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US YOUTH SOCCER WISCONSIN CHAMPIONSHIPS

US Youth Soccer National Championship – [US Youth Soccer National Championships Presented by New York Life Insurance - US Youth Soccer](#)

The Wisconsin State Championship is part of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series (NCS).

The Club 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 Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association (WYSA) is insufficient grounds for appeal or protest. In all matters provided or not provided in WYSA rules and regulations, the decision of the Wisconsin State Championships Manager, the Wisconsin State Championships Committee and WYSA shall be binding.

Ages

The Wisconsin State Championship accepts teams in the following boys' and girls' age groups: U13, U14, U15, U16, U17 and U19, this policy applies to those competitions.

WYSA offers an official 12U Junior State Championship and 11U Junior Invitational with NO advancement to USYS National Championships. Age group winners at U12 and U11 will represent WYSA versus IYSA Champions in our annual border battle. The competition rules for the Junior State Championships (11U Invitational, 12U) can be found in a separate document.

Application & Fees

Any team entering the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championships must submit a completed application and fee by the published deadline for the respective age/gender divisions. The US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship team entry fee shall be established through the annual budget process.

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 Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association, US Youth Soccer National Championships Series and US Soccer Federation where applicable.

Teams drawn into a WYSA State Championship play-in game, losing, and not meeting the eligibility requirements for WYSA President Cup shall have a portion of the team entry fee refunded at the conclusion of the fall or spring competition period.

All US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championships applications are subject to the WYSA Refund Policy.

Team Eligibility

The National Championships Competitions shall be open to any team whose players are registered with US Youth Soccer and if the Team meets all the following requirements:

1. The Team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered Youth Players (as defined by US Youth Soccer).
2. The Team must be in good standing with its State Association (WYSA) and in compliance with, and has not violated, any of the bylaws and policies of US Youth Soccer.
3. 13U – 17U participants must register its team and players with a WYSA member club and participate in a league sanctioned or specifically approved by Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association. The WYSA State League, MLS Next, ECNL, ECNL RL, GA, GA Aspire and National 1 League (N1) are considered WYSA-approved leagues for the purposes of this competition. Teams playing in leagues outside of those mentioned above are asked to submit a formal request to (phodgins@wiyouthsoccer.com).
4. 19U teams are not required to play in a league but all players must be registered with WYSA.
5. 12U teams are not eligible to compete in the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship 13U division unless the team plays in a 13U fall and spring league meeting the team eligibility requirements.

Player Eligibility

1. A player must be properly registered and rostered in accordance with the rules of US Youth Soccer and the State Association.
2. A player may be on the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championships roster of only one Team within that club until the team has been eliminated from the National Championships Series during any seasonal year (Fall/Spring). If a player is eliminated at the State Level, they can only be rostered to another Team of his/her Club or as (ARP) at the next level of the National Championship Series.
3. Additionally rostered players (guest players) are not eligible for participation at the state level.
4. A Team may add as many registered Youth Players holding Club Passes of which the Team is a member so long as the roster does not exceed 22 players.

Additional Items:

A: A player who has been suspended may play after the player's term of Suspension has expired.

B: The first National Championships roster of a Team to which the player is rostered is the Team with which the player may participate for at each level of the National Championships Competitions for a seasonal year until eliminated.

Levels of Competition

Each National Championship competition shall be conducted at the following levels:

1. The first level of competitions for all boys and girls age groups is at the State Association.
2. The second level of competitions for all boys and girls age groups is at the national level.

Play-in Game (Process, Eligibility & Dates)

Play-in games, if necessary, are the qualifying competition for the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championships, but not a part of the State Championships. In age groups where an uneven number of teams enter or the number of entries needs to be reduced, play-in games will be used to narrow the field.

Play-in game matchups are based on US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championships seeding. Teams could play multiple play-in games to qualify for US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championships group play.

All teams losing play-in games will automatically be entered in the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin President's Cup. Teams withdrawing from participation in the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin President's Cup after losing a US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championships play-in game will forgo any refund of their State Championship application fee and may be subject to additional fines and or suspensions. If a team doesn't meet the WYSA President Cup participation requirements (team level of play) a refund will be provided.

Teams who win their play-in games can add players to their WYSA State Championship 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 US Youth Soccer Wisconsin 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.

If a play-in match is tied at the end of regulation, overtime rules shall be used to determine a winner.

Play-in Game Dates

Play-in games will be scheduled by the two teams, and teams must be available for game dates as established by WYSA. The US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championship Manager reserves the right to schedule all play-in games on a specific date, time, and location. Play-in game dates will be finalized on a yearly basis and posted on the website at the time of registration.

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 Manager will establish a neutral location, if necessary, in consideration of travel distance between the opposing teams. In this scenario participating clubs are responsible for field rental fees.

Team Ranking (Seeding Process)

All age groups will be seeded by the WYSA State Championships Manager and WYSA Directors of Coaching with prior year finalists (Champion and Runner Up) seeded 1st and 2nd in the respective age groups. All other applicants will be seeded based upon prior year State Championship and League play results.

Teams will have 48 hours from the time of seeds being posted to request an explanation, teams that elect to appeal their seeding will have 24 hours from the time of the response to their inquiry by the Wisconsin State Championships Manager to file a formal appeal of seeding. Seeding appeals will be

heard by the Wisconsin State Championships Committee. The WYSA appeal fee of \$125 must be received in the State Office before the appeal is scheduled.

Playing Rules

The playing rules of the US Youth Soccer National Championships Competitions shall conform to the FIFA “Laws of the Game” except as provided by this rule.

Except as otherwise provided in this section, the length of games, overtime play periods, ball size, ball circumference, and ball weight for each age group shall be as follow:

Age Groups	Max Roster	Game Day	Game Length	Overtime	Ball Size
U13 & U14	22	22	2 x 35 mins	NA	5
U15 & U16	22	22	2 x 40 mins	NA	5
U17 & U19	22	22	2 x 45 mins	NA	5

Semi-final, and final matches, if a game is tied at the end of regulation play FIFA “Kicks from the Penalty Mark” rules will apply to determine the winner.

Scores and Standings

Scores and Standings for group play will be as follows:

1. Scoring Method: Based upon the number of points earned in group play, teams earn points as follows:
 - a. Three (3) points for a win (including forfeits)
 - b. One (1) point for a tie
 - c. Zero (0) point for a loss

Tie Breakers

Two teams (2) are tied based on points earned, the team’s advancement will be determined in accordance with the following criteria:

- Winner of head-to-head competition
- Winner of most matches
- Goal differential (goals +/-) with a maximum differential of five per game
- Fewest goals allowed
- Fair Play (fewest total player/coach dismissals)
- Penalty Kicks

Three teams (3) are tied based on points earned, the team’s advancement will be determined in accordance with the following criteria. If a criterion creates a situation where the three -way tie is completely broken, then that determines the final order of finish between those three (3) teams. If a criterion separates just one (1) team, then the two (2) teams that are still tied based on that criterion will resort to the two-team tiebreaker to determine the order of finish between those two (2) teams.

- Pointed Earned in head-to-head competition among the tied teams
- Winner of most matches (all matches)
- Goal difference in matches among the tied teams
- Goal difference in all matches
- Fewest goals allowed in matches among the tied teams

- Fewest goals allowed in all matches
- Fair Play (fewest total player/coach dismissals)
- Penalty Kicks

If four teams (4) are tied based on points earned, the final rankings will be determined in accordance with the 3-Team tiebreaker sequence. If a criterion creates a situation where the four-way tie is completely broken, then that determines the final order of finish between those four (4) teams. If a criterion breaks a portion of the tied teams, then the tiebreaker shall move to the tiebreaker that coincides with the number of teams that remain tied.

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:

1. 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.
2. Teams shall alternate kicks. The first team to kick shall be determined by referee coin toss.
3. 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.
4. 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.

If taking 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.

If kicks from the penalty mark are to be taken by three (3) teams, there will be a draw by the Wisconsin State Championships 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.

If kicks from the penalty mark are to be taken by four (4) teams there will be a draw by the Wisconsin State Championships Manager. The first team 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 penalty kicks. The third team drawn will be the home team in this contest of penalty kicks. 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.

Substitutions

U13 & U14: Unlimited substitutions over three moments *per half* plus halftime.

U15 – U19: Unlimited substitutions over four moments *per match* plus halftime.

Concussion – substitution

If a player is suspected of having a concussion, they may be temporarily replaced so they can be evaluated by a qualified health professional. The temporary substitution does not count toward the team's normal substitution limits.

If the player is cleared, they may return to the match, and the temporary substitute player must come off. No substitution is charged to the team.

If the player is not cleared and permanently removed, the change becomes a concussion substitution. In that case, both teams receive one additional substitution, and the opponent can make one additional substitution.

Uniform

Each player needs to have a number on the player's jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and be clearly visible. Each player on a Team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the Team (exceptions will be made for conflicts with GK's). Tape is not permitted to correct a duplicate uniform number.

Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from other players and game officials, numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are optional.

Home teams are listed first on the schedule and responsible for changing due to a color conflict.

Unfinished Games

Unfinished games due to any cause shall be replayed if neither Team is at fault and play has not begun in the second half. If play is stopped during the second half and play cannot be resumed and if neither Team is at fault, the Wisconsin State Championships Manager may deem the game complete. However, if play is stopped at any time due to one of the Teams being at fault, it shall be at the discretion of the Wisconsin State Championships Manager whether the game is to be replayed, declared a forfeit or the score at time of termination will stand.

Red Cards / Send-Offs & Ejections

Any player, coach or spectator who is removed from a match by the referee is subject to fines and suspensions.

Player Send-Off

A player who is sent off from any game is prohibited from participating in the next immediately following game played by the player's team. A player may receive more than a one-game suspension.

Players ejected from a match may continue to sit in the technical/bench area unless removed by the referee for inappropriate behavior once they have been sent to the bench. Coaches are responsible

for ejected player's behavior on the bench, further inappropriate behavior by player may result in coach being sent off from match.

Players serving a suspension for additional game(s) are permitted to sit on the team bench in street clothes (no uniform) and will be held responsible for their actions the same as any other participant. If an ejected player becomes disruptive from the bench, he/she may receive an additional game(s) suspension.

Coach / Team Official Send-Off

A coach / team official in the Technical Area who is sent off from any game is prohibited from participating in the next immediately following game played by team they were coaching at the time of the ejection. The coach will remain ineligible for sideline access until his/her suspension is served with the offending team. A coach may receive more than a one-game suspension. If a coach that owes a red card suspension is on the sidelines for a match, the result of the match will be a forfeit for the offending teams. A coach / team official who is sent off from any game must pay a \$100 fine prior to being eligible to return to coach a State Championship match. Any outstanding coach fines at the conclusion of State Championship tournament will remain the responsibility of the coach and club and if left unpaid they may disqualify them from coaching at future State Championship events at the state, regional or National level.

Coaches and other team officials dismissed must leave the vicinity of the field before the game will be restarted. Coaches serving a disciplinary suspension may attend team activities during the suspension as a spectator only. No communication with players or team management is permitted during the suspended game(s). Any violations will result in additional disciplinary action being taken by Wisconsin Youth Soccer. If a team has only one coach on the sideline, and that coach is sent off, that coach's team will forfeit the match 5-0.

Spectator / Supporter / Parent Send-Off Coaches and other team officials

Any other individuals who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team, such as relatives and spectators, are also subject to the jurisdiction and authority of Wisconsin Youth Soccer and shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained in this policy, including ejections. Any coach or team official shall be held responsible for the actions of any individual at any game that, in the opinion of the referee, is a supporter of that team.

Any team that has a supporter removed / ejected from a match or involved in an incident at the conclusion of a match must pay a \$250 fine per occurrence. Additional sanctions against a team / club may also be levied for spectators' behavior.

A Red Card fine shall be assessed against coaches/officials or team supporters and neither the offender nor the team shall be allowed to participate further in the National Championship. The club is responsible for unpaid fines incurred by its team coaches, officials and supporters. If a player or team official is dismissed from their team's last match in the event, suspensions will be served at the next level of competitions (Regional Championships) or during the following season of play

Spectators' area

The spectator area is located on the opposite side of the field from the technical/bench area.

No spectators are permitted anywhere behind the goal line during a match. The spectator area is behind the line marked beyond the touchline and extends from a point 3-yards from the center line down to the corner flag. Spectators must remain in this area, in the half of the field directly across from their team's bench, subject to the following exception.

If a limited number of spectators wish to quietly observe the match in the far end of the opposing spectator section (for example, the Goalkeeper's family). In the event of disruptive behavior by these spectators, a competition official may require them to return to their designated area and restrict any further sideline movement of spectators.

Technical instruction from any part of the spectator area, disparagement of referees or unsportsmanlike behavior by any spectator may result in their removal from the complex. Any spectator asked to leave by a competition official must immediately depart the field area and remain out of sight and sound of the match until the teams have departed the field of play and are no longer the responsibility of the referee.

Whistles, air horns, megaphones, artificial noisemakers and/or similar devices are prohibited. Air horns are for use solely by competition officials to signal when fields must be cleared due to inclement or dangerous weather conditions.

Coaches are responsible for the spectators that accompany their team.

If it becomes evident that the spectator(s) becomes unruly and cannot be controlled, the field will be cleared of all spectators. If spectators refuse to leave the field of play, the game will be suspended and perhaps forfeited upon an investigation by the WYSA State Championship Manager or Designee.

A coach and/or team may be fined a maximum of \$1,000 because of unacceptable spectator behavior or referee abuse. The WYSA State Championship Manager or Designee reserves the right to remove any spectator from the fields or facility whose behavior is deemed inappropriate and/or whose presence imposes a threat to any member of the WYSA membership, board, or staff.

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 soccer club. All forfeited games will be posted as a 5-0 loss. In addition to the financial fines, all games for that year's state championships may be recorded as a forfeit, and the club may not be allowed to field a team in the US Youth Soccer 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 may not be eligible to participate in the following year's US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championships.

Teams forfeiting a game during group play will not be eligible for advancement to the knockout rounds.

Grace Period

A fifteen (15) minute grace period shall be extended beyond the scheduled kickoff time. The referee or WYSA State Championship Manager/Designee may extend the Grace Period for a reasonable amount of time, at his/her discretion, if circumstances dictate. The WYSA expects decisions in this

regard to be made in the spirit of providing an opportunity for the match to be decided on the field. A team not ready to play after the expiration of the allowed Grace Period will forfeit the match.

Starting the Game

A game shall not start with fewer than seven (7) eligible and properly uniformed players on each team. If the team has fewer than seven (7) players, the match shall be forfeited to the opponent. If during the match a team is unable to field at least seven (7) players, the opponent shall be declared the winner by forfeit.

The Wisconsin State Championships Manager may declare a forfeit should a team not have seven (7) eligible players upon the expiration of the allowed Grace Period.

Technical Area & Staff

The Technical Area is the seating area only for the team's eligible players and Technical Staff.

The Technical Area shall be designated for each team and include one (1) yard on either side of the team's designated seating (bench) and up to one (1) yard from the touchline or as designated at each facility.

Team may have up to four (4) Technical Staff in the Technical area. All coaches/staff in the Technical Area must have a valid WYSA Coach Pass. Only the active players listed on the team's match card (maximum 18) are to be dressed in uniform. A player that is listed on the team's match card but is not active for a match, may be in the team's Technical Area/Team Bench but must be dressed in street clothes that are easily distinguishable in color from the team's uniform.

A red carded player may remain in the technical area dressed in clothes that easily distinguish them from active players. The red carded player may be removed from the Technical Area by the referee.

The team's Technical Staff must remain within the confines of the Technical Area except in special circumstances as permitted by the referee such as entering the field of play to treat an injured player.

Players sitting on the bench or warming are required to wear pinnies until the check-in to the match. Players checking in should wait at the sideline until the player coming off reaches them. Player coming on should give the player coming off their pinnie to wear on the bench.

Coaching Credentials

Coaches of 13U-14U must hold a minimum license level of Compliant 2 to be on the team sideline.

Coaches of 15U-19U must hold a minimum of a Compliant 1 to be on the team sideline. Coaches with Compliant 2 may be listed as an assistant coach for 15U – 19U, but that team will require a game day coach with the minimum qualification to be listed on the roster and on the team bench for all matches.

Coaches with NONE, F, Y1, Y2 license levels 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 WYSA pass card. A team can have a maximum of four coaches on the sideline of any game.

If a team is unable to have a coach on the sideline meeting our coaching credentials the match could be considered a forfeit. Teams will be given a fifteen-minute grace period prior to kick-off or after a coach's dismissal, the Grace Period can be extended if determined by the WYSA State Championship Manager. Clubs found with non-compliant coaches in the technical area during game play will be fined up to \$100 per incident.

Awards

Team Awards: WYSA shall provide trophies for teams finishing in first and second place.

Player Medals: WYSA provides individual medals for first and second place finishers in each age group.

Awards Ceremony: All first and second place finishers are required to attend the awards ceremony following their championship match at the designated area. Failure to participate can result in a fine of up to \$1,000 and/or the club being placed in bad standing for the following year.

US Youth Soccer National Championships

Wisconsin State Championships winners at the U13 through U19 age groups advance to the USYS National Championships.

Age group champions are expected to attend the USYS National Championships. If a team cannot meet its obligation to attend the USYS National Tournament, they must communicate as such during the application period. It is the club's responsibility (Director, President, Coach) to notify WYSA via email (phodgins@wiyouthsoccer.com) before the start of competition if the team would like to change its originally submitted travel status.

Teams qualifying for the USYS National Championships and declining travel after accepting travel will be subject to a fine of \$3,000. Should our State Champion winner decline, the 2nd place team, 3rd place team, etc will be invited, those teams are expected to fill the vacated spot, teams declining travel and acceptance are subject to the fines above.

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.

All other participants (coaches, spectators, etc.) are prohibited from consuming alcohol or using tobacco or illegal drugs at the sidelines of any US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championships game. Violators may be subject to dismissal from the playing area; law enforcement may be called to dismiss violators.

Violating individuals can be fined up to \$250 and could be banned from the remainder of the competition. All fines will be the responsibility of the club.

Safety & Weather Related/ Lightning Procedures

The team's coaches/officials are responsible for the safety of their players and shall ensure that all persons associated with the team abide by the safety and weather-related instructions issued by the WYSA officials, tournament site officials, and/or referees.

- a. Warning is one (1) long blast from the siren/air horn. As soon as the Warning is sounded, the coaches shall remove the players from field and immediately seek shelter per the WYSA Inclement Weather Policy.
- b. The All-Clear Signal indicates that the coaches and players may return to the field of play. No one is to return to the fields until the All-Clear Signal is used. A team, coach, player, official and/or a person related to the team that ignores the safety instructions shall be prohibited from competing further in the National Championship series.
- c. WYSA will utilize PlayMetrics and WhatsApp for all Event-related communications. WYSA highly recommends team managers, coaches and parents download WhatsApp and join our event page.

Videotaping and photographers

Individuals are permitted to shoot on the sideline opposite the benches between the end line and the 18-yard line. At no time will videotaping and/or still photographers be permitted to be on or near the team benches and/or bench personnel. At NO time is any person permitted to enter the field of play.

Spirit of the Game

If the WYSA State Championship Manager or Designee determines that a particular action by a player, team or any of its spectators or members is deemed unacceptable for any reason, the team or individual may be disqualified, sanctioned, and/or face forfeiture of one or more games.

Protests and Appeals

To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest:

1. Must be orally lodged by a team official listed on the team roster involved in the game 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 WYSA State Championship Manager or his/her representative within one (1) hour of the completion of the game in protest.
3. All protests must be accompanied with a \$500.00 bond, which shall be returned only if the protest is upheld. Referee judgment shall not be a basis for protests.
4. Misapplication of the Laws of the Game may be a valid basis for a protest.
5. A Referee's judgment shall not be a basis for protests.

Decisions are made by the simple majority with the State Championship Manager authorized to vote only in case of a tie. Minutes of all meetings and decisions are recorded and shall be retained.

Committee members do not vote on decisions involving or affecting teams from the club that the members represent.

The Committee may elect to hear from witnesses wishing to testify and should solicit such testimony from game officials and teams.

All decisions are to be made in accordance with Laws set forth in FIFA Laws of the Game, the USSF Administrative Handbook, the US Youth Soccer National Championships, Midwest Regional

Championships Policies and the Rules and Regulations of the US Youth Soccer Wisconsin State Championships and the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association.

Matters Not Provided

In all matters provided or not provided in the WYSA rules and regulations, the decision of the State Championship Manger & WYSA shall be final and binding. The State Championship Manger & the Cup Committee shall have the power to deal with all violations and/or special circumstances.

The WYSA and the State Championship Manager have the authority to modify any of the rules as deemed necessary to ensure the orderly progression of the event.