



## VERMONT STATE CUP CHAMPIONSHIP RULES AND REGULATIONS MANUAL

Revised 5/30/2017

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 highest priority.

The State Champion in each age bracket will advance and 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 (NCS) 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 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.

### A. TEAM ENTRY

1. Any VSA affiliated team that is part of a VSA member club, and plays in a qualifying league (U19's do not have to compete in a qualifying league) may enter its 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 online via Got Soccer no later than January 5, 2017.
2. The VSCC entry fee of \$375 payable to the VSA shall be submitted with the VSCC entry form.
3. Teams affiliated with the VSA must be comprised of a minimum roster of 50% Vermont residents and follow the NCS rules on minimum age requirements.

### B. ROSTERS

1. At all VSCC matches, all teams must be checked in at the VSA headquarters tent.
2. Teams will present to the referee their VSA State Roster and player passes for examination prior to each match.
3. All teams participating in the VSCC event shall adhere to the following criteria
  - a. VSA official, approved State Roster.
  - 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 shall 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 \$1000.00
3. All teams that are classified as "State Cup" or "Wild Card" 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 of \$2500.00.

4. Failure of any team to participate in the mandatory Region 1 Parade of Champions will be fined \$500.00.
5. Failure to pay fines will cause the participating team and team personnel to be placed in "**BAD STANDING**" with the VSA, and subject to sanction for up to two years. Teams and coaches in "Bad Standing" shall not be permitted in any VSA competition. In addition the "Home Club" of said team is ultimately responsible for the fines or sanctions handed down by the VSA. Failure of a team, coach, or team personnel to fulfill the financial obligation will result in the "Home Club" 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. VSCC schedules should be considered final as of the date of their posting; but the VSCC reserves the right to revise the schedule if necessary. Matches will **not** be rescheduled to accommodate individual team needs or conflicts.

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 year's 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 random draw and added top to bottom, slot by slot. If there are not enough teams entered, then one bracket will be established with the previous year's winner seeded first, and the previous year's runner-up seeded second. The remaining seeding will be done with a random draw by the VSCC. All seeding are considered final and are not subject to protest.
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 MATCH DAY PROCEDURES**

1. Registration, Rosters, and Passes

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

- Signed VSA State Roster
  - The VSA Coaching Passes
  - The US Youth Soccer Laminated Player Passes for ALL participating players
  - Player Medical Release Forms
- a. Each team shall have a copy of its 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. All teams shall have a medical release form for each player on the roster. Players without such medical release form will not be permitted to participate in the match.
  - d. 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.
  - e. A team's roster shall be accepted and frozen upon approval by the VSCC registrar on the annual roster freeze date. 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 Soccer National Championship Series Rules at [www.usyouthsoccer.org](http://www.usyouthsoccer.org).
3. VSA shall furnish the game ball. The game ball must meet the US Youth Soccer requirements. The referee has the responsibility to measure the game ball prior to the match and ensure it meets requirements. Once the match begins, protests cannot be lodged because of an illegal ball.
4. Teams not ready for play at the scheduled start time of any match shall be granted a ten-minute grace period. A minimum of seven players constitutes a team ready for play (including U12 small sided matches). Any team not ready to play after this ten-minute grace period has expired, shall forfeit the match.
5. The home team shall be the team listed first. The home team shall have the choice of jersey colors. If, in the opinion of the referee, there is a color conflict, the visiting team shall change jerseys.
  - a. ONLY Players and team officials with player and coaches cards will be issued bench passes and be allowed on the sideline. Parents and spectators will be on the opposite sideline. Team official identification passes will only be issued to those who are represented and approved by the VSCC Committee. Spectators will NOT be allowed on the team side of the field. Game officials may stop the match until such time as spectators comply with the rules. Team officials must possess an approved pass to be on the team sideline. VSCC officials shall be permitted on the team sideline.
  - b. Teams participating in a VSCC match must have a coach or team official on the sideline to begin or continue a match. The penalty for not having an approved coach or team official on the sideline is forfeiture of the match.
  - c. Each player shall wear an official uniform with a six-inch minimum size number on the back of the jersey. Goalie jerseys must also have a number. Duplicate numbers are not permitted.
  - d. Players not participating in the match due to roster limits or injury must be on the team roster but NOT IN UNIFORM and wear bench pass issued by VSCC at check in to be on the sideline of any match.
6. Length of matches, Overtime Periods, Ball Requirements;

U-12 (9v9)	Two 30 min. halves,	Two 10 min. periods,	#4 ball
U-13/14	Two 35 min. halves,	Two 10 min. periods,	#5 ball
U15/16	Two 40 min. halves,	Two 15 min. periods,	#5 ball
U17/18/19	Two 45 min. halves,	Two 15 min. periods	#5 ball

FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" will determine the winner if the score is tied after regulation play and both overtime periods are completed. **THERE IS NO GOLDEN GOAL** winner during over time play. Should weather, darkness, or any other reason preclude the continuation of the taking of the "Kicks from the Penalty Mark", the kicks will be suspended until such time as the teams may resume. If the teams are unable to agree on a rescheduled date, time and place, or if the Cup Chairperson believes the rescheduled date would impact play, the Cup Chair shall designate the date, time, and place. This method of determination shall not be subject to a protest or appeal.

7. 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.
8. 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 and referee's report of the incident shall be submitted to headquarters tent.
  - 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 within the National Championship series. If the player's team does not advance out of the VSC, the player will sit out the next match of this tournament

which may be the following season. This penalty may be increased at the discretion of the VSCC Chairperson.

- c. The SRA will be notified of the player's ineligibility. The SRA 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 and club will be subject to sanctions by VSA.
- e. The Region I National Championship Series committee shall notify the SRA 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 of the National Championship Series. If that team has been eliminated from further VSCC Competition, the next immediate match of the ejected coach within the National Championship Series, 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.

## I. RULES OF PLAY/SUBSTITUTIONS

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.
2. Substitutions shall be unlimited for the Under 14 Age groups.
3. For U15 and older age groups, a maximum of 7 substitutions for each team shall be allowed in each game during the half of play and during overtime play. After leaving the game during a half of play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game during the same half of play. After leaving the game during overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game.
4. Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage of play.

## J. PROTESTS

1. The protest must be communicated to the referee who will notify the 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, cashier's 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, cross bar 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 its 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. Finalists of all age groups must report to the VSCC Tournament Headquarters tent at the conclusion of their match for a short awards ceremony.

## 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.
3. **Consistent with Region 1 Championship Rules; "Noise-making devices (i.e. drums, horns, cowbells, trumpets, etc.) are prohibited.**