



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Below are responses to frequently asked questions about the State Cup.

### Q. What is the State Cup?

A. The state cup generally refers to either the NJYS National Championship Series, Presidents Cup or Commissioners Cup Competition. Although these are three separate competitions, people use the term “*State Cup*” interchangeably. All three competitions are a single-elimination format.

### Q. What is the National Championship Series?

A. The National Championship Series competition is part of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series. The Series begins at the State level, and depending on the age group, champions advance to the Regional level and then the National level. The competition is for both boys and girls NJYS teams at the U11 through the U19 age groups. U12 and above champions advance to the Regional competition. U13 and above Regional winners advance to the National competition. It is the highest level of competition for club teams in the country.

### Q. What is the Presidents Cup?

A. The Presidents Cup is a national tournament that is designed to create a high-level competition for teams that are looking to play against teams of similar abilities. The competition is for both boys and girls NJYS teams at the U11 through the U18 age groups. U12 and above champions advance to the Regional competition. U13 and above Regional winners advance to the National competition.

### Q. What is the NJ Youth Soccer State Cup Competition?

A. The NJYS State Cup which is referred to as “*Commissioners Cup*” is for the third tier of teams and leads only to a New Jersey champion. The winners of the NJYS Commissioners Cup do not advance outside of New Jersey.

### Q. When is State Cup played?

A. 11U-14U boys and girls play in the Fall season from mid-September through the first weekend in November. 15U-19U boys and girls, play in the Spring season from early April through the middle of May.

### Q. Why don't all age groups play at the same time?

A. This is the format preferred by participating clubs according to prior surveys. This format also minimizes the conflict with high school soccer for the older age groups.

**Q. Who can enter State Cup?**

A. Any properly registered team in NJ Youth Soccer can register for these competitions, but a team can play in only one of the three competitions. All players must possess valid NJYS Player Passes. Teams **can not** play with US Club Soccer, Super Y league, or other passes.

**Q. What is the fee to enter Cup?**

A. Go to [NJYS website](#) -click on the state cup tab for fees for each of the cup competitions.

**Q. Can my team play in more than one State Cup competition?**

A. No, a team can only enter one state cup competition during the seasonal year.

**Q. Can I still enter my team after the entry deadline date?**

A. No, your entry must be in by the final registration date to be able to participate in the State Cup.

**Q. Does my team have to play in an NJYS league to participate in any of the cups?**

A. Yes, Teams must compete in at least a 4-team approved league flight during the current seasonal year in a US Youth Soccer affiliated league (e.g., NJ Youth Soccer, USYS Regional League, USYS National League and/or other USYS state association). All games must be played with both teams using NJYS player passes. League qualification games for the Fall competition must be completed by December 15, and for the Spring competition, the games must be completed by June 15.

**Q. Are there any exceptions to league participation?**

A. An exception to this rule exists for 19U teams.

**Q. Does NJ Youth soccer seed the teams?**

A. **Only** the previous year's quarter-finalists in all age groups are seeded and separated in the brackets. The bracket is then completed randomly from all other entries.

**Q. How do I find out whom I am playing?**

A. NJ Youth Soccer publishes the brackets after the draw on our website.

**Q. What does it mean that your roster is frozen?**

A. A team cannot add players to its roster for State Cup competition after the roster is frozen

**Q. When are rosters frozen by NJ Youth Soccer?**

A. The roster freeze date is set by NJ Youth Soccer. It is usually the Wednesday before the first play by date listed on the State cups calendar. See the published calendar for details.

**Q. Can my team use a club player, guest player, or secondary player for their Cup games?**

A. No, only players listed on the frozen roster can play with the team.

**Q. Can my team have out of state players on my roster?**

A. . Yes, as long as the out of state player has not played in his/her State Cup competition, and the majority of players on the roster are New Jersey players they are properly rostered on your roster.

**Q. What is the starting time of the games?**

A. The home team determines the start time. As a reminder, game scheduling is determined between

the competing teams by mutual agreement. In the event the teams cannot agree to a day and time, NJ Youth Soccer reserves the right to dictate the game date, time and location.

**Q. Where are games played?**

A. For the preliminary and quarterfinal rounds, games are played at the home team's field. All semi-final and final matches will be at a location determined by NJYS.

**Q. What does the home team have to do to schedule the match?**

A. The home team must arrange for the field, contact your league referee assignor to get referees (a three referee crew should be assigned) and give directions to the away team.

**Q. Who assigns the referees for all semi-final and final matches?**

A. NY Youth soccer assigns referees for all semifinal and final matches unless otherwise communicated.

**Q. Can my team use our US Club Soccer passes for a State Cup game?**

A. No. If one or both teams use US Club Soccer passes (or passes from any governing body other than NJYS), the game is not an NJYS game and, therefore, not a State Cup match. Both teams will be disqualified.

**Q. Can games be played earlier than the scheduled play by date or time listed?**

A. Yes, but **only if** both teams agree.

**Q. My team has a league game scheduled for the same day as my state cup match?**

A. State Cup matches take precedence over all league games.

**Q. If both teams have the same color jersey, which team changes shirts?**

A. The home team will have to change their jersey. Both teams should always bring two sets of jerseys. In addition, teams should communicate jersey colors in advance of the game to avoid problems at the game.

**Q. How do I report the score of the game?**

A. The winning team must report the score of the game via the NJYS reporting system (Gotsoccer) within 24 hours of the game end time. Directions to complete the report are available at this [link](#).

**Q. I didn't find the answer to my question here?**

A. Go to the [NJYS website](#) -then click on the State cups.

**Q. I read the Cup rules and still didn't find the answer to my question?**

A. Contact NJYS at [statecups@njyouthsoccer.com](mailto:statecups@njyouthsoccer.com)