



2019 Minnesota Cup Tournament Rules

May 24-27, 2019

Background

The Minnesota Cup is US Club Soccer's State Cup for member teams and clubs in the 11U through 19U boys and girls age groups. 13U+ Cup winners earn advancement and free entry into US Club Soccer's National Cup XVII Midwest Regional event held in Libertyville & Waukegan, Ill. June 21-24, 2019. New for 2019, 11U & 12U winners earn sponsored entry to TCSL Summer Cup*.

**TCSL teams only*

Team Eligibility

Minnesota Cup is open to all US Club Soccer-carded teams. Teams that are not currently carded with US Club Soccer can easily do so prior to competing in the Minnesota Cup. The US Club Soccer passcards will be valid for the entire registration year, and can be used for other U.S. Soccer-sanctioned events. Teams that are not currently a part of a Twin Cities Soccer Leagues member club and/or are not currently a part of the TCSL league structure may participate in the event without restriction.

Club Pass

Per TCSL & US Club Soccer values, the use of the club pass is allowed in this event. Any age-eligible player from a team's club may participate. However, these players must be listed on the team's roster prior to the team's first game. A player may only play for one team in the Cup.

Age & Division Categories

11U-19U Boys and Girls with Super Group (highest level) & Premier levels offered.

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.

Format

The competition format will be dependent on the number of entries per age category. Tournament authorities reserve the right to combine age brackets should the number of teams participating warrant such a move. In general, format will be as follows although slight variations may occur. Please note: maintaining one match per day, if possible, is a TCSL developmental principle.

- Groups with eight (8) teams will be divided into two (2) groups of four (4); and play three (3) group games followed by a final.
- Groups with six (6) teams will be divided into two (2) groups of three (3); and play three (2) group games followed by a final. Group 1 winner will play Group 2 winner in final; Group 1 second place will play Group 2 second place; Group 1 third place will play Group 2 third place.
- Groups of five (5) teams will play four (4) round robin matches with the group winner declared the champion. Please note in this format, a limited number of teams will play two games in a day.
- Groups of four (4) teams will play three (3) round robin matches with group winners advancing to final.
- Groups of three (3) teams will play two (2) round robin matches with group winners advancing to final.

Check-In

Teams are responsible for checking in at tournament headquarters at minimum one-hour before their first scheduled tournament match.

To supply at check-in:

- 1) Each team is required to submit one copy of an official US Club Soccer approved roster at check-in. This can come in one of two forms: 1) A US Club Soccer roster exported out of KYCK Play; or 2) A TCSL/US Club Soccer roster exported out of GotSoccer.
- 2) US Club Soccer-issued player cards (cross referenced against official match roster).
- 3) Code of conduct form, signed.

Also at check-in, 13U+ teams will be asked to commit to US Club Soccer Regionals, should their team advance. Team managers/coaches should be prepared with their team's availability.

Match Procedures

All matches, including playoffs and championships, will be played as follows. All matches are full-length.

Age Group	Length	Ball Size
11U/12U (9v9)	2x 30 min halves	4
13U/14U (11v11)	2x 35 min halves	5
15U/16U (11v11)	2x 40 min halves	5
17U+ (11v11)	2x 45 min halves	5

- All matches shall use a TCSL-supplied Nike match ball. Referees shall be responsible for ensuring that the ball is supplied to the next referee on that field, if it is not him/her self.
- Teams shall warm up in an adjoining area by the field and should be prepared to start their matches on time.
- Minimum number of players to begin a match: 11v11 (7); 9v9 (6)
- 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 a forfeit. A forfeit will be awarded a 3-0 win to the opposing team.
- In the case of a color conflict between the teams' kits, the *home team* shall change.

Overtime Periods

Group play matches may end in a draw. In advancing rounds (finals), two (2) five (5) minute overtime periods shall be played, in their duration (no “Golden Goal”). If the match remains tied, kicks from the penalty mark shall decide the outcome.

Exceptions/Modifications to FIFA Laws

- 1) Substitutes are to enter the game at the centerline on the bench side of the field.

- 2) 11U & 12U: Unlimited substitutions and unlimited re-entry at any stoppage of play.
- 3) 13U+ (aligned with US Club Soccer National Cup rules): Once a player is substituted in one half, the player may not re-enter the game for the duration of the half. Once a player is substituted in overtime, the player may not reenter the game. There shall be a maximum of seven (7) substitutions in any half or in overtime of any competition. In case of a suspected head injury or serious injury, an additional substitution may be granted by the referee. Substitutions may occur at any stoppage. However, the referee shall have discretion over all substitutions, and may refuse to allow any substitution if, in his/her opinion, the purpose is to disrupt the game.

Point Calculations

Teams are awarded three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a draw and zero (0) points for a loss.

Tiebreaking criteria is as follows (in order):

- Total number of points
- Head-to-head results
- Goal differential (subtract total goals allowed from total goals scored)
- Fewer misconduct (yellow & red cards combined)
- Most goals scored (up to 4 per game)
- Least goals allowed
- Kicks from the Penalty Mark, per FIFA guidelines

USSF Mandates

Twin Cities Soccer Leagues/Minnesota Cup follows all US Club Soccer mandates.

- Heading is not permitted at 11U and shall be penalized with an indirect free kick to the opposing team

Ejections

If, for any reason, a player or coach is ejected from any match (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 match. In addition, they will lose the right to participate in the next scheduled match. 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.

Protests

No protests will be heard. All decisions by the Tournament Director is final.

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) Reduce the scheduled duration of any yet to be played games
- 2) Cancel any preliminary game(s) having no bearing on flight winner selection
- 3) Games called off in the first half, 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
- 2) 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.

All weather-related decisions will be made by the Tournament Director to ensure consistency at each complex.

Abusive Behavior

While at the fields, any coach, parent, team official, player or spectator threatening violence or engaging in verbal abuse will be subject to ejection from the tournament and the team may be ejected from the tournament as well if appropriate. This type of behavior is not acceptable at any TCSL event, will not be tolerated, and contradicts League values.

Tobacco and Alcohol

Tobacco and alcohol are not permitted on or near any playing field, any food services or any area where the public congregates.

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.

Referees

This tournament will use USSF certified officials for all matches.