



Champions Cup

Rules and Regulations

A. TEAM ENTRY

1. Any forfeit determined by the Champions Cup Commissioner will be subject to a fine of \$200.00.
2. Any team who withdraws from the competition after it has started will be subject to a fine of \$200.00.
3. Any team and/or league that forfeits will be considered not in good standing and its teams will not be permitted to play in any future Champions Cup competition.

B. SCHEDULING

1. Teams will be scheduled by a blind draw to be held by the State Registrar in the preliminary round.
2. Semi-final and final games will follow the published bracket.

C. ROSTERS

1. Teams must use their Mass Soccer Champions Cup game day photo roster. Teams are allowed no more than 30 players on their tournament roster.
2. Rosters must be completed 5 days prior to the start of the tournament and will remain unchanged for the entirety of the state competition.
3. All participating team's tournament rosters are available online. It is the responsibility of both teams to review their opponent's rosters before the match.
4. No more than 5 guest players may be added to a player pool who have not previously appeared on the team's regular league roster.
5. No more than 18 players from the player pool may be in uniform for a game. Teams must strike through the players on their player pool who are not going to participate.
6. Players are bound to a team once they play for a team.

D. COMPETITION FORMAT

1. Game Balls:

Mass Soccer will furnish the game ball(s). In the event that Mass Soccer does not supply the ball, the referee may select a ball provided by either team.

2. Grace Period:

It is the goal of the Champions Cup Committee to have every game decided on the field of play by the two opponents. However, circumstances may not allow this to take place. Teams are expected to be ready to play at the scheduled time of the match. Teams not ready to play at the scheduled start time of any match shall be granted a ten (10) minute grace period. A minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a team.

If either one or both teams are not on the field of play within the ten-minute grace period, the referee shall make a report to the Champions Cup Commissioner of the failure of the team to arrive within the grace period. The Commissioner shall review the circumstances surrounding the failure of a team to appear and may award a forfeit to the other team if only one team has failed to appear.

Only the Champions Cup Commissioner may decide that a forfeit will be awarded to a team. The Champions Cup Commissioner's decision in this matter is final and not subject to appeal.

3. Home Team - Visiting Team:

Unless otherwise indicated, the team listed first is the home team. The visiting team will have the choice of jersey colors. If in the opinion of the referee there is a color conflict, the home team shall change jerseys.

4. Team Bench – Sidelines:

A maximum of four team officials (e.g. coach, assistant coach, manager or trainer) may be on the bench. Spectators will be on the opposite sideline. Players that are not listed on the game roster may not be on the team bench.

5. NOISE-MAKING DEVICES (I.E. DRUMS, HORNS, COWBELLS, TRUMPETS, ETC.) ARE PROHIBITED.

6. Uniforms:

Each player **MUST** wear an official uniform with a six-inch minimum size number on the back of the shirt (this includes goalkeepers). Duplicate numbers are not permitted. Teams **MUST** bring an alternate jersey with a six-inch minimum size number on the back.

7. Equipment:

The wearing of shin pads will be **MANDATORY** for all players. A player will not be allowed to play without wearing them at all times during the games. There are no restrictions as to the tape color to be used if needed for shin pads and or socks.

8. Tie Breakers:

All games are single elimination and will require a winner. If a game is tied at the end of regulation play, two complete overtime periods will be played at the end of normal playing time. The time of the overtime periods will be 2 full 15 minutes halves. If a game is still tied after the end of overtime play, FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" rules will apply to determine the winner.

E. TEAM AND PLAYER BREACHES OF RULES

1. Player Send Off:

A player that has been sent off during a match must leave the vicinity of the field of play, as determined by the referee. A player who has been sent off shall not be permitted to play in the immediate next scheduled game within the Champions Cup, State Cup, Regional and/or National Cup competition. If the team has been eliminated from Cup competition before the suspension has been served, the player shall

be suspended for the next game played in within any affiliated league in Mass Soccer. This penalty may be increased at the determination of the Champions Cup Commissioner. Any appeal of an increased suspension by the Champions Cup Commissioner MUST be submitted in writing to the Champions Cup Commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours of notification of increased suspension.

2. If the team of a sent-off player allows the player to participate in the next scheduled game, that team will automatically forfeit the game.

3. Coach or Credentialed Team Official: If a Coach or Team Official is dismissed from any game, they MUST leave the bench area and the vicinity of the field, as determined by the referee.

F. RULES OF PLAY

1. Except as otherwise provided herein, the FIFA "Laws of the Game" shall apply.

2. Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage of play.

3. A maximum of 7 substitutions can be made in each game. A player who has left the game during the first half may not re-enter the game in that half. A player who has left the game during the second half or during overtime play may not re-enter the game.

G. PROTESTS

Questions relating to the qualifications of the competitors or interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest, shall be referred to the Champions Cup Commissioner. The decision of the Champions Cup Commissioner shall be binding on both teams and may not be appealed. If the protest is upheld and the game has to be replayed, it will be up to the Champions Cup Commissioner to schedule the game as it sees fit.

1. The referee and the opposing coach shall be notified of the intent to protest while at the game site either before entering the field of play or prior to leaving the game site.

2. The fee to file a protest shall be \$250, payable to Mass Soccer. The protest must be submitted in writing to the Champions Cup Commissioner, and shall include the following:

- A minimum of three (3) copies, stating the grounds of the protest and/or rule violation on which the protest is based
- The filing fee, which may be in cash, cashier's check, money order or a personal check
- Any information to be presented by witnesses must be in writing.

3. The Champions Cup Commissioner MUST receive the protest within 24 hours of the completion of the game being protested.

4. Any protest relating to the grounds, goalpost, bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained if the Champions Cup Commissioner and the Referee have approved them.

5. The Champions Cup Commissioner shall immediately upon the receipt of a protest notify the team against which the protest is made and shall give a copy of the protest and all particulars to that team, which will then have the right to defend its case, with or without witnesses.

6. A team may not engage the services of an attorney at the hearing of a protest.

7. A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the Champions Cup is not sufficient grounds for protest.

8. Judgment decisions of the referee are not subject to protest.

H. CHAMPIONS CUP – PERPETUAL TROPHY

Mass Soccer reserves the right to award a perpetual trophy to the winning team.

1. The winner will be awarded custody for one year, the Champions Cup Perpetual Trophy.
2. The coach of the team and the League will be responsible for returning the Champions Cup Perpetual Trophy prior to the play of the Champions Cup the following year.
3. In the event that the trophy is lost, damaged or not returned, the coach of the team given custody of the trophy and the league will be responsible for the payment necessary to repair or replace the trophy.
4. The team's league will be responsible for paying the cost of the trophy if its team does not pay for the lost or damaged trophy.