



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

1) What are NYSW boundaries?

NYSWYSA includes all New York State counties to the west and on Interstate Rt. 81. This area is broken up into districts, each of which is managed by separate commissioners.

The districts are as follows:

- Binghamton
- Buffalo
- Rochester
- Southern Tier
- Syracuse
- Twin Tier

Details: <http://nyswysa.org/association-info>
<http://nyswysa.org/association-info/map-of-nysw>

2) I coach a team located within the boundaries of Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association, but we play in NYSW leagues and tournaments. Can we compete in the NYSW State Cup Championship?

No. The team must be domiciled within the boundaries of NYSW and its parent club a member of NYSWYSA, with the majority, as defined in the table below, of the players on the team competing in the NYSW State Cup championship residing within the boundaries of NYSW.

Residency on Roster	
Roster Size	Majority
22	12
21 or 20	11
19 or 18	10
17 or 16	9
15 or 14	8
13 or 12	7

3) Is an indoor league acceptable as a qualifying league?

No, it is not acceptable as a qualifying league.

4) Are there a minimum number of age-appropriate players required for an age group?

Yes, within the 12U – 16U age groups, the majority (50% + 1, see table in Q2) of players on a team must be the age of the age group in which the team is participating in the State Cup that seasonal year. There is not a majority age requirement for the 17U – 19U age groups. [See Rule 7203, Section 1, Item 6 & 7 of the US Youth Soccer NYSW National Championship Series Policy/Rules.](#)

5) Are there any restrictions to a younger player playing in an older age group?

Yes, there are restrictions. These restrictions are covered in Rule 7203, Section 2, and Item 4 of the [US Youth Soccer NYSW National Championship Series Policy/Rules.](#)

6) Does someone have to represent a team for the blind draw?

For the 2024 State Cup competition a blind draw for registered participants was held on December 18, 2023, at 6 PM EST. While a team representative is not required to attend, all participants are welcome to have a representative participate in this activity.

7) What happens if SAT test day falls on the Saturday of Final Four weekend?

The schedule for the Semi-Finals will be posted online in February 2024. It is expected that individuals review the schedule for the time that their team would compete. If this falls within the timeframe that aligns with the SAT's, it is recommended that players select an alternate date to take the SAT's. Each player and their parent must decide what is in the best interest of the player.

8) Are there fees in addition to the registration fees that a team will incur?

Both teams will split the referee costs for the playdown game. The home team will cover the cost of the field for the playdown game. The fee structure will be posted on the State Cup website.

9) Can players be on a State Cup roster and use a secondary player pass?

Yes. NYSWYSA State Cup Committee voted to open participation to teams competing in all US Soccer affiliated leagues and in doing so decided that it would be unable to uphold its rule on only allowing Primary carded players onto Rosters.

10) Regarding the State Cup playdown match officials' fees, our team manager instructions say that each team pays the same amount toward the fees. Can you please tell me how that breaks down for each (Referee, and two AR's) official?

The home team fee covers the Referee while the Away Team fees are divided evenly between the two Assistant Referees.

11) How many playdown games do we have to play?

The number of playdown games your team would play depends on the number of teams entered in your division. Please see the bracket details in the [Appendix of the NYSW National Championship Policy/Rules](#).

12) How is the playdown game schedule determined?

- Playdown Game matchups were determined following the random draw on Monday, December 18th.
- Teams are responsible for working together to determine an agreed upon date/time to complete the matches.
- Home team is responsible for securing and paying for a field at the agreed upon date & time.
- Home team is responsible for providing the date/time/location to **NYSW by Friday, February 16, 2024, at 5:00pm**
- If a date/time is not agreed upon by the specified deadline, **NYSW will schedule the game at a date, time and location to be determined** and the teams will split the cost of the field rental.
- NYSW will schedule and confirm the referee assignments for the match.
- Both teams will split the cost of the referees for the playdown match as per Q10 above.
- The scheduling deadlines are posted on the [NYSW State Cup website](#).

13) If I start different players at the beginning of the second half than those that ended the first half on the pitch, or if I start different players for overtime than those that ended regulation on the pitch, are those considered substitutions?

- PLAYERS are defined as anyone taking the field, in this instance, at the beginning of each half or overtime. THEY ARE NOT CONSIDERED SUBSTITUTES for any reason.
- PLAYERS may be replaced by a substitute but cannot re-enter in that half for the 15 and Under and older divisions.
- With the check-in limit at 18, that means that you will only be allowed AT MOST, 7 substitutions per half or overtime.
- If you only check-in 16 players, your substitution would be limited to 5 per half or overtime.

14) If a game goes to overtime and/or Kicks from the Penalty Mark, it is not clear if players who came out of the game in the second half will be allowed back into the game for overtime? Also, if the game continues to Kicks from the Penalty Mark, which players are eligible to participate?

- Once overtime begins, any player who is substituted out of the game may not return to the match or be used in Kicks from the Penalty Mark.
- The ENTIRE overtime period is considered one period, even though there is a brief break to switch sides.
- Only players on the field at the end of the match may be used in the FIFA Kicks from the Penalty Mark.

15) We want to make sure we have everything we need for our playdown game.

We need to bring:

- Player passes?
 - Yes. The USYS/ NYSW pass must contain a picture of the player and be sealed.
- Coaches passes?
 - Yes. The pass must be signed by the coach as their name appears on the front of the pass and it must be sealed.
- State Cup roster – printed on any paper – don't need to sign anything right?
 - Yes, two copies of the official State Cup match card printed on any paper.
- Do we need to bring & show medical releases?
 - Medical Releases are not required for playdown matches. They are however required for the Final Four weekend.
- Money for referee?
 - Each team must bring the appropriate fees. Fee structure can be found in the email sent from statecupchair@nyswysa.org and on the [NYSWYSA website](#).
- Money for field rental?
 - The home team is responsible for payment arrangements with the facility for the playdown game.

16) How and to whom do I report the playdown match results?

The scores will be submitted online via GotSport by the Home Team within 24 hours of match completion. The link to submit the score is in the upper right corner of the [event page](#). The pin for this year's event is 2024. You will need the match number from your game card. Additional details on submitting the score can be found [here](#).

17) Where can I find results of the playdown matches?

Results are posted on the State Cup page of the [NYSWYSA website](#).

18) How many games will my team play each day at the Final Four weekend?

The Semi-Finals are single elimination and will be played on Saturday, with the winners advancing to the Finals on Sunday.

In the divisions of 3 teams, teams will play two games with one game per day on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

19) How do I obtain the NYSW Official witness signature on the Commitment Form?

The Commitment Form along with the Code of Conduct will be required **if** your team advances to the Final Four tournament. These documents will be provided by the Cup Committee on the State Cup website and will need to be printed, filled, out and signed in advance and brought with you to the Final Four team registration.

20) Do I need to present a roster at Final Four?

The Cup Committee will have the NCS roster available for each team at registration for the Final Four tournament.

21) Do all players have to be present for registration?

No, registration will be completed by one representative of the team (Manager/Coach) at the Final Four registration desk. Registration must be completed at least one hour prior to the first match.

22) Several players will arrive after the designated registration times for the Final 4. What arrangements should we make for them to register and play?

The Registration official will check all the documentation (player pass, Medical Release,) for all players listed on the team with one representative of the team (Manager/Coach) at the Final Four registration desk.

23) What arrangements will be made for players that cannot make the Final Four weekend but would be available should the team advance to the Eastern Region Championship?

See Rule 7203, Section 6 of the [US Youth Soccer NYSW National Championship Series Policy/Rules](#) - Roster Movement for Regional and National levels.

24) With the 19 and Under players already at college, do we need them to fill out the 'Individual Player Registration Instructions (15U and Older ONLY)' when completing the Eastern Region Online registration form for those teams?

The only information that is necessary for the 19 and Under is First Name, Last Name, Jersey # and Email address.

25) Does the team need to be in uniform for registration?

The team does not need to be at the Final Four registration for the 2024 event, only a single team representative.

26) If the manager is present at registration, do the coaches need to be there?

No, the coaches do not have to be present if the person registering the team has the coach's passes at the time of registration and is listed as an official on the team roster.

27) Is proof of residency required at Final Four Registration?

No, beginning with 2024, proof of residency documentation is not required to be presented at Final Four registration. It is up to the club to ensure that the player address listed within GotSport is correct. If it is determined that a player is improperly registered, the team shall forfeit any games which the player participated.

28) Is the Medical Release our club's form or is there a NYSW form that must be used?

The Medical Release can be either your club or NYSW's form.

29) Does the Medical Release have to be notarized?

It is suggested but not mandatory that the Medical Release form be notarized.

30) If a player has a cast, will they be permitted to play?

Players are permitted to play with casts PROVIDED the cast is not dangerous to the player himself/herself or any other player on the field. This determination is made by the individual referee of the game.

31) My child was diagnosed with a possible concussion by the medical staff at the field. What are the next steps for him/her to return to play?

Your player needs to be seen by a Medical Doctor, Doctor of Osteopathy or a doctor that specializes in concussion treatment and management. Parent must present a signed release from one of the above before your player can return to the field of play. Release needs to be on the letter head of the doctor or medical organization at which the player was examined.

32) Does the goalie jersey need a number?

Yes, each player must have a number on the roster and jersey. Double zero '00' is not an acceptable number.

33) What is the difference between a Wildcard team and an Alternate team assigned to the Eastern Region Championships?

- Wildcard teams are positions that are created to balance the number of teams in each division. Wildcard requirements are determined after all State Associations submit their Team Entry form for the Championship. Wildcard teams are assigned to a bracket to avoid having two teams from the same state association.
- Alternate teams are teams that are selected to replace a team that has dropped out of the competition after the State Associations have submitted their team entry forms. They will be assigned to the bracket from which the team dropped out. So, you may have two teams from the same state in the same bracket.

34) If a player receives a red card, can he remain on the bench?

Yes, the player will be permitted to remain on the bench under the supervision of a Risk Management approved team official. The player must remove their uniform jersey. If the player continues to be disruptive or a distraction to anyone in the bench area, they will be escorted from the area to the Tournament Headquarters.

35) If a player receives a red card in their USYS National League Conference (NLC) or another qualifying league, will they have to sit out their first game of the State Cup?

The National Championship Series (NCS) is a national tournament consisting of three levels of competition. These are State Cup, Regional Championships and finally the National Championships. To participate in the Series, every team, except for those in the 19 and Under divisions, must participate in a qualifying league.

The USYS NLC is one such qualifying league. Although teams from the NLC may qualify for direct entry to the Eastern Regional Championships of the NCS, the league itself is not one of the levels of the NCS. Thus, games played in the NCS and the NLC are not in the same competition.

Therefore, a red card issued in a game played in NLC or another qualifying league does not carryover and impact a player in the State Cup level of the NCS competition. Note however that if the red card was issued in the Division 1 Finals of the NLC and the player's team did advance to the Eastern Regional Championship, the player would have to sit out at least the first game played at the Eastern Regional Championship.

36) What does the team manager need to bring to the Eastern Region Championship registration?

- The team manager will be required to bring the passes for both the players and the team officials. You must have your medical releases with you for the games, however you will not have to present them at registration.
- Players and coaches do not need to be present.
- A team official must watch the Team Official webinar posted on the Eastern Regional Championships website.

37) Will seeding for the 2024 State Cup carryover from the 2023 State Cup?

RULE NYSW 7202 -- NYSW FORMAT OF COMPETITION

Registered teams that participated in the 2023 State Cup Finals will be seeded in the order they finished, provided their current season State Cup roster total has at least a majority of the same players as the 2023 season (except 13U – which is 8 players from previous year 12U roster). The majority shall be defined by the table below. The roster used to establish the seed will be the previous year's roster for the State Cup competition, not a roster that was modified later for Regional or National play with Club pass players.

2023 Cup Roster Total	2024 Player Carryover Requirement from 2023 Cup Roster
22	12
21	11
20	11
19	10
18	10
17	9
16	9
15	8
14	8

Table 1: 2024 Roster Continuity Requirements

38) Will seedings carry through to the Final Four tournament?

Yes, as they are used to establish the brackets and will carry through to the finals.

39) Can a player who participated in another State Cup (i.e., Eastern NY) be added to a NYSW State Cup Roster if their team has been eliminated prior to the roster freeze date?

No, a player cannot have participated in another state association State Cup.

RULE NYSW 7207 -- PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. General

- (1) A player must be properly registered and rostered in accordance with the rules of US Youth Soccer and NYSW. Failure to remit player registration fees before the commencement of your State Cup matches violates this requirement and can result in disqualification of your team(s).
- (2) A youth player may be on the National Championships roster of only one Team within that Club until the team has been eliminated from the National Championships Series during any seasonal year.
 - a. A youth player who is rostered to an eliminated team which participated at a National Championship Series level, and which has been issued a Club Pass of his/her Club may be rostered to another Team of his/her Club at the next level of the National Championship Series.
 - b. In the entire National Championship Series, a team may add two players from other Club's teams which had been eliminated in a lower level of the competition.
 - c. Subject to the foregoing, and subject to the provisions of Rule 7203, Section 1 (5), at each level of the National Championship Competitions, a Team may add as many registered youth players holding Club Passes of the Club of which the Team is a member so long as the roster does not exceed 22 players.
 - d. A Team may not change Clubs at any time after the commencement of the National Championship competitions.
- (3) A player who has been suspended may play after the player's term of suspension has expired.
- (4) The first National Championships roster of a team to which the player is rostered is the only team with which the player may participate at that level of the National Championships competitions for a seasonal year.
- (5) If a player is over age, is not registered or is improperly rostered on a team's roster, that team shall forfeit all games played prior to finding such situation.

40) Is there a certain uniform that the home and away teams need to wear for gameday?

No, however if the two team's colors are similar and cause a conflict, as determined by the referee, the home team will need to change. Pinnies are not an acceptable change.

41) What is the best way to organize paperwork for check-in at registration?

All paperwork should be grouped together by player so all documents can be checked for each player at one time. (i.e., Joe Smith – player pass, medical form) Some teams organize by having a binder with all documents and a key ring with player & coaches passes.

42) Are you collecting the documents being checked at registration?

No, they are being checked and will be returned to the team manager.