

Illinois State Soccer Association

State Cup Rules – adopted April 2022



State Cup Rules

The Illinois State Soccer Association Cup Rules document is a supplemental guide that details ISSA policy not addressed in the Illinois State Soccer Associations By-Laws document.

State Cup Competition

ARTICLE I – Eligibility, Titles and Trophies

Section 1 Eligibility

The Illinois State Soccer Association (ISSA) shall annually organize a State Cup competition for men and women. Winners of this competition will be named State Champion. The State Champions will representing Illinois in regional competitions. The state cup competition is comprised of the following divisions:

- a. Men's Open
- b. Women's Open
- c. Men's U23
- d. Women's U23
- e. Men's Over-30
- f. Men's Over-40
- g. Men's Over-48

Any team registered as a member of an ISSA affiliated league, such league being in good standing prior to the start of the tournament Draw, or other USASA affiliated league team which is registered in the state of Illinois is eligible to register for State Cup. The team players must be properly registered and in good standing with the ISSA. All games must be played in the state of Illinois. Any team which owes money for fines or fees to ISSA is not eligible to participate in the tournament; such outstanding balances must be resolved prior to the State Cup Draw.

Section 2 Trophies

Trophies will be presented to each State Champion. The trophies shall be the property of the State Champion.

Section 3 Regional Representation

Each State Champion shall represent Illinois in subsequent regional competition(s), as well as at any other similar competition, as designated by the ISSA. If the State Champion is excused from subsequent regional or other competition(s), the runner-up shall participate.

ARTICLE II - Administration

Section 1 State Cup Commissioners

1. The President of the ISSA shall, immediately following the Annual General Meeting, appoint a State Cup Commissioner (the Commissioner) and one or more assistant Commissioners (the Assistant Commissioner), who shall be responsible for administering the competition.
2. The Commissioner shall be principally responsible for administration. In the Commissioner's absence, authority shall pass to the Senior Assistant Commissioner.
3. The Commissioner along with the Assistant Commissioners shall constitute the Cup Committee. The Cup Committee is authorized to rule or act on any State Cup related matter, in lieu of the Commissioner acting alone.

Section 2 Cup Commissioner Duties

The Commissioner shall:

- a) be responsible for administering all State Cup competitions within the state
- b) make available to all eligible teams an official Entry Form
- c) collect the proper fees within the established deadlines
- d) ensure compliance with State Cup Rules (the Rules)
- e) furnish registered teams with a Team Managers list, a schedule, Line up forms, and a copy of the Rules
- f) determine, with the Cup Committee player suspensions
- g) receive all protests and make determinations on protests according to the Rules
- h) select a Referee Assignor for the tournament

ARTICLE III – Entries, Deadlines and Fees

1. The Commissioner, upon consultation with the Executive Board, shall establish registration deadlines and entry fees.
2. Each registering team shall provide the name of a Team Manager and/or Coach and, if available, a designated home field.
3. Teams shall pay for field rental and referee fees. Reasonable field fees will be split 50/50 between the teams. Referee fees are to be split 50/50 between the teams and are to be paid prior to kickoff of each game.

4. Every registered team shall provide the Commissioner, at the time of Entry, the name of the team manager, their email address and telephone number(s). All notifications required under the Rules shall be provided the Team Manager using the contact information provided on the Entry Form.
5. A Team Managers list shall be provided to each registered team by the Commissioner.

ARTICLE IV - Form of Competitions

The competition shall be conducted as knockout, single loss elimination tournament.

ARTICLE V - Precedence of Games

1. Original, replayed, or postponed Cup games shall take precedence over all scheduled games or other competitions under the jurisdiction of the ISSA, either directly or indirectly through its affiliates. Division Semi-Finals and Finals take precedence over all other games in the state, allowing "closed" times or dates to be ordered.
2. National Cup or Regional Cup games shall take precedence over State Cup games, and games of the USASA National Amateur Cup competition shall take the highest precedence.

ARTICLE VI - Enclosed Grounds and Games Receipts

1. For all State Cup games played on enclosed grounds, expenses shall be subtracted from gross gate receipts; the remaining balance shall be divided as follows:
 - a. One-half (50 %) shall be paid to the visiting team
 - b. One-half (50 %) shall be paid to the home team
2. If expenses exceed receipts, the financial loss shall be the burden of the home team, except for the Finals and any other games staged by the ISSA, in which case the loss shall be borne by the ISSA.
3. At games where admission is charged, a financial report and a check shall be prepared by the home team and given to the visiting team within 72 hours.

ARTICLE VII - Forfeits

1. Any team intending to forfeit a game must give written notice of its intention to do so to the opposing team and the Commissioner, no less than seven (7) days before the game date.
2. A team using an ineligible player shall forfeit the game in which the player played, and the team shall be expelled from the competition.
3. In Semi-Final and Final games, any team failing to play, without showing good and sufficient cause for such failure to play, is guilty of serious misconduct. A fine of up to five hundred dollars (\$500.00) may be imposed and the team will declared ineligible for competition the following year.

ARTICLE VIII - Game Communication

The teams shall agree upon game dates, times and location in accordance with Article XVI. The Home team shall confirm game date, time and location to the Away team and the Commissioner not less than five (5) days prior to the scheduled date of the game.

ARTICLE IX - Team Uniforms

1. Where the uniforms of the two competing teams are similar enough to create possible player identification problems on the field, as determined by the referee, the home team shall change uniforms.
2. Goalkeepers must wear colors which distinguish them from other players and game officials.
3. Clear visible numbers must be worn on the back of the players' jerseys. Each player on a team must wear a different number.
4. Players' uniforms (jerseys, pants and socks) must be the same color for all field players. Socks must be pulled up and jerseys must be tucked in when entering the field of play.

ARTICLE X - Player Eligibility

Section 1 Player Affiliation

Each player competing in the competition must be properly registered with the ISSA at game time.

Section 2 Secondary Registration

A player may be registered under a secondary registration for the cup competition with a secondary team if

- a) The primary registration team has not entered the cup competition
- b) The secondary team is eligible to participate in the cup competition
- c) The player has not previously participated in the State Cup competition during the current year

Section 3 Registration Restrictions

1. Players shall not play for more than one competing team in a division during the competition.
2. A player may play for different teams and/or different clubs in different state cup divisions provided they are registered for each club for which they play.
3. All State Cup rosters will be frozen once the Semi-Final games begin in the related division.

Section 4 Over-30, Over-40, Over-48, U23 Competitions

Players in an age restricted competition must be of the proper age on the day of the game. Birth year, not birthdate, will be used to qualify players. Players must submit proof of age to the ISSA Registrar before being registered.

Section 5 Player and Coach Identification

1. Players must be identified in one of two ways:
 - a. All ISSA registered players shall provide ISSA approved ID Cards bearing their photograph.
 - b. A USASA Regional or National Affiliation League Team shall provide a corresponding team roster with valid photographs.
2. Coaches or Managers must provide an ISSA approved ID Card bearing their photograph.
3. Approved Identification shall be presented to the referee before the game with the game day roster.

ARTICLE XI - Playing Rules

Section 1 Game Conditions

1. All games shall be played according to the FIFA Laws of the Game ("LOTG") in effect at the time of the registration deadline, except as noted below:
 - a. The length of the field shall not be more than 120 yards or less than 100 yards; and the width of the field shall not be more than 80 yards, or less than 60 yards.
 - b. Goal nets shall be used.
 - c. If a game is tied at the end of regulation time, the game will be immediately decided by Kicks From the Mark (LOTG Law 10).
2. No more than eighteen (18) players may be in uniform or be listed on the game day roster.
3. Only players and team officials with approved identification and one trainer from each team are permitted on the team benches during the game.
4. At least fifteen (15) minutes prior to kickoff, each team must present the game day roster and player identification to the referee.
5. All games shall start at the designated kickoff time. A fifteen (15) minute grace period may be allowed by the referee if either team does not have the minimum number of players to begin the game. A team not prepared to play on time shall be subject to forfeit of the game.
6. In the Men's Open, Women's Open, Men's Over 30, Men's U23 and Womens' U23 divisions substitutions shall be limited. Once a player has been substituted for they cannot return to the game during the same half.
7. In the Men's Over 40 and Men's Over-48 divisions substitutions shall be unlimited.

Section 2 Game not completed

If play is stopped and cannot be resumed prior to the completion of the first half, for any reason, the game shall be replayed in its entirety, except if one of the competing teams is at fault. If play is stopped during or after halftime and play cannot be resumed, the game shall be deemed complete and the score recorded as is, except if one of the competing teams is at fault. In the event a game is not completed due to fault of one of the teams, its management or followers, the Committee shall decide the game result.

Section 3 Field Conditions

The referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the grounds in all matches and shall also have power to postpone the actual commencement of the game or to interrupt the game for a short period in the event of temporary inclemency of the weather or accidents on or around the field. Any protests regarding the playability or the size of the field must be initiated prior to the start of play by notifying the Commissioner or intent to protest; such notification shall not otherwise modify the the procedures of Article XIV or Article XV.

Section 4 Health and Safety Regulations

All games shall be played under any and all ISSA rules and regulations relating to health and safety matters. Additionally, if any fields or facilities have applicable health and safety regulations, such regulations shall be followed. In the event, there is a conflict between regulations, the Commissioner shall determine which rules take precedence with a preference for the more stringent rules. These rules are not subject to protest or appeal.

ARTICLE XII - Game Officials

Section 1 Referee System

All games shall be played using a Diagonal System of Control.

Section 2 Referee Assignment

Game officials shall be assigned by the State Cup Referee Assignor.

- a. Only game officials registered with the USSF shall be assigned officials for games in the competition.
- b. Present or past members or officials of competing teams, or clubs, shall not be assigned as game officials for a game including or directly impacting a related team, unless both teams waive the restriction in writing.
- c. Neither the Commissioner nor the Assistant Commissioners shall be eligible as game officials or as State Cup Referee Assignor.

Section 3 Referee Absence

In the event an assigned game official is not present at the start of the game, substitution shall be made as follows:

- a. In the absence of the referee, the assigned senior Assistant Referee and then the junior Assistant Referee shall substitute as the referee.
- b. In the absence of an Assistant Referee, the referee shall request the visiting team to provide an individual who is not a playing or coaching participant, to substitute as a club linesman; if the visiting team is unable or declines to do so, the home team must provide an individual who is not a playing or coaching participant, to substitute as an assistant referee.
- c. In the absence of both assistant referees, each team must provide an individual who is not a playing or coaching participant, to substitute as a club linesman; if either team is unable to or declines to do so, the either team may provide both individuals, who are not playing or coaching participants, to substitute as an assistant referee.
- d. In the absence of any game officials, any individual agreed upon by both teams, prior to the start of the game, may substitute as the referee.

ARTICLE XIII - Player Discipline

A player receiving a red card will be suspended for a minimum of one State Cup game and receive a minimum \$50 fine. The Cup Committee may increase fines or suspensions based on severity. Fines must be paid before the player will be allowed to compete in any competition.

ARTICLE XIV – Protests

1. Any protest concerning a game played in the competition shall be directed to the Commissioner. The Cup Committee shall rule on the protest. The Committee's decision shall be final, subject to the State Cup Appeals Process (Article XV).
2. The referee is the final authority on the field of play. All decisions of the referees with respect to matters of fact and judgment matters are final.
3. The protest must be in writing and must state the detailed grounds for the protest.
4. The protest must be signed by the Team Coach/Manager or Team Administrator. A fee of \$200.00 shall be included with the written protest. The protest must be submitted to the Commissioner within two (2) days of the game which is the subject of the protest. At the same time, a copy shall be sent to the opposing team's Team Coach/Manager.
5. The opposing team shall have two (2) days from the date the copy was received to submit to the Commissioner its statement regarding the protest, if any.
6. The protest fee must be sent to the Commissioner by cashier's check, certified check or money order, payable to the "ISSA."
7. The Commissioner shall determine the protest as quickly as possible. Additional evidence may be submitted by any concerned party, prior to the decision of the Commissioner.
8. The decision shall be sent by email to both teams.
9. A protest may be withdrawn in writing after it has been filed. The protest fee shall not be refunded if the appeal is withdrawn.
10. If the protest is sustained, the protest fee shall be refunded. If the protest is not sustained the protest fee shall be retained by the ISSA.

ARTICLE XV – State Cup Appeals Process

1. A team wishing to appeal a decision made under Article XIV - Protests, or to otherwise contest a decision made by the Commissioner or the Committee, may petition the Appeals Committee to hear its case. The Appeals Committee, at its discretion, may refuse to hear an appeal, in which case the original decision will stand.
2. The appeal must be in writing and must describe, in detail, the grounds for the appeal. The appeal shall include reference to specific Rules allegedly violated by the Commissioner or the Committee.
3. The original appeal shall be signed by the Team Coach/Manager or Team Administrator. A fee of \$150.00, shall be submitted with the written appeal to the Secretary of the ISSA within three (3) business days from receipt of the decision being appealed. Confirmation that all other concerned parties were notified must be included with the written appeal.
4. The fee must be in the form of a cashier's check, certified check, or money order payable to the "ISSA."

5. The Appeals Committee shall determine the appeal as quickly as possible. Additional evidence related to the ground of the original protest may not be submitted by any concerned party or considered by the Appeals Committee.
6. Notice of the Appeals Committee determination shall be sent by email, to all concerned parties.
7. An appeal may be withdrawn in writing after it has been filed. The appeal fee shall not be refunded if the appeal is withdrawn.
8. If the appeal is sustained or not heard, the appeal fee shall be refunded. If the appeal is denied or determined to be frivolous, the appeal fee shall be retained by the ISSA
9. Unless otherwise established by the ISSA Board, the Appeals Committee shall consist of the Executive Board of the ISSA.

ARTICLE XVI - Scheduling of Games

Section 1 Drawing of Pairings

1. A blind draw shall be used to determine pairings in the first round.
2. The Committee shall announce the date of the Draw and notify each registered team.
3. The most recent State Champion and runner-up in each division, shall be given preference for byes, if applicable in the opening round. If possible, these teams shall be placed in separate brackets for determining the Draw.
4. All competing teams, except as noted in Section 1.3 of Article XVI, shall be given equal consideration in determining pairings.
5. As far as practical, best efforts will be made to have teams paired with a team from a different league in opening round games.
6. The team drawn first in each pairing shall be the home team.

Section 2 Schedule Communication

1. Within three (3) days of the Drawing, the Commissioner shall announce and notify each team of the draw results and the dates for each round, specifically stating the latest date for all games to be completed.
2. All games in each round must be played by the latest completion date indicated, except that the Commissioner may allow an extension of not more than eight (8) days, due to extraordinary circumstances.
3. The Commissioner may also choose to announce and notify each team of specific dates, times, and locations for each game in the competition. These dates shall then take precedence over the "latest completion date".
4. The home team shall schedule or reschedule a game within the "latest completion date" guidelines, by notifying the competing team and the Commissioner by email. The notice shall include the date, kickoff time, location of the game, and directions to the field. Notice shall be made at least five (5) days prior to the scheduled date.
5. If the game has not been scheduled under Section 2.3 or Section 2.4 of this Article, the Commissioner shall schedule the game time at the home team's "principal home game field" on the "latest completion date". Notice shall be made to both teams and include the date, kickoff time, location of the game, and directions to the field. Notice shall be made at least five (5) days prior to the scheduled date.
6. Both teams may reschedule a game by agreement, provided that each team notifies the Commissioner at least two (2) days prior to the originally scheduled game and at least five (5) days prior to the new game date. The Commissioner may allow a shorter deadline under extraordinary circumstances and may waive other scheduling restrictions.

Section 3 Weekend Games

1. Weekend games scheduled at an unlighted field may kickoff at any time between 9:00 am and 6:00 pm, provided such time allows for sufficient daylight to complete the game.
2. Weekend games scheduled at a lighted field may kickoff not later than 9:00pm.
3. This Section also applies to games scheduled for major holidays.

Section 4 Weekday Games

1. All weekday games scheduled at a lighted field may kickoff between 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm.
2. Weekday games may be scheduled at an unlighted field provided that the time of kickoff, agreed upon by both teams and considering travel time, allows sufficient daylight to complete the game and is approved by the Cup Committee.

Section 5 Duties of Home Team

Home teams are responsible for:

- a. securing a field that is in compliance with the Rules, including any necessary permits and paying any necessary rental fees;
- b. properly marking the field, and providing corner flags, goals and goal nets, as necessary;
- c. the safety and security of all game officials, competing team members and officials, and all officials of the ISSA.
- d. providing free entry to all persons mentioned above.

Section 6 Amendments to Rules

In order to facilitate timely and orderly completion of games during extraordinary circumstances, the Commissioner may approve any extension, waiver, or modification of the above scheduling rules, in order to assure timely completion of games. All scheduling disputes shall be decided by the Commissioner, whose decision shall be final.

Section 7 Home Fields

All games shall be played in the state of Illinois. A team may designate a home field on their Entry Form. Games may be scheduled at a field different from the field designated on the Entry Form in accordance with the above rules in Article XVI. Exceptions to this rule may be explicitly authorized by the Commissioner if it is in the best interests of the tournament.

ARTICLE XVII - Matters Not Provided For

Section 1 Rules Changes

The ISSA Executive Board has the right to add, delete, or revise any of the Rules at any time, except those matters directly governed by and/or authorized by the USSF. Proper notice will be given to all interested parties of such changes.

Section 2 Cup Commissioner Rules

Any matters not provided for in the Rules and any interpretations of the Rules, shall be determined by the Cup Commissioner. Such decisions shall be final.

Section 3 Communication Responsibility

The ISSA is not responsible for receipt of notifications to any party, provided the notifications were sent according to the provisions of the Rules. Confirmed email is acceptable communication to any party, unless otherwise specified in the Rules.