

Rules of Competition for Maryland Cups

1. All teams and players must be registered with MSSA. Each player must present a player pass to the referee before entering the match.
2. The Rowland, Maryland Over-30, Hagan & Morton Cups are open competitions, open to players of professional or amateur status. The Stewart Cup is an amateur competition and is limited to players of amateur status only. The Maryland Over-30 Cup is an open competition for players that reached the age of 30 on the day of the competition. A player may participate for only one club in each MSSA cup competition.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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 A player who has been replaced by a substitute may not re-enter the match.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
6. 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.**
7. In cases of conflicting colors, the home team must change jerseys.
8. All participating teams will prepare the required match report for each match. Failure to do so will result in a \$25.00 fine.
9. 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.
10. 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.

Rules of Competition for Maryland Cups

11. 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.

12. 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).

13. 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.

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