

Colorado Cups 2024-2025 RULES AND PROCEDURES

Colorado Cups are open to all the teams/players playing in Colorado Soccer Association Leagues. Each cup is conducted in a tournament format to establish a state champion in the 11U-17U and 18/19U age groups for that specific cup.

FALL AGE GROUPS:

State Cup - Boys 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U and Girls 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U, 18/19U
Presidents Cup - Boys 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U and Girls 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U, 18/19U
Centennial Cup - Boys 11U, 12U and Girls 11U, 12U, 15U, 16U, 17U, 18/19U
Fall 15U Boys CUP (for secondary league teams only)

SPRING AGE GROUPS:

State Cup - Boys 15U, 16U, 17U, 18/19U
Presidents Cup - Boys 15U, 16U, 17U, 18/19U
Centennial Cup - Boys 13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U, 18/19U and Girls 13U, 14U
Spring 15U Girls CUP (for secondary league teams only)

State, Regional, and National Championship competitions shall take precedence over all other games. Cup games rescheduling is allowed for teams participating in the USYS Desert Conference ONLY.

Rosters freeze no later than 4 calendar days prior to the first scheduled cup game.

Players are only eligible to participate in State Cup or Presidents Cup or Centennial Cup in a seasonal year.

PLAYERS: The 11U and 12U teams may have up to 18 players on their roster (16 players may suit up for each game only).

PLAYERS: The 13U-17U and 18/19U teams may have up to 22 players on their roster (18 players may suit up for each game only).

COACHES/STAFF: 4 are allowed in the technical area, as long as they are on the photo roster or provide a laminated 2024-25 season coaching pass.

CREDENTIALS: Photo rosters and game cards will be used for each game printed by CSA.

UNIFORMS: Home team shall wear dark jerseys with unique/permanent number and visiting team shall wear light colored jerseys with a unique/permanent number. In case of conflict, the home team needs to change. All players MUST wear the same style/color uniform otherwise will not be allowed to play.

FORMAT: Brackets of 1/2/3/4/6/8/10/12/14/16. Play-in games will be played if necessary to bring the brackets down to the nearest even number except for 3 team brackets.

1 team – team automatic champion

2 teams – 2 games with highest point champion

3 teams – 2 games each team. The top 2 teams play in the championship.

4 teams – 3 games each team. The top 2 teams play in the championship.

5 teams – 4 games each team. Top team is the champion.

6 teams – 2 groups of 3 teams. 2 games in each group and 1 crossover game. The top team from each group plays in the championship.

8 teams – 2 groups of 4 teams. 3 games in each group. Top team from each group play in championship.

10 teams – 1 group of 4 teams (play 3 games). 2 groups of 3 teams (2 games in each group and 1 crossover game). Semifinals: 1st of A vs wildcard (best 2nd place team), 1st of B vs 1st of C UNLESS wildcard is from A then 1st of A vs 1st of C and 1st of B vs wild card. Followed by a championship.

12 teams – 3 groups of 4 teams (play 3 games in each group). Semifinals: 1st of A vs wildcard (best 2nd place team), 1st of B vs 1st of C UNLESS wildcard is from A then 1st of A vs 1st of C and 1st of B vs wildcard. Followed by a championship.

14 teams – 2 groups of 4 teams (play 3 games in each group) and 2 groups of 3 teams (2 games in each group and 1 crossover game). Semifinals: 1st of A vs 1st of D and 1st of B vs 1st of C. Followed by a championship.

16 teams – 4 groups of 4 teams (play 3 games in each group). Semifinals: 1st of A vs 1st of D and 1st of B vs 1st of C. Followed by a championship.

SEEDING OF FLIGHTS: National champion, national runner up, regional champion, regional runner up, state champion, state runner up then latest league standing.

The 11U age groups will be seeded by conducting a draw (P1, P2 and so on).

If a team played in an older age group in league play, their seeding would come after the seeds listed above.

Playoff Structure: The first round of playoffs will be reseeded should it contain a matchup that was played in pool play.

Wildcards: If your flight structure has a wildcard, the team with the next highest points will occupy the wildcard slot. Teams will be reseeded during the first round of play-off/knockout to avoid rematches between teams that have already played in preliminary rounds.

SCORING: Win=3 points, Draw=1 point, Loss=0 point. Forfeit=3 points (3-0 score).

Deduction in case of dismissal from technical area = possible 1 point (depends on circumstances)

Deduction in case of dismissal of spectator/s = possible 1 point (depends on circumstances)

TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES: Should there be a tie at the completion of a round that determines advancement, the tie will be broken by the following order of criteria:

1. Head-to-Head results (Note: If more than 2 teams are tied, the sequence will be followed beginning with the second tiebreaker until a team is either advanced or eliminated. The remaining teams will then be compared, beginning with the second tiebreaker to determine final placement).
2. Cumulative goal differential between goals scored and goals allowed.
3. Least goals allowed.
4. Penalty Kicks per IFAB Laws of the Game (Note: if 2 teams are tied on all tiebreakers and the 2 teams in question are playing each other the final pool play game, the game will go straight to penalty kicks. No overtime periods will be played).

Late withdrawals: Teams who are accepted to the competition and then withdraw prior to their first scheduled game will forfeit their entry fee.

NO SHOWS/FORFEITS: Any Cup team failing to appear for a single scheduled Cup game without the prior approval of CSA will be assessed a forfeit, and CSA shall review the circumstances of the no show for possible disciplinary review and/or a fine of \$2,000.00.

KICK OFF AND WAITING TIME: Kick off will be at the time shown on the tournament schedule. A 15-minute grace period will be allowed from the scheduled kick off time. If a team is not ready to play at the end of the grace period, the game is a FORFEIT.

SPECTATORS: Both teams shall be located on the same side of the field. Spectators of both teams shall occupy the opposite side of the field from their respective teams and coaches. Teams and spectators will not occupy a common side of adjacent fields.

Video cameras such as the Veo must be placed on the spectators' side with the beet or base no closer than 4 yards to the touchline.

Drones, horns, whistles, large megaphones, or artificial noise makers are prohibited.

DURATION OF THE GAME:

11-12U 60 minutes (half-time 5 minutes) (overtime ONLY at FINALS 2x10 minutes)

13-14U 70 minutes (half-time 5 minutes) (overtime ONLY at FINALS 2x10 minutes)

15-16U 80 minutes (half-time 5 minutes) (overtime ONLY at FINALS 2x15 minutes)

17-19U 90 minutes (half-time 5 minutes) (overtime ONLY at FINALS 2x15 minutes)

SUBSTITUTION: On any stoppage with the permission of the referee. On and off the field from between the technical areas ONLY.

I. PROTEST AND APPEALS:

- a. To be valid and eligible for consideration, protests shall be lodged verbally with the referee and the opposing coach at the game site immediately after the end of the game, except protests relating to the grounds, goal posts, bars, and their appurtenances of the game must be in writing and submitted to the Referee and opposing coach prior to the start of the game.
- b. All protests must be made in writing within two hours after the end of the game in which the protest incident occurred, accompanied by a non-refundable \$200.00 (cash) protest fee to the CSA Cup Committee or the Cup Committee's designated representative.
- c. The judgment decision of a game official cannot be protested, only the misapplication of the Laws of the Game.
- d. If these conditions are not met in full, the protest will not be considered.
- e. Upon receiving a properly filed protest, the CSA Cup Committee or designate will determine the time and location of the protest hearing and shall designate the members of the ad hoc protest committee. This committee will meet in a closed meeting to make a ruling on the protest. A hearing will be held immediately upon receiving filed protest and protest fee if it requires immediate action. Otherwise, a decision will be rendered within 48 hours.
- f. A plea of ignorance of the rules and regulations of the Cup competitions is not sufficient grounds for a protest or appeal. Violators may expect appropriate action by CSA.
- g. In Cup competitions at the State Association level, decisions made on protests and appeals by the CSA ad hoc protest committee and appeal authority are binding and allow the competition to proceed.
- h. Video evidence will not be considered.

II. UNFINISHED GAMES:

- a. Any game that is stopped for any cause except team fault will either be restarted at the time of stoppage on same day or rescheduled and played from the time of stoppage.

III. PLAYER/COACH/SPECTATOR MISCONDUCT

- a. Penalties received by players/coaches in Cup Competition, be it red or yellow cards, will be served only within the context of Cup play, and will not carry over into League or Tournament play. If applicable, penalties will be served in Regional/National competition or carried over to the players/coaches next Cup enrollment regardless of their team affiliation. If the coach is participating in different Cups, the penalty will be applied to the event in which it occurred.
- b. If a bench personnel (coach, assistant coach, DOC, trainer, ...) is dismissed from a particular game, he/she needs to sit out at least that particular team's next game and also is not allowed to participate in other club's games in any capacity in Cup until the sit out is served.

- c. If a game is abandoned due to coach/spectator/player, the team for which the coach/spectator/player is with shall forfeit the game and the other team awarded points based on the score or a 3-0 victory whichever is greater.
- d. If a player/coach/spectator is sent off/dismissed for misconduct, the referee will submit the game report to the Cup Committee or designated alternate. The player/coach/spectator shall be subjected to penalties described below and shall be ineligible until he or she is reinstated by Cup administration.

IV. CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

- a. If a player is evaluated by medical trainers present at the field and is found to exhibit concussion-like symptoms, Colorado Cup will adhere to the USYS Concussion Procedures and Protocol.
- b. The player will be evaluated by on-site medical trainers and if a suspected head injury is determined, a report will be given to a CSA Cup designated staff member. The player and parents will receive information documents from the medical trainer and will need to be evaluated and cleared by a medical profession before participating in any further League or Cup matches. Once the clearance paperwork is sent to the CSA office, CSA will notify the club so the player can resume participation in League and Cup games.

V. AWARDS

- a. CSA provides awards for teams finishing as Champions and Runners-Up. Both teams in the final should plan to stay at least one hour after the final whistle for an awards presentation. Each rostered player and coach will receive a medal for their placement in Colorado Cup. The coach of each team in the final will provide one Cup Finals Most Valuable Player's (MVP) name to a tournament staff member and each will receive an award during the award presentation. (The 15U Champions and runners-up will receive a trophy/plaque only).

MATTERS NOT COVERED:

Any matter not addressed in these rules or the US Youth Soccer National Championship Cup Rules, will be decided by CSA. Decisions on such matters specific to Cup Rules will be final and binding.

If a party has reasons to appeal a decision made by CSA other than what is covered within these rules, an appeal may be filed with the CSA Board of Directors which must follow the Appeal process as described within CSA Rules and Procedures.

STATE CUP

All level CSA league teams can participate. The 11U winners are only Colorado Champions.

The 12U winners will represent Colorado at Far West Presidents Cup in June at location TBA.

The 13U-17U and 18/19U winners will represent Colorado at Far West Regionals in June at location TBA. The winners of Regionals will represent Far West Region and Colorado at the USYS National Championship in July at location TBA.

PRESIDENTS CUP

All level CSA league teams can participate except Premier 1 teams/players.

The 11U winners are only Colorado Champions.

The 12U winners are only Colorado Champions.

The 13U-17U and 18/19U winners will represent Colorado at Far West Presidents Cup in June at location TBA.

The winners of Regionals will represent Far West Region and Colorado at the USYS National Presidents Cup Championship in July at location TBA.

CENTENNIAL CUP

All level CSA league teams can participate except Premier teams/players.

The 11U-17U and 18/19U winners are only Colorado Champions.

FALL/SPRING 15U Boys/Girls CUP (for secondary teams)

The winners are only Colorado Champions.

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