



Illinois Youth Soccer Cup Policy

In all matters provided or not provided in this policy, the decision of the Cup Director, Cup Committee and Illinois Youth Soccer (“IYSA”) shall be final and binding. The Cup Director, Cup Committee and IYSA have the authority to modify to deal with all breaches of this policy.

1. Team Eligibility

- a. The Illinois State Cup & Illinois Presidents Cup tournaments shall be open to any Team whose players are registered with Illinois Youth Soccer through one of the following member competitive leagues:
 - i. Central Illinois Youth Soccer League (CIYSL)
 - ii. Illinois Women’s Soccer League (IWSL)
 - iii. Illowa
 - iv. St Louis Youth Soccer Association – IL (SLYSA-IL)
 - v. Young Sportsmen’s Soccer League (YSSL)
- b. The Team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered Youth Players (as defined by IYSA & US Youth Soccer).
- c. The Team must be in good standing with the IYSA, its IYSA member league and must be in compliance with, and has not violated, any of the bylaws and policies of IYSA or USYS.
- d. The Team must compete in at least a 4-Team approved IYSA member league during the current seasonal year,
- e. The Team may only compete in one State Cup or Presidents Cup age group during the soccer year, August – July.

2. Player Eligibility

- a. A team may roster any Youth Player to their official Cup roster who is a registered Youth Player of the Club before the Team to which such Youth Player is rostered plays their first Cup match.
- b. The player must be registered to and carded to a club in one of the following Illinois Youth Soccer member competitive leagues:
 - i. Central Illinois Youth Soccer League (CIYSL)
 - ii. Illinois Women’s Soccer League (IWSL)
 - iii. Illowa
 - iv. St Louis Youth Soccer Association – IL (SLYSA-IL)
 - v. Young Sportsmen’s Soccer League (YSSL)
- c. A Team may have on its Team Roster only players of the following age groups for the seasonal year in which the Team is participating in the National Championships:
 - i. For Teams competing in the 13 and Under, 14 and Under, and 15 and Under age groups, each player on the Team must be (A) of the age of the age group competition in which the Team is participating in that seasonal year, or (B) of the

age in either of the next 2 younger age groups of that age group competition in which the Team is participating in that seasonal year.

- ii. For the Teams competing in the 16 and Under, 17 and Under, 18 and Under, and 19 and Under age groups, each player on the Team must be (A) of the age of the age group competition in which the Team is participating in that seasonal year, or (B) of the age of any younger age group, through the 14 and Under age group, of that age group competition in which the Team is participating in that seasonal year.
- d. A player may be rostered to only one Illinois State Cup or Illinois Presidents Cup Team during the soccer year.
- e. A player may be rostered to only one team that plays in either the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series (State Cup) or US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup (Presidents Cup) during the soccer year.

3. Bracket Draw & Seeded Teams

The IYSA will conduct the annual bracket draw. All properly registered Teams will be drawn into Cup brackets based on a double-blind draw with the exception of seeded teams. Teams will be seeded directly into group play of either State Cup or Presidents Cup based on the following:

a. State Cup Seeding

#1: Previous season's State Cup Champion

#2: Previous season's State Cup Finalist

#3-4: Previous season's State Cup Semifinalist. Higher seed determined in the following order:

1. Lower goal differential in Semifinal match
2. US Youth Soccer National League final record from previous season
3. US Youth Soccer Midwest Conference final record from previous season

#5-8: Previous season's State Cup Quarterfinalist. Higher seeds determined in the following order:

1. Lowest goal differential in Quarterfinal match
2. US Youth Soccer National League final record from previous season
3. US Youth Soccer Midwest Conference final record from previous season

#9-16: Any open spots remaining in group play will be filled based on the following criteria. Final seeded placement determined by the Cup Director:

1. Next best US Youth Soccer National League record from the previous season
 2. Next best US Youth Soccer Midwest Conference record from the previous season
 3. State Premiership Champion
 4. Previous year's Presidents Cup Champion
- i. Teams that win a US Youth Soccer National Championship via a Wild Card position may be seeded #1 even if they did not win the Illinois State Cup.
 - ii. Illinois Youth Soccer may adjust seeded positions in order to prevent multiple teams from the same club being seeded directly in to the same State Cup group.
 - iii. Seeded spots are retained by the club
 - iv. IYSA may remove a seeded position from team

b. Presidents Cup Seeding

#1: Previous season's Presidents Cup Champion

#2: Previous season's Presidents Cup Finalists

#3-4: Previous season's Presidents Cup Semifinalists. Higher seed determined in the following order:

1. Lower goal differential in Semifinal match
2. US Youth Soccer National League final record from previous season
3. US Youth Soccer Midwest Conference final record from previous season

#5: State Premiership Chicagoland Division II Champion (If no Division II, spots goes to highest State Premiership Chicagoland Division I team)

#6: State Premiership Central / South Champion

#7: State Premiership Chicagoland Division II Finalist

#8-16: Any open spots remaining in group play will be filled based on the following criteria. Final seeded placement determined by the Cup Director:

1. Next best US Youth Soccer Midwest Conference 1st Division and Qualifying Division record from the previous season
 - i. Teams that win a US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup via a Wild Card position may be seeded #1 even if they did not win the Illinois Presidents Cup
 - ii. IYSA may adjust seeded positions in order to prevent multiple teams from the same club being seeded directly in to the same Presidents Cup group
 - iii. Seeded spots are retained by the club
 - iv. IYSA may remove a seeded position from team

4. Scheduling Deadlines

Teams are required to meet specific schedule by and play by dates for Cup competitions. Teams that fail to meet those deadlines may be subject to the following sanctions:

- a. \$50 per day fine
- b. Loss of home game
- c. Removal from event in the current and future years

5. Forfeits

- a. During group play, a team must forfeit any match below the required minimum number of players during the match. Subsequent matches will not be automatically forfeited.
- b. A team forfeiting a match for any other reason will result in all of their group play matches being recorded as forfeits including matches previously played except for unusual circumstances as determined by IYSA, the Cup Director and Cup Committee.
- c. Forfeited matches will be reported as 4-0 loss for scoring purposes.
- d. Teams that forfeit matches or fail to complete all games may be subject to additional sanctions including but not limited to the following:
 - i. To pay a \$250 fine to IYSA
 - ii. To not be considered for US Youth Soccer Midwest Conference the following year
 - iii. To not be accepted into a Cup competition the following year

6. Failure To Participate At Regionals

IYSA has the final determination about which team will represent the state at Regional competitions. In most cases, the IYSA State Cup or Presidents Cup champion will be awarded that spot for the Regional competition. At the time of registration for the IYSA events, teams are

committing to compete in the entirety of either the National Championship Series or National Presidents Cup and are expected to attend the Regional and National events should they advance.

a. Commitment Form

Prior to the first round of elimination games, teams that have advanced to IYSA State Cup Quarterfinals or IYSA Presidents Cup Semifinals matches will be required to complete and sign a form confirming their participation at the Regional and National event should they qualify to participate. This letter will serve as the Team's commitment to participate in the entire Tournament thru the National final should the Team qualify. This form needs to be signed and returned 48 hours after receiving it. If the form is not signed or returned by the specified deadline the Team will be removed from the current competition immediately.

A Club that fails to fulfill its commitment for the Regional or National level of the competition could face sanctions up to and including but not limited to:

- i. Paying a \$500 fine to IYSA
- ii. Having all teams from the club not accepted into any of the following competitions for up to three (3) years:
 1. IYSA State Cup
 2. IYSA Presidents Cup
 3. US Youth Soccer National League
 4. US Youth Soccer Regional Conferences

b. Roster Continuity

IYSA has the final determination about which team will represent IYSA at the Regional competitions. In the spirit of the competition, teams are expected to field a competitive team that meets all continuity of roster requirements. If after reviewing all rosters, IYSA determines a team is using roster manipulation and not sending a proper team to compete in the "spirit of the game" then the IYSA reserves the right to replace the team for the regional event.

- i. IYSA may require teams to submit rosters by the IYSA deadline prior to the Regional competition to ensure roster continuity and that the "spirit of the game" requirements are being met.

7. Team or Club Trainers

A team may use its own Athletic Trainers as one of its three (3) team officials allowed on the sidelines. The competition Athletic Trainers are primary to any team trainers who are deemed secondary.

8. Alcohol & Smoking

The drinking and/or dispensing of alcoholic beverages are not permitted at locations hosting IYSA Cup games. Smoking is only allowed in designated smoking areas at locations hosting IYSA Cup games. Smoking is not permitted on spectator sidelines or the technical area. Individuals found violating the alcohol or smoking policy will be removed from the sideline and may result in sanctions for the club.

9. Pets

The allowance of pets is determined by the host facility. If a host facility allows pets on the premises ALL PETS must be leashed and kept off the playing fields. Pets are not allowed in the coaches and players sideline and Technical Area. Person with the pet(s) must pick-up after the pet(s).

10. Clean-Up Fine

Any team that has not cleaned up its bench, Technical Area, spectator side or other area used by the team for pre or post game, must pay an up to and including a \$500 Clean-up Fee to the IYSA.

11. Unmanned Aircraft Systems (DRONES)

The use of drones is strictly prohibited at all IYSA Cup matches. It is the responsibility of the host to ensure that this policy is strictly enforced

12. Distribution of Flyers/Materials Strictly Prohibited - Minimum \$1000 Fine

Distribution of flyers/materials at IYSA Cup events, facilities and parking lots is not permitted. No organization or individual on behalf of the organization is allowed to distribute or display flyers/materials including but not restricted to tryout and recruitment information, club promotions, solicitations, camps and tournaments at an IYSA event without prior written consent from the Illinois Youth Soccer Association. Violators will be charged at minimum \$1,000 for clean-up.

13. Matters Not Provided

In all matters provided or not provided in this policy, the decision of the Cup Director, Cup Committee & IYSA shall be final and binding. The Cup Director, Cup Committee and IYSA shall have the power to deal with all breaches of this policy.

The Cup Director, Cup Committee and IYSA have the authority to modify this policy as deemed necessary to ensure the orderly progression of these events.