

Eastern Pennsylvania Soccer Association 2011-2012 Cup Policies and Guidelines

The Eastern Pennsylvania Soccer Association (EPSA) will conduct State Cup competitions each year as part of the USASA National Cup competitions. The EPSA events will follow the policies and rules as set forth by USASA.

The following policies and guidelines are presented to provide the participants with the guidelines on how EPSA will administer its cup competitions. Most of the following sections deal with the detailed aspects of the competitions that the National Cup Policies leave to the discretion of each State Association.

In the event of a conflict with these guidelines and the National Cup Policies, the National Cup Policies shall govern.

I. Entry Deadlines and Competitions

Listed below is the EPSA Board of Directors list of approved competitions and the entry deadlines for each of these for the 2011-2012 cup season.

2011-2012 Cup Deadlines & Schedules

<u>Men's</u>	<u>Entry Deadline</u>	<u>Tentative Competition Start</u>
Amateur	10/7/11	Oct/Nov 2011
Open	10/7/11	Oct/Nov 2010
Over 30	02/10/12	Spring 2012
U-23	05/11/12	June 2012
U-20	05/11/12	June 2012

<u>Women's</u>	<u>Entry Deadline</u>	<u>Tentative Competition Start</u>
US Nat'l Cup	10/7/11	Oct/Nov 2011
U-23	05/11/12	June 2012
U-20	05/11/12	June 2012

All applications with the appropriate entry fee must be in the EPSA office or in the hand of the Cup Commissioner by 5:00 pm on the deadline specified for the particular cup competition. Any applications received after that time will be excluded from the competition. Please note that while we did exercise some discretion in the past with regard to this rule, it will be strictly enforced for the all future Cup Competitions. Application forms will be posted on the EPSA website (www.eastpasa.org) and emailed to previous entrants and each league. There will be no applications sent via the US Postal Service.

Please note that you may apply any time before the deadline. So, for example, if you wish to apply for the Over 30 Cup which takes place in the spring, you may submit your application and payment any time after September 1st of the preceding year.

All Application and Player Pool forms must be typed.

A player's name must be consistent and match between their Player Pass, the Player Pool form and the Game Day roster.

Teams may enter multiple cup competitions as long as they meet the eligibility requirements for each individual competition as specified by the National Cup Policies.

II. Competition

All competitions will be single elimination events. As a result, all games must be played to a conclusion. The only potential exception is the U-23 Competitions which may be a round robin event. This will be decided and published at a later date pending consultation with the Board of Directors as well as other interested parties.

III. Game Length

All games shall be 90 minutes in length with two equal halves. In the event of a tie at the end of regulation, two 15 minute full overtime periods will be played (no golden goal). If the game remains tied after the two full overtime periods then FIFA Kicks from the Mark will be used to determine the winner of the match.

IV. Draw

A blind draw to populate the playing grids will be held at the EPSA State office (or such location as announced by EPSA) at a time and date that will be published after the application deadline with the target to complete the draw within 2 weeks of the close of the application process. In some cases, where a limited number of teams enter an event, the draw may be conducted at the State Office during normal business hours. EPSA may seed entrants for the draw based on the previous year's results.

- For events with 10 or less entrants the maximum number of seeds shall be two (2). The two seeds will be the previous year's Champion and Finalist. In the event that one of the previous year's final two teams does not enter the current year's competition, then only the one (1) team that entered shall be seeded.
- For events with more than 10 entrants the maximum number of seeds will be 4. The top two seeds will be the previous year's Champion and Finalist. In the event that one of the previous year's final four teams does not enter the current year's competition, the number of seeds will be reduced to the number of the final four that do enter.
- Please note that seeded teams will only be guaranteed that their 1st round game is at home. Also, if any byes are available in the playing draw, the seeded teams will be awarded a bye in the order of their seeding.

V. Scheduling

Once the blind draw has been completed the assignment of home and away status will be completed and each team will be provided with a copy of the draw and the first round game schedule. Subsequent rounds will be scheduled after the conclusion of each preceding round or as appropriate to keep the competition schedule moving forward.

Decisions regarding the schedules will be the responsibility of the Cup Commissioner in consultation with the EPSA office.

There are a few key items that entrants need to be aware of as they participate each year:

- All game start times will be at 2:00 pm and the primary playing date will be Sunday. Saturday games will be scheduled only under pressure to complete an event for the Region 1 deadline.
- Night games are not available.
- Coaches from each team must contact their opponent before the game to ensure that both teams have directions to the field as well as all game details such as start times and uniform colors.
- Home team is required to change their jerseys, if there is a uniform color conflict.
- The home team for the 1st round is the top team in a bracket, unless clearly noted otherwise. In all subsequent rounds the home team will be determined by the Cup Commissioner with consultation from the EPSA office.
- EPSA will endeavor to avoid scheduling multiple competitions for the same gender on the same day. This will happen only under pressure to complete an event for the Region 1 deadline.
- The intent is to complete the Men's Amateur, Men's Open and Women's National Cup competitions in the fall. In the event that they are not completed in the fall, the remaining games will be scheduled in the spring as soon as the weather permits.
- For the 2011 Fall Competitions the following are the tentative playing dates:

Event	Tentative Playing Dates				
Men's Amateur	10/16	10/30	11/13	11/27	Tbd
Men's Open	10/23	11/6	11/20	12/4	
Women's Amateur	10/23	11/6	11/20		

- EPSA reserves the right to alter these dates in order to keep the competition schedule moving forward.

- EPSA will adjust its Cup schedules in the spring as needed to ensure that the appropriate Champions and Finalists are determined to meet the deadlines set forth by Region 1.

VI. Contact Requirements and Team Notification Plans

Email will be the first method of communication with the teams to ensure speedy communication of information and schedules.

Each team MUST have two contacts that have email access and that will be responsible for getting all information sent disseminated to their team.

EPSA will email all relevant information and please note that email notification will be the primary method of notification. Each team must also have a contact that has an answering machine or voice mail capabilities in the event that phone contact is required.

VII. Score Reporting

Both teams must email the score of the game to the EPSA office and the Cup Commissioner by 8:00 pm the day of the game. Failure to do so can result in a \$25 fine. The note should also report any players that received cards with their name and what penalty they received.

The appropriate email addresses are: Eastpasa@verizon.net and rhbchem@aol.com.

VIII. Fields

To ensure that there is no confusion on games the following guidelines must be followed for every game in all competitions.

- Each team must identify their home field on their application. This is the field that will be used for all games. Teams can not change their home field without 2 weeks prior notification and express approval by the Cup Commissioner.
- To verify field availability, all teams must submit a copy of a field usage permit along with their Cup Application, unless the team applying owns their own field.
- Teams must ensure that their home field is available on Sundays from 1:00 to 5:00 pm.
- Teams must provide EPSA written directions (via email) to their field so that the referees can be notified of the field location. (Note – please check the directions for accuracy before sending them). These directions should be sent to the EPSA office after the Draw is completed for the specific competition.
- Both coaches are responsible for contacting their opponent and ensuring that both teams know where the game is being played.

- Each team pays one half of the current EPSA Referee Fee to the referee crew before kick-off.
- If a team loses their home field the game may be rescheduled to their opponent's field (if it is available), if there is adequate time for notification of the referees.
- If a team loses their field or it is regularly declared unplayable for whatever reason, the Cup Commissioner will evaluate the circumstances and may schedule any future games for that team as away games.

IX. Field Closings

During the competition the Cup Commissioner will evaluate the weather conditions and determine if widespread weather conditions exist that would warrant postponement of a full day's schedule. Every effort will be made to make this decision early on the day of the competition. Given the geographic size of the area in EPSA, this will be a rare event.

If the Cup Commissioner does not postpone the schedule, then all games shall be played at the discretion of the referees. The referees will evaluate the field conditions to determine if safe playing conditions exist. If the referees declare the field unplayable, the Cup Commissioner will reschedule the game and there is no guarantee that the game will be played at the original home field. If a field is declared unplayable, the referee crew is to be paid 50% of the referee fee for that game which will be split equally between the teams.

If a Club closes their fields after the referee crew is en route to the game, the Home Team will be responsible for paying the full referee fees for that game. It will be at the discretion of the Cup Commissioner whether the game is rescheduled back at the original home field. If a club repeatedly closes their fields or regularly has them declared unplayable (meaning more than once in a season) the club may lose all remaining home games for all competitions underway.

X. Semi-Final and Final Games

A four man referee crew will be assigned to all State Cup Semi-Final and Final Games as long as sufficient qualified referees are available to do so. The presence of a fourth official should improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the officiating for these important matches.

There will be no additional cost to any of the teams for this fourth official as this fee will be paid by EPSA and the EPSA Referee Committee. The teams are still responsible for paying the referee and the assistant referees as stipulated in Section VIII.

Both teams must occupy different halves on the same sideline at these games, so the fourth official system can function properly. All spectators are to occupy the opposite sideline for the duration of the match.

XI. Documentation Requirements

- Player Pool Forms - each team must fax a copy of their player pool form to the EPSA office and the Cup Commissioner no later than 5:00 pm the Friday before their scheduled game. Email is acceptable as well.
- Suspension Reports – when a player receives a suspension it is the team's responsibility to provide EPSA with subsequent written proof that the suspension was served. Written proof is defined as original line up sheets or legible copies of line-up sheets from regularly scheduled league or Cup games for each game served. The suspended player's name cannot be entered at all on any line-up used to document service of a suspension, and his/her slot on the line-up sheet shall remain blank for the length of the suspension. Each line-up supplied must be signed by the Game Official and be visibly dated. Each line-up must be from a game that was actually played and for a team to which the suspended player is actually registered to play. Each line-up supplied must be from a game that was played after the date of the game for which that player was suspended. EPSA will consider a suspension unserved until written proof is provided to the office or the Cup Commissioner. Player cards for suspended players will remain in the EPSA office until the suspension is served.

XII. Suspensions and Penalties

Suspensions and penalties for yellow and red card offenses will be handled by the State Cup Commissioner. Please note the following:

- Suspension of a player who is ejected from a State Cup game commences immediately. The suspension for a game ejection will be a minimum of two games with the exact length determined by the Cup Commissioner after reviewing the referee game report. Do not play that individual in any league or Cup games until you receive the final suspension.
- Any player that accumulates three (3) yellow cards in League and/or Cup play is subject to a one (1) game suspension. If a player receives two (2) yellow cards in a game and is thereby shown the red card the player can receive a penalty for the game ejection as well as an additional penalty if the player now has accumulated three yellow cards.
- Suspension notifications will be sent to the player. In the event that the notice is returned the player is still responsible for serving their suspension. Every effort will be made to contact the player, but the player must take responsibility for contacting EPSA if they do not receive notification of their suspension.

XIII. Awards and Prizes

Trophies Team trophies will be awarded to the winning team in each Division where 4 or more teams have entered.

Competition Prize Money (Pilot program, to be implemented for the 2011-2012 season. Review to follow afterward)

Commencing with the 2011-2012 Cup season, EPSA will award prize money to our State Cup Champions as follows:

- Competitions of 20 or more teams -- \$1000 prize
- Competitions of 10 or more teams -- \$500 prize
- All other competitions of at least one game -- \$250 prize
- Checks will be made payable to the Club Entity, not to an individual.

As a result, team stipends will not be awarded to those teams progressing to the National Round.

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