2012 Washington Youth Soccer Open Cup Rules

I. Format and Player Eligibility

A) The Washington Youth Soccer Open Cup - hereafter referred to as the Open Cup - is one tournament consisting of multiple dates played over the course of a few months. Teams will enter the competition at various stages of the event based on their level of participation and outcomes in various Washington Youth Soccer leagues. It will be open to all boys and girls teams Under 12 through Under 18, that participate on a Regional Club League (RCL) team, a Select team from Regional Club Associations with a letter of endorsement from their Regional Club, or a team from non-Regional Club Associations with review and approval of their player development plans by the Regional Club Subcommittee and WA Youth Soccer Technical Director/Technical Advisor. All teams shall be comprised of properly registered Washington Youth Soccer players affiliated with Member Associations, provided such teams entering and their Association are in good standing with Washington Youth Soccer and the team is in compliance with, and has not violated, the rules of Washington Youth Soccer.

B) The Open Cup will determine team placement of eligible Club Select level teams for the 2012 fall league season.

C) Players can be rostered to only one (1) team in the Open Cup. The Player Pass is not available for use in this tournament. Any team using an ineligible player(s) will forfeit all of its tournament games.

D) The Tournament Committee Chair(s) and the Competition Development Manager are responsible for scheduling all tournament games. All tournament games shall be played on the day and time scheduled at a central site selected by Washington Youth Soccer.

II. ADMINISTRATION

Tournament Committee

A) The Open Cup will have a Tournament Committee Chair(s) appointed by Washington Youth Soccer's Competition Development Manager. The Competition Development Manager will have final authority in all decisions made by the Tournament Chair(s) and Tournament Committee, as well as serve on the Tournament Committee.

III. REGISTRATION AND TEAM ELIGIBILITY

A) Applications for the Open Cup must be accompanied by the proper entry fee before the application is accepted.

B) Rosters and any revisions will be processed by the Member Association Registrar in the designated registration system. All rosters will be verified by the Member Association Registrar before the roster freeze date for the teams from the Member Association in the tournament.

C) Washington Youth Soccer will accept roster additions, releases, and transfers up to the roster freeze date set by the Tournament Committee Chair(s) and the Competition Development Manager.

D) All teams in all age groups participating in the Open Cup can have a maximum of 18 players on the roster and must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the Open Cup and the subsequent fall league by maintaining a minimum of 12 players common to the roster of both competitions.

E) Any team using ineligible player(s) will forfeit all of its tournament games.

F) **TEAM ENTRIES MAY BE ACCEPTED TO HELP FILL BRACKETS. NO PLAYER MOVEMENT WILL BE ALLOWED AFTER THE PUBLISHED ROSTER FREEZE DATE**.
   a. Players participating on a team from the first round (Round Robin) will be tied to the roster of that team for the duration of the Open Cup.

G) Any team dropping from the Open Cup shall be subject to the following:
   a. If a team drops out before the first game, the team's Member Association will be fined $500.00.
   b. If a team drops out during the preliminary round, the team's Member Association will be fined $600.00. However, if a team drops out of the tournament immediately prior to their last scheduled preliminary game or anytime thereafter, the team's Member Association will be fined $700.00 and the coach or coaches will be reported to the Washington Youth Soccer Ethics Committee. A portion of the fines may be used to defray reasonable and documented expenses of the home team to include referees and field rental, at the approval of the Tournament Committee Chair(s) and Competition Development Manager.
   c. If a team withdraws after the quarterfinals, the team may be suspended for one (1) full year from entering all Washington Youth Soccer sponsored State Cup tournaments.

H) There will be no refund of the entry fee after the registration deadline unless the tournament, for a certain age group, is canceled due to a single entry. That team may be given the option of playing "up" an age level. Teams that drop before the registration deadline may receive a refund after the refund request form is completed and approved by the Competition Development Manager and Tournament Committee Chair(s). Teams that drop after the registration deadline but before brackets have been posted will not receive a refund.

IV. CREDENTIALS

A) Each player and team official listed on a team roster must carry the US Youth Soccer membership pass. The US Youth Soccer membership pass must carry a current photograph of the player or team official, have the team ID number, be signed by that player or team official and the appropriate official of Washington Youth Soccer. These passes are to be surrendered to the referee prior to each game. In the event a player or team official does not possess a pass, they cannot play/participate in that match, and they additionally cannot be in their team's technical area. The referee will return all membership passes to the coach after verifying all players are eligible to play. The membership passes will be used to copy accurate information for the referee's misconduct report. They shall be laminated and be present at every game.

Any non-credentialed or improperly credentialed player or coach shall have their passes pulled and they may not play or participate in that game. Players must remove their jersey and will not be considered an active member of the team. A coach will be asked to be removed from the field of play and not be involved in the instruction/direction of the team before, during, and after the game.

B) Every adult who is working with the players and/or team must carry a current membership pass which includes a current, approved Risk Management number.

C) Referees will check all coaches' and players' membership passes at the beginning of each game.

D) No more than four (4) bench personnel per team will be allowed on the designated team sideline.

V. TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULES

A) All games will be played in accordance with *FIFA Laws of the Game* except as specifically modified under "Washington Youth Soccer Rules of Competition" or unless stated herein.

B) Any team forfeiting a game will be removed from the tournament and their Member Association fined [(in accordance with Section III (J)]. In preliminary play, any team forfeiting a game will have all game results deleted from division standings. In single elimination play, the score shall be reported 1-0 in favor of the opponent.

C) It shall be the responsibility of each team to maintain proper spectator conduct. Each coach, manager, club, Member Association or District official shall be held primarily accountable for the conduct of spectators for or from their respective teams. At no time shall foul or abusive language be permitted on any field.

D) From the Semifinal games on, a fourth official will be used at the games and both teams will be on one side of the field. Substitution of players will be done through the fourth official. If on sidelines, spectators will be on opposite sides from the teams.

E) Each player shall have a number on their jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey, clearly visible and a minimum of six (6) inches high. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are optional.

F) Each coach must submit a tournament approved game roster sheet to the referee showing players' names and jersey numbers prior to the start of each game.

G) The designated Home team will be responsible for changing color of the uniform jersey in the event of a color conflict. All teams are required to carry contrasting colored jersey to all games.

H) Violations and Penalties - Any infraction or violation of Washington Youth Soccer Open Cup Rules may result in any of the following penalties:
   a. Ineligibility of a player or team for tournament play;

b. Forfeiture of a game or games;
c. Return of tournament trophy and/or medals;
d. Revocation of the title "Tournament Champion" and all rights associated with such title.

I) In accordance with Washington Youth Soccer State Cup rules, the Open Cup will follow the substitution rules as follows:
a. For the U14 age group and below, unlimited substitutions shall be allowed; and
b. For all other age groups, a maximum of 7 substitutions for each team shall be allowed in each game during each half of play and during overtime play. After leaving the game during a half of play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game during that same half of play. After leaving the game during overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game.

J) Game Duration, Ball Size, and Overtime Periods

Age Group	Game Duration	Ball Size	Circumference	Weight	Overtime Periods
Under 18	Two 45 min. halves	#5	27” – 28”	14-16 oz	two 15 min. halves
Under 17	Two 45 min. halves	#5	27” – 28”	14-16 oz	two 15 min. halves
Under 16	Two 40 min. halves	#5	27” – 28”	14-16 oz	two 15 min. halves
Under 15	Two 40 min. halves	#5	27” – 28”	14-16 oz	two 15 min. halves
Under 14	Two 35 min. halves	#5	27” – 28”	14-16 oz	two 10 min. halves
Under 13	Two 35 min. halves	#5	27” – 28”	14-16 oz	two 10 min. halves
Under 12	Two 30 min. halves	#4	25” – 26”	11-13 oz	two 10 min. halves

K) Game Abandonment

a. If it has been determined that a game is abandoned by the referee due to actions of the coach, players, spectators or any combination thereof, NO REPLAY WILL BE GRANTED.

b. Furthermore, if at the time of the abandonment:
i. The opposing team is ahead, the score will be the final score.
ii. The team causing the abandonment is ahead, the game shall be considered forfeited and a score of 1-0 in favor of the opposing team will be awarded.
iii. The score is tied, the game shall be considered forfeited and a score of 1-0 in favor of the opposing team will be awarded.
iv. It has been determined that both teams caused the abandonment, then both teams will be given a loss, zero points for both teams. If this occurs in single elimination games the decision goes back to the Tournament Committee Chair(s) and the Competition Development Manager.

L) Rules of Play

a. In all cases where a game has been postponed or abandoned by a referee due to inclement weather, Tournament Committee Chair(s) and the Competition Development Manager shall determine whether the game is to be replayed in its entirety or whether the score at the time of postponement or abandonment shall stand and the game be counted as a completed game. Game may be left not played

if applicable, in which case no points will be awarded for either team. Please refer to Washington Youth Soccer's Travel Policy for further details.

VI. STANDINGS AND TIE-BREAKERS

A) Teams will be awarded points based on the following point structure:
   a. 3 points for a win (Forfeits are considered a 3-0 victory)
   b. 1 point for a draw
   c. 0 (zero) points for a loss

B) Ties in divisional standings between two (2) teams will be resolved as follows:
   a. Head to Head (winner of match between 2 teams)
   b. Winner of most games
   c. Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of seven goals per game
   d. Most goals scored with a maximum of seven per game
   e. Shut-out wins (forfeits not counting)
   f. Fewest goals allowed
   g. FIFA kicks from the penalty mark

C) Ties will stand in preliminary rounds.

   a. When two teams are tied across the board for first place in a division, and they are playing each other in their final preliminary round game, they will determine a winner using the age-appropriate overtime periods to establish the first and second place teams in that division.

   b. If more than two (2) teams are tied at the end of the preliminary round, the tie-breaking criteria will be used in the order shown, beginning at (B), to either advance or eliminate one team. The remaining teams will then be compared, beginning with criteria (A), to determine final placement.

D) Ties in single elimination games will be resolved as follows:
   a. Under 12 through Under 14 — Two 10-minute overtime periods
      Under 15 through Under 18 — Two 15-minute overtime periods

   b. If still tied after overtime periods, FIFA "kicks from the penalty mark" will apply to determine a winner.

E) The home team will be listed first in a tie breaking, elimination, semi-final or final game.

VII. PROTESTS & APPEALS

A) The Tournament Committee Chair(s) and the Competition Development Manager will appoint a Protest Panel to hear all protests.

B) A member of the State Referee Association will be appointed to the Protest Panel.

C) All necessary forms and procedures can be accessed through the Washington Youth Soccer website at www.WashingtonYouthSoccer.org.

Additional Tournament Rules or Changes

Any additional tournament rules, special rules, requirements, procedures, administrative and organizational information will be published separately.