



Oklahoma Soccer State Cup Rules

I. Tournament Sanction and Officials

The Oklahoma State Cup is a tournament sanctioned and conducted annually by the Oklahoma Soccer Association (OSA) for competition among boys and girls teams in the Under -11 through Under-19 age groups. It is a part of and a qualifying event for the US Youth Soccer Regional and National Championships sanctioned and conducted by US Youth Soccer. Oklahoma Soccer and National Championship rules apply. The State Champions in the 14 – 19 age groups qualify for Regional's and National's. The OSA State Championship is conducted under the direction of the OSA 1st Vice-president and the Tournament Committee.

Any matters not provided for in this policy shall be decided by the Tournament committee, and its decisions are final.

II. Eligibility of Teams and Players

A. Eligibility. State Cup competition is open to any competitive team that is in good standing and a member of OSA. Teams and players must be properly registered with OSA and US Youth Soccer for the current seasonal year (September 1 to August 31). Teams must compete in a OSA-sanctioned league, which would include the US Youth Soccer National League and Region III Premier League, in an age group that participates in the State Cup competition, consisting of at least four (4) teams with the team playing at least three (3) league games against different opponents during the seasonal year (except the u19 age group which does not have to meet this requirement)

B. Team Roster Size and Continuity. Teams that can have a maximum of 18 players must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the league and National Championships competitions 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 between the league and National Championships competitions by maintaining a minimum of 11 players common to the roster of both competitions. A team is limited to five (5) previously rostered players during a seasonal year.

C. Age Group Entered. A team must enter the competition in the age group corresponding to the age of its oldest player. Teams may not play up.

D. Team Rosters. Every team will have a Team Roster. A team will name its State Cup Team Roster on the date of the pre-tournament team Official's mandatory meeting. This roster will be stamped as the Official Team Roster and will be used throughout the tournament. After the roster is named,

1) Rosters are frozen, 2 weeks prior to the competition. After this period, no player changes are allowed (no "adds" or transfers).

2) A team and its players shall be considered to have competed in the State Cup competition for that seasonal year, whether or not the team or players actually play in a State Cup game.

Teams and players may compete in only one (1) State Cup competition in a seasonal year.

E. Game Cards. The referee's will bring the game cards to each game. The game card will be signed by each coach at the conclusion of the match and the referee will turn the game card in.

F. Eligibility Rule Violations. Violations of player or team eligibility rules will result in the forfeiture of any game in which an ineligible team or player has participated. Any coach or team official found to have rostered an ineligible player is, together with the team, ineligible to compete further in State Cup competition in the current and the next seasonal year. The coach is ultimately responsible for verifying player eligibility.

III. Competition Announcement, Applications, Deadlines and Withdrawals

A. Competition Announcement. The announcement of State Cup competition will be published on or about four months prior to the competition. The Competition Announcement will include an application form and other pertinent information about competition dates, age groups eligible to participate, entry fees and other requirements.

B. Application Form: The application form must be completed, in its entirety with payment, by the application due date. These documents must be in the hands of the OSA state office no later than the applicable deadline. Applications submitted without the entry fee, as well as applications received after the deadlines will not be accepted. Upon receipt by OSA, applications will be carefully reviewed and verified by the Cup Chair. If the Cup Chair does not accept an application, the coach or manager will be notified.

C. Deadlines. Unless otherwise noted in the Competition Announcement, the division of age groups will be as indicated below. The official application deadline will be posted on the tournament website.

D. Age Group Application Deadline

Competition U11, U12, U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U18, U19 Application deadline is April 15 at 4:00 p.m. Any team not registered and all fees paid in full by the deadline will be dropped from the tournament.

E. Withdrawals. Notice of intent to withdraw must be made to the Tournament Director. A team that withdraws its application after the Application deadline will forfeit its entry fee. A team that withdraws or is declared ineligible after the seeding date will be subject to the following additional penalties:

1. After the seeding deadline, The team shall forfeit its entry fee and shall be fined an additional \$200.
2. After schedules are released and at any time during the competition: The team shall forfeit its entry fee and shall be fined an additional \$500. Note that after rosters are named, a team and its players are considered to have competed in the State Cup, whether or not they actually play in a State Cup game. A team (or players) that withdraws or is declared ineligible by the State Cup Chair after rosters are named, or at any time thereafter, is ineligible to compete in any other State Cup competition during that seasonal year.

F. Forfeits A forfeit during the competition shall be considered a withdrawal and subject to the appropriate fines and penalties. Should a team in round-robin competition forfeit any match, official game scores for all of that team's games shall be recorded as 4-0 losses. A team that forfeits a match will be considered to have withdrawn from the tournament.

G. Regional and National Obligations. Teams representing OSA at the Regional and National competitions must observe all US Youth Soccer rules and guidelines for those events. This includes, but is not limited to, the requirement that all Oklahoma teams are required to house their players in the designated hotels as announced by the Cup Chair. If it is determined that a team or its players have violated these rules and guidelines, a fine of up to \$500 may be imposed by OSA and that teams club or association may not be eligible to enter teams in the next year's State Cup. Teams will be required to prepare and submit a US Youth Soccer National Championship Roster ("blue roster") and/or other paperwork in accordance with instructions to be provided by the Tournament Director.

H. Payment Obligations. Any amount owed by a team in connection with a State Cup competition is an obligation of the team's club/associations. If any amount remains unpaid after notice, OSA may place the club/association and all of its teams in bad standing, rendering them ineligible to compete in any OSA sanctioned event.

IV. Competition Format, the Draw and Seeding

A. Competition Format. Each seasonal year, OSA will conduct a round robin tournament to determine a State Cup winner in each designated State Cup age group. The U-19's have a different format and seeding procedure.

B. Advancement.

1. Winners of a round robin group will be determined on a point basis as follows:

Three (3) points for a win,
one (1) point for a tie,
zero (0) points for a loss.

There will be no overtime played during the round-robin portion of the tournament. The team earning the most points in each group will advance to the next round of the tournament. If in the first round of the championship series, the predetermined pairings result in two teams from the same bracket playing each other, the pairings will be realigned.

2. Tiebreakers

In the event teams are tied on the basis of points, the following tiebreakers will be considered in order until the tie is broken:

- a.) Winner of head-to-head competition. (This criteria is not used if more than two teams are tied.)
- b.) Most wins.
- c.) Team with greatest net goal difference (NGD) which is computed as 'goals for' minus 'goals against' with a maximum of 4 NGD per game.
- d.) Team with least goals against (there is NO limit on the number of goals that will be counted to determine this tiebreaker);
- e.) Team with most goals (maximum of 4 goals per game).
- f.) Kicks from penalty spot per FIFA law.

3. More than Two Teams Tied

a.) If more than two (2) teams are tied, the sequence will be followed until a team is eliminated. The remaining teams will then restart the sequence at 2B above, until the tie is broken.

b). If three teams are still tied after computing the listed tiebreakers and FIFA Kicks have to be taken, there will be a draw by the tournament committee. The first team drawn will receive the bye, the next team drawn will be the home team against the remaining team in the first contest of FIFA Kicks. The winner of the first contest will then compete against the bye team in FIFA Kicks to determine the winner. The bye team will be the home team.

The same tiebreakers will be used to determine wildcard teams.

4. Group winners or group winners and one wildcard, will advance to semi-final rounds as indicated in the group pairings for each Age/Sex Division of the Tournament.

5. In elimination, semi- or final-round matches, tie games will not be permitted. Overtime and kicks from the penalty mark, if necessary, will be used to determine a winner in each match.

C. Seeding. Approximately 10 days after the application deadline seedings will be posted. The order of seeding will be the following. There are special seeding procedures for the U19 age groups.

Order of Seeding:

U11-13 Age Group:

1. Standings from the Fall 1/2 and Spring 1/2 OPL Seasons, with the U11 using the standings from Spring OPL and a coaches poll.

U14-15 Age Group:

1. All defending National Champions will automatically receive the #1 seed in their new age group.
2. All teams playing in the US Youth Soccer National League (If more than one team in the NL, seeding will be determined by there standing in the National League.)
3. All teams playing in the Region III Premier League West. Seedings will be based on results from OK vs OK teams only. Not Region III Premier League West final standings

U16 – 18 Age Group:

1. All defending National Champions will automatically receive the #1 seed in their new age group.
2. All teams playing in the US Youth Soccer National League (If more than one team in the NL, seeding will be determined by there standing in the National League.)

- 3 . All teams playing in the Region III Premier League West. Seedings will be based on results from OK vs OK teams only. Not Region III Premier League West final standings.
4. Standings from the Fall OPL Season.

V. Game Sites

As a condition of acceptance into the competition, applicants must agree to play anywhere they are scheduled within the State of Oklahoma. Team officials are expected to inform their players and parents of this requirement prior to entering the competition. Game sites are assigned (and may be re-assigned) by the Tournament Director, taking into account field availability, referee availability, travel distances, weather considerations, and scheduling efficiency.

VI. Club or Association and Team Obligations

A. Team Availability. Pursuant to US Youth Soccer rules, State Cup games take precedence over all other games. Teams and their respective club/associations must arrange league schedules to avoid conflicts with State Cup game dates. State Cup game dates will be published in advance, but due to weather contingencies, these must be regarded as subject to change. Except as noted below in paragraph B, teams should plan to be available every day from the start of the competition until the final match

B. Schedule Conflicts. OSA will endeavor to avoid conflicts with National Holidays, religious observances and High School Graduations ceremonies.

VII. Game Officials

A. Three (3) officials shall be assigned for each State Cup match by the OSA State Referee Committee. The Tournament Director shall be responsible for notifying the State Referee Assignment Coordinator of requirements for officials.

B. If an assigned official fails to appear for a match, and the coaches agree to a substitute the Tournament Director and or Referee Assignor will provide a substitute official.

C. no protest will be honored regarding the use of a substitute official.

VIII. Rules of Play

Except as modified herein, the FIFA Laws of the Game with OSA modifications shall govern all State Cup play.

A. General Rules of Play

1. Teams (maximum 18 players listed on the game card) and a maximum of four (4) team officials shall be allowed on the bench (**TEAM OFFICIALS MUST WEAR BENCH PASS**) failure to do so could result in forfeit of performance bond spectators shall take

the other side of the field. The Tournament Director shall choose which side the teams will take.

2. No artificial noisemakers are permitted.

3. Both teams are to provide a match ball to be selected by the referee. **FOR FINALS ONLY**, OSA will provide the match balls.

4. Each field player shall wear a numbered jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Each player must wear a different number.

5. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are mandatory for State Cup competition (and are required in Regional and National competitions).

6. Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from other players and referees.

7. The away team shall wear **DARK COLORED JERSEYS AND SOCKS**, the home team shall wear **LIGHT COLORED JERSEYS AND SOCKS**.

8. There is no obligatory player participation rule in effect for this competition for age groups that advance to the Regional Tournament. All other age groups will play with OSA modified participation rules.

B. Pre-Game Procedures

Prior to each game, both teams must present to the referee:

A copy of their approved Roster

US Youth Soccer Player passes for each player

The referee or his/her official designee must check the US Youth Soccer Player Passes against (1) the players, (2) the approved Roster to verify each player's identity and to verify consistency of the documents. Checking passes, players and rosters may not be waived by the referee or the coaches. The referee may prohibit the participation of a player whose identity cannot be verified or whose documents are inconsistent or improper.

Each team must have in its possession at the game site, and must make available on request of the tournament committee its approved Roster, a US Youth Soccer Player Pass for each player. All teams entering State Cup are required to have their US Youth Soccer Player Passes laminated with pictures affixed and proper signatures prior to the credential check at the team official's pre-tournament meeting.

C. Grace Period. Games must start when scheduled except: A fifteen (15) minute grace period is given to each team to present its roster, US Youth Soccer player passes for inspection by the referee. In the event a team is unable to present their roster and or player pass after 15 minutes. The game will play as scheduled and the team must present the roster and or player pass by the completion of the game. Failure to comply will result in the match being forfeited with no right of appeal. The score will be recorded as a 4 – 0 loss. A fifteen (15) minute grace period is given to a team which cannot field eleven (11) players at game time. After fifteen (15) minutes, the game will start provided that the team has at least seven (7) players. If less than seven (7)

players are present at the end of the grace period, the team forfeits with no right of appeal.

D. Game Duration, Overtime, and Ball Requirements

Games shall consist of two halves of equal duration in accordance with the Age Group Specifications appearing below.

In all round robin games there will be no overtime. In the Semi-final and final games, if a game is tied at the end of regulation time, following a five (5) minute rest period, the teams shall play 2 complete overtime periods. The duration of the overtime will be in accordance with the Age Group Specifications appearing below. The teams will change ends between halves. There will be 2 minutes of rest allowed between overtime halves. If a game is tied at the end of overtime, the tie shall be resolved by a contest of penalty kicks in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Ball sizes and specifications shall be in accordance with the Age Group Specifications appearing below.

<u>AGE</u>	<u>MATCH LENGTH</u>	<u>HALF TIME</u>	<u>OVERTIME</u>	<u>BALL SIZE</u>
U11-12	30 min halves	10 min	2-10 min half's	4
U13-14	35 min halves	10 min	2-10 min half's	5
U15-16	40 min halves	10 min	2-10 min half's	5
U17-19	45 min halves	10 min	2-10 min half's	5

E. Substitutions

1. U11 – 12 (Unlimited)
 - A. Any Stoppage of play

2. U13 – 19 (Unlimited)
 - A. Prior to a throw-in by the team in possession
 - B. Prior to a goal kick by either team
 - C. After a goal by either team
 - D. After an injury by either team when the referee stops play
 - E. After a caution is issued for the cautioned player only
 - F. At half – time

F. Ejections

If a player or coach is cautioned or ejected in connection with a State Cup game, the caution or ejection is to be recorded on the Game Report by the referee. Players or coaches ejected from a State Cup game are prohibited from participation in the next

following US Youth Soccer National Championship game, whether it is the next Oklahoma State Cup match, the first match of Regional competition, or the first Oklahoma State Cup match of the following seasonal year. (State Cup suspensions are served only in connection with US Youth Soccer National Championship games and have no bearing on league play.) Ejections and cautions issued in connection with State Cup play may be referred to the OSA Discipline and Protest Committee for further disciplinary action. *Note: Since some coaches coach more than one team, game suspension(s) will apply to the team for which the coach received the ejection. If, by the time the suspension is served, the coach no longer coaches the team with which he/she received the suspension, he/she will serve the suspension at their next State Cup game, regardless of team affiliation.*

G. Cautions

Any player receiving three (3) cumulative cautions, in State Cup games only, will sit out his/her next scheduled and/or played State Cup game. Thereafter, any player receiving an additional caution in State Cup play must sit out the next scheduled and/or played State Cup game. Two cautions received in the same State Cup game by a player will count as one (1) cumulative caution for the purpose of this rule. Cautions, unlike ejections, do not accumulate to nor do they have any affect on a player's eligibility at the next level of play (Region III Championships). Cautions do not accumulate from one year to the next. However, if a player receives a third caution in his/her team's final Cup game then that player is ineligible for the next State Cup game his/her team participates in the following year.

H. Terminated Games

Games terminated due to inclement weather, darkness, or for other reasons (assuming neither team is at fault), any time after the first half of play is finished will be considered a completed match

I. Protests

A. Validity

- a) All protests relating to the ground, goal posts, bars or other appurtenances of the games shall be entertained only if a written objection has been lodged with the referee and the opposing coach prior to the start of the game.
- b) All protests must be filed with the Chair of the Tournament Committee or his/her representative within two hours of the completion of the game in protest and include:
 1. A fee in the amount of \$300. This fee may be in cash, cashier's check or money order.
 2. Personal checks will not be accepted. Checks or money orders must be made payable to Oklahoma Soccer Association.

3. Ten written copies of the protest, which must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged.
4. Ten written copies of any information to be presented by witnesses.

B. Timing

a) Game Situations

All protests must be received by the Tournament Chair or his/her or designee within two hours of the completion of the game being protested.

b) Non-game situations

All protests must be received by the Tournament Chair designee within two hours of completion of the last game in the bracket or division in question, whichever is latest.

C. Procedures

The Committee shall immediately upon the receipt of a protest notify the team against which the protest is made and shall give a copy of the protest and all particulars to that team, which will then have the right to defend its case, with or without witnesses.

A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the Oklahoma State cup is not sufficient grounds for protest. Judgment decisions of the referee are not subject to protest.

The Committee shall compile the necessary information to hear the protest, from all available sources before the protest is heard. This shall include, if possible, coaches, field marshals, referees, assessors, witnesses if necessary, etc. All materials will be treated with confidentiality.

After compiling the necessary information, the committee will meet to conduct the protest hearing. The decisions of the committee shall be binding on all parties.

The OSA Tournament committee will notify the parties of the committee's decision.

APPEALS

The decisions of the OSA Tournament Committee and the OSA Tournament Conduct and Protest Committees may be appealed to the OSA Tournament Appeals Committee. The appellant shall bear the burden of showing that the decision being appealed is clearly erroneous. No new evidence may be presented to the Appeals Committee unless circumstances have materially changed, or new facts are discovered that were unavailable at the time of the original hearing.

- a) An appeal must be filed with the Chairman of the Appeals Committee or their representative within two hours of notification of the Conduct or Protest Committees decision and include:
 - 1. A fee in the amount of \$500. This fee may be in cash, cashiers check or money order.
 - 2. Personal checks will not be accepted. Cashiers checks and money orders must be payable to Oklahoma Soccer Association.
 - 3. Ten written copies of the appeal.

- b) Ignorance
 - 1. A plea of ignorance to the rules of the competition is not sufficient grounds for appeals or protests.

- c) Judgment decisions
 - 1. Judgment decisions of the referees are not subject to appeal or protest.