



VERMONT STATE CUP CHAMPIONSHIP RULES AND REGULATIONS MANUAL



Revised 2/6/2009

The Vermont State Cup Championship (VSCC) event is the most important team competition conducted by the Vermont Soccer Association (VSA). As such, this competition requires that each league, club, and team support the Championship as their first priority.

The State Champion in each age bracket will go on to represent Vermont at the US Youth Soccer, Region I Championship Series tournament.

The US Youth Soccer administrative rulebook prescribes the requirements of the National Championship Series competition. The Region I Championship Rules and Regulations supplement the US Youth Soccer rule book and establish the procedures to be followed in Region I. These Vermont State Cup Rules and Regulations supplement all of the above and establish the procedures to be followed in Vermont.

As of this document's date, the qualifying league in Vermont that meets National Championship Series (NCS) rules is the Vermont Soccer League Division 1. US Youth Soccer Region I ruled that the Region I Premier League will also be a qualifying league. Other leagues wishing to qualify must provide league constitution, bylaws, and schedule to the VSA Cup Chairman for approval prior to January 1 of any given year.

The Vermont State Cup Committee will vote on an affiliated organization to host the Vermont State Cup event within state boundaries.

A. TEAM ENTRY

1. Any VSA affiliated team that plays in a qualifying league may enter their VSA registered age group in the VSCC event. All teams must complete and submit the appropriate VSCC entry form. The VSA state office must receive all entry forms "postmarked" no later than the date set on the entry form.
2. The VSCC administration fee to the VSA shall be submitted with the VSCC entry form.
3. If the proper team documentation is not submitted with the VSCC entry form, the team representative will be notified. The team application will be frozen until the proper documentation is received.

B. ROSTERS

1. At all VSCC matches, all teams must present to the referee their VSA State Roster and player passes for examination.
2. At the final match, each team will provide the VSCC registrar the US Youth Soccer Blue Roster and a copy of the VSA roster. VSCC registrars will review the US Youth Soccer Blue Roster for accuracy and compare the copies to confirm that they match. Upon completion of review the VSCC registrar will approve the team for play.
3. All teams participating in the VSCC event shall adhere to the following criteria:
 - a. The US Youth Soccer Blue Roster shall be prepared in final form.
 - b. VSA approved US Youth Soccer player passes shall be filled out and all shall be laminated. Player passes and VSA rosters must match exactly or the players will not be permitted to participate in the VSCC match. Non-laminated player passes may preclude that player from participating in this event.
 - c. Any other required forms will be submitted by the posted deadlines.

C. FINES AND PENALTIES

1. All teams participating in the VSCC event are expected to play and complete all scheduled matches.
2. Any unreasonable forfeit, as determined by the VSCC committee, shall subject the team a fine of \$300.00.
3. All teams that are classified as "State Cup" winners shall advance and represent the State of Vermont in competition at the National Championship Series Region I event. Failure of any team to properly represent the State of Vermont in any activity or to fulfill their obligation in the Region I Championship shall be subject to a fine up to \$300 per scheduled match.
4. Failure to pay fines will cause the participating team and coach to be placed in "**BAD STANDING**" and subject to sanction for up to two years.

D. SCHEDULING MATCHES AND ASSIGNING REFEREES

The VSCC committee shall schedule all matches. All matches will be played at VSCC committee approved fields located throughout Vermont. The VSCC committee shall resolve any conflicts concerning the scheduling of matches. No protest or appeal may be raised concerning the scheduling and all decisions will be final.

The schedule is final unless otherwise approved by the VSCC Chairperson.

The State Referee Administrator (SRA) shall assign all referees, assistant referees, and assessors to all matches; or appoint an assignor.

E. TEAM DRAW AND SEEDING

1. Seeding Requirements: The prior years' two (2) finalists will be seeded into the next older age group. Finalists will be placed according to their previous year's position into separate brackets. The draw will be conducted placing the champion in the top (first) bracket and the runner up in the bottom (second) bracket. All other teams in the age group will be selected by the draw and added top to bottom, slot by slot.
2. The higher seed (lower number) team determined by either the team draw or as assignment by the VSCC chairperson will be considered the home team.

F. VSCC Procedures

1. Registration, Rosters, and Passes

The following documentation is required at registration prior to the first match on the semi-final/final weekend.

- LATEST Signed VSA Roster
 - The VSA Coaching Passes
 - The US Youth Soccer Player Cards for ALL participating players
 - The **unsigned** Blue Roster on light blue paper
 - ALL forms on a CD or USB Flash Drive (Floppy disks will not be accepted)
- a. Each team shall have a copy of their official VSA Roster present at the match site. No VSCC match will be played without an approved roster from each team. If challenged by the referee, failure to produce the proper documentation will result in the forfeit of the match.
 - b. All teams shall have their laminated US Youth Soccer Player Passes available at the match site. Players without such laminated passes or with laminated passes that do not match the approved roster are ineligible to participate in the match.
 - c. Any coach, assistant coach, or any other team official must have a VSA approved coaches pass to participate on the team side of the pitch during the match. No team shall participate in a match without either a coach or assistant coach present on the team side of the pitch.
 - d. Players (due to illness, injury, etc.) unable to sign the US Youth Soccer Blue Roster prior to roster submission may compete in the Region I National Championship Series event. The provision for this request is that the coach or team representative contacts the VSCC chairperson. The request and arrangements are to be clearly outlined for review and approval by the VSCC chairperson. Any such player must present a valid and laminated Player Pass to the VSCC registrar at the time of signing the US youth Soccer Blue Roster. This player will need to show proof that they are on the official team roster originally provided to the VSCC Committee.
 - e. A team's roster shall be frozen upon approval by the VSCC registrar. This means that no eligible player may be added to the roster after the roster has been frozen.

G. COMPETITION FORMAT

1. This competition shall be in a single elimination format.
2. Specific match rules can be found in the US Youth National Championship Series Rules.
3. The assigned referee shall complete the VSCC Referee Report form for all matches. The referee is responsible for completion of the form and its submission to the event registrar. **Each coach has the responsibility and right to verify the score with the referee at the conclusion of the match. The referee shall not be responsible to ensure coaches verify the score.** The referee Report shall constitute the official record of the match.
4. If the match ends in a tie after the overtime periods, FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" rules will determine the winner. This method of determination shall not be subject to a protest or appeal.
5. An unfinished match due to any cause shall be replayed providing neither team is at fault and play has not begun in the second half. If play is stopped during the second half and play cannot resume and provided neither team is at fault, the game shall be deemed complete. Should play be stopped at any time without possibility of resumption due to one of the teams being judged at fault, the match shall be declared a forfeit by the team judged at fault.

After a team has been determined the winner, the match is over and will not be replaced under any circumstances.

H. EJECTIONS

1. **Player Ejections**
 - a. If a player is ejected from any match, the player's pass, team roster and referee's report of the incident shall be submitted to the field registrar.
 - b. The minimum penalty for an ejection is that a player shall not be permitted to play in the next immediate match of a player's team. This penalty may be increased at the discretion of the VSCC Chairperson.
 - c. The SYRA will be notified of the player's ineligibility. The SYRA shall in turn notify the assigned referee for the respective team's next match.
 - d. If the team of an ejected player allows the ejected player to participate in the next immediate match, that team shall forfeit the match. The coach will be subject to sanctions by VSA and the team's respective league officials.
 - e. The VSCC shall forward all ejected player passes to the team's respective league officials.
 - f. The Region I National Championship Series committee shall notify the SYRA of any player ejected from the last match of the previous year's Regional competition. The player will serve this one match suspension in their first match in the following year's state level competition.
2. **Coach Ejections**
 - a. If a coach is ejected from any match, the coach's pass, team roster and a copy of the referee's report of the incident shall be submitted to the VSCC Chairperson.
 - b. The minimum penalty for an ejection is that the coach shall not be permitted to participate in the next immediate match or, if that team has been eliminated from further VSCC Competition, the next immediate match of the ejected coach even if it involves a different team. The penalty may be increased at the discretion of the VSCC Chairperson.
 - c. The VSCC Chairperson shall notify the SYRA of the coach's ineligibility who shall in turn notify the assigned referee for the coach's next immediate match.
 - d. If the ejected coach participates in any manner in the next immediate match, that team shall forfeit that match. The coach shall be subject to sanctions by the VSA.
 - e. The VSCC Chairperson shall forward all ejected coach passes and referee reports to the VSA Executive Director.

Upon elimination of team or teams from Vermont State Cup competition, an ejected player or coach who does not serve the minimum penalty may be required to serve the penalty in the next scheduled VSA competition. This decision will be made by the VSA Cup Chair and President of said team's respective league.

I. RULES OF PLAY

1. Except as otherwise provided herein, the rules of US Youth Soccer, the FIFA Laws of the Game, and the National Championship Series Rules shall apply.

J. PROTESTS

1. The protest must be communicated to the referee and opposing coach prior to leaving the game site.
2. The protest must be filed with the VSCC Chairperson within two hours of completion of the match with the following:
 - a. Fee in the amount of \$100.00. This fee may be in cash, cashiers check, money order, or a personal check. All check and money orders must be payable to Vermont Soccer Association.
 - b. The protest must be submitted in writing and must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged.
3. Protests relating to grounds, goal posts, bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained if the referee has approved them. Judgement decisions of the referee are not subject to protest.
4. The VSCC Chairperson in conjunction with the VSCC committee and VSA Officials shall resolve all protests and the decision rendered by the VSCC Chairperson shall be final. Decisions concerning the VSCC competition protests shall not be subject to review or appeal by or to VSA.
5. The VSCC Committee shall immediately upon receipt of a protest notify the team against which the protest is made and shall give a copy of the submitted protest and all particulars to that team, which will then have the right to defend it's case.
6. Parents or lawyers shall not represent a team at the hearing of protest unless they are listed on the team's roster as a coach, assistant coach, or team manager.
7. A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the VSCC is not sufficient grounds of protest.

K. TEAM AWARDS

Teams (both boys and girls) ending the tournament as the champions will receive a Vermont State Cup award in all age divisions.

L. ALL OTHER MATTERS

1. The VSCC Chairperson reserves the right of interpretation and application for any matter addressed herein or to set policy for any and all matters of the VSCC competition not specifically addressed herein.
2. Any and all decisions of the VSCC Chairperson or Committee are final and not subject to protest or appeal.