



## **OKLAHOMA SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

### **STATE CUP 2024 ◀ ▶ RULES OF COMPETITION**

The Oklahoma State Cup is a tournament sanctioned and conducted annually by the Oklahoma Soccer Association (OSA) for competition among boys and girl's teams in the 11U-19U 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 13U- 19U age groups qualify for Regionals and Nationals. The OSA State Championship is conducted under the direction of the OSA Vice President-Competitive and the Tournament Committee.

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

#### **I Eligibility**

- A. The Oklahoma State Cup Tournament is open to any competitive team that is a member of Oklahoma Soccer Association and, has played in a fall and spring/or an extended season in a OSA sanctioned league and in good standing, except for those teams that fall into one of the following categories:
  1. Any team that participated in Oklahoma Presidents Cup State Tournament.
- B. Teams must demonstrate a continuity of rosters between an Oklahoma sanctioned league and the Oklahoma State Cup by maintaining a minimum of eleven (11) players common to both rosters.
  1. 11U – 12U 9v9 teams must demonstrate a continuity of rosters between an Oklahoma sanctioned league and the Oklahoma State Cup by maintaining a minimum of nine (9) players common to both rosters.
- C. Each team is limited to a maximum of five (5) previously rostered players during a seasonal year.
- D. Club passing within your own club is allowed, provided that the team the player is club passed from is eligible for the Oklahoma State Cup. Club pass players do not count as previously rostered players.
- E. A player may play for only one (1) team during any round of the tournament.
- F. A player who is rostered to a team advancing to Presidents Cup Regionals and Nationals is not eligible to play in the Oklahoma State Cup.
- G. Age groups for teams are those of US Youth Soccer for the seasonal year. Age group is determined based on the oldest player on your roster.
- H. Teams must enter the competition in the age group corresponding to the age of its oldest player. Teams may not play up.
- I. No guest players allowed.

#### **II Registration**

- A. All teams wishing to play in the Oklahoma State Cup must submit the

following to OSA:

1. A completed online application and payment of tournament entry fee for the Oklahoma State Cup.
  - a. Applications submitted without the entry fee as well as applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.
2. A tournament approved league roster. It must include jersey numbers. No duplicate numbers are allowed.
3. A \$1,000.00 performance bond (separate team check) **to be brought to check-in**. For teams advancing to further Regional/National play, performance bond checks will be held over. Failure of a team to participate in all mandatory activities during Regional/National play will result in the forfeiture of the bond.
4. Teams and parents are responsible for picking up and properly disposing of their trash or a \$100 portion of bond will be forfeited.
5. Bond checks will only be deposited in the event a team does not fulfill all of its tournament responsibilities. OSA will destroy all undeposited checks upon completion of the tournament. No checks will be returned.

### **III Withdrawals**

- A. Notice of intent to withdraw must be made to the Tournament Director or his/her designated representative.
- B. A team that withdraws its application after the Application deadline will forfeit its entry fee.
- C. A team that withdraws or that is declared ineligible after the seeding date will forfeit its entry fee.
- D. A team that withdraws or is declared ineligible after schedules are released and at any time during the competition, shall forfeit its entry fee and performance bond.
- E. After the roster freeze date, a team and its players are considered to have competed in the Oklahoma State Cup, whether or not they actually play in an Oklahoma State Cup game.
  1. A team (or players) that withdraws or is declared ineligible by the Oklahoma State Cup Tournament Committee after rosters are frozen, or at any time thereafter, is ineligible to compete in any other State Cup competition during that seasonal year.

### **IV Regional and National Obligations**

- A. Teams representing Oklahoma at the Regional and National competitions must observe all US Youth Soccer rules and guidelines for those events including, but not limited to, all Oklahoma teams are required to house their players in the designated hotels as announced by the Cup Chair.
  1. If a team or its players have violated these rules and guidelines, a fine of up to \$500 may be imposed by OSA and that team's club or association may not be eligible to enter teams in the next year's Oklahoma State Cup.
- B. Teams will be required to prepare and submit a US Youth Soccer National Championship roster and/or other paperwork in accordance with instructions to be provided by OSA.
- C. Teams that qualify for Regional play must be able to demonstrate eligibility for players requiring International Clearance.

### **V Payment Obligations**

- A. Any amount owed by a team in connection with the Oklahoma State Cup competition is an obligation of the team's club/association.
- B. 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 an OSA sanctioned event.

### **VI Seeding**

- A. Oklahoma State Cup seeding will be based on the teams fall/extended league standings in a qualifying USYS league. League priority will be National League, FCL, and OPL. All seeding of the Tournament by league standings will be final.

## **VII Scheduling**

- A. OSA will prepare all schedules for the Oklahoma State Cup.
  - 1. In the event there are an odd-number of teams in a division (with more than 5 teams entered), the Tournament Committee will evaluate the bracket and determine the best format.
    - a. Play in games might be required.
  - 2. OSA will try, but cannot guarantee, to avoid conflicts with National Holidays, religious observances, High School Graduation ceremonies, and OSSAA High School Soccer championship games. High School graduation ceremony conflicts will only be considered for the age groups in which players are graduating.
    - a. Games may be scheduled on, or rescheduled to, Memorial Day due to weather and/or scheduling conflicts due to high school graduation ceremonies or OSSAA high school soccer championship games.

## **VIII Roster Freeze Date**

- A. The Roster freeze date is the ten (5) days prior to the first day of competition.
  - 1. No player additions or transfers are allowed after this date to play in the tournament.
  - 2. The team's state tournament roster will be printed from Gotsport by OSA after the roster freeze date.
  - 3. After the roster freeze date, a team and its players are considered to have competed in the Oklahoma State Cup, whether or not they actually play in an Oklahoma State Cup game.
  - 4. Teams and players may compete in only one (1) State Cup competition in a seasonal year.

## **IX Tournament Check-in**

- A. A mandatory team check-in will be held on Thursday and/or Friday evening the night prior to commencement of tournament play or Saturday morning an hour before tournament first kick-off.
- B. The following documents/items must be available at check-in:
  - 1. Stamped USYS Player Pass for each eligible player, coach, and manager. All player information MUST EXACTLY match the information on the approved league roster.
    - a. All teams participating in the Oklahoma State Cup are required to have their US Youth Player passes laminated with pictures prior to the team check in.
  - 2. USYS medical release for each eligible player.
  - 3. Copy of original birth certificate for each eligible player.
    - a. In addition, teams should have players' birth certificates, drivers' licenses or Passports available at the tournament site in case tournament staff requests them.
  - 4. \$1,000.00 performance bond check.
  - 5. Signature of person checking team in that coach, manager, players, and players' parents are knowledgeable of and understand USYS' Concussion Policy that will be strictly adhered to during competition.
  - 6. Signature of person checking team in that coach, manager, players, and players' parents are knowledgeable of and understand USYS' policy of no non US Youth insignia/patches/logos are allowed to be on any part of a player's uniform or outerwear. Policy will be strictly adhered to during competition.
- C. Any team not making the check-in meeting on Friday or Saturday morning an hour before first kick-off will pay a \$75 check-in fee at that time.

## **X Game Sites**

- A. As a condition of acceptance into the competition, applicant 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 reassigned, by the Tournament Committee taking into consideration field availability, referee availability, travel distances, weather considerations, and scheduling efficiency.

## **XI Team Availability**

- A. Pursuant to US Youth Soccer Rules, Oklahoma State Cup games take precedence over all other games. Teams and their respective club/association 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. Teams should plan to be available every day from the state of the competition until the final match.

## **XII Referees**

- A. Oklahoma Soccer Association's state referee assignor will assign all referees for the Oklahoma State Cup. Referee fees for all games are included in the entry fee for the tournament.

## **XIII Rules of Competition**

- A. Length of Match, Overtime, and Ball Size

Age	Match Length	Extra Time	Ball Size
11U-12U	30 min halves	2 – 5 min periods	4
13U-14U	35 min halves	2 – 10 min periods	5
15U-16U	40 min halves	2 – 10 min periods	5
17U-19U	45 min halves	2 – 10 min periods	5

- B. Preliminary matches may end in a tie; extra time will only be played for Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final matches. Extra time will be played in its entirety. If matches are still tied after the extra time periods, FIFA kicks from the penalty mark will be used to determine a winner.

- C. Substitutions

1. 11U and 12U (unlimited)
  - a. Any stoppage of play.
2. U13-U14 (unlimited)
  - a. Prior to a throw-in in your favor.
  - 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. At halftime.
  - f. When the referee stops play to caution a player; only the cautioned player may be substituted prior to the restart of the game.
3. For all other age groups, a maximum of 7 substitutions for each team shall be allowed in each game during each half of play and during overtime play. After leaving the game during a half of play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game during that same half of play. After leaving the game during overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game.

- D. Determination of Winners

1. Scoring Method in Preliminary Rounds- (Bracket Play)
  - a. In preliminary round games, team standings shall be determined by accumulation of points awarded as follows:

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

- b. There will be no extra time played during the preliminary rounds portion of the tournament.
  2. Advancement
    - a. At the end of the preliminary rounds, the bracket winner shall be the team with the most points in their bracket.
    - b. If, at the end of the preliminary rounds, the predetermined pairings result in two opponents

from the same bracket scheduled to play each other in the first round of elimination play, realignment of the pairings will be made as determined by the tournament committee. Exception – Teams in 7 team brackets advance to Quarterfinals after two (2) preliminary matches. Quarterfinal pairings are determined by reseeding the two (2) through seven (7) placed finishing teams. No realignment of the pairings will be made for 7 team bracket Quarterfinals, since based on reseeding.

### 3. Tiebreakers

a. In case two or more teams accumulate an equal number of points within any bracket, the following tiebreakers will be considered in order until the tie is broken to determine the winner.

- (1) Winner of head-to-head competition. (In the event of a tie among 3 or more teams, this criterion will not be considered.)
- (2) Most wins.
- (3) Team with greatest net goal difference (NGD), which is computed as ‘goals for’ minus ‘goals against’ with a maximum of +4 NGD per game and a minimum of -4 NGD per game.
- (4) Team with the fewest goals against (there is no limit on the number of goals that will be counted to determine this tie breaker.)
- (5) Team with most goals for (maximum of 4 goals in each game.)
- (6) Kicks from penalty spot per FIFA Laws of the Game.
  - (i) The coach shall make player selection for such kicks from the team’s eligible roster independent of any other game lineup.

b. In the event a wild card team must be selected for the playoff rounds, the same tiebreakers rules will be used to determine wildcard teams.

c. If more than two (2) teams are tied, the sequence will be followed beginning at [3. a. (2)] until a team is eliminated. The remaining teams will then restart the sequence at [3. a. (2)] above, until the tie is broken.

d. 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.

- (1) The first team drawn will receive the bye.
- (2) The next team drawn will be the home team against the remaining team in the first contest of FIFA kicks.
- (3) 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.

### 4. Forfeiture Rule

- a. In the event a team in preliminary round competition forfeits any match, the official game scores for all of that team’s games will be recorded as 4-0 losses.
- b. A forfeit will be declared if a team fails to appear within 10 minutes after the scheduled game time with at least seven (7) players.
- c. A team that forfeits a match will be considered to have withdrawn from the tournament and will forfeit all applications fees and performance bonds.
- d. In no case shall a team which forfeits a game be declared a division winner or wild card team.
- e. If forfeiting or withdrawing after the roster freeze date, a team and its players are considered to have competed in the Oklahoma State Cup, whether or not they actually play in an Oklahoma State Cup game.

### E. Grace Period

1. Games must start when scheduled with the following exception:

- a. A ten (10) minute grace period is given to each team to present its US Youth Soccer player passes for inspection by the referee.
- b. In the event a team is unable to present their player passes after ten (10) minutes, the game will play as scheduled.

(1) The team must present their player passes by the completion of the game while the

players are still at the field, so the referees can check in the players.

(2) Failure to comply will result in the match being forfeited with no right of appeal.

(i) See forfeiture rules at [XIII. D. 4. a. – e.].

#### F. Eligibility Rule Violations

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

#### G. Unfinished Games

1. The Oklahoma State Cup will follow the National Championships competitions at the regional and national levels, during which, unfinished games due to any cause shall be replayed if neither team is at fault and play has not begun in the second half.
  - a. If play is stopped after completion of the first half, and cannot be resumed as determined by the Tournament Committee, and provided neither team is at fault, the Tournament Committee may deem the game complete.
  - b. Should play be stopped at any time due to one of the teams being adjudged at fault, it shall be at the discretion of the Tournament Committee as to whether the game is to be completed, replayed, stand as is, or declared a forfeit.
2. In case of inclement weather, the Tournament Committee will have the authority to change games as follows:
  - a. Relocate or reschedule any game.
  - b. Change the duration of any game.
  - c. Cancel any preliminary games.
3. Once play has begun, games may only be terminated/suspended by the Tournament Committee or his/her representative.

#### H. Ejections

1. Player Ejection:
  - a. A credentialed team representative must escort a player who is sent off from the field to the designated red card holding area.
  - b. The player's pass, together with the referee report, shall be turned over to the Tournament Committee or his/her designee by the referee.
  - c. The minimum penalty for an ejection is a one (1) game suspension to be served in the immediately following US Youth Soccer National Championship match, whether it is the next Oklahoma State Cup match, the first match of Regional competition, or the first Oklahoma State Cup match the following seasonal year.
    - (1) State Cup suspensions are served only in connection with US Youth Soccer National Championship games and have no bearing on league play.
  - d. This penalty may be increased at the determination of the Tournament Committee.
  - e. Any appeal of an increased suspension by the Tournament Committee must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Committee within two (2) hours of notification of increased suspension.
  - f. If the team of an ejected player allows the player to participate in the game he or she is to be sitting out, that team will automatically forfeit the game.
  - g. A player is allowed to serve their suspension at the game on the team bench, provided they are not in uniform.
  - h. The player's pass shall be returned to a credentialed team representative following the disciplinary period. A credentialed team official should go to tournament headquarters to obtain player pass.
2. Coach or Credentialed Team Representative:
  - a. If a coach or credentialed team official is dismissed from any game, they will be escorted by tournament officials out of sight and sound of the field and may not coach another team during

the time slot for which they were ejected. The dismissed coach or credentialed official may not be in sight or sound of the field while serving their suspension.

b. The minimum penalty for a dismissal is a one (1) game suspension to be served in the immediately following US Youth Soccer National Championship match, whether it is the next Oklahoma State Cup match, the first match of Regional competition, or the first Oklahoma State Cup match the following seasonal year for the team in which the dismissal was received.

(1) 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 Oklahoma State Cup game, regardless of team/club affiliation.

(2) If a coach is dismissed while on the team sideline as a team/club affiliate but not as the rostered coach, the coach must serve the suspension at his/her next 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 the following seasonal year match with the team he/she is rostered.

c. The penalty may be increased at the determination of the Tournament Committee. Any appeal of an increased suspension must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Committee within two (2) hours of notification of the increased suspension.

3. Any other individual(s) who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team, such as relatives and spectators, are also subject to the jurisdiction and authority of US Youth Soccer and the Oklahoma State Cup Tournament Committee.

#### I. Game Cards

1. Referees will bring the game cards to each game.
2. Referees will present the game card to both coaches following a match for their signatures.
3. The referee or one of the assistant referees is responsible for turning in the match report to the Tournament Committee.

### **XIV Team and Match Responsibilities**

A. Be at the field ready to play at the designated time.

B. Prior to each game, both teams will present US Youth Soccer Player passes for each player to the referees.

1. The referee or his/her official designee will check the US Youth Soccer Player Passes against (1) the players and (2) the approved game card to verify each player's identity and to verify consistency of the documents.

a. Checking passes with game cards may not be waived by the referee or the coaches.

b. The referee may prohibit the participation of a player whose identity cannot be verified or whose documents are inconsistent or improper.

C. First team listed is the home team. Home teams will wear light colored jerseys and socks; visiting teams will wear dark colored jerseys and socks. If both teams are in proper colors and referee requests changes, the home team is to change jersey and/or socks. If team is not wearing correct color, the team not complying will be required to change jersey and/or sock upon referee request.

1. USSF requires if undergarments are worn, the color of the sleeve should be the same main color as the sleeve of the jersey or shirt; if under shorts are worn, they should be the same main color as the shorts.

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

3. Each player shall wear a numbered jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Taped numbers or written numbers will not be allowed.

a. Each player must wear a different number.

b. All players' jerseys, including goalkeepers, must be numbered according to the roster approved at check-in.

4. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are mandatory for State Cup competition (and are required for Regional and National competitions.)
- D. At every level of the US Youth National Championship Series, a player or team official at a game site to participate in a game of competition may only have on the outer wear of the player or team official a name, logo, or other identifying mark of a youth soccer organization that is US Youth Soccer, a State Association or other member of US Youth Soccer, a member of a State Association, or an organization that is a member of a State Association.
  1. Upon 1st offense a name, logo, or other identifying mark of any other youth soccer organization must be covered before the player or team official may continue to remain at the game site for the game.
  2. After the 1st offense by a team or team official, the name, logo, or other identifying mark of any other youth soccer organization must be permanently removed or replaced before the player or team official may continue to remain at the game site for the game. No tape or temporary measures to remove or cover will be allowed.
  3. The referees will note on game card the teams, players, or coach that have been in violation of the rule.
- E. Team players and coaches will sit on the designated side of the field. All spectators will sit on the opposite side of the field.
  1. Maximum number of four (4) team personnel are allowed on team's side.
    - a. This includes coaches, assistant coaches, directors of coaching, managers, trainers, etc.
    - b. To ensure safety to our members, team personnel must have their current USYS member pass available to show to Tournament Committee or his/her representative upon request.
    - c. Failure to comply could result in the loss of a team's performance bond.
- F. Both teams are to provide a match ball to be selected by the referee.
- G. Referee's match report will constitute the official record of the match. A team representative must sign the report following the completion of each match.
- H. Please leave your team area clean or the trash bond will be forfeited.

## **XV General**

- A. Except as otherwise provided herein, the rules of US Youth Soccer and FIFA Laws of the Game shall apply.
- B. Under no circumstances whatsoever will the Tournament Committee or Oklahoma Soccer Association be responsible for any expenses (including tournament entry fee) incurred by any team. This includes a situation where the Tournament or any game is canceled in whole or part.
- C. No noise makers are allowed at the tournament. (Air horns are considered noise makers.)
- D. The Tournament Committee's interpretation of the rules shall be final.
- E. Any situation not covered by these rules shall be decided by the Tournament Committee and shall be final.

## **XVI Protests**

- A. Validity
  1. 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.
  2. All protests must be filed with the Tournament Director or his/her representative within two hours of the completion of the game in protest and include:
    - a. A fee in the amount of \$500. This fee may be in cash, cashier's check or money order.
    - b. Personal checks will not be accepted. Checks or money orders must be made payable to Oklahoma Soccer Association.
    - c. Ten written copies of the protest, which must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged.
    - d. Ten written copies of any information to be presented by witnesses.



- B. Timing
  - 1. Game Situations
    - a. All protests must be received by the Tournament Director or his/her or designee within two hours of the completion of the game being protested.
  - 2. Non Game Situations
    - a. All protests must be received by the Tournament Director within two hours of completion of the last game in the bracket or division in question, whichever is latest.
- C. Procedures
  - 1. 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.
  - 2. 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.
  - 3. 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.
  - 4. 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.
  - 5. The OSA Tournament committee will notify the parties of the committee's decision.

## **XVII Appeals**

- A. 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.
  - 1. 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:
    - a. A fee in the amount of \$500. This fee may be in cash, cashier's check or money order.
    - b. Personal checks will not be accepted. Cashier's checks and money orders must be payable to Oklahoma Soccer Association.
    - c. Ten written copies of the appeal.
  - 2. Ignorance
    - a. A plea of ignorance to the rules of the competition is not sufficient grounds for appeals or protests.
  - 3. Judgment Decisions
    - a. Judgment decisions of the referees are not subject to appeal or protest.

## **XVIII Rules Applied**

All USYSA Southern Regionals and USYSA National Championship rules shall be enforced.