

**MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES
MASSACHUSETTS STATE CUP 2007**

Rules and Procedures

September 21, 2006

ALL CHALLENGE ROUND MATCHES

- 1. All Challenge round matches shall be single elimination matches. No Challenge round match may conflict with a regular MAPLE league match.**
- 2. All Challenge rounds must be completed by the dates established by the Cup Director.**

2A. DATES FOR THE 13'S & 14'S TO PLAY MATCHES:

ENTRY ROUND CHALLENGE MATCHES – must be played by September 26, 2006

CHALLENGE ROUND 1 – WILL BE PLAYED ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

CHALLENGE ROUND 2 – WILL BE PLAYED ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2006

CHALLENGE ROUND 3 – MUST BE PLAYED BY MAY 15, 2007

2B. DATES FOR THE 15'S, 16'S, 17'S, 18'S, & 19'S TO PLAY MATCHES:

ENTRY ROUND CHALLENGE MATCHES – must be played by April 17, 2007

CHALLENGE ROUND 1 – must be played by April 24, 2007

CHALLENGE ROUND 2 – must be played by May 8, 2007

CHALLENGE ROUND 3 – must be played by May 22, 2007

3. At all Challenge round matches, teams must have the following:

- 1. US Youth Soccer National Championship Series roster (called Cup Roster) – completely filled out**
- 2. Laminated player pass cards for each player on roster**
- 3. Adult pass cards for each adult on sideline – Maximum 4 per team**
- 4. Copy of the 2007 Challenge rules**

NO PLAYER WILL BE PERMITTED TO PLAY WITHOUT A LAMINATED PLAYER PASS CARD!

Referees will collect a copy of Cup Roster from each team and will check pass cards before the match begins. If a team forgets the Cup Roster, the team may submit a copy of their league roster, which will then become the Cup Roster. The Cup Roster and "Team Statement of Compliance" are available on the Mass Youth Soccer website:

www.mayouthsoccer.org.

EACH TEAM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT OF ½ OF THE REFEREES' FEES FOR EACH CHALLENGE MATCH (CASH ONLY)

U13 – U14 \$100.00 PER GAME (\$50 PER TEAM)
U15 – U19 \$130.00 PER GAME (\$65 PER TEAM)

4. TEAM ROSTER FREEZE DATES

For all teams in ages 13-19: Cup Team Rosters are frozen on the day the team plays its' first state cup match (this is the latest date possible by National rule) or May 29, 2007*, whichever occurs first.

The **Team Rosters** for all teams (U13 – U19) and **“Team Statement of Compliance”** must be in the hands of the **Mass Youth Soccer office** on the day the team plays its' first State Cup match in the Challenge round or May 29, 2007*, whichever occurs first. The Team Rosters and Team Statement of Compliance must be **sent via e-mail**.

***Note:**

If a team is playing in the Region 1 Spring Director's League, the team roster freeze date is the date the team plays its' first match in the Director's League, or first State Cup match, or May 29, 2007, whichever occurs first.

Important

All teams must submit a copy of their official US Youth Soccer affiliated league roster when they submit their Cup Team Roster to **Kate Murphy at the Mass Youth soccer office**.

All teams must hand the referee a copy of their Cup Roster prior to all challenge round matches.

For all U17-U19 teams:

Teams must hand the referee a copy of their Cup **Game Roster** prior to all matches (referee check-in). A Cup Team Roster may have up to a maximum of 22 players but the Cup **Game Roster** is limited to a maximum of 18 players (taken from the 22 player Cup Team Roster). The Cup **Game Roster** is created simply by checking the “Game Active” box on your Cup Team Roster for each of the 18 players participating. Once the Cup **Game Roster** has been given to the referee, the players not participating in the game are now, in accordance with the rules, considered spectators and must remain on the spectators' sideline with their uniform covered.

AGAIN, ALL TEAM ROSTERS (Cup and League) and TEAM STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF THE Massachusetts Youth Soccer office prior to their first game. Kate will review your Cup Roster, sign it, and return it to you. If you do not receive your signed Cup Roster from Kate, you must play your game with copy of the one sent to Kate.

All teams are required to submit a list of players requiring international clearances with their roster.

Kate Murphy Email: kmurphy@mayouthsoccer.org Fax: 978-466-8817 Phone: 1-800-852-8111 x221

5. Grace Period

Teams not ready to play at the scheduled start time of any match shall be granted a fifteen (15) minutes grace period unless otherwise specified beforehand. A minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a team. Any team not ready to play after the grace period has expired shall forfeit the match and shall be eliminated from the tournament. The referee's watch shall be the official watch for determining the grace period.

6. Game Balls

The home team will furnish the game ball. The referee will determine if the ball is suitable for use. If the home team does not have a suitable game ball, which is the sole discretion of the referee, the visiting team may furnish the ball. U-13 to U-19: Size 5

7. Home team – Visiting team

The home team shall be the higher seed (1 is the highest seed) for all challenge round matches, regardless of where the match is played. The visiting team shall have the choice of jersey colors. If in the opinion of the referee there is a color conflict, the home team shall change jerseys or wear pinnies.

Unless the Cup Director sets the match location, the home team shall provide a field for the match. For all ENTRY ROUND CHALLENGE GAMES, the home team shall provide a field. It will be incumbent on all teams to cooperate in the scheduling of challenge round matches. During each challenge round, it is up to both teams involved to set the Date, Time & Location for the match. Both teams should offer various dates (weekday and weekend). **Teams that have to travel at least 90 minutes on a school night, must schedule the game on a weekend, or teams should seek a neutral site.** If the home team is unable to provide a field, the visiting team will be given an opportunity to provide a field for the match. If there arises a situation where the Director must get involved in the scheduling, the Director will set a date, time and location for the match without benefit of input from either team (teams are strongly encouraged to avoid this option). If the Cup Director has to schedule the match at a neutral site, the teams involved will be responsible for the field rental fee. Once set that date cannot be changed.

If teams choose to schedule their Cup game on a **“deadline date”**, and the game can not be completed due to reasons not caused by either team, then the game **MUST** be played the following day. Therefore, teams that schedule their game on a **“deadline date” MUST** have a backup plan in place when they submit the original GNF.

8. Team Benches – sidelines

Teams and team officials (maximum of four (4) per team) will be on the same sideline – all must have a valid passcard. Parents and spectators will be on the opposite sideline (assuming the grounds permit this arrangement). Players, managers, coaches and fans are expected to conduct themselves within the letter and spirit of the “Laws of the Game.”

Coaches & Managers will be responsible for behavior of their fans. Coaching from the opposite sideline is prohibited. Displays of temper, dissent, by word or action against opponents or referees are cause for ejection from the match and/or premises and/or suspension from the tournament.

9. PLAYER EQUIPMENT:

The following will not be permitted: Boxer shorts, Jams

SHIN GUARDS ARE MANDATORY: socks/stockings pulled up covering the shin guards.

All players must have numbers on the back of their jerseys with the exception of the goalkeeper (the goalkeeper is optional). No duplicate numbers will be permitted. The numbers must match the numbers on the roster (pen changes of a player’s number will be permitted on the roster).

10. Laws Of The Game

Games will be played under the rules of F.I.F.A, U.S.Y.S.A., and Mass Youth Soccer except as modified herein:

Law I - Field of Play

The field of play shall be as is, except that the field shall be longer than it is wide.

Law II - Substitutions:

Substitutions shall be unlimited:

1. Prior to a throw-in (team in possession)
2. Prior to a goal kick by either team
3. After a goal is scored
4. After an injury when the referee stops play
5. At start of second half

Law VIII - Duration of Game

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Game Time</u>	<u>Overtime</u>	<u>Required Time allotment</u>
U-19	2 x 45	2 x 15	142 minutes
U-18	2 x 45	2 x 15	142 minutes
U-17	2 x 45	2 x 15	142 minutes
U-16	2 x 40	2 x 15	132 minutes
U-15	2 x 40	2 x 15	132 minutes
U-14	2 x 35	2 x 10	112 minutes
U-13	2 x 35	2 x 10	112 minutes

In overtime, both halves will be played to completion. Overtime periods will be played to the full time limit. If the score is still tied, then teams will proceed immediately to kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with FIFA rules. **When scheduling games, you need to factor in the required time allotment: that is, you must allow time to play the overtime periods and complete kicks from the penalty mark prior to darkness.**

For all challenge round matches, unfinished games due to any cause shall be replayed if neither team is at fault and play has not begun in the second half. If play is stopped during the second half and play cannot be resumed and if neither team is at fault, the Cup Director may deem the game complete. However, if play is stopped at any time due to one of the teams being adjudged to be at fault, it shall be at the discretion of the Cup Director whether the game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit.

Any match, which has to be replayed, must be completed assuming there is time before the Final Cut-Off date by which all matches in that specific round must be completed. If not, both teams shall forfeit. If only kicks from the penalty mark need to be taken in order to determine a winner of the match, those kicks may be taken within 7 days of the match, as long as the final cut-off date has not passed.

11. **YELLOW / RED CARD & EJECTIONS**

Any player receiving a red card during the Massachusetts State Cup Competition shall be suspended for one game. The Cup Director shall have, in his/her sole discretion, the right to increase the suspension if the facts so warrant. If the red card was issued for fighting (punches are thrown), the Cup Director shall have the right to increase the suspension by up to two additional games at his/her sole discretion.

Any team official who is asked to leave a match by the referee shall be suspended for three matches. Suspensions shall be served for the team's next scheduled Cup match(s) – if team is eliminated, suspension will carry forward to next Cup year.

Red card suspensions and team official suspensions shall be served for the team's next scheduled Cup match or matches in consecutive order. If the team is eliminated from competition, the suspensions shall carry forward for that individual to the next Cup year and shall be served accordingly.

Please ensure that the referees do not take the passcard for any player or coach who is ejected.

12. Protest Procedure

Protests must be in writing and filed together with the fee of \$300 in Cash, money order, Club Check or Cashier's check. No personal checks will be accepted. If protest is successful, ½ of fee will be returned.

For all Challenge round matches, the protest must be filed with (postmarked [with evidence of mailing] or accepted by) the National Cup Director within 24 hours of the game in question. The protest will be given to the Challenge round Protest Officer or the Deputy Protest Officer. Written disposition of the protest will be given within 3 days of receipt of the protest.

Protests must be filed with:

Terri Filippetti
21 Winslow Street
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

No protest will result in the replay of a match under any circumstances.

Judgment decisions of the referee are not subject to protest.

No protest will be entertained relating to the grounds, goalposts, bars or other appurtenances of the game if the referee has approved them. A plea of ignorance of the rules and regulations of the Massachusetts State Cup championship is not sufficient grounds for protest.

When an appeal or protest is made to Mass Youth Soccer, the Appeals Committee shall hear that appeal. An appeal to Mass Youth Soccer is made in writing within ten (10) days of the incident or ruling by a lower protest. The written appeal must be accompanied by a check for the Appeal Submittal fee made out to Mass Youth Soccer. The appeal fee is non-refundable regardless of the outcome of the appeal. The appeal must include seven (7) copies of all documents pertinent to the appeal.

The Mass Youth Soccer Appeals Committee must hold a formal hearing to which all parties have been notified and invited within fourteen (14) days of the receipt of the written appeal. This Committee will render a decision in writing to all parties in the appeal.

Any decision rendered by the Mass Youth Soccer Appeals Committee may be appealed directly to the National Championships Committee through the National Office with the appropriate appeal fee, and then, if they want to appeal the National Championships Committee's decision, the final appeal for USYSA is the USYSA Board of Directors.

No party to an appeal or protest may invoke the aid of the Courts of any State or of the United States without first exhausting all-available remedies within USSF.

13. Game Field

If a provided field is not available or not, in the judgment of the referee, suitable for play on the scheduled game date, the opposing team shall have the right to schedule the match at a time and location suitable to that team. The team who failed to provide the field shall accept the terms and location of the match. If the failure occurs within 2 days of the final date for play of the Challenge round and the match cannot be rescheduled within the allotted time - then the team which failed to provide the field may be forfeited out of the tournament at the discretion of the Cup Director.

14. Postponement

Once agreement between the teams has been reached and the challenge round match scheduled, the match may not be postponed without agreement of both teams **and** the referee assignor.

15. Change of Field

A match may be relocated provided sufficient notice and directions have been provided to the opposing team and referee assignor. If the match is relocated, it is the responsibility of the team relocating the match to ensure the opponents and referees have all information necessary, in a timely fashion, to show up at the proper location.

16. Referees

FOR ALL CHALLENGE ROUND GAMES – THE TEAMS MUST PAY THE REFEREES IN CASH @ THE FIELD. Fees are as follows:

U13 - 14 \$100.00 per game: \$40 for referee and \$30 each for assistant referee. Each team is responsible for ½ of fee.

U15 - 19 \$130.00 per game: \$60 & \$35 each. Each team is responsible for ½ of fee.

17. REFEREE ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURE

It is the **responsibility of both teams** to insure that the assignor is notified (via the Cup Game Notification form*) with the date, time and location on the match, as soon as the game is scheduled (must be at least seven (7) days in advance of the scheduled match). To help insure this, the game must be scheduled by the date specified in the bracket/schedule, located on the Mass Youth website. **Be sure to comply with the required game time allotment as specified in Section 10 above.** The assignor will assign referees for the match and email a game confirmation to each club. For each match, three (3) referees will be assigned - however if less than 3 officials arrive for the match – the match must be played – as long as one (1) qualified official is present. In cases of less than three officials, it shall left to the discretion of the referee whether or not to use volunteers as assistant referees. If requested by the referee, each team must cooperate and provide someone to act as an assistant referee.

If a Cup match is postponed less than 48 hrs prior to the scheduled time, the home team and/or the opposing team will be responsible for all referee fees for the match (Cup Director to determine). If the match is to be played at a field that is NOT listed in the MAPLE book – the home team must EMAIL or fax field directions and map to the Referee Assignor and the opposing team.

The scheduling for all referees must be done through Rich Filippetti - he can be contacted in the following manner (in order of preference):

1. E-mail rfilippetti@townisp.com (preferred method)
2. Fax 508-845-8570
3. Phone 508-845-6733
4. Cell phone 508-868-0170

***Cup Game Notification Form:**

To be used for all “self-scheduled” Cup matches. The form is located on the Mass Youth website under State Cup Tournament. This form can be completed by either team after both teams have agreed. All questions must be answered – date, time, location, name and email address of opposing team official who agreed to the game specifics. After answering all the questions, click on the “Submit” button. The information will be sent to the referee assignor immediately.

18. REPORTING OF GAME RESULTS

BOTH TEAMS must report the score of each Challenge game immediately after the completion of the match. Scores may be reported via email to mastatecup@townisp.com OR you can call the score into my Mass Youth voice mail at 1-800-852-8111 x252. When you report the score, please include the following: gender, age group, teams involved, and score. Please make sure that it is clear which team won the match. All scores will be posted on the State Cup score site which can be accessed through the Mass Youth Soccer website www.mayouthsoccer.org.

19. Forfeiture Fee

Forfeiture fee is \$500. All forfeiture fees must be paid within 48 hrs of the forfeit. Failure to pay the forfeiture fee will result in both the Team and Club being placed in bad standing and all matches played by the team or club while in bad standing will also result in forfeiture of those matches. This applies to league or Cup matches. All forfeiture fees must be paid directly to Mass Youth Soccer or the National Cup Director.

Any team which forfeits three (3) league matches in the league that the team is using for Cup Qualification purposes shall be declared ineligible for Cup play and shall pay a \$1000 fine. The team shall also be the last seeded team in the following year's age group. In addition, any team having been eliminated from Cup play, and forfeits three (3) matches in the league play shall pay a \$500 fine and shall be the last seeded team in the following year's age group. All fines must be paid before any other team from that club can play another Cup game.

20. GENERAL

Any matters not specifically covered herein are referred to the National Cup Director for decision and action, as he/she deems appropriate. The decision of the National Cup Director shall be final.

Terri Filippetti
National Cup Director
mastatecup@townisp.com