



2026 WCOSA Cup Game Procedures

Tournament Match Format and Tiebreaking

Effective August 1, 2026

These procedures supplement the WCOSA League Rules and WCOSA Laws of the Game. The Laws of the Game govern on-field play unless this document provides a Cup-specific procedure.

1. Tournament Eligibility and Rosters

1. Only teams qualifying under the season's published WCOSA Cup format may participate.
2. Only players listed on the team's official WCOSA roster are eligible. Guest players and floating substitutes are prohibited.
3. The league may provide an official tournament roster for match check-in.
4. A player or coach serving a suspension is ineligible until the suspension is completed.

2. Match Format

Division	Players	Minimum	Halves	Halftime	Ball
U10	9 v 9	7	2 x 25 min	5 min	Size 4
U12	11 v 11	9	2 x 30 min	5 min	Size 4
U14	11 v 11	9	2 x 35 min	5 min	Size 5

1. All Cup matches use a continuous running clock. The referee may stop time for an injury or another unusual circumstance when the referee determines that stopping time is necessary.
2. No discretionary stoppage time or additional time is added.
3. Time is extended only to complete a penalty kick awarded immediately before the period expires.
4. Cup matches use the same substitution, equipment, offside, misconduct, goalkeeper, and U10 developmental rules as regular-season WCOSA matches.
5. A tied WCOSA Cup match proceeds directly to kicks from the penalty mark. No extra-time period is played.

3. Suspended Cup Matches

1. The tournament director and referee determine whether a suspended match can be resumed within the tournament schedule.
2. If the match cannot resume that day, WCOSA determines the continuation plan consistent with the published event schedule and safety requirements.
3. When a match resumes, it resumes from the exact point of suspension, including score, time remaining, restart, player count, cautions, and ejections.
4. The officials and coaches should record all information needed for an accurate continuation.



4. Kicks from the Penalty Mark

1. The head referee selects the goal based on field conditions, weather, safety, and tournament operations.
2. Spectators and nonparticipants must remain away from the area directly behind the selected goal.
3. A coin toss is conducted. The team winning the toss chooses whether to kick first or second.
4. Before each set, each coach submits five kickers in order by name and jersey number.
5. Teams alternate kicks. The first set is a best-of-five competition and ends early when one team has scored more goals than the opponent can possibly score with its remaining kicks.
6. If tied after the first set, each later set is sudden victory: after both teams have taken the same number of kicks, the match ends when one team has scored and the other has not.
7. There is no follow-up kick. After the kick, only the goalkeeper may play the ball. The kick remains active until the ball stops moving, leaves the field, is controlled, or the referee ends the kick.
8. Both teams may remain near halfway. Only the designated kickers for the current set may remain within the center circle unless the referee directs otherwise.

5. Eligible Kickers and Rotation

Set	Eligible Players	Procedure
First set	All eligible players	Five kickers per team; best of five.
Second set	Eligible players who did not kick in the first set	Five new kickers per team; sudden victory.
Third set	All eligible players	Five kickers per team; sudden victory.
Fourth set	Eligible players who did not kick in the immediately preceding set	Five kickers per team; sudden victory.
Later sets	Repeat the third-set and fourth-set pattern	Continue until a winner is determined.

1. Eligible players include the goalkeeper and eligible substitutes, except anyone who has been ejected or is otherwise ineligible.
2. A coach may change the goalkeeper during kicks in accordance with the Laws of the Game and referee instructions.
3. The referee resolves lineup, order, and eligibility questions before the next kick whenever possible.

6. Cup Conduct and Reporting

1. All League Rules, Laws of the Game, referee-protection requirements, and disciplinary standards remain in effect.
2. Ejections, serious misconduct, roster issues, referee abuse, and unusual match incidents must be reported promptly to the tournament director and WCOSA.
3. Referee judgment decisions are final and are not grounds for protest.