

# West Virginia Soccer Association General Cup - Competition Rules

**APPLICATION / REGISTRATION:** (please check the WWSA Administrative Manual for the criteria of team-make up for the competition you are entering)

1. Teams submitting a properly completed application form or online entry, with the proper fees attached and being received with the proper postmark, will be bracketed. Cup fees and entry deadlines will be posted on the WWSA website.
  - a) WWSA KOHL'S AMERICAN CUP
  - b) WWSA OPEN CUP
  - c) WWSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
  
2. ROUND ROBIN GAMES-Teams will be considered registered prior to their first cup game when they present a state stamped roster and valid pass card for all players and coaches to the representative at the game site. Medical releases will also be checked at this time.

**IDENTIFICATION:**

1. TEAM: A state stamped roster issued to the team by the V.P. of Youth is required. The roster must be stamped for the competition in which it is entered. A roster may have both stamps (Cup and Travel) but a roster stamped only for "TRAVEL" is not acceptable. **WWSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS cup teams should check with the state office to ensure eligibility.**
2. PERSONNEL: All players must have a valid pass card. All coaches, managers, and/or trainers must have a valid pass card. Only four (4) coaches, managers and/or trainers will be permitted on the bench area of the touchline.
3. Guest Players: No guest players are allowed in any of the WWSA Cups.
4. Players: A player can only be rostered on one team in any WWSA Cup. If a player has been rostered with more than one team, contact the WWSA State Office for advice on proper procedures.

**LENGTH OF THE GAMES:** (WWSA KOHL'S AMERICAN CUP, WWSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS and WWSA OPEN CUP)

Age	Game Length	Overtimes	Ball Size
U10	2-25min.half	2-8min half	#4
U11	2-30 min half	2-8 min half	#4
U12	2-30min half	2-10 min half	#4
U13	2-35min half	2-10 min half	#5
U14	2-35min half	2-10 min half	#5
U15	2-40min half	2-15 min half	#5
U16	2-40min half	2-15 min half	#5
U17+	2-45min half	2-15 min half	#5

1. For the WWSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS , all half time intervals will be 10 minutes, except overtime half will be 2 minutes.

2. During ROUND ROBIN completion, tie scores at the end of regulation will stand- *No Overtime*.
3. In SEMIFINAL AND CHAMPIONSHIP competition, overtime periods will be played. If, at the end of the overtime, the score is still a tie, the game results will be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty spot. Due to weather or lack of available light, the Cup Chairman may determine the need to eliminate the overtime period and go straight to the taking of kicks.
4. If a game has started and is then suspended due to weather or other conditions (i.e. light), the game will be rescheduled and replayed in its entirety if possible. However, if a game is suspended during the second half of play, the Cup Committee may determine the game complete and the score will stand as is at the stoppage of play. Teams must understand the physical limitations of field availability, hours in a day and in a weekend.
5. WWSA OPEN CUP games maybe played in a shortened format. Round Robin game lengths will be determined by the number of games to be played. NO team will play more than the equivalent of two regulation games in a day. Semifinal and Championship games will be regulation length for the appropriate age bracket and overtime and determining the results of a game will be the same as listed above.

#### **HOME TEAM DESIGNATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. The team listed first in each pairing is the home team.
2. The home team furnishes the game ball unless it is provided by WWSA.
3. The home team shall change jerseys if, in the opinion of the referee, there is a conflict.

#### **UNIFORMS:**

1. Each player must wear on official uniform with a number of the back of the shirt. *This includes goalkeepers! WWSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS Cup must have a six-inch minimum size number on the back of the shirt.*
2. Duplicate numbers are not permitted.
3. Teams must bring an alternate jersey.
4. Shin guards are mandatory.
5. No hats or other headgear may be worn with the following exceptions\*
  1. Soft billed caps for goalkeepers per FIFA.
  2. Religious headgear per USSF.
  3. Soft caps (no bills) or headbands in cold weather.
  4. US Soccer and FIFA approved soft headbands.
  4. Headgear for medical reasons under the following conditions
    - a. Soft, closed cell material.
    - b. US Soccer specific release sign by parents
    - c. Doctors permission to play soccer
    - d. Approval by WWSA in advance.
  5. Any exception is with the approval of the referee.
6. NO hard cast or braces with exposed metal parts may be worn. (Youth Only)

Exception for travel players u12 and older, while playing on a travel team, and all teams in the WWSA Open Cup, with a doctors release to play soccer.

- a. Hard casts must be padded and approved by the referee prior to the match.
  - b. Braces must be worn as intended by the manufacturer and approved by the referee prior to the match.
  - c. In a and b approval shall be by a referee that is 18 years old or older
7. No team shall wear the logo, insignia, or other identifying mark of a non-US Youth Soccer organization on their uniforms during the WWSA State Championships. A manufacturer's mark or sponsor's name is exempted. Teams wearing such items shall either remove the mark, change uniforms to comply with the rule, or forfeit each match of the competition.

\*Inclement weather often poses problems. Sweatshirts or long sleeves may be worn under the jersey (a jersey number must be visible). It is advised that the extra shirt match or coordinates with the uniform and does not conflict with the other team. The referee may determine if hats are allowable for extenuating circumstances (i.e. rain, snow or cold, extreme sunlight). The headgear must be deemed to be safe for the player and other players. Sweat pants or tights should follow the same guidelines as for sweatshirts or long sleeve shirts.

#### **RULES OF PLAY:**

1. Except as otherwise provided herein, the rules of USYSA and the **FIFA Laws of the Game** shall apply.
2. For the WWSA State Championship substitutions may be made with the consent of the referee at any stoppage of play. For U12 through U14, substitutions are unlimited. For U15 through U19, substitutions are limited as follows; 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.
3. For the WWSA Open and Kohl's cup, substitution rules will be announced before the competition begins.
4. Players wishing to enter the game should be at the half line prior to the substitution opportunity.
5. Player must follow the referee's guidelines concerning when he/she may enter the field. However, substitutions should not hinder the flow of the game.
6. U12 specific rule for WWSA State Championships: Conform to FIFA and not to US Youth Soccer small-sided rules – we will not award direct free kicks if the goalkeeper punts or drop-kicks the ball in the air from his /her penalty area into the opponent's penalty area.

#### **GRACE PERIODS:**

1. Teams not ready to play at the scheduled start time of any match shall be granted a ten-minute grace period. Seven players will constitute a team for U13 and above and U11/12 Competitive teams and the game will proceed. FOR U12 Recreational, six players will constitute a team. For U10 games, four players will constitute a team.
2. Any team not ready to play after the grace period has expired shall be reported to the Cup Committee by the referee.
3. It is the responsibility of the team to learn of any schedule changes- either time or field assignments.
4. Teams should allow sufficient time to arrive and register promptly. It is the team's responsibility to know about traffic patterns, problems or detours.

#### **FORFEITS:**

1. If a team forfeits a preliminary game in the WWSA KOHL'S American Cup, the team's league or club shall be fined \$100.00 per game.
2. If a team forfeits a preliminary round game in the WWSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS, or the WWSA OPEN CUP, the team shall be fined \$100.00. The fine must be paid prior to the start of their next game.
3. Points will be awarded accordingly for forfeited games:
  - A. The NON-FORFEITING team shall be awarded:
    1. 3 points for a win
    2. Goal differential by the winner of a forfeited game shall be equal to the average goal differential for game(s) in the same bracket against the team that forfeits.
    3. Zero goals against the winner of forfeited game
  - B. The FORFEITING team shall be awarded:
    1. Zero points for the loss
    2. Zero goals for the loss
    3. 4 goals against
4. If a referee terminates a game for reasons other than weather or field conditions, the WWSA Cup Committee will decide the result of the game.
5. Teams forfeiting quarter final or semifinal games shall be fined \$200. Teams forfeiting championship games will be fined \$500.

#### **EJECTIONS:**

1. If a player is sent off from any game, the player's pass card together with the referee's report of the incident shall be turned over to the cup committee by the referee.
  - A. The minimum penalty for a player sent off is not participating in the next match of the competition. The cup committee may increase this penalty if they deem the offense to merit a stronger disciplinary action.
  - B. It is the cup committee's responsibility to inform the referee administrator and the coach of the next opponent of the suspension.
  - C. Teams allowing a suspended player to participate will automatically forfeit the game.
  - D. Upon completion of the suspension, the player pass card may be picked up from the cup committee.
2. If a coach is sent off from any game, the coach's pass will be turned in along with the referee's report of the incident to the cup committee.
  - A. The minimum penalty for a send off is a one-game suspension. However, the penalty may be increased if the cup committee deems the offense merits such action.
  - B. It is the responsibility of the cup committee to inform the referee administrator and coach of the next opponent that the coach is under suspension.
  - C. Coach's pass may be picked up from the cup committee upon completion of the suspension.
  - D. A suspended coach that is present at the game may cause the team to forfeit.
3. A second ejection of a player or a coach in the competition will result in the player or coach being suspended for the rest of the tournament.
4. *Players or coaches who are sent off during the Championship Games of WWSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS Cup will serve a one-game suspension during the first game of regional competition if they advance. Players or coaches who do not advance and were sent off during their last WWSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP game will serve the suspension in the first WWSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS Cup game the following year.*

5. Penalties beyond the minimum may be appealed by following the appeal process of WWSA (check Chapter 4 of the WWSA Administrative Manual).

**PROTESTS:**

1. All questions relating to the qualifications of the competitors or interpretations of the rules, or any dispute or protest, shall be referred to the cup committee or its representative.
2. The cup committee or its representative shall compile the necessary information to hear the protest from all available sources before the protest is heard.
  - A. This shall include, if possible, both coaches, field marshals, referees, assessors and available witnesses if necessary. All materials will be treated with confidentiality.
  - B. Both coaches or their designated representatives should be available or reachable until the protest is decided.
  - C. The cup committee or its representative will notify both coaches of the committee's decision.
  - D. Decisions made by the cup committee concerning protests are not appealable. The decisions are final. Play will continue following the decision.
3. To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest:
  - A. Must be verbally lodged with the referee and with the opposing coach and field marshal at the game site before entering the field of play or leaving the game site (except noted in D).
  - B. Must be filed with the cup committee or its representative:
    1. Fee in the amount of \$100 - this fee may be in cash, cashier's check, money order or personal check. All checks and money orders must be made payable to WWSA.
    2. All protests must be submitted in writing with a minimum of three copies and must **include** full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged.
    3. Any information to be presented by witnesses must be in writing.
  - C. All protests must be received by the cup committee or its representative within two hours of the completion of the game being protested.
  - D. Any protests relating to the field, goal posts, bars or other appurtenances of the game shall be entertained only if written objection has been lodged with the referee and the opposing coach prior to the start of the game.
  - E. A plea of ignorance of the rules and regulations of the competition is not sufficient grounds for protests or defense.
  - F. JUDGMENT DECISIONS OF THE REFEREE ARE NOT GROUNDS FOR A PROTEST
  - G. Protest forms are available from the cup committee or its representative.

**POINT SYSTEM - WORLD CUP FORMAT:**

1. Round Robin Game Points - 3 points for a win  
1 points for a tie  
0 points for a loss

**DETERMINATION OF STANDINGS WITHIN A GROUP:**

1. The total round robin points a team accumulated in the round robin shall determine its standings within its group.

**RESOLVING TIES WITHIN A GROUP:**

1. At the end round robin competition the following steps will determine the standings where teams are tied with the same number of points.
  - A. Winner of head to head competition
  - B. Goals scored difference (maximum 4 goals per game)  
Example 15-0=4-0(+4)  
8-1=5-1(+4)  
2-4=2-4(-2)
  - C. Least goals allowed
  - D. FIFA kicks from the penalty spot immediately following round robin games.
2. If a three-way tie exists - THIRD PLACE will be determined by the criteria listed above, except that 1.A. (head to head) will not be used. Once third place is established, second and first place will be determined by going through the criteria again, as it compares the remaining two teams.

**ADVANCING TO SEMIFINAL AND FINAL COMPETITION:**

Each WVSA Tournament schedule will indicate which teams will advance. The WVSA KOHL'S AMERICAN CUP and the WVSA State Championship are the only current WVSA Tournament that requires more than one weekend. Teams advancing to the second weekend of play will be posted on the WVSA Website with the schedule.

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

1. Many leagues/clubs enter teams in competitions. In doing so, they agree to play to the rules and guidelines of the competition in addition to the laws of the game.
2. Each league/club/team official should understand what is expected of them to preserve the good name of their organization. It is suggested that, to avoid any misunderstandings, a copy of rules and guidelines are in the possession of the coach and league officials at all cup competitions.
3. Teams, coaches and respective staff (with valid pass cards) shall occupy the same side of the field.
4. Spectators will observe spectator lines marked on the field. If there are no lines, spectators will remain five feet back from the touchline. No spectators will be allowed behind goal lines.
5. The COACH is ultimately responsible for the conduct of himself/herself, support staff, players and spectators/supporters.
6. The coach or his/her designee must sign the referees score card. By doing so, he agrees to the referee's score on the card. He should check the card carefully before signing.

**TOBACCO USE:**

1. WVSA discourages the use of tobacco products at youth events. Please refrain from its use while on touchlines or around the facilities where youth are present.
2. Tobacco use is prohibited on all school properties. Competitions held on these properties will respect this regulation.

#### **ALCOHOL AND/OR ILLEGAL DRUGS:**

1. WWSA prohibits the use of or being under the influence of alcohol and/or illegal drugs at its competitions.
2. Persons suspected of alcohol or illegal drugs, regardless of where the alcohol was consumed or the drug was used, will be removed from the area of competition.
3. Penalty for violation of this rule will be suspension from all WWSA activities for not less than one year.

#### **SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS:**

##### Objectives:

1. Promote respect for self and others through fair play
2. Encourage respect for officials who ensure fair play and safe play.
3. Promote an appreciation of opponents, without whom there would be no game
4. Encourage safety and development of skills.
5. Provide an atmosphere for the elimination of violence

##### Ratings:

All teams participating in the WWSA Kohl's American Cup and the WWSA Open Cup will be rated on each game by the referees. The criteria for awarding points are cooperation of players, cooperation of coaches, and overall game conduct. All teams will be rated during preliminary games and the cup committee will meet at the end of the preliminary games to select the winning teams for boys and girls in each age group. Winners will be announced at the awards ceremony at the conclusion of the competition. The cup committee's decision is final.

Complete rules of the competition and team eligibility are contained in the WWSA Administrative Manual. All questions concerning the competitions should be directed to the state office and/or the VP of Programs or the Cup Chairman.

**WEST VIRGINIA SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
P.O. BOX 3360 - BECKLEY, WV 25801  
Phone (304)252-9872 • 1-800-894-9872 • (304) 252-9878 FAX  
E-MAIL: [office@wvsoccer.net](mailto:office@wvsoccer.net) • Website: [www.wvsoccer.net](http://www.wvsoccer.net)