

MONTANA YOUTH SOCCER STATE TOURNAMENT RULES

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Rule 7-000 - APPLICABILITY OF RULES

Montana State Tournament Rules shall remain in effect unless modified in a section specific to each set of Tournament rules. These rules apply to all Premier, Select, Classic and Academy Divisions/Tournaments, unless a rule is specifically addressed to a particular Tournament.

Rule 7-100 - TOURNAMENT AUTHORITY

Unless otherwise designated by the Board of Directors, the State Tournament Administrator shall be the Chief Administrative Officer for all state-sponsored tournaments, subject to the governance of the Board of Directors.

Rule 7-200 - ELIGIBILITY

- A. The eligibility rules for tournament play are determined pursuant to the state eligibility rules for coaches and players found in these rules. These rules shall apply except that the Board of Directors for Montana Youth Soccer Association may, at the Annual Summer meeting, waive any or all of these rules as to the Montana Cup and Montana Showcase Tournaments.
- B. Each team at each competition shall submit a roster in a manner determined by MYSA on or before the roster freeze date set by MYSA. This deadline may be waived, by the State President, at his/her discretion as long as the waiver applies equally to all teams in the division of play and does not conflict with any US Youth Soccer policies. There shall be no changes on the roster after the deadline. Failure to submit a complete/accurate roster ***shall cause the team to forfeit the right to participate in the tournament.***
- C. Credentials: Each team participating in the tournament will submit, where designated by the deadline set by MYSA, a team book containing the following:
- 1) A copy of the roster with sufficient copies for each referee at each game to be potentially played at the event if requested;
 - 2) The registrations for each player and coach including medical release;
 - 3) The player passes arranged in alphabetical order with the coaches passes placed before the first player on a ring;
 - 4) The Certification from the team's club registrar or state registrar that the players on the roster have been properly registered, that the documents discussed above have been properly placed in the team book and that the club/state registrar has reviewed the documents and certifies that they are correct.
 - 5) A team is not eligible to compete in a MYSA State Tournament unless the forgoing rules are adhered to. Should the material required to be present at team check-in not be present, or the coach not appear at the virtual mandatory coaches meeting, the team shall be declared ineligible. The Tournament Committee may level a fine up to the amount of the tournament fee for late check-in or failure of the coach to attend the mandatory meeting, but such fine need not be paid if the team withdraws and does not participate in the tournament.
- D. A team that commits to one of the tournaments herein discussed and appears with faulty credentials or does not appear will forfeit their tournament fee and not be allowed to participate.
- E. A team that fails to play a duly scheduled State Tournament game shall be deemed to have forfeited that game. The team's club may face a financial penalty as a result.

Rule 7-300 – COACH CONDUCT

Coaches who engage in unsportsmanlike behavior:

- A. Engage in UNSPORTSING BEHAVIOR, SERIOUS MISCONDUCT, ASSAULT (VERBAL OR PHYSICAL) OR BATTERY on referees, assistant referees, officials, other players or fans shall be guilty of IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR.
- B. Refusal to assist in the identification of players from their team who have participated in UNSPORTING BEHAVIOR; SERIOUS MISCONDUCT; ASSAULT (VERBAL or PHYSICAL) on a referee, assistant referee, officials, other players, or fans shall be guilty of IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR.
- C. Coaches and bench personnel are reminded that they are authority figures for the players they are charged with teaching the game of soccer to and must set a good example of sportsmanship and fair play. As such, their conduct must be at all times one of support and they must exhibit a positive and encouraging attitude. Their actions and behavior are held to a higher standard. Coaches and bench personnel must conduct themselves in a responsible manner at all times. If they do not, the referee may issue them a yellow and/or a red card and thereby dismiss them from the field of play and its immediate surroundings. FIFA's Law 12 expressly provides that players, substitutes, substituted players, coaches and bench personnel may be shown a yellow and/or red card. The following are examples of behavior that might earn coaches and bench personnel a yellow and/or red card:
 - 1) leaving the technical area (including entering the field) to dispute/dissent a call, even if the call is not what the coach/bench personnel thinks it is
 - 2) throwing/kicking anything
 - 3) directed abusive, insulting or offensive language and/or gestures
 - 4) inflammatory and/or aggressive behavior (verbal and/or physical) with the opposition
 - 5) interfering with the restart of play and field players
 - 6) making unwanted and/or aggressive contact with opposing players
 - 7) interfering with the AR or fourth official in the performance of their duties
 - 8) persistently and flagrantly protesting decisions by an official
- D. Coaches and bench personnel who are shown a red card shall be automatically suspended from the team's next two (2) games.
- E. Coaches or bench personnel accumulating two (2) yellow cards during play will be suspended one (1) game of the State Tournament the bench personnel received the cards in. Thereafter each two (2) yellow cards will require an additional two (2) game suspension.

- F. Coaching from the sidelines is permitted. This is governed by the Decisions of the International F.A. Board, Law 5, July 1995, decision 14 UPDATED Laws 201/2002. There is to be coaching by ONE (1) PERSON stepping to the edge of the coaching area and giving TACTICAL directions and STEPPING BACK TO HIS/HER POSITION. Constant yelling or violating the code of conduct is PROHIBITED.
- G. Each team shall be responsible for the conduct of its managers, coaches, players, club members, etc. and it is the responsibility of each team to ensure that its actions on and off the field do not bring disrespect upon this Association.

Rule 7-400 – MONTANA CUP RULES

- 1) The designated home team shall wear their dark uniforms and the designated away team shall wear their light uniforms in all matches. Where colors of uniform jersey and socks are similar, the designated home team must effect a change to colors that are distinct from those of the opponent.
- 2) All other rules, except as stated in this section, shall conform to FIFA irrespective of the different provisions for seasonal play. Substitutions will be in accord with US Youth Soccer Rule 302, Section 2, which provides that substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage of play.
- 3) All games in all divisions will be played as 35-minute halves.
- 4) Overtime will not be utilized to determine winners in any round of the tournament. In games where a winner is needed, teams will advance directly to kicks from the mark to determine the winner.
- 5) Points awarded for games prior to the semifinals will be: 3 for a win; 1 for a draw; and 0 for a loss. A team will be awarded a 1-0 victory and 3 points if there is a forfeit. These points will determine which teams advance.
- 6) A team forfeiting any game may not advance from pool play or to the next level, whichever is appropriate.
- 7) Tiebreaker System - more than two (2) teams. In the case of a tie among more than two (2) teams, the tiebreakers will be followed until a team advances, rather than until a team is eliminated. Once one (1) team advances, the tiebreaker will begin from the top again until the next team advances. The tiebreakers are to be used in this order:
 - a) Head-to-head competition;
 - b) Most wins;
 - c) Goals against (up to a maximum of three (3) per game);
 - d) Goal differential (no more than three (3) goals for or against can be counted for any game and the number of goals against shall be subtracted from the number of goals for);
 - e) Goals for (up to a maximum of 3);If still tied after application of the foregoing point and tiebreaker system, then the SYRA will draw names to determine which teams will advance.
- 8) Tiebreaker System - two (2) teams. In the event of a tie between two (2) teams, the provisions of 7 (A) through (E) above shall be used to determine which team advances. If the

teams are still tied after applying the tiebreaker system, FIFA “Kicks from the Penalty Mark” rules will apply in order to determine the winner.

9) Number of Teams and Participation

- a) No division or bracket played in the Montana Cup shall have more than eight (8) teams.
- b) MYSA at its discretion may create multiple divisions. If a multiple division system is used only the top division may be designated as State Champion.
- c) Pre-tournament playoffs may also be necessary to determine which teams may be permitted to advance to the Montana Cup.
- d) Seeding for play-off games and the Montana Cup shall be determined by a seeding based on results from seasonal play.

10) Classic Divisions and Reduce to Equate

- a) In Classic divisions, to promote fair play and allow for games when less than full teams are present, if one team is unable to field a team of 11 players, then the opposing team MUST reduce to equate and play with the same number of players.

Rule 7-500 – MONTANA SHOWCASE RULES

- 1) The designated home team shall wear their dark uniforms and the designated away team shall wear their light uniforms in all matches. Where colors of uniform jersey and socks are similar, the designated home team must effect a change to colors that are distinct from those of the opponent.
- 2) All other rules, except as stated in this section, shall conform to FIFA irrespective of the different provisions for seasonal play. Substitutions will be in accord with US Youth Soccer Rule 302, Section 2, which provides that substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage of play.
- 3) The time limits for periods shall be in accord with the limits set for each age division below. Substitutions will be in accord with league play unless designated otherwise by MYSA.

A. Specific Tournament Rules for 10U Divisions

- 1) 10 and under teams shall be divided into brackets for Tournament play based on the answers provided by the team in the event application.
- 2) The teams shall play a round-robin format in following the game rules utilized during seasonal play.
- 3) Divisions at this age WILL NOT play to a winner.
- 4) All games in all divisions will be played as 25-minute halves.

B. Specific Tournament Rules for 11U Divisions

- 1) 11 and under teams shall be divided into brackets for Tournament play based on seasonal play and the answers provided by the team in the event application.
- 2) The teams shall play a round-robin format in following the game rules utilized during seasonal play.
- 3) Divisions at this age WILL NOT play to a winner.
- 4) All games in all divisions will be played as 30-minute halves.

C. Specific Tournament Rules for 12U Divisions

- 1) 12 and under teams shall be divided into brackets for Tournament play based on seasonal play and the answers provided by the team in the event application.
- 2) Divisions at this age WILL play to a winner. Each division's format will depend on the number of teams within it.
- 3) All games in all divisions will be played as 30-minute halves.

- 4) Overtime will not be utilized to determine winners in any round of the tournament. In games where a winner is needed, teams will advance directly to kicks from the mark to determine the winner.
- 5) Points awarded for games prior to the semifinals will be: 3 for a win; 1 for a draw; and 0 for a loss. A team will be awarded a 1-0 victory and 3 points if there is a forfeit. These points will determine which teams advance.
- 6) A team forfeiting any game may not advance from pool play or to the next level, whichever is appropriate.
- 7) Tiebreaker System - more than two (2) teams. In the case of a tie among more than two (2) teams, the tiebreakers will be followed until a team advances, rather than until a team is eliminated. Once one (1) team advances, the tiebreaker will begin from the top again until the next team advances. The tiebreakers are to be used in this order:
 - a) Head-to-head competition;
 - b) Most wins;
 - c) Goals against (up to a maximum of three (3) per game);
 - d) Goal differential (no more than three (3) goals for or against can be counted for any game and the number of goals against shall be subtracted from the number of goals for);
 - e) Goals for (up to a maximum of 3);If still tied after application of the foregoing point and tiebreaker system, then the SYRA will draw names to determine which teams will advance.
- 8) Tiebreaker System- two (2) teams. In the event of a tie between two (2) teams, the provisions of 7 (A) through (E) above shall be used to determine which team advances. If the teams are still tied after applying the tiebreaker system, FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" rules will apply in order to determine the winner.
- 9) NUMBER OF TEAMS, PARTICIPATION
 - a) No division or bracket played at the 12U level shall have more than eight (8) teams.
 - b) MYSAs at its discretion may create multiple divisions.

Rule 7-600 – FORMATS

Group Play formats to be used by all Montana State Tournaments and all divisions (excluding all 10U and 11U divisions in the Montana Showcase). Games may be played in any order.

A. Four Team Bracket

Each team will play their bracket opponents in three (3) games in a round-robin format. Games may end in a draw. The two (2) teams with the most points will advance to the Final on Sunday.

Round 1	A1 v A4	A2 v A3
Round 2	A4 v A2	A3 v A1
Round 3	A1 v A2	A3 v A4
Final	#1 Most Points vs. #2 Most Points	

B. Five Team Bracket

Each team will play two (2) preliminary games. Games may end in a draw. Preliminary game matchups may not match the example below. After preliminary games, team #1 in the standings advances to the final and teams #2 & #3 advance to the semi-final. Teams #4 & #5 in the standings advance to a consolation game. The winning team of the semi-final advances to the Final to play team #1.

Round 1	A1 v A4	A5 v A2
Round 2	A3 v A5	A2 v A4
Round 3	A1 v A3	
Consolation	A #4 v A #5	
Semi-Final	A #2 v A #3	
Final	A #1 v SF #1 Winner	

C. Six Team Bracket

Each team will play three (3) group games in a crossover format. Games may end in a draw. The two (2) teams with the most points, regardless of bracket, advance to the Final on Sunday.

Round 1	A1 v B3	B1 v A2	A3 v B2
Round 2	B2 v A1	B3 v A2	B1 v A3
Round 3	A1 v B1	A2 v B2	A3 v B3
Final	Most Points #1 vs. Most Points #2		

D. Eight Team Bracket

Each team will play three (3) group games against teams within their bracket. Games may end in a draw. Bracket winners will advance to the Final on Sunday.

Round 1	A2 v A3	A1 v A4	B2 v B3	B1 v B4
Round 2	A3 v A1	A2 v A4	B3 v B1	B2 v B4
Round 3	A1 v A2	A4 v A3	B1 v B2	B4 v B3
Final	Bracket A Winner v Bracket B Winner			

Rule 7-700 – ASSIGNMENT OF OFFICIALS

The SYRA shall assign all officials to all Montana Cup. Referees will self-assign themselves for all Montana Showcase matches.

Grievances against officials shall be delivered in writing to the SYRA and the MYSA President, but such grievances shall not change the outcome of a game unless such decision is one that is subject to review by the Protest and Appeals committee. If the grievance is such that could result in a change of the game's outcome, in addition to the actions called for herein compliance with the protest and appeals procedure must be followed.

Rule 7-800 – PROTEST AND DISCIPLINE

- 1) This Association shall honor the disciplinary rulings against players from out of State Associations attempting to register with this Association.
- 2) No State Association official, club, team, referee or player may invoke the aid of any lawyer or the courts of any state or the United States without first exhausting all available remedies within this organization.
- 3) The Discipline Committee Association Sponsored Cups shall be composed of the Board of Directors of this Association and the Association's Cup Administrator present at the cup and is referred to herein as the Cup Committee. This committee will also resolve all questions involving the State Cup, but the local Cup Chairman as designated by the host club shall be allowed to participate but not vote in all matters other than discipline or credentials. Should less than three (3) of the above-named committee members attend the Cup, the member of the Board of Directors responsible for the Cup shall appoint at least three (3) Club Presidents as the Committee.
- 4) For misconduct cards, MYSAs shall follow the rules set forth below as it exists of this date or is later amended. For the minimum penalties applied under these rules, there shall be no appeal.
- 5) If the Discipline Committee invokes any of the minimum penalties provided herein, there shall be no notice given. However, should the Committee determine that an additional penalty is necessary, notification will be made to the team representative by direct contact or leaving a message at the phone number left on the team's disclosure at registration. That penalty may be appealed no later than one (1) hour before the next game or by 12:00 noon the day after the notification is given, whichever occurs first.

Rule 7-900 – MANDATORY SANCTIONS

A. YELLOW CARDS AND CAUTIONS

- 1) Yellow cards shall not be carried into the tournament, but fines (if applied) shall be paid before a player is eligible to compete.
- 2) A player accumulating three (3) yellow cards during play will be required to sit-out one (1) game of the State Tournament the player received the cards in. Thereafter each two (2) yellow cards will require an additional sit-out.
- 3) Coaches or bench personnel accumulating two (2) yellow cards during games will be suspended one (1) game of the State Tournament the bench personnel received the cards in. Thereafter each two (2) yellow cards will require an additional two (2) game suspension.
- 4) These cards are to be kept by the State Tournament Administrator and there is no appeal of the sanction. The SYRA shall, when reviewing the misconducts, have the authority to lift a misconduct that has not been properly reported or for which the improper sanction has been awarded. This ruling cannot be sought, nor can a review of this ruling be sought.

B. Ejections: (Send Offs)

- 1) FOUL OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE or gestures, Serious Foul Play, Violent Conduct or committing a second cautionable offence after receiving a caution. If the ejection is for committing the second cautionable offense, only the first yellow card gets counted in the accumulation of yellow cards
- 2) APPLICABLE SANCTION: Suspension for game without substitution in play plus the next following game.
- 3) Misconduct of Coaches or Team Officials: Bench Personnel who receive a red card during a match shall automatically be suspended from the next two (2) games.

C. Appeals Committee shall be named by the President of MYSA prior to the event and must include the SYRA and the State Tournament Administrator.

1) Jurisdiction:

Violations of the Constitution, Charter, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of this Association, misapplication of the "Laws of the Game" or violations of club rules and regulations shall be proper subjects for the protest and appeals procedures, provided these falls within the framework of the Constitution, Charter, By-Laws and Rules and Regulations of this Association. There shall be no appeal of the minimum discipline as prescribed in these rules.

There shall be no protest on the referee's factual interpretation (See Law 5). Protest of an action in a game must be called to the referee's attention at halftime or at the conclusion of

the game. The referee shall include the existence of a protest and the team making the same in his report.

2) Procedure:

Within two (2) hours of conclusion of the game or within one (1) hour of such action as to cause the protest. A written protest shall be filed with the Appeals Committee who shall notify the chairperson of the Appeals Committee. The written protest shall contain a summary of the grounds including a description of the incident and be accompanied with a \$100 cash appeal bond.

Within one (1) hour of notification, the Chairperson shall:

- a) Rule that the issue is not subject to protest (factual).
 - b) Rule that the protest is subject to review.
 - c) Recommend it is denied.
 - d) Recommend it be granted.
 - e) Not recommend either way.
 - f) Present opinion orally to the representative of each affected team.
- 3) If either team, or such other parties that rightly ought to be involved, do not indicate disagreement when advised, the decision will stand: if either team disagrees, the Chairman within one hour will call and hold a hearing.

There is no further appeal from a Tournament ruling.