

Nevada National Championship Series 2019

These rules are a supplement to the National Championship Series policies and represent Nevada's implementation of those policies. In any omission or contradiction in these supplemental rules, the National Championship Series policy will always prevail. The rules and policies described here are subject to appending and changing without notice. State Cup officials will only receive communication concerning the event and its conduct from a registered team official.

PLAYING RULES

The playing rules of the National Championships competitions shall conform to the FIFA "Laws of the Game" except as provided by this rule.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the length of games, overtime play periods, for each age group shall be as follows:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Game Length</u>	<u>Overtime (Finals Weekend)</u>	<u># of Referees</u>	<u>Roster Size</u>
19 and Under	Two 45' halves	Two 15' periods	4	22 (18 Rostered)
18 and Under	Two 45' halves	Two 15' periods	4	22 (18 Rostered)
17 and Under	Two 45' halves	Two 15' periods	4	22 (18 Rostered)
16 and Under	Two 40' halves	Two 15' periods	4	22 (18 Rostered)
15 and Under	Two 40' halves	Two 15' periods	4	22 (18 Rostered)
14 and Under	Two 35' halves	Two 10' periods	4	22 (18 Rostered)
13 and Under	Two 35" halves	Two 10" periods	4	22 (18 Rostered)
12 and Under	Two 30" halves	Two 10" periods	3	18
11 and Under	Two 30" halves	Two 10" periods	3	18

In league competitions, tie games at the end of regulation playing time may stand. In the finals weekend, if a game is tied at the end of regulation play then overtime periods are to be played to determine a winner. Two complete overtime periods, as provided in subsection (a) of this section, will be played after the end of regulation play. If the game is still tied after the end of the 2 overtime periods, FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" rules will apply in order to determine the winner.

SCHEDULES

Teams are required to be available for the 4 weekends listed below.

February 1-3, 2019

February 8-10, 2019

March 29-31, 2019

Finals Weekend – April 26-28, 2019

In case of inclement weather, the following dates will be used to make up any cancelled games:

April 5-7, 2019 and potential weekday games if necessary.

PLAYER CARDS

At team check credentials check prior to the start of the State Cup league, player passes will be printed for each player on the completed (frozen) roster. These cards may only be used for State Cup games and are not applicable for any other tournament or league play. Players are required to have State Cup cards at each game. If cards are not present, only a Nevada State Cup Official who is present at the game may verify player's eligibility and allow them to play. If there are no Nevada State Cup Official present at the game, the team who does not possess player cards will forfeit the game and is subject to the forfeit fine listed below.

CONCUSSION POLICY

If the player suspected of head injury has received clearance from a healthcare professional, the player may re-enter at any stoppage of play. A player diagnosed with a possible concussion may return to US Youth Soccer play ONLY after release from a medical doctor (MD) or doctor of osteopathy (DO) specializing in concussion treatment and management.

SUBSTITUTION TEAM/REFEREE PROTOCOL

Before the match begins the 4th official will collect, from each team, the State Cup player cards for the starting 11 players only. Each substitution that is ready to enter the game must give his player card to 4th official to be allowed to enter the field of play. At the conclusion of each half both teams will receive all player cards back from 4th official. This process will repeat for each half of play and overtime play. Please remember to pick up player cards after each match. State Cup teams will have specific player passes for State Cup and will be subject to a \$10.00 charge per card to reprint lost cards.

FIELD OF PLAY

1. 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.
2. Both teams are to be seated on the same side of the field. The home team will be on the North or west side of center. Supporters will occupy the other side of the field and are not allowed on the player's side of the field. Teams will be responsible for picking up all trash on their side of the field including seed shells. Teams that do not comply will receive a warning and any offense thereafter will be fined \$100.00. Fines must be paid prior to their next game. Fines that are not paid prior to the team's next game will forfeit all games until payment is made. The team may also be subject to the forfeit fine under the "Forfeitures" section of the NCS rules below.
3. Each team may have a maximum of four (4) team officials (coaches, assistant coaches, managers) in the team bench area provided that they are carded officials with Nevada Youth Soccer Association NCS specific cards, or club Technical Directors. Absolutely no more than four (4) are permitted, even with proper passes and credentials.
4. For 13U-19U age groups, players who are on the 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.
5. The home team (team listed first on the schedule) will wear white or light colored jersey. The visiting team will wear a dark colored jersey. If the referee believes the shirts conflict, then the home team must change. If sliding shorts are worn, they must be of similar color as the shorts. Long sleeves, if worn under a short sleeve uniform jersey, must match the main jersey color. Tape worn on the socks must match the main sock color. Any garment worn to fulfill religious requirements must pose no danger to the wearer or

any other participant. The referee has the final decision whether he feels he can properly distinguish between teams. (d) The Nevada State Cup Officials shall have the option to assign jersey colors to teams for matches, should the officials deem that such procedure is appropriate.

6. The home team shall provide three (3) balls to be used during the game.

COACHING FROM THE SIDELINES

1. 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 in the technical area.

2. Failure to abide by the aforementioned criteria in coaching from the sidelines may result in sanctions such as dismissal of coaches and other team officials, game suspensions, game forfeitures, and fees.

SPECTATORS

1. Coaches are responsible for the spectators that accompany his or her team.

2. Spectators shall occupy the side of the field opposite the side the teams are located. Spectators who do not comply may be dismissed from the field.

3. No electronically enhanced noisemakers of any kind are permitted.

4. The Referee or any Nevada Youth Soccer Official 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 anyone attending the game. The State Cup Committee may deduct points from a team's results for spectator's inappropriate behavior towards players, referees or other spectators.

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (DRONES)

By USYSA Policy, The use of non-approved unmanned aircraft systems (ex: drones) is strictly prohibited at any/all NCS State Cup games. Any person in violation of this policy shall be immediately removed from the field, facility, and/or event.

LEAGUE POINTS

Three (3) points for a win

One (1) point for a draw

Zero (0) Points for a loss

The top three (3) teams from southern Nevada will qualify for the State Cup finals. The third place team will enter the finals as the 4th seeded team. The State Cup Finals will be held in a tournament format. Teams who are eligible will be responsible for paying additional tournament costs. If an eligible team chooses **NOT** to participate in the finals tournament, the team immediately below them will take their place. Each team will move up accordingly until there are three (3) eligible teams.

The third seeded position will go to a team from Northern Nevada. Northern Nevada shall be defined as any team that is from outside of Clark County and Pahrump, Nevada. If more than one team is competing for the Northern Nevada position, there will be a playoff weekend no less than two weeks prior to the Finals Weekend. The Northern Nevada playoffs will be held in Reno, Nevada. The State Cup committee will determine the format of the playoff weekend based on the number for teams entered.

The team from Northern Nevada will compete in the finals weekend as the 3rd seeded team.

In the event Northern Nevada does not enter a team in the Finals Weekend, the 4th place team from Southern Nevada will qualify to compete. If this happens, the 3rd place team will receive the 3rd seed and the 4th place team will receive the 4th seed.

LEAGUE PLAY TIE BREAKER

1. Head to head result
2. Most Wins
3. Goal Differential (max 4 per game)
4. Least Goals Against (max 4 per game)
5. FIFA Penalty Kicks from the spot at a time determined by league officials.

In the event more than 2 teams are tied, and the tie breakers 1-3 do not eliminate enough teams to break the tie, a penalty shootout will occur between the teams tied in an elimination format. The opposing teams will be determined by the drawing of lots to be determined by the State Cup Committee.

SUBSTITUTIONS

1. In the U13-U14 age groups, teams shall be permitted unlimited substitutions for all games.
2. 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. 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.
3. Either team may make a substitution with the referee's permission at any stoppage in play.
4. 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 healthcare professional. A substitution for the evaluation of a suspected concussion/head injury will not count against a team's total number of allowed substitutions.
5. If the player with the suspected head injury has received clearance from a HealthCare Professional to return to the game, the player may re-enter at any stoppage of play. The evaluated player must replace the original substitute.
6. Any cautions assessed to the substituted player will carry with that player throughout the remainder of the game, any red card to the substitute would apply to the team and the team would be required to utilize a substitution (if available) for the player with the suspected head injury to replace a different player.

FORFEITURES

1. A minimum of seven players constitutes a team.
2. 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 State Cup league game reports.

3. Nevada State Cup Officials may determine if the game is to be forfeited after examining the game report and conducting an investigation.
4. 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 bracket the state cup official may require such an advancing team to play another qualifying game against the next highest ranking team that would otherwise be eligible to advance.
5. A team that fails to take the field because of withdrawal from the State Cup (or game) after the deadline may be subject to sanctions levied by Nevada Youth Soccer officials.
6. The score awarded to the winning team resulting from a forfeiture is 4 – 0.
7. A forfeiting team may be fined a minimum of \$500.00 per game forfeited. Any team that does not pay the fine will be considered in bad standing and the team will not be permitted to play in any future State Cup games until Nevada Youth Soccer Association receives payment. Coaches of forfeiting teams will not be allowed to coach other teams in the state cup until forfeit fines are paid.

WARNINGS, SENDOFFS, AND DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

1. 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 Nevada Youth Soccer Association Board for review and/or sanctions.
2. If a player or coach receives a suspension in a US Youth Soccer National Championships Series game (includes State Cup) the suspension carries to the next round, including the Finals weekend, Regional or Presidents Cup finals and the National finals. If the team is eliminated, 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.
3. 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. A player serving a suspension MUST BE COUNTED in the 18 player game roster.
4. A coach may be verbally sanctioned for dissent.
5. A coach may be verbally dismissed, or dismissed via a referee's gesture from a game for using foul and abusive language, and irresponsible behavior. A coach that is dismissed from two games must appear before the State Discipline Committee before being allowed to participate in future games.
6. Failure by the referee to show a physical red card does not negate the ejection, and disciplinary sanctions as noted below will still apply.
7. The Nevada State Cup Officials will decide on the length of suspensions.
8. 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.
9. If considered serious enough, a player, coach, or team official may face additional sanctions for other offenses as determined by the State Cup Officials.
10. If a coach or team official is dismissed and no other carded or rostered official is present, the match will be considered a forfeit regardless of the score at the time of dismissal.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Games cancelled due to inclement weather may be rescheduled. State Cup officials may schedule two games a day if needed to recover from cancelled games. The rules presented may be appended to or changed at any time without notice.

Official Match

A match shall be considered official after one full half of play is completed (the second half does not have to start). If less than one half is completed and the match is abandoned, the entire match must be replayed, subject to review by the Nevada State Cup Officials. If a match is abandoned in the second half of play due to inclement weather, the final score will be the score at the time the match is abandoned. If a match is abandoned due to gross misconduct, Nevada State Cup Officials will decide the disposition of the match score following review of all information available including but not limited to Referee Game Reports, reports for Nevada State Cup Officials, etc.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES (NCS) & FAR WEST PRESIDENT'S CUP (FWPC) – WILDCARDS:

1. In the event that a wildcard is presented to NV, the eligible team will be notified if the event is no sooner than thirty (30) days from kickoff.
2. The head coach and manager will be notified of an available wildcard via email. The team will have exactly forty-eight (48) hours from delivery to respond via email. In the event that no response is received, the wildcard will be awarded to the next qualifying team or declined if no teams remain.
3. If a team accepts a wildcard, then chooses to decline after the region has already been notified, said team's club is subject to the fine set forth by the West Region Committee. This team will not be eligible to participate in any NCS or FWPC matches until the fine has been paid in full to NYSA. The club will have a fifteen (15) day grace period to complete payment. The club will be placed in bad standing with NYSA upon failure to submit payment. Should the next qualifying team decide to take the spot, the original team will not be subject to the fine.
4. In the event that a wildcard is awarded to the state, the newly qualified team will be expected to participate or will be subject to the fine set forth by the West Region Committee. The team's club will

have a fifteen (15) day grace period to complete payment of the fine. The club will be placed in bad standing with NYSA upon failure to submit payment.

5. Nevada will decline all wildcards thirty (30) days prior to kick-off to account for travel, response time and scheduling.

PROTESTS AND APPEALS

Section 1. All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors, to interpretation of eligibility and/or the rules, or any dispute or protest concerning the National Championships competitions, shall be referred to the National Championships Committee regarding games at the national level, or to the Regional Championships Committee regarding games at the regional level.

Section 2. (a) To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest:

(1) must be orally lodged by a team official listed on the team roster involved in the game with the referee and with the opposing coach at the game site before entering the field of play or leaving the game site, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section; and

(2) must be filed with the appropriate NYSA officials within 2 hours after the completion of the game being protested, accompanied by;

(A) a fee in an amount determined by the State Cup Committee or designee;

(B) 5 written copies of the protest, which must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged; and

(C) 5 written copies of any information to be presented by witnesses.

(a) Any protest relating to the grounds, goal posts, bars, or other appurtenances of the game shall be entertained only if a written objection has been lodged with the referee and the opposing coach prior to the start of the game.

(b) The Chairman of the committee with which the protest is properly lodged shall immediately on receipt of the protest notify the team against which the protest is made and shall send a copy of the protest and all particulars to that team, which will then have the right to defend its case, with or without witnesses.

Section 3. (a) An appeal of a decision regarding a protest may be appealed as provided by US Youth Soccer Article XVII(3). Any such appeal must be filed within 2 hours of receiving the decision

(1) if a decision of the State Cup Championships Committee, with the Chairman of that Committee who shall immediately notify the NYSA Board of Directors; or

(2) if a decision of the Regional Championships Committee, with the Chairman of that Committee who shall immediately notify the Chairman of the National Championships Committee; or

(3) if a decision of the National Championships Committee, with the Chairman of that Committee who shall immediately notify the Board of Directors.

(a) Each appeal filed under subsection (a) of this section must be accompanied by—

(1) a fee in an amount determined by the Board of Directors; and

(2) 5 written copies of the appeal.

Section 4. Any party to a protest or appeal shall be accorded the right to be assisted in the presentation

of the party's case at the protest or appeal proceeding.

Section 5. A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the National Championships competitions is not sufficient grounds for a protest or appeal. Violators may expect appropriate action by US Youth Soccer.

Section 6. In National Championships competitions at the State Association level, decisions made on protests and appeals by the state protest and appeal authority are binding and allow that competition to proceed.

Section 7. Match Manipulation: An appeal of the decision regarding Match Manipulation may be appealed as provided by US Youth Soccer Article XVII(3). Any such appeal is subject:

1. If the state or Regional Championships Committee determines that a team is guilty of Match Manipulation, the Chairman of the committee shall immediately notify the Chairman of the Nationals Championships committee; or

2. If the National Championships Committee determines that a team is guilty of Match Manipulation, the Chairman of the committee shall immediately notify the Board of Directors.

NEVADA STATE CUP OFFICIALS DECISIONS ARE FINAL AND MAY NOT BE PROTESTED.