



Rules/General Information

May 30-Jun 1, 2025

The 2025 MidState Soccer Club Cup is an approved tournament of the Illinois Youth Soccer Association – affiliated with USYSA and USSF.

AGE GROUPS AND LEVELS OF PLAY

U8 (2017 and younger)	U9 (2016 and younger)
U10 (2015 and younger)	U11 (2014 and younger)
U12 (2013 and younger)	U13 (2012 and younger)
U14 (2011 and younger)	U15 (2010 and younger)
U16 (2009 and younger)	U17 (2008 and younger)
U18 (2007 and younger)	U19 (2006 and younger)

U8-U19 boys and girls flights will be determined once registration closes.

TEAM PARTICIPATION, REFEREE SYSTEMS AND GUEST PLAYERS

- U8 teams may have a maximum roster of 10 players, 1 guest player allowed
- U9-U10 teams may have a maximum roster of 14 players, 3 guest players allowed
- U11-U12 teams - maximum of 16 players, 3 guest players allowed
- U12 teams playing 11v11- maximum of 18 players, 4 guest players allowed
- U13-U19 teams- maximum of 18 players. (U13-U14 may allow 4 guest players) (U15-U19 may have 22 players on roster, but only 18 can dress for any game and can have 5 guest players).
- U8 teams will play 4v4, 1 man referee system.
- U9-U10 teams will play 7v7, 1 man referee system.
- U11-U12 teams will play 9v9, 3 man referee system
- U13-U19 teams will play 11v11, 3 man referee system.
- All teams must have valid player passes issued by IYSA, USYSA and/or a US Soccer affiliate.
- All teams must report to the HQ tent ahead of their first game to have player cards banded for the duration of the tournament.

Prior to competition, teams must present proof of affiliation and permission to travel (out of state teams). Validated, laminated state player passes, as well as parental IYSA medical release forms, are required for all players participating in the tournament.

- Teams are allowed 3 passed coaches on bench. Each coach in the bench area must have a valid US Youth/US Soccer pass and is responsible for his/her team and spectators at each game. Any team not having a passed coach at the beginning of the game will have until the end of halftime to provide a passed coach or the game at hand will be forfeited (see Forfeit section for impact of forfeiting a game).
- A maximum of four guest players is allowed. (5 allowed for u15-u19). The coach for the guest

player must give permission for participation by his/her signature on the IYSA Guest Player Permit. A Guest Player Permit is not required for an IYSA registered player to play with an IYSA team within the player's club – player's club pass will suffice. **Note: Guest players may only guest play for the same organizational member (example: IYSA/US Youth Soccer player with IYSA/US Youth Soccer Team or US Club player with US Club Team.**

• ***MidState Cup 2025 is adhering to and implementing US Soccer's player safety campaign. This campaign includes, but is not limited to, NO HEADING of the ball in divisions u8-u11.***

AWARDS

- Individual Participation Awards will be presented to participants at the U8 age level. Team and individual awards will be presented to Champions and Runners-up, for U9-U19 age divisions.
- After Championship matches, please have teams report to stage area/registration tent for awards presentation.

APPLICATION PROCESS

If you wish to participate in the 2025 MidState Cup, please complete the GotSport application in its entirety and send in entry fee (U8 \$395; U9-U10 \$650; U11-U12 \$720; U13-U14 \$780; U15-U19 HS \$795).

- Receive an Early Registration Discount if registered prior to April 18!
- The GotSport registration application *MUST BE* completed by May 9!
- Clubs with 5 or more teams registered receive a \$50 discount per team!
- Please make all checks payable to: **Decatur Park District.**
- Mail checks to:

MidState Cup Tournament Registration
Decatur Indoor Sports Center
1295 W. Wood
Decatur, IL 62522

○ **Applications without fee will not be accepted until payment received.**

- Notification of acceptance will be e-mailed and posted on the website no later than May 16.
- Those teams not accepted into the tournament will have their entry fee returned with nonacceptance letter.
- Should a non-accepted team later be granted entry into the tournament, the team will be required to re-submit the entry fee. Any team that withdraws from the tournament after being accepted will forfeit their fee.
- MidState Soccer Club Staff prides itself on fostering an environment that is both fun and competitive for youth soccer. In order for the staff and committee to continue with our standard of excellence, it is imperative that accurate information is provided for all teams wishing to participate.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

- All teams are required to check-in ONLINE by May 23, 2025. The following documents should be uploaded to GotSport by May 23, 2025:
 - Official State or US Club roster.
 - USYSA Permission to Travel form for teams outside Illinois.
 - Official Tournament Roster. Rosters may be changed up to the first day of the tournament, at which point it is frozen and cannot be altered for the tournament.
 - Form NT for non-IYSA/US Youth Soccer teams (plus proof of insurance).
 - No player shall be allowed to register for more than one team or switch from one team to another during the course of the tournament.
 - IYSA Guest Player Form for any player not on the Official League Roster. A Guest Player Permit is not required for an IYSA registered player to play with an IYSA team within the

player's club – player's club pass will suffice.

- IYSA Medical Release forms for each player (**MUST HAVE WITH YOU DURING TOURNAMENT**)
- IYSA Risk Management Certificate
- All rostered players must have a current laminated player pass.

GAME DURATION AND PLAY

DIVISION BALL SIZE PRELIMINARY GAMES SF/FINALS

U8 4 40 minutes (2 x 20 mins) N/A

U9-U10 4 50 minutes (2 x 25mins) 50 minutes

U11-U12 4 50 minutes (2 x 25mins) 50 minutes

U13-U14 5 60 minutes (2 x 30 mins) 60 minutes

U15-U19 5 70 minutes (2 x 35 mins) 70 minutes

GAME PROCEDURES

- All parents and spectators are required to sit on one side of the field opposite the players.
- Home team takes north/west bench and takes kick-off.
- Referees will pull the score card from the field box complete it, have winning coach sign it, and return it to the field box into the completed score cards envelope. Home team is listed first on schedule.
- Teams are allowed 3 passed coaches on bench. Each coach in the bench area must have a valid US Youth/US Soccer pass and is responsible for his/her team and spectators at each game. Any team not having a passed coach at the beginning of the game will have until the end of halftime to provide a passed coach or the game at hand will be forfeited (see Forfeit section for impact of forfeiting a game).
- Home team is listed first on schedule and is required to wear light color jerseys. In the event of a color conflict, the home team is required to change jerseys. All teams must have an alternate set of jerseys.
- Teams should be prepared to provide a "club linesman" if necessary.
- Off-sides rule will be enforced for ages U9-U19. No offside at U8.
- Home team is responsible for providing a game ball.

TOURNAMENT SCORING/TIE BREAKING

Games in the preliminary rounds will be scored as follows: Win – 3 Points, Tie – 1 Point, Loss - 0 Point

In the event of a tie in deciding group positions, the following criteria will be used to break the tie:

1. Head to head competition (does not apply when more than 2 teams are tied. Go directly to next tie-breaker)
2. Goal Differential (max 4 per game)
3. Most wins
4. Fewest goals allowed
5. Most Shutouts
6. Most goals scored
7. Penalty Kicks

NOTE: If more than 2 teams are still tied through the first 6 tie-breakers, then cards will be pulled to eliminate down to two teams & then remaining two teams will decide winner with penalty kicks.

OVERTIME PERIODS

During group competition, no overtime will be played. In the event of a tie in semi-final, third place and championship games, the following will occur:

- Teams will play two 5 minute overtime periods using Golden Goal format.

- If still tied after overtime periods, teams will designate five players to take alternate penalty kicks: the best of five is the winner. Only those players on the field of play at the end of the second overtime period are eligible to take penalty kicks.
- If teams are still tied after 5 kicks, the remaining players left on the field will take alternate penalty kicks in sudden death fashion to determine a winner.

EQUIPMENT

- In accordance with the IYSA, Rule 007, which endorses FIFA Law 4, "A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player." Therefore, no prescriptions glasses are permitted, only sports goggles.
- Casts are permitted with proper padding.
- No jewelry may be worn by any player (earrings, watches, necklaces, etc.). Tape over jewelry will NOT be allowed. (Revised)
- Shin guards must be worn by all players at all times.
- All players must have an individual number on their jersey, no duplicate numbers.
- In case of a jersey color conflict, the designated home team will change.
- All players' equipment is subject to referee approval.

FORFEITS

- Three players constitute a team for U8. Five players for U9-U10, seven players for U11-U19. Games will commence on time if the minimum numbers of players are present. A forfeit shall be awarded if a team is not present and prepared to play within five minutes of the scheduled start time.
- In the event of a forfeit, the winning team will be awarded a 4-0 win.
- Any team that forfeits a game may not advance to the semi-final or final round.

SUBSTITUTIONS

- U8- Substitutions shall be unlimited & made on the fly at reasonable times in accordance with good sportsmanship.
- U9-U19, substitutions shall be unlimited, but made only at the following times:
 - Goal Kick – both teams.
 - After a goal – both teams.
 - Half time – both teams.
 - At the beginning of an overtime period – both teams.
 - Throw – in, both teams may sub if the team in possession of the throw is subbing.
 - After a yellow card, for carded player only.
 - An injured player may be substituted for at the discretion of referee. If a substitution is made for the injured player, the opposing team may also make a "one-for-one" substitution.
- **U8 DIVISION *MidState Cup 2025 is adhering to and implementing US Soccer's player safety campaign. This campaign includes, but is not limited to, NO HEADING of the ball in divisions u8-u11.***
 - Playing time should be shared between all players to maximize player engagement
 - 2 halves of 20 minutes.
 - Substitutions are unlimited & can occur at any time.
 - Throw ins
 - Players should try not to enter the goal box areas. If a defending player enters goal box area & touches the ball a penalty kick (with no goalie) is awarded from the half way line. Players running through the goal box without touching the ball will not be penalized. If a defending player continually stands in the goal box (even if not touching the ball) they will be penalized for acting as a goalkeeper/goaltender & a penalty kick is awarded. This helps with goaltending attacking and sitting defenders back in the goal, which are both contradictory

to development of players.

- If a shot is taken & stops in the box it is NOT considered a goal. A goal kick will be awarded. If a player from the defending team does not let the ball come to a complete stop when it could still spin into the goal, a penalty kick is awarded to the attacking team. If the defending team touches the ball outside the box & it comes to a complete stop in their own penalty box, play will restart with a corner kick.
- If a shot is taken from the defending half and enters the goal, the goal is not awarded & goal kick is awarded to the opposing team to restart the game. This helps individual player development & team development to build up in the defending half rather than hitting it long.
- Players will retreat to half way line on opposing goal kicks. As the ball is passed out on goal kicks the opposing players may not advance until the next outfield player has taken their first touch.
- All free kicks are indirect
- No offside
- **U9/U10 DIVISION *MidState Cup 2025 is adhering to and implementing US Soccer's player safety campaign. This campaign includes, but is not limited to, NO HEADING of the ball in divisions u8-u11.***
- Players will retreat to the buildout line on the opposing team's goal kicks and when the opposing team goalkeeper obtains possession of the ball in his or her hands during the run of play. No punting is allowed by the goalkeeper. As the goalkeeper distributes, i.e. rolls or passes the ball out, the opposing players can then advance. If the goalkeeper dribbles the ball the opponents may advance. This helps promote the game being played on the ground out of the back with limited pressure. It also is in line with U.S Soccer standards as there is no heading at this age.
- Offside should only be called only between the buildout line/goalline. Offside will NOT be called between the halfway line and buildout line. However, these are single referee games and the referee will not be straight across from the second to the last defender in most cases. So, the referee should call offsides when it is obvious that the player is offside, not when he is barely or marginally offside. It is one of those situations where the referee is absolutely right in calling it when it is noticeable and not guessing if the player may or may not be offside due to the referee's positioning. These are 9 and 10 year olds, and while we want to get offside correct every time, with a one man crew, perfection cannot be expected.

PROTESTS

- All referee decisions are final. No protests will be heard on any judgment calls by the referee.
- All protests must be written to the tournament committee within one hour after completion of the game, along with a check for \$100. If the protest is not upheld, the protest fee will not be refunded.

EJECTIONS

- A player, who receives a red card, will receive a minimum of a one game suspension. The tournament committee can increase that suspension if warranted.
- The throwing of a punch is an automatic removal from the tournament.
- A coach who receives a red card will receive a minimum of a one game suspension plus possible intervention by the tournament committee and their state association.
- No substitution can be made for a disqualified player for that game.

CONCUSSIONS

- Referee & Athletic trainer will determine whether a player should leave the field of play for treatment for any concussion. Athletic trainer will determine whether a player is fit & ready to return to play. This is at the trainer's discretion to follow this protocol. Any decision for a

player to return to play will not rest in the hands of a coach/parent of player. If a player is deemed to have a concussion their card will be pulled from the team cards & will not be able to return unless released by a medical doctor.

PORTABLE EQUIPMENT POLICY

All cameras and tripods must be properly secured according to the manufacturer's specifications for the field and weather conditions. Individuals and clubs should purchase property and liability insurance coverage for their personal property. Midstate Soccer Club and Illinois Youth Soccer does not provide insurance coverage for claims resulting from the use of personal property including but not limited to cameras, tripods, tents, banners, grills, seating, containers, etc.

DISCLAIMER

The tournament committee reserves the right to:

1. Reschedule, relocate, or terminate games due to weather conditions. If half of the game has been played before termination for weather conditions or tournament director decision, the game stands as a completed match and is scored accordingly. NOTE: the referee or Tournament Director may suspend a game without necessarily being terminated.
2. Reduce by up to half, the duration of the game.
3. Cancel a preliminary game that has no bearing in deciding the group winner.
4. Decide the final tournament standings, trophy winners.
5. Move penalty kicks to another field or area in order not to hold up other games.

The tournament director has the right to change any of these rules or make a decision that would be in the best interest of the participants. Neither the Tournament Committee nor MidState Soccer Club is responsible for any expenses incurred by any team in the event games are discontinued or cancelled due to inclement weather or adverse field conditions. If the tournament is canceled prior to its start due to an "act of nature" as determined by the IYSA, the tournament will refund the team entry fee with the option of retaining up to 20% to cover expenses. The tournament Committee reserves the right to decide all matters pertaining to the tournament, and the judgment is final. Please remember that the MidState Cup is dedicated to the development of all the young men and women participating in the tournament and fostering good sportsmanship. The Tournament Director may suspend, without recourse or appeal, any players, coaches, or spectators who demonstrate anything less.