



2108 S. Cortez Avenue, Tampa, FL 33629 813-251-6483 Fax: 813-254-2283
Email: jenweston@verizon.net Website: www.floridastatesoccer.com

STATE CUP RULES

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Member of the United States Soccer Federation Since 1967

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I – GENERAL

100	Cup Directory.....	3
101	Definitions.....	3
102	Cups establishment and Titles.....	4
103	Matters Not Provided For.....	4
104	Amendments.....	4

PART II – ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRIES

201	Team Eligibility	4
202	Player Eligibility.....	4
203	Levels of Play.....	5
204	Entries and Deadlines.....	5
205	Administration.....	5
206	Entry Forms.....	6
207	Precedence of Games.....	6
208	Tournament Rules.....	6

PART III – PLAYING REQUIREMENTS

301	Uniforms.....	9
302	Player Lists.....	9
303	Coaches	10
304	Player Discipline.....	10
305	Protests	10

PART IV – GAME OFFICIALS

401	Game Officials.....	10
402	Officials Fees.....	10

FLORIDA STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION CUP RULES

PART I – GENERAL

100 CUP DIRECTORY

FSSA PRESIDENT
Arthur Mattson
1816 Lynncrest Road
Lakeland, FL 33801
(863) 640-4040
Arthur@arthurmattson.com

STATE CUP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
Jennifer Weston
2108 S. Cortez Avenue
Tampa, FL 33629
(813) 251-6483 Phone
(813) 254-2283 Fax
jenweston@verizon.net

STATE REFEREE ADMINISTRATOR
Jozsef Michna
6235 Winding Lake Drive
Jupiter, FL 33458
(561) 747-8803 Phone
(561) 747-8813 Fax
sra.syra@netzero.net

FSSA ARBITRATION CHAIRMAN
Dan Meeroff
6011 NW 68th Street
Parkland, FL 33067
(954) 752-1834 Phone
dmeeroff@fau.edu

101 DEFINITIONS

1. **Cup Rules** means this document to be used as a directive for the conduct of FSSA Cups as outlined herein. While it applies to all involved in FSSA Cup
2. **Club** means an organization of one or more soccer teams usually playing within a league's geographical area.
3. **League** means an organization that conducts competition among soccer teams.
4. **Executive Committee** means the Executive Committee of the FSSA.
5. **Federation** means the United States Soccer Federation. (USSF).
6. **FIFA** means The Federation Internationale de Football Association.
7. **Affiliate** means an organization that conducts soccer programs in the State of Florida at the adult amateur level and is an active member, in good standing, of the FSSA.
8. **State Cups** means those Cups provided for by FSSA under these rules.
9. **State Association** means the administrative body within the state of Florida as determined by the Federation to carry out soccer programs for adult players.
10. **Eligible** means a player who is properly registered under the rules of this Association and is not under suspension.
11. **Player pool** means a pool of players, maximum of 22, eligible to be registered on a team and from which a maximum of 18 players may be selected to play on match/game day.
12. **State Cup Line-up Form** means the only official form to be used as a List of Players, maximum of 18, to take part on a given game/match.
13. **Official State Cup Entry Form** means the only approved form to be used by teams wishing to enter and participate in cup competition.
14. **Game Report Form** means the official referee report form approved by USSF.
15. **Player List** means the official roster of players, not to exceed 18, selected by the team from its player pool of 22, if applicable, to participate in a given game.

16. **SCCC** means State Cup Committee Chairman

102 CUPS ESTABLISHMENT AND TITLES

1. FSSA has established and annually organizes State Cups competition for men and women under the direction of the State Cup Committee as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| A. Men's Florida Cup | E. Men's Over 40 Cup |
| B. Men's President's Cup | F. Men's Over 50 Cup |
| C. Men's Chairman's Cup | G. Women's Cup |
| D. Men's Over 30 Cup | H. Coed Cup |

2. FSSA will present awards to the winning and second place teams in each category. The awards shall become the property of the recipients.
3. Any single cup competition must have a minimum of 4 eligible competing teams in order to take place.

103 MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

Any matters not provided for within these rules shall be determined by the FSSA Cups Committee (SCC) whose decision may not be appealed.

104 AMENDMENTS

These rules may be amended by majority vote of the FSSA SCC and must be endorsed by the FSSA's Executive Committee.

PART II – ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRIES

201 TEAM ELIGIBILITY

1. Any team duly registered to a league affiliated and in good standing with FSSA or which is directly affiliated with this association, is eligible to enter State Cup Competition.
2. The SCC shall resolve any questions of team eligibility. Those decisions shall be final.
3. Team rosters are frozen at team check-in on the first day of the tournament.
4. Appeals of the SCC's decisions may be made to the FSSA Executive Board.
5. A team may only enter one state cup competition in any given year.
6. Winners of the Florida Cup (Men's or Women's) may enter the Florida Cup again the following year.
7. Previous year winners of any other cup may enter the same competition the following year provided that they have not more than five returning players on their roster. These previous year champions may, however, enter higher level cup competition. The SCC has the authority to waive this requirement in the Coed and other cups with age restrictions.

202 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. Only adult amateur players or properly registered eligible youth players are eligible to play in FSSA State Cup competitions.

Each participant on a team competing in these competitions must be an amateur player duly qualified according to the rules of the USSF and FSSA and must be properly registered with the FSSA.

2. Each player must be registered to the team he/she is playing for in the State Cup and have a current player pass, with recent picture, properly laminated on both sides that states the team to which the player is registered to and playing for in the state cup.
3. Each individual cup category is a separate competition. A player may not play for more than one competing team within any single cup category. A player may participate in more than one category of cup competition.
4. Players must provide proof of age using a government issued photo ID presented to the referee, along with his/her player's pass for each game requiring age limitations. Such players must turn 30 or 40 or 50 years old respectively during the calendar year.
5. A player under suspension is not eligible to participate in any State Cup competition until the suspension has been served.

203 LEVELS OF PLAY

1. The SCC will determine the level of competition for each entry based upon the eligibility criteria set forth herein.
 - A. Men's Florida Cup - Open to any registered men's adult team.
 - B. Men's President's Cup
Open to registered teams not playing in premier or first divisions; however, first division teams in last and next to last place are eligible. Proper division and league standings, will be verified by the SCC at the start of competition. The equality of first divisions, from one league to another, will be determined by the SCC with respect to which cup a team may enter (i.e., Florida or President's Cup).
 - C. Men's Chairman's Cup
Open to any registered men's teams playing in Division 2 or lower divisions.
 - D. Men's Over 30 Cup – Open to all registered Men's Over 30 teams
 - E. Men's Over 40 Cup – Open to all registered Men's Over 40 teams
 - F. Men's Over 50 Cup – Open to all registered Men's Over 50 teams
 - G. Women's Florida Cup - Open to any registered women's adult amateur team.
 - H. Coed Cup - Open to all registered Coed teams. Coed teams may have a maximum of 5 men (excluding the goalkeeper) on the field at any given time.

204 ENTRY FEES AND DEADLINES

1. The SCC upon consultation with the FSSA Executive Committee shall establish annually the closing date by which a team entry must be received.
2. Fees for each level of competition are set at \$400.00. These fees may be changed annually by the FSSA Executive Committee.
3. Only Paypal payments, certified checks, money orders or cashier's checks made payable to "Florida State Soccer Association" will be accepted as fee payments. No other form of payment will be honored.

205 ADMINISTRATION

1. The FSSA State Cup Committee Chairman (SCCC) shall be appointed annually by the FSSA President. The SCCC may not be a player registered with or an official of a team entered in the competition. Responsibilities of the SCCC include:

- A. Appointing a committee and replacing any committee member as may become necessary. The number of persons on the committee is left at the discretion of the SCCC.
 - B. Notifying all eligible teams of their status in State Cup play including date, time, opponent and location of games.
 - C. Rejecting any entry for failure of a team to comply with the rules and regulations of the competition.
 - D. Investigating and determining the eligibility of any player as may be required.
 - E. Certifying that all competing players are properly registered with FSSA on USSF Adult Amateur Division forms within the current season, or with FYSA when applicable.
 - F. Determining player's or team's suspensions.
 - G. Determining locations of games.
 - H. Determining extensions of deadlines as may be required for the good of the competition.
 - I. The SCCC shall ensure that he or she or any other member of his or her committee participate in any protest, disciplinary action or arbitration in cases which involve players, coaches, persons, teams, leagues or any organization to which they have ties. This is in effort to avoid conflicts of interest.
2. The State Cup Committee members will be responsible for:
- A. Furnishing the SRA with a schedule of Cup games in ample time to make the referee assignments.
 - B. Providing the SRA with electronic copies of the rules of the competition for further dissemination to the need to know officials.
 - C. Notifying the team or teams within their respective leagues of such matters as competition schedules, rules of the competition and other pertinent documents and directives.
 - D. Notifying the team or teams within their respective leagues of player or team suspensions.

206 ENTRY FORMS

Only teams which have completed the current Official Entry Form for FSSA State Cup competition and forwarded it with all fees to the SCCC before the set deadline will be considered to have officially entered the tournament.

207 PRECEDENCE OF GAMES

1. USSF and USASA national competitions and all FSSA State Cup competitions whether originally scheduled, replayed or postponed shall take precedence over all scheduled games or other competitions under the jurisdiction of FSSA either directly or indirectly.
2. FSSA and affiliated leagues' competitions affected by state or USSF and USASA cup games may order "closed" time(s) for teams under their jurisdiction thus prohibiting any other games from being played at that date and time.

208 TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Each State Cup competition will be a round robin, 3 game minimum tournament style competition. Teams in a cup will be placed into round robin groups. Cups with eight (8)

If FIFA "Taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark." is required to determine the winner for advancement after steps 1-5 still result in a tie, kicks will be taken thirty (30) Minutes before the scheduled start of the elimination game or earlier if a mutually convenient time can be agreed upon with representatives of both teams and the Tournament Director.

If more than two teams are involved in a tie, tie breaker number 2 will be used first to rank the teams. If teams are still tied, tie breaker number 3 will be used to rank the teams, and so on until a tie is broken. Once a team has been ranked higher or lower, the tie breaking procedure begins for the remaining tied teams with number 1. If more than two teams are still tied after tie breaker number 5 a coin toss will be held with the odd team sitting out. The other two teams will then take kicks from the mark to establish a winner. The winner of this will then play the team sitting out, taking kicks from the mark and the winner will advance. When all teams will advance to the playoff rounds a coin toss, as sequenced above, will decide the team's seed in lieu of kicks from the mark.

Example 1: (4 Team Group - Once a team has been ranked higher) Three teams have 6 points. Team 1 has a goal differential of +6, team 2 is +4 and team 3 is +2. Team 1 is 1st Team 3 defeated team 2 therefore team 3 is 2nd and team 2 is 3rd.

Example 2: (4 Team Group - Once a team has been ranked lower) Three teams have 6 points. Team 1 has a goal differential of +4, team 2 is +4 and team 3 is +2. Team 1 defeated team 2 therefore team 1 is 1st and team 2 is 2nd.

Example 3: (6 Team Group) Three teams have 6 points. If one team has defeated the other two they will be first. Otherwise refer to the above examples.

Example 4: (6 Team Group) Four teams have 6 points. First tie breaker is record versus tied teams. Otherwise refer to the above examples.

The team whose official tournament name, as written in the schedule, is first alphabetically will call the coin toss.

In the semi-final and final game, if a clear winner is not decided after regulation time, overtime will be played. Overtime will be two periods of equal length, per Law 7. If a clear winner is not decided after the overtime periods, kicks will be taken in accordance with FIFA "Taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark." In quarter-final matches if a clear winner is not decided after regulation time, kicks will be taken in accordance with FIFA "Taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark."

The tournament reserves the right to adjust pairings of the first elimination round so teams will not play teams already played.

E. Forfeits

- 1) Any team intending to forfeit a game must give written notice of its intention to do so to the delegate of the opposing team, with copies to the SCCC no less than seven (7) days before the date of the game.

- 2) If a game is forfeited with less than seven (7) days notice, the score will be recorded as 2-0 against the forfeiting team. Forfeiting teams may not be allowed to enter the State Cup the following year.
- 3) If a game is forfeited because of a no-show team, the score will be recorded as 2-0 against the no-show team. No-show teams will not be allowed to enter the State Cup for a minimum of one year.
- 4) A team using an ineligible player shall forfeit to the opposing team the in which the player played.
- 5) A team using an ineligible player shall be expelled from the competition.
- 6) A team shall also forfeit a game to the opposing team for failure to comply with the rules of the competition or for other just causes as determined by the SCC.
- 7) In the event a referee terminates a game (different from temporarily suspending and with the exception of termination due to team misconduct), BEFORE half time, it will be up to the Tournament Director whether to record the score at the time of the termination or finish the game at a rescheduled time and location.

In the event a referee terminates a game (different from temporarily suspending and with the exception of termination due to team misconduct) AFTER half time, the score will be recorded, as it was when the game was stopped and declared official unless the game was terminated due to team misconduct.

Play-off games

In the event a referee terminates a game (different from temporarily suspending and with the exception of termination due to team misconduct) the score will be recorded as it was when the game was stopped. In the event, a game, other than the final, ends in a tie, the team that earned the most points during the round robin play will be declared the winner. If the teams have the same number of points, the criteria in the DIVISION RANKING CRITERIA will be used to break the tie.

In the event, a referee terminates a final game (different from temporarily suspending and with the exception of termination due to team misconduct) while the teams are tied, co-champions will be declared. Both teams are to receive Championship trophies.

Termination due to misconduct

If a game is terminated due to misconduct the tournament director will determine the outcome of the game and whether or not the offending team(s) may continue in the tournament.

PART III – PLAYING REQUIREMENTS

301 UNIFORMS

1. When the referee determines that the uniforms of the two competing teams are so similar as to create possible player identification problems on the field, the home team shall change its uniform. However, if the visiting team is wearing colors other than those which must be submitted on the Official Entry Form, the visiting team shall change.
2. Clearly visible numbers, at least 6 inches high and sewn, pressed, or silk screened on, must be worn on the back of each player's jersey, including the goalkeeper. Each player on a team must wear a different number. A description of the team's uniforms shall be provided on the "Official Entry Form" and on the Player List.

3. All team players except the goalkeeper must wear alike socks, shorts, shirts.
4. Goalkeepers must wear colors which distinguish them from other players and game officials.
5. No player shall be permitted to participate in any State Cup game unless he or she conforms to the soccer rules of player decorum.

302 PLAYER LISTS

1. A team may have a maximum roster of twenty-two (22) properly registered and eligible players to take part in a given state cup.
2. On game day each team may use a maximum of eighteen (18) players for the game – crossing off any additional players on the 22 person roster.
3. Only State Cup Roster forms will be accepted.
4. Rosters are frozen at the time of team check-in for the tournament.

303 COACHES

Up to three (3) properly registered coaches, managers or trainers in good standing with current year, laminated FSSA issued coach passes or with State Cup issued field passes will be allowed to participate with the team on the team side of the field during state cup matches.

304 PLAYER DISCIPLINE

1. Any player serving a suspension in his or her own league, or any other competition, will not be eligible for Cup play until that suspension has been served.
2. Players shall be suspended for one (1) game if sent off the field by the referee for a second caution-able offense or a non-violent red card. Players dismissed for violent conduct or foul/abusive language or behavior toward game officials may be banned from further tournament participation.
3. The SCCC shall have the power to disqualify and remove from further participation in the competition any team or player(s) of any competing team who may be proven guilty of any breach of the rules of the FSSA or the USSF.

305 PROTESTS: NO PROTESTS will be entertained.

PART IV – GAME OFFICIALS

401 GAME OFFICIALS

1. Game officials for all cup games, including the semi-finals and finals, shall be assigned by the SRA or person to whom he/she delegates the responsibility, in writing, subject to the following limitations.
 - A. Only officials currently registered with the USSF shall be eligible for selection as referee or assistant referee or fourth official for games in State Cup competition. The referee in all State Cup competitions must be qualified as a State Grade referee of higher.
 - B. Members of the SCCC shall not be eligible as game officials. Individuals who are, or have been, a member of either of the competing teams during the past two years may not officiate a game between the two teams; unless both teams waive this prohibition in writing prior to the start of the game.
 - C. No officials from the league of a competing team will be assigned to that team's games.

403 OFFICIALS FEES are included with the registration fee for the tournament.