



RULEBOOK

Saskatchewan Open Cup

2022



SK OPEN CUP

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. General:

- a) The information contained herein is for the sole purpose of ensuring the fair and purposeful delivery and direction of the Saskatchewan Open Cup (hereinafter referred to as the Championships).
- b) The Championships operates according to the SSA Policies and Procedures governing Provincial Championships ([Section Nine](#), Article 2).
 - i. In the event of disagreement between the SSA Policies and Procedures and the Rulebook, the Rulebook will be taken as the authority.
 - ii. Where any omission in the Rulebook should arise, the Policies and Procedures of the SSA shall prevail. If omissions should still exist, then the CSA's Policies, Procedures, Rules, and Regulations shall apply.
- c) Amendments to the Rulebook may be made from time to time at the discretion of the SSA.
- d) Should amendments to the Rulebook be required during the competition, they will be circulated in memorandum format to all affected teams. This memorandum shall serve as an appendix to the Rulebook for the duration of that competition with the Rulebook being updated following its conclusion.

2. Team Eligibility: Member Organizations may be granted team allocations at the sole discretion of the SSA. It is the expectation that all Member Organizations teams registered meet the eligibility criteria for all requirements as outlined in the Competition Rulebook and SSA Competitions Policy.

- a) Any registered adult team, with the exception of those that enter the Adult and Masters Championships, may apply for entry.
- b) The winning team in each of the Men/Women categories of the Saskatchewan Open Cup will be declared as the Saskatchewan representative at that year's CSA National Championship unless otherwise communicated. Please refer to SSA Policy [Section Nine](#), Article 3 for additional information on CSA National and Regional Club Championships.

3. Entry Deadline: The entry deadline for the Championships is June 16th.

- a) All entries must be made using the appropriate Entry Form, which is available on the SSA website.
- b) Any team withdrawing from the Championships after submitting an Entry Form will be **fined \$500.00**.
- c) Any team withdrawing from the Championships after completion of the schedule will be **fined an additional \$500.00**.
- d) Any team withdrawing from the Championships after the start of the competition will be in default of each scheduled game in which they do not participate and will be **fined according to Rule 10 governing Defaults and Forfeits in addition to the fines indicated above in b and c**.

4. Player Eligibility:

- a) Player eligibility is governed by the SSA Policies and Procedures for Provincial Championships ([Section Nine](#), Article 2.9).
- b) Players participating in the SK Open Cup are ineligible to participate in any other Provincial Championship during that playing season
- c) All participants must meet the eligibility requirements of the CSA to participate in competitions leading to CSA National Championships. For additional information on these requirements, please refer to the CSA website at www.canadasoccer.com

- d) All players participating in the Championships, except for Guest Players, must be registered with or transferred to the team with which they will compete.
- e) As indicated in SSA Policy [Section Nine](#), Article 2.10), teams competing in the Championships may include up to five (5) guest players on their roster for the Play-down Weekend. These players must be designated accordingly on the roster.
- f) All players participating in the Finals Weekend must be registered to the team with which they will compete in advance of the Registration/Transfer Deadline

5. Roster Size:

- a) **Each team may have a roster of up to 20 registered players who shall be eligible for participation in the Championships.**
- b) Rosters must be submitted online using the appropriate forms from the Goalline platform.

6. Roster Deadline: The Roster Deadline for the Championships is **July 12th**

- a) **It is the responsibility of the Member Organizations to ensure all teams meet all Competitions Rulebook and SSA Competitions Policy prior to registering for the competition.**
- b) **Following the Roster Deadline, rosters for all teams participating in the Saskatchewan Open Cup will be posted on the SSA Website.**

7. Transfer Deadline: The Transfer Deadline for the Championships is **July 12th**

8. Championship Games:

- a) All matches will be played under the Laws of the Game as approved by the International Football Association Board and published by FIFA, except as outlined in this section.
- b) The match officials will be responsible for ensuring the fields of play and the ancillary equipment complies with the provisions stipulated in the Laws of the Game.
- c) The matches of the Saskatchewan Open Cup may be played on natural or artificial surfaces.
- d) Teams will play no more than one (1) match per day.
- e) Every team is guaranteed a minimum of two (2) matches (unless only one team enters the competition as outlined in f.)
- f) **Should only one (1) team enter the Saskatchewan Open Cup in any category, they will be declared the winning team.**
- g) **Should two (2) teams enter the Saskatchewan Open Cup in any category:**
 - i. **The competition will be played as a two-game home and away tie with the order of the matches determined by coin toss.**
 - ii. **The match schedule and playing venues will be determined by the SSA, at its sole discretion.**
 - iii. **The winning team will be determined as the team with the most goals from the two matches.**
 - a. **If the teams score the same number of goals in the two matches, the match will proceed to 2x15 minutes of Extra Time.**
 - b. **If the teams remain tied, the winning team will be determined by Kicks from the Penalty Mark.**
- h) **Should three (3) or four (4) teams enter the Saskatchewan Open Cup in any category:**

- i. The competition will be played on a single Saskatchewan Open Cup Finals Weekend taking place in a single host venue.
 - ii. The Saskatchewan Open Cup Finals Weekend shall be played as a single pool round robin.
 - iii. The winning team shall be determined as the team with the most points from all round robin matches. In the event of a tie, the tie-breaker rules as outlined in Rule 11d shall be used to declare the winning team.
- i) Should more than four (4) teams declare for the Saskatchewan Open Cup in any category:
 - i. The competition shall be played as a Play-Down Weekend/Match and a Finals Weekend.
 - ii. The format and schedule for the Play-Down Weekend/Match will be developed by the SSA based on the number of teams entering the competition and communicated to all participating teams no later than July 2nd.
 - iii. The Play-Down Weekend/Match will declare four (4) teams to advance to the Finals Weekend.
 - iv. The Finals Weekend shall be played as a semi-final and final, with teams paired as outlined in the schedule and qualification process.
- a) Only SSA Provincial Championship game sheets will be accepted for all matches.
- b) Team staff must complete and sign the game sheet and present it to the referee before the start of the game.
- c) Once submitted, the game sheet becomes the official record of the game. Appearance of a player's name on a signed game sheet constitutes their participation in the game regardless of whether they actually enter the game.
- d) By 10 minutes before kick-off time, the home team shall provide the referee with 3 suitable (as outlined in the Laws of the Game), size #5 game balls.
- e) By 5 minutes before kick-off time, teams must have completed their warm up and be available to the officials for equipment check.
- j) Substitutions in the Saskatchewan Open Cup may be made pursuant to the following conditions:
 - i. There will be five substitutions allowed during the game, including extra time.
 - ii. Unlimited substitutions are allowed at regulation half time and the beginning of extra time, but not at half time of extra time.
 - iii. At the discretion of the referee, substitutions may be made at any stoppage in play.
 - iv. Substitutes shall report to one of the game officials, present a substitution card, and give their number and the number of the player for whom they are substituting, before they shall participate in the game.
- f) Matches will consist of 2 halves of 45 minutes. Half time shall not exceed 15 minutes.

9. Authority & Objections

- a) All objections to the grounds, goal posts or other appurtenances of the game, or other facts known before the commencement of the game, must be made in writing to the referee prior to the kick-off.
 - i. If any objection is made, the referee may require the responsible organization or individual to remove the cause of the objection without unduly delaying the progress of the game.
 - ii. If the cause of the objection cannot be corrected, the referee has the authority to determine whether the game will be played or cancelled.

- iii. The referee is the sole judge as to the fitness of the “field of play.” Protests regarding this issue will not be heard.
- b) If the referee determines poor weather may lead to unsafe game conditions, the game will be suspended for a maximum of 30 minutes.
 - i. If play cannot resume within that time, the game will be abandoned and rescheduled.
- c) If the game is abandoned:
 - i. at 10 minutes into the 2nd half or later - the game will be considered complete with the score as it stood at the time of abandonment.
 - ii. before 10 minutes into the 2nd half - if available time allows it, a new game may be rescheduled beginning with the score of 0-0. If there is no available time (weekend), an alternate solution (Kicks from the Penalty Mark) will be chosen by the SSA Provincial Reps.

10. Team Composition & Requirements:

- a) Each team may dress a maximum of 20 players per game.
- b) A maximum of 9 non-starting uniformed players and a maximum of 4 registered team officials may sit on the team bench during the game.
- c) All individuals on the team bench during the game must appear on the game sheet.
- d) A team will be considered in default if they have less than seven eligible players by 10 minutes after the scheduled kick off time.
- e) Coaching Staff are defined as those individuals in the positions of Head Coach, Assistant Coach or Apprentice/Developmental Coach and will typically include all individuals providing technical and tactical guidance to players during game situations.
- f) Team Personnel includes coaches any individual eligible to appear on a game sheet and be on the bench including the coaching staff, manager, assistant manager, trainer, therapist, gender representative, etc.
- k) Participating teams may declare up to five Coaching Staff and/or Team Personnel for participation in the Saskatchewan Open Cup.**
- l) All teams participating in the Saskatchewan Open Cup must declare at least one designated coach, who cannot also be a player in the Saskatchewan Open Cup.**
- g) A minimum of one coach with the required certification must be on the bench for all games**
- h) One member of the Coaching Staff or Team Personnel on the bench must be of the same gender as the players. Teams participating in the Championships may declare a maximum of two non-coach Team Personnel.**
- i) Coaches & Team Personnel Minimum Requirements:**
 - i. In accordance with [Saskatchewan Soccer Coaching Standards](#), the head coach must hold a C Licence certified, MED, MHW-S. All other members of the Coaching Staff must have completed at minimum the CSA Soccer for Life Coaching Course and NCCP Making Ethical Decisions (MED) Module including the Making Ethical Decisions Online Evaluation – Competition Introduction and the NCCP eLearning module Making Headway – Soccer.
 - ii. All Coaching Staff and Team Personnel must have completed Respect in Sport training in accordance with the Policies of the SSA.
 - iii. As required by the Canadian Soccer Association, any team winning the Saskatchewan Open Cup will be required to have one member of either the Coaching Staff or Team Personnel and the team captain complete the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) e-learning course, True

Sport Clean 101 as well as other courses. Instructions on the process for completing this training will be forwarded to team contacts upon receipt from the Canadian Soccer Association

11. Standings

- a) A team's standing within the competition shall be determined by a point system; three (3) points for a win; one (1) point for a draw; zero (0) points for a loss.
- b) Round Robin matches can end in a tie.
- c) Semi Final and Final matches ending in a tie will proceed directly to Kicks from the Penalty Mark as per IFAB FIFA Laws of the Game.
- d) For any tie in standings, the following will be used as a tiebreaker:
 - i. **Previous Match Results:** The team with the greater number of points in matches between the two (2) teams tied in points shall be awarded the higher position. (Not used if 3 or more teams are tied in points, in this instance Rule 12d)ii shall be the first tie breaker).
 - ii. **Overall Goal Difference** The team with the greatest goal difference in all round robin matches shall be awarded the higher position. Goal difference shall be calculated by subtracting goals conceded from goals scored.
 - iii. **Overall Goal Average** The team with the highest goal average in all round robin matches shall be awarded the higher position. Goal average shall be calculated as goals scored divided by goals conceded. In the event that a team did not concede any goals, this shall be considered as a higher goal average as compared to a team that has conceded a goal.
 - iv. **Most Goals Scored** The team scoring the highest number of goals shall be awarded the higher position.
 - v. **Fewest Goals allowed** The team allowing the least number of goals shall be awarded the higher position
- e) **A maximum goal difference of 5 will be considered in any single match.**
 - i. **If the goal difference in a match exceeds 5, the final score will be recorded as the number of goals scored by the losing team +5 (e.g. A match with a goal difference of greater than 5, with the losing team scoring 2 goals will be recorded as 7-2), with this result considered as the final score for any tie-breaker.**
- f) Should teams remain tied after exhausting above tiebreakers, a winner will be determined by Kicks from the Penalty Mark.

12. Defaults and Forfeits

- a) A **defaulted game** is one in which one or both teams do not have the minimum number of players necessary to play the game.
- b) A **forfeited game** is one that is played and subsequently forfeited for a rule violation.
- c) Where a team defaults or forfeits one (1) Championships game, they will be fined \$500.00. Forfeit of multiple games as a result of one complaint (e.g. ineligible player on multiple game sheets) shall count as one forfeit for the purpose of this rule.
- d) Where a team defaults or forfeits a second Championships game, they will be fined a second \$500.00 and be expelled from the competition. In addition, the team may be suspended for the next year of play, fines levied and/or the good standing of all players and team personnel may be revoked.

- e) If a team defaults or forfeits a game, 3 points will be awarded to the opposing team and the game will be recorded as a 3-0 win or the actual score of the game, whichever is most advantageous for their opponent.
- f) If both teams default or forfeit a game, no points will be awarded and the game is recorded as a 0-0 score and both teams will be fined an amount of \$500 each.
- g) Fines incurred during the competition will be invoiced to the Member Organizations post competition and are not subject to appeal.

13. Discipline

- a) The SSA will follow the *SSA Event Discipline Procedure* (within [Discipline Policy](#)) with the exception of modifications stated in this document.
- b) Discipline will be dealt with by the Tournament Discipline Committee prior to the offending team's next scheduled game.

c) Automatic Suspensions

i. Cautions (Yellow Cards)

- i. A player receiving three or more cautions during the Championships shall be suspended as outlined in the following table:

Number of Cautions	Suspension
2 rd caution	1 game
4 th caution	2 games

- ii. Cautions accumulated during the competition will not carry over to the knock out phase of the competition; however, suspensions for the accumulation of cautions must be served during the knock out phase of the competition.

iii. Ejections (Red Cards)

- d) Any player or team official receiving a red card will be automatically suspended for 1 game.
- e) An individual receiving a red card must immediately report to Tournament Headquarters upon completion of the game to partake in the discipline process that will follow.
- f) Failure to attend will result in immediate suspension until the player or team official involved requests a further hearing in writing, and appears at that subsequent hearing.
- g) The individual may be accompanied by a team official during the discipline hearing.
- h) All participants must adhere to the [SSA Code of Conduct](#). We encourage special attention be paid to Section 1.5 Unacceptable Actions.
- i) Inappropriate usage of Social Media by parties connected to any SSA Competition (Member Organizations, Clubs, Team Personnel, Athletes, Parents) may be considered a breach of the SSA Code of Conduct with fines up to \$1000 and/or removal of the team from the event and/or future events.
- j) Parties connected to the competition must adhere to the [Social Media policy](#) (with Section 13 Risk Management) and engage in a respectful relationship with the SSA event organizers and volunteers as listed in the Chapter 3 - [SSA Code of Conduct](#).

14. Protests

- a) Protests, subject to the following provisions, are objections of any kind connected with matches of the Championships.
- b) All Protests, including the use of ineligible player, must be submitted in writing to the SSA representative(s), no later than one hour following the game in protest, using the appropriate Protest Form and include the SSA protest fee of \$100.00 .
- c) No protests may be made against the Referee's decisions on points of fact connected with play, such decisions are final.
- d) The referee is the sole judge as to the fitness of the "field of play." Protests regarding this issue will not be heard.
- e) The SSA Provincial Representative(s) shall rule on the protest based on the report(s) provided or, at their sole discretion may call a hearing.
 - i. Should a hearing be called, any individual deemed relevant by the SSA Provincial Representative(s) will be called upon to attend.
 - ii. If a Party waives their right to participate in the hearing or does not attend or meet the timelines set out by the SSA Representatives, the hearing will proceed in any event.
- f) Decisions by the SSA Provincial Representatives on protests as they pertain to the Championships shall be final and binding for that competition. Appeals of decisions, as they relate to the competition will not be entertained by the SSA.

15. Formal Complaint

- a) SSA shall have jurisdiction over Formal Complaints arising from Provincial Championships as per SSA Policy.