



State Championship

Tournament Rules

State Championships Overview:

The US Youth Soccer (USYS) Washington Youth Soccer (WYS) State Championships, hereafter referred to as State Championships, is the highest level of competition in WYS State Cup tournament series for youth teams across Washington State.

State Championship's is open to boys' and girls' teams in the U13–U19 age groups. All participants, including coaches, team administrators, and players must be properly registered with Washington Youth Soccer and affiliated with a WYS Member Association or Club. Teams, coaches and players must be in good standing with WYS, their Association, and Club, and must not have violated any competition policies and/or rules.

All team administration (e.g. coaches, teams managers) must be in compliance with WYS Risk Management, U.S. Soccer Safe Soccer, U.S. Soccer Referee Abuse Prevention and SafeSport policies.

State Championships serves as the first tier in a three-tier qualification system for the [USYS National Championship Series \(NCS\)](#) for u13-u19 teams. This is not a single elimination format. The purpose of State Championships is to determine a Washington State Champion in each age group of each gender from U-13 to U19. Teams wishing to compete in the USYS Nationals Championship Series (NCS) should enter this tournament.

By entering the State Championships, teams agree to travel to the home team's field anywhere in Washington State for preliminary matches, and to Starfire Sports for Semifinal and Final matches.

National Championship Series (alternate pathways)



Teams that choose to compete in the [USYS Northwest Conference \(NWC\)](#) or [National League \(NL\)](#) as an alternate pathway to nationals are required to participate in the WYS State Championship, regardless of qualification outcome at NWC or NL, in accordance with USYS National Rules.

If a team qualifies for nationals through an alternate pathway, they must accept the USYS national qualifying bid, and the WYS State Championship bid will be offered to the finalist.

If a team is using an alternate pathway to qualify for USYS Nationals and the qualifier event conflicts with the WYS State Championship schedule, the club administrator or coach must contact the WYS Tournament Director to ensure compliance with WYS and USYS policies.

I. ADMINISTRATION

Tournament Committee

The State Championship Tournament Committee shall include representatives from Member Associations and/or Clubs, along with WYS Soccer Operations Staff. Final authority on all decisions shall reside with the WYS Soccer Operations Staff.

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

II. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- A) In the current seasonal year, teams must compete in a fall WYS-sanctioned league, USYS National League (e.g. NWC or NL), or with WYS's permission in another State Association, except for the nineteen (19) under-age group for boys and girls. The league must consist of at least four teams, and the teams must play at least one game against each of the three teams participating in the league.
- B) Teams may only register and play in one State Cup at a time.
- C) All applications must be submitted with the required entry fee, unless the club has made alternative payment arrangements with WYS.
- D) Semifinal teams will be asked to submit a team photo to WYS.
- E) The Member Association/Club Registrar will verify player and coach eligibility for all team rosters and any revisions. U13-U14 players NOT competing need to be removed from the roster.
- F) WYS will accept roster additions, releases, and transfers until the roster freeze date.
- G) Roster Freeze is Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. before the first divisional game.
- H) Teams must demonstrate a continuity of rosters between the Fall WYS League roster and the State Cup Team Tournament roster. 11v11 must maintain a minimum of nine (9) players common to both rosters.
- I) Before the roster freeze, the State Cup Team Tournament Roster may not have more than five (5) transferred and/or club passed players activated on the State Cup Team Tournament Roster. Players transferred from a WYS club to another WYS club and/or are in the "Drop and/or District Pool" will be considered transfers to the receiving team.

- J) All teams qualifying for the next tier at the USYS National Championship are required to comply with the rules and regulations set forth by US Youth Soccer.
- K) Championship State Cup teams:
 11v11 teams may have a maximum of 22 players on the roster, but only 18 players may suit up and play on matchday.

Age Group	Team Continuity	Registration Roster	Tournament Roster	Game Time Roster	Minimum to Play
11 v11	9	22	22	18	7

IV. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A) A player must be properly registered and rostered in accordance with the rules of WYS and USYS.
- B) Any team using ineligible player(s) will forfeit all tournament games and be disqualified from participation.
- C) Players in the U13 and U14 age groups are Cup-Tied from 12:00am on the roster freeze date through the conclusion of the tournament. Any player NOT playing must be removed from the roster by club registrars or leadership. e.g. player transfers from Club A to Club B, the player is not eligible to play State Cup at Club B.
- D) Players may compete in any of the four (4) State Cup tournaments, but only one at a time and on a single roster per tournament, regardless of age group scheduling throughout the seasonal year.
 - A player is eligible to participate in a different State Cup tournament only after their current team has concluded its involvement in the event.
 - Players who have participated in the State Championship tournament during the seasonal year are ineligible to compete in a lower or equal-level state cup tournament.
 - Players rostered during the State Championships must meet the eligibility policies, protocols, and rules of competition of the [US Youth Soccer National Championships Series](#) to attend Nationals.
 - Exception:** Players aged U13–U14 rostered on a Founders Cup team may also be rostered on a State Championship Cup team. However, if the Founders Cup team advances to the Quarterfinals, Semifinals, or Finals, those players must complete competition with their Founders Cup team as the primary commitment. e.g. – *A player is rostered on Team A (Founders Cup) and Team B (State Championship). If both teams are scheduled to play at the same time, the player must play for Team A (Founders Cup).*

- e. A player registered for the U13–U14 Founders Cup may not be dual registered for a Presidents Cup and State Championship team. Participation is limited to one competition.
- E) Cup-Tied-U13-U14 Ages Only:
- a) Players in U13–U14 divisions are cup-tied once the roster freeze deadline passes for Presidents Cup and State Championship.
 - b) Players may transfer to another club, but they are not eligible to play on the club's State Cup roster. *e.g: A player transferring from Club A to Club B is ineligible to play State Cup with Club B.*
 - c) A U13-14 player is tied to the first roster they were rostered on until a champion is declared in that age group and division.
 - d) The cup-tied rule applies to both Presidents Cup and State Championship. Players may not switch competitions by transferring clubs.
- F) Any player playing full-time on an ECNL team, except for U19 teams, in the current seasonal year is ineligible to participate in the WYS State Championship Cup. Waiver Requests: Club Directors or Club Leadership may submit waiver requests to the WYS Tournament Director and Tournament Committee for special consideration.
- G) WYS registered players who have club passed to an ECNL, GA or MLS Next 2 team are eligible to participate in the WYS President Cup, WYS State Championship Cup, USYS Northwest President Cup National Qualifier, USYS President Cup Nationals, and USYS National Championship Series.
- H) If a team's roster includes only one goalkeeper who becomes injured during State Cup play, the Club Director may request a waiver from the Tournament Director to club pass or roster a replacement goalkeeper registered with WYS. The replacement cannot be rostered in the same tournament.
- I) All players 18 years of age or older are required to have completed the full core SafeSport training and have the certificate uploaded to their player profile prior to the roster freeze date. Otherwise, the player will be removed from the roster and remain ineligible for the entire WYS State Cup.
- The SafeSport Act of 2017 is a Federal Law S.534 — 115th Congress (2017-2018) Due to federal law S.534 The Center for SafeSport was given authority over National Governing Bodies (NGB) to safeguard amateur athletes against abuse. Washington Youth Soccer (WYS) is an organizational member of the NGB US Soccer. As an organizational member, WYS is required to follow and enforce the mandated US Soccer Policy 212.*

V. TEAM REGISTRATION

- A) Team(s) are required to be registered in Washington Youth Soccer's registration platform (Sports Connect Association) in the current seasonal year.
- B) Payment is required at the time of registration.

- C) Each player must have their uniform number recorded on the team rosters in the WYS registration system. This information will appear on the match-day report but does not constitute valid grounds for match cancellation, protest, or forfeit. Referees may write in jersey numbers.
- D) Refund and Fines
Any team that withdraws and/or forfeits match(s) in a WYS state cup tournament shall be subject to the following:
- a. All refunds will be processed based on how the transaction was submitted unless the system does not allow it.
 - b. Teams that request to drop before the registration deadline will receive a full refund.
 - c. Teams that withdraw between registration close and the release of schedules will be fined \$600. Club Directors or Leadership may request an exception from the WYS Tournament Director.
 - d. If schedules have been released and a team withdraws before the first game, its Member Association/Club will be fined \$600.00.
 - e. If a team withdraws from the competition once group play has started all matches will be forfeited with a 0-1 result.
 - f. Forfeits will incur a \$1000.00 fine.
 - g. The fines may be used to defray reasonable and documented expenses of the opponent's team, including referees and field rental. Fines are paid to WYS and documentation for reimbursement must be sent to the WYS State Cup Tournament Director.
 - h. If a team, club, and/or association does not pay the fines their eligibility to participate in future state cups will be evaluated and the opponent will not receive reimbursement.

VI. CREDENTIALS

- A) Teams may use Digital Player Cards from WYS Sports Connect or USYS Player Passes printed from WYS Sports Connect during WYS State Championship match-day check-in.
- a. Digital Player Cards: Each player and team admin listed on the roster must have a current, clear color, front-facing photo uploaded to the WYS registration platform. Photos must show only the individual's face (no additional people).
 - b. USYS Player Passes: Each player and team admin on the roster must have a laminated printed USYS Player Pass containing a 1" x 1" current color photograph of the player and/or team admin face with matching team ID numbers.
- B) No more than four (4) Team Administrators per team will be allowed on the designated team sideline. e.g. Coach, Asst. Coach, Team Manger

- C) Team Admins are required to be Risk Management approved through WYS.
- D) Team Admins are required to be Risk Management approved through WYS before being placed on a roster. Any Team Admin not approved will be removed from the roster until they complete SafeSport, Intro to Safety, and a WYS background check.
- E) Director Passes for Semi/Finals weekends will be issued through WYS at Tournament Headquarters. Eligible Club Directors must be RMA-approved and free of sanctions. Passes allow sideline access without being listed on the team roster.
- F) The player/admin passes must be surrendered to the referee before each game. If a player or team admin does not possess a pass, they will not be allowed to participate in that match.
 - a) The player must remove their jersey and cannot be in their team's technical area for that match.
 - b) Coaches, and Asst. Coaches must leave the field of play and any spectator areas and are prohibited from providing instruction or communication to any remain team administrators—direct or electronic—before, during, or after the game. Coaches found violating this rule will receive a minimum three-match suspension.

VII. TOURNAMENT AND GAME SCHEDULES State Cup Format

- A) The WYS Soccer Operations Staff is responsible for providing match pairings and playdates for all tournament games. Preliminaries and quarterfinals may be scheduled at the home team fields or a neutral location if agreed upon by the home team. All Semi-final and Final games and Referees will be scheduled by the WYS Soccer Operations Staff. In cases where teams cannot reach agreement on a game date due to scheduling conflicts, the WYS Soccer Operations Staff reserves the authority to mandate a date change
- B) Responsibilities of Coaches and Managers of home and away teams if games are not hosted at one venue:
 - a. The following are the responsibilities of the assigned home team:
 - i. Provide the visiting team with confirmation of game time and adequate directions to the home team's venue no less than 72 hours before the game and no later than 9:00 PM Wednesday via phone and email.
 - ii. Bring 3 copies of the match day roster and player cards to the field.
 - iii. Marking the field of play per regulations for age-appropriate sizes.
 - iv. Provide proper game ball for the appropriate age
 - v. Provide proper goal size, nets, and corner flags

- vi. Confirm that their Association or Club Referee Assignor has assigned a referee, including any game that has changed in time, place, or date since originally scheduled, and confirm with the opposing team.
- b. Responsibilities of the assigned visiting team:
 - i. Visiting teams must confirm to the home team receipt of the above directions, game time, and field location on Thursday night prior to the game by no later than 9:00 PM. Changes within 72 hours of the game must be re-confirmed by the visiting team.
 - ii. Bring 2 copies of the match day roster and player cards to the field.
- C) Travel Policy:
- a. If a team travels more than 75 miles one way from its club address to the opponent's club address, the home team must schedule the match between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM to allow reasonable travel time, unless matches are played at a central host site. Exceptions may be made with written agreement from the traveling team. Travel distance is calculated using the most direct route between club addresses.
 - b. Home teams are encouraged to accommodate reasonable alternate travel routes to support safe and timely arrival for away teams.
 - c. Teams that are scheduled to travel from Western WA to Eastern WA or Eastern WA to Western WA are scheduled to play only one game a weekend. Teams may choose to play two games on the same weekend, but this is not required.
 - d. If there is more than one game scheduled on the same day, there will be a minimum of 6 hours between game start times. Unless the teams agree to the change in writing.
- D) Divisional and Quarterfinal rescheduling requests shall be directed to the opponent's team manager and coach. Once the home and away teams have mutually agreed to a reschedule date, time, and location, the rescheduled information is required to be reflected in Sports Connect Association. If a game is not played due to inadequate communication by either team per policy VII. Tournament and Game Schedules; D, the Tournament Committee and WYS Soccer Operations Staff will review the communications and determine which team will receive a forfeit and apply any appropriate fines and reimbursement funds.
- E) If both teams were properly notified per "B" above and one team fails to show up following a 15-minute grace period. The match will be forfeited and recorded 0-1 in favor of the team that showed. The Tournament Committee and the WYS Soccer Operations Staff may consider extenuating circumstances for the team that did not show.
- F) Inclement Weather:
Participant safety is the highest priority. Due to the unpredictable nature of inclement weather, not all scenarios can be anticipated. Any situation not explicitly addressed will be evaluated by the State Cup Tournament Director.

- a) Washington Youth Soccer will follow U.S. Soccer's [Recognize to Recover Heat](#) and [Cold](#) Guidelines and consult [Air Now](#) for air quality concerns.
- b) Inclement Weather Communication:
During inclement weather, all teams are expected to communicate regarding home field and road conditions. If the field is open prior to kickoff, the match must be played. Home teams are expected to notify away teams as soon as possible of field closures by email and/or phone/text. If a team chooses not to play and the match is not rescheduled and played, the team that originally decided not to play, will forfeit with a 0-1 result, be eliminated from the tournament, and all matches, including those already played, will be recorded as forfeits with a 0-1 score. The forfeiting team will be fined in accordance with Presidents Cup Rules, Section V, Letter D.
- c) In the event that all matches need to be cancelled due to inclement weather, WYS will notify teams through Sports Connect. The WYS Operations Staff and the Tournament Committee will determine next steps and provide communications and expectations to all teams.
- d) Road Closure:
If the only roadway to the match location is closed by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for reasons other than scheduled maintenance and remains closed eight (8) hours prior to kickoff, the match will be canceled.
- If more than one route is available to reach the fields and has favorable travel conditions, the team is expected to travel.
 - If the match can be rescheduled at the original home team's venue, no later than Wednesday evening prior to a Quarterfinals or Semifinals weekend the teams may reschedule. If either team refuses the reschedule, the refusing team will forfeit the match with a 0-1 result, be eliminated from the tournament, and all matches will be recorded as forfeits with a 0-1 score including any match(s) already played. The forfeiting team will be fined in accordance with Presidents Cup Tournament Rule Section V, Letter D.
 - If the match cannot be rescheduled due to continuous inclement weather and schedule constraints, both Club Directors may request the State Cup Tournament Director to determine the outcome by coin toss.
- e) Chains Required:
If roadways are open and chains are required to travel, teams are expected to travel.
- If more than one route is available to reach the fields and has favorable travel conditions, the team is expected to travel.
 - If the match can be rescheduled at the original home team's venue, no later than Wednesday evening prior to a Quarterfinals or Semifinals weekend the teams may reschedule. If either team refuses the reschedule, the refusing team will forfeit the match with a 0-1 result, be eliminated from the tournament, and all matches will be recorded as forfeits with a 0-1 score including any match(s) already played. The forfeiting team will be fined in accordance with Presidents Cup Tournament Rule Section V, Letter D.

- If the match cannot be rescheduled due to continuous inclement weather and schedule constraints, both Club Directors may request the State Cup Tournament Director to determine the outcome by coin toss.
- G) The referee will decide on match day whether to declare a field unplayable due to unforeseen circumstances. The WYS Tournament Director will assist in rescheduling if necessary. If applicable, a game may be left unplayed, in which case zero (0) points will be awarded to either team.
- H) Failure of a referee to show up will not be the cause for canceling or protesting the game. A substitute official must be chosen upon agreement by both coaches. The match result and official decisions will be final.
- I) If a tournament match is canceled or abandoned due to an unplayable field, the WYS Tournament Director will assist in rescheduling, if necessary. If applicable, a game may be left unplayed, in which case zero (0) points will be awarded to either team.

VIII. TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULES

- A) All games will be played in accordance with IFAB and [FIFA Laws of the Game](#) except as modified explicitly under “Washington Youth Soccer Rules of Competition” or unless stated herein.
- B) Spectator Conduct Policy:
Each team is responsible for the behavior of its spectators. Coaches, Managers, and Club or Member Association officials are accountable for ensuring proper conduct before, during and after the match. The U.S. Soccer Referee Abuse Prevention (RAP) Policy, SafeSport, WYS Code of Conduct, and WYS Judicial and Ethics Procedures will be strictly enforced at all State Championship matches.
- C) Zero Tolerance Policy:
Washington Youth Soccer enforces a zero-tolerance policy for epithets, foul, abusive, or discriminatory language or behavior, including racial slurs and offensive remarks, directed at or made by any player, coach, parent, team official, match official, tournament staff, or representative before, during, or after a match. Violations will be addressed in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game, the WYS Code of Conduct, Referee Abuse Prevention (RAP), and SafeSport. Offenders will be subject to a WYS Disciplinary Hearing, and the committee’s decision will be final.
- D) Substitutions Rules:
WYS State Championship will align with USYS National Championship Series rules. *Coaches must provide Substitution Cards to the center referee for their moments.*
- a. **U13-U14 age groups:**
Unlimited substitutions over three (3) moments per ***half*** plus halftime.
 - b. **U15-U19:**
Unlimited substitutions over four (4) moments per ***match*** plus halftime.

Substitutions can occur at any stoppage with referee's approval. Re-Entry is permitted at designated substitution points or at any time during play if the referee permits.

Concussion/Head Injury 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 substitute does not count towards the team's normal substitutions limits.

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

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 of one singular player.

- E) Each player must wear a jersey with a clearly visible number, at least six (6) inches in height, affixed to the back. All players on a team must have unique numbers that match the match-day roster. Referees may write in jersey numbers on a roster if necessary. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are optional.
- F) In the event of a color conflict, the home team will be responsible for changing the color of the uniform jersey. All teams are required to carry contrasting-colored jerseys to all games. (Light and Dark)
- G) Before the start of each Divisional and Quarterfinal game, each team must provide the referee with 3 copies of the State Cup match roster printed from Sports Connect showing players' names and jersey numbers. Along with either digital player cards or laminated player cards. For the Semi-finals and Finals, WYS will provide the match roster, teams must provide player cards.
- H) After the game, the referee will return all USYS membership cards and 1 copy of the match roster to the coach or team manager.
- I) In Divisional and Quarterfinal matches, both teams' coaches or managers must record the final score and misconduct(s) from the official match report in Sports Connect within 24 hours after the completion of a game. For the Semi-finals and Finals, WYS will record the final score and misconduct(s).
- J) **Violations and Penalties:**
Any infraction or violation of Washington Youth Soccer State Cup Rules may result in any of the following penalties:
 - a. Ineligibility of a player or team for tournament play
 - b. Forfeiture of a game or games
 - c. Return of tournament trophy and/or medals
 - d. Revocation of the title "Tournament Champion" and all rights associated with such title.

- K) Game Duration, Ball Size, and Overtime Periods
- a. Ties will stand in preliminary rounds
 - b. Quarter, Semi, and Final matches must have a winner
 - c. If tied at the end of the Quarter, Semi and Final matches. Overtime period is to be played if still tied, then FIFA kicks from the mark's procedure

Age Group	Duration	Ball Size	Overtime Periods
Under 19	2 x 45 Min	#5	2 x 10 Min
Under 18	2 x 45 Min	#5	2 x 10 Min
Under 17	2 x 45 Min	#5	2 x 10 Min
Under 16	2 x 40 Min	#5	2 x 10 Min
Under 15	2 x 40 Min	#5	2 x 10 Min
Under 14	2 x 35 Min	#5	2 x 5 Min
Under 13	2 x 35 Min	#5	2 x 5 Min

- L) Failure to Compete:
- Match Manipulation during any WYS Championship, Presidents, Founders, or Rec Cup competition will not be tolerated. Teams failing to compete in the spirit of the competition or involved in manipulating a game result are subject to forfeiture and/or disqualification from all levels of the competition.
- a. If failing to compete is observed and confirmed, the WYS Soccer Operations Staff will give notice to the offending Team(s) and/or Club(s).
 - b. Team(s) and/or Club(s) may be subject to fines up to a maximum penalty fee of \$600.00 to offset expenses for the team(s) and/or club(s) not limited to travel, referees, field, lights and any other applicable expenses incurred, subject to approval by WYS Soccer Operations Staff
 - c. If corrective action is not taken by the Club(s) and/or Association(s), the Team(s) will be subject to disqualification.

- M) Forfeits:
- a. All forfeits will be recorded as a 0–1 loss, awarding a win to the opposing team and fines will be applied as stated in Section V, letter D.
 - b. The committee reserves the right to impose penalties for forfeits deemed inappropriate or intentional.
Examples of inappropriate forfeits include:
 - i. manipulating bracket outcomes or seeding.
 - ii. Intentionally avoiding a stronger opponent.
 - iii. Failing to show up without prior notice or valid justification.

- c. Any team that forfeits a bracket match, regardless of reason, will forfeit all bracket matches and be disqualified from the tournament and advancing to the Quarterfinals or Semi-finals.

N) Game Abandonment:

- a. If a referee abandons a match due to the conduct of coaches, players, spectators, or any combination thereof, no replay will be granted.
- b. Any team found responsible for match abandonment will be disqualified from advancing to the Quarterfinals, Semifinals, or Finals of the WYS Presidents Cup. If abandonment occurs during a WYS Finals match, the team(s) will be ineligible to progress to the USYS National Qualifiers or National Championships.
- c. Per U.S. Soccer's Referee Abuse Prevention Policy (Policy 531-9), effective March 2025, club leadership, team officials, and spectators found responsible for match abandonment due to referee abuse will be subject to disciplinary action.
- d. Match outcomes following abandonment will be determined as follows:
 - If the opposing team is ahead, the score at the time of abandonment will stand as final.
 - If the team causing the abandonment is ahead, the match will be forfeited and recorded as a 1–0 win for the opposing team.
 - If the score is tied, the match will be forfeited and recorded as a 1–0 win for the opposing team.
 - If both teams are found responsible, each will receive a loss and zero points. In single-elimination rounds, the Tournament Committee and WYS Soccer Operations Staff will determine the outcome.

IX. STANDINGS AND TIE-BREAKERS

A) Point Allocation

Teams earn points during group play as follows:

- Win: 3 points
- Draw: 1 point
- Loss: 0 points

B) Total Points:

If the number of teams in a group/division is even, total points will be used to determine standings and progression.

Two (2) Team Tie-Breaker Criteria:

If two teams are tied on total points at the end of group play, the following criteria will be applied in order:

1. Head-to-Head result
2. Most games won in group play
3. Highest goal differential (goals scored minus goals against; max ± 10 goals per game)

4. Most goals scored (max 10 goals per game)
5. Goals against (max 10 goals per game)
6. Midweek playoff game to determine advancement
7. Coin flip for seeding purposes in the elimination phase

Three (3) or More Teams Tie-Breaker Criteria:

When three or more teams are tied on total points, apply the following criteria sequentially until one team is eliminated or advances. Restart the sequence from criterion b with the remaining teams until the tie is resolved:

- a. Most games won
- b. Goal differential (max ± 10 goals per game)
- c. Most goals scored (max 10 goals per game)
- d. Goals against (max 10 goals per game)
- e. Midweek playoff game to determine advancement

C) Average Points per Game (APG):

If the number of teams in a group/division is uneven, APG will be used to determine standings and progression.

APG Two Team Tiebreaker Criteria:

If two teams are tied in Average Points per Game (APG), the following tie-breaker criteria will be applied in order to determine placement or advancement:

APG Three (3) or More Teams Tiebreaker Criteria:

If three or more teams are tied, apply the following criteria sequentially until one team is eliminated or advances. Restart the sequence from criterion b with the remaining teams

- a) Win Percentage (wins divided by games played)
- b) Head-to-head result (*only applicable if two teams are tied*)
- c) Midweek playoff game to determine advancement.
- d) Coin flip for seeding purposes in the elimination phase.

D) Final Tie Resolution:

If teams remain tied after all criteria are applied, The WYS Tournament Director and the Tournament Committee will conduct a draw to determine the order of play among them.

X. DISCIPLINARY, MATCH PROTESTS & APPEALS

All Misconduct, Match Protests, and Appeals will follow the WYS Judicial and Ethics Committee Policy and Procedures, IFAB/FIFA Laws of the Game and [US Soccer Referee Abuse Prevention Policy](#).

(A) Misconduct:

- a. Will be reviewed and determined by the WYS Disciplinary Committee

(B) Referee Abuse Prevention (RAP):

Will be submitted to the Referee Abuse Prevention Committee for adjudication.

(C) Match Protest:

- a. Any match protest must follow WYS Judicial and Ethics Committee Policy and Procedures and be submitted to WYS Soccer Operations Staff within 48 hours of the match's completion.
- b. Upon receiving the match protest the Tournament Committee and WYS Operations Staff will review and determine the match protest within 48 hours.
- a. Any Tournament Committee representative from where the match protest originated will recuse themselves.
- b. Match day misconducts cannot be submitted as a Match Protest.

A) Appeals:

- a. The determination from a match protest may be appealed per the WYS Judicial and Ethics Committee policy.

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

Additional Tournament Rules or Changes:

Any additional tournament rules, special rules, requirements, procedures, and administrative and organizational information necessary for staging the State Cup Tournaments will be referenced from USYS President Cup and National Championship Series rules, protocols, and policy documents published separately. See below:

State Championship National Rules:

[USYS National Championship Series](#)

[Referee Abuse Prevention Policy](#)