violated the rules of Washington Youth Soccer. Any team using an ineligible player(s) will forfeit all of its tournament games.
- B) The Commissioner's Cup is for teams that have played in a Recreational and/or District league. Any team that has participated in a league higher than district level or a State approved league is not eligible to enter this tournament.
- C) This will not be a single elimination tournament. There will be a random draw held that will determine team position.

## **II. ADMINISTRATION**

### **Tournament Committee**

- A) The State sponsored tournaments will have a tournament committee chair(s) appointed by Washington Youth Soccer.
- B) The Washington Youth Soccer tournament committee chair(s) will select venues for the tournament.
- C) Each participating Member Association shall designate a representative to form the "Tournament Committee". Teams are to direct any questions or concerns to their association's tournament representative.



### III. REGISTRATION AND TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- A) Applications for each tournament must be accompanied with the proper entry fee and current team roster before the application is accepted.
- B) Upon entering any of the tournaments, teams shall submit a team photo with all members identified to the State office.
- C) Rosters and any revisions will be processed by the local Association Registrar. All rosters will be verified by the Association Registrar before the first scheduled game in the tournament.
- D) The entry fee, application and preliminary roster must be submitted to the Washington Youth Soccer office by the registration deadline; which will be determined by the Tournament Committee Chair.
- E) Washington Youth Soccer will accept roster additions, releases and transfers up to a date set annually by the Tournament Committee Chair in conformance with the then applicable regulations of the US Youth Soccer national tournament.
- F) Teams that can have a maximum of 18 players must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the league and the tournament by maintaining a minimum of 9 players common to the roster of both competitions; and teams that can have a maximum of 22 players must demonstrate continuity of rosters by maintaining a minimum of 11 players. U11 teams must demonstrate continuity of rosters by maintaining 7 players. Any team using ineligible players will forfeit all of its tournament games.
- G) Players may participate in any of the state tournaments but in only one tournament at a time. Players may not play on a team in a lower level tournament if they have played in one of the State tournaments. To be eligible to play in a tournament that follows, the team you participated on must be done with all competition. Any player on a team advancing to a regional or national competition is ineligible to play for another team. For players entering the Championship cup they must meet the US Youth National Rule 224.
- H) Teams submitting entries after the deadline will be accepted on a space-available basis. Late entries will be put on a waiting list in the order received and will be charged a \$100.00 late fee if accepted before the draw.
- I) **LATE ENTRIES MAY BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DRAW TO HELP FILL BRACKETS. NO PLAYER MOVEMENT WILL BE ALLOWED AFTER THE PUBLISHED ROSTER FREEZE DATE.**
- J) Any team dropping from the tournament shall be subject to the following:
  - a. If a team drops out after the draw but before the first game, the team's Member Association will be fined \$500.00.
  - b. If a team drops out during the preliminary round, the team's Member Association will be fined \$600.00. However, if a team drops out of the tournament



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immediately prior to their last scheduled preliminary game and hereafter, the team's Member Association will be fined \$700.00 and the coach or coaches will be reported to the Washington Youth Soccer Ethics Committee. A portion of the fines may be used to defray reasonable and documented expenses of the home team to include referees and field rental, at the approval of the Tournament Director.

- c. If a team withdraws after the Quarterfinals, the team may be suspended for one (1) full year from entering all Washington Youth Soccer sponsored state cup tournaments.
  - d. If Washington Youth Soccer incurs any fines from the Regional or National level of competition due to a team's forfeiture, these fines will be assessed to the team's Member Association.
- K) There will be no refund of the entry fee unless the tournament, for a certain age group, is canceled due to a single entry. That team can be given the option of playing "up".
- L) A list of teams that have entered the tournament will be posted on the Washington Youth Soccer web site after the application deadline.

### **IV. CREDENTIALS**

- A) All players in Washington Youth Soccer sponsored state tournaments must possess a valid US Youth Soccer player pass issued by Washington Youth Soccer. These passes are to be surrendered to the referee prior to each game. In the event a player does not receive a pass, they cannot play. The referee will return all cards to the coach after verifying all players are eligible to play. The cards will be used to copy accurate information for the referee's misconduct report.
- B) Credentials for play must be in order before the beginning of the preliminary rounds. Any non-credentialed or improperly credentialed player or coach shall have their passes pulled and they may not play or participate in the remainder of the tournament without a hearing.
- C) US Youth Soccer player passes shall be issued to every player in the State Championships. They will be required to have a current picture, signature and team ID number. They shall be physically separated (individual cards), laminated and be present at every game.
- D) A current coach's pass must accompany every adult who is working with the players. The coach's pass must have a current picture and signature in order to be valid.
- E) Referees will check all coaches and players' passes at the beginning of each game. If an individual does not possess a valid pass, they will not be allowed to participate.
- F) Four (4) bench personnel only will be allowed on the field.



## V. TOURNAMENT AND MATCH SCHEDULES

### Cup Format

- A) The quarter finalists and above from the previous year will be seeded in the State Championships. All other teams will be positioned by draw to fill out the remaining positions.

### Seeding

- A) Seeding in the US Youth Soccer Washington State Championships, Washington State Challenge Cup and Washington State Commissioners' Cup will be determined by the Tournament Committee Chair(s).

### Scheduling

- A) The Tournament Director is responsible for scheduling all tournament games.
- B) All tournament games shall be played on the day scheduled. To declare a field unplayable due to adverse weather conditions will be the prerogative of the referee, the Tournament Committee Chair(s). If games are canceled due to an unplayable field or adverse weather that prevents a team from traveling to the venue site, the Tournament Director will determine the rescheduling.
- C) Failure of a scheduled referee to show up will not be the cause for canceling or protesting the game. A substitute official must be chosen upon agreement by both coaches and that official's decision will be final and must be in writing.
- D) Responsibilities of Coaches and Managers:
  - a. The following are the responsibilities of the assigned "home" team:
    - i. Providing the "visiting" team with game time and adequate directions to the "home" team's venue no less than 72 hours prior to the game and by no later than 9:00 PM Wednesday night.
    - ii. Marking the field of play;
    - iii. Providing a proper game ball;
    - iv. Providing nets;
    - v. Assure that a referee has been assigned by their Association referee coordinator.
  - b. Responsibilities of the assigned "visiting" team:
    - i. Visiting teams must confirm to the home team, receipt of the above "directions" and "game time" by no later than 9:00 PM Thursday night.
- E) If a team has to travel more than one hundred (100) miles from their club address to play a game, the home team must schedule the game at a reasonable time for travel (11:00 am-3:00 pm). Exceptions to this rule may apply if the traveling team agrees.
- F) Requests for rescheduling a game shall be directed to the team's Association Tournament Representative, who in turn will get a decision on the request from the Tournament Director. Games must be rescheduled prior to the regularly scheduled games.



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- G) If a game is not played on the scheduled field, following approval of the change by the Tournament Director, it is the responsibility of the coach calling for the change to follow up on all coordination, i.e., notification of the rescheduled game to the Tournament Director, both Association Representatives, opposing coach and referee coordinators. If a game is not played due to inadequate coordination, it will be declared a forfeit against the team calling for the change.
- H) If both teams are properly notified and one fails to show up, following a 15-minute grace period, the game will be forfeited to the showing team. (Extenuating circumstances, i.e., transportation failure, must be favorably considered.)
- I) All Semi-final and Final games will be scheduled by the Tournament Committee and neutral referees will be assigned.

## **VI. TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULES**

- A) All matches will be played in accordance with *FIFA Laws of the Game* except as specifically modified under "Washington Youth Soccer Rules of Competition" or unless stated herein.
- B) Any team forfeiting a match will be removed from the tournament and their Member Association fined. In round robin or preliminary play, any team forfeiting a match will have all game results deleted from Division standings. In single elimination play, the score shall be reported 3-0 in favor of the opponent. (The shut out point will not be awarded for a forfeit).
- C) It shall be the responsibility of each team to maintain proper spectator conduct. Each coach, manager, club, Association or District official shall be held primarily accountable for the conduct of spectators for or from their respective teams. At no time shall foul or abusive language be permitted on any field.
- D) Coaching from the boundary lines by coaches or supporters, i.e., giving instructions to players on the field on points of strategy and tactics is prohibited. Coaches may direct specific players to change field position assignments, e.g., from fullback to mid-fielder, and may give positive encouragement at any time.
- E) From the Semi-final games on, a fourth official will be used at the games and both teams will be on one side of the field. Substitution of players will be done through the fourth official. If on sidelines, spectators will be on opposite sides from the teams.
- F) Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey, clearly visible and a minimum of six (6) inches high. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are optional.



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- G) Each coach must submit a game roster sheet to the referee showing players' name and jersey numbers prior to the start of each game.
- H) The designated "Home" team will be responsible for changing color of the uniform jersey in the event of a color conflict. All teams are required to carry a contrasting colored jersey to all games.
- I) Violations and Penalties - Any infraction or violation of Washington Youth Soccer state tournament rules may result in any of the following penalties:
  - a. Ineligibility of a player or team for tournament play;
  - b. Forfeiture of a game or games;
  - c. Return of tournament trophy and/or medals;
  - d. Revocation of the title "Tournament Champion" and all rights associated with such title.

### **VII. STANDINGS AND TIE-BREAKERS**

- A) Teams will receive 6 points for a win, 3 points for a draw, no points for a loss. Plus a point for each goal scored up to a maximum of three (3) per game for both teams. Shutout = 1 point for holding an opponent scoreless.
- B) Ties will stand in preliminary rounds except as provided in (C) below.
- C) When two teams are tied across the board for first place in a Division, and they are playing each other in their final preliminary round game, they will determine a winner using the age appropriate overtime periods as specified in part VII section F of the state tournament rules to establish the first and second place teams in that Division. Their association tournament committee representative must notify the teams of the requirement that the match cannot end in a draw and the winner be determined as specified above prior to the game upon the direction of the tournament scorekeeper or Tournament Director. Game results will be recorded as a tie.
- D) Ties in divisional standings between two (2) teams will be resolved as follows:
  - i. Head to Head (Winner of match between 2 teams)
  - ii. Winner of most games
  - iii. Fewest goals allowed
  - iv. Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of four goals per game.
  - v. Midweek game for games to decide who is to go on OR flip of coin for seeding purposes in the elimination phase.
- E) If more than two (2) teams are tied at the end of the preliminary round, the tie-breaking criteria will be used in the order shown, beginning at (ii), to either advance or eliminate one team. The remaining teams will then be compared, beginning with criteria (ii) to determine final placement.
- F) Ties in single elimination games will be resolved as follows:
  - a. U-19, U-18, U-17, U-16, U-15                      Two 15-minute overtime periods
  - U-14, U-13, U-12, U-11                         Two 10-minute overtime periods



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- b. If still tied after overtime periods, FIFA "kicks from the mark" will apply to determine a winner.
- G) Score reporting - The coach or manager of both teams (winning and losing) must notify their Association Representative as to the final score of all games through the Semi-finals, not later than 7:30PM of the game day. If neither team reports the score, it will be recorded as "no game played" for both teams.
- H) The "Home" team will be listed first in a tie breaking, elimination, semi-final or final game.

### **VIII. PROTESTS & APPEALS**

- A) The Tournament Committee Chair(s) will appoint a committee to hear all protests.
- B) A member of the State Referee Association will also be appointed to the Protest Committee.
- C) All necessary forms and procedures can be accessed through the Washington Youth Soccer website at [www.wsysa.com](http://www.wsysa.com).

### **Additional Tournament Rules or Changes**

Any additional tournament rules, special rules, requirements, procedures, administrative and organizational information necessary for staging the state sponsored tournaments will be published separately.