



Washington Youth Soccer
Founders Cup
Tournament Rules

Founders Cup

- A) The Washington Youth Soccer Founders Cup, hereafter referred to as Founders Cup, will consist of one tournament. It will be open to all boys and girls teams Under 9 through Under 19, comprised of properly registered Washington Youth Soccer (WYS) players affiliated with Member Associations, provided such teams entering and their Association is in good standing with Washington Youth Soccer and the team is in compliance with, and has not violated, the rules of WYS.
- B) Any team wishing to participate in the Founders Cup should enter this tournament.
- C) Any team that participates in the Regional Club League, USYS National Leagues, or any league determined as equal or higher may not register.
- D) This is not a single-elimination tournament.
- E) Founders Cup is a state tournament only, there are no Regional or Nationals pathways.

II. ADMINISTRATION

Tournament Committee

The State Cup tournaments will have a Tournament Committee consisting of Member Associations/Club and WYS Soccer Operations Staff. The WYS Soccer Operations Staff will have final authority in all decisions.

- a. The WYS Soccer Operations Staff will select the venues for the State Cup Semi and Finals matches.
- b. Each participating Member Association/Club shall designate a Representative to form the Tournament Committee. Teams are to direct any questions or concerns to their Association/Club's Tournament Representative.

III. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- A) In the current seasonal year teams must compete in a fall WYS-sanctioned league consisting of a minimum of 4 teams or with WYS's permission in another State Association, except for the Under 19 age group for boys and girls. The league competition must consist of a minimum of one game against each of 3 different teams participating in the league.
- B) Applications for each tournament must be accompanied by the proper entry fee before the application is accepted.
- C) Teams advancing to the semifinal round shall be required to submit a team photo (with all members identified) to the WYS office.

- D) All team rosters and any revisions will be verified for player and coach eligibility by the Member Association/Club Registrar. WYS will accept roster additions, releases, and transfers up to the roster freeze date.
- E) The Roster freeze is 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday before the first divisional game.
- F) Teams must demonstrate a roster continuity between the Fall WYS League Registration roster and the State Cup Team Tournament roster, U13 and older (11v11) by maintaining a minimum of nine (9) players common to both rosters, U11 and U12 teams (9v9) must maintain a minimum of seven (7) players common to both rosters, U9 and U10 teams (7v7) must maintain a minimum of five (5) players common to both rosters.
- G) Prior to the roster freeze date, the State Cup Tournament Roster may not have more than five (5) transferred and/or club-passed players on the State Cup Tournament Roster. Players transferred from a WYS club to another WYS club and/or are in the “Drop and/or District Pool” will be considered transfers to the receiving team.
- H) Teams may only register and play in one State Cup at a time.
- I) Founders Cup teams:
- a. U9 and U10 teams can have a maximum of 12 players on the roster.
 - b. U11 and U12 teams can have a maximum of 16 players on the roster.
 - c. U13 - U19 teams can have a maximum of 22 players on the roster.

Age Group	Team Continuity	Max Registration Roster	Max Tournament Roster	Game Time Roster	Minimum to Play
U9 & U10	5	12	12	12	5
U11 & U12	7	16	16	14	7
U13-U19	9	22	22	18	7

IV. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A) A player must be properly registered and rostered in accordance with the rules of USYS and WYS.
- B) Players may participate in any of the four state cup tournaments but in only one tournament at a time and on only one roster in each state tournament regardless of age groups that are scheduled at various times of the seasonal year.
- a. A team must be finished with their state cup tournament before a player from that team is eligible to participate in a different state cup tournament.

- b. Players may not play on a Founders Cup team if they have played in a higher-level league or state cup tournament in the same seasonal year. (i.e.: RCL, ECNL, E64, Northwest Conference)
 - c. Any player on a team advancing to a regional or national competition is ineligible to play Founders Cup.
- C) Any team using ineligible player(s) will forfeit all its tournament games and be disqualified from participation.
- D) All players 18 years of age or older are required to have completed the full core SafeSport training and have the certificate uploaded to their player profile before the roster freeze date, otherwise, the player will be removed from the roster and will be ineligible for the entire WYS State Cup.
- The SafeSport Act of 2017 is a Federal Law S.534 — 115th Congress (2017-2018) Due to federal law S.534 The Center for SafeSport was given authority over National Governing Bodies (NGB) to safeguard amateur athletes against abuse. Washington Youth Soccer (WYS) is an organizational member of the NGB US Soccer. As an organizational member, WYS is required to follow and enforce the mandated US Soccer Policy 212.*

V. TEAM REGISTRATION

- A) Team(s) are required to be registered in Washington Youth Soccer's registration platform (Sports Connect Association) in the current fall seasonal year.
- B) Payment is required at the time of registration.
- C) Refund and Fines
- a. Teams that drop before the registration deadline will receive a refund after the refund request form is completed and approved by WYS Soccer Operations Staff.
 - b. Teams that drop after the registration deadline will not receive a refund. Unless an age group is canceled due to a single entry. The team may be given the option of playing "up" an age level, but no refund will be given.

Any team dropping from a state cup tournament shall be subject to the following:

- a. If a team drops out before the first game, the team's Member Association/Club will be fined \$500.00.
- b. Forfeit of a game is subject to a \$500 fine.
- c. If a team drops out during the preliminary round, the team's Member Association/Club will be fined \$600.00. However, if a team drops out of the tournament immediately before their last scheduled preliminary game or anytime thereafter, the team's Member Association/Club will be fined \$700.00. A portion of the fines may be used to defray reasonable and documented expenses of the home team including referees and field rental, at the approval of the Tournament Committee and WYS Soccer Operations Staff.

- d. If a team withdraws after the quarterfinals, the team, the coach, and the players may be suspended for one (1) full year from entering all Washington Youth Soccer State Cup tournaments.
- e. If Washington Youth Soccer incurs any fines from the Regional or National level of competition due to a team's forfeiture or conduct, these fines will be assessed to the team's Member Association/Club and the Member Association/Club will not be allowed to participate in future WYS State Cups until fines are paid to WYS/USYS.
- f. If a team requests to change their state cup tournament preference after the registration deadline but before the brackets are completed, they will incur a \$50.00 change fee, if approved by WYS Soccer Operations Staff. If this request to change occurs after the brackets are posted, there will be a \$200.00 change fee, if approved by WYS Soccer Operations Staff.

VI. CREDENTIALS

- A) All team admins and players on the roster are required to have USYS membership cards. The USYS membership card is required to be laminated and include a current color photograph of the player and team admins with a matching team ID number.
- B) No more than four (4) bench personnel per team will be allowed on the designated team sideline.
- C) Team Admins are required to be Risk Management approved through WYS before being placed on a roster. Any Team Admin not approved will be removed from the roster until they complete SafeSport, Intro to Safety, and a WYS background check.
- D) The cards are to be surrendered to the referee before each game. In the event a player or team official does not possess a card, they cannot participate in that match, and they cannot be in their team's technical area.
- E) Any non-credentialed or improperly credentialed player or coach shall have their passes pulled and they may not play or participate in that game. Players must remove their jersey and will not be considered an active member of the team. A coach will be asked to be removed from the field of play and not be involved in the instruction/direction of the team before, during, and after the game.
- F) WYS may issue Directors Credentials, which will permit Club Directors to be on team sidelines without being listed on a roster.

VII. TOURNAMENT AND GAME SCHEDULES State Cup Format

- A) The WYS Soccer Operations Staff is responsible for providing match pairings and preferred playdates for all tournament games. Preliminaries and quarterfinals may be scheduled at the home team fields or a neutral location if agreed upon by the home team. All Semi-final and Final games and referees will be scheduled by the WYS

Soccer Operations Staff. The WYS Soccer Operations Staff may also mandate any game date change if there are conflicting issues with either team.

- B) Responsibilities of Coaches and Managers of home and away teams, if games are not hosted at one venue:
- a. The following are the responsibilities of the assigned home team:
 - i. Provide confirmation to the visiting team with game time and adequate directions to the home team's venue no less than 72 hours before the game and no later than 9:00 PM Wednesday via phone and email.
 - ii. Marking the field of play per regulations for age-appropriate sizes, as well as proper goal sizes.
 - iii. Providing a proper game ball for the appropriate age
 - iv. Providing nets and corner flags
 - v. Confirm that a referee has been assigned by their Member Association referee coordinator for any game that has had a change in time, place, or date since originally scheduled and confirmed with the opposing team.
 - b. Responsibilities of the assigned visiting team:
 - i. Visiting teams must confirm to the home team receipt of the above directions, game time, and field location on the Thursday night before the game, by no later than 9:00 PM, and changes within 72 hours of the game must be re-confirmed by the visiting team.
- C) Travel Schedule Requirements:
- a. If a team must travel more than seventy-five (75) miles one way from their club address to play a game, the home team must schedule the game at a reasonable time for travel. (10:00 AM - 4:00 PM) Unless games are hosted at one central host site. Exceptions to this rule may apply if the traveling team agrees to the change in writing.
 - b. Teams that are scheduled to travel from Western WA to Eastern WA or Eastern WA to Western WA are scheduled to only play one game a weekend. Teams may choose to play two games on the same weekend but is not required.
 - c. If there is more than one game scheduled on the same day, there will be a minimum of 6 hours between game start times.
- D) Teams that are from the same club and in the same bracket must play their game first, prior to other bracket games.
- E) Divisional and Quarterfinal rescheduling requests shall be directed to the opponent's team manager and coach. Once the home and away teams have mutually agreed to a reschedule date, time, and location, the reschedule information is required to be reflected in Sports Connect Association. If a game is not played due to inadequate communication by either team, the Tournament Committee and WYS Soccer

Operations Staff will review the communications and determine which team will receive a forfeit.

- F) If both teams are properly notified per “B” above and one fails to show up, following a 15-minute grace period, the game will be forfeited to the showing team. Extenuating circumstances may be favorably considered by the Tournament Committee and the WYS Soccer Operations Staff.
- G) On match day to declare a field unplayable due to unforeseen circumstances will be the decision of the referee. If games are canceled due to an unplayable field or adverse weather that prevents a team from traveling to the venue site, the Tournament Committee and the WYS Soccer Operations Staff will assist in the rescheduling. A game may be left not played if applicable, in which case no points will be awarded to either team.
- H) Failure of a referee to show up will not be the cause for canceling or protesting the game. A substitute official must be chosen upon agreement by both coaches and that official's decision will be final and must be in writing.

VIII. TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULES

- A) All games will be played in accordance with [FIFA Laws of the Game](#) except as specifically modified under “Washington Youth Soccer Rules of Competition” or unless stated herein.
- B) It shall be the responsibility of each team to maintain proper spectator conduct. Each coach, manager, club, Member Association, or Club official shall be held primarily accountable for the conduct of spectators for or from their respective teams.
- C) At all Founders Cup matches there is zero tolerance for foul and/or abusive language which includes racial slurs, offensive or insulting language, or behaviors directly or indirectly made at or by a player, parent, coach, team manager, match official, a tournament representative or staff before, during or following a match. Violations of this rule in accordance with FIFA laws of the game, the WYS Code of Conduct, and SafeSport will result in a Washington Youth Soccer Disciplinary hearing, in which the determination of the committee will be final.
- D) Each player shall have a number on their jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey, clearly visible, and a minimum of six (6) inches high. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are optional.
- E) The designated home team will be responsible for changing the color of the uniform jersey in the event of a color conflict. All teams are required to carry contrasting-colored jerseys to all games.

- F) The referee will return all USYS membership cards to the coach after the game. The USYS membership cards will be used to copy accurate information for the referee's misconduct report.
- G) In Divisional and Quarterfinal games each team coach or team manager must submit a tournament-approved match roster to the referee showing players' names and jersey numbers before the start of each game. Semi-Finals and Finals WYS will provide the match roster.
- H) Divisional and Quarterfinal each team coach or manager must record the final score and any misconducts from the official match report in Sports Connect Association 24 hours after the completion of a game. Semi-Finals and Finals WYS will record the final score and misconduct(s).
- I) Violations and Penalties:
Any infraction or violation of Washington Youth Soccer State Cup Rules may result in any of the following penalties:
- a. Ineligibility of a player or team for tournament play
 - b. Forfeiture of a game or games
 - c. Return of tournament trophy and/or medals
 - d. Revocation of the title "Tournament Champion" and all rights associated with such title.
- J) Unlimited substitutions are allowed for all age groups.
- K) Game Duration, Ball Size, and Overtime Periods
- a. Ties will stand in preliminary rounds.
 - b. Quarter, Semi and Final matches must have a winner.
 - c. If tied at the end of regulation in Quarter, Semi and Final matches. There is NO overtime period. Straight to FIFA kicks from the marks.

Age Group	Duration	Ball Size
Under 19	2 x 45 Min	#5
Under 18	2 x 45 Min	#5
Under 17	2 x 45 Min	#5
Under 16	2 x 40 Min	#5
Under 15	2 x 40 Min	#5
Under 14	2 x 35 Min	#5
Under 13	2 x 35 Min	#5
Under 12	2 x 30 Min	#4
Under 11	2 x 30 Min	#4
Under 10	2 x 25 Min	#4
Under 9	2 x 25 Min	#4

- K) U11-12 WYS Heading, Punting and Build Outline Rule Modification:
All WYS State Cup Competitions will follow the 2023 modified WYS rule. [\[LINK\]](#)

Age Group	Format	Heading	Punting	Build-Out Line	Offsides Line
U8	League Rules Apply	No	No	Yes	No Offsides
U9	7v7	No	No	Yes	Midfield Line
U10	7v7	No	No	Yes	Midfield Line
u11	9v9	No	No	Yes	Midfield Line
U12	9v9	No	No	Yes	Midfield Line
U13+	11v11	Yes	Yes	No	Midfield Line

- L) Goal Sizes:
USSF, USYS, and WA Youth Soccer recommend a 6-foot by 12-foot to 6-foot 6-inches by 18-foot 6-inches for U9 and U10 age groups, a 6-foot 6-inches high by 18-foot 6-inch goal to a 7-foot by 21-foot goal for U11 and U12 age groups. When possible, these goals should be used and will likely be used during the State Cup semifinals and finals. WA Youth Soccer requires that Founders Cup and Championship Cup participants adhere to the published competition standards posted on WA Youth Soccer.
- M) Rules of Play:
In all cases where a game has been postponed or abandoned by a referee due to inclement weather, the Tournament Committee Chair(s) and the Competition Development Manager shall determine whether the game is to be replayed in its entirety or whether the score at the time of postponement or abandonment shall stand and the game be counted as a completed game. Game(s) may be left not played if applicable, in which case no points will be awarded for either team. Please refer to Washington Youth Soccer's Travel Policy for further details.
- N) Failure to Compete:
Match Manipulation during any WYS State Championship, President Cup, Founders or Rec Cup competitions will not be tolerated. Teams failing to compete in the spirit of the competition or are involved in the manipulation of a game result are subject to forfeiture and/or disqualification from all levels of the competition.
- if failing to compete is observed and confirmed, the WYS Soccer Operations Staff will give notice to the offending Team(s) and/or Club(s).
 - Team(s) and/or Club(s) may be subject to fines up to a maximum penalty fee of \$500.00 to off-set expenses for team(s) and/or club(s) not limited to travel, referees, field, lights and any other applicable expenses incurred, subject to approval by WYS Soccer Operations Staff.
 - If corrective action is not taken by the Club(s) and/or Association(s), the Team(s) will be subject to disqualification.

- O) Forfeits will be reported as a 1-0 win for the opponent. The committee reserves the right to penalize a team for any forfeits deemed inappropriate and/or intentional. This may cause the team to forfeit all games with no refunds.
- P) Game Abandonment:
 - a. If it has been determined that a game is abandoned by the referee due to actions of the coach, players, spectators, or any combination thereof, **NO REPLAY WILL BE GRANTED.**
 - b. Furthermore, if at the time of the abandonment:
 - i. The opposing team is ahead, the score will be the final score.
 - ii. The team causing the abandonment is ahead, the game shall be considered forfeited and a score of 1-0 in favor of the opposing team will be awarded.
 - iii. The score is tied, the game shall be considered forfeited and a score of 1-0 in favor of the opposing team will be awarded.
 - iv. It has been determined that both teams caused the abandonment, both teams will be given a loss, zero points for both teams. If this occurs in single-elimination games the decision goes back to the Tournament Committee and the WYS Soccer Operations Staff.

IX. STANDINGS AND TIE-BREAKERS

- A) Teams will be awarded points based on the following point structure:
 - a. 3 points for a win
 - b. 1 point for a draw
 - c. 0 (zero) points for a loss
- B) Ties in divisional standings between two (2) teams will be resolved as follows:
 - a. Head-to-Head (winner of match between 2 teams)
 - b. Winner of most games
 - c. Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of ten goals per game
 - d. Most goals scored with a maximum of ten per game
 - e. Midweek game for teams to decide who is to go on
 - f. flip of coin for seeding purposes in the elimination phase
- C) Ties in divisional standings between three (3) teams will be resolved as follows:
 - a. Winner of most games
 - b. Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of ten goals per game.
 - c. Most goals scored with a maximum of ten per game
 - d. Midweek game for teams to decide who is to go on

X. DISCIPLINARY, MATCH PROTESTS & APPEALS

All Misconducts, Match Protests and Appeals will follow the WYS Judicial and Ethics Committee Policy and Procedures and IFAB/FIFA Laws of the Game.

- A) Misconducts:

- a. Will be reviewed and determined by the WYS Disciplinary Committee
- B) Match Protest:
 - a. Any match protest is required to follow WYS Judicial and Ethics Committee Policy and Procedures and be submitted to WYS Soccer Operations Staff within 48 hours from completion of the match.
 - b. Upon receiving the match protest the Tournament Committee and WYS Operations Staff will review and provide a determination of the match protest within 48 hours.
- a. Any Tournament Committee representative from where the match protest originated will recuse themselves from the process.
- b. Match day misconducts cannot be submitted as a Match Protest.
- C) Appeals:
 - a. The determination from a match protest may be appealed to the WYS Judicial and Ethics Committee and will be appointed by WYS Operations Staff.

All necessary forms and procedures can be accessed through the Washington Youth Soccer website at www.WashingtonYouthSoccer.org.

Additional Tournament Rules or Changes:

Any additional tournament rules, special rules, requirements, procedures, and administrative and organizational information necessary for staging the State Cup Tournaments will be published separately. See below:

Inclement Weather: All WYS State Cups will follow the 2023 Rule Modification agreement.