



CSSA Competition Rules and Regulations

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- revisions are bolded and italicized -
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Article I. Overview

The purpose of the CSSA State Cups is to determine a CSSA champion in each of the competitions. The State Cups are also for the enjoyment of the game for the participants. The State Cups are open to all CSSA affiliated teams. Alternative competitions may be arranged.

Article II. General

Definitions

- 1) *FIFA* means The Federation Internationale de Football Association.
- 2) *Federation* means the United States Soccer Federation (USSF).
- 3) *USASA* means the United States Adult Soccer Association.
- 4) *Association* means the administrative body within the State of Connecticut as determined by the Federation to carry out soccer programs for adult players.
- 5) *Executive Board* means the Executive Board of the CSSA.
- 6) *Committee* refers to the CSSA Competition Committee.
- 7) *CCC* means Competition Committee Chairman.
- 8) *State Cups* means those Cups provided for by CSSA under these rules.
- 9) *Affiliate* means an organization that conducts soccer programs in the State of Connecticut at the adult amateur level and is an active member, in good standing, of the CSSA.
- 10) *League* means an organization that conducts competition among soccer teams.
- 11) *Club* means an organization of one or more soccer teams usually playing within a league.
- 12) *Eligible Player* is a player who is properly registered under the rules of the CSSA and is not under suspension.
- 13) *Competition Rules* means this document to be used as a directive for the conduct of CSSA Cups and other competitions as outlined herein. These rules apply to all involved in a CSSA Cup.
- 14) *Game Report Form* means the official referee report form approved by USSF.
- 15) *Official State Cup Entry Form* means the only approved form to be used by teams wishing to enter and participate in cup competition.
- 16) ***Team Roster means the official roster of players, submitted by a team to participate in a given game.***
- 17) *State Cup Line-up Form* means the only official form to be used as a ***list of players*** to take part on a given game/match.
- 18) ***The terms "match" and "game" are used interchangeably throughout this document and have the same meaning.***



Cups Establishment and Titles

Competitions

- 1) The Cup competitions will be for Open, Over-30, Over-40, and any other age group, provided that a sufficient number of teams enter (minimum of eight (8) required).
- 2) Separate competitions will be held for men and women.

Trophies and Titles

Each cup shall be named after an honorary CSSA contributor (e.g., Alastair Bell Cup). That trophy shall be held for one year by the tournament winner and then passed on to the next tournament champion until one team has won that particular trophy three (3) times. This team will then be allowed to keep the trophy. A new trophy will be named after a new CSSA contributor and the competition for the new cup shall begin all over again with the team needing three (3) wins to capture the new cup.

Administration

The entire control and management of the competition shall be vested in a Competition Committee chaired by the Vice-President. The President of the Association shall also appoint to this committee at least two (2) members of affiliated organizations. One or more committee members may be appointed for a cup game to look after the interests of the association.

Duties - Competition Committee Chairman (CCC):

- 1) Replacing any committee member as may become necessary.
- 2) Notifying all eligible teams of their status in State Cup or other competition play, including date, time, opponent and location of games.
- 3) Rejecting any entry for failure of a team to comply with the rules and regulations of the competition.
- 4) Investigating and determining the eligibility of any player as may be required.
- 5) Certifying that all competing players are properly registered with CSSA on USSF/USASA player passes within the current season, or with CJSA or AYSO, when applicable.
- 6) Determining player or team suspensions.
- 7) Determining locations of games.
- 8) Determining extensions of deadlines as may be required for the good of the competition.
- 9) The CCC shall ensure that he or she or any other member of his or her committee participate in any protest, disciplinary action or arbitration in cases which involve players, coaches, persons, teams, leagues or any organization to which they have ties. This is in effort to avoid conflicts of interest.
- 10) If applicable, furnishing the SRA, or contracted Referee Assignor, with a schedule of competition games in ample time to make the referee assignments.



Duties - Committee Members:

- 1) If applicable, providing the SRA, or contracted Referee Assignor, with enough copies of the rules of the competition for further dissemination to the need-to-know officials.
- 2) Notifying the team or teams within their respective leagues of such matters as competition schedules, rules of the competition and other pertinent documents and directives.
- 3) Notifying the team or teams within their respective leagues of player or team suspensions.

Forms of Competition

The Format of the State Cups will be either World Cup round-robin style, or Single Elimination a.k.a., knock-out, which will be decided by the Committee, based upon the number of teams entered.

Matters Not Provided For

The Committee shall have the power to alter or add to the above rules or the Fee Schedule, as it pertains to the Cups or other State competitions, from time to time as it deems expedient, subject to the approval of the CSSA Board of Directors. The association shall adopt such rules, regulations, and by-laws in reference to cup competitions as shall be satisfactory to the CSSA membership.

Article III. Eligibility and Entries

Eligibility - Team

- 1) Any team duly registered to a league affiliated and in good standing with CSSA or which is directly affiliated with this association, is eligible to enter State Cup or other competition.
- 2) The Committee shall resolve any questions of team eligibility. Those decisions shall be final.
- 3) ***Team roster deadline dates, a.k.a. "frozen roster dates" are at the discretion of the Committee. The policy will be set and stated on the annual competition entry form.***
- 4) Appeals of the Committee's decisions may be made to the Executive Board.
- 5) A team may only enter one state cup competition in any given year.



Eligibility - Players

1. All players shall be registered according to the rules of the Association.
2. A player shall not play for more than one club in the same season, but the members of each representative team may be changed during the series of matches, **depending on Article III, Eligibility – Team, 3), above.**
3. A player must be registered a **specified number of days** before the day set for the completion of a game, **depending on Article III, Eligibility – Team, 3), above.**
4. A player qualified to play in any round shall be deemed eligible to play in any subsequent round by virtue of his original qualification.
5. A player under suspension is not eligible to participate in any State Cup competition until the suspension has been served.
6. A player who has been suspended may play in postponed, drawn, or replayed matches after his term of suspension has expired.
7. Each participant on a team competing in these competitions **may be an amateur or professional player**, duly qualified according to the rules of the USSF and CSSA and must be properly registered with the CSSA at least seven (7) days prior to any game in the competition in which the player may participate, **depending on Article III, Eligibility – Team, 3), above.**
8. A player's professional status does not expire as a result of the player not having signed a professional contract or played professionally in recent years. (See USSF Policy 601-4 on Amateur Reinstatement.)
9. Each player must be registered to the team he/she is playing for in the State Cup and have a current player pass, with recent picture, properly laminated on both sides that states the team to which the player is registered.
10. Each individual cup category is a separate competition. A player may not play for more than one competing team within any single cup category. A player may participate in more than one category of cup competition.
11. Players may be required to provide proof of age using a government-issued photo ID presented to the referee, along with his/her player's pass for all games requiring age limitations. Such players must meet minimum age requirements of the cup category the player is competing in, at the commencement of the competition.
12. Exceptions may be made to accommodate league exemptions, specifically pertaining to goalkeepers, i.e., aged 25 in the Over-30 competition and aged 35 in the Over-40 competition.
13. All players under 19 participating in any of the State Cups shall carry a USSF or USYSA Youth Division identification pass bearing his or her photograph. Those passes shall be verified and certified by the Committee and shall be presented to the referee and the representative of the opposing team prior to the game.
14. To play in the Semi-Final or Final, a player must have **been rostered** at least in the Quarter-finals.



Entry

- 1) Deadline for entry will be set by the Committee.
- 2) No player may be registered for the competition after the Association's Cup registration deadline.

Forms

Only a team which has done the following will be considered to have officially entered the tournament:

1. Completed the Official Entry Form for CSSA State Cup competition.
2. Accompanied the entry form with the entry fee as stated in the CSSA Fee Schedule.
3. Submitted both of the above to the CCC, via regular mail, post-marked before the stated entry deadline.
4. ***Been screened by the Committee as follows:***
 - a) ***has an acceptable disciplinary record, past and present; and***
 - b) ***is in good standing with either its affiliated CSSA league or with CSSA, if affiliated directly with CSSA.***

Entry Forms can be downloaded from the CSSA web site.

Article IV. Playing Requirements

Uniforms

Where the colors of competing clubs are similar, the home team must change. Goalkeepers must wear colors which distinguish them from other players, the referee, and the spectators.

State Cup Line-up Form

Immediately before the start of the game:

1. Each captain shall give to the referee and the captain of the opposing team a typed, clearly legible ***State Cup Line-up Form*** showing the proper names and shirt numbers of the players on their respective teams.
2. These line-ups shall be on ***official*** forms provided for this purpose
3. Only those players named on the line-up forms handed to the referee before the game shall be allowed to play in that game.
4. A club using a player not named on the ***official*** line-up form, or hand-written on the line-up form, loses the game and is fined and disciplined, ***per the Fee Schedule.***

Coaches

Only properly registered coaches and managers in good standing with a current, laminated CSSA league-issued coaches pass will be allowed to participate with the team in the FIFA Technical Area (in front of Team Bench).



Team Benches

The Bench area is limited to coaches and players and must be situated on the opposite side of the field from any spectators.

Playing Rules - Tournament

A) Each State Cup competition format will be determined annually.

B) Tournament Draw:

1. Following the entry deadline, the CCC will verify all team entries for each competition with the CSSA Registrar. Each team will be placed in the appropriate competition and the CCC will then conduct a draw to determine first round opponents.
2. The draw may be conducted so as to avoid extensive travel in the first round of games and, if possible, have teams from different leagues play against each other in the first round of play.

C) Home Team:

1. The designated home team will be determined by the CCC at the time of the initial tournament draw. The first team drawn will be designated home team for the first round.
2. The home team for each succeeding round will be determined by the following formula, applied within a bracket:
 - If both teams play at home and win, the home team designated in the bracket stays the same.
 - If both teams play away and win, the home team designated in the bracket stays the same.
 - If one team wins away, and the other team wins at home, then the team that won away is the home team for the next round.
 - Third game home team is determined by teams with the least points.

D) Forfeits

1. Any team intending to forfeit a game must give written notice of its intention to do so to the delegate of the opposing team, with copies to the CCC no less than seven (7) days before the date of the game.
2. If a game is forfeited with less than seven (7) days notice, the score will be recorded as 3-0 against the forfeiting team, and that team may not be allowed to enter the State Cup the following year.
3. A team using an ineligible player shall forfeit to the opposing team the game in which the player played.
4. A team using an ineligible player shall be expelled from the competition and will be ineligible for the next year's tournament.
5. A team shall also forfeit a game to the opposing team for failure to comply with the rules of the competition or for other just causes as determined by the Committee.



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6. If a game is not completed it must be replayed in its entirety. However, if the non-completion of the game results from misconduct clearly traceable to one or the other of the competing teams, its management, or its followers, as determined by the Committee, the CCC shall decide as to the disposition of the game, taking into consideration the policy that the home team is generally responsible for the proper conduct of the game.
7. In the case of replayed matches, the club which did not have the choice of ground in the first game shall have the choice of ground for the second match. Each club must take precautions to keep its ground in fit condition. If for any reason a match is not completed, it must be replayed for the full ninety (90) minutes.
8. All incidents not covered above will be decided by the CCC. Excepting 1) above, **Any team forfeiting a cup or competition game shall be fined per the Fee Schedule.**

Game Rules - Tournament

1. In all games played in State competition, substitutes will be allowed as follows:
 - Limited substitutions - a maximum of **seven (7)** substitutes shall be allowed at any time during the game. This includes regular and overtime periods as well as re-substitutions. A player who has been substituted for, shall be allowed to return to the same game, but shall count as a substitute.
 - Over-30 & Over-40 competition, and other age-limited competition, may use unlimited substitutions.
 - Substitutions can be made during any stoppage (per FIFA rules).
 - A substitute must report to the referee with his player pass before he can be allowed to participate.
2. In Single Elimination games, only one game shall be played to decide a winner; there shall be no tie games. In case of a tie at the end of the normal 90 minutes, there will be two 15 minute extra-time periods, per FIFA rules.
3. Should there still be a tie at the end of the extra time, there will be kicks from the penalty spot, in accordance with FIFA rules.
4. The game must start at the hour appointed. Any team not ready to play fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start time shall forfeit the game. ("Ready to play" means a minimum of seven players on the field, with passes and line-ups checked by the referee.)



Player Discipline

1. Any player serving a suspension in his or her own league, or any other competition, will not be eligible for Cup play until that suspension has been served.
2. Players competing in State Cup competition will be disciplined according to established CSSA and USSF policies.
3. Exhibition games or indoor games will not be considered official games for the purpose of credit toward disciplinary suspensions, as they relate to State Cup competitions.
4. The CCC shall have the power to disqualify and remove from further participation in the competition any team or player(s) of any competing team who may be proven guilty of any breach of the rules of the CSSA, USASA, or the USSF.
5. All notices of disqualification or suspension shall be forwarded by email or fax to the Committee, the team's league, and the affected team(s), except in the case of the minimum two (2) games suspension as outlined above, which shall be effective automatically and without notice.

Article V. Protests

1. All questions of eligibility, qualifications of competitors, or interpretation of rules shall be referred to the Committee, whose decision shall be final, but no objection relative to the ground, goal posts, or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall be entertained by the Committee unless a protest is lodged in writing with the referee and captain of the opposing team before the commencement of the match. No protest or any objection shall be entertained by the Committee unless the club lodging the protest shall have deposited, per registered letter or certified mail, within three (3) days, Sundays and Holidays not included, with the Secretary of the association the sum indicated on the CSSA Fee Schedule which shall be forfeited in the event the protest is not sustained. In such cases, if the Committee deem fit, they may order the protesting club to pay such sum as they may consider necessary toward defraying the expenses of the club protested against. No protest or objection shall be withdrawn without the consent of the Committee.
2. Any dispute occurring between clubs in the competition shall be referred to the Committee for its sole arbitration; its decision shall be final and binding on both sides. Should either of the two clubs in dispute having a member on the Committee, said member shall not be allowed to sit on the Committee while such protest or dispute is being considered. Protests shall be made in writing and a copy shall be lodged with both the Secretary of the Association and the secretary of the club protested against, within three (3) days of the game (Sundays and Holidays not included). Such protests shall be accompanied by the grounds upon which the protest is founded. The date of postmarked letter shall be the date of filing. Each club may support its own case with witnesses, who must be invited to appear at the hearing to present their case in person, before a decision can be reached.



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3. In any dispute between clubs in this competition involving identity of players, the Committee must invite the clubs involved and have them produce the principles for the purpose of identification and questioning. In such cases, the protesting club shall be required to deposit with the Association used, if the protest is dismissed, to defray the expenses of the club protested against. If the protest is upheld, the amount deposited shall be returned and the offending club required to pay its own expenses.
4. No attorney-at-law shall represent a club at the hearing of a protest unless he is the secretary of the club concerned, and appears as such officially in the Association records.

Article VI. Officials

Assignment

1. The CSSA or contracted Referee Assignor shall appoint the referees and assistant referees for all cup games.
2. The referee's report on the cup games and the line-ups of the team must be filed with the Chairman of the Committee within three (3) days after the game, Sundays and Holidays not included. Date postmarked or date E-mail sent shall be the date of the filing.

Fees

1. Fees for the referees officiating State Cups shall be set annually by the CSSA Executive Board and shall be documented in the CSSA Fee Schedule:
 - a. In preliminary or round-robin games, and Quarter-Final games, the home teams is responsible for paying the Assistant Referees and the away team is responsible for paying the Referee.
 - b. Payment of fees for the State Cup Semi-Finals and Finals in each category is the responsibility of the Association.