

US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
ARIZONA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2005
Rules of Competition

1. JURISDICTION

The entire Arizona Youth Soccer Association (AYSA) competition shall be under the jurisdiction of the Arizona State Championship Tournament Committee as authorized by the AYSA Board of Directors. The Board of Directors reserves the right to any final decision with regard to any and all games played in this competition.

2. COMPETITIONS

- A. Competition shall be open to all AYSA Tier 1 teams registered with the appropriate AYSA/US Soccer division in specific age groups. Separate competitions will be held in both male & female: U11, U12, U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U18, U19 age groups. Winners in each age group, with the exception of U11, will be eligible to represent the Arizona Youth Soccer Association in the Far West Regional competition of the US Youth Soccer National Championships.
- B. The Far West Region includes the state associations of: Alaska, Arizona, California, California-South, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

3. TEAM ELIGIBILITY (USYSA Rule 221)

- A. This competition shall be open to all teams comprised of properly registered youth players in all age groups defined in 2A above, provided such team entering is in good standing with the AYSA. A team must enter in the state competition in which at least fifty percent of its players are registered. With the exception of the U19 age group, a team must compete in at least a four-team sanctioned league during the current seasonal year within the AYSA. The team must be in compliance with and have not violated any of the rules of the US Soccer, US Youth Soccer or AYSA.
- B. The competition is not open to select teams which are defined as the official select (all-star) team of the USSF or any of its regions, affiliated National State Associations or any district or geographical sub-division thereof, or any league.
- C. Organizations wishing to put any team in bad standing must do so at least 45 days prior to the start of the Arizona State Championship competition to afford the team the time to appeal in accordance with US Soccer Rules.
- D. Each team, as part of the entry fee, is required to post a cash bond. This bond will be reimbursed to the team if the team supplies the necessary number of volunteers/hours as required by the AYSA State Championship Tournament Committee. If the team does not supply volunteers, the bond will be used to hire individuals to administer the tournament competition.

4. TEAM FORMATION

- A. Players must be registered with the appropriate age group for the current seasonal year, in accordance with USYSA Rule 221.2. At the time a team names its AZ State Championship roster, it may not have more than FIVE (5) player transfers. The number of transfer, releases and adds is unlimited during the season provided the roster does not exceed eighteen (18) players. The deadline for transfers, releases and adds shall be ten (10) days prior to the first advertised Cup game in that age group (League time limits may be different). Teams must enter competition in the age group in which they are registered with AYSA.
- B. A player may move from a tier 2 or tier 3 team to a tier 1 team without the move being considered a transfer.
- C. The team must demonstrate continuity of rosters (Rule 221.1) between the League and State Championships by maintaining a minimum of nine (9) players common to the rosters of both competitions.
- D. A team may not release, voluntarily or involuntarily, any player from its roster unless a written request, stating the reason why the release has been requested, has been made to and approved by, the State Association on a form provided.
- E. A player may play for only one team in any US Youth Soccer National Championship/Arizona State Championship competition within a single playing season (USYSA Rule 224, Section 2).

5. CREDENTIALS

- A. Player/Coach Pass, issued by the AYSA, must have a recent photograph, which can easily identify the player/coach, to be signed by the player/coach in the appropriate manner and be correctly laminated.

- B. ***Each team is required to have a credentialed Coach/Administrator on the sideline of all games (US Youth Soccer Rule 241, sections 1, 2 & 4).*** Each team is allowed up to four (4) "Sideline Passes" for the coach, assistant coach, trainer or team manager. Persons in the coaching area, other than players, will be required to wear and display the Sideline Pass and be listed on the official team roster. Failure to have a credential person with the team will result in the team forfeiting the game.
- C. **PROOF OF AGE (AYSA, Bylaw 802, Section 2)**
1. Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate (photocopies will be accepted), a Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (DD Form 1173) issued by the uniformed services of the United States, or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, board of health record, passport, alien registration card issued by the United States Government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age or a certification of an American citizen born abroad by the appropriate government agency. **Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.**

NOTE: Proof of age documents, in a foreign language, **must** have an English translation attached to the original document. The US Youth Soccer Region IV form must be used for this purpose. It can be downloaded on the website. Translations may be provided by anyone recognized as an official translator. No parent or other family member can translate for any member of their son's/daughter's team unless they are certified and/or accredited to teach the specific language, i.e. high school teacher, professor of languages at a university or college, court translator, or anyone recognized as an official translator by a governing body. All translations will be dated and include signature, address, and telephone number of the translator.
 2. If a player has had a name change or was adopted, the player will need to present an original legal affidavit (Court Order) showing such a change. Affidavits showing that a player is going by another name (not legally changed) will **not** be accepted.
 3. FOREIGN BORN PLAYERS: (International Clearance, Waiver. Rule 207).
 - a. Players that have entered the US after the age 12, up until the age of 16, need to complete the Waiver Form (on the AYSA website) and submit the form along with a \$10 check made payable to US Soccer. Under certain circumstances, a player may be able to participate immediately. Under other circumstances, the player may not participate until an authorization has been received from the Federation or a period of 30 days has elapsed. Coaches should keep copies of "proof of residency" (such as school report card or medical records) with birth documents.
 - b. Players that have enter the US after age 17 must have an international clearance and may not participate until that clearance has been received from the Federation. Players must complete the International Clearance Form (on the AYSA website) and fax it directly to the Federation. There is no charge for this document. If a response has not been received after a 30 day period, a provisional certificate will be issued so that the player may participate.
 4. Teams that win the Arizona State Championship or teams, which are selected to be a "wildcard" participant in the Far West Regional competition, will be **required** to produce the **original** of the "Proof of Age" documentation (to be kept by the Regional Credentials Committee until Regional checkin has been completed). Verification will be done by appointment only with the AYSA Regional Credentials Committee. Regional Roster Forms and new Player passes and Coach passes (4 will be issued) will need to be signed by each player/coach participating with the team during Regional competition. New pictures will be needed. This will be done during the verification process.
- D. Medical Form: Because of the various governing rules of hospitals and emergency trauma centers, all Medical Authorization documents must be **notarized**.
- E. Coaches/Managers are reminded that it is their responsibility to adhere to the State and League deadlines that are established for their rosters to freeze. **Under no circumstances will transfers/drops/new registrations be accepted after the freeze date.**
- F. If requested by either the AZ State Championship Tournament Committee or the Tournament Credentials Committee, teams will have 48 hours to produce the original proof-of-age documents to the State Office.

6. COMPETITION FORMAT

- A. All games will be governed by FIFA Laws of the Game, US Youth Soccer National Championship Rules & AYSA Rules & Regulations.

- B. All age group brackets will be double elimination. Team positioning and opponents in the bracket will be decided by a “blind” draw, except as indicated in Item 6.C below. Initial schedules will be completed within three weeks of the draw. Teams are reminded that this Tournament is to be statewide and competition could be anywhere within the State of Arizona. After the draw is completed, teams that withdraw or are found ineligible will result in a “bye” game for their opponent. Brackets will not be redrawn. Forfeiture of Tournament fees and Club fines will be assessed.
- C. The AYSA Board of Directors has decided to seed the top four finishers from the previous years competition for those age groups that advance to the Far West Regional Tournament (U12-U19) and have 4 or more teams. The criteria for determining if a team is to be considered for seeding is (1), at least fifty per cent (50%) of the teams players return from the previous years State Cup team roster and (2), the team is in good standing with the Club, League and State Association at the time of the “draw”. Seeding is only used to determine where the teams are positioned for the “draw” and at no time will be used to determine where a game might be scheduled.
- D. Arizona State Championship Game Report and Referee Misconduct Report forms, supplied by AYSA, shall be presented to the Referee Administrator and will be used for all Cup matches. At the conclusion of the match, the game report forms will be submitted to the Tournament Committee by the referee or Referee Administrator.
- E. The teams listed first (top of bracket) on the AYSA issued Schedule of Games shall be the Home Team in all cases and will provide a game ball, unless one is furnished by the Tournament Committee, and shall change jerseys in case of a color conflict. Coaches shall determine the color of their playing jersey prior to bringing their team to Tournament Headquarters for check in.
- F. All games are to be played as scheduled by the Tournament Committee. A complete schedule of playing dates will be mailed to all participants and posted to the AYSA website. Since it is impossible to anticipate conflicts that might occur with a particular teams schedule, it is the coach’s responsibility to notify the Tournament Committee of possible conflicts. This should be done as early as possible to avoid unnecessary last minute changes. A revised scheduled will be posted to the website on Tuesday morning. **It is the manager/coach’s responsibility to verify their game time from the most current version of the schedule.** (AOL users are reminded that they need to empty their “cache files” periodically to avoid old files popping up) After Tuesday morning, if there is an open time slot and the opposing coach agrees, the Tournament Committee reserves the right to change a schedule without notifying the other teams in the age group. The AYSA Board of Directors has the right and has directed the Tournament Committee to consider where the Home Team (Top of the bracket) resides and to change the schedule of tournament games at any time, however, due to scheduling constraints of referees, the field venue will not be changed from Friday to Saturday or Saturday to Sunday should a team at the top of the bracket come from a location other than where the game is schedule. The Tournament Committee may schedule makeup games necessitated by inclement weather or re-entry games due to a Protest Committee decision on consecutive days (weekends) or between scheduled dates (weekdays). Adjustments to the schedule may have to be made during competition when the Tournament Committee feels it is in the “best interest” of the Tournament.
- G. Teams are required to check in at Tournament Headquarters at least 30 minutes prior to the match. The coach/manager (person holding a Pass for the team) is required to be with their team during check in. The Game Report form should be completed prior to bringing the team to check in at Tournament Headquarters. The Game Report should be neatly printed with all player’s names (both first & last) and jersey numbers clearly visible. Self-sticking labels will not be allowed unless they are the same size as the Game Report form (to be furnished to the coach/manager during check-in). The Team Name & Coach’s name will also appear on the Game Report. Coaches must present the team player passes (see item H following) to the Field Marshall at Headquarters. Passes will be kept by the Field Marshall (except as indicated in H.1. below) and be presented to the referee along with the Game Report. After the game, the coach of the Home team will insure that their sideline area is clean. The coach of the Visiting team will insure that the opposite side of the field is clean. Coaches, after insuring the cleanup has been accomplished, will pick up his/her player passes at the Tournament Headquarters.
- H. Coach/Player passes will be on a ring that is capable of being separated easily. Only the passes of players that are participating in the game and are present should be on the ring. Passes of players that are arriving late at the game site should not be given to the Field Marshal. When the player arrives he/she must bring the player pass to Tournament Headquarters when they are ready for check in. If the passes have been given to the referee or the match has started, the player must present his/her pass to the Referee/Assistant Referee prior to entering the game. Coaches are responsible to insure that he/she gets back all of the passes after completion of the match.
- I. The appearance of players is a vital extension of the game. All players including the goalkeeper must be dressed to play at the time of check-in. Players’ uniforms (including jerseys, shorts and socks) should be identical. Stockings/socks should be correctly worn in the pulled-up position covering the shin guards completely. Teams will not allowed to wear one color sock on one leg and another color sock on the other. Jerseys shall be neatly tucked into the shorts. Cyclist pants, tights, etc. may be worn under the players shorts only if they are the same color as the shorts and do not extend beyond the bottom of the shorts. **Under no circumstances will any player be allowed to wear jewelry of any kind.** Hair control devises that are made of metal, plastic or other hard material will not be allowed.

- J. In ALL games, both teams' bench areas will be on the same side of the field. Coaching from the sidelines will be permitted as long as the guidelines are followed. Coaching is defined as "giving direction to one's own team on points of strategy and position." Continuous and/or non-stop direction will not be permitted. Coaches must remain within the "coaching area" defined as 15 yards on the teams side of the halfway or midfield line. Coaches should remind spectators that there is no coaching from the opposite side of the field.

Spectators are encouraged to sit on the opposite side of the field from the teams, however, they may sit wherever they wish, so long as they do not interfere with the game or become unruly. Spectators may not sit in the team area (should remain at least 30 yards from the half line) or directly behind the goals in the area designated as the penalty box area. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to restrict where spectators may sit depending on the field situation. Spectators are not permitted in bleachers directly behind the team area (if the fields have bleachers). Coaches and their Clubs will be responsible for the conduct of their fans and players. Foul/Abusive language will not be tolerated.

- K. Duration of games shall be as follows:

Age Group	Game Time	Overtime
U17, U18, U19	2 X 45 = 90 min	2 X 15 = 30 min
U15, U16	2 X 40 = 80 min	2 X 15 = 30 min
U13, U14	2 X 35 = 70 min	2 X 10 = 20 min
U11, U12	2 X 30 = 60 min	2 X 10 = 20 min

The "Golden Goal" rule shall apply during the overtime period. If still tied:
Penalty Kicks.

- L. Substitutions shall be unlimited and made with the permission of the referee.
- M. After the match has ended, the State Championship Committee ask that, as a mutual courtesy, both teams congratulate each other for a game well played. This is not mandatory.
- N. If a team withdraws in writing, from the Cup competition, after the draw is held and prior to their first game, the entry fee is forfeited and their Club will be fined \$100. If a team forfeits a game, the entry fee is forfeited and a penalty fee of \$300.00 will be assessed to that team's club *and the team is removed from further competition.* A team may forfeit if they are not ready to play, within 15 minutes of the scheduled game time, with 7 players. Team forfeitures will be referred to the AYSA Discipline Committee to determine if there should be further sanctions against the team.

7. DISCIPLINE, PROTEST AND APPEALS

A. COMMITTEES

1. The AZ State Championship Tournament Director shall appoint the Senior Field Marshall as Chairman of the Tournament Discipline Committee at each game site. The Chairman shall convene a Committee that shall be made up of at least three individuals that are not connected with the club, team or age group of the team that the discipline hearing is about.
2. The Protest/Appeals Committee shall be Chaired by the AYSA Vice President or his/her designate. The Committee shall be made up of at least three (3) persons, appointed by the Chairman, that are not connected with the Club, team or age group of the team that the protesting or appeal hearing is about.

B. DISCIPLINE (RED CARDS/YELLOW CARDS)

1. **Players that are "ejected" from a match are required to leave the team bench area.** It is suggested that the assistant coach/trainer escort the ejected player to the other side of the field and leave the player with a responsible person in the spectator area. If the player becomes unruly, it is the referee's responsibility to note the behavior on the match report and the Discipline Committee will be advised so that the appropriate punishment will be given.

If a coach is "ejected" from the match, he/she is required to leave the vicinity of the field. The Coach will be given 3 minutes to leave the field area. Coaches may not go to the other side of the field (spectator area). He/she must leave the vicinity of the field to the satisfaction of the referee.

The coach and/or player receiving an ejection from a match may file his observations, in writing, concerning the ejection. This writing must be factual and not emotional.

2. All ejections, that are upheld, will carry a minimum suspension of 1 game. Send Offs for Violent Conduct will carry a minimum suspension of 2 games. *Any coach, assistant coach, trainer or manager being ejected for Violent Conduct or Offensive, insulting or abusive language will receive the minimum suspension listed plus one (1) game.* A suspension will be served in the next game(s) to be played by the team. Forfeitures/bye games are not considered sit out games. Suspensions not completed during the current State Championship Tournament/Far West Regional/National Tournament will be served the following year during State Championship competition.
3. Players that are suspended may NOT sit with the team during games while serving the suspension.
4. Any team whose coach/players receive three Red Cards throughout this competition shall be immediately placed on probationary status. Upon receipt of a fourth (4th) Red Card, that is upheld, that team shall be eliminated from this competition.
5. A player or team official who receives a total of three (3) yellow cards in 3 separate games during the Tournament will not be allowed to participate in the team's next State Cup match. Any additional yellow cards will be referred to the Tournament Discipline Committee and could result in an additional game suspension. Suspensions resulting from three (3) yellow cards infractions may carry over into Regional play as decided by the Tournament Committee.
6. Coaches are responsible for enforcement of suspensions. If a player or coach 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 and could be removed from the Tournament. This incident will be forwarded to the AYSA Protest/Appeals Committee for appropriate action, suspensions and penalties.
7. Players that are involved in a fight will be suspended from the State Championship Tournament immediately. If entire teams or portions of teams are involved in a fight, a determination will be made as to the guilty team. If it is found that one or both teams are at fault, the guilty team(s) shall be removed from the Arizona State Championships competition.
8. Players/Coaches that come off of the sideline or out of the team area and enter the field to join an altercation shall immediately be removed from the Arizona State Championship competition and not allowed to participate further until the incident is reviewed by the Tournament Discipline Committee. Any suspension/removal shall carryover into the Regional & National competitions.

C. PROTESTS

1. Only protests of misapplication of the Laws of the Game will be considered. **PROTESTS OF JUDGEMENT CALLS BY THE REFEREE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!** Hearings of the Protest & Appeals Committee will be closed hearings. (See AYSA Bylaw 712, Section 2, for the definition and requirement of this type of hearing).
2. In order for a protest to be valid, the referee must be notified that the game is under protest prior to leaving the field of play. The referee will record the fact that the game is under "protest" on the game report and inform the field marshal. An opposing team official (person wearing sideline credential) should also be notified.
3. Procedures will be in accordance with AYSA rules. Protests must be in writing, with the required \$150.00 cash (this fee is NON-refundable), and delivered to the Tournament Headquarters/State Office within 48 hours of the end of the game being protested. The Protest & Appeals Committee will meet in closed session within a reasonable time after the receipt of the protest. If a video of the protested incident is provided, it will be the sole discretion of the Committee whether the video is viewed or not. The Tournament Committee reserved the right to adjust the schedule when the formal Protest is received.
4. A game upon which Protest is upheld will be replayed at the earliest possible date. The date, time and location of the match will be determined by the Tournament Committee.

D. APPEALS

1. Appeals of the Tournament Discipline Committee decisions must be in writing and filed with the Tournament Headquarters/Field Marshal/Tournament Committee/AYSA State Office (normal business hours only) within 48 hours of written notification of the decision. The Protest & Appeals Committee will meet in closed session within a reasonable time to decide on the appeal.

- E. Per US Soccer Rule, the AYSA Protest & Appeals Committee is the final appellate step in the appeals process concerning the results of all decisions rendered during the course of the State Championship competition. Regional and National Appeals Committees will NOT accept appeals related to State competition.

- F. In instances where the AYSA Rules and Regulations and the US Youth Soccer National Championship Rules (2004/2005) differ, the US Youth Soccer National Championship Rules will prevail.

8. RIGHT TO CHANGE

The AYSA Board of Directors reserves the right to change any rule during the competition and such changes will take effect five (5) days after written notification has been mailed to all teams entered/remaining in this competition.

9. AWARDS

- A. Each player/coach entered in this competition shall receive a participation award.
- B. A team Plaque/Trophy shall be awarded to the Championship, Runner up & Third Place teams. Individual awards shall be given to each player/coach (20 maximum) whose team finishes 1st, 2nd or 3rd in each age group within the competition.