

2008 NYSW Championships - Final 4 with Score!

The US Youth Soccer National Championships cap a year-long tournament, which features competition for boys and girls teams in age groups Under 12 through Under 19. It begins with teams throughout our state association vying for the US Youth Soccer State Championship titles.



State champions in most age groups are eligible to compete in the US Youth Soccer Region I Championships, which were held in Portland, ME, June 27 through July 1, 2008. The Region I champions in the Under 14 through Under 19 age groups advance to the US Youth Soccer National Championships, the Final Four of Youth Soccer. This year the US Youth Soccer National Championships were held at Burns Park Soccer Complex in North Little Rock, Arkansas. In addition to identifying the country's best club teams, the US Youth Soccer National Championships also honors sporting teams, top goal scorers and goalkeepers with major awards.

The NY West edition of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series, presented by Score America Soccer Company, the official equipment and apparel supplier to NYSWYSA, was held on May 30-June 1, 2008 at SUNY Cortland sports complex and Tompkins Cortland Community College in Cortland, NY. The winners from each division in the NY West tournament advanced to the Region I tournament.

2008 NY West State Cup Winners

U12B – Rochester Jr Rhinos	U12G – Rochester Jr Rhinos
U13B – Syracuse Blitz Samba Beat	U13G – Syracuse Football Club
U14B – Rochester Jr Rhinos I	U14G – Syracuse Football Club
U15B – Syracuse Football Club	U15G – Rochester Jr Rhinos
U16B – Rochester Jr Rhinos	U16G – Syracuse Football Club Fury
U17B – CNY United Football Club	U17G – Syracuse Football Club
U18B – Syracuse Football Club	U18G – Rochester Jr Rhinos
U19B – Empire United Soccer Academy	U19G – Syracuse Football Club Vortex

Note: the U13B Syracuse Blitz Samba represented NY West as a second seed

NY West Teams at 2008 Regional I National Tournament

Four teams representing NY West at the Region I Tournament in Portland, ME performed especially well.

- The U12 Boys Rochester Jr. Rhinos 8v8 team won their group with 7 points, defeated (ENY) FC Sting Blazers 2:0 in the Semifinal match, and defeated (EPA) Spirit United Patriots 2:1 in the Championship match of the tournament to win the Region I title over a field of 12 teams.
- The U13 Boys Rochester Jr. Rhinos team won their group with 9 points, and won the Semifinal match defeating (NJ) PDA Harks 2:1, but they lost the Championship match to (ENY) Dix Hills Thunder 0:2. There were 12 teams in the division.
- The U13 Boys Syracuse Blitz Samba Beat team won their group with 9 points, but lost the Semifinal match to the eventual division Champion (ENY) Dix Hills Thunder, with a score of 0:2. There were 12 teams in the division.
- The U15 Boys Syracuse Football Club team won their group with 7 points, but lost the Semifinal match to the eventual division Champion (MD) Baltimore Casa Mia Bays 93, with a score of 0:1. There were 16 teams in the division. The Baltimore Casa Mia Bays team went on to win the National Championship in North Little Rock, Arkansas in July

Due to bad weather, several Region I tournament matches had to be cancelled. Teams that had two losses, or otherwise had no chance to advance to the semifinals had matches cancelled to allow use of their fields for matches that determined group winners. NY West had three teams with cancelled matches: U15G Rochester Jr Rhinos, U17G Syracuse FC Elite, U18B Syracuse FC. This was an unfortunate but unavoidable circumstance, since these teams did not have a chance to participate in their final match of the series.

2008 State Cup Financial

The 2008 State Cup posted a net operating gain of \$10,091. This amount was used to offset the expenses for referees that we sent to support the Region I Tournament, which amounted to \$12,898. Overall this represented a net loss of \$2,807 for the Championship series.

For 2009, the entry fee per team has been changed to reflect a lower fee for teams that do not advance to the final four series. A team advancing to the final four will pay a tournament fee of \$450 and a team that does not qualify for the final four will only pay a play-down fee of \$275. All teams will pay the \$450 fee to enter the tournament, but those teams that do not qualify for the final four will receive a \$175 reimbursement the week following their last play-down match.

College Recruiters at 2008 State Cup

The colleges listed below had representatives attend the 2008 State Cup at Cortland. Some of them recruited for their Men's team, and some for the Women, as noted in parenthesis

Niagara University (Men)	Cazenovia College (Men)	Syracuse University (Men)
SUNY Cortland (Men)	University of Rochester (Men)	Hobart College (Men)
Medaille College (Men, Women)	Hartwick College (Men)	St. John Fisher College (Men)

2009 State Cup Schedule

In 2009 the tournament will be played again in Cortland on outstanding fields, including six fields at the SUNY Cortland sports complex, and two fields at the Tompkins Cortland Community College.

For the past two years, Dave Stephan has been the State Cup coordinator, but he is not able to continue this service again. The NY West Board of Directors wishes to thank Dave for his outstanding efforts to make the 2008 State Cup tournament one of the best ever. For 2009 we welcome nominations for State Cup coordinator. We are also looking for additional community soccer committee members, to help in soliciting sponsors, managing the process, and supporting the weekend tournament. If anyone would like to join us please email the state office at office@nyswysa.org

March 7	Online entry complete (\$450 tournament entry fee for each team)
March 20	Payment and supporting documentation complete
March 28	2:00pm Blind Draw, at Country Inn and Suites, Cortland
April 5	Home team must contact away team
April 9	Away team must respond to home team contact
April 10	Roster freeze for U12-U18 teams; roster due to NY West
April 12	Play-down dates and times to Cup coordinator
April 15	Cup coordinator confirms dates & times and notifies referee assignor
April 24	U19 roster freeze if more than 4 teams, roster due to NY West
May 8	U19 roster freeze if 4 or fewer teams register, roster due to NY West
April 27	Play-down matches may start
May 1, 2, 3	Black-out dates - ODP Development weekend, not subject to change
May 9	First round play-down matches must be complete
May 17	All play-down matches must be complete
May 22	All final four schedules will be posted on the NY West web site
May 29, 30, 31	State Cup Final Four Tournament

Note: The tournament dates do not conflict with SAT or ACT testing this year.

For the 2009 State Cup, the seeding rules have been changed to improve the final four team selection process. Registered teams that participated in the previous year's Final Four series at State Cup will be seeded in the order they finished in the previous year's standings, provided their roster has at least 51% of the same players as the previous year. New entries will be seeded according to random selection during the blind draw, and the rest of the play-down pairing will remain the same as in previous years. The effect of the change is that previous Final Four teams are not as likely play each other during the initial play-down matches, and new teams are not likely to get a bye in the play-down matches. The Board of Directors believes this arrangement provides an improved long-term solution for seeding during play-down rounds.