MISSOURI YOUTH SOCCER
STATE CUP & PRESIDENTS CUP
COMPETITION RULES

Effective for the 2026–2027 Competition Year

Missouri Youth Soccer Association
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Section 1: Definitions

Event: The Missouri Youth Soccer State Cup or Missouri Youth Soccer Presidents Cup competition.

Participant: Any player, coach, team official, team, club, league, or other individual or entity participating in or associated with the Event.

Organizer: Missouri Youth Soccer or its designated Competition Management Group responsible for administering the Event.

State Association: Missouri Youth Soccer.

State Cup: The state-level competition used to determine Missouri's representatives for the applicable US Youth Soccer National Championships or other designated advancement competition.

Presidents Cup: The state-level competition used to determine Missouri's representatives for the applicable US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup or other designated advancement competition.

National 1 League: A league or competition recognized by Missouri Youth Soccer for purposes of team registration and participation in these Events.

Team Roster: The official list of players approved for participation in the Event, consisting of eligible primary, club pass, and secondary players as permitted by these rules and applicable registration requirements. All rosters shall only be from an approved source such as a State Association, National 1 League, US Soccer, or US Club.

Roster Continuity: The requirement that a designated percentage of players on the Event roster remain consistent with the roster used to qualify for the Event or other applicable qualifying competition.

Team Official: Any coach, manager, administrator, or other team staff member listed on the official team credentials.

Competition Management Group: The Missouri Youth Soccer committee, staff, or designees responsible for Event administration, scheduling, discipline, protests, appeals, and match operations.

Section 2: Establishment

2.1 Missouri Youth Soccer shall annually conduct the Missouri Youth Soccer State Cup and Missouri Youth Soccer Presidents Cup for eligible boys' and girls' teams in the age groups designated by Missouri Youth Soccer.

2.2 Missouri Youth Soccer shall establish entry deadlines, entry fees, competition dates, locations, formats, and advancement procedures for each Event.

2.3 The Events shall be administered in accordance with these Competition Rules, applicable Missouri Youth Soccer rules and policies, applicable US Youth Soccer rules and policies, and the IFAB Laws of the Game, except where specifically modified by these rules.

Section 3: Titles

3.1 The official state-level competitions shall be known as the Missouri Youth Soccer State Cup and the Missouri Youth Soccer Presidents Cup.

3.2 The Events and all associated marks, logos, trophies, and championship designations shall be administered and controlled by Missouri Youth Soccer.

Section 4: Administration

4.1 Missouri Youth Soccer shall administer the Events through its Competition Management Group and designated staff or officials.

4.2 The Competition Management Group shall have authority over scheduling, competition format, team eligibility, roster verification, discipline, protests, appeals, and other matters necessary to conduct the Events.

4.3 Decisions of the Competition Management Group shall be final unless an appeal is specifically permitted under these rules or applicable Missouri Youth Soccer policy.

4.4 State Cup and Presidents Cup matches shall take precedence over other Missouri Youth Soccer-sanctioned matches when scheduling conflicts arise.

Section 5: Organization

5.1 Missouri Youth Soccer shall determine annually the age groups, genders, divisions, competition formats, and number of teams participating in each Event.

5.2 The State Cup shall serve as Missouri's designated state-level championship competition for teams seeking advancement to the applicable US Youth Soccer National Championships, when applicable.

5.3 The Presidents Cup shall serve as Missouri's designated state-level competition for teams seeking advancement to the applicable US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup or other designated advancement competition, when applicable.

5.4 Missouri Youth Soccer may establish separate divisions, brackets, or competition levels as necessary to provide appropriate competition and determine representatives for advancement.

5.5 A team that qualifies directly for a national or other advancement competition through a recognized league competition may be granted a waiver from participation in the applicable State Cup or Presidents Cup at the discretion of Missouri Youth Soccer. Such team may be required to submit a qualifying roster by the designated roster freeze date to establish roster continuity.

Section 6: Team Eligibility

6.1 Teams eligible to participate in the State Cup or Presidents Cup must be properly registered and approved through one of the following pathways:

A. Missouri Youth Soccer Registration. The team is registered with Missouri Youth Soccer through an affiliated club or organization and meets all applicable Missouri Youth Soccer registration, roster, player eligibility, and administrative requirements; or

B. National 1 League Registration (US Club). The team is registered and in good standing with the National 1 League and/or is otherwise approved for participation by Missouri Youth Soccer. A National 1 League team must provide all documentation reasonably requested by Missouri Youth Soccer to verify team identity, player eligibility, roster information, insurance, registration status, and compliance with applicable competition requirements.

6.2 Registration through the National 1 League, or other league, shall not disqualify a team from participating in the Missouri Youth Soccer State Cup or Presidents Cup.

6.3 All teams, regardless of registration pathway, must comply with the same Event rules governing player eligibility, roster submission, discipline, match operations, protests, appeals, and other competition requirements.

6.4 A valid Event roster must:

- Be submitted and approved by the applicable registration authority and/or Missouri Youth Soccer;
- Include the number of eligible players established by the Event rules, subject to a maximum of 22 players unless otherwise authorized;
- Include only players properly registered, age eligible, and approved for the Event;
- Identify all primary, club pass, and secondary players, where applicable;
- Not include a player who is simultaneously rostered on another team participating in the same Event, unless specifically permitted by applicable rules; and
- Be submitted by the applicable roster freeze date.

6.5 Missouri Youth Soccer may require National 1 League teams to complete a supplemental registration or verification process before being accepted into the Event.

6.6 A team may be denied entry or removed from the Event if it is not in good standing with Missouri Youth Soccer, the National 1 League, or another governing organization, or if it fails to satisfy applicable registration, financial, disciplinary, or eligibility requirements.

Section 7: Player Eligibility

7.1 Players must be properly registered, age eligible, and listed on an approved Event roster. All players must be registered by the same group (i.e. all players must be registered and rostered by US Youth or US Club but cannot be comingled on the same roster).

7.2 A player may not participate for more than one team in the same State Cup or Presidents Cup competitions.

7.3 Secondary player participation shall be permitted only in Presidents Cup and as authorized by applicable Missouri Youth Soccer, US Youth Soccer, National 1 League, or Event-specific rules.

7.4 Players must possess valid player credentials or other documentation required by Missouri Youth Soccer or the Competition Management Group.

7.5 Missouri Youth Soccer shall have the authority to verify the eligibility of any player participating in the Event. A team may be required to provide proof of age, registration, roster status, or other eligibility information.

7.6 Any player found to be ineligible may be removed from the Event, and the team may be subject to forfeiture, disqualification, discipline, or other sanctions.

Section 8: Team and Player Breaches of Rules

8.1 A team using an ineligible player may be disqualified from the Event. Match results involving the ineligible player may be forfeited as determined by the Competition Management Group.

8.2 Coaches, team officials, clubs, leagues, and other individuals knowingly involved in the use of an ineligible player, falsification of records, or other material violation may be subject to suspension or additional discipline.

8.3 Players, coaches, team officials, and spectators are subject to applicable misconduct, abuse, harassment, discrimination, violence, and referee-abuse policies.

8.4 Any coach or team official dismissed from a match must leave the field area and may not communicate with the team during the remainder of the match unless otherwise permitted by the Competition Management Group.

Section 9: Forfeits and Match Manipulation

9.1 A team that fails to appear for a scheduled match, refuses to play, or otherwise fails to field a team may be subject to forfeiture, fines, removal from the Event, and additional discipline.

9.2 Any intentional manipulation of a match result, standings, advancement, or competition outcome shall be grounds for forfeiture, disqualification, and additional disciplinary action.

9.3 A team withdrawing after acceptance into the Event may forfeit its entry fee and may be subject to additional sanctions established by Missouri Youth Soccer.

Section 10: Protests and Appeals

10.1 A protest is a formal written objection concerning an alleged violation of these rules, applicable Missouri Youth Soccer policies, applicable US Youth Soccer policies, or the IFAB Laws of the Game as applicable..

10.2 Referee decisions involving matters of fact and judgment are final and may not be protested.

10.3 A protest must be lodged by an authorized Team/Club Official to a person designated by Missouri Youth Soccer and must comply with the filing deadlines and procedures established for the Event.

10.4 An appeal may be filed by an affected party seeking review of a decision made under these rules. Appeals must be submitted in writing within 2 hours from the completion of the match as established by the Competition Management Group.

10.5 The Competition Management Group has established a filing fee of $400 for protests and appeals. This fee is due when the appeal is submitted and must be in the form of a Cashier's Check or Money Order. The fee may be refunded if the protest or appeal is upheld by the Competition Management Group.

10.6 Decisions of the Competition Management Group on Event protests and appeals shall be final.

Section 11: Rosters, Credentials, Uniforms, and Team Requirements

11.1 Each player and Team Official must possess the credentials or documentation required by the registration authority and Missouri Youth Soccer.

11.2 Match-day rosters must be verified before the match and may not exceed the maximum number of players permitted by the applicable Event rules.

11.3 Jersey numbers must be visible and unique within a team. Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from other players and match officials, a number on a goalkeeper jersey is optional.

11.4 Teams must comply with all uniform, equipment, field, facility, and administrative requirements established by Missouri Youth Soccer.

11.5 Each team is required to attend each match with two (2) sets of jerseys and socks (kits): a light-colored kit and a dark colored kit. The team listed home team is to wear their light kit and the visiting team on the schedule (usually listed

second) is to wear their dark kit. The Referee shall define what constitutes light vs dark color. If, in the opinion of the referee, there is a conflict in uniform color, the offending team causing the conflict should change into their other kit. **There is a $250 fine per game for not having a second kit available.** The game official shall decide what is acceptable

Section 12: Match Rules

12.1 Matches shall be conducted in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game and applicable US Youth Soccer and Missouri Youth Soccer modifications. Center Game Official keeps the official time, time may be added at their discretion.

12.2 Missouri Youth Soccer shall establish match durations by age group and publish those durations in the Event information and schedule. Match durations are as follows:

Halftimes in normal regulation (all) = 10 minutes maximum, Half in Overtime = none

Age Group 18/19U – Two 45-minute halves

Age Group 17U – Two 45-minute halves

Age Group 16U - Two 40-minute halves

Age Group 15U – Two 40-minute halves

Age Group 14U - Two 35-minute halves

Age Group 13U – Two 35-minute halves

12.3 Match balls shall meet applicable IFAB standards and Event requirements. Standard Size 5 Match balls will be used for above age groups

12.4 Knockout-round matches, semifinal matches, and final matches that are tied at the end of regulation shall be decided in accordance with the Event's published procedures, which may include penalty kicks without extra time.

Presidents Cup matches shall move directly to kicks for all knockout games including finals if needed

State Cup matches shall move to added time as follows for all knockout games including finals if needed

Age U13-14: 10 minute x 2 overtime

Age U15-16: 15 minute x 2 overtime

Age U17-19: 15 minute x 2 overtime

12.5 In group play, points shall generally be awarded as follows:

- Three points for a win;
- One point for a tie; and
- Zero points for a loss.

12.6 When goal differential is used as a tiebreaker, Missouri Youth Soccer establishes a maximum number of 4 (four) goals differential counted per match.

Section 13: Match Officials

13.1 Match officials shall be assigned by the appropriate Missouri Youth Soccer referee authority or its designee.

13.2 Match officials shall submit required match reports and additional reports concerning misconduct, abuse, violence, discriminatory conduct, threats, referee abuse, or other serious incidents.

Section 14: Substitutions and Concussion Procedures

14. All Presidents Cup, including State, National Qualifiers, and National Presidents Cup

- Unlimited substitutions as permitted by the referee as to not disrupt the game.

14.2 For the US Youth Soccer National Championships including Missouri State Cup:

- 13U & 14U: Unlimited substitutions over three moments per half plus halftime.
- 15U–18/19U: Unlimited substitutions over four moments per match plus halftime.

14.3 Substitutions can occur at any stoppage with the referee's approval. Re-entry is permitted at designated substitution points or at any time during play if the referee permits.

14.4 Concussion/Head Injury Substitution Policy:

If a player is suspected of having a concussion, they may be temporarily replaced so they can be evaluated by a qualified health professional. The temporary substitute does not count toward the team's normal substitution limits. If the player is cleared, they may return to the match, and the temporary substitute player must come off. No substitution is charged to the team. If the player is not cleared and permanently removed, the change becomes a concussion substitution. In that case, both teams receive one additional substitution, and the opponent can make one additional substitution of one, singular player.

Section 15: Tiebreakers

15.1 If two teams are tied in points, the following sequence shall be used:

- Head-to-head result
- Most wins
- Goal difference (maximum of 4 goal differential per game);
- Fewest goals allowed
- Fair Play or disciplinary record (if implemented)
- Penalty kicks, drawing of lots, or another method established by the Competition Management Group.

15.2 If three or more teams are tied, Missouri Youth Soccer shall apply a published multi-team tiebreaker sequence using, as applicable, points and results among the tied teams, wins, goal difference, goals allowed, fair play, and drawing of lots. Once a team is eliminated from the tie the Tiebreakers shall restart until a final team emerges.

Section 16: Fees and Sanctions

Missouri Youth Soccer may establish entry fees, withdrawal fees, forfeiture fines, match-manipulation penalties, administrative fees, lodging-related fees, and other sanctions necessary to administer the Events.

The applicable fees shall be published before the relevant event or assigned for specific action during the event. Fines may be assessed against a team, club, league, or other responsible party as permitted by these rules for violations of these rules or for actions leading up to, during and after the event(s).

Offense	Fine
Withdrawal after acceptance into Competition	No refund of entry fee
Withdrawal after schedule release	$1,000 (& no refund of entry fee)
Forfeit of Competition match	$200
Official reports of match manipulation	$1,000
Failure to field a team for a scheduled match	$250
Failure to have both jerseys available	$250

Section 17: Advancement and Wildcards

17.1 The winner of the State Cup or Presidents Cup shall advance to the applicable competition designated by Missouri Youth Soccer and/or US Youth Soccer, subject to all applicable eligibility and advancement requirements.

17.2 If a champion is unable or ineligible to advance, the Competition Management Group may determine the replacement representative using the final standings, finalist status, qualifying results, or another published selection process. Team will reimburse entry fees to State if unable to provide team for advancement.

17.3 Missouri Youth Soccer may establish wildcard opportunities or additional advancement procedures when permitted by the applicable national or regional competition rules.

Section 18: Matters Not Provided For

Any matter not expressly addressed in these Competition Rules shall be determined by the Missouri Youth Soccer Competition Management Group, Missouri Youth Soccer staff, or other designated governing authority. The decision shall be based on the purpose and integrity of the competition, applicable Missouri Youth Soccer and US Youth Soccer rules and policies, and the best interests of the Event.

Section 19: Authority and Effective Date

These Competition Rules shall become effective upon approval by the appropriate governing authority of Missouri Youth Soccer and shall remain in effect until amended, replaced, or repealed.

Missouri Youth Soccer reserves the right to amend these rules when necessary to comply with changes in applicable US Youth Soccer rules, National 1 League requirements, registration requirements, player safety standards, or other governing policies.

Section 20: Event Scheduling and Bracketing

The tournament bracketing will be such to encompass as many teams into the competition as possible in a fair and safe format as determined by the competition committee. Teams shall play no more than 4 games in a weekend and any Championship game not played on Round Robin weekend shall be played later that is communicated by MYSA.

Qualifying games may need to be scheduled by the teams participating and Missouri Youth Soccer. These games shall take precedence over all tournaments and league games. All games MUST be played no later than 7 days in advance of Round Robin play beginning or the date specified by Missouri Youth Soccer in advance.

The following team registration entries are examples of when a Qualifying Game will be drawn:

5 teams, 7 teams, 11 teams, 13 teams, 15 teams, 17 teams

Non-traditional bracketing: When drawing brackets non-traditional size (of 6, 9, 10, & 14 teams, etc...), points may be used to decide advancing teams rather than bracket winners. This may or may not reflect in the tournament software due to the limitations of the software.

Drawing teams for Qualifying Games (if needed) will be done in such a way to eliminate the possibility of cross-market games, if the first team drawn is from a particular district, then only teams from that district will be drawn to play against them. If no other team has applied from that district, then the process shall start over.

The Referee Assignor for the Missouri Cups or a qualified alternate shall assign referees for these games, this service shall be coordinated and paid by Missouri Youth Soccer, games are only officially scheduled after the Assignor approves the game and can provide the proper level of officiating. Should there be scheduling issues, Missouri Youth Soccer is the final authority and will determine when and where a Qualifying Game will be played.

Section 21: Additional Items to Note

Coaches and other bench personnel may not communicate via electronic device with any team representative or spectator during a match.

Artificial noisemakers are not allowed during matches

All use of recording equipment (i.e. HiPods, VEO, etc…) is limited to being set up on the SUPPORTER SIDE of the field and be properly weighted or secured a minimum of 10 feet from the field and outside of any fencing present. By using such equipment at the event all Teams and Clubs agree to promptly share all recordings that might be requested by the Tournament Director or Competition Committee.

Team Warm Up – For the respect of others, teams shall remain at least 6 feet away from the field that has an active game being played…use of soccer balls to warm up should not be within 20 feet