

Kansas State Soccer Association (KSSA)
State Cup Competition
(Updated April 2023)

ARTICLE I – Eligibility, Titles and Trophies

Section 1 Eligibility

The Kansas State Soccer Association (KSSA) shall annually organize a State Cup competition for men and women. Winners of this competition will be named State Champion. The State Champions will represent Kansas in the Tournament of Champions regional competitions. The State Cup competition is comprised of the following divisions:

- a. Men's Open
- b. Women's Open
- c. Men's U23
- d. Women's U23
- e. Men's Over-30
- f. Men's Over-40

Any team registered as a member of the KSSA directly or through a KSSA affiliated league is eligible to register for State Cup. The team players must be properly registered and in good standing with the KSSA. All games must be played in the state of Kansas or in Western Missouri (Jackson County, Clay County, Platte County, Cass County).

Section 2 Trophies

Trophies will be presented to each State Champion. The trophies shall be the property of the State Champion.

ARTICLE II – Cup Commissioner

Section 1 – Cup Commissioner shall have sole responsibility for administering the Competition

The Commissioner along with any Assistant Commissioners appointed at the sole discretion of the Commissioner to administer select games shall constitute the Cup Committee. The Cup Committee is authorized to rule or act on any State Cup related matter, in lieu of the Commissioner acting alone.

Section 2 Cup Commissioner Duties

The Commissioner shall:

- a) be responsible for administering all State Cup competitions within the state
- b) make available to all eligible teams an official Entry Form
- c) collect the proper fees within the established deadlines
- d) ensure compliance with State Cup Rules (the Rules)
- e) furnish registered teams with a schedule, Line up (Roster) forms, and a copy of the Rules
- f) determine player suspensions
- g) receive all protests and make determinations on protests according to the Rules

ARTICLE III – Entries, Deadlines and Fees

- 1. The Commissioner shall establish registration deadlines and entry fees.
- 2. Every registered team shall provide the Commissioner, at the time of Entry, the name of the team manager, their email address and telephone number(s). All notifications required under the Rules shall be provided the Team Manager using the contact information provided on the Entry Form.
- 3. A Team Managers list shall be provided to each registered team by the Commissioner.

ARTICLE IV - Form of Competitions

The competition shall be conducted as knockout, single loss elimination tournament.

ARTICLE V - Precedence of Games

1. Original, replayed, or postponed State Cup games shall take precedence over all scheduled games or other competitions under the jurisdiction of the KSSA, either directly or indirectly through its affiliates. Division Semi-Finals and Finals take precedence over all other games in the state, allowing "closed" times or dates to be ordered.
2. National Cup or Regional Cup games shall take precedence over State Cup games, and games of the USASA National Amateur Cup competition shall take the highest precedence.

ARTICLE VI - Team Uniforms

1. Where the uniforms of the two competing teams are similar enough to create possible player identification problems on the field, as determined by the referee, the home team shall change uniforms.
2. Goalkeepers must wear colors which distinguish them from other players and game officials.
3. Clear visible numbers must be worn on the back of the players' jerseys. Each player on a team must wear a different number.
4. Players' uniforms (jerseys, pants and socks) must be the same color for all field players. Socks must be pulled up and jerseys must be tucked in when entering the field of play.

ARTICLE VII - Player Eligibility

Section 1 Player Affiliation

Each player competing in the competition must be properly registered with the KSSA at game time.

Section 2 Secondary Registration

A player may be registered under a secondary registration for the State Cup competition with a secondary team if:

- a) The primary registration team has not entered the State Cup competition,
- b) The secondary team is eligible to participate in the State Cup competition,
- c) The player has not previously participated in the State Cup competition during the current year.

Section 3 Registration Restrictions

1. Players shall not play for more than one competing team in a division during the competition.
2. A player may play for different teams and/or different clubs in different State Cup divisions provided they are registered for each club for which they play.
3. All State Cup rosters will be frozen on a date determined by the Commissioner but no later than once the Semi-Final games begin in the related division.

Section 4 Over-30, Over-40, Over-48, U23 Competitions

Players in an age restricted competition must be of the proper age on the day of the game. Birth year, not birthdate, will be used to qualify players. Players must submit proof of age to the KSSA Registrar before being registered. In the event only one team in an age group applies to participate in State Cup, the Commissioner has the authority to declare that team the State Cup Champion without a play in game.

Section 5 Player and Coach Identification

1. Players must be identified by presenting a governmental photo identification card (e.g., driver's license, school ID).
2. Coaches or Managers must provide an KSSA approved ID Card bearing their photograph.
3. Approved Identification shall be presented to the referee before the game with the game day roster.

ARTICLE VIII - Playing Rules

Section 1 Game Conditions

1. **All games shall be played according to the FIFA Laws of the Game (“LOTG”) in effect at the time of the registration deadline, except as follows:**
 - a. The length of the field shall not be more than 120 yards or less than 100 yards; and the width of the field shall not be more than 80 yards, or less than 60 yards.
 - b. Goal nets shall be used.
 - c. **Substitutions for State Cup competition shall be unlimited. NOTE: Teams advancing to the Regional Tournament of Champions (TOC) will use limited substitution rules at that competition (Once a player has been substituted for, he cannot return to the game during the same half).**
 - d. If a game is tied at the end of regulation time, the game will be immediately decided by Kicks From the Mark (LOTG Law 10) (no overtime).
2. No more than eighteen (18) players may be in uniform or be listed on the game day roster.
3. **Only players and team officials with approved identification and one trainer from each team are permitted on the team benches during the game.**
4. At least fifteen (15) minutes prior to kickoff, each team must present the game day roster and player identification to the referee.
5. All games shall start at the designated kickoff time. A fifteen (15) minute grace period may be allowed by the referee if either team does not have the minimum number of players to begin the game. A team not prepared to play on time shall be subject to forfeit of the game.

Section 2 Game not completed

If play is stopped and cannot be resumed prior to the completion of the first half, for any reason, the game shall be replayed in its entirety, except if one of the competing teams is at fault. If play is stopped during or after halftime and play cannot be resumed, the game shall be deemed complete and the score recorded as is, except if one of the competing teams is at fault. In the event a game is not completed due to fault of one of the teams, its management or followers, the Committee shall decide the game result.

Section 3 Field Conditions

The referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the grounds in all matches and shall also have power to postpone the actual commencement of the game or to interrupt the game for a short period in the event of temporary inclemency of the weather or accidents on or around the field.

Section 4 Health and Safety Regulations

All games shall be played under any and all KSSA rules and regulations relating to health and safety matters. (see Concussion Policy) Additionally, if any fields or facilities have applicable health and safety regulations, such regulations shall be followed. In the event, there is a conflict between regulations, the Commissioner shall determine which rules take precedence with a preference for the more stringent rules. These rules are not subject to protest or appeal.

ARTICLE IX - Game Officials

Section 1 Referee System

All games shall be played using a Diagonal System of Control.

Section 2 Referee Assignment

Game officials shall be assigned by the State Cup Referee Assigner who shall be selected by the KSSA.

- a. Only game officials registered with the USSF shall be assigned officials for games in the competition.
- b. Present or past members or officials of competing teams, or clubs, shall not be assigned as game officials for a game including or directly impacting a related team, unless both teams waive the restriction.
- c. Neither the Commissioner nor the Assistant Commissioners shall be eligible as game officials.

Section 3 Referee Absence

In the event an assigned game official is not present at the start of the game, substitution shall be made as follows:

- a. In the absence of the Referee, the assigned senior Assistant Referee and then the junior Assistant Referee shall substitute as the Referee.
- b. In the absence of an Assistant Referee, the Referee shall request the visiting team to provide an individual who is not a playing or coaching participant, to substitute as club linesman; if the visiting team is unable or declines to do so, the home team must provide an individual who is not a playing or coaching participant, to substitute as an assistant referee.
- c. In the absence of both Assistant Referees, each team must provide an individual who is not a playing or coaching participant, to substitute as a club linesman; if either team is unable to or declines to do so, the either team may provide both individuals, who are not playing or coaching participants, to substitute as an Assistant Referee.
- d. In the absence of any game officials, any individual agreed upon by both teams, prior to the start of the game, may substitute as the Referee.

ARTICLE X - Player Discipline

A player receiving a red card will be suspended for a minimum of one State Cup game and receive a minimum \$50 fine. The Commissioner may increase fines or suspensions based on severity. Fines must be paid before the player will be allowed to compete in any competition.

ARTICLE XI – Protests

1. Any protest concerning a game played in the competition shall be directed to the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall rule on the protest. The Commissioner's decision shall be final, subject to the State Cup Appeals Process.
2. The Referee is the final authority on the field of play. All decisions of the referees with respect to matters of fact and judgment matters are final.
3. The protest must be in writing and must state the detailed grounds for the protest.
4. The protest must be signed by the Team Coach/Manager or Team Administrator. A fee of **\$200** shall be included with the written protest. The protest must be submitted to the Commissioner within two (2) days of the game which is the subject of the protest. At the same time, a copy shall be sent to the opposing team's Team Coach/Manager.
5. The opposing team shall have two (2) days from the date the copy was received to submit to the Commissioner its statement regarding the protest, if any.
6. The protest fee must be sent to the Commissioner by cashier's check, certified check or money order, payable to the "KSSA."
7. The Commissioner shall determine the protest as quickly as possible. Additional evidence may be requested from any concerned party.
8. The decision shall be sent by email to both teams.
9. A protest may be withdrawn in writing after it has been filed. The protest fee shall not be refunded if the appeal is withdrawn.
10. If the protest is sustained, the protest fee shall be refunded. If the protest is not sustained the protest fee shall be retained by the KSSA.

ARTICLE XII – State Cup Appeals Process

1. A team wishing to appeal a decision made under Article XII - Protests, or to otherwise contest a decision made by the Commissioner or the Committee, may petition the Appeals Committee to hear its case. The Appeals Committee, consisting of the Executive Officers of KSSA other than the Cup Commissioner, at its discretion, refuse to hear an appeal, in which case the original decision will stand.
2. The appeal must be in writing and must describe, in detail, the grounds for the appeal. The appeal shall include reference to specific Rules allegedly violated by the Commissioner or the Committee.

3. The original appeal shall be signed by the Team Coach/Manager or Team Administrator. A fee of **\$150** shall be submitted with the written appeal to the Secretary of the KSSA within three (3) business days from receipt of the decision being appealed. Confirmation that all other concerned parties were notified must be included with the written appeal.
4. The fee must be in the form of a cashier's check, certified check, or money order payable to the "KSSA."
5. The Appeals Committee shall determine the appeal as quickly as possible. Additional evidence may be requested from any concerned party.
6. Notice of the Appeals Committee determination shall be sent by email, to all concerned parties.
7. An appeal may be withdrawn in writing after it has been filed. The appeal fee shall not be refunded if the appeal is withdrawn.
8. If the appeal is sustained or not heard, the appeal fee shall be refunded. If the appeal is denied or determined to be frivolous, the appeal fee shall be retained by the KSSA.
9. Unless otherwise established by the KSSA Board, the Appeals Committee shall consist of the Executive Board of the KSSA.

ARTICLE XIII - Scheduling of Games

Section 1 Drawing of Pairings

1. A blind draw shall be used to determine pairings in the first round.
2. The Commissioner shall announce the date of the Draw and notify each registered team.
3. The most recent State Champion and runner-up in each division, shall be given preference for byes, if applicable in the opening round. If possible, these teams shall be placed in separate brackets for determining the Draw.
4. As far as practical, best efforts will be made to have teams paired with a team from a different league in opening round games.
5. The team drawn first in each pairing shall be the home team.

Section 2 Amendments to Rules

In order to facilitate timely and orderly completion of games during extraordinary circumstances, the Commissioner may approve any extension, waiver, or modification of the above scheduling rules, in order to assure timely completion of games. All scheduling disputes shall be decided by the Commissioner, whose decision shall be final.

ARTICLE XIV - Matters Not Provided For

Section 1 Rules Changes

The KSSA Executive Board has the right to add, delete, or revise any of the Rules at any time, except those matters directly governed by and/or authorized by the USSF. Proper notice will be given to all interested parties of such changes.

Section 2 Cup Commissioner Rules

Any matters not provided for in the Rules and any interpretations of the Rules, shall be determined by the Cup Commissioner. Such decisions shall be final.

Section 3 Communication Responsibility

The KSSA is not responsible for receipt of notifications to any party, provided the notifications were sent according to the provisions of the Rules.