

**US Youth Soccer
New Mexico Open State Cup
National Championship Series
TOURNAMENT RULES**

The following document describes the format to be used for bracketing teams and for conducting the Open State Cup for New Mexico Youth Soccer Association. This format is based on the recognition that the Open State Cup is part of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series, and its fundamental purpose is to determine NMYSA's most qualified representatives to the next level of the National Championship Series.

Tournament Format

1. The US Youth Soccer New Mexico Open State Cup will be played according to the following table. This table is not intended to define specific weekends of play.

No. of Teams in Pool	Bracket & Pool Format (1 st Round Bracket)	Comments	Championship Determination
1			Champion declared at draw
2			Championship
3	Round Robin 1 bracket		Championship
4	Round Robin 1 bracket		Championship
5	Round Robin 1 bracket		Championship
6	Round Robin 2 brackets (3,3)		Semi-Champ
7	Round Robin 2 brackets (3,4)		Semi-Champ
8	Round Robin 2 brackets (4,4)		Semi-Champ
9	Round Robin 2 brackets (4,5)		Semi-Champ
10	Round Robin 2 brackets (5,5)		Semi-Champ
11	Round Robin 3 brackets (3,4,4)	Quarterfinal	Semi-Champ
12	Round Robin 4 brackets (3,3,3,3)	Quarterfinal	Semi-Champ
13	Round Robin 4 brackets (3,3,3,4)	Quarterfinal	Semi-Champ
14	Round Robin 4 brackets (3,3,4,4)	Quarterfinal	Semi-Champ
15	Round Robin 4 brackets (3,4,4,4)	Quarterfinal	Semi-Champ
16	Round Robin 4 brackets (4,4,4,4)	Quarterfinal	Semi-Champ
17	Round Robin 4 brackets (4,4,4,5)	Quarterfinal	Semi-Champ
18	Round Robin 4 brackets (4,4,5,5)	Quarterfinal	Semi-Champ
19	Round Robin 4 brackets (4,5,5,5)	Quarterfinal	Semi-Champ
20	Round Robin 4 brackets (5,5,5,5)	Quarterfinal	Semi-Champ

2. In the case of a two-team pool, a single game will be played at the Open State Cup's primary venue in Bernalillo, NM.
3. In the case of one-bracket pool, the top two teams (by tournament points) will advance to the championship match.
4. In the case of two-bracket pools, the top two teams (by tournament points) from each bracket will advance to semifinals (1st of A vs 2nd of B and 1st of B vs 2nd of A). Championship matches will be played.
5. In the case of three-bracket pools, the top two teams in bracket A (by tournament points) and the top three teams in brackets B and C (by tournament points) will advance to quarterfinals (#1= 1st of A vs 3rd of C, #2=1st of B vs 2nd of A, #3=1st of C vs 3rd of B, #4=2nd of C vs 2nd of B). Winners of quarterfinal matches advance to semifinals (winner of #1 vs winner of #4 and winner of #2 vs winner of #3). Championship matches will be played.
6. In case of four-bracket pools, the top two teams (by tournament points) from each bracket will advance to quarterfinals (#1=1st of A vs 2nd of B, #2=2nd of A vs 1st of B, #3=1st of C vs 2nd of D, #4=2nd of C vs 1st of D). Winners of quarterfinal matches advance to semifinals (winner of #1 vs winner of #4 and winner of #2 vs winner of #3). Championship matches will be played.

All teams entering State Cup will be randomly drawn to brackets as indicated in the below sample.

Four-Bracket Pool

A	1 st	B	4 th	C	2 nd	D	3 rd
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Three-Bracket Pool

A	1 st	B	2 nd	C	3 rd	4 th
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Two-Bracket Pool

A	1 st	B	2 nd
	4 th		3 rd

Order of Play

1. All play for the first round of pools with 6 or more teams is "Round Robin" with bracket standings based on tournament points. Games may end in a tie. Tie-breakers will be used to determine advancement when needed.
2. Standings in bracket play will determine seeding for subsequent rounds. Second- and third-round play consists of quarterfinals (for fields of 12 or more teams), semifinals and championship. :

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RULES OF PLAY:

Games will be officiated using the FIFA/IFAB Laws of the Game and modified for age-appropriate play.

Duration of Play: Matches consist of two halves of the following length.

U12 = 30 minutes

U13 & U14 = 35 minutes

U15 & U16 = 40 minutes

U17, U18, & U19 = 45 minutes.

Ball Size: U13 and older will use a size 5 ball and U12 will use a size 4 ball.

All games will be played on regulation sized fields (except for the U12 division)

SCORING METHOD IN THE PRELIMINARY ROUND AND POOL PLAY:

In pool play and first-round bracket play, team standings shall be determined by accumulation of points awarded as follows:

Win (including forfeit)	3 points
Tie	1 point
Loss (including unintentional forfeit)	0 points

TIE-BREAKING RULES IN THE 1st ROUND OF BRACKET PLAY:

If necessary, the following tie-breaking rules will be used to determine the order of team advancement:

- 1.) Head-to-head results
- 2.) Winner of most games
- 3.) Cumulative goal differential between goals scored and goals allowed in all games played within the bracket. Maximum difference allowed is four (4) goals per game.
- 4.) Most goals scored.
- 5.) Least goals allowed in all games played within the bracket.
- 6.) Kicks from the penalty mark per IFAB Laws.

This tie-breaking procedure shall be used if necessary to determine 1st- and 2nd-place standing within a bracket. If more than two (2) teams are tied at the end of the preliminary round, the tie-breaker criteria listed will be used in order shown beginning at #2, to either advance or eliminate one team. The remaining teams will then be compared, beginning again with criteria #2, to determine the ultimate placement. If more than two teams are still tied after #5 is applied, the team coaches will affect a draw (*i.e.*, cards, straws, coin flip etc.) to determine the order in which the kicks from the mark will be taken.

In the event that a team unintentionally forfeits one of its 1st-round bracket games, the opposing team shall be recorded the winner with a 4-0 win.

OVERTIME PERIODS FOR ALL GAMES REQUIRING A WINNER:

Overtime periods in games that must have a winner will consist of two complete periods of 10 minutes each played at the end of regulation play. If a game is still tied at the end of prescribed overtime play, FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" rules will apply in order to determine the winner.

GRACE PERIODS:

Any team not ready to play at the scheduled start time shall be granted a fifteen (15) minute grace period. A minimum of seven (7) players and one rostered coach of that team constitute a legal team. Any team not ready to play at the expiration of the grace period shall be deemed to have intentionally forfeited the game unless the State Cup Committee determines the delay is due to circumstances beyond the team's control.

SUSPENSION GUIDELINES:

All suspensions due to this rule will be served during the tournament in which they were received in the National Championship Series (including Regionals, and Nationals). Suspensions will carry over from year to year until served. The term "game" shall include kicks from the mark taken to determine a winner at the end of overtime periods (*i.e.*, kicks taken during round robin tie-breaker procedures as discussed above). The term "coach" shall include assistant coaches and trainers. The term "team official" shall include all rostered team personnel, including trainers. Suspended team officials may not be on the team side of the field and may not coach that team while serving the suspension.

Suspended player(s) may remain on the team sideline if permitted by the game official; the player(s) must be out of team uniform or be covered. Coaches are responsible for the enforcement of suspensions. If a player or other team official 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. Coach participation is defined as coaching during the game that he/she was suspended from.. Player participation is defined as playing in the game.

If a player or team official is not listed on the official game roster and does not have a team pass card they are not allowed on the team sideline and may be ordered by a game or tournament official to leave. Failure to comply with the order may result in suspension and/or forfeiture.

Coaches, assistant coaches and rostered team officials sent off the field of play for an infringement of the “laws of the game” shall have one (1) additional game added to the “Suspension Guidelines” below that would normally be levied against a player for a similar infringement.

“Club” coaches or coaches listed on multiple rosters who are suspended will serve their suspension during the next scheduled game(s) involving the team they were coaching at the time of their suspension unless that team has no remaining games in the National Championship Series. In that case the coach will serve his/her suspension during the next scheduled games(s) for which the coach is rostered in the National Championship Series.

The State Cup Committee shall act on all disciplinary matters and shall have discretionary powers in determining disciplinary action applied to spectators, team personnel and players. Game suspensions listed below are to be regarded as minimums for the charged offenses. Depending on the findings of the Committee, penalties may be increased according to the gravity of the infringements.

When sent off the field of play and shown the red card for infringement of the “laws of the game” players shall be suspended as follows:

Serious Foul Play - All age groups: Suspend for a minimum of one (1) game.

Foul and Abusive Language - All age groups: Suspend for a minimum of one (1) game.

Second Cautionable Offense – Receiving a second yellow card after previous yellow card. All age groups: Suspend for a minimum of one (1) game.

Violent Conduct - All age groups: Suspend for a minimum of two (2) games.

Referee Abuse/Assault - All age groups: Suspend for a minimum of one (1) year with review by the Board of Directors regarding further disciplinary action.

Referee abuse/assault includes, but is not limited to, pushing in an act of aggression, kicking, spitting at, striking or attempting to strike a referee, assistant referee, or fourth official.

Any player or team official who refuses the referee’s request for their name or gives a false name, while the referee is gathering data to report on an infringement of the “laws of the game” involving them, shall have one (1) game added to the suspension that would normally be levied by the State Cup Committee.

In specific situations, the Committee may place an individual on probation, in addition to the suspension, for a period of time not to exceed the length of the suspension. The probationary period is to be served immediately following the suspension period and is intended to monitor an individual’s degree of reformation. Should an individual on probation be sent off the field of play and shown the red card during the probationary period, the original suspension and probation shall be re-applied, and no appeal will be heard.

UNFINISHED MATCHES:

If the referee stops a match due to one team’s conduct, the match is declared a unintentional forfeit, with the offending team losing the match and the winning team being awarded the maximum points for that match. If the referee stops a match due to inclement weather during (a) the first half of play, the match will be rescheduled or (b) if after the end of the first half of play, the score of the match stands.

FORFEITS:

A. In the event that a team intentionally forfeits an NMYSA-sponsored game, an amount equal to the entry fee shall be charged to the team. The affiliate member in which the forfeiting team is registered is responsible for payment of the fee to NMYSA within 30 days. Any team that intentionally forfeits a game shall be suspended from further participation in the tournament. All of the forfeiting team's games in the tournament including games already completed shall be null and void. Bracket standings shall be determined as though that team never participated in the tournament. An intentional forfeit (not an unfinished game) shall be defined as a willful act not to play in a scheduled game during a State-sponsored tournament, as determined by the State Cup Committee. The determination of the State Cup Committee is final, and not subject to dispute or recourse to the Protest and Appeals Committee.

B. Any team that intentionally abandons a State-sponsored game will be fined an amount equal to the entry fee. "Intentionally abandon" shall be defined as a willful act not to continue play of a scheduled game once it has started as determined by the State Cup Committee. The determination of the State Cup Committee is final, and not subject to dispute or recourse to the Protest and Appeals Committee.

C. The coach of the team that intentionally forfeits or intentionally abandons a State-sponsored game will be suspended by NMYSA from coaching in New Mexico from the time of the act for one calendar year.

D. In the event that a team forfeits or abandons a Championship game, preceding penalties shall apply and the opposing team shall advance.

E. Any team which withdraws by notifying the Director of Cups and Games in writing prior to the draw will not have its entry fee returned and will not be further penalized. A team seeking to withdraw from a NMYSA State-sponsored tournament after the draw shall be considered as intentionally forfeiting.

F. Any roster postmarked after the deadline for rosters for any NMYSA State-sponsored tournament will be fined \$300 and the team will have three days after the notification to submit the money with their late roster. If a team does not pay the late roster fine, they will be dropped from the tournament and shall be considered as intentionally forfeiting.

G. Any fine assessed by US Youth Soccer against an NMYSA team at any level above State Cup is the responsibility of the affiliate member whose team receives the fine. Any fine assessed against NMYSA by US Youth Soccer shall be passed on to the affiliate member of the offending team for payment.

SIDELINES:

Both teams will assume opposite ends of the same touchline. Spectators must remain on the opposite side of the field. Only coaches or trainers with a valid NMYSA pass card for the teams playing will be allowed in the team technical area. All teams must have one of their rostered coaches at the field during the entire game. If a team's only rostered coach is expelled, the team must forfeit the game but will not be deemed to have intentionally forfeited the game.

HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES:

The first team listed on the schedule is the "home team" for that match. The home team wears their light color uniform, (including light color socks). The Away team wears their dark color uniform, (including dark colored socks). If there is a conflict in uniform colors, the team causing the conflict will change uniforms.

SUBSTITUTIONS:

For U-14 and below, unlimited substitutions over three moments per half, plus halftime, shall be allowed.

For U-15 and above, unlimited substitutions over four moments per match plus halftime.

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

Concussion/Head Injury Substitution Policy:

If a player is suspected of having a concussion, they may be temporarily replaced. The temporary substitute does not count toward the team's normal substitution limits. If the player returns to the match, the temporary substitute player must come off. No substitution is charge to the team. If the player is permanently removed from the match, 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.

PROTESTS AND APPEALS:

- 1.) Protests and appeals of judgment decisions of referees will not be allowed.
- 2.) Suspension penalties applied that are within posted minimums cannot be appealed. Appeals of penalties in excess of the posted minimums must be done according to the protests and appeals procedures shown below.
- 3.) All questions relating to qualification of competitors, to interpretations of rules, to suspensions, and to disputes or protests shall be referred to the Protests and Appeals Committee whose decisions shall be final and binding.
- 4.) In order for protests to be valid and eligible for consideration, the intent to protest shall be verbally lodged with the center referee and the opposing coach at the game site immediately after the end of the game that is being protested.
- 5.) To be valid and eligible for consideration, the protest regarding the game must be submitted in writing by the rostered coach or assistant coach with a \$50.00 fee (non-refundable) to the Tournament headquarters within two (2) hours after the end of the game that is being protested.
- 6.) The State Cup Tournament Director will form a Protests and Appeals Committee of three (3) to adjudicate the protest.
- 7.) The protest hearing will be completed before either team plays their next game in the tournament.
- 8.) The State Cup Tournament Director will notify the coaches of the teams involved of the committee's findings.
- 9.) A plea of ignorance of the rules of this competition is not sufficient grounds for protest or appeal.
- 10.) All decisions of the Protest and Appeals Committee will be final.