MICHIGAN STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
2015 US YOUTH SOCCER MICHIGAN STATE CUP
COMPETITION RULES

MICHIGAN STATE CUP

1. **Competition Dates**
   a. All preliminary games must be played between AUGUST 16, 2014 and SEPTEMBER 21, 2014.
   b. The MSYSA State Cup Round of 16 will be played OCTOBER 4, 2014.
   c. The MSYSA State Cup Quarterfinals will be played OCTOBER 4-5, 2014.
   d. The MSYSA State Cup Semifinals will be played OCTOBER 18, 2014.
   e. The MSYSA State Cup Finals will be played October 19, 2014.
   f. The MSYSA State Cup Committee reserves the right to alter competition dates as needed by weather or other extenuating circumstances.

2. **Roster Deadlines – FALL State Cup**
   a. Official MSYSA State Cup rosters are submitted via e-mail to MSYSA on the MSYSA State Cup Roster Form.
   b. State Cup Rosters are due into the MSYSA State Office according to when a team is initially scheduled to play their first State Cup preliminary game. See schedule below.

Date of First Scheduled State Cup Preliminary Game	State Cup Roster Due / Freeze Date
August 16 – August 22, 2014	12:00 Noon on August 15, 2014
August 23 – August 29, 2014	12:00 Noon on August 22, 2014
August 30 – September 5, 2014	12:00 Noon on August 29, 2014
September 6 – September 12, 2014	12:00 Noon on September 5, 2014
September 13 – September 21, 2014	12:00 Noon on September 12, 2014

   c. If a team's first scheduled game gets cancelled or postponed, the team's roster is still due according to when the game was initially scheduled to be played.
   d. State Cup Rosters are frozen on at the time/day noted above for the remainder of the MSYSA State Cup. Roster additions may not take place for any reason after the above applicable deadline.
   e. MSYSA reserves the right to substitute a team's league roster as their State Cup tournament roster if that team does not submit a tournament roster by the deadline noted above.
   f. Failure to submit a State Cup Roster as noted above may result in a $50 *per day* late fee for each day the rosters is late. Teams will not be permitted to play MSYSA State Cup games until the roster and payment are received. If teams play MSYSA State Cup games without first submitting a roster and late fees (if applicable), they shall forfeit any and all games played until the rosters and fees are received.

3. **Tournament Format (U13-U18 age groups)**
   a. The MSYSA State Cup will have five distinct rounds – the Preliminary Games, Round of 16, Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals.
   b. The preliminary games round will be conducted using a "round robin" format.
   c. Teams will be scheduled to play a minimum of three (3) preliminary games.
   d. All preliminary games are scheduled by the teams involved, unless MSYSA intervention is necessary.
   e. In the preliminary rounds, all age groups will consist of 4 team pools.
   f. To ensure four (4) team pools in each age group, the MSYSA State Cup Committee reserves the right to accept or deny teams based on prior MSYSA Junior State Cup history, MSYSA State Cup history, prior league play history, team composition, prior tournament history, and/or adherence to State Cup application submission and payment deadlines.
   g. Winners of each pool in the preliminary rounds and wildcards (when applicable) will advance to the next subsequent round.

h. Only the U13 – U15 age groups may have a Round of 16, and these age groups will only have a Round of 16 if/when there are 32 or more teams in that age group.
i. The MSYSA State Cup Committee will schedule and host all Round of 16, Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final games.

4. Tournament Format (U19 age group)

a. The format of the MSYSA State Cup will depend on the number of teams that enter. The format is at the discretion of the MSYSA State Cup Committee. See Appendix A.
b. Preliminary games may be needed, and such games may need to be scheduled as early as March 2015.
c. The MSYSA State Cup Committee reserves the right to accept or deny teams based on prior MSYSA State Cup history, prior league play history, team composition, prior tournament history, and/or adherence to State Cup application submission and payment deadlines.

5. Team Eligibility – Fall State Cup

a. The MSYSA State Cup is for current MSYSA league affiliated teams and MSYSA league affiliated members only.
b. All team officials and players must have their US Youth Soccer/MSYSA passcards available at any/all State Cup games for referees to conduct check-in. Failure to have passcards on site may result in those people not being allowed to participate.
c. Per the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series Rules, all-star teams are not permitted. An all-star teams means the official select team of US Youth Soccer, a Region, a State Association, a district or geographical subdivision of a State Association, or any league.
d. All teams must be in good standing with MSYSA and their respective MSYSA Affiliated League.
e. U13-U18 teams must play in a minimum of a four-team MSYSA affiliated league (or US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional League) during the FALL 2014 season. The team must play at least three (3) complete league games with a record of scores and standings during the FALL 2014 season. The league must be sanctioned or specifically approved by the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association. The Midwest Regional League is considered an approved league for the purposes of this competition.

6. Team Official Eligibility

a. All team officials must be in good standing with MSYSA and their respective MSYSA Affiliated League.
b. All team officials must be Risk Management certified by the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association and must have a current MSYSA Risk Management Card at all of their MSYSA State Cup games.

7. Player Eligibility

a. All players must be in good standing with MSYSA and their respective MSYSA Affiliated League.
b. At least 50% of the team's players must be residents of Michigan.
c. For teams competing in the U13-U15 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.
d. For the teams competing in the U16-U19 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 U14 age group, of that age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year.
e. For all age groups, at least 51% of the players must have a birth date falling within the age group that the team will be playing in during the tournament.

f. A player's age group is determined by their date of birth:

Age Group	Dates of Birth
U19	8-1-95 to 7-31-96
U18	8-1-96 to 7-31-97
U17	8-1-97 to 7-31-98
U16	8-1-98 to 7-31-99
U15	8-1-99 to 7-31-00
U14	8-1-00 to 7-31-01
U13	8-1-01 to 7-31-02
U12	8-1-02 to 7-31-03
U11	8-1-03 to 7-31-04

g. A player may only play for one team in the MSYSA State Cup. If a player is on the tournament roster of a team when the roster is frozen, the player may not be on the tournament roster of any other team from any other state association in a State Cup Competition.
h. Any player wishing to play for a team in the MSYSA State Cup who is not a resident of Michigan must first receive written permission from the State Association where the player is registered (home state) and from MSYSA. Permission must be obtained each seasonal year, and permission must be obtained before the State Cup Roster Freeze Date as noted in these rules. Players residing in states participating in the Region II Cross Border agreement are exempt from this requirement.
i. All players must adhere to FIFA and US Soccer Federation policies on international clearance. If needed, a player must have approved international clearance on file with the US Soccer Federation no later than the MSYSA State Cup Roster freeze date as noted in these rules.
j. A team may not roster any player who was previously rostered during the seasonal year to a team from another club, unless the player's release and transfer request has been approved by the MSYSA Leagues involved. A team may not have more than five (5) previously rostered players on their tournament roster at the time the roster is frozen.
k. If an illegal/ ineligible player appears on the MSYSA State Cup Roster at the time of the roster freeze deadline or if a team uses an ineligible player at any point during the State Cup competition, the team shall face sanctions as determined by the MSYSA State Cup Chair and/or State Cup Chair Designee which may include forfeiture, fines, and/or disqualifications. Furthermore, the use of an ineligible player may be grounds to deny the team and/or team coach participation in future US Youth Soccer MSYSA State Cups.

8. State Cup Tournament Rosters & Game Reports

a. For all age groups, a MSYSA State Cup Roster may have a maximum of 22 players or a minimum of 7 players for teams.
b. For all age groups, teams are strongly encouraged to list more than one team official on the roster in case of coaching conflicts or suspensions.
c. It is the team's responsibility to put ALL desired players, including club pass players, on their State Cup tournament roster.
d. For all age groups, a team shall select up to 18 players to play in a State Cup game. This selection must be documented for each game on the official MSYSA State Cup Game Report.
e. Only players appearing on the MSYSA State Cup Roster are eligible to appear on the official MSYSA State Cup Game Report and are eligible to compete in the MSYSA State Cup.
f. The MSYSA Official Game Report with the 18 player game roster selection must be submitted to the referees at the time of check-in. No changes will be allowed to the game roster after the team has checked-in.

9. Club Passcarding Within the MSYSA State Cup

a. Club Passcarding is permitted within the MSYSA State Cup as long as all subsequent rules are met.

b. A player may only play for one team in the MSYSA State Cup.
c. A player may only club passcard for a team in the MSYSA State Cup if that team belongs to the same club as the player's primary team. (See "Club" definition below).
d. A club passcarded player must appear on a team's frozen State Cup roster.
e. A team must be able to demonstrate continuity between their league roster and State Cup roster by having a minimum of nine players common to both rosters.

10. Definition of "Club"

a. A "Club" is defined as an organization providing soccer to youth players that is either a direct member of MSYSA or that registers players MSYSA through an affiliated member.
b. At no time shall an affiliated member who functions as a "scheduling" league also be considered a club.
c. In the case where a club sets up one or more satellite clubs in the state, those satellite clubs may only be considered part of the main club for the purposes of the National Championship Series if the teams and players from the satellite club are registered in the same GotSoccer account as the main club.
d. The only exception to C above is if all of the following criteria is met:
    i. The main club and satellite club have the same Board of Directors
    ii. The main club and satellite club have the same Tax ID Number
    iii. The main club and satellite club are in the same MSYSA District as determined by the MSYSA Board of Directors

11. Seeding

a. In all age groups, the MSYSA State Cup Committee shall seed and place teams into preliminary brackets.
b. The MSYSA State Cup Committee aims to have one (1) seeded team in each preliminary bracket. All others will be placed into brackets randomly by the MSYSA State Cup Committee. A maximum of two (2) teams from the same club may be placed in the same preliminary bracket.
c. The seeding and bracketing process for preliminary games may take into account the team's league standings, prior MSYSA Junior State Cup results, prior MSYSA State Cup results, team composition, and tournament records from the previous and current year.
d. The MSYSA State Cup Committee's decision regarding seeding and bracketing is final. Teams may not appeal their decision.

12. Scheduling & Scheduling Conflicts

a. MSYSA State Cup games take precedence over all scheduled league games, including Midwest Regional League games.
b. All teams must schedule their respective preliminary games immediately upon receipt of the release of State Cup bracketing information and prior to attending any of their league scheduling meetings.
c. Preliminary game dates, times, and locations must be mutually agreed upon by both coaches. Games that are more than 60 miles one way must be played on a Saturday or a Sunday unless it is otherwise mutually agreed upon to play on another day.
d. Teams may not be scheduled to play any more than two (2) MSYSA State Cup games on any one day.
e. If both coaches cannot agree on game date(s), time(s), and location(s) for their preliminary games, the MSYSA State Cup Chair or the State Cup Chair Designee will schedule the game(s). Scheduling of the game is at the sole discretion of the MSYSA State Cup Chair or State Cup Chair Designee. The game(s) must be played as scheduled by the MSYSA State Cup Chair or the State Cup Chair Designee.
f. All games scheduled by member leagues are required to be rescheduled in order to allow teams to compete in the MSYSA State Cup.
g. No member league can forfeit any game of any team for the day that the team is playing in the MSYSA State Cup competition (see exception below).
h. Teams must not schedule league games on the dates of State Cup Round of 16, Quarterfinals, Semifinals, or Finals. If a conflict arises because of failure to adhere to the rule, ability to reschedule league games is at the discretion of the League.

13. **Preliminary Game Schedule Reporting**
    a. Preliminary game schedules (date, time, location, field number, etc) are due in to MSYSA no later than 4:30pm on JULY 18, 2014. The home team (or home team's club) is responsible for scheduling the preliminary games through GotSoccer.
    b. Failure to schedule preliminary games by the deadline may include sanctions, including but not limited to, forfeiture of home field advantage, game forfeiture, and/or fines.

14. **Preliminary Game Re-Scheduling**
    a. Games may NOT be rescheduled for any reason other than weather. In instances where games must be rescheduled due to weather, **the home team AND organization canceling the fields must notify MSYSA (StateCup@michiganyouthsoccer.org) AND the State Youth Referee Administrator (syramich@gmail.com) as soon as possible**.
    b. In the event that the home team and organization canceling the fields does not notify MSYSA in time to cancel the assigned referees, the referee fees shall be paid by the home team. The fees must be paid before the rescheduled game will be permitted to be played.
    c. When preliminary games must be rescheduled, the home team is responsible for submitting the new game schedule to MSYSA via e-mail. MSYSA needs a minimum of three (3) days to find referees for rescheduled games.

15. **Preliminary Game Score Reporting**
    a. The Home Team is always the first team listed.
    b. The winning coach (or the coach of the Home Team, in the event of a tie) of each preliminary game must **report the score** within 24 hours of the completion of the game.
    c. The winning coach (or the coach of the Home Team, in the event of a tie) of each preliminary game must **mail the game report** to MSYSA at 9401 General Drive, Suite 120, Plymouth, MI 48170 within 24 hours of the completion of the game.
    d. Failure to report the game scores and mail in the game reports may result in disqualification of the winning team (or the home team in the event of a tie) and/or a $100 fine.

16. **Approved Fields & Field Status**
    a. With respect to preliminary games, it is expected that each team accepted in to the MSYSA State Cup utilize what they believe to be the best fields available to them. Should the MSYSA State Cup Chairperson or State Cup Chairperson Designee be made aware that fields in "poor" condition are being used or are less than appropriate for MSYSA State Cup play, a fine (not exceeding $500 per game) may be levied and a determination may be made by the MSYSA State Cup Chairperson or the State Cup Chairperson Designee that the field(s) will not be used for future MSYSA State Cup play. A list of fields not permitted to be used for State Cup games shall be made available to teams.
    b. Determination of field status as to its playing condition rests with the organization providing the fields and the MSYSA State Cup Chair and/or the State Cup Chair Designee.
    c. The organization providing the fields MUST notify the MSYSA State Cup Chair or the State Cup Chair Designee when field closure is needed.
    d. If the host organization approves the field for play, the field may be cancelled at a later time if the host organization, the MSYSA State Cup Chair and/or State Cup Chair Designee deem the conditions to have changed.
    e. The referee, MSYSA State Cup Chair, and/or State Cup Chair Designee may suspend games when he/she considers the field unsafe or unplayable.
    f. For all games suspended in the first half and that are not able to resume play the same day, the game shall be rescheduled for another day with permission from MSYSA and the game must be played in its entirety. This only applies when neither team is at fault for the initial stoppage of the game.
    g. Teams that travel to MSYSA State Cup locations do so at their own risk of games being cancelled due to inclement weather.

17. Field of Play

a. Teams shall report to the field of play at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the game to allow for the check in of players.
b. Both teams are to be seated on the same side of the field.
c. All team personnel who are not players must have a MSYSA Passcard and be listed on the MSYSA State Cup Game Report. All team personnel without a MSYSA Passcard must remain on the spectator side.
d. Each team may have a maximum of three (3) team officials (coaches, assistant coaches, managers) in the team bench area provided that they have risk management cards and a MSYSA passcard. Absolutely no more than three (3) are permitted, even with proper passes and credentials.
e. For all age groups, players who are on the MSYSA State Cup Roster but are NOT selected to the eighteen (18) member game roster may remain in the bench area, but may not wear the match jersey. These players are permitted to wear the alternate team jersey.

18. Coaching from the Sidelines

a. Per the MSYSA Rules, Regulations, and Policies a coach may coach his/her own team from the sidelines provided that mechanical devices are not used, tone of voice is informative and not a harangue, and he/she stays between the top of the penalty area and the half field mark during the game.
b. "Mechanical Devices" (above) includes but is not limited to cell phones and other devices as determined by the State Cup Chairperson or the State Cup Chairperson Designee.
c. Failure to abide by the aforementioned criteria in coaching from the sidelines may result in sanctions by the MSYSA State Cup Committee such as dismissal of coaches and other team officials, game suspensions, game forfeitures, and fees.

19. Spectators

a. Coaches are responsible for the spectators that accompany his or her team.
b. Spectators will occupy the side of the field opposite the side the teams are located.
c. No artificial noisemakers of any kind are permitted. The MSYSA State Cup Chairperson or State Cup Chairperson Designee has the final decision in case of any discrepancies.
d. If it becomes evident that the spectator(s) become unruly and cannot be controlled, the field sidelines will be cleared of all spectators. If spectators refuse to leave the field of play, the game will be suspended and perhaps forfeited upon an investigation by the MSYSA State Cup Chair or the State Cup Chair Designee.
e. If a game must be replayed because of a spectator's behavior, no spectators will be allowed at the game site of the replayed game.
f. A coach and/or team may be fined a maximum of $1,000 as a result of unacceptable spectator behavior or referee abuse.
g. The MSYSA State Cup Chairperson or State Cup Designee reserves the right to remove any spectator from the fields or facility whose behavior is deemed inappropriate and/or whose presence imposes a threat to any member of the MSYSA membership, board, or staff.

20. Referees

a. The MSYSA State Cup Referee Assigning Committee will assign referees to ALL State Cup games, including Preliminary, Round of 16, Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final games.
b. Teams must use the referees as assigned by the MSYSA State Cup Referee Assigning Committee. Failure to do so may result in game forfeiture and applicable fees by one or both teams.
c. For all MSYSA State Cup preliminary games and Round of 16 games, referee fees shall be paid prior to the start of the game, and the fees shall be divided equally among the teams playing.
d. MSYSA is responsible for the payment of referee fees for the MSYSA State Cup Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final games only.
e. The center referee for each game should be at least one year older than the players and all referees should be USSF certified.
f. Games may be played with only two MSYSA assigned referees present.

21. MSYSA State Cup Referee Fees

a. If a State Cup game is scheduled to be played at a site which charges admission or parking fees, the home team is responsible for reimbursing the referees in cash prior to the start of the game for any/all admission or parking fees.

b. Referees fees vary by age group, as detailed below:

Age	Center Referee	Asst. Referees	Total Cost	Individual Team Cost
U13 & U14	$40.00	$30.00 each	$100.00 per game	$50.00 per game
U15 & U16	$50.00	$35.00 each	$120.00 per game	$60.00 per game
U17, U18, U19	$60.00	$40.00 each	$140.00 per game	$70.00 per game

22. Game Format

a. FIFA Laws of the Game will govern **all** games unless modified by US Soccer, US Youth Soccer, or the MSYSA State Cup Chair, State Cup Chair Designee, or State Cup Committee.

b. Modification(s) may be made with or without notice.

c. Length of game is detailed below:

Age	Game Length	Overtime
U13-U14	35 Minute Halves	10 Minute Halves
U15-U16	40 Minute Halves	15 Minute Halves
U17-U19	45 Minute Halves	15 Minute Halves

d. Overtimes periods shall only be used in Round of 16, Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final games.

e. In the event of a tie game after regulation time during a Round of 16, Quarterfinal, Semifinal, or Final game, there will be two overtime periods.

f. If after two (2) full overtime periods the game is still tied, "Kicks from the Mark" will be conducted and Laws of the Game will apply.

g. For all ages, the MSYSA State Cup Chair or the State Cup Chair Designee may determine that a game is complete at any time after the commencement of the second half provided that no team is at fault for the stoppage.

23. MSYSA State Cup Games Played Indoors

a. A ball that comes in contact with the ceiling, roof, structure, etc. shall be restarted at the closest point of contact as an indirect free kick for the team that kicked the ball into the ceiling, etc. AND the ball must be kicked to their opponent's goalkeeper.

24. Substitutions

a. In the U13-U14 age groups, teams shall be permitted unlimited substitutions for all games, including overtimes.

b. In the U15-U19 age groups, a maximum of seven (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 that same half of play. After leaving the game during overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game. However, if a player is removed from the game and no substitute enters the same for the player (the team plays short), the original player may re-enter the game. Entry shall be at a normal substitution point with approval of the referee or at any point during the game if the referee signals for the player's re-entry.

c. Either team may make a substitution with the referee's permission at any stoppage in play.

d. Once the teams go into an overtime period, all players, excluding players who may have received a red card, are eligible to play.

25. Uniforms

a. With the exception of the goalkeeper, each player shall wear differently numbered and similarly designed jerseys.
b. Goalkeepers must wear colors that differentiate them from the field players.
c. Unless otherwise specified, all FIFA, US Youth Soccer, and MSYSA rules regarding uniform acceptability will apply.
d. In addition to teams wearing different color jerseys, teams must also wear different color socks.
e. In cases of dispute over color, socks, or shorts; the referee will decide. The home team shall wear light jerseys and the visiting team shall wear dark jerseys.
f. In additional to team, club, league, or sponsor logos, only US Youth Soccer and MSYSA logos are permitted on the uniform. At no point during the MSYSA State Cup, Region II Championships, or US Youth Soccer National Championships will logos from competing organizations be permitted. Any team not adhering to this rule may be fined, face game forfeitures, be disqualified from the tournament, and/or not be permitted to participate in future tournaments.

26. Scoring Method

a. The standings of teams within a bracket are based upon the number of points earned in a preliminary game. Team points shall be awarded as follows:
   - Three points for a win (including forfeits, but subject to the rule on forfeitures).
   - One point for a tie.
   - Zero points for a loss.

27. Tie Breaker Criteria

a. In the event teams are tied on the basis of points earned during preliminary games, the team's advancement shall be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria:
   - Winner of head to head competition. However, this criterion shall not be used when more than two teams are tied in points for their respective pool.
   - Winner of most games in their respective pool.
   - Goal spread (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum goal differential of four per game.
   - Fewest goals allowed.
   - Kicks from the penalty mark.
b. If more than two teams are tied in points in the pool of play, the sequence shall be followed until one team is eliminated.
c. Once one team has been eliminated, the remaining teams shall then restart the sequence above at "winner of most games in their respective pool" until the tie is broken.

28. Wildcard Selection Criteria

a. For age groups requiring a wildcard for Round of 16 or Quarterfinal play, wildcard qualification shall be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria:
   - Teams with the most points.
   - Winner of head to head competition. However, this criterion shall not be used when more than two teams are tied in points.
   - Goal spread (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum goal differential of four goals per game.
   - Fewest goals allowed.
   - Kicks from the penalty mark.
b. If more than two teams are tied, the sequence shall be followed until one team is eliminated.
c. Once one team has been eliminated, the remaining teams shall then restart the sequence above until the tie is broken.
d. It is acceptable for two teams from the same preliminary pool to play against each other in the Round of 16 and all other subsequent rounds.

e. Wildcard placement shall be at the discretion of the MSYSA State Cup Chairperson and/or the State Cup Chairperson Designee

29. Forfeitures

a. A minimum of seven players constitutes a team.
b. A fifteen-minute grace period shall be allowed beyond the official start time of the game if seven players are not available at start time. If seven players are available, then the game can commence. If at the end of the 15-minute grace period the team still does not have seven players; the referee will suspend the game and report the failure of the team to take the field on the MSYSA State Cup game reports.
c. The MSYSA State Cup Chairperson or State Cup Chairperson Designee may determine the game to be forfeited after examining the game report and conducting an investigation.
d. In the event that any team is suspected of forfeiting a game with the design or purpose of controlling the advancement of any team from its own bracket or any other bracket, the MSYSA State Cup Chairperson or State Cup Chairperson Designee may require such an advancing team to play another qualifying game against the next highest ranking team that would otherwise be eligible to advance.
e. A team that fails to take the field because of withdrawal from the MSYSA State Cup (or game) after the deadline may be subject to sanctions levied by the MSYSA State Cup Chairperson, State Cup Chairperson Designee, State Cup Committee, or the MSYSA Board of Directors.
f. All leagues will be responsible for their teams' compliance of MSYSA State Cup rules.
g. The score awarded to the winning team resulting from a forfeiture is 4 – 0.
h. **A forfeiting team and/or its affiliating MSYSA league will be fined a minimum of $500.00 per game forfeited.** Any teams and/or MSYSA League that does pay the fine(2) will be considered in bad standing and the team will not be permitted to play in any future MSYSA State Cup games until MSYSA receives payment. Furthermore, other teams affiliated with the MSYSA League that the forfeiting team affiliates through will not be permitted to play in future US Youth Soccer National Championship Series Cup games, including games in the MSYSA State Cup, Region II Championships, and the National Championships.

30. Warnings, Sendoffs, and Disciplinary Actions

a. A team receiving three red cards (or more) or five yellow cards (or more) in one game may result in the team coach to appear before the MSYSA Board for review and/or sanctions.
b. The MSYSA State Cup Chairperson or State Cup Chairperson Designee shall hold all passcards for suspended participants during the Round of 16, Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final games.
c. Game suspensions due to red cards received in US Youth Soccer National Championship Series games (includes MSYSA State Cup, Region II Championships, and the National Championships) must be served during the next National Championships Series game.
d. If a player or coach receives a suspension in a US Youth Soccer National Championships Series game (includes MSYSA State Cup, Region II Championships, and the National Championships) and that suspension is not fulfilled during that seasonal year, it will follow the player or coach to the next US Youth Soccer National Championship Series game that the player or coach participates in.
e. In order for a player to officially serve their suspension, the player's name must appear on the game roster and there must be an indication that the player did not play due to suspension. For U16-U19 teams, a player serving a suspension MUST BE COUNTED in the 18 player game roster.
f. The US Youth Soccer MSYSA State Cup Chairperson or the State Cup Chairperson Designee will decide on the length of suspensions.
g. Minimum Disciplinary Sanctions:
    - Player, Coach, or Team Official Ejection for Foul & Abusive Language: Minimum two game suspension
    - Player Ejection for Violent Conduct or Serious Foul Play: Minimum two game suspension
    - Player, Coach, or Team Official Ejection for Accumulation of Two Yellow Cards: Minimum one game suspension
    - Coach Ejection for Irresponsible Behavior: Minimum two game suspension
    - Player Fighting: Minimum two game suspension.

- Player, Coach, or Team Official Striking an Official: Immediate and minimum one-year suspension from all soccer activities (separate hearing).
- Coach Threats: Minimum two game suspension.
- Coach Fighting: Minimum two game suspension.

g. If considered serious enough, a player, coach, or team official may face additional sanctions for other offenses as determined by the MSYSA State Cup Chairperson and/or by the State Cup Chairperson Designee.

h. Threatening or fighting violations at Regional II Championships or National Championships shall be dealt with in the following year's play.

31. Protests

a. Misapplication of the Laws of the Game may be a valid basis for a protest.

b. A Referee's judgment shall not be a basis for protests.

c. A protest regarding the use of an ineligible player may be made by anyone at any time during the current year's US Youth Soccer National Championship Series (including MSYSA State Cup, Region II Championships, or National Championships).

d. Any protest must be presented in writing to the MSYSA State Cup Chairperson or the State Cup Chairperson Designee within one (1) hour of the completion of the game in protest.

e. If the MSYSA State Cup Chairperson or the State Cup Chairperson Designee is unavailable at the site of the game, protests may be submitted via e-mail to the MSYSA State Cup Committee at StateCup@michiganyouthsoccer.org within four (4) hours of the completion of the game that is being protested.

f. All protests must be accompanied with a $500.00 bond. If the protest is being submitted via e-mail, the protest must include a statement acknowledging that the required bond will be submitted to the MSYSA State Cup Chairperson or the State Cup Chairperson Designee within 24 hours of the protest.

g. If a protest is upheld, the bond will be returned.

h. Any protest against any team that has already been eliminated for the current year's MSYSA State Cup, Regional II Championships, or National Championship will not be entertained.

i. Although a protest may not be entertained by the MSYSA State Cup Chairperson or the State Cup Chairperson Designee due to the lateness of the filing of the protest, the MSYSA State Cup Chairperson or the State Cup Chairperson Designee may report any misconduct by any MSYSA player, coach, or team, including the use of an ineligible player, during any portion of the US Youth Soccer MSYSA State Cup, Regional II Championships, or National Championship to the MSYSA Board of Directors or a higher authority for their consideration

32. Protest of State Cup Team Application Rejection.

a. The protest must be postmarked within one (1) business day of notification of rejection with a certificate of mailing to the State Cup Chairperson and all involved parties.

b. Notification of protesting a rejection will include the following:
   - Protest fee of $250.00 (cash, certified check, or money order made payable to MSYSA).
   - A written statement describing the specific grounds for the protest.
   - All information necessary to make a fair and just decision on the protest.
   - A clear and concise statement of the relief or action sought by the protesting party.
   - Copies of all documents relevant to the appeal.

33. Appeals

a. All decisions by the MSYSA State Office are final.

b. Such decisions may be appealed to the MSYSA State Cup Chair or State Cup Chair Designee. Any appeals must be physically received in writing by the MSYSA State Office and must be accompanied by a $500 bond. The written appeal and payment must be received within 48 hours of the initial decision from the MSYSA State Cup Committee. If the appeal is upheld, the bond will be returned.

c. Decisions made by the MSYSA State Cup Chair or State Cup Chair Designee may be appealed to the US Youth Soccer National Championships Series Committee by submitting all relevant information and fees to US Youth Soccer.

34. **ANY DECISION MADE BY THE MSYSA STATE CUP CHAIRPERSON, STATE CUP CHAIRPERSON DESIGNEE, AND/OR US YOUTH SOCCER SHALL NOT BE THE BASIS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF A TEAM FROM STATE CUP OR THE REFUND OF A TEAM'S APPLICATION FEE.**

35. **Alcohol and Illegal Drugs**
    a. Players and coaches in the US Youth Soccer MSYSA State Cup competition are prohibited from consuming alcohol or using illegal drugs.
    b. Players and coaches are also prohibited from using any form of tobacco at the playing site of the MSYSA State Cup competition. The penalty for violation by player and/or coach may be disqualification from the MSYSA State Cup competition.
    c. All MSYSA teams, at every level of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series, must adhere to the MSYSA State Cup Alcohol and Illegal Drug Rules. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary actions as determined by the MSYSA State Cup Chairman and/or MSYSA State Cup Chairman Designee.

36. **Spirit of the Game**
    a. If the US Youth Soccer MSYSA State Cup Chairperson or the State Cup Chairperson Designee determines that a particular action by a team or any of its members or spectators is deemed unacceptable for any reason, the team may be disqualified, sanctioned, and/or face forfeiture of one or more games.
    b. Any/all MSYSA teams that participate in the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Cup or US Youth Soccer National Cup must continue to comply with MSYSA Bylaws & Rules and MSYSA State Cup Rules for continued participation in the National Championship Series.

37. **THE US YOUTH SOCCER MSYSA STATE CUP COMPETITION RULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE.**

Dates To Remember:

June 27, 2014 at 4:30PM	U13 – U18 MSYSA State Cup Application & Payment Deadline
June 30, 2014 at 9:00AM	MSYSA State Cup Bracketing
July 18, 2014 at 4:30PM	MSYSA State Cup Preliminary Game Schedules Due
August 15, 2014 – September 12, 2014	MSYSA State Cup Roster Deadline (See Rule 2)
August 16, 2014	First Day Preliminary Games Can Begin
September 21, 2014	Preliminary Games Must Be Completed
October 4, 2014	MSYSA State Cup Round of 16 – Saginaw, MI
October 4-5, 2014	MSYSA State Cup Quarterfinals – Saginaw, MI
October 18, 2014	MSYSA State Cup Semifinals – Pontiac, MI
October 19, 2014	MSYSA State Cup Finals – Pontiac, MI

APPENDIX A

U19 TOURNAMENT FORMAT – Based on the number of applied teams

1 Team – No State Cup competition will be held if only one team applies in the U19 age group. The MSYSA State Cup Committee may or may not recommend the team for participation in the Region II Championships. Recommendation and subsequent participation is at the sole discretion of the MSYSA State Cup Committee.

2 Teams – Teams will play each other during the MSYSA State Cup Finals. The winner advances to the Region II Championships.

3 Teams – All three teams will be placed in the same pool. Teams self-schedule games so that every team plays every other team once. The team with the highest number of points advances to the Region II Championships. In case of a tie on points, see State Cup Rules.

4 Teams – All four teams will be placed in the same pool. Teams self-schedule games so that every team plays every other team once. The top 2 teams based on points earned advance to the MSYSA State Cup Finals.

5-7 Teams – The MSYSA State Cup Committee will select 4 teams for competition in the MSYSA State Cup. Teams will be accepted or denied based on prior MSYSA State Cup history, prior league play history, team composition, prior tournament history, and/or adherence to State Cup application submission and payment deadlines. All four teams will be placed in the same pool. Teams self-schedule games so that every team plays every other team once. The top 2 teams based on points earned advance to the MSYSA State Cup Finals.

8+ Teams – Teams will be placed in pools of 4 teams each to compete in a Preliminary Games round. To ensure pools of 4 teams, the MSYSA State Cup Committee reserves the right to accept or deny teams based on prior MSYSA State Cup history, prior league play history, team composition, prior tournament history, and/or adherence to State Cup application submission and payment deadlines. Teams will self-schedule all Preliminary Games. The winner from each pool plus wildcards if applicable will advance to the next subsequent round(s).