



**MICHIGAN STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
2025 JUNIOR STATE CUP
COMPETITION RULES**



1. Competition Dates

- a. All preliminary games must be played between MARCH 8, 2025 and MAY 4, 2025.
- b. On occasion and in the absence of a Quarterfinal round, the deadline to play preliminary games may be extended for some age/gender/divisions. This will be communicated to those divisions directly.
- c. The MSYSA Junior State Cup Round of 16 (if needed) will be played MAY 16 – 18, 2025.
- d. The MSYSA Junior State Cup Quarterfinals (if needed) will be played MAY 16 – 18, 2025.
- e. The MSYSA Junior State Cup Semifinals will be played MAY 16 – 18, 2025 or MAY 30 – JUNE 1, 2025.
- f. The MSYSA Junior State Cup Finals will be played MAY 30 – JUNE 1, 2025.
- g. The MSYSA Junior State Cup Committee reserves the right to alter competition dates as needed by weather or other extenuating circumstances.

2. Roster Deadlines

- a. Junior State Cup rosters are submitted online via GotSport.
- b. Junior State Cup Rosters are due into the MSYSA State Office according to when a team is initially scheduled to play their first Junior State Cup preliminary game. See schedule below.

Date of First Scheduled JRSC Preliminary Game	JRSC Roster Due / Freeze Date
March 8 – March 14, 2025	12:00 Noon on March 7, 2025
March 15 – March 21, 2025	12:00 Noon on March 14, 2025
March 22 – March 28, 2025	12:00 Noon on March 21, 2025
March 29 – April 4, 2025	12:00 Noon on March 28, 2025
April 5 – April 11, 2025	12:00 Noon on April 4, 2025
April 12 – April 18, 2025	12:00 Noon on April 11, 2025
April 19 – April 25, 2025	12:00 Noon on April 18, 2025
April 26 – May 2, 2025	12:00 Noon on April 25, 2025
May 3 – May 4, 2025	12:00 Noon on May 2, 2025

- 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. Junior State Cup Rosters are frozen at the time/day noted above for the remainder of the MSYSA Junior State Cup. Player additions or deletions may ONLY take place by the MSYSA Junior State Cup Committee or MSYSA State Office after the above applicable deadline to correct administrative errors. Administrative errors may ONLY be corrected until the team’s first game. Once a team has checked in with the referees for their first game, there can be no changes to a team’s Junior State Cup roster.
 - i. Requests to correct administrative errors must come from a club representative or rostered team representative only. Requests from players or parents will not be entertained.
 - ii. It is the responsibility of the person submitting the request to prove the request is the result of an honest administrative error.

- iii. Requests must be submitted with a \$100 fee. A credit card link can be made available.
- iv. All requests must be sent to StateCup@michiganyouthsoccer.org with enough time before a team's first game for MSYSA to review, investigate, and discuss the request, to collect payment, and to correct the administrative error (if that's the decision). Requests made with insufficient notice may not be accommodated. MSYSA is under no obligation to address requests during non-business hours.
- e. MSYSA reserves the right to substitute a team's league roster as their Junior State Cup tournament roster if that team does not submit a tournament roster by the deadline noted above.
- f. If a team does not submit a tournament roster by the freeze date and if a league roster is not available to MSYSA, then MSYSA shall assess the team a \$100 *per day* late fee for each day the roster is late. Teams will not be permitted to play MSYSA Junior State Cup games until the roster and payment are received. If teams play MSYSA Junior 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

- a. The U12 age group shall have two divisions as outlined below:
 - i. First Division / NLC Qualifying Division – This division is expected to be comprised of the more competitive teams with the majority of them being Director's Academy teams. By participating in this division, teams are competing to earn spots at the U13 age group in the Fall Season (2025) of the National League Conferences.
 - ii. Second Division – This division is open to any eligible team, including Director's Academy teams and teams from other select leagues.
 - iii. It is expected that U12 Director's Academy teams who are slotted for Tier 1 of the Director's Academy in the SPRING 2025 season will play in the First Division of the Junior State Cup. Any such teams wanting to play in the Second Division must send an email to the Junior State Cup Committee at StateCup@michiganyouthsoccer.org and outline the reason for their request.
- b. The U11 age group shall have two divisions as outlined below:
 - i. First Division – This division is expected to be comprised of the more competitive teams with the majority of them being Director's Academy teams.
 - ii. Second Division – This division is open to any eligible team, including Director's Academy teams and teams from other select leagues.
 - iii. It is expected that U11 Director's Academy teams who are slotted for Tier 1 of the Director's Academy in the SPRING 2025 season will play in the First Division of the Junior State Cup. Any such teams wanting to play in the Second Division or the U10/U11 division must send an email to the Junior State Cup Committee at StateCup@michiganyouthsoccer.org and outline the reason for their request.
- c. The U10 age group shall have two divisions as outlined below:
 - i. U10 7v7 Division – This division is open to any U10 eligible team who wants to play 7v7.
 - ii. U10/U11 Division – This division is open to any U10 eligible team who wants to play 9v9.
- d. The MSYSA Junior State Cup will have five distinct rounds – the Preliminary Games, Round of 16 (if needed), Quarterfinals (if needed), Semifinals (if needed), and Finals.
- e. In the preliminary rounds, all divisions will consist of three (3), four (4), or five (5) team brackets. Brackets within a division need not contain the same number of teams.
- f. For four (4) or five (5) team brackets, preliminary games will be conducted using a "round robin" format. For three (3) team brackets, preliminary games will be conducted using the

“cross-over” method whereby teams from one bracket are matched up against teams from a different bracket (of three teams).

- g. Teams will be scheduled for a minimum of three (3) preliminary games but may be scheduled for four (4) preliminary games.
- h. All preliminary games are scheduled by the teams involved, unless MSYSA intervention is necessary.
- i. To ensure three (3), four (4), and/or five (5) team brackets only, the MSYSA Junior State Cup Committee reserves the right to accept or deny teams and place teams into divisions based on prior MSYSA Junior State Cup history, prior league play history, team composition, prior tournament history, and/or adherence to application submission and payment deadlines.
- j. Winners of each pool in the preliminary rounds and wildcards (when applicable) will advance to the next subsequent round.
- k. The MSYSA Junior State Cup Committee will schedule and host all Round of 16, Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final games.

4. Junior State Cup and the National League Conferences

- a. The eight (8) teams advancing to the Quarterfinals of the 2025 MSYSA Junior State Cup (U12 First Division only) will have earned a spot in the National League Conferences the following fall season at U13 provided that all other MSYSA and NLC deadlines and rules are adhered to.
- b. If a particular U12 First Division does not enough teams to warrant a Quarterfinal round, then the four (4) teams advancing to the Semifinals will have earned a spot in the National League Conferences the following fall season at U13 provided that all other MSYSA and NLC deadlines and rules are adhered to.

5. Team Eligibility

- a. The MSYSA Junior State Cup is for current MSYSA-affiliated teams and MSYSA league-affiliated members only.
- b. All-star teams are not permitted. An all-star team 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.
- c. All teams must be in good standing with MSYSA and their respective MSYSA Affiliated League.
- d. Teams that have participated or will participate in the 2024-2025 MSYSA State Cup are not eligible to participate in the 2025 MSYSA Junior State Cup.
- e. All teams must play in a minimum of a four-team MSYSA affiliated league or MSYSA approved league during the SPRING 2025 season (January – May 2025). The team must play at least three (3) complete league games with a record of scores and standings during the SPRING 2025 season (January – May 2025). The league must be sanctioned or specifically approved by the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association. The MSYSA Director’s Academy is considered an approved league.

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 their MSYSA Junior State Cup games.
- c. All team officials must have completed the CDC Heads-Up Online Training Course within the past three (3) years of each Junior State Cup game in which they participate.

- d. All team officials must have completed the SafeSport Training through the US Center for SafeSport within the past year of each Junior State Cup game in which they participate.

7. Player Eligibility

- a. All players (including club pass players) must be in good standing with MSYSA and their respective MSYSA Affiliated League. Players must be properly registered with MSYSA and/or their MSYSA affiliated league before being eligible to appear on a team’s Junior State Cup roster.
- b. At least 50% of the team’s players must be residents of Michigan.
- c. For all age groups, each player on the tournament roster 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. For the U10/U11 division specifically, each player on the tournament roster must be born in 2015, 2016, or 2017.
- d. 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. For the U10/U11 division specifically, at least 51% of the players must have been born in 2015.
- e. A player’s age group is determined by their date of birth:

Age Group	Dates of Birth
U12	1-1-14 to 12-31-13
U11	1-1-14 to 12-31-14
U10	1-1-15 to 12-31-15
U09	1-1-16 to 12-31-16
U08	1-1-17 to 12-31-17

- f. A player may only play for one team in the MSYSA Junior State Cup.
- g. Any player wishing to play for a team in the MSYSA Junior 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 MSYSA Junior State Cup roster freeze date as noted in these rules.
- h. All players must adhere to FIFA and US Soccer Federation policies on international clearance. If needed, a player must have international clearance on file with US Soccer no later than the MSYSA Junior State Cup roster freeze date as noted in these rules.
- i. 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 organizations involved.
- j. If an illegal/ ineligible player appears on the MSYSA Junior State Cup Roster at the time of the roster freeze deadline (and it is not corrected in accordance with Rule 2d) or if a team uses an ineligible player at any point during the Junior State Cup competition, the team shall face sanctions as determined by the MSYSA Junior State Cup Chair and/or Junior 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 MSYSA Junior State Cups.

8. Junior State Cup Tournament Rosters & Game Reports

- a. Teams must adhere to the below maximum team roster and game roster policies:

Age or Division	Format	Maximum Tournament Roster	Maximum Game Roster
U12	9v9	16	16
U11	9v9	16	16
U10/U11 Division	9v9	16	16
U10 7v7 Division	7v7	12	12

- b. It is the team’s responsibility to put ALL desired players, including club pass players, on their Junior State Cup roster in GotSport.
- c. Only players appearing on the MSYSA Junior State Cup roster in GotSport are eligible to appear on the official MSYSA Junior State Game Report and are eligible to compete in the MSYSA Junior State Cup.
- d. The MSYSA Junior State Cup Game Report with game day roster selections 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 Pass Carding Within the MSYSA Junior State Cup

- a. Club Pass carding is permitted within the MSYSA Junior State Cup provided that all subsequent rules are met.
- b. A player may only play for one team in the MSYSA Junior State Cup.
- c. A player may only club passcard for a team in the MSYSA Junior State Cup if that team belongs to the same club as the player’s primary team. (See “Club” definition below).
- d. A club pass card player must appear on a team’s frozen MSYSA Junior State Cup roster (in GotSport).
- e. A team must be able to demonstrate continuity between their league roster and MSYSA Junior State Cup roster by having a minimum of seven (7) 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 MSYSA Junior State Cup if the teams and players from the satellite club are registered in the same GotSport account as the main club.
- d. The only exception to C above is if all 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
- e. All teams from within a “club” must have similarly designed uniforms with identical colors, logos, and other acceptable identifying marks.

11. Seeding, Bracketing, and Advancement

- a. In the U12 First Divisions only, teams shall be seeded based on the input from clubs with teams in the Director’s Academy. A maximum of two (2) teams per bracket will be seeded.

- b. In the U11 First Divisions, the MSYSA Junior State Cup Committee shall attempt to place teams into brackets so that brackets are as balanced as possible.
- c. In the U10 age group (including the U10/U11 division) and the U11 and U12 Second Divisions, the MSYSA Junior State Cup Committee shall attempt, when possible, to place teams into brackets so that they play against teams from other leagues.
- d. In all divisions, advancing teams will be as followed:
 - i. Two (2) Preliminary Brackets: Bracket winners and runners-up each advance to the Semifinals
 - ii. Three (3) Preliminary Brackets of 4 Teams Each: Bracket winners and one wildcard advances to the Semifinals
 - iii. Three (3) Preliminary Brackets of 5 Teams Each: Bracket winners and wildcards advance to the Quarterfinals
 - iv. Four (4) Preliminary Brackets for U12 First Divisions: Bracket winners and wildcards advance to the Quarterfinals
 - v. Four (4) Preliminary Brackets for All Other Divisions: Bracket winners and runners-up each advance to the Quarterfinals
 - vi. Five (5), six (6) brackets, and seven (7) Preliminary Brackets: Bracket winners and wildcards advance to the Quarterfinals
 - vii. Eight (8) Preliminary Brackets: Bracket winners advance to the Quarterfinals
 - viii. Nine (9) or more Preliminary Brackets: Bracket winners and wildcards advance to the Round of 16
- e. It is acceptable for two teams from the same preliminary bracket to play against each other in the Round of 16 and all other subsequent rounds.
- f. The MSYSA Junior State Cup Committee's decision regarding seeding, bracketing, and advancement is final. Teams may not appeal their decision.

12. Preliminary Game Scheduling & Scheduling Conflicts

- a. MSYSA Junior State Cup games take precedence over all scheduled league games.
- b. All teams must schedule their respective preliminary games immediately upon receipt of the release of Junior State Cup bracketing information. It is recommended that teams schedule their Junior State Cup preliminary games prior to scheduling league games.
- c. Preliminary game dates and times 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 one (1) MSYSA Junior State Cup preliminary round game on any one day, unless the team submits a written request for exemption to the Junior State Cup Committee at StateCup@michiganyouthsoccer.org and the exemption request is granted.
- e. If both coaches cannot agree on game date(s), time(s), and location(s) for their preliminary games, the MSYSA Junior State Cup Chair or Junior State Cup Chair Designee will schedule the game(s). Scheduling of the game is at the sole discretion of the MSYSA Junior State Cup Chair or Junior State Cup Chair Designee. The game(s) must be played as scheduled by the MSYSA Junior State Cup Chair or the Junior State Cup Chair Designee.
- f. All games scheduled by member leagues are required to be rescheduled to allow teams to compete in the MSYSA Junior State Cup.
- g. No member league can forfeit any game for any team for a day in which the team is playing in the MSYSA Junior State Cup (see exception below).

- h. Teams must not schedule league games on the dates of the Junior State Cup Round of 16, Quarterfinals, Semifinals, or Finals. If a conflict arises because of failure to adhere to this rule, the ability to reschedule league games is at the discretion of the league.

13. Preliminary Game Logistics Reporting

- a. Preliminary game logistics (date, time, field, etc) are due into the MSYSA State Office no later than 12:00pm on FEBRUARY 19, 2025. The home team (or home team's club) is responsible for reporting game logistics.
- b. Failure to report preliminary game logistics by the deadline may result in sanctioning including, but not limited to, forfeiture of home field advantage, game forfeiture, and/or fines.

14. Preliminary Game Re-Scheduling

- a. Teams may request that a kick-off time be changed due to lighting concerns by submitting the request and appropriate fees to StateCup@michiganyouthsoccer.org with sufficient advance notice (as determined by MSYSA). If the request cannot be accommodated, the game shall kick-off as initially scheduled.
- b. Preliminary games may NOT be rescheduled for any reason other than weather (including weather-related field conditions). In instances where games must be rescheduled due to weather, the **home team must notify MSYSA (StateCup@michiganyouthsoccer.org) AND the Coordinator of MSYSA Assigning (eshrews@gmail.com, 248-467-7846) as soon as possible**. Proof of closure by the field owner may be required.
- c. If the home team 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.
- d. When preliminary games must be rescheduled, the home team is responsible for submitting new game logistics 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 team (or Home Team in event of a tie) of each preliminary game must **report the score** (via GotSport) within 24 hours of the completion of the game.
- c. The winning team (or Home Team in event of a tie) of each preliminary game must **submit the game report** (via GotSport) within 24 hours of the completion of the game.
- d. Failure to report the game scores 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 into the MSYSA Junior State Cup utilize what they believe to be the best fields available to them. Should the MSYSA Junior State Cup Chairperson or Junior State Cup Chairperson Designee be made aware that fields in "poor" condition are being used or are less than appropriate for MSYSA Junior State Cup play, a fine (not exceeding \$500 per game) may be levied and a determination may be made by the MSYSA Junior State Cup Chairperson or the Junior State Cup Chairperson Designee that the field(s) will not be used for future MSYSA Junior State Cup play. A list of fields not permitted for Junior State Cup games shall be made available to teams.
- b. MSYSA may add a field to the list of fields not permitted for Junior State Cup games for any reason, including, but not limited to, the repeated relocation of games due to field closures.

- c. The repeated relocation of games due field closures may result in the home team being fined for each relocation request (fine not to exceed \$100 per occurrence).
- d. Determination of field status as to its playing condition rests with the organization providing the fields and the MSYSA Junior State Cup Chair and/or the Junior State Cup Chair Designee.
- e. If the host organization approves the field for play, the field may be cancelled at a later time if the host organization, the MSYSA Junior State Cup Chair, or the Junior State Cup Chair Designee deem the conditions to have changed.
- f. The referee, MSYSA Junior State Cup Chair, and/or Junior State Cup Chair Designee may suspend games when he/she considers the field unsafe or unplayable.

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. Teams are to be seated on opposite sides of the field, unless otherwise directed by MSYSA or unless it is impractical to do so based on field/facility set-up.
- c. All team personnel who are not players must have a MSYSA pass card, MSYSA risk management card, and be listed on the MSYSA Junior State Cup Game Report. All others without a MSYSA pass card and MSYSA risk management card must remain in the spectator area(s), unless directed otherwise by MSYSA.
- d. Each team may have a maximum of three (3) team officials (coaches, assistant coaches, managers) in the team bench area provided that each individual has a risk management card and a MSYSA pass card. Absolutely no more than three (3) team officials are permitted, even with proper passes and credentials.
- e. For all applicable age groups, players who are on the MSYSA Junior State Cup Roster but who are NOT selected to the 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. A coach may coach their own team from the touchline provided that mechanical devices are not used, tone of voice is informative and not a harangue, and they stay in their technical area (when one exists), in the area near their own team bench, or in the area as directed by the referee.
- b. "Mechanical Devices" (above) includes but is not limited to cell phones as well as other devices as determined by the Junior State Cup Chair or Junior State Cup Chair Designee.
- a. Failure to abide by the aforementioned criteria in coaching from the touchline may result in sanctions such as game suspensions, game forfeitures, and fees.

19. Spectators

- a. Coaches are responsible for the spectators that accompany their team.
- b. Spectators will occupy the same side as their team, unless otherwise directed by MSYSA or unless it is impractical to do so based on field/facility set-up.
- c. No artificial noisemakers of any kind are permitted. The MSYSA Junior State Cup Chair or Junior State Cup Chair Designee has the final decision in case of any discrepancies or interpretations of this rule.
- 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 Junior State Cup Chair or the Junior 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. Furthermore, a team official may receive game suspensions as a result of unacceptable spectator behavior or referee abuse.
- g. The MSYSA Junior State Cup Chairperson or Junior 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. Unmanned Aircraft System (Drones)

- a. The use of non-approved unmanned aircraft systems (ex: drones) is strictly prohibited at any/all Junior State Cup games.
- b. The use of unmanned aircraft systems may be approved by MSYSA for a specified promotional activity given that the request is submitted in writing to the MSYSA State Office.
- c. Any person in violation of this policy shall be immediately removed from the field, facility, and/or event.

21. Referees

- a. The MSYSA Junior State Cup Referee Assigning Committee will assign referees to ALL Junior State Cup games, including Preliminary, Round of 16, Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final games.
- b. Teams must use the referees as assigned by the MSYSA Junior State Cup Referee Assigning Committee. Failure to do so may result in game forfeiture and fees by one or both teams.
- c. For all MSYSA Junior 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 Junior 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. Neither the center referee nor assistant referees shall have an immediate family member participating in the MSYSA Junior State Cup game they are officiating, unless it has been disclosed in advance and agreed to by the participating teams.
- g. Games may be played with only two MSYSA assigned referees present.

22. MSYSA Junior State Cup Referee Fees

- a. If a Junior 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 or Division	Center Referee	Asst. Referees	Total Cost	Individual Team Cost
U12	\$50.00	\$35.00 each	\$120.00 per game	\$60 per game
U11	\$50.00	\$35.00 each	\$120.00 per game	\$60 per game
U10/U11 Division	\$50.00	\$35.00 each	\$120.00 per game	\$60 per game
U10 7v7 Division	\$40.00	\$30.00 each	\$100.00 per game	\$50 per game

- c. In the event there are less than three (3) assigned referees present, those that are present shall receive game fees as indicated above and the remainder of the fees shall be returned to the teams.

23. Game Format

- a. FIFA Laws of the Game will govern **all** games unless modified by USSF, US Youth Soccer, MSYSA, MSYSA Junior State Cup Chair, Junior State Cup Chair Designee, or Junior State Cup Committee.
- b. Modification(s) may be made with or without notice.
- c. Game format is detailed below:

Age/Format	Game Length	Overtime	Ball Size	Offside	Build Out Lines	Field Size	Goal Size(s)
U12 9v9	30 Minute Halves	10 Minute Halves	4	Yes	No	45–55 yards wide x 70–80 yards long	6.5 x 18.5 ft or 7 x 21 ft
U11 9v9	30 Minute Halves	10 Minute Halves	4	Yes	No	45–55 yards wide x 70–80 yards long	6.5 x 18.5 ft or 7 x 21 ft
U10/U11 Division 9v9	30 Minute Halves	10 Minute Halves	4	Yes	No	45–55 yards wide x 70–80 yards long	6.5 x 18.5 ft or 7 x 21 ft
U10 7v7	25 Minute Halves	10 Minute Halves	4	Yes	Yes	35–45 yards wide x 55–65 yards long	6.5 x 12 ft or 6.5 x 18.5 ft

- d. Overtime periods shall only be used in Round of 16, Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final games.
- e. In the event of a tie game during a Round of 16, Quarterfinal, Semifinal, or Final games, 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. The MSYSA Junior State Cup Chair or Junior State Cup Chair Designee may determine that a game is complete at any time after the commencement of the second half provided no team is at fault for the stoppage.
- h. For all divisions, if teams from the same league are scheduled to play against each other in the MSYSA Junior State Cup, the league game between the two teams may NOT count as an official MSYSA Junior State Cup game and results from that league game may not be applied to the MSYSA Junior State Cup tournament. However, at the league discretion, leagues may choose to allow MSYSA Junior State Cup results to count towards league results and standings. Contact your league for more information.

24. Heading

- a. All players ages 10 and younger, regardless of what age group they play in, may not head the ball.
- b. All players in the U11 age group or younger may not head the ball.
- c. A header by these players (whether deliberately or accidentally) shall result in an indirect free kick awarded to the opponent at the spot of the offense. If the header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick shall be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

25. Build Out Line

- a. When the goalkeeper has the ball in their hands during play from the opponent, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is put back into play.
- b. Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw, or roll the ball into play (punts and dropkicks are not permitted).
- c. After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal.
- d. The opposing team must also move behind the build out line prior to a goal kick and may only cross the build out line once the ball is in play.
- e. If a goalkeeper punts or dropkicks the ball, an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.
- f. If the punt or dropkick occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick shall be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.

26. MSYSA Junior State Cup Games Played Indoor

- 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.

27. Substitutions

- a. For all games, including overtimes, all age groups shall be permitted unlimited substitutions
- b. Either team may make a substitution with the referee's permission at any stoppage in play.
- c. Once the teams go into an overtime period, all players, excluding players who may have received a red card, are eligible to play.

28. Head Injuries

- a. If a player suffers a significant blow to the head, is suspected of having suffered a concussion, or has an apparent head injury during the course of a game, the team must remove the player from the game for a medical evaluation by a Health Care Professional (as defined in the MSYSA Concussion Policy).
- b. For all Round of 16, Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals game, and any preliminary game with a Healthcare Professional on-site (HCP as defined in the MSYSA Concussion policy) - If a coach seeks to allow a player to re-enter the game who has been removed from the game for further evaluation by a Health Care Professional and who not yet received such medical clearance, that coach shall be issued a warning.

29. 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 of jerseys, socks, or shorts, the home team shall wear light jerseys/socks and the visiting team shall wear dark jerseys/socks. If, at the discretion of the referees, the colors are too similar, it is the home team's responsibility to change into alternate jerseys, socks, or shorts.
- f. In addition 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 Junior State Cup 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.

30. Scoring Method

- a. The standings of teams within a bracket or pool 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.

31. Tie Breaker Criteria

- a. In the event teams from within the same bracket are tied on 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 differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of five per game. The team with the highest goal differential advances.
 - Fewest goals allowed. The team with the fewest goals allowed advances.
 - Double blind draw conducted by the MSYSA State Office (this shall only apply when all teams have earned a position in the round following the preliminary games).
 - Kicks from the penalty mark.
- b. If more than two teams are tied in points, 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.

32. Wild Card Selection Criteria

- a. For divisions with the SAME number of teams in each pool and which require a wildcard for Round of 16, Quarterfinal, or Semifinal 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 differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of five per game. The team with the highest goal differential advances.
 - Fewest goals allowed. The team with the fewest goals allowed advances.
 - Double blind draw conducted by the MSYSA State Office (this shall only apply when all teams have earned a position in the round following the preliminary games).
 - Kicks from the penalty mark.
- b. For divisions with a DIFFERENT number of teams in each pool and which require a wildcard for Round of 16, Quarterfinal, or Semifinal play, wildcard qualification shall be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria:
 - Teams with the highest average number of points per game (number of points divided by number of games)

- Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of five per game. The team with the highest goal differential advances.
 - Double blind draw conducted by the MSYSA State Office (this shall only apply when all teams have earned a position in the round following the preliminary games).
 - Kicks from the penalty mark
- c. If more than two teams are tied, the sequence shall be followed until one team is eliminated.
 - d. Once one team has been eliminated, the remaining teams shall then restart the sequence above until the tie is broken.
 - e. It is acceptable for two teams from the same preliminary bracket to play against each other in the Round of 16 and all other subsequent rounds.
 - f. Wildcard placement shall be at the discretion of the MSYSA Junior State Cup Chair and/or the Junior State Cup Chair Designee.

33. Forfeitures

- a. A minimum of five (5) players constitutes a team for teams in the U10 7v7 division.
- b. A minimum of six (6) players constitutes a team for teams in the U10/U11, U11, and U12 divisions.
- c. A fifteen-minute grace period shall be allowed beyond the official start time of the game if the minimum number of players is not available at start time. If the minimum number of players is available, then the game can commence. If, at the end of the 15-minute grace period, the team still does not have the minimum number of players, the referee will suspend the game and report the failure of the team to take the field on the MSYSA Junior State Cup game reports.
- d. The MSYSA Junior State Cup Chair or Junior State Cup Chair Designee may determine the game to be forfeited after examining the game report and conducting an investigation.
- e. In the event 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 Junior State Cup Chair or Junior State Cup Chair 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.
- f. A team that fails to take the field because of withdrawal from the MSYSA Junior State Cup (or game) after the deadline may be subject to sanctions levied by the MSYSA Junior State Cup Chair, Junior State Cup Chair Designee, Junior State Cup Committee, or the MSYSA Board of Directors.
- g. The score awarded to the winning team resulting from a forfeiture is 3 - 0.
- h. All leagues will be responsible for their teams' compliance of MSYSA Junior State Cup rules.
- i. **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 leagues that do not pay the fine will be considered in bad standing and the team will not be permitted to play in any future MSYSA activities until MSYSA receives payment.

34. 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 Junior State Cup Chair or Junior State Cup Chair Designee shall hold all passcards for suspended participants due to red cards during the Round of 16, Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final games.
- c. Game suspensions due to red cards received in the MSYSA Junior State Cup must be served during the next MSYSA Junior State Cup.

- d. If a player or coach receives a suspension in a MSYSA Junior State Cup game and that suspension is not fulfilled during that seasonal year, it will follow the player or coach to the next MSYSA Junior State Cup or State Cup 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.
- f. A coach may be shown a yellow card and/or verbally sanctioned for dissent.
- g. A coach may be shown a red card, verbally dismissed, or dismissed via a referee's gesture from a game for irresponsible behavior. Failure by the referee to show a physical red card does not negate the ejection, and disciplinary sanctions as noted below will still apply.
- h. The MSYSA Junior State Cup Chair or the Junior State Cup Chair Designee will decide on the length of suspensions.
- i. Any player, coach, or other team official who has been ejected from a Junior State Cup game the previous 5 years and who is ejected from a game in the current Junior State Cup competition may receive a total suspension length greater than the minimum suspension length below.
- j. Minimum Disciplinary Sanctions:
 - Player Ejection for Accumulation of Two Yellow Cards: Minimum one game suspension
 - Player Ejection for Denying a Goal Scoring Opportunity (Handling or Foul): Minimum one game suspension
 - Player Ejection for Foul & Abusive Language: Minimum two game suspension
 - Player Ejection for Spitting at Opponent: Minimum two game suspension
 - Player Ejection for Violent Conduct: Minimum two game suspension
 - Player Ejection for Serious Foul Play: Minimum two game suspension
 - Team Official Ejection for Irresponsible Behavior: Minimum one game suspension
 - Team Official Threats: Minimum two game suspension
 - Team Official Fighting: Minimum two game suspension
 - Player Fighting: Minimum two game suspension
 - Player or Team Official Striking an Official: Immediate and minimum one-year suspension from all soccer activities (separate hearing).
- g. If considered serious enough, a player, coach, or team official may face additional sanctions for other offenses as determined by the MSYSA Junior State Cup Chair and/or by the Junior State Cup Chair Designee.
- h. Upon being dismissed from a game by a referee or representative of the tournament, a dismissed team official must leave the field of play quickly and quietly. This person must be far enough away that they cannot be seen or heard by officials at the field. Failure to abide by these rules may result in increased suspension length, fines, and/or game forfeitures.

35. 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 a MSYSA-registered team official or a club official only. The protest can be made at any time during the current year's MSYSA Junior State Cup.
- d. Any protest must be presented in writing to the MSYSA Junior State Cup Chair or the Junior State Cup Chair Designee within one (1) hour of the completion of the game in protest.
- e. If the MSYSA Junior State Cup Chair or the Junior State Cup Chair Designee is unavailable at the site of the game, protests may be submitted via e-mail to the MSYSA Junior 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 Junior State Chair or the Junior State Cup Chair 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 Junior State Cup will not be entertained.
- i. Although a protest may not be entertained by the MSYSA Junior State Cup Chairperson or the Junior State Cup Chair Designee due to the lateness of the filing of the protest, the MSYSA Junior State Cup Chair or the Junior State Cup Chair Designee may report any misconduct by any MSYSA player, coach, or team, including the use of an ineligible player, during any portion of the MSYSA Junior State Cup to the MSYSA Board of Directors or a higher authority for their consideration.

36. Protest of MSYSA Junior State Cup Team Application Rejection.

- a. The protest must be emailed to StateCup@michiganyouthsoccer.org within one (1) business day of notification of application rejection.
- b. Notification of protest will include the following:
 - Protest fee of \$250.00. Since the protest is being submitted via email, the protest must include a statement acknowledging that the required fee will be submitted to the MSYSA Junior State Cup Chairperson or the Junior State Cup Chairperson Designee within one (1) business day. Online payment with a credit card may be permitted upon request.
 - 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 protest.

37. Appeals

- a. All decisions by the MSYSA State Office are final.
- b. Such decisions may be appealed to the MSYSA Junior State Cup Chair or Junior State Cup Chair Designee. Any appeals must be emailed to StateCup@michiganyouthsoccer.org with 48 hours of the initial decision from the MSYSA State Office.
- c. Notification of appeal must be accompanied by a \$500 bond. Since the appeal is being submitted via email, the appeal must include a statement acknowledging that the required fee will be submitted to the MSYSA Junior State Cup Chairperson or the Junior State Cup Chairperson Designee within one (1) business day. Online payment with a credit card may be permitted upon request.
- d. If the appeal is upheld, the bond will be returned. If the appeal is denied, the bond will be forfeited.

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

39. Alcohol and Illegal Drugs

- a. Players and team officials in the MSYSA Junior State Cup competition are prohibited from consuming alcohol or using illegal drugs at the playing site of the MSYSA Junior State Cup competition.
- b. Players and team officials are also prohibited from using any form of tobacco or marijuana at the playing site of the MSYSA Junior State Cup competition.
- c. The penalty for violation by player and/or team official may be disqualification from the MSYSA Junior State Cup competition.

40. Inclement Weather

- a. See the MSYSA Severe Weather policy as posted on the Junior State Cup page of www.michiganyouthsoccer.org.
- b. Teams that travel to MSYSA Junior State Cup locations do so at their own risk of games being cancelled due to inclement weather.
- c. The referee, MSYSA Junior State Cup Chair, and/or Junior State Cup Chair Designee may suspend games when he/she considers the conditions unsafe.
- d. For all games suspended in the first half or during halftime and that are not able to resume play the same day, the game shall be rescheduled for another day with permission from MSYSA. This only applies when neither team is at fault for the initial stoppage of the game.
- e. The MSYSA Junior State Cup Chair or the Junior 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.
- f. For any preliminary round game suspended due to weather after the commencement of the second half and that is not able to resume play the same day, the score at the time of suspension shall stand unless an official representative of one of the participating teams notifies the MSYSA Junior State Cup Committee in writing (StateCup@michiganyouthsoccer.org) within 24 hours expressing their desire to resume and complete the game. The final decision whether to accept the score at the time of suspension or whether to allow the game to be resumed rests entirely with the MSYSA Junior State Cup Committee.

41. Spirit of the Game

- a. If the MSYSA Junior State Cup Chair or the Junior State Cup Chair 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.

42. THE MSYSA JUNIOR STATE CUP COMPETITION RULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE.

Dates To Remember

January 29, 2025 at 12:00PM	MSYSA Junior State Cup Application & Payment Deadline
TBD	MSYSA Junior State Cup U12 Division 1 Seeding Meeting
February 19, 2025 at 12:00PM	MSYSA Junior State Cup Preliminary Game Logistics Due
March 7, 2025 – May 2, 2025	MSYSA Junior State Cup Roster Deadline (See Rule 2)
March 8, 2025	First Day Preliminary Games Can Begin
May 4, 2025	Preliminary Games Must Be Completed
May 16 – May 18, 2025	MSYSA Junior State Cup Round of 16, Quarterfinals, Semifinals
May 30 – June 1, 2025	MSYSA Junior State Cup Semifinals & Finals

MEDIA GUIDELINES:

Media credentials for access to shoot photographs and video is expected and must be issued directly from the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association. It is expected that the use of professional equipment to file photographic or video accounts when permitted access. Use of equipment such as 'point and shoot' style cameras or mobile telephones that are not considered professional equipment will result in access being rescinded.

To request media credentials, please send an e-mail to statecup@michiganyouthsoccer.org. Please note that no one under the age of 18 will be issued a credential without prior arrangement being made.

The deadline to apply for credentials to an MSYSA sanctioned activity (event/program/etc.) is one (1) week prior to the start date. There is no guarantee that late credentials will be issued. Pick up will be arranged on-site at the MSYSA headquarters. Proper identification must be provided to receive a credential.

Location: Videotaping and still photographers are permitted to shoot on the touchline in the spectator areas. At NO time is any person with credentials permitted to enter the field of play. At no time will videotaping and/or still photographers be permitted to be on or near the team benches and/or bench personnel.

Video: All rights to match footage including applicable copyrights belong to MSYSA and its rights holders who broadcast each specific match. If an organization is interested in recording video footage at an MSYSA match for non-news gathering purposes they should contact MSYSA Junior State Cup at statecup@michiganyouthsoccer.org.