



SPRING 2026

illinois youth soccer

EVENT CONTACTS

CHRIS JAMROZY, CUP ADMINISTRATOR
chrisj@illinoisyouthsoccer.org



BILL BRUNO, CUP DIRECTOR
bill.bruno.iysa@gmail.com



KATIE O'MALLEY, STATE OFFICE STAFF
katie@illinoisyouthsoccer.org



MOST COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE SENT THRU GOTSPORT AND OUR NEW CUP ENEWSLETTERS.
DO NOT OPT OUT OF THESE EMAILS.

IF YOU PREVIOUSLY OPTED OUT FOR OTHER EVENTS, GO TO YOUR ACCOUNT AND CHANGE THE SETTING TO ALLOW EMAILS FROM GOTSPORT & ILLINOISYOUTHSOCCER.ORG





LEAGUE REGISTRATION

In order to be eligible for the State Cup, Presidents Cup or Illinois Cup ALL PLAYERS MUST be registered to your club in one of the Illinois Youth Soccer member competitive leagues for the Spring 2026 season.

THE ONLY exception is for Illinois Cup Gold where tournament only teams are allowed to play.



**CENTRAL ILLINOIS YOUTH
SOCCER LEAGUE (CIYSL)**



**ILLINOIS WOMEN'S
SOCCER LEAGUE (IWSSL)**



**ST LOUIS YOUTH SOCCER
ASSOCIATION - IL (SLYSA)**

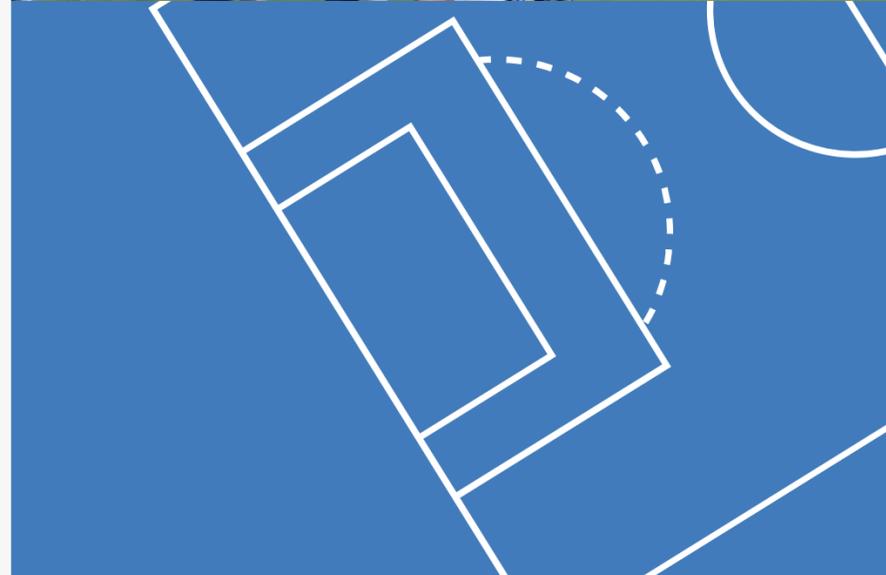
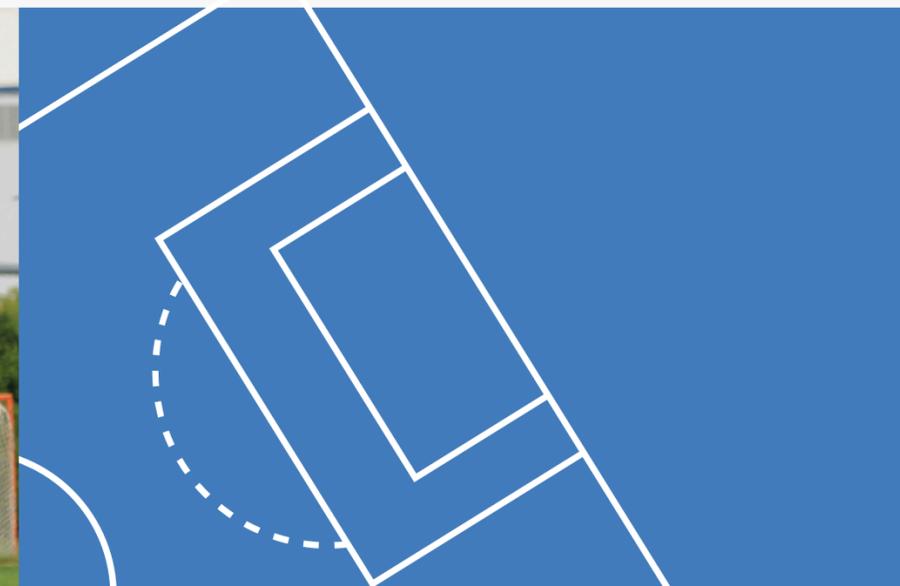


**YOUNG SPORTSMEN'S
SOCCER LEAGUE (YSSL)**



SCHEDULES

SCHEDULES FOR ALL DIVISIONS
ARE POSTED AT THE IYSA
WEBSITE OR CAN BE FOUND IN
YOUR GOTSPORT ACCOUNT





IMPORTANT DATES

FRI, MARCH 13 @12pm: Coaching Conflicts Due

FRI, MARCH 13 @ 12pm: Graduation Conflicts Due

MON. APRIL 6 @3pm: Initial Rosters Due

MON, APRIL 6 @ 3pm: Game Change & HTH Info Due

FRI, APRIL 17: Rockford Game Time Announced

WEDS, MAY 13: SC & PC HOME TEAM HOST PLAY BY DATE

MAY 15-17: Group Play Games in Rockford



IMPORTANT DATES

SUN, MAY 17: Presidents Cup Quarterfinals

MAY 22-24: Presidents Cup Semis & Finals

MAY 22-24: State Cup Quarterfinals & Semis

MON, MAY 25: Illinois Cup Home Team Host Play By

JUNE 6: 13U-14U Girls & 12U-14U Boys State Cup Finals

JUNE 6-7: Illinois Cup Semis & Finals

JUNE 7: 15U-19U Boys State Cup Finals



IMPORTANT DATES

**June 11-14: US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup
Qualifier: Great Lakes: Grand Park, IN**

July 7-11: National Presidents Cup: Wichita, KS

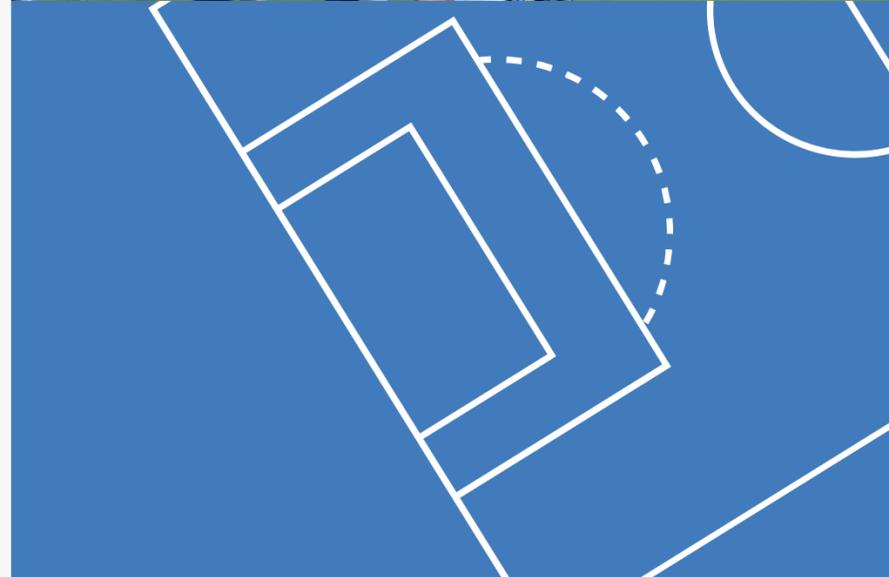
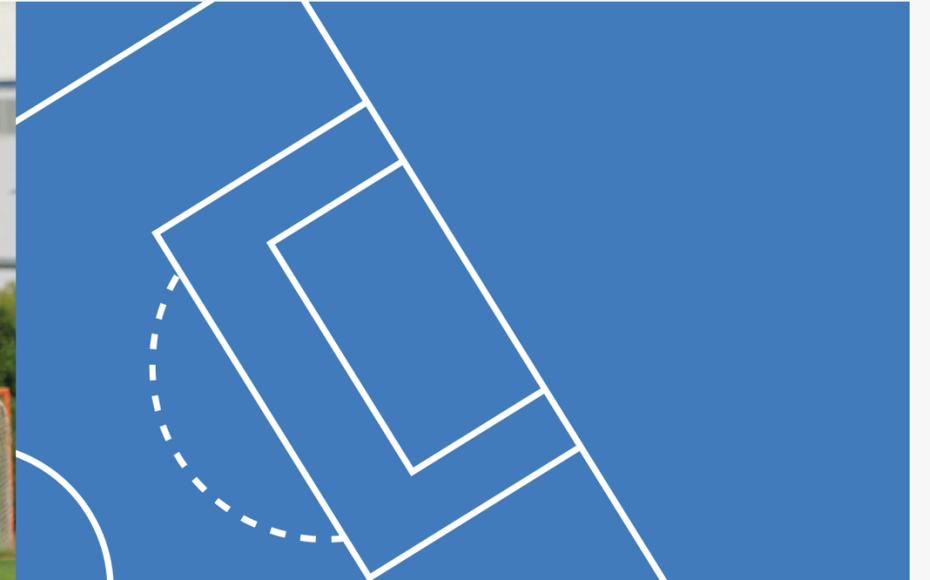
**July 13-23: USYS Girls National Championships:
Murfreesboro, TN**

**July 13-23: USYS Boys National Championships:
Salt Lake City, UT**



COACHING CONFLICTS

If you are coaching multiple teams in the any of the Spring Cup events, no later than March 13 at 12pm you must submit the online Coaching Conflict form.





LEAGUE GAME CHANGES

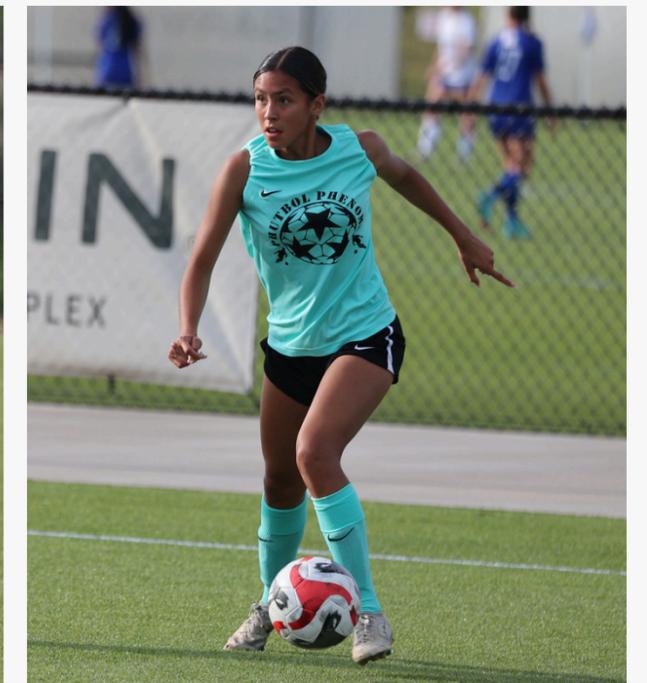
Participation in any Cup does NOT exempt you from fees charged by leagues for game changes, even if you advance to the elimination rounds

The YSSL free game change deadline is March 18

The IWSL free game change deadline is May 9

All teams (ESPECIALLY ILLINOIS CUP TEAMS) should move any game scheduled on June 6-7 to a different date should they advance to elimination rounds.

Should your team not advance - you have now created a built-in rain date for the Spring.





HOME TEAM HOST GAMES

GAMES LISTED ON MAY 11 IN GOTSPORT ARE HOME TEAM HOST GAMES

- Game is played at the HOME team's field UNLESS teams agree otherwise.
- Teams agree to the date and time.
- Game must be played NO LATER than May 13.
- Home team host info must be submitted by 3pm on Monday, April 6 or 5 days prior to the match, whichever is first.
- IYSA will still send the referees for HTH games.
- Teams that fail to meet the schedule by deadline will be subject to a \$50 per day fine.





MOVING GAMES

Teams can mutually agree to move a game schedule in Rockford on May 16-17 another date and location.

- **BOTH teams MUST be in agreement.**
- Home team host info must be submitted by 3pm on Monday, April 6 **or 5 days prior to the match, whichever is first.**
- **Games must be played by May 13.**
- IYSA will still send the referees for moved games
- IYSA does NOT pay any field rental fees for moved games
- Elimination rounds are to be played in Rockford UNLESS APPROVED BY IYSA



WE WILL NOT APPROVE GAMES CHANGES TO ANOTHER LOCATION ON MAY 16-17



SCHEDULING GAMES

Teams contact each other and come to an agreement on moving a Cup game.

Once an agreement is made, the team HOSTING the match must complete the online Home Team Host / Cup Game Change Form.

If a match is moved to a location other than Rockford and is cancelled due to weather:

- If prior to kick off - Notify the assignor.
- If the game is stopped during or pre-game, teams should work to finalize a reschedule.
- There is NO defined time that constitutes a completed match. That is at the discretion of the Cup Director.
- **IYSA will not delay elimination rounds due to moved games not being completed due to weather.**





ROCKFORD GAMES

For games that are played in Rockford

- **IYSA sets the game times - TEAMS DO NOT SCHEDULE THEIR MATCH TIMES**
- Games currently show 12pm or Earlier or 12pm or Later for general times.
- Schedules are usually in general time blocks of
 - 8am, 10am, 12pm, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm
- Elimination Round game times will be announced by March 23
- May 15-17 Game times will be announced by April 17





MOVING ELIMINATION ROUNDS

Elimination rounds are to be played in Rockford UNLESS APPROVED BY IYSA.

ONLY GAME CHANGES WITHIN THESE PARAMETERS WILL BE CONSIDERED:

- Presidents Cup Quarters & Semis moved to May 18-20
- State Cup Quarterfinals moved to May 18-20
- State Cup Semifinals moved to May 25-June 1

WE WILL NOT DELAY SEMIS OR FINALS FOR UNPLAYED MOVED GAMES



WE WILL NOT APPROVE GAMES CHANGES TO ANOTHER LOCATION ON MAY 23-24



The IYSA State Assignor, Patrick Legge, sends referees for all Cup matches including games moved to alternative locations.

If you have any day of referee issues, please contact Patrick directly at PatLeggeRefereeAssignor@gmail.com or 224-484-0990

REFEREES

You DO NOT need to confirm any referees with Patrick once the game change form is submitted.

The referees working Cup matches are also being evaluated to be selected to attend 2026 USYS National events.





ROSTERS

All roster must be entered in the official Cup roster in GotSport. There is a walk thru video on how to do so if you have never used GotSport before

Teams are ONLY allowed to use age eligible players currently registered to their club that have a USYS/IYSA member competitive league pass.

NO GUEST PLAYERS FROM OUTSIDE THE CLUB.

Up to 22 players can be on a Cup roster

18 players can dress on match day



ONCE YOU PLAY YOUR FIRST GAME YOUR ROSTER IS FROZEN FOR THE DURATION OF THE TOURNAMENT



ROSTERS

A PLAYER CAN ONLY BE ROSTERED TO ONE STATE CUP or PRESIDENTS CUP TEAM

- Does NOT matter if a player plays up in age. If a 15U player is rostered to the 16U team in State Cup they CAN NOT also be rostered to the 15U team in State or Presidents Cup.
- A player on an Illinois Cup or a 12U roster CAN also be on a State Cup or Presidents Cup roster.
 - A player CAN NOT be on two Illinois Cup rosters
- Teams /players that competed in the Fall Illinois Cup are eligible for any of the Spring Cups
- Any players on a 15U or older Girls team roster in the Fall for State Cup or Presidents Cup IS INELIGIBLE TO BE ON A STATE CUP OR PRESIDENTS CUP ROSTER IN THE SPRING



ONCE YOU PLAY YOUR FIRST GAME YOUR ROSTER IS FROZEN FOR THE DURATION OF THE TOURNAMENT



ELIGIBILITY

If a player is listed as a PRIMARY rostered player for any of the following US Youth Soccer competitions they are ineligible for Presidents Cup.

- Midwest Conference Premier I
- Midwest Conference Club Premier I
- US Youth Soccer National League

Players that are listed as Club pass and used sparingly in these competitions would be eligible but may be required to show proof of the player designation prior to their first Presidents Cup match.





SILVER ELIGIBILITY

The Illinois Cup SILVER Division is exclusive to teams and players that compete in

- IWSL C Division or Lower
- YSSL 3rd Division or Lower

All player on an Illinois Cup SILVER Division roster may ONLY be on a league roster for one of these divisions.



ONCE YOU PLAY YOUR FIRST GAME YOUR ROSTER IS FROZEN FOR THE DURATION OF THE TOURNAMENT



WHAT TO BRING ON GAME DAY

For EVERY game teams need to bring the following

- IYSA member competitive league issued player pass for all players competing
 - MOBILE VERSIONS OK
 - Printed OK
- IYSA member competitive league issued coaches pass for ALL adults on the sidelines during a game.
- Match card printed off GotSport
- Pinnies for players on bench to wear





The WINNING team or the HOME TEAM IF A DRAW, collects BOTH match cards from the referee at the conclusion of the match and does one of the following to report the score:



REPORTING SCORES

FOR GAMES IN ROCKFORD

Bring match cards to IYSA staff on site

**IF THERE IS A RED CARD THE REFEREE
WILL KEEP THE MATCH CARDS TO SEND
IN THE RED CARD REPORT**

If there are no red cards and referee keeps the match cards please email chrisj@illinoisyouthsoccer.org

FOR GAMES NOT ROCKFORD

- Scan or take a photo of BOTH match cards and email them to iysascoring@gmail.com
- Results should be submitted no later than 24-hours after the conclusion of the match



RULES

Complete playing rules will be posted on the website by March 16. **Here are a few rules changes of note:**

- **Substitutions**

- Presidents Cup & Illinois Cup: Unlimited
- State Cup **NEW RULES**
 - 12U-14U: Unlimited substitutions **over three moments per HALF**
 - 15U-19U: Unlimited substitutions **over four moments per MATCH**
 - Teams can make changes at halftime
 - There is an allowance for head injuries

- **Overtime**

- All elimination round matches that end regulation in a tie, go directly to kicks to determine winners.





RULES

Complete playing rules will be posted on the website by March 16. **Here are a few rules changes of note:**

- **Tiebreakers:** To break a tie among teams for advancement out of group play or for Wild Cards the following sequence will be used:
 - Head-To-Head Winner
 - Most Wins
 - Goal Differential: max 5 Per Game
 - Fewest Goals Allowed
 - Fair Play Points (lowest total among teams)
 - Player Indirect Red (2 yellows) = 3 Points
 - Player Straight Red = 4 Points
 - Coach Dismissal = 5 Points
 - Most Goals Scored
 - Kicks From Mark
 - If teams are not present/available for kicks the State Cup committee may replace kicks with coin toss or drawing of lots (if more than two teams)



IF A THREE-WAY TIE - Tiebreakers RESET to #1 once a team advances or is eliminated



RULES

Complete playing rules will be posted on the website by March 16.

Few other rules of note:

- Match lengths may be different than league play
- NO HARD CASTS
- **Red Cards** = fines & suspensions for players (\$50), coaches (\$300) & spectators (\$300)
 - It is the responsibility of the coach to control their spectator section.
 - Outstanding fines are the responsibility of the club to get paid
 - Red Carded players & coaches MUST sit at least the next match
 - Games where red card coach or player participates will result in forfeits & fines
 - Team may keep the player or coach passes
 - Red cards for players, coaches & spectators are calculated in tiebreakers





MARKETING MATERIALS

IYSA will have pre-made social media graphics for all teams in a Cup that you can download from our website and use throughout the competition. These will be available by April 10.

Also available here are the Cups & IYSA logo to create your own or to add to your website.

Also, teams on-site in Rockford will get any photos taken by IYSA staff of your team(s) to share with players, parents and on social media.





13U & Older State Cup winners advance to USYS National Championships

- New two-tiered format
 - Tier 1: 10 National League Qualifiers and 22 State Cup Winners - ILLINOIS IN THIS TIER
 - Tier 2: 32 State Cup winners
- Dates: July 13-23
 - 16U-19U Teams: July 13-20
 - 13U-15U Teams: July 16-23
- Locations:
 - Salt Lake City (Boys)
 - Murfreesboro (Girls)

NATIONALS PLAY SCHEDULE

DAYS 1-3: GROUP PLAY GAMES
DAY 4: REST DAY
DAY 5-6: QUARTERS & SEMIFINALS
DAY 7: REST DAY
DAY 8: CHAMPIONSHIP

**IYSA PAYS ALL REGISTRATION AND REFEREE FEES FOR TEAMS THAT
 AVANCE TO NATIONALS VIA THE STATE CUP ~ \$2700**



US YOUTH SOCCER
ILLINOIS
STATE CUP

**WHAT HAPPENS
 WHEN WE WIN**



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE WIN

- Presidents Cup winners advance to the Great Lakes USYS National Presidents Cup Qualifier
- June 11-14 in Indiana at Grand Park
 - June 11-13 Group Play
 - June 14: Championship
- Play against teams from Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio & Indiana
- 8 teams per age group so additional Wild Card opportunities
- Winners advance to US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup
- 8 teams per age group, 1 from each National Presidents Cup Qualifier
- National Presidents Cup: July 7-11 in Wichita, KS



**IYSA PAYS ALL REGISTRATION AND REFEREE FEES FOR
TEAMS THAT AVANCE TO GL QUALIFIER
VIA THE PRESIDENTS CUP ~ \$2500**



illinois youth soccer

Spring Season Coaches Kick-Off Social

FRIDAY, MARCH 13 3-6PM

APPETIZERS & DRINKS



PLEASE RSVP
BY MARCH 9

WESTWOOD TAVERN
1385 MEACHAM RD
SCHAUMBURG



QUESTIONS

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