

Manitoba Soccer Association Inc.

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To: MSA Members Leagues and Clubs/Teams
From: Héctor O. Vergara, Executive Director
cc: MSA Board of Directors
Gabby McMillan, Competitions Manager
Date: January 24th, 2025
Re: 2025 MSA Provincial Championships (MSA Cup) Rules and Regulations

Dear MSA Members,

As mentioned to you in the January 14th, 2025, memorandum the MSA Board of Directors approved the 2025 Provincial Championships (MSA Cup) Rules and Regulations in October 2024.

We also informed you that Canada Soccer (CS) would be meeting with all the provinces to provide updates on the National Competition Rules and Regulations as approved by CS in December 2024. We met with CS today, January 24th, 2025.

Many of the changes stem from Canada Soccer hosting different competitions, such as the PDP (National Youth License Clubs), and Canadian Championships. The National Championships are considered amateur community competitive competitions, and the Rules and Regulations reflect this approach. Please note the following information:

- Clarification will be provided in the MSA Cup Rules and Regulations about the coaching requirements for all coaches.
- No player eligibility exemptions will be permitted due to the changes in the player eligibility criteria reflected in the Rules and Regulations.
- Youth player eligibility will be expanded and will not require players to be solely Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or protected person. A player eligible to play in the province, meeting respective league and provincial rules, for league play will be able to participate in the MSA Cup and the National Championship.

- Senior player eligibility will require that at least 12 players on the team must be Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or protected person. All other players on the team must be eligible to play in the province, meeting respective league and provincial rules, for league play to participate in the MSA Cup and the National Championship.
- Senior rosters will increase to 21 players.

In addition, for youth competitions you recently received communication from WYSA regarding the maximum number of players on a roster being increased to 20. While it is not required to have 20 for the MSA Cup, the change provides flexibility to do so. The minimum for the MSA Cup remains at 17 players.

The above amendments will be submitted to the MSA Board for their review and approval as soon as possible. In the meantime, we are sharing this information to assist with your preparations for the upcoming season.

Please note that we are working to get the MSA Cup entry forms to everyone next week.

As promised, the MSA is prepared to arrange a group Zoom call with those interested in discussing any questions before determining whether their teams will enter the MSA Cup. We ask that you send us the questions prior to the Zoom call and review the information above, as it may impact your inquiries. Please let us know if you are interested in a Zoom Meeting.

Once the entries are received and before the start of the competition the MSA will also have a pre-competition meeting.

Thank you for taking note of this information.

