NSC/NYSA Cranberry Cup Rules

Cranberry Cup Rules – updated *10/27/2026*

1. **GENERAL**
   - **1.1. Any reference in this document to the Tournament Director includes any official delegate by the Director to act on their behalf.**
   - **1.2.** All Games will be played in accordance with Washington Youth Soccer (WYS) and FIFA rules except as noted. Ignorance of these rules will not be an excuse or considered to be proper grounds for any protest.
2. **ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS and TEAMS**
   - 2.1. All teams' rosters must be signed by your "Club or Association Registrar" and submitted at check-in. All players must meet the eligibility requirements specified in this section.
   - 2.2. Use this chart to determine if your team and players (including guests) are eligible to participate in the Cranberry Cup.

Level of team play	**Eligible / Must request / Not eligible**
Recreational	Eligible
Select (all levels)	Eligible
RCL Division 3/4/5	Eligible
PSPL/WPL Classic/Copa/Development	Eligible
RCL Division 2, WPL Super League, EA, E-64	Must request (via planning committee)
RCL Division 1, ECNL	Not eligible

If your team plays at a level of play not listed above or you have any other questions about team/player eligibility, reach out to our planning committee.

- 2.3. Ages of Players:
  - 2.3.1. Age Chart mapped to birth year per USSF

2026 Season	
Birth Year	**Age Group**
Aug 1, 2007 - July 31, 2009	U19
Aug 1, 2009 - July 31, 2010	U17
Aug 1, 2010 - July 31, 2011	U16
Aug 1, 2011 - July 31, 2012	U15
Aug 1, 2012 - July 31, 2013	U14
Aug 1, 2013 - July 31, 2014	U13
Aug 1, 2014 - July 31, 2015	U12
Aug 1, 2015 - July 31, 2016	U11

Aug 1, 2016 - July 31, 2017	U10
Aug 1, 2017 - July 31, 2018	U9

2.4. Players must be registered with WYS, US Club Soccer, or their equivalent state or provincial organization.

2.5. **All guest players must be approved by the tournament director.** The intent is to provide Like v Like competition for a competitive and positive tournament experience. Historically match results are used for team placements, hence guest players are scrutinized to ensure team placement remains appropriate.

We ask that teams not stack their rosters with Guest Players that play at a significantly higher level than the team who is registered. If you have questions, please contact the Tournament Director.

The Tournament Director and Disciplinary Committee shall have the final authority on matters related to guest players including the granting of exceptions to any guest player limitations.

2.6. No players are allowed to play for multiple teams in this tournament (even across age groups). Forbidding multi-rostering protects the safety of players by reducing risks from over playing, so is non-negotiable.

Any player found playing for multiple teams in this tournament will face immediate expulsion from the tournament. All teams involved with these players on multiple rosters will face immediate expulsion from the tournament. All scheduled games (completed or not) will be recorded as forfeits. The affected opposing teams will have these games recorded as 1-0 forfeit win, earning 3 points in the standings.

2.7. Failure to provide eligibility or falsifying eligibility of player(s) will result in the team(s) expulsion from the tournament and forfeiture of all games that the team won or tied. That team shall have all games recorded as losses by a score of 0-1. Details will be forwarded to WYS for possible further disciplinary action.

2.8. Full tournament registration payment is required in order for a team to be eligible to participate. Brackets will be closed once filled.

3. TEAM CHECK IN PROCEDURE

3.1. **Teams MUST check in electronically via email to: cranberrycup@northshoresoccer.org any time prior to November 26, 2026 at 10am.** At check-in, you must provide:

- A final roster signed by your club or association registrar
  - The Association signed roster shall include the player's full name, date of birth, and jersey number.
  - **Guest players must be indicated as such next to their name, as well as the unique team number of their home team. All guests must be indicated and approved by the Director to ensure appropriate team division placement.**
  - Failure to provide a final roster can result in forfeiting your game(s).
  - No changes to your roster will be allowed after check-in.

3.2. The following is NOT required for check-in but must be available upon request at any time during the tournament:

- Medical Release forms for each player.
  - Teams must maintain physical copies of these forms available during all matches.
- Proof of age for each player.
  - Must be available upon request at any time during the tournament.
  - Player Cards are not required, however, all teams must be able to provide proof of age for any player if requested throughout the tournament weekend. Player cards are considered valid as proof of age.

3.3. Teams from outside Washington must provide proof of permission to travel from their home state association.

3.4. Foreign teams must provide proof of permission to participate in this tournament from your Provincial or National Association.

3.5. Teams which cannot be accommodated in their age division and competition level will be notified of their options. All teams will be given the option of "playing up" at a higher competition level when they cannot be bracketed in their preferred age division and competition level. Teams not choosing to "play up" or teams unable to be accepted because of a surplus or deficit of teams in an age division or competition level will be refunded their full entry fee.
We reserve the right to combine or modify age divisions to balance competition.

3.6. Teams dropping out after the registration deadline of November 11, 2025 will receive no entry fee refund.

3.7. Returned Checks: Teams whose check has been returned for insufficient funds will not be allowed to take the field until the registration fee has been paid in full (including bank charges incurred by the Northshore Youth Soccer Association) by either cash or money order.

4. RULES

4.1. This tournament shall be held in accordance with WA Youth Soccer (WYS) Rules and Regulations and North Puget Sound League (NPSL) Operating Procedures, except where noted. If there are any questions on these rules, a set will be maintained at tournament headquarters for reference.

4.2. The tournament will comply with Federal, State, Local and Association guidelines as it applies to COVID-19 protocols.

4.3. The Tournament Director and Disciplinary Committee shall have the final authority on matters related to the rules.

4.4. The referees shall have total control of their fields during their assigned matches.

4.5. Each coach will be personally responsible for the proper conduct of their team, including players, parents, guests and staff, as well as himself or herself. **Abusive behavior toward referees, opponents, tournament staff, spectators, etc. will not be tolerated.** Any such actions are grounds for immediate individual or team removal from the tournament and tournament facilities.

4.6. All teams must have matching uniforms; each player will have an identifiable (unique) number on his/her jersey. Exception: goalkeepers are not required to have matching uniforms or numbers on their jerseys.

4.7.

Age	Format	Roster size	Match roster size	Max # guests	Ball size	Duration (+5 minute halftime)
U9-U10	7v7*	12	12	5	4	2 x 25 minutes
U11-U12	9v9*	14	14	6	4	2 x 30 minutes
U13-U14	11v11	18	18	6	5	2 x 30 minutes
U15-U19	11v11	22	18	8	5	2 x 30 minutes

* Mod Rules will apply to the 7v7 and 9v9 format matches following WYS guidelines published here.

4.8. The team listed first on the schedule is designated as the "home" team and is responsible for changing jerseys if, in the opinion of the referee, there is a color conflict. Home teams should wear their light colored jersey, Away teams should wear their dark colored jerseys.

4.9. The Home team will have kick off and the Away team will select which side to defend before each match. There will be no coin toss.

4.10. The home team will be responsible for providing a game ball for the match that are subject to review by the assigned match officials.

4.11. Unlimited substitutions will be allowed with the consent of the referee at any stoppage of play.

4.12. Players and coaches from both teams will take one side of the field and all spectators will be together on the other side, unless otherwise directed by field marshals.

4.13. Observe all posted field rules. NO DOGS/PETS will be allowed on any athletic fields (exception only for service dogs) or parking lots. It is the responsibility of each team to remove all of their debris from the field after each game. No food is allowed on turf fields. No liquids except water are allowed on the game turf. This includes coffee, hot chocolate, etc. No portable heater units are allowed on the turf.

4.14. Spectators shall remain at least three (3) yards away from the touchlines and shall go no further down the touchline than the top of the penalty area (i.e. no closer to the goal line than the top of the penalty area and not behind the goals).

4.15. If games are played at a field with bleachers ALL parents should sit on the bleachers and not stand on the field turf or track area.

4.16. Field Marshals will be utilized. If you have any questions, contact one of them first. Field Marshals will monitor spectators for inappropriate or unsportsmanlike comments or behavior. Failure to comply with Field Marshal Directions could result in forfeiture of the match. In the case of an emergency on the field, contact a field marshal or headquarters immediately. If there is a problem or issue you wish to discuss concerning the tournament, please consult staff at the tournament headquarters.

5. **Forfeitures**

5.1. A match may be declared a forfeit for the following events:

5.1.1. Using ineligible players; as defined as being over-age for the division, a player serving a yellow or red card suspension, unregistered or improperly registered players, or a player for more than one team during the tournament.

5.1.2. A team cannot start the match with less than a minimum of seven (7) eligible players.

5.1.3. The referee abandons a game.

5.1.4. No registered assistant coach is present to assume coaching responsibilities if the head coach is ejected. A team will not be allowed to participate without a properly registered coach or team manager as submitted on the Association signed tournament roster.

5.2. A team which forfeits its first scheduled match may be removed from the tournament.

5.3. A team which forfeits any game shall automatically become ineligible for the age bracket championship.

5.4. A forfeited match stands as a played match. The score will be recorded as 0-1. The Cranberry Cup Disciplinary Committee will take further action as it deems appropriate.

6. **GAMES**

6.1. Each team will play a minimum of three (3) games. Groups will play a round robin format, with a championship game. Finalists will be determined by points.

6.2. Preliminary games will be on a point system; maximum 3 points per game:

3 points for a win
1 points for a tie
0 points for a loss

1 point will be deducted from the team if a player receives a “red card”. Coach send-off will be treated as a Red card offense. **Any such adjustment will be done manually so will not be reflected directly on**

the website.

6.3. Tiebreakers: The following rules are used to determine advancement from the preliminary-round to the next round when teams' point totals are equal:
- 6.3.1. The winner of head to head competition
- 6.3.2. The team with the highest goal differential (goals scored minus goals allowed).
- 6.3.3. The team conceding the fewest total goals.
- 6.3.4. The team scoring the most total goals.
- 6.3.5. Least number of cards (Director discretion)
- 6.3.6. A coin toss by the Tournament Director in the presence of representatives from affected teams.

6.4. Semi-Final and Final Tiebreakers: Semifinal and final games that remain tied at the end of regulation time shall be decided by kicks from the mark. No overtime periods will be played.

6.5. In the event games are postponed because of weather conditions, or other unforeseen circumstances, the Tournament Director shall reschedule the games at the earliest possible date and time during the tournament weekend. NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE in the event games must be canceled due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances. No games will be rescheduled following the tournament weekend.

7. AWARDS

7.1. Participation pins will be provided to all rostered players and coaches.

7.2. Champions and Finalists will receive individual awards. Please bring your team to the Tournament HQ for a presentation of awards following your final match.

8. DISCIPLINARY AND PROTEST

8.1. The Tournament Director shall adjudicate all protests, disputes or abandoned games. The Tournament Director is empowered to issue appropriate penalties necessary to obtain compliance with the spirit and purpose of the tournament, including the disqualification of any offending player, coach, or team from further participation.

8.2. No match protests are allowed. All referee decisions are final.

8.3. Red and Yellow Cards
- 8.3.1. At the conclusion of each game, the referee shall report any cautions (yellow card) or ejections (red card) directly to the Disciplinary Committee head. The Disciplinary Committee shall review the incident, and may, at their discretion, increase or decrease any applicable suspension in accordance with WYS guidelines (Rule 605 Disciplinary Penalty Code). Coaches of any player sent off or team official ejected, must report to the Disciplinary Committee within sixty (60) minutes after the match.
- 8.3.2. Any player receiving a caution (yellow card) shall receive one misconduct point.
- 8.3.3. Any player receiving an ejection (red card) shall receive two misconduct points.
- 8.3.4. Any player accumulating three misconduct points shall be automatically suspended from the next game.
- 8.3.5. Any player accumulating four or more misconduct points shall be suspended from the remainder of the tournament, beginning with the next game. In addition, the Tournament Director reserves the right to levy stricter penalties deemed appropriate.
- 8.3.6. All red and yellow cards will be recorded by the Tournament Director and Disciplinary Committee Chair, along with all other matters involving the misconduct of a team, player, coach or supporter. This recorded information will be reported immediately to the home state association and the home club/league of the offending player, coach, team, or supporter involved. Matters involving misconduct (except referee assault) may be subject to additional sanctions by the home club/league and state association of the offending player, team, coach, or supporter within their respective jurisdictions.
- 8.3.7. All matters involving referee assault shall, in accordance with USSF Rule 1108, be referred immediately to WYS (the host state association).

8.3.8. Tournament disciplinary/misconduct rulings will be provided to WYS within seventy-two (72) hours of the final game. This will include a detailed listing of the suspensions that were given, including those that were fulfilled before the end of the tournament. If players or coaches have not served their entire suspensions, then they will be required to sit out the next sanctioned WYS match, including tournaments and/or league games.

RULES AND SCHEDULES MAY BE SUBJECT TO LAST MINUTE CHANGES. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT YOU MAKE ALL PLAYERS, COACHES AND SPECTATORS AWARE OF THESE RULES. TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REMOVE OR HAVE REMOVED ANY PARTICIPANT DISPLAYING ANY DISORDERLY CONDUCT.

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