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STATE CUP RULES

Revised September 2005

Member of the United States Soccer Federation Since 1967

**FLORIDA STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION
STATE CUP RULES AND REGULATIONS**

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FLORIDA STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION CUP RULES

PART I – GENERAL

100 CUP DIRECTORY

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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
 - B. Men's President's Cup
 - C. Men's Chairman's Cup
 - D. Men's Over 30 Cup
 - E. Men's Over 40 Cup
 - F. Men's Over 50 Cup
 - G. Women's Florida Cup
 - H. Women's President Cup
 - I. Women's Over 30 Cup
 - J. Women's Over 40 Cup
 - K. Coed Cup
 - L. Coed Over 30 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 of each respective team may be changed during the series of games in the competition provided all players meet the eligibility requirements set forth herein. No players may be added after the completion of semi-final games.
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 give 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 are eligible to play in FSSA State Cup competitions.
2. The levels of competition in State Cup games allow all registered teams the opportunity to compete at their own respective skill level.
3. A player's professional status does not expire as a result of the player not having signed a professional contract or played professionally in recent years. (See USSF Policy 601-4 on Amateur Reinstatement.)

4. 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 at least seven (7) days prior to any game in the competition in which the player may participate.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Players must provide proof of age using a government issued photo ID presented to the referee, along with his/her player's pass for all games requiring age limitations. Such players must be 30 or 40 or 50 years old respectively, by game day. Players who are not of the appropriate age may be listed on a roster but may not play until they have attained the correct age for the cup in which they are competing.
8. In addition to proof of insurance, all players under 19 participating in any of the State Cups shall carry a USSF/FYSA Youth Division identification pass bearing his or her photograph. Those passes shall be verified and certified by the SCC and shall be presented to the referee and the representative of the opposing team prior to the game.
9. 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 recreational 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. Women'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).
- I. Women's Over 30 Cup
Open to all registered Women's Over 30 teams.
- J. Women's Over 40 Cup
Open to all registered Women's Over 40 teams.
- K. Coed Cup
Open to all registered Coed Over 30 teams. Coed teams may have a maximum of 5 men (excluding the goalkeeper) on the field at any given time.
- L. Coed Over 30 Cup
Open to all registered Coed Over 30 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 \$100.00. These fees may be changed annually by the FSSA Executive Committee.
3. Only 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.
4. The FSSA may assess additional fees to cover referee fees, awards, administrative, and or other expenses.
5. All monies collected for Cup play shall be used for Cup purposes.

6. Teams entering shall submit a \$200.00 Performance Bond which will be refunded after completion of the State Cup provided the team has fulfilled its obligations.

205 ADMINISTRATION

1. The FSSA State Cup Committee Chairman (SCCC) shall be appointed annually by the FSSA President. The SSCC may not be a player registered with or an official of a team entered in the competition. Responsibilities of the SSCC 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 SSCC.
 - 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 SSCC 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 enough 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 with all fees so as to be received by the SCCC before the set deadline will be considered to have officially entered the tournament.

207 PRECEDENCE OF GAMES

1. United States Soccer Federation Amateur Division 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 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 single elimination match.
2. Tournament Draw
 - A. Following the entry deadline, the SCCC will verify all team entries for each competition with the State Registrar. Each team will be placed in the appropriate competition and the SCCC will then conduct a draw to determine first round opponents.
 - B. The draw will be conducted so as to avoid extensive travel in the first round of games and, if possible, have teams from different leagues, play against each other in the first round of play.
 - C. Home Team
 1. The designated home team will be determined by the SCCC at the time of the initial tournament draw. The first team drawn will be designated home team for the first round.
 2. The home team for each succeeding round will be determined by the following formula, applied within a bracket:

- a) If both teams play at home and win, the home team designated in the bracket stays the same.
 - b) If both teams play away and win, the home team designated in the bracket stays the same.
 - c) If one team wins away, and the other team wins at home, then the team that won away is the home team for the next round.
3. The home team in each match will inform the SCCC by telephone or email of the game results the day of the game.

D. Match Play

FSSA State Cup competitions will be played under FIFA Laws of the Game, with the following exceptions:

- 1. Five (5) substitutions will be permitted in the following competitions only:
 - a) Men's Florida Cup
 - b) Men's President's Cup
 - c) Women's Florida Cup
 - d) Women's Presidents Cup

ONCE A PLAYER IS SUBSTITUTED FOR HE OR SHE CANNOT RE-ENTER THE GAME.

- 2. Substitutions will be unlimited in all competitions other than those listed in (1) above.
- 3. Substitutions will be permitted at any stoppage at the discretion of the Referee.
- 4. Each game will be played in two 45 minute halves except Over 50 Cup which will play two 40 minute halves.
- 5. If the score is tied at the end of regulation time, there will be two (2) complete overtime periods of 10 minutes each. If neither team scores during the two (2) overtime periods, the winner will then be determined by Kicks from the Penalty Mark as prescribed by FIFA
- 6. Each State Cup game will start no later than 15 minutes after scheduled start time if a local team is delayed.
- 7. Each State Cup game will start no later than 30 minutes after scheduled start time traveling is delayed.

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. Games 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 lose their bond and 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 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) If a game is not completed it must be replayed in its entirety. However, if the non-completion of the game results from misconduct clearly traceable to one or the other of the competing teams, its management, or its followers, as determined by the SCC, SCCC shall decide as to the disposition of the game, taking into consideration the policy that the home team is generally responsible for the proper conduct of the game.

F. Game Settings

Notification to each competing team of its next game in the competition shall be made no less than seven (7) days prior to the scheduled date of the game, except when both teams waive this requirement in writing and the SCC is informed.

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 pool of twenty-two (22) properly registered and eligible players to take part in a given state cup.
2. The list of players taken from the player pool and given to the referee on the day of the game may not exceed eighteen (18).
3. At least seven (7) days before the originally scheduled date of a game, every team playing in any of the State Competitions shall provide to the opposing team by overnight express mail, telephone facsimile, or electronic mail, the Player List Form of eligible players from which the team will be selected. The Player List may not include more than twenty-two (22) players and may not be changed for replayed or postponed games.
4. No objection to the qualifications of any players recorded in the above mentioned list shall be entertained unless notice of such objection, stating the reasons, is given in writing to the Referee and the opposing team before the commencement of the game. Any team making a frivolous objection may be removed from the competition.

5. Failure to send a list of players is not alone grounds for protest but may be a factor to considered in connection with a claim that the opposing team used an ineligible player.
6. The two teams may waive, in writing, the requirements of sending player lists. The SCCC may also waive the requirements of sending the list of players to the opposing team. If the list of players is waived by the two teams or the SCCC, the time allowed for protests in case of an ineligible player shall be as set forth below.
7. ONLY STATE CUP LINEUP FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED.
8. The referee will ensure that the State Cup Lineup forms are properly and completely filled out including signature as indicated there in.

303 COACHES

Only properly registered coaches and managers in good standing with current year, laminated FSSA issued coach 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. For all other reasons, automatic minimum suspension shall be two (2) games but the SCC has the authority to increase the period of suspension depending on the Referee report.
3. Exhibition games or indoor games will not be considered official games for the purpose of crediting toward disciplinary suspensions.
4. 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.
5. All notices of disqualification or suspension shall be forwarded by mail or fax to the affected team(s) except in the case of the minimum two (2) games suspension as outlined above, which shall be effective automatically and without notice.

305 PROTESTS

1. Any protest concerning a game played in State Cup competition shall be referred to the SCCC who shall determine the protest and that determination shall be final.

2. The protest must be made in writing and must describe in detail the grounds for the protest.
3. The original and two (2) copies of the signed protest must be submitted along with a protest fee of \$100.00 to the SCCC within three (3) days of the match to which it relates and must show that a copy was forwarded to the opposing team. In the even distances do not allow such short notice, a fax must be sent to the SCCC within two (2) days of the match to which it relates outlining briefly the reason(s) for the protest. Such fax shall be followed by the regular protest mailed within two (2) days of the match to which it relates.
4. The opposing team shall have seven (7) days from the date the protest is forwarded to them to submit to the SCC their statement, if any, regarding the protest.
5. The protest fee of \$100.00 must be paid by certified check, cashier's check, or money order made payable to FSSA and must be sent to the SCCC.
6. No protest for the alleged use of an ineligible player whose name appears in the list of eligible players received by the opposing team shall be deemed acceptable unless, prior to the game, an objection in writing is lodged with the Referee and the opposing team for that game.
7. The SCCC shall rule on protest as quickly as possible and may require submission of further evidence relating to the protest.
8. Notice of the SCC ruling shall be sent by mail, fax, or email, to both teams competing in the game which is the subject of the protest.
9. A protest may be withdrawn in writing after it has been submitted, but withdrawal of a protest shall result in forfeit of the protest fee.
10. The protest fee shall be returned if the protest is upheld.
11. Appeals of the decisions of the SCC may be made to the FSSA Appeals Committee and then to the FSSA Board of Directors in accordance with FSSA constitution, rules, and regulations.

306 GATE RECEIPTS

1. For those State Cup matches which are played on an enclosed field and at which an admission fee is charged, the following rules apply:
 - A. The home team will receive twenty-five percent (25%) of the gate receipts less game expenses.

B. The remaining seventy-five percent (75%) of the gate receipts will be divided equally between the two (2) competing teams.

C. This rule applies for all matches through semi-finals.

307 CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

1. The site and date of State Cup finals will be determined by the SCCC with the approval of the FSSA Board of Directors.
2. Distribution of funds, if admission is charged, shall be as determined by FSSA Board of Directions.

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 FSR 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 SCC 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 home leagues, or a team competing in the State Cup finals will be assigned to those final games.

403 OFFICIALS FEES

1. Fees for the referees officiating State Cups shall be set annually by the FSSA Executive Committee.
2. The fees for games in 2005 are set as follows.
 - A. All games at all levels from the first round to the semi-finals: \$50.00 for the Referee, \$25.00 for each Assistant Referee and \$25.00 for the 4th Official if one is assigned.

- B. Official fees for the final game in each category is set at: \$60.00 for the Referee, \$30.00 for each assistant referee and \$30.00 for the 4th Official if one is assigned.
- C. Competing teams shall share equally in the cost of officials' fees for all games except for the State Cup finals in each category.
- D. Payment of fees for the State Cup Finals in each category is the responsibility of the SCC.