KENTUCKY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

RECREATIONAL TOURNAMENT POLICIES AND RULES OF COMPETITION

Purpose and Philosophy

The Kentucky Youth Soccer Association (KYSA) Recreational State Cups were initiated and organized to enhance the accomplishments recreational players achieve by participating is a state championship tournament.

The development of all players within KYSA is advanced when the player meets personal challenges. The Recreational State Cups are designed to encourage and honor the recreational player by allowing the player to compete for both team and personal goals.

The tournaments are structured so that, regardless of ability, all players can realistically strive for the goal of becoming a recreational cup champion.

Eligibility and Credentials

A. Age groups: U10, U12, U14 and High School for both Mixed and Girls divisions. High School age group will consist of U16-U19 players, and they will play 8v8 on a U12 field.
B. This competition shall be open to all RECREATIONAL teams comprised of properly registered and rostered players as per the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association registration rules governing recreational teams. All teams must be in good standing with their local association. Teams are allowed up to three (3) guest players for tournament play. Those players must have been properly registered with the same organization during the current seasonal year.
C. All-Star teams and/or Tournament teams are not permitted. Only teams that played together in league play will be eligible for competition in this event.
D. Under 10-Under 14 Teams that fail to meet the 2/3rds team formation requirement must submit a letter from their local registrar stating why their team does not meet the 2/3rds rule. Failure to submit this letter with the tournament application will deem your team ineligible for competition. The Kentucky Youth Soccer Recreational Tournament Committee reserves the right to discard any entry that does not meet all requirements.
E. Teams may be ineligible to participate in the competition if their local member organization has not registered all players for that playing season prior to the tournament roster freeze date.
F. Rosters shall be frozen no less than one week prior to the tournament start date and only those players registered and rostered at that time are eligible to participate. All rosters must be generated and approved by KYSA through the tournament registration system.
G. For the High School Division, no more than 16 players are permitted on the official event roster and those players must be registered with the same organization in which they played during the season.
H. All Registrations must be completed online by the entry deadline, including answers to all required registration questions and a payment plan to be executed upon acceptance Failure to do so may constitute an invalid application and may make your team(s) ineligible for competition.
I. A player may only play in one state-sponsored event per Fall or Spring season (e.g., State Open, Challenge, American, and Commonwealth) and must play in the event of the highest level of competition for which they are registered. Players registered on both a competitive (select) and recreational team during the same season (fall or spring) are not eligible to participate in the American or Commonwealth recreational state cups during that season.

J. Players registered in the KPL Academy are not eligible to participate in the American or Commonwealth recreational tournaments.
K. Players may only play on one team during recreational cup competition.
L. Any player registered on two recreational teams must play with their primary team in tournament competition. If their primary team does not enter the tournament, the player is permitted to play with their secondary team.

Performance Fines and Fees

A. The Kentucky Youth Soccer Association reserves the right to fine any member organization or club for the misconduct of players, coaches, team administrators, or parents.
B. The Tournament Committee will determine misconduct by all teams and members associated with that team as well as the fines and fees associated with all incidents.
C. Failure to pay any fines will result in disqualification of all teams from that member association or club until such fines have been paid.
D. Team Withdrawal:
    1. If a team withdraws from the competition after official acceptance, but before the brackets are drawn, there will be no withdrawal fine. The team will, however, forfeit their entry fee.
    2. If a team withdraws after the tournament has been bracketed, there will be a $350 fine sent to the club of the team that withdraws in addition to forfeiting their entry fee. Furthermore, all remaining teams from that club will be ineligible to compete until all fines have been paid.
    3. If a team withdraws from the recreational tournament 14 days or less prior to the start of competition, there will be a $500 fine, in addition to the forfeiture of entry fee, sent to the club of the team that withdraws. Furthermore, all remaining teams from that club may be ineligible to compete until all fineshave been paid.

Tournament Format

Cup Finals Format

A. Round Robin Bracket Play
    a. All age groups will play in a round robin tournament format.
    b. Brackets will be determined based on the total number of teams that enter an age group.
    c. There may be more than one bracket in a specific age group depending on the number of teams that enter. (I.E. If 32 teams enter the U14 Mixed age group, the age group could be split into four (4), eight team brackets. Each bracket would then be split into two divisions of four teams.
    d. The winner from each bracket will advance to either a semi-final or championship game of the Cup Finals to determine the cup champion for each age group.
    e. If four or five (4 or 5) teams register in any division, the division format will be round robin. No division will be permitted to play with 3 or fewer teams.
    f. We will try to accommodate every team with at least three (3) games during tournament competition, but there is no guarantee.

g. In the event a game ends in a tie and requires a winner, games will move directly to FIFA "Kicks from the Mark".

Schedules

A. Every attempt will be made for all games to be played at the scheduled times, unless delayed or interrupted by bad weather or other events beyond the control of the Tournament Committee. DELAYED GAMES will be played or restarted as soon as the conditions are favorable to resume play. See Points C and D.
B. Games will be canceled only in case of SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS (tornadoes, persistent lighting or any other life-threatening condition) or if the field conditions are such that they may cause danger to the players.
    a. Any game(s) canceled may be rescheduled by the Tournament Committee with, if possible, the input and assistance of the KYSA Tournament Host.
    b. Every attempt will be made to reschedule games as soon as possible, on the earliest possible date, to allow the winning team(s) to progress to the next level of play.
    c. All games will be restarted at the point of suspension. However, if at least the first half of the game has been completed, the score at the point of the termination may be the final result.
C. Game times, for any team, shall not be less than four (4) hours between starting times unless tournament logistics prohibit.
D. No team shall play more than two (2) games on any day.
E. The tournament committee reserves the right to modify or cancel any scheduled games as deemed necessary due to weather or field issues.

Laws of the Game

A. See KYSA State Rules by age group
B. Substitutions shall be unlimited and may be made with the consent of the referee at the following times:
    - Prior to a throw-in in your favor.
    - Prior to a throw-in in the opponents favor provided they are substituting.
    - Prior to a goal kick by either team.
    - After a goal by either team.
    - After an injury by either team, when play has been stopped.
    - At half time.
    - After a caution or ejection, by either team.
    - It is the responsibility of each coach to ensure that every player is afforded the opportunity to participate in at least 50% of each game. Failure to abide by this rule may result in disciplinary action, taken upon that coach, by his/her Kentucky Youth Soccer Member Organization.

Forfeits and Tournament Disqualifications

A. A team that has forfeited a game will not be declared a wild card, group, or age group winner. That team is, however, required to play the remainder of its scheduled games or face additional fines.
B. A team that has forfeited shall be subject to a fine of $500 per game. Additional fines and/or sanctions may be imposed by the KYSA.
C. All clubs/affiliates are responsible for their teams and may be fined and/or sanctioned for problems incurred by them.
D. A team that forfeits any game shall continue to participate in the tournament but may not advance. All games will be counted as losses for that team regardless of score.
E. A forfeit win shall count as a game. The Score awarded to the winning team shall be 5-0.Furthermore, all other games played by the forfeiting team shall be counted as losses (regardless of the actual outcome) and the opposing team(s) shall be awarded a win with a score of 5-0.

Coaching Position

All age groups REQUIRE that all head coaches and no more than three (3) assistant coaches, remain within his/her technical area. Players not on the field shall remain in the same area. No persons other than the head coach, assistant coach(s), or players are to remain in the bench area and only those coaches listed on the roster will be permitted on the sidelines.

Sportsmanship

A. In the event of misconduct on the sidelines, the referee has the right to require any and all/or all spectators to leave the area. If the offending party(ies) refuse to leave, the referee shall terminate the game. The referee shall make a report to the Tournament Committee who may declare a FORFEIT. A double forfeit is possible with neither team advancing. **NO PROTESTS WILL BE HEARD FOR MISCONDUCT ON THE SIDELINES**.
B. The Tournament Committee or a designated representative on site, and the referee shall ensure that any player, coach or assistant coach, ejected under FIFA LAW XII, KYSA Additions, not participate in the next scheduled or rescheduled game. Further nonparticipation in the tournament may be imposed by the KYSA Tournament Committee or designated representative.

Protests

A. The referee shall be the sole judge on the field of play, and the referee's decision shall be final. No protest based on the referee's judgment will be allowed.
B. The Recreational Cup Committee or it's designated representative at the field, i.e the Tournament Director, ***MUST BE NOTIFIED, IN WRITING, OF THE INTENT TO PROTEST WITHIN ONE HOUR (60 minutes) OF THE END OF THE GAME IN QUESTION.*** All written intentions to protest MUST be accompanied by a $500 cash fee, to be deposited with the Tournament Office.
C. Protests concerning Rules or eligibility shall be in writing, within **one (1) hour** of the end of the game in question, with the tournament host. All protests MUST be accompanied by a $500.00 Cash fee, to be deposited with the tournament committee or designated representative. **NO VERBAL PROTESTS WILL BE HEARD.**

D. **PROTESTS WILL BE HEARD BY THE KYSA RECREATIONAL TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE AND THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL BE BINDING AND FINAL.**
E. A complaint about a referee shall be directed, in writing, to the State Referee Administrator of the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association or his/her designee.
F. A copy of ALL PROTEST DOCUMENTS shall be submitted to the KYSA State Office within **forty-eight (48)** hours of the end of the game in question.
G. It is the sole responsibility of properly credentialed team personnel to initiate the determination of protest-able offenses and the official filing of protest.

Referee Reporting

A. The referee shall report, in writing, to the tournament committee or designated representative on site, in addition to the final score, any and all reports of verbal or physical abuse to a referee or other official by a spectator, coach, or player, any disqualification, ejections, cautions, warnings, or a player, coach or spectator game suspensions, delays, terminations, cancellations, and serious injuries.
B. The tournament committee or designated representative on site, and the referee, shall ensure that any player, coach or assistant coach, ejected under FIFA LAW XII, KYSA Additions, not participate in the next scheduled or rescheduled tournament game. Any coach ejected may not have contact of any kind with anyone affiliated with his/her team and must leave the playing facility for the remainder of the match.
C. Any Player or Coach ejected from a match for violent conduct will receive a minimum 2 game suspension. The KYSA tournament Committee reserves the right to increase the suspension if necessary.

Tie Games

A. In round robin play, matches tied after regulation shall remain tied.
B. Should semifinal, championship, or knockout matches remain tied after regulation time, those games will proceed directly to penalty kicks.

Scores and Standings

A. Scoring Method. The standing of teams within brackets is based upon the number of points earned in qualifying games. Teams earn points as follows:
    a. Three (3) points for a win (including forfeits)
    b. One (1) point for a tie
    c. Zero (0) points for a loss
B. If teams have played a different number of games, an adjustment will be made to correct for the number of games played. For example, if one team played four games and another team played three games, all numbers would be multiplied by 75% for the team that played four games.
C. Tie Breakers. In the event teams are tied on the basis of points earned, the team's placement will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria:
    a. Winner of head to head competition (this criteria not used if more than two teams tied).

b. Goal Difference (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of five (5) goals per game.
c. Fewest goals allowed.
d. Most "Shutout" victories.
e. Winner of most "Group Games."
f. Kicks from the penalty mark.(As set forth in the FIFA "Laws of the Game" under "Instructions Regarding The Taking of Kicks from the Penalty-Mark".)

D. Championship, Group Winner and Wildcard Team Selection
a. Teams with most points.
b. Winner of head-to-head competition (this criterion is not used if more than two teams tied).
c. Goal Difference (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of five goals per game.
d. Fewest goals allowed.
e. Most "Shutout" victories.
f. Winner of most "Group Games."
g. Kicks from the penalty mark. If taking of kicks from the penalty mark (as defined in the FIFA Laws of the Game) must be used to determine a winner or wildcard, the format shall be as set forth in the FIFA "Laws of the Game" under "Instructions Regarding the Taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark (In Knock- Out Competitions to Decide the Winner)."

Recreational Tournament Policies Modified Laws of the Game

Number of Players

In the Under 10 Age Group, the maximum number of players on the field at any one time is Seven (7) including the goalkeeper and the minimum number on the field for the game to continue is Four (4).

In the Under 12 Age Group, the maximum number of players on the field at any one time is Nine (9) including the goalkeeper and the minimum number on the field for the game to continue is Six (6).

In the Under 14 Age Group, the maximum number of players on the field at any one time is Eleven (11) including the goalkeeper and the minimum number on the field for the game to continue is Seven (7).

In the High School Age Group, the maximum number of players on the field at any one time is Eight (8) including the goalkeeper and the minimum number on the field for the game to continue is Six (6).

Offside Rule

The Under 10 age groups will play with offsides rule for any offense deemed to be egregious, i.e. "cherry picking', as determined by the center official.

All other age groups will play with the offside rule according to the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Uniform Conflicts

In the case of a color conflict between competing teams, the home team (or team listed first on the schedule) is responsible for changing to an alternate color.

FIFA Law VII – Duration of Game

NOTE: INFRACTIONS OF ONE OR MORE OF THE ABOVE RULES MAY RESULT IN FORFEIT(S), SUSPENSION(S), AND/OR FINES.

AGE	GAME LENGTH	HALF TIME	REST BEFORE PKs
U-10	Two 25 min. halves	5 min.	5 min.
U-12	Two 30 min. halves	5 min.	5 min.
U-14	Two 35 min. halves	10 min.	5 min.
High School	Two 35 min. halves	10 min.	5 min.