



WISCONSIN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RULES & REGULATIONS 2021 - 2022

US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship Committee

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US Youth Midwest Championship – <https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/midwest/midwest-regional-championships/>

US Youth Soccer National Championship - <https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/national-championship-series/>

The Club/Organization is responsible for the conduct, penalties and fines of its teams, players, coaches, and supporters.

A plea of ignorance to any of the rules and regulations governing this competition and WYSA is insufficient grounds for appeal or protest. In all matters provided or not provided in WYSA rules and regulations, the decision of the WYSA State Championship Manager, the Championship Committee and WYSA shall be binding.

Rules and Regulations

Ages

The US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship shall be an open tournament event to any properly registered team that follows rule 221 of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Policies. The tournament accepts teams in the following boys' and girls' age groups: 13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U and 19U. 12U teams are not eligible to compete in the Wisconsin State Championship 13U division unless the team plays in a 13U league Fall/Spring, teams competing in 12U leagues will not be eligible for the event. WYSA will offer a 12U event (State Championship Invitational) for teams playing in the WDA and State League, the event will be held in conjunction with the Spring Wisconsin State Championship event and is open for boys and girls. Each team will play three games with no scores or advancement.

Fees

The US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship team entry fee shall be established by the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship Committee prior to the start of each of year's tournament. Entry fees shall be submitted to the state association by the published deadline for the respective age/gender divisions. Teams drawn into a play in game and losing the play in game shall have a portion of the team entry fee refunded at the conclusion of the fall or spring competition period. All State Championship refunds are subject to the WYSA refund policy.

Application

Any team entering the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship must submit a completed application and the appropriate application fee by the published deadline for the respective age/gender divisions. All teams applying to compete in the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championships agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championships, the WI Youth Soccer Association, US Youth Soccer Region II, US Youth Soccer's National Championships Series and US Soccer Federation where applicable.

Withdrawal

Teams withdrawing from the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship must submit in writing to the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship Administrator a notice of withdrawal. Teams withdrawing from the tournament after the tournament seedings are announced shall forfeit the entry fee. Following this date, teams may be fined for dropping out of the tournament.

Teams advancing to the knockout rounds and unable to participate will be fined up to \$2,500 by WYSA.

Forfeits

Any team forfeiting a game in the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship may be fined up to \$500.00 per game. Fines are assessed against the member team and member soccer club. All forfeited games will be posted as a 4-0 loss.

In addition to the financial fines, all remaining games for that year's state championships will be recorded as a forfeit, and the club may not be allowed to field a team in the Wisconsin State Championships in the appropriate age group the team would be in the following year. If the team (team is defined as a minimum of 50% of the players) moves to a different club, they will not be eligible to participate in the following years Wisconsin State Championships.

Seeding

All age groups will be seeded by the WYSA Directors of Coaching and State Championship administrator based on league play and prior year State Championships results. Teams are encouraged to provide a resume for further consideration in the seeding process.

For the 14U-19U divisions the prior year finalists will be placed in brackets A & B. All other applicants will be seeded by the WYSA Directors of Coaching, State Championship administrator based upon prior year State Championship and League results.

Teams will have 48 hours from the time of seeds being posted to request an explanation of their seeding. Teams that elect to appeal their seeding will have 24 hours from the time of the response to their inquiry by a State Championships representative to file a formal appeal of seeding. The WYSA appeal fee of \$125 must be received in the State Office before the appeal is scheduled. If this fee is not received or the procedure is not followed with regard to the appeal, before the scheduled hearing date/time, the team's appeal will not be heard or considered. Seeding appeals will be heard by the Wisconsin State Championship Committee.

Playing Rules

Laws of the Game

Except as provided herein and WYSA rules all matches played within the jurisdiction of WYSA shall be played under FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by the WYSA.

Substitution

For age groups 14U and younger, substitutions shall be unlimited and can be made with the consent of the referee during any stoppage of play, except Penalty Kicks.

For 15U and older, substitution may occur on any stoppage of play with the approval of the referee. A maximum of seven (7) substitutions for each team shall be allowed in each game during each half of play and during overtime play. The substituted player may not re-enter the game during the same half of play. After leaving the game during overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game.

For all above, if the goalkeeper is dismissed by the referee, the referee may allow the team to replace the goalkeeper with a player from the bench. The team however must still play short with another player leaving the field of play.

If a player is suspected of suffering a head injury, they may be substituted for evaluation without the substitutions counting against the Teams total number of allowed substitutions during each half or overtime period. If the player with the suspected head injury has received clearance from the events' Health Care Professional, the player may re-enter at any stoppage of play. The evaluated player must replace the original substitute and will not count as a substitution. The temporary substituted player may re-enter the game as a regular substitute. A Team may only make a temporary substitution if they have a substitution available.

Duration of Play, Overtime & Roster Size

Age Group	Max Roster	Max Game Day Roster	Game Length	Overtime Play
13U & 14U	22	18	2 x 35 mins	2 x 10 mins
15U & 16U	22	18	2 x 40 mins	2 x 15 mins
17U, 18U, 19U	22	18	2 x 45 mins	2 x 15 mins

Play in Games

Play in games are the qualifying competition for the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championships, but not a part of the State Championships. Teams who win their play in games can therefore add players to their roster until the established roster freeze date for the State competition if roster space is available. Players who are rostered for play in games are obligated to play on the team they qualified with through the State Championships. Play in game results are not applied to group play standings. Play in game results do not apply for the purposes of determining a group winner or for tie breaking procedures for group play.

In age groups where an uneven number of teams enter the tournament or total number of teams exceeds 12 teams (15U-19U) or 16 teams (13U and 14U), play in games will be used to narrow the field to an even number of teams resulting in groups of 4. Play in game matchups are based on state championship seeding, some teams could play multiple play-in games to qualify for State Championship Group Play. Play in game winners will advanced into the group play bracket upon the completion of all play in games. If a match is tied at the end of regulation, overtime rules shall be used to determine a winner.

Eligibility for play in games:

1. 13U-19U teams will be placed in play in games based on the seeding of all applicants.
2. Teams will be placed in play in games in ascending order beginning with the lowest seed; highest seed vs. lowest seed, second highest seed vs. second lowest seed and so on.
3. At 15U – 19U teams ranked 1 – 8 will automatically be placed into group play. All remaining teams will be eligible for play-in games.
4. At 13U – 14U teams ranked 1 – 12 will automatically be placed into group play. All remaining teams will be eligible for play-in games.

Play in Game Dates:

The US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship Administrator reserves the right to schedule all play in games on a specific date, time, and location.

All play-in games will be scheduled by WYSA, and teams must be available for the following dates:

Fall 2021: Girls 15U – 19U

First/Second Round: September 11th, 12th, Third/Fourth Round: September 18th, 19th

Spring 2022: Boys 13U – 19U and Girls 13U, 14U

First/Second Round: April 23rd, 24th, Third/Fourth Round: April 30th, May 1st

The higher seeded team will be considered the home team and given the opportunity to host the play-in game. The US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship Administrator will establish a neutral location where needed considering travel distance between the opposing teams, participating clubs will be responsible for any rental fees. All teams losing play-in games will automatically be entered in the WYSA President Cup.

Scores and Standings

Scores and Standings for group play will be as follows:

- A. Scoring Method: Based upon the number of points earned in group play, teams earn points as follows:
 - i. Three (3) points for a win (including forfeits)

- ii. One (1) point for a tie
 - iii. Zero (0) point for a loss
- B. Tie Breakers: In the event teams are tied on the basis of points earned, the teams placement will be determined in accordance with the following criteria:
- i. Winner of head-to-head competition (this criteria not used if more than two teams are tied).
 - ii. Winner of most games
 - iii. Goal Differential (Goals Scored minus Goals Against) with a maximum differential of four per game.
 - iv. Fewest goals allowed
 - v. Fifa Kickers from the Penalty Mark rules will apply

Player's Equipment

1. Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team.
2. No taped or altered numbers will be allowed.
3. GK numbers are optional, but Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from other players and game officials.
4. Games may be suspended by the referee or the State Championship Admin, if in his/her judgment uniforms worn by the team are not acceptable for competition.
5. The home team shall wear light colors and in the event of a color conflict, the home team shall change to an alternate set of uniforms.

At every level of the National Championships competitions, each player, team and team official may only have on his/her/their apparel the name, logo, or other identifying mark of US Youth soccer or a member directly or indirectly of US Youth Soccer.

- i. A name, logo, or other identifying mark of any youth soccer organization other than US Youth soccer or its member must be removed, replaced, or covered before a player, team or team official may enter or remain at a field complex where the National Championship competition is being held.
- ii. After an initial warning pursuant to (1) above, the name, logo or other identifying mark of any youth soccer organization other than US Youth Soccer or its member must be removed or replaced with the US Youth Soccer name or logo before the player, team or team official may enter or continue in the competition.

Coaching Credentials

Team Coach 13U-14U will need a minimum of Compliant 2 to be on the team sideline.

Team Coach 15U-19U will need a minimum of a Compliant 1 to be on the team sideline. Coaches with Compliant 2 can be listed as an assistant coach but that team will need a game day coach listed with the minimum qualification and that coach must be on the team bench for all matches.

Coaches with NONE, F, Y1, Y2 for a license level or an EXPIRED Coach Pass will not be given sideline access. No other persons are permitted on the team side of the field without a valid pass card issued by the State Office. A team can have a maximum of four coaches on the sideline of any game. Coaches must check with onsite registration to receive credentials for all group play, semifinal and final games, if they wish to be on the sidelines of any game.

If a team is unable to have a coach on the sideline meeting the above qualifications the match could be considered a forfeit, teams will be given a ten-minute grace period prior to kick-off. Clubs found with non-compliant coaches in the technical area during game play will be fined up to \$100 per incident.

Eligibility

A player may only play for one team during each round of the Wisconsin State Championships. If a player participates in a play-in game and wins that player must stay with that team for Group Play until eliminated, players participating in play-in games and not advancing can be added as a club pass player to another team for Group Play. This includes players who are added to the roster by using a club pass.

Refer to NCS rules for additional information regarding playing for a different team in the regional or national championships.

Red Cards and Coaching Dismissal

Any player or spectator dismissed from a game shall be ineligible to participate in the team's next game of the US Youth National Championship Series. At the discretion of the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship Administrator, the suspension may be increased which may include expulsion from the remainder of the tournament competition (and carry over to the next year); subject to the severity of the offense.

A player who has been sent from the field of play may not be replaced for the remainder of the game concerned. Players receiving red card can remain in the bench area if they're not continued disruption to the match. All red card ejections carry a minimum of a one game suspension subject to the severity of the offense. Red cards follow the player (and not the team) and shall carryover from game to game and/or competition period (i.e. last game of the previous year's US Youth Soccer National Championship Series Game to the next year's US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship).

Coaching Dismissal

Coaches dismissed from a game must depart so that they are considered "out of sight/out of sound". Any coach dismissed will be suspended for the teams next match but in addition can lose sideline access until that teams completes its next State Championship match. Example, if a team plays at 10am, coach is removed during the game, the game completes by 12pm the coach will be suspended from coaching during the State Championship event until 12pm the following day of competition.

The name of any person that carries a suspension will be recorded by the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship Administrator.

Official Game

WYSA State Championship unfinished games due to any cause shall be replayed or restarted from the stopped point providing neither team is at fault and play has not begun in the second half. If play is stopped during the second half and if play cannot be resumed and provided neither team is at fault, the game may be deemed as complete by the SC Admin. However, should play be stopped at any time due to one of the teams being adjudged at fault it shall the discretion as to whether the game is to be re-played, continued, or declared a forfeit.

Temporary Suspensions: Inclement Weather

At a play in game: In the event of inclement weather when a match is suspended, when possible, a grace period of at least 30 minutes shall be adhered to, in the interest of completing the match. In group play and/or semifinals and finals: The US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship Committee shall determine the length of the grace period.

Grace Period: Team No Show

A minimum of seven players constitutes a team. A ten-minute grace period shall be extended beyond the scheduled kickoff time if seven players are not available at the scheduled kick-off time. As soon as seven players are available to play, the game shall begin. If at the conclusion of the ten-minute grace period, a team does not have seven players, the referee shall suspend the game and report the failure of the team to appear to the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship Tournament Site Manager (group play) or State Office (play in). The US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship Committee may declare a forfeit. Any team that forfeits a game will not be allowed to advance out of the group play into the semifinals. In the event of a forfeit, the score awarded to the winning team will be 4-0 and the winning team will be awarded three points. If, through clerical error of the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship Committee, a team is deemed a NO-SHOW (meaning, the team appears in the competition schedule but did not enter the tournament), the remaining teams in the group shall be awarded a win and a score of 4-0 and awarded three points (forfeit penalties do not apply in this regard).

Referees

Referees for all games including play in games shall be assigned by the State Youth Referee Administrator (SYRA) or a designated Referee Assignor currently registered with the United States Soccer Federation.

Referee game fees for Group Play are included in the team entry fee, play in game referee fees shall be paid to the referees prior to each match. *Each team will pay 50% of the referee fees per chart below.*

The fee structure as approved by the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association:

Age Group	Length of Game	Ball Size	Center Referee	Assistant Referee	Fourth Official	Length of Overtime
U13	2 x 35	#5	\$50	\$36	\$36	10 minutes
U14	2 x 35	#5	\$50	\$36	\$36	10 minutes
U15	2 x 40	#5	\$60	\$40	\$40	15 minutes
U16	2 x 40	#5	\$60	\$40	\$40	15 minutes
U17	2 x 45	#5	\$70	\$46	\$46	15 minutes
U18	2 x 45	#5	\$70	\$46	\$46	15 minutes
U19	2 x 45	#5	\$70	\$46	\$46	15 minutes

Semi Final Games

When possible, semi-final games, for an age group, will be played at the same time, if the final game is to be played the following day.

For 13U and 14U the matchups will be based on the number of participants and the WYSA team ranking of advancing teams.

For 15U – 19U the matchups will be based on the number of group play participants and WYSA team ranking of the advancing teams.

The wildcard (best 2nd place team) automatically is the lowest ranked team and will play the highest ranked group play winner.

Kicks from the Mark

1. If taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark (as defined in the FIFA Laws of the Game) must be used to determine a winner in the semi-final, or final round games, the format shall be as follows:
 2. Each team shall select five (5) players to kick. Only players on the field at the conclusion of the match may be selected to kick.
 3. Teams shall alternate kicks. First team to kick shall be determined by referee coin toss.
 4. If, before both teams have taken five (5) kicks, one (1) team has scored more goals than the other team could, even if it were to complete five (5) kicks, the taking of kicks shall cease.
 5. If, after both teams have taken five (5) kicks, both have scored the same number of goals or have not scored any goals, the taking of kicks shall continue, in the same order, until such time as both teams have taken an equal number of kicks (not necessarily five (5) more kicks) and one (1) team has scored a goal more than the other.
 6. If taking of kicks from the penalty mark must be used to determine bracket or wildcard winners, the coach of each team shall declare the 11 players from their roster that they will use to take their kicks. If a player has been disqualified for the team's next match as a result of a red card, that player may not participate in the kicks.
 7. If Kicks from the Penalty Mark are to be taken by three (3) teams, there will be a draw by the State Championship Manager. The first team drawn will receive the bye. The next team drawn will be the home team against the remaining team in the first contest of penalty kicks. The winner of the first contest will then compete against the bye team in Kicks from the Penalty Mark to determine the winner. The bye team in the second contest of penalty kicks will be the home team. This process is only used when three (3) teams remain tied after going through the Tie Breakers.
 8. If Kicks from the Penalty Mark are to be taken by four (4) teams there will be a draw by the State Championship Admin. The first team drawn will compete against the second team drawn in the first contest of penalty kicks. The first team drawn will be the home team in this contest of penalty kicks. The third team drawn will compete against the fourth team drawn in the second contest of Kicks from the Penalty Mark. The third team drawn will be the home team in this contest of Kicks from the Penalty Mark. The winners of each of these two (2) contests will then compete to determine the winner. The winner of the first/second drawn teams will be the home team in this final contest. This process is only used when four (4) teams remain tied after going through the Tie Breakers.

US Youth Soccer Midwest Championships

Winners at the 13U through 19U age groups from the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship advance to the Midwest Regional Championships. Teams at these age levels represent their club and the State Association.

Each US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Champion is expected to attend the regional tournament. If a team cannot meet its obligation to attend the regional tournament, it is the responsibility of the team manager, coach and Club Director of Coaching to notify the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship Manager in writing (via email or USPS) within 24 hours of the completion of the Wisconsin Youth Soccer State Championships tournament. Failure to provide written notification as required above shall subject the team and the member club to a minimum \$3,000 fine assessed by the WI Youth Soccer Association.

Administration

The entire administration of the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship competition is vested in the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship Committee.

Once the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship manager has established the structure (brackets) of the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship competition, issues not provided for in the rules and regulations may be adjusted for as needed with the approval of the Wisconsin State Championship Manager.

The US Youth Soccer National Championship Policies and the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championship Rules and Regulations shall govern the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship unless otherwise provided for in this document. Additionally, any matter not provided for in this document shall be decided upon by the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship manager. The decision of the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship Manager will comply with, in order, regional and national guidelines.

The decisions of the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship Committee in all matters are binding and final and allow the competition to go forward.

No member of USYSA, an official, district, league, club, administrator, team, coach, player or referee may invoke any aid of the courts of the United States, State or municipality without first exhausting all available remedies within the appropriate soccer organizations and provided within USYSA, specifically USYSA BYLAW 704.

Protests

For all protests, a lawyer shall not represent a team at a hearing of a charge of protest unless she/he is a bona fide member of one of the teams concerned. The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play are final. The referee may only reverse their original decision (at his/her discretion) or on the advice of an assistant referee (or 4th official) provided that play had not been restarted. Decisions of the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship Committee are final and binding. No member of USYSA an official, district, league, club, administrator, team, coach, player or referee may invoke any aid of the courts of the United States, State or municipality without first exhausting all available remedies within the appropriate soccer organizations and provided within USYSA, specifically USYSA BYLAW 704. For the violation of USYSA Bylaw 704, the offending party shall be subject to suspension and fines, and shall be liable to WYSA and USYSA for all expenses incurred by WYSA or USYSA and its officers and members of the Board of Directors in defending each court action, including the following:

1. Court costs
2. Attorney's fees
3. Reasonable compensation for time spent by WYSA or USYSA officials and employees in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances
4. Travel expenses
5. Expenses for holding special State Board meeting or Special National Council meetings necessitated by court action

Protests to be valid and eligible for consideration:

1. Must be orally lodged by a team coach or manager from the team sideline with the referee and with the opposing coach at the game site before entering the field of play or leaving the game and;
2. Any protest must be presented in writing to the State Championship Manager or a WYSA State Championship Committee member within one (1) hour of the completion of the game in protest. All protests must be accompanied with a \$250 bond which shall be returned only if the protest is upheld. Referees' judgment shall not be a basis for protests.

For Play-in games only, teams will be given 24 hours to submit via email a written letter of appeal to the WYSA State Championship Administrator. Item number one above must be followed for the appeal to be heard by the State Championship Committee.

Playing Venues

It is the intent of the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship Committee to assure playing venues are maintained in a clean environment for all to enjoy. To reinforce this requirement, the Wisconsin State Championship Administrator may levy a fine against any team that does not police its bench area following its game.

Alcohol and Drugs

Players in the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship are prohibited from consuming alcohol or using illegal drugs. Players are also prohibited from using any form of tobacco at the field(s) of play. Violators may be banned from the remainder of the competition.

All other participants (coaches, spectators, etc.) are prohibited from consuming alcohol or using illegal drugs at the sidelines of any US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship game.

Violators may be subject to dismissal from the playing area. Law enforcement may be called by the Site Manager/Tournament Director to provide assistance to dismiss violators.

Group Play, Semi-finals and Finals

The Wisconsin State Championship Manager will determine the hosting location for Group play, Semi-final and Finals games.