



# Western NY and PA State Cup powered by GLA\_NPL

**May 16-17, 2026**

**Location– Erie Sports Park, Erie, PA**

**Age Categories:** U8 through U19 Boys and Girls.

The WNY-WPA State Cup will offer Both a Super Group Division as well as a Premier Division.

Winners of the 13U and Older Super Group Division advance directly to the National Cup XXV Finals July 2026 in Colorado.

Winners of the 13U and Older Premier Division advance to the National Cup XXV Midwest Regional at Waukegan/Libertyville, Ill. in June, 2026

**The Great Lakes Alliance pays for entry fee into the postseason events for the Championship teams.**

The Tournament Director reserves the right to adjust the team's selected divisions in order to balance the competitiveness of certain divisions, based on the teams entered. Teams will be notified in advance of such changes.

If there are an insufficient number of teams in a particular division, the tournament reserves the right to play that division as one division in the Super Group. Teams will be notified in the event this is necessary.

**Team Eligibility:** All U8-U19 teams will be eligible to enter. You do not have to play in a qualifying league to participate in this open event.

Teams that are not currently carded with US Club Soccer can easily do so prior to competing in State Cup.

Format: Traditional Round Robin play with Championship Games. In groups of 4 or 5, the top 2 teams go directly to the Finals. In groups of 6 or more, there will be semi-final matches with those winners going to the finals.

U8-U10 Teams play 7v7, U11 and U12 Teams play 9v9; U13-U19 teams 11v11.

## Age Requirements

In order to play in a given age category, you must meet the following requirements:  
Age groups for the seasonal year that begins August 1, 2025 and ends July 31, 2026

Birth Year	2025-2026
2018	U8
2017	U9
2016	U10
2015	U11
2014	U12
2013	U13
2012	U14
2011	U15
2010	U16
2009	U17
2008	U18
2007	U19

The age groups are determined by the player's year of birth.

### Number of players

U8, U9, 10 – 7v7 (6+Keeper)

U11 – U12 9v9 (8+Keeper)

U13 and up – 11v11 (10+keeper)

**Roster Size** – All age groups – US Club allows up to 26 players. You may dress 14 players for 7v7 and 16 for 9v9. You may dress 18 for 11v11 matches. Younger players are allowed to play up an age group as an individual or as an entire team.

Any player in your club, provided they are age appropriate, may be listed on US Club tournament team roster. A player may not play for more than one team in an age group regardless of division.

Each team is required to submit one copy of an official US Club approved roster. Validated team US Club pass cards are required for each player and coach.

A medical liability/waiver form for each player that is on the official US Club tournament roster must be provided.

## II. Game Procedures

All games, including playoffs and championships will be played as follows:

Age Group	Length of Game	Ball Size
U8, U9, U10 (7v7)	Two 25 minute halves	4
U11, U12 (9v9)	Two 30 minute halves	4
U13 and U14 11v11	Two 35 minute halves	5
U15 and up 11v11	Two 40 minute halves	5

The first team listed on the schedule will be the home team.

There could be exceptions, but as a general rule, teams will be on the same side of the field with the home team on the North/East side and the visiting team on the South/West side.

The home team must have an alternate jersey and be prepared to change if, in the opinion of the referee, there is a color conflict.

The home team must supply the game ball.

Teams should warm up in an adjoining area by the field and should be prepared to start their game on time. No warm up on the field.

The minimum number of player necessary to start game: 11v11 is 7 (6+keeper), 9v9 is 6 (5+keeper), 7v7 is 5 (4+keeper)

In case of a team not having the minimum number of players to field a team or a “no show” by opponent: the game may NOT be called and declared a forfeit by referee. Referee must consult with assignor and tournament director. The tournament director is the ONLY official that has authority to declare forfeit.

### **Competition Format**

The competition format will be determined by the number of entries per age category.

The Ohio State Cup Tournament officials reserve the right to combine age brackets should the number of teams participating warrant such a move.

Each team will play a minimum three (3) games. (Exception: in event of opponent withdrawing from tournament or no opponent (TBA), every effort will be made to find an opponent for a “friendly” game, but the tournament cannot guarantee a game.)

Games scheduled for teams with no opponent (TBA) will be awarded the win (1-0) and the points (3).

### **III. Determining Champions in Each Group**

All teams standings shall be determined by using the following criteria, in order of importance.

- 1) Total number of points- each team receives 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss.
- 2) Record head to head (If 3 or more teams are tied, head to head will not be used.)
- 3) Goal difference- Subtract total goals allowed from total goals scored. Please note: The maximum recorded goal difference in any one game shall be four (4)
- 4) Most goals scored (up to 4 per game)
- 5) Least goals allowed
- 6) FIFA penalty kicks

In event of forfeit, rules 3 and 4 will be placed in a “per game average”

### **IV. Overtime Periods**

During group competition, no overtime will be played. Each team will be awarded one point for a tie. In playoff competition, if game is tied at completion of regulation play, no overtime will be played. Teams will go directly to FIFA tie-breaking method of kicks from the penalty mark to determine winner.

### **V. Exceptions to FIFALAWS**

#### **Substitutions:**

- 1) Substitutes are to enter the game at the centerline on the bench side of the field.
- 2) Teams in all age groups are allowed unlimited substitutions.
- 3) Substitutions may take place for both teams at the following times provided that permission is granted by the referee:
  - a) on a goal kick
  - b) after a goal is scored
  - c) on an injury, when the referee has stopped play
  - d) at half time and the start of any overtime period (in the playoffs)
  - e) after a caution is issued

- f) on a throw in -- If the team in possession of the ball is permitted to substitute, the other team is allowed to also substitute provided the player was already at the center line ready to enter the field.

### **Heading:**

Heading has been eliminated in all matches U-11 and younger. Intentionally heading the ball in these matches shall result in an indirect free kick awarded to the opponent at the spot of the infraction - or from the top of the goal area for infractions inside the goal area.

### **VI. Ejections**

If, for any reason, a player or coach get ejected from any game (receiving one [1] red card or two [2] yellow cards) the same player or coach will lose his/her eligibility to further participate in this game. In addition, they will lose the right to participate in the next scheduled game. Furthermore, they may lose the right for further participation in the entire tournament depending on the gravity of the offense. The tournament disciplinary committee's decision is FINAL. Foul and abusive language is cause for ejection.

### **VII. Protests**

No protests will be heard. **All decisions by the Tournament Directors Committee are final.**

### **VIII. Inclement Weather or Extraordinary Circumstances**

In the event of extraordinary weather conditions or field circumstances, the Tournament Director shall have the authority to change the format as follows:

- 1) Consider a game complete that has been called by the official
- 2) Reduce the scheduled duration of any yet to be played games
- 3) Cancel any preliminary game(s) having no bearing on flight winner selection
- 4) Games called off in the first half, by the referee or Tournament Director, because of weather conditions, will be decided as follows:
  - a) The team up by two goals or more shall be awarded a win.
  - b) Score difference of one goal or less will be recorded as a tie.
- 5) Games called off during the second half are confirmed complete and will be scored according to the score at the time the game is called off.

**Under no circumstances whatsoever will the Tournament Committee, Great Lakes Alliance or US Club, be responsible to any expenses (including the tournament entry fee) incurred by any team. This includes a situation where tournament or any game(s) is (are) cancelled in whole or in part.**

**FIFA rules will apply to all games, conditions, and situations unless otherwise specified within these tournament rules.**

### **IX. Illegal Activity**

- 1) Any player or spectator found using any alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs on premises will be expelled from the tournament.
- 2) Any player who destroys or steals property will be expelled from the tournament.
- 3) No firearms on premises

### **X. Refund Policy**

Once accepted into the tournament, no refunds will be granted. If weather conditions or the state of the fields make it impossible to carry out the tournament to its full extent, it is up to the organizers to make the necessary decisions concerning the arrangement or cancellation of games for any reason. Fees are non-refundable if games or the tournament are cancelled for any reason.

### **XI. Referees**

This tournament will use certified officials for all matches (USSF Rule 3040).

**XII. Blood Rule**

Any player who is bleeding and/or has blood on any part of the uniform will be sent off the field by the referee. A substitution can be made. The player sent off may return once the bleeding is stopped and/or bandaged. The affected uniform must be cleaned before the player may re-enter the game.

**XIII. Spectators**

Coaches and players will be required to stand on the same side of the field during competition – limited to three coaches/managers per team. Spectators will be required to remain on the opposite side of the field.

**XIV. Awards**

Awards will be presented to winners and second place teams for each age group. Team pictures will be taken as well. Please assemble your team at the tournament headquarters immediately following the championship game.