



MARYLAND-DISTRICT-VIRGINIA CUP RULES OF COMPETITION

The Maryland-District-Virginia Cup is sponsored and organized by the Maryland State Soccer Association bringing teams from those jurisdictions for the competition.

1. Team Eligibility

All teams and players must be registered with the Maryland State Soccer Association or a US Adult Soccer (USASA) affiliate to participate.

2. Player Eligibility

A. Any duly registered MSSA/USASA player of professional or amateur status is eligible to play.

B. A player must be registered no later than Friday prior to a scheduled Sunday match to be eligible to play.

C. A player may participate for only one club during the competition. Registered MSSA/USASA players from teams not competing in this competition may be placed in a team's play pool.

3. Player Pool

Teams may have a maximum of 30 players in their player pool. Players may be added to the pool list throughout the competition. Once a team reaches 30 players on its roster, no new players may be added.

4. Length of Match

All matches shall be played for 90 minutes, made up of two 45-minute halves. For the elimination rounds, if a winner must be determined, there will be no extra time if the match ends tied after regulation. The winner will be determined by kicks from the penalty mark as prescribed by FIFA.

5. Standings for group play

A. Point System - 3 points will be awarded for a victory and 1 point for a tie.

B. Tie Breaker - If necessary, the tiebreaker will be determined in the following order:

1. Head-to-head competition - If more than two teams are tied, then matches played among those tied teams will determine head-to-head play before moving onto the next tiebreaker.
2. Goal differential
3. Goals scored

6. Elimination Rounds

A. Group play will consist of six (6) groups divided among two divisions, the Patapsco and Potomac. The winners and runner-ups of each group will advance to the elimination rounds.

B. The two teams with the best record in each of the Divisions will be placed in the quarterfinals (using tiebreaker rules). If a distinction cannot be made, then by draw to determine who advances. The other two teams will play in the first round along with the six (6) runner-ups.

C. First Round Draw

1. The two first place teams in the first round will be set at opposite brackets. The remaining teams from the Patapsco Division will be placed in one pot, those of the Potomac Division in the other. The first round matches will have teams from the respective divisions face each other.
2. The winners will advance to the quarterfinals.

D. The draw for the quarterfinal will place teams in their respective division pots. Matches will be drawn cross division to the extent possible. Teams that played in the same group cannot be drawn against each other.

E. The quarterfinal as drawn will set the semifinal brackets.

7. Match Day Rosters & Technical Area

A. Teams must provide a copy of their league identification form showing the list of players registered for the cup pool (photo of each player included on form).

B. On match days, teams are permitted a roster of up to eighteen (18) players. The jersey numbers shall be added on the roster.

C. If a player photo is missing from the Roster, then a photo ID must be presented that includes the player's name as listed on the roster and a head shot photo of the player. The ID may be issued by a state government or recognized school. Player or players without the proper identification are not eligible to play the match unless waived by the Cup Commissioner.

D. Teams will be permitted no more than four (4) coaches in the team's technical area (bench). Only those players designated among the 18 on the Match Roster are also permitted in the technical area. All other players must view from the match from spectators area. Both teams will set their benches on the same touchline.

8. Substitutions

Substitutions shall be unlimited in numbers and players who have been substituted may reenter the match at any time. Substitutions may be made as follows:

1. After a goal by either team.
2. On a goal kick by either team.
3. On a throw-in by the team in possession
4. By either team at half time.
5. For an injured player, when play is stopped for the injury.
6. When a yellow card is given for the player given the yellow card. The substitution is not mandatory.
7. In any situation above where players are at midfield waiting to come onto play as a substitute, those players may come on as substitutes

9. Matches will start at the scheduled time. A five (5) minute grace period beyond the scheduled starting time is permitted for a team to get the minimum number of seven (7) players on the field for the start of the match. If a team fails to appear or has less than seven (7) players and the opposing team has seven (7) or more players ready to play, the latter team shall claim the match by forfeit. **THE FORFEITING TEAM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OFFICIATING FEES.**

10. In cases of conflicting colors, the home team must change jerseys.

11. All participating teams will prepare the required match forms for each match. Failure to do so will result in a \$25.00 fine.

12. The match shall be officiated by a referee and two assistant referees. All fees must be paid prior to the start of the match, divided evenly among the two teams (\$120 per team).

13. Protests

Any intent to protest a match, a notice of protest must be presented to the referee and the MSSA field delegate (if present) in the following manner:

- A. For matters concerning ineligible players, prior to the start of the match. Notice must state the ineligible player(s) and rationale. The referee/field delegate will notify the opposing team of the protest to allow ability to correct any error.
- B. For matters concerning the match itself, the notice must be given after the match is completed to the referee/field delegate. Notice must state the error for the basis of the protest. The referee or field delegate shall immediately notify the opposing team.
- C. The referee/field delegate will notify the Cup Commissioner and state the matter of protest in their match report.

- D. No protest will be considered unless it has been delivered in writing by mail, email or in person to the MSSA cup commissioner no later than 5:00 PM of the day following the match. A fee of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) must accompany the protest.

A protest on the basis of the decision, judgment or interpretation of the referee will not be considered.

14. Discipline/Suspensions

- A. An individual sent off from a match (red card) must leave the playing area. The individual may observe the match from the spectator stands but any attempts to disrupt the match or create commotion with the referees, field delegate or opposing team, then the individual shall be removed from the grounds. The match will be temporary paused until the said individual leaves.
- B. A player sent off from a match, whether the result of a red card or two yellow cards (caution) in the same match, the player shall be suspended for at least one match. Players sent off for violent conduct due to fighting or striking another player shall be suspended a minimum of two matches.
- C. The suspended player shall serve the suspension at the next scheduled cup match of the competition. If the team has been eliminated from the competition, the suspension shall be served the following year.
- D. If a player accumulates three yellow cards during the competition (excluding two yellow cards received in the same match), the player shall be suspended for one match to be served at the next scheduled match.
- E. The MSSA reserves the authority to impose further sanctions necessary to uphold the integrity of the game.

15. Spectators - Spectators must be seated on the opposite touchline from the team benches or designated seating areas in the stands. Spectators are not permitted on the field or technical area. Teams are responsible for the conduct of their supporters. If it is determined that a match is disrupted or terminated due to the conduct of a team's supporters, sanctions may include forfeiture of match, disqualification from future cup matches and a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

16. The MSSA will make every effort to have a field delegate present at a match. In the absence of a delegate, the referee shall represent the MSSA.

17. The playing of these competitions will be governed by the rules of FIFA, USSF, USASA and MSSA except as noted above.