



Connecticut State Soccer Association

The governing body of amateur soccer in the state of Connecticut, founded in 1914 and incorporated in 1993

The CSSA, its leagues, clubs and teams are members of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and the United States Adult Soccer Association (USASA)



CSSA Competition Rules and Regulations

Last revised on September 12, 2020



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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. The Committee has the discretion, on an annual basis, to also allow combination teams and non-affiliated teams to compete. 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 or Cup Committee.
- 7) *CCC* means Competition or Cup 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 or similar competition.
- 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.
- 19) *Ground* means a team's home field, or pitch.

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, as determined by the Cup Committee.
2. Separate competitions will be held for men and women.



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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 Association competition shall be vested in a Competition or Cup Committee chaired by an individual appointed by the CSSA 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. The CSSA is the sole arbiter of competition participation, rules, scheduling, results, and discipline.

Duties - Competition Committee Chairperson (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 Chairperson shall ensure that he or she or any other member of his or her committee do not 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:

Performing any assigned duties by the Chairperson, which may include, but are not limited to:

- 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.



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Forms of Competition

The Format of the State Cups or other competition 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 these 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 Executive Board. 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) At the Committee's discretion, non-affiliated teams, aka "non-league" teams, and combination teams may apply to enter Association competition and will be screened rigorously by the Committee, and then approved by the Executive Board. Such teams shall meet stringent participation requirements which may include the posting of performance bonds. A non-league team may be a combination of two or more existing CSSA-affiliated teams.
- 3) The Committee shall resolve any questions of team eligibility. Those decisions shall be final.
- 4) 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.
- 5) Protests may be made to the Committee per the guidelines contained in these rules. Appeals of any Committee decisions may be made to the Association's Executive Board, per that governing body's appeals procedures.
- 6) A team may only enter one state cup competition in any given year.



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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), 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), 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), 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 the USSF Policy 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. Teams may not place underage field players on rosters, prior to the start of the competition, who then become age-eligible during the competition.
12. Exceptions may be made to accommodate member league exemptions, specifically pertaining to goalkeepers; e.g., leagues that allow goalkeepers to be no more than five years younger than field players. Under-age goalkeepers cannot participate as field players. Exceptions will be stated on the Entry Form.
13. To play in the Quarter-finals, Semi-Final or Final, a player must have been rostered per the Committee policy stated on the Entry form.

Entry

- 1) Deadline for entry will be set by the Committee and stated on the Entry Form.
- 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



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tournament:

1. Completed the Official Entry Form for CSSA State Cup competition.
2. Accompanied the entry form with the non-refundable entry fee, if applicable, as stated in the CSSA Fee Schedule or on the Entry Form.
3. Submitted both of the above to the designated Committee member, via e-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 or near the team bench).

Team Benches

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

Playing Rules – Tournament (Knock-out format only)

- A. Format: Each State Cup competition format will be determined annually.



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B) Tournament Draw:

1. Following the entry deadline, the CCC Committee will verify all team entries for each competition with the CSSA Registrar. Each team will be placed in the appropriate competition and the Committee 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: The team hosting a cup match will be determined by the competition format, and then by the Committee's discretion, taking into account geographical, competitive, and historical characteristics of each team. The Committee will strive to give each team an equal amount of home matches.

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 Committee 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 or other State competition 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.
6. If a game is not completed due to weather or field conditions, the result of the match will stand if at least 70 minutes of the game has been played. Otherwise, the disposition of the game will be determined by the Committee. 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 Committee shall decide as to the disposition of the game, taking into consideration the Association 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 Committee. 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 (Open age competition) - a maximum of seven (7) substitutes shall be allowed at any time during the game. This includes regular and overtime periods as



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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 Laws Of The Game, or "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" at the scheduled Kick-Off time shall forfeit the game, unless the team that is ready to play agrees to wait for the offending team to be ready to play, by offering a ten-minute grace period. This occurrence will likely require shortening the match to two equal halves, per FIFA rules. If the offending team is still not ready to play after the ten-minute grace period, the match will be forfeited to the opponent. ("Ready to play" means a minimum of seven players on the field, with passes and line-ups checked by the referee.)

5. The deadline to change field venue, kick-off date, or kick-off time is FIVE DAYS prior to scheduled kick-off. Such changes must be agreed upon in writing by both teams, and the Committee.

Player Discipline

1. Any player serving a suspension in his or her own league, or any other sanctioned competition, may or may not be eligible for Cup play, depending on the CSSA Minimum Suspension Policy.
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 Committee 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).



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.
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 will be 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.



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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 48 hours 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, and at the discretion of, the CSSA Executive Board and shall be documented in the CSSA Fee Schedule:
 - a. In preliminary or round-robin games, and Quarter-Final and Semi-Finals 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 Finals in each category is the responsibility of the Association.