

# Washington Cup Rules, Policies & Procedures (Boys HS Fall 2023)

## 1. Tournament Format:

- This tournament is divided into two different formats. The Silver and Bronze divisions will play in a Group Play format/Knockout tournament played over 3 weeks. Group play matches are played on the weekends of Nov 3-5 and Nov. 10-12. These matches will be played at the teams' home fields. At minimum, each team will host a match and play a match "away". Knockout /Finals weekend will be Nov. 17-19. These matches will be played at Ravensdale Park and surrounding venues, if needed. Each team playing Silver/Bronze will be guaranteed 3 matches unless the team is placed in an "unbalanced bracket" which may limit the possibility of playing 3 matches. The WPL will do everything in it's power to schedule 3 matches for each team.
- The Gold Division is a one weekend tournament much like the past few years with the exception that there now is a modified Loser's bracket. Teams that lose their first match in the Gold division will drop into the Loser's Bracket and play to be the Consolation Bracket winner.
- Teams are required to post their event history along with their preferred level of play in the tournament (Gold, Silver, Bronze). Teams will be seeded into divisions by their preferred request, their reported history and from League standings as of 10/9. The WPL will use a "blind draw" to form brackets within each level of play (Gold, Silver & Bronze).
- Depending on the division set up, either the top 1 or 2 teams from each bracket will advance. Once brackets are formed, the advancement of each division to the Finals weekend will be published. All Championship finals are played on Sunday.

## 2. Player and Coach Passes and Affiliation:

- All players and coaches are required to have a valid US Club ID card laminated with head shot picture or virtual. See WPL Rules for more. No exceptions!

## 3. Player and Coach Eligibility and WA Cup Rosters

- Rosters for the WA Cup will be pulled from the Washington Premier League/US Club Passcards and Rosters event. Rosters must be updated in that Event.
- Rosters will be frozen for the Silver and Bronze Divisions on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:59 PM. Rosters will be frozen for the Gold Division on Tuesday, November 21 at 11:59 PM.
- Note to Registrars: any changes made to the roster in the "Washington Premier League Passcards and Rosters" after the freeze date will not be

reflected on the Washington Cup Roster. (Any roster changes after the "Roster Freeze deadlines" must be approved by the WA Cup Tournament Committee no less than 24 hours prior to the team's first match).

- Any roster issues please email [mea@wpl-soccer.com](mailto:mea@wpl-soccer.com)
- Match Day Rosters must be accurate. Please doublecheck all the information.
- Every Match Day Roster must have the following:
  - All players must be printed on the team's Official US Club Roster and the Match Day Roster. No handwritten players allowed unless approved by the WA Cup Tournament Committee.
  - All jersey numbers must be listed for all players – the referee is allowed to update a jersey number on the Match Day Roster, if needed. (the referee must initial any changes made). Duplicate jersey numbers are not allowed for WA Cup. No exceptions! Players must each have a unique jersey number.
  - The Primary coach for the team must be listed on the Match Day Roster. The Primary Coach's name may be written in.
  - A limit of 4 Club staff are allowed on the team bench side of the field. Each staff member MUST have a valid US Club ID card with them, preferably on a lanyard around their neck. Virtual Cards are allowed. NO CARD, NO COACH.
  - Only rostered players are allowed on the team side of the field.
  - All Players must have a valid US Club ID card. A valid physical or virtual card is acceptable. NO CARD, NO PLAY.
- All eligible players must be listed and current on the club's/team's US Club Master Roster.
- Washington Cup/US Club maximum roster size is 26 players. A maximum of 18 players may be listed on the WPL Match Day Roster for Washington Cup.
- WPL/US Club players may only be rostered to one team for any Washington Cup competition per "soccer year" "June 1 to May 30". Example: if a 14U player is rostered on an 15U team and plays in the 15U Washington Cup, the player is not allowed to play on a 14U team for the 14U WA Cup or any other age group. All other Washington Cup/WPL player eligibility rules apply.
- **No "guest players" or "Club Passing" allowed in WA Cup events.**

#### **4. Roster & Match Day Roster Requirements**

- Teams may roster up to 26 Players on the US Club Official Roster
- The US Club Rosters are frozen in the Gotsport system on May 3, at the end of the day (6pm).

- Both the US Club Roster and the WPL Match Day Roster must have matching jersey numbers listed for all players. If there is a change, it must be reported to the center referee, the opposing team, and a Tournament official, immediately. The Center Referee must initial the change.
- WPL/WA Cup Match Day Rosters cannot be printed until Thursday, Nov. 2, to allow for any last-minute updates (unless your team has not made any changes)
- WPL/WA Cup Match Day Rosters must be printed. Handwritten WPL/WA Cup Match Day Rosters are not permitted. Handwritten changes may be made, but they must be approved by the Tournament staff. Please note, we do not have staff at every field due to the number of venues required. Teams must make sure their WPL/WA Cup Match Day Rosters are correct and printed.

## **5. Match Day Procedures**

- Teams must have in possession the following for each Match played:
  - Three copies of the team's WPL/WA Cup Match Day Roster
  - Two copies of the team's Official US Club Master Roster
  - Valid US Club ID cards (with a current head shot photo) and laminated for all listed players on WPL/WA Cup Match Day Roster
  - Valid US Club ID Card for all coaches/staff with current photo and laminated (must be always on their person). Preferably on a lanyard.
  - Physical copies of all the medical releases for each rostered player, signed by their parent/guardian.
  - Proof that all parents, players, coaches, and staff have completed the Concussion Compliance and Cardiac Arrest Protocol.
- Teams must present the following to the referee for the pre-match check in
  - 2 copies of their printed WPL/WA Cup Match Day Roster
  - If the WPL/WA Cup Match Day Roster has handwritten changes, there must be a notation from the tournament staff of approval. In the event of jersey # change, the center referee can approve handwritten jersey # changes by initialing his/her approval next to the change.
  - Valid US Club ID player and Coach ID cards for all players, coaches, and team staff (a maximum of 4 coaches/staff members may be on the sidelines for each match). No valid card, no play. No valid card, no coach or access to the team technical area.
- Teams must present the following to the opposing team (prior to the match starting)
  - A copy of your WPL/WA Cup Match Day Roster.
  - If any handwritten changes were made to the WPL/WA Cup Match Day Roster, see Section B above. The center referee may only approve jersey #

changes by initialing next to the jersey # change and crossing off any player that will not be playing. A staff member from the opposing team must also acknowledge, by initialing next to the handwritten adjustment.

- US Club Official Roster, if requested by the opposing team.
- Post-Game
  - Immediately after the match, both teams must report the score by logging into GotSport  
Pin Number: 7775  
Game number: found on the schedule

## **6. Match Lengths for B15U and Above:**

- All WA Cup matches are 80 minutes in length, or two 40-minute halves with a five-minute halftime. Scores for matches played in the group stage will be recorded after regulation play is completed. Matches may end in a tie.

## **7. Scoring Method**

- The Group play stage will be scored as follows:
  - 3 points for a win
  - 1 point for a draw
  - 0 points for a loss
- Group play tiebreakers are as follows:
  - Head-to-Head
  - Goals against
  - Goal differential
  - Goals for (maximum of 5 goals per match)
  - Shut outs recorded
  - Coin Toss
- Teams playing in the Knockout stage (quarterfinal final or semifinal matches) must win to advance. If a match is tied at the end of regulation play, matches will go directly to "Kicks from the Mark" to decide the winner.
- For the Finals only, If a match is tied at the end of regulation play, 2, 5-minute "Golden Goal" periods will be played. If at anytime during these 2 periods a goal is scored, the match is over. Matches still tied at the end of the "Golden Goal" periods will go directly to "Kicks from the Mark" to decide the Champion.

## **8. Forfeits**

- Forfeits will be recorded with a result of 1-0. The WPL and the Washington Cup tournament committee reserve the right to impose sanctions on teams that forfeit matches. Forfeiting teams will be fined, and/or expelled from the tournament and/or impose other sanctions as deemed appropriate by the WPL and the Washington Cup tournament committee.

## 9. Substitutions:

- Substitutions are at the referee's discretion. A substitution can take place at any stoppage with the referee's permission.
- Unlimited substitutions are allowed but the WA Cup Committee reminds all coaches that it is their responsibility to handle their substitutions in a professional manner so as not to detract from the game.

## 10. Illegal players:

- Any player that does not appear on the US Club Master Roster shall be considered an illegal player. "Guest players" and "Club Passing" are not allowed.
- Any team using an illegal player(s) shall forfeit each match the illegal player(s) were rostered or played in. In addition, the guilty team shall be removed from the tournament and could face other sanctions from the WPL and/or US Club Soccer.

## 11. Appeals:

- Referee "judgment decisions" are final and may not be appealed. Any other appeal must be verbally lodged with the referee and the opposing coach prior to the end of the match on site. The appeal must then be made in writing to the Tournament Director within one hour of the end of the match. The Tournament Director will review any appeal correctly filed under this rule. There is a **\$250** non-refundable fee for any appeal that is filed. All decisions of the Tournament Director/Committee are final.

## 12. Shortened/Abandoned Matches:

- Referees are the sole arbiter of the match clock. Their decisions regarding match length are final and may not be appealed. If matches are shortened or abandoned for any reason, the Tournament Director/Committee reserves the right to determine how the match result shall be determined. Decisions by the Tournament Director/Committee in determining the official match result are final and may not be appealed.

## 13. Match Start Times:

- Referees will start the match clock at the designated time regardless of whether teams are ready to play. **A referee may add time lost due to injury, but the match must conclude at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the next match.** A five-minute grace period will be allowed for teams that do not have the minimum number of players to start the match.

## 14. Minimum Number of Players to start and finish a WA Cup match:

- For 15U and older a minimum of 7 players must start and end the match. If a team does not have the required number of players (after the 5-minute grace period), they will forfeit the match with the other team receiving the win.

**15. Team Sidelines:**

- Players and Coaches of both teams must be on one side of the field, spectators on the other side (unless otherwise specified by the field rules). Coaches, players, and spectators are not allowed behind the goal line, or closer to the goal line than the edge of the 18-yard penalty line area. Only those people with a valid US Club Player or Coach's ID card are allowed on the team's side of the field. Coaches and Club Staff must have their US Club ID on their person (preferably on a lanyard around their neck) to be on the Team sideline during the match. A maximum of 4 Club staff/Coaches are allowed on the team sideline.

**16. Alternate Color Jersey:**

- Each team must have an alternate jersey color. The home team (listed first) will be responsible for changing jerseys if there is a color conflict.

**17. Cautions and Ejections:**

- Any player receiving two yellow cards in a single match will be shown the red card (Red Card rules apply) and sent off and may not be replaced. Any player that receives a Red card in a match will receive at least a one-match suspension (the next match). The Tournament Director/Committee may apply a greater suspension, if warranted. Cautions and ejections received in the Washington Cup will only apply to Washington Cup. Any WPL cautions and/or Red cards received during the 2023 Fall WPL season play will carry over to the Washington Cup tournament.
- Any coach or team official that is ejected by the referee for unreasonable behavior from a match, must immediately leave the match site so as not to be within sight or sound of the field and will serve a minimum of a one match suspension, which may be increased depending on the nature of the ejection. In the event the coach or team official refuses to leave, the referee shall suspend the match and report to the Tournament Director/Committee who may rule the match a forfeit by the offending team.

**18. Player's Equipment:**

- No equipment shall be worn that is dangerous to another player, including any cast constructed of hardened material, without approval from the Tournament Director/Committee and/or the lead match official. Shin guards, covered by socks, are mandatory. All casts and equipment are subject to approval by the match referee and/or Tournament Director/Committee. The home team is responsible for supplying 3 match quality balls for the match.

**19. Inclement Weather:**

- In any event that play cannot be started or is stopped due to weather, teams will take cover, but will remain at the match site and proceed as follows:
- If time allows resume play and play to completion.
- If there is insufficient time to play the entire match, the match will continue until the half is completed. The match will then be considered complete.
- The Tournament Director/Committee and/or the Center referee will coordinate any stoppage of play. The Tournament Director/Committee reserves the right to make whatever adjustments deemed necessary to proceed with the tournament schedule following delays due to inclement weather.

**20. Other:**

- Trainers may or may not be provided at any of the tournament match locations. Teams are encouraged to bring first aid equipment as the tournament may or may not provide those items. Emergency services (911) are to be called for all injuries, both on and off the field.
- Rules governing match venues are posted at various locations. All teams, coaches and spectators are expected to follow all posted venue rules. In addition, alcohol and swearing are not permitted at any location. Violators of these rules will be asked to leave the venue.

**21. Code of Conduct:**

- Do not tarnish the game of soccer, the WPL, US Club Soccer, USSF, your Club, your Team, yourself or your family. Behave reasonably, respectfully, and ethically.

**22.** In the event Washington Cup Rules may be deemed insufficient, WPL Rules will apply.