NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE CUP YOUTH SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP (NHSCYSC)

RULES AND REGULATIONS MANUAL

**2015**

New Hampshire State Cup Youth Soccer Championship (NHSCYSC)event is the most important team competition conducted by the New Hampshire Soccer Association (NHSA). As such, this competition requires that each affiliated league, club and team support the Championship as their first priority.

The US Youth Soccer administrative rulebook prescribes the requirements of the Championship competition. The Region I Championship Rules and Regulations supplement the US Youth Soccer Rule Book and establish the procedures to be followed in Region I. These NHSCYSC Rules and Regulations supplement all of the above and establish the procedures to be followed in New Hampshire.

NHSCYSC committee will vote on an affiliated organization to host the NHSCYSC event within state boundaries. Any affiliated organization wishing to host the NHSCYSC event must adhere to the procedures outlined in the NHSCYSC bid package. Should no affiliated organization make such a bid, NHSCYSC committee will host the NHSCYSC event at a location and time determined by NHSCYSC committee.

**A.** **TEAM ENTRY**

1. Any NHSA affiliated team may enter the appropriate age group in the NHSCYSC event. All teams must complete and submit the appropriate NHSCYSC entry form. The Vice-President Youth Competitive and/or the NHSA state office must receive all entry forms electronically no later than January 15, 2015.
2. The NHSCYSC administration fee of $650.00 / 750.00 payable to NHSA shall be submitted with the NHSCYSC Entry Form.
3. Copies of team documentation listed below must be submitted **NO LATER THAN April 15th, 2015**, for all age levels.
4. **COMPLETED BLUE ROSTER FORM and an electronic copy as well. (in the .doc file for the blue roster)(no signatures required at this time.**
5. ALL LEAGUE ROSTERS for EACH TEAM including any changes since your initial team roster was submitted to the league.
6. ALL PLAYER CHANGE OF STATUS FORMS. **This means ALL double rostered and transferred players.**
7. FRONT AND BACK PHOTO COPIES OF THE NHSA COACHING PASSES FOR ALL TEAM COACHES
8. FRONT AND B`ACK PHOTO COPIES OF ALL THE PLAYER PASSES.

All players and teams participating in the NHSCYSC event must be registered with a league, with a minimum of four teams, within the boundaries of New Hampshire. Or an NHSA approved league.

If a team is not registered with an approved league at the time

of NHSCYSC entry form submission, a letter will need to be

written to the NHSCYSC committee detailing the plans for formal

team Registration or a club registration fee of $275.00 be sent

to the state office.

Teams affiliated with the New Hampshire Soccer Association must be comprised of 1/2 New Hampshire residents.

If the proper team documentation is not submitted by **April 15th,**

**2015**, the team representative will be notified. The team

application will be frozen until the proper Documentation is

received. **A 250.00 fine will be accessed if paperwork**

**requirements are not satisfied with in 5 days from the time of**

**notification.**

**B. ROSTERS:**

1. All teams participating in the event will submit the NHSCYSC state roster on an approved **and properly formatted,** NHSA electronic program. **Incorrectly formatted forms will be returned to be corrected by the** **team or club.**
2. Each team will provide the NHSCYSC registrar the "US Youth Soccer Roster". NHSCYSC registrars will review the "US Youth Soccer Roster" for accuracy. Upon completion of review the NHSCYSC registrar will approve the team for play. A copy of the league approved roster must be submitted with the “US Youth Soccer Blue Roster". The assigned registrar/referee for any NHSCYSC match shall accept only rosters or copies of rosters approved by NHSCYSC registrars.
3. All teams participating in the NHSCYSC event shall adhere to the following criteria:

The US Youth Soccer Roster shall be prepared in final form. **Note: WITH OUT players’ signatures.**

1. All players shall be listed alphabetically, last name first.
2. Player Names and Signatures shall match exactly the name and signature on Player Pass.
3. Player Pass numbers shall be unique for each player.
4. Primary and alternate jersey numbers shall be listed properly.
5. League or NHSA approved US Youth Soccer Player passes shall be filled out and **all shall be laminated**. Player Passes and **ROSTERS** must match exactly or the players shall not be permitted to participate in the NHSCYSC match. Non-laminated Player passes shall preclude that player from participating in this event.

**C. Fines and Penalties:**

1. All teams participating in the "NHSCYSC" event do so with the understanding that they are committed through July 1, 2015.

1. All teams participating in the NHSCYSC event will be required to have a representative at any and all mandatory coaches meeting. Failure by any team to have proper representation at the coaches meeting will be subject to disqualification from the event and loss of administration fees.
2. All teams participating in the NHSCYSC event are expected to play and complete all scheduled matches. If a team is not willing to finish a match for any reason (except injury) they will be subject to a fine of not more than $1,000.00.
3. A participating team may withdraw from the NHSCYSC without penalty by February 28, 2015; however, the administrative fee shall not be refunded. Any team that withdraws from the NHSCYSC event after the February 28, 2015, deadline shall be subject to a fine of not more than $1,000.00 per scheduled match.
4. Any unreasonable forfeit, as determined by the NHSCYSC committee, shall subject the team to a fine of not more than $1000.00.
5. All teams that are classified as either **"STATE CUP"** or **"Wild Card"** winners shall advance and represent the State of New Hampshire in competition at the Region I Youth Soccer Championship. Failure of any team to properly represent the State of New Hampshire in any activity or to fulfill their obligation in the Region I Championship will be subject to a fine up to $1000.00 per scheduled match.
6. Failure of a team to participate in the mandatory Region I parade of champions and complete festivities will be fined $500.00.
7. Any team, which wins the NHSCYSC tournament and then fails to, or refuses to, represent New Hampshire at the Region 1 Tournament, the team shall be fined $1000 and both the team and coach will be suspended for one year.
8. Failure to pay fines will cause the participating team and coach to be placed in **"BAD STANDING"** with the New Hampshire Soccer Association for up to two years. Teams and coaches in "Bad Standing'' shall not be permitted to participate in any NHSA competition. In addition the "Home Club" of said team is ultimately responsible for the fines or sanctions handed down by NHSA. Failure of a team, coach or club to fulfill the punishment will result in the "Home Club" to be placed in **"BAD STANDING"** and subject to sanction for up to two years.

**D. SCHEDULING MATCHES AND ASSIGNING REFEREES:**

1. The NHSCYSC committee shall schedule all matches. All matches will be played at NHSCYSC committee approved fields located throughout New Hampshire. The NHSCYSC committee shall resolve any conflicts concerning the scheduling of matches. No protest or appeal may be raised concerning the scheduling and all decisions will be final.
2. The NHSCYSC match scheduled for 2015 will be issued no later than March 15th, 2015. The schedule is not final unless approved by the NHSCYSC Chairperson.
3. The State Youth Referee Administrator (SYRA) shall assign all referees, assistant referees and assessors to all matches. A Pretournament clinic for all referees expected to participate in the NHSCYSC event will be conducted by the SYRA. Failure to participate in this clinic may result in a referee being excluded from officiating in any event match. The SYRA may exempt referees from attending the clinic based on grade or experience. Assignment of officials to a specific match is not subject to protest or appeal.

**E. Registration, Rosters, and Passes**

1. Each team shall have a copy of their official NHSCYSC Blue Roster present at the match site. No NHSCYSC match will be played without an approved roster from each team. Failure to produce the proper documentation will result in the forfeit of the match.
2. All teams shall have their laminated USYSA Player Passes available at the match sight. Players without such laminated pass or with laminated passes that do not match the approved roster are ineligible to participate in the match.
3. **Any coach, assistant coach, or any other team official must ­have a NHSA approved coaches pass to participate on the team side of the pitch during the match. NO DRIVER’S LICENSE can be used as a coach’s pass. No team shall participate in a match without either a coach or assistant coach present on the team side of the pitch.**
4. A team's roster shall be frozen on April 18th, 2015. No changes will be allowed after this date. Under no circumstances will this date be later than April 18th, 2015. This means that no eligible player may be added to the roster after the roster has been frozen.
5. **For teams playing in the Region 1 Premier League, only, rosters will be frozen when these teams play their first game. All other teams will have their roster frozen based on the NHSA State Cup deadline.**
6. Each team is allowed no more than five (5) transfers
7. Teams U12 8v8, the roster may only carry up to 14 players. For U13 and older teams, the roster may carry up to 22 youth players on the team roster at any given time during the seasonal year**. Only eighteen may dress for any given game.**
8. **Players may appear on only one “Roster” form**. A league dual rostered player must play for his/her primary team.

**F.** **International walk-on:**

1. All final event matches shall begin with an International walk-on.
2. All team members will participate in the walk-on.

**G.** **Team Officials Meeting:**

1. A Team Official from each team participating in the NHSCYSC competition shall attend the mandatory coaches meeting. A Team Official may be any individual designated to represent a specific team and may represent more than one team. Team Officials will be required to sign an attendance sheet and in turn receive the official team package. All material necessary for the team to participate in the NHSCYSC event shall be made available at this time. Each participating team assumes the responsibility to obtain and review this material. No protest or appeal shall be accepted or approved based in whole or in part on the premise that the team or teams were not aware of a specific rule or procedure.

 **H. COMPETITION FORMAT**

* 1. This competition shall be a round robin format, to determine the two teams who will be required to play in the state cup final. In cases where the number of teams entered in one division is more than 5, it may become necessary to divide the teams into 2 divisions. If this is necessary then the top two teams from each division will play in a semi-final round, where the 1st place team in division 1 will play the 2nd place team in division 2 and the 1st place team in division 2 will play the 2nd place team in division 1, to determine the two teams that will advance to the finals.

* 1. Except for the final matches, the home team shall furnish the game ball. The game ball must meet the US Youth Soccer requirements. The referee has responsibility to measure the game ball prior to the match and ensure it meets requirements. Once the match begins, protests cannot be lodged because of an illegal ball.
1. Teams not ready for play at the scheduled start time of any match shall be granted a ten-minute grace period. A minimum of seven players constitutes a team ready for play. Any team not ready to play after this ten-minute grace period has expired shall forfeit the match.
2. The home team shall be the team listed first. The visiting team shall have the choice of jersey colors. If in the opinion of the referee there is a color conflict, the home team shall change jerseys.
	* 1. Team and team officials (maximum of four coaches/managers) will be allowed on the sideline. Parents and spectators will be on the opposite sideline. Team official identification passes will only be issued to those who are represented and approved by the NHSCYSC committee. Coaches will remain in the designated coach's box. Spectators will not be allowed on the team side of the pitch. Spectators will be the responsibility of the team’s head coach. Game Officials may stop the match until such time as spectators comply with the rules. Team Officials must possess an approved pass to be on the team sideline. NHSCYSC officials shall be permitted on the team sideline.
		2. The assigned referee shall complete the NHSCYSC Referee Report form for all matches. The referee is responsible for completion of the form and for its submission to the event registrar. Each coach has the responsibility and right to verify the score with the referee at the conclusion of the match. The referee shall not be responsible to ensure that coaches verify the score. The Referee Report form shall constitute the official record of the match.
		3. Each player shall wear an official uniform with a six‑inch minimum size number on the back of the jersey. The goalie jersey shall be optional. Duplicate numbers are not permitted. Numbers on jerseys must be permanently fixed to jersey. Taped numbers will not be allowed.

Both teams must have at the match site alternate jerseys with a six-inch minimum size number permanently attached on the back. In addition each team must have alternate socks (light and dark sock).

* + 1. The NHSCYSC representative shall receive the team roster, player passes and the coaches’ passes before each match. The roster will remain in the possession of the NHSCYSC representative for the duration of the match. Coaches are required to wear in clear site the NHSCYSC event credentials issued by the registrar. Any person on the team side without event credentials will be requested to leave. Coaches are responsible and could cause a forfeit for not abiding by the rule. Each coach is responsible for obtaining the passes at match conclusion and verifying the score with the referee’s.
		2. Length of matches, Overtime Periods, Ball requirements:
1. U-17, U-18, U-19 two 45 min. halves, two 15 min. halves and #5 balls.
2. U15, U-16 two 40 min. halves, two 15 min. halves and #5 balls.
3. U-13, U-14 two 35 min. halves, two 10 min. halves and #5 balls.
4. U-12 two 30 min. halves, two 10 min. halves and #4 balls.
5. U-12 SS two 30 min. halves, two 10 min. halves and #4 balls.
6. To determine which of the two teams in, a semi or final match only, a drawn match after overtime periods shall be declared a winner; only the taking of kicks from the penalty mark shall make the winner. Should weather, darkness or any other reason preclude the continuation of the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, the kicks will be suspended until such time as the teams may resume. If the teams are unable to agree on a rescheduled date, time and place, or, if the Cup Chairperson believes the rescheduled date would impact play (i.e., timing of subsequent matches requiring participation by the winner of the match), the Cup Chairperson shall designate the date, time and place. This method of determination shall not be subject to a protest or appeal.
	* 1. If the field complex provides viewing from the goal line, then the spectators must be at least 10 yards from the pitch. All efforts will be made to avoid spectators from viewing the match from directly behind the goal.
		2. An unfinished match due to any cause shall be replayed providing neither team is at fault nor play has not begun in the second half. If play is stopped during the second ha1f and play cannot resume and provided neither team is at fault, the game may be deemed complete. Should play be stopped at any time without possibility of resumption due to one of the teams being adjudged at fault, the match shall be declared a forfeit by the team adjudged at fault. This committee shall make all decisions under this paragraph. Only the committee can decide if this game can be resumed or replayed.
		3. After a team has been determined the winner, the match is over and will not be replayed under any circumstances.

**I.** **EJECTION'S:**

**1. Player Ejection's:**

1. If a player is ejected from any match, the player's pass, team roster and referee's report of the incident shall be submitted to the field registrar. **Ejected player will report to the headquarters tent for the duration of said game he was ejected from.**
2. b. The minimum penalty for an ejection is that a player shall not be permitted to play in the next immediate match of a player's team. This penalty may be increased at the discretion of the NHSCYSC Chairperson.
3. c. The SYRA will be notified of the player's ineligibility. The SYRA shall in turn notify the assigned referee for the respective team's next match.
4. d. If the team of an ejected player allows the ejected player to participate in the next immediate match, that team shall forfeit the match. The coach will be subject to sanctions by NHSA and the teams respective league officials
5. e. The NHSCYSC committee shall forward all ejected player passes to the team's respective league officials.
6. The Region I committee shall notify the SYRA of any player ejected from the last match of the 2014 Eastern Regional competition. The player will serve this one match suspension in their first match in the following year's state level competition.
	1. **Coach Ejection's:**
7. a. If a coach is ejected from any match, the coach's pass, team roster and a copy of the referee's report of the incident shall be submitted to the NHSCYSC Chairperson. Coach will either leave said facility or report to the headquarters tent for duration of game.
8. b. **The minimum penalty for an ejection is that the coach shall not be permitted to participate in the next immediate match or, if that team has been eliminated from further NHSCYSC competition, the next immediate match of the ejected coach even if it involves a different team.** The penalty may be increased at the discretion of the NHSCYSC Chairperson.
9. c. The NHSCYSC Chairperson shall notify the SYRA of the coach's ineligibility who shall in turn notify the assigned referee for the coach's next immediate match.
10. d. If the ejected coach participates in any manner in the next immediate match, that team shall forfeit that match. The coach shall be subject to sanctions by the NHSA.
11. e. The NHSCYSC Chairperson shall forward all ejected coach passes and referee reports to the NHSA President.
12. f. Due to the elimination of team or teams from NHSCYSC competition, and either an ejected player or coach does not serve the minimum penalty. The ejected player or coach may be required to serve the penalty in the next scheduled NHSA competition. The NHSA Vice President of Competitive and President of said teams’ respective league will make this decision.

**J. Rules OF PLAY**

1. Except as otherwise provided herein, the rules of US Youth Soccer and the FIFA laws shall apply.
2. Substitutions shall be unlimited for the Under 14 age groups.

1. For all other age groups(U15 and above), 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 the same half of play. After leaving the game during overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game.
2. Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage of play.
3. Team and team officials (maximum of 4 coaches/managers) will be allowed on the sideline. Parents and spectators will be on the opposite sideline. Team official identification passes will only be issued to those who are listed on the roster, represented and approved by the NHSCYSC committee. Coaches will remain in the designated coach's box.

**K. SCORING AND TIE BREAKERS FOR ROUND ROBIN**

 Scoring Method: The standings of teams within brackets are based upon the number of points earned in qualifying games. Teams earn points as follows:

 1. Three points for a win (including forfeits**\***)

1. One point for a tie
2. No points for a loss.
3. **\***Forfeits are considered a 4-0 victory.

Tie Breakers: In the event teams are tied on the basis of points earned, the teams’ placement will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria.

a. Winner of head to head competition (these criteria not used

 if more than two teams tied.)

b. Winner of most games

c. Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a

 maximum of four goals per game.

d. Fewest goals allowed

e. Kicks from the penalty mark (as described in the National

 Championships Rule 242 Sections 2(c)).

NOTE: If more than two teams are tied, the sequence will be followed until a team is eliminated. The remaining teams will then restart the sequence at Point “b” above until the tie is broken.

If FIFA penalty kicks have to be taken there will be a draw by the Championships 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 penalty kicks. The winner of the first contest will then compete against the bye team in penalty kicks to determine the round robin winner. The bye team will be the home team. This is only if there are more than two teams tied after going through the Tie Breakers.

**L.** **PROTESTS**

1. The protest must be communicated to the referee and opposing coach prior to leaving the game site.
2. The protest must be filed with the NHSCYSC Chairperson within two hours of completion of the match with the following:
3. Fee in the amount of $250.00. This fee may be in cash, cashier’s check, money order or a personal check. All check and money orders must be made payable to NHSA.
4. The protest must be submitted in writing with a minimum of five (5) copies and must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged.
5. Protests relating to grounds, goal posts, bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained if the referee has approved them. **Judgment decisions of the referee are not subject to protest.**
6. The NHSCYSC Chairperson in conjunction with NHSCYSC committee and NHSA Officials shall resolve all protests and the decision rendered by the NHSCYSC Chairperson shall be final. Decisions concerning the NHSCYSC competition protests shall not be subject to review or appeal by or to NHSA.
7. The NHSCYSC committee shall immediately upon receipt of a protest notify the team against which the protest is made and shall give a copy of the submitted protest and all particulars to that team, which will then have the right to defend its case.
8. Parents or lawyers shall not represent a team at the hearing of protest unless they are listed on the team's roster as a coach, assistant coach or team manager.
9. A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the NHSCYSC is not sufficient grounds of protest.

**M. Team Medals**

 **Teams (both boys and girls) ending the tournament as the champions or finalists will receive NHSA STATE CUP medallions in all age divisions.**

**N.** **Fair Play Award**

1. A Fair Play Plaque will be awarded to a team for each age group/division.
2. Objectives of the NHSCYSC Fair Play Award are:
3. Respect for self and others through fair play.
4. Elimination of any and all unsportsmanlike conduct.
5. Promotion of safety and development of skills.
6. Appreciation of opponents.
7. Respect for officials who ensure fair and safe play
8. All teams participating in the NHSCYSC will be rated on each game by the referees. The game officials in the following categories will award points for:
9. Cooperation of Players.
10. Cooperation of Coaches.
11. Overall Game Conduct.

**O. ALL OTHER MATTERS**

1. Spectator’s and parents need to note that, **NO DOGS WILL BE ALLOWED ON**

**ANY PART OF THE field, either loose or on a leash. Please leave all dogs home. All field locations will be a “SMOKE FREE ZONE”. NO Grills or Grilling (BBQ’S) permitted**

1. The NHSCYSC Chairperson reserves the right of interpretation and application for any matter addressed herein or to set policy for any and all matters of the NHSCYSC competition not specifically addressed herein.
2. Any and all decisions of the NHSCYSC Chairperson or Committee are final not subject to protest or appeal.

**P. U12 SMALL SIDED COMPETITION RULES**

 Region I has introduced the U12 Small Sided Competition at the Regional Level to support the development of the small sided game. The Region I U12 Small Sided Competition is a separate competition from the U12 Full Sided Competition, just as the U13 Competition is a separate competition from the U14 Competition. Thus the competition rules that prohibit a player from playing in two competitions apply here also.

 The U12 Small Sided Competition will be conducted under the existing Region I National Championship rules with the following amplifications:

1. U12 Small Sided Region I competition is played with

 seven (7) field players and a goalkeeper for each team.

 It is strongly recommended by US Youth Soccer.

 This field is 75 (+/-) 5 yards in length and 50 (+/-) 5

 yards wide. See the US Youth Soccer website for a

 complete definition.[http://usyouthsoccer.org/doc\_lib/US

 Youth Soccer Official Under 12 Playing recommendations.pdf.

 Goal size should be 6 x 18 or 6 ½ x 18 ½, but 7 x 21 is

 acceptable.

 2. All U12 Small Sided teams should play in a small sided

 league competition in a State Association approved

 league. State Associations that enter a state champion

 into the Regional Small sided competition are encouraged

 to assure that these small sided leagues are developed.

 A qualifying league must consist of a minimum of one

 time.

 3. There must be a U12 Small Sided state level

 competition to determine the State Association U12 Small

 Sided champion and entry into the Region U12 Small Sided

 Competition.

1. A U12 team is either U12 Small Sided team and will compete in the U12 Small Sided state cup and Region I competition or the team is a U12 Full Sided team and will compete in the U12 Full Sided state cup and Region I competition. However, a team cannot play in both the U12 Small Sided and U12 Full Sided competitions.
2. A player can play either in U12 Small Sided state cup competition or U12 Full Sided state cup competition but cannot play in both state cup competitions.
3. A U12 Small Sided team may have a maximum of 14 players on its roster at any one time and is subject to the five (5) player previously rostered player rule (transfer rule).
4. Each U12 Small Sided team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the league and cup by maintaining a minimum of 7 players common to the rosters of both competitions.