

CUP POLICIES OF THE MARYLAND STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION

1. The MSSA sponsors five (5) cup competitions. The competitions designated below also serve as qualifiers for the Maryland entry to the respective national cups:
 - A. Rowland Cup – Maryland Open Championship (U.S. Open Cup)
 - B. Stewart Cup – Maryland Amateur Championship (U.S. Men Amateur Cup)
 - C. Hagan Cup – Maryland Women Championship (U.S. Women Amateur Cup)
 - D. Maryland Over-30 Cup – Maryland Over-30 Championship (U.S. Over-30 Cup)
 - E. Morton Cup – Maryland Cup in honor of Darwin “Lefty” Morton
2. These policies and regulations apply to all MSSA competitions.
3. All teams must be affiliated with and its players properly registered with MSSA in order to participate in the cups. Only teams registered and playing with an MSSA member league are eligible to participate in the Rowland and Stewart Cups. Teams that apply for the Rowland or Stewart Cups are not eligible to apply for the Morton Cup. Teams that apply for the Morton Cup are not eligible to apply for either the Rowland or Stewart Cups.
4. Players may participate for only one team in each MSSA Cup competition. Players competing in the Rowland or Stewart Cups are not eligible to compete in the Morton Cup.
5. Teams may have a maximum of 30 players in their player pool. Players may be added to the pool list throughout the qualifiers. Once a team reaches 30 players on its roster, no new players may be added.
6. All players must be registered at least seven (7) days prior to participation in any match. Players must present their player passes to the referee in order to be eligible to play.
7. Match Day Rosters & Technical Area – On match days, teams are permitted a roster of up to eighteen (18) players. All 18 are eligible to play in the match. Teams will be permitted to have no more than two (2) coaches and the players listed on the roster in the team’s technical area (bench). Both teams will set their benches on the same touchline.
8. Substitutions
 - A. For the Rowland, Stewart & Maryland Over-30 Cups, a maximum of 7 substitutions shall be allowed. A player who has been replaced by a substitute may not re-enter the match.
 - B. For the Morton Cup, 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. There is a 15-minute grace period beyond the scheduled starting time 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 report for each match. Failure to do so will result in a \$25.00 fine.

CUP POLICIES OF THE MARYLAND STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION

12. The duration of the match shall be 90 minutes, made up of two 45-minute halves. In matches where a winner must be determined, if tied after regulation, 30 minutes of extra time will be played in two 15-minute periods. If still tied, then the winner will be determined by kicks from the penalty mark as prescribed by FIFA. For the Morton Cup, if tied after regulation time, there will be no extra time and the match shall be determined by kicks from the penalty mark as prescribed by FIFA.

13. 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.

14. Any intent to protest a match shall be given to the referee and the MSSA field delegate (if present) prior to their departure from the field. The referee or field delegate shall immediately notify the opposing team and shall also state so in their match report. 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 9:00 PM of the second day following the match. A fee of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) must accompany the protest.

15. Suspensions

A. If a player is sent off from a match, whether a red card is issued or as the result of two cautions (yellow cards) 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.

B. The suspended player shall serve the suspension at the next scheduled cup match or matches in the competition the player received the suspension, if the team is still eligible to play in that competition. If the team is not eligible for that competition, the suspension shall be served at the next cup competition that the player is scheduled to play. If the player has no remaining cup matches during the year, the suspension shall be served at the following year's competition matches.

C. If a player receives three cautions (yellow cards) in all competitions during the cup season (excluding two yellow cards received in the same match resulting in a red card), the player shall be suspended for one match. The suspended player shall serve the suspension at the next scheduled cup match.

D. The MSSA reserves the authority to impose further sanctions necessary to uphold the integrity of the game.

16. Any player, coach, manager or individual with an interest in a team in competition who attempts to deter, coerce, or influence the field delegate or match officials in the performance of their duties shall result in a fine imposed on the team involved and/or disqualification from the competition. The delegate or officials involved shall make a written report of the incident.

17. 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).

18. 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.

19. Teams that qualify for the National Cup competitions shall represent the MSSA in interstate play during the regional qualifiers. The Regional Cup Commissioner is responsible for the schedule of all interstate play. The MSSA will provide a host subsidy to its teams that host a regional match that has officials coming from out-of-state. The subsidy is for the assistance in the payment of the referee fees. The subsidy shall be in the amount of \$100. During regional qualifiers, a team shall not receive the subsidy more than twice for any single cup competition. The maximum host subsidy given to a team participating in regional qualifiers shall not exceed \$200 for any single cup competition.

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