

THE US YOUTH SOCCER NYSW NATIONAL  
CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

2012 POLICY/RULES



## Table of Contents

|     |   |    |
|-----|---|----|
| I.  | PART 1 -- GENERAL .....   | 4  |
|     | RULE NYSW 6101 - DEFINITIONS .....  | 4  |
|     | RULE NYSW 6102 -- ESTABLISHMENT .....   | 5  |
|     | Section 1. Age Groups .....   | 5  |
|     | Section 2. Genders .....  | 5  |
|     | Section 3. Under 12 Play .....  | 5  |
|     | RULE NYSW 6103 -- TITLE .....   | 5  |
|     | Section 1. Event Title .....  | 5  |
|     | RULE NYSW 6104 -- AWARDS TO TEAMS AND PLAYERS .....                           | 5  |
|     | Section 1. Awards at State Finals .....                                       | 5  |
|     | Section 2. Champion Shirt at Region 1 Parade .....                            | 5  |
|     | RULE NYSW 6105 -- ADMINISTRATION .....  | 6  |
|     | Section 1. State Chairperson .....  | 6  |
|     | Section 2. 2012 Dates .....   | 6  |
|     | Section 3. 2012 Fees .....  | 6  |
|     | RULE NYSW 6106 -- PRECEDENCE OF GAMES .....                                   | 6  |
| II. | PART 2 -- ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITIONS .....                              | 7  |
|     | RULE NYSW 7201 -- LEVELS OF COMPETITIONS .....                                | 7  |
|     | RULE NYSW 7202 -- NYSW FORMAT OF COMPETITION .....                            | 7  |
|     | RULE NYSW 7203 -- TEAM ELIGIBILITY .....                                      | 8  |
|     | Section 1. Open Competition .....   | 8  |
|     | Section 2. Proper Player Registration .....                                   | 8  |
|     | Section 3. Team Rosters and Game Rosters .....                                | 9  |
|     | Section 4. Roster Violations that cause a Forfeit .....                       | 9  |
|     | Section 5. Roster Freeze .....  | 10 |
|     | Section 8. Games other than Cup Games on the same day .....                   | 10 |
|     | RULE NYSW 7204-- TEAM OBLIGATIONS .....                                       | 10 |
|     | Section 1. Home Team Play down game obligations .....                         | 10 |
|     | Section 2. Team Officials Obligations .....                                   | 10 |
|     | RULE NYSW 7205 -- FORFEITS FOR FAILURE TO COMPETE .....                       | 11 |
|     | Section 1. Forfeit Procedure .....  | 11 |
|     | Section 2. Failure to give 14 day forfeit notice .....                        | 11 |
|     | Section 3. Forfeit Fee Payment .....  | 11 |
|     | Section 4. Forfeits and Fines at Regional or National Level Competition ..... | 11 |
|     | RULE NYSW 7206 -- FORFEITS GENERALLY .....                                    | 11 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| RULE NYSW 7207 -- PLAYER ELIGIBILITY .....                              | 11 |
| Section 1. General.....   | 11 |
| Section 2. Registration.....  | 12 |
| Section 3. Rostering.....   | 12 |
| Section 4. Member Passes .....  | 12 |
| Section 5. Rosters .....  | 12 |
| Section 6. Medical Release Form .....                                   | 13 |
| RULE NYSW 7208 -- LEAGUES .....   | 13 |
| Section 1. Approved Leagues .....                                       | 13 |
| Section 2. Approved League Structure .....                              | 13 |
| Section 3. Approved League Team Composition .....                       | 13 |
| Section 4. Approved League Sanctioning.....                             | 14 |
| RULE NYSW 7209 -- TEAM AND PLAYER BREACHES OF RULES.....                | 14 |
| Section 1. NYSW Oversight .....   | 14 |
| Section 2. Result of Violations .....                                   | 14 |
| Section 3. Red Cards and Send Off's.....                                | 14 |
| Section 4. Misconduct .....   | 14 |
| RULE NYSW 7210 -- PROTESTS AND APPEALS .....                            | 15 |
| Section 1. Appeals .....  | 15 |
| Section 2. Protests.....  | 15 |
| RULE NYSW 7211 -- GAME PLAY .....                                       | 16 |
| Section 1. Passes, Rosters, Uniforms and Score Cards.....               | 16 |
| Section 2. Playing Rules .....  | 16 |
| RULE NYSW 7212 -- GAME OFFICIALS.....                                   | 18 |
| Section 1. USSF Registered Referees .....                               | 18 |
| Section 2. Referee Match Fees .....                                     | 18 |
| Section 3. Referee Match Fees for Play down Games .....                 | 18 |
| Section 4. Referee Match Fees for Final 4 Weekend.....                  | 18 |
| Section 5. Referee Authority .....                                      | 18 |
| Section 6. Failure of Referee to Appear.....                            | 18 |
| Section 7. Violent Conduct during a Match.....                          | 19 |
| RULE NYSW 7213 -- TEAM AND PLAYER REGISTRATION AT FINAL 4 WEEKEND ..... | 19 |
| Section 1. Team Must Register.....                                      | 19 |
| Section 2. Documents to Present at Registration .....                   | 19 |
| RULE NYSW 7214 -- MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR .....                        | 19 |
| Appendix A - Play Down bracket examples.....                            | 21 |

# THE US YOUTH SOCCER NYSW CHAMPIONSHIPS

## 2012 POLICY/RULES

### I. PART 1 -- GENERAL

#### *RULE NYSW 6101 - DEFINITIONS*

Except as otherwise provided, the following definitions apply to this policy:

- (1) **“Add”** means the addition of a player to a team’s roster who has not been previously rostered on another team.
- (2) **“Board of Directors” or “BOD”** means the Board of Directors of the New York State West Youth Soccer Association.
- (3) **“Club”** means an organization providing soccer to youth players that is a member of the New York State West Youth Soccer association; provided however, a ‘club’ need not have the word ‘club’ as part of its official name.
- (4) **“Club Pass”** means a US Youth Soccer member pass which:
  - (a) is issued to a registered youth player by a club in compliance with the rules of the New York State West Youth Soccer Association.
  - (b) is issued as provided by this policy; and
  - (c) specifies the club of which the youth player is a registered member.
- (5) **“Eligibility to play”** means registered and not under suspension.
- (6) **“Federation”** means the United States Soccer Federation, Inc.
- (7) **“Guest player”** means a registered player participating in a competition for a team to which the player is not rostered for purposes of league play.
- (8) **“Involuntary release”** means the removal of a player from a team’s roster at the request of team authorities
- (9) **“League”** means a structured group of 4 or more teams joined for the purpose of inter-team play under a common set of administrative and competition rules.
- (10) **“National Championships competitions”** means the competitions of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series.
- (11) **“Cup or State Cup”** means the New York State West level of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series.
- (12) **“NYSWYSA” or “NYSW”** means New York State West Youth Soccer Association.
- (13) **“ODP”** means Olympic Development Program.
- (14) **“Region 1”** means US Youth Soccer Region 1.
- (15) **“Registration”** means the signing of forms with the intent to play the sport of soccer and paying of the fees to a member club of NYSW.
- (16) **“Rostering”** means assignment of a registered player to a team.
- (17) **“Select team”** means the official select of an all-star team of:
  - (a) US Youth Soccer Association
  - (b) A region
  - (c) A State Association
  - (d) A district or geographical subdivision of a State Association; or
  - (e) Any league
- (18) **“Suspension”** means the temporary withdrawal of rights and privileges, such as the right to play, coach, or otherwise administer or participate (directly or indirectly) in soccer, and the suspension is for the entire term of the suspension with all rights and privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending authority.
- (19) **“Team”** means a group of soccer players playing on the same side in soccer games.

- (20) **“Transfer”** means the removal of a player from a team’s cup roster at the request of the player, and the contemporaneous addition of the player to the roster of another cup team. This player is referred to as ‘previously rostered.’
- (21) **“USYSA”** means the US Youth Soccer Association, Inc.
- (22) **“Voluntary release”** means the removal of a player from a team’s roster at the request of the player.
- (23) **“Youth player”** means an individual who has not reached 19 years of age prior to August 1 immediately before the start of any seasonal year. A player who reaches 19 years of age during a seasonal year is allowed to complete that seasonal year. A player who reaches 19 years of age during August of one seasonal year shall be allowed to complete all of the next seasonal year.

## *RULE NYSW 6102 -- ESTABLISHMENT*

### Section 1. Age Groups

NYSW shall establish and shall organize an annual US YOUTH SOCCER NYSW Championships Competition in the Under 12, Under 13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 16, Under 17, Under 18, and Under 19 age groups.

### Section 2. Genders

Both genders, boys and girls, shall have separate competitions and separate champions in each age group. This policy applies to those competitions.

### Section 3. Under 12 Play

The competition at the Under 12 age groups shall be small sided games of 8 v 8.

## *RULE NYSW 6103 -- TITLE*

### Section 1. Event Title

The title of this NYSW event shall be: US YOUTH SOCCER NYSW CHAMPIONSHIPS.

## *RULE NYSW 6104 -- AWARDS TO TEAMS AND PLAYERS*

### Section 1. Awards at State Finals

The champion (1<sup>st</sup> place) team for each boys’ and girls’ age group at the State Finals each year shall be presented:

- (1) 1 (one) team trophy
- (2) Individual NYSW Champion shirts - the maximum number of shirts awarded will reflect the number of players on your team roster.
- (3) 1 (one) team plaque with a team picture
- (4) Patches from US Youth Soccer

### Section 2. Champion Shirt at Region 1 Parade

The Championship team that advances to Regional’s **MUST WEAR** the NYSW Champion Shirt at the Region 1 Parade of States.

## *RULE NYSW 6105 – ADMINISTRATION*

### Section 1. State Chairperson

- (1) The entire administration of THE US YOUTH SOCCER NYSW Championships is vested in the NYSW Board of Directors.
- (2) The NYSW BOD shall appoint a person to act as Chairperson for the entire competition.
- (3) The NYSW BOD shall determine the dates and fees of the competition by November 1 of each year.

### Section 2. 2012 Dates

- (1) Entry – on-line application process opens 9 January 2012 and closes at midnight, 1 April 2012
- (2) Entry payments – either by credit card on-line or if by check, it must be received no later than 13 April 2012
- (3) Blind Draw Date – 21 April 2012 - 2:00PM at Country Inn and Suites, Cortland, NY. See Rule 7202 for details on seeding process.
- (4) Final Roster Deadline (Except U19's if 4 or less teams enter) - (Rosters frozen at this time) available to the State Registrar in RosterPro as a State Cup roster no later than **2:00PM**, 20 April 2012
- (5) Final Roster Deadline for U19's (if more than 4 teams enter) – 27 April 2012 available to the State Registrar in RosterPro as a State Cup U19 roster
- (6) Final Roster Deadline for U19's (if 4 teams or less enter) – 11 May 2012 available to the State Registrar in RosterPro as a State Cup U19 roster
- (7) Preliminary games must be completed by 20 May 2012.
  - a. To avoid a conflict with ODP the following dates are blacked out for play down games: No games are to be held on 28 and 29 April 2012.
  - b. Cup Chairman notifies teams of play down match times no later than 23 April 2012
  - c. Week 1 of play down games occurs – May 5 and 6, 2012
  - d. Week 2 of play down games occurs – May 12 and 13, 2012
  - e. All play down games complete – May 19 and 20, 2012
- (8) Finals' Weekend – June 1, 2 and 3, 2012

### Section 3. 2012 Fees

- (1) Entry fee is \$475.00 plus any required field rental and referee fees for preliminary playoff games.
- (2) Those teams that do not qualify for the Final Four will receive a \$200.00 reimbursement the week following their last play-down match. The result of this arrangement is that a team advancing to the Final Four weekend will pay a tournament fee of \$475.00 and a team that does not qualify for the Final Four will only pay a play-down fee of \$275.00.
- (3) On-line payment by credit card or if by check, one check per club is preferred.

## *RULE NYSW 6106 -- PRECEDENCE OF GAMES*

THE US YOUTH SOCCER NYSW Championships competitions games shall take precedence over all other youth games.

## II. PART 2 -- ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITIONS

### *RULE NYSW 7201 -- LEVELS OF COMPETITIONS*

In NYSW there shall be only 1 (one) level which shall be known as the **STATE LEVEL**. The first (1<sup>st</sup>) place team will have the right to advance to the **REGIONAL LEVEL**.

### *RULE NYSW 7202 -- NYSW FORMAT OF COMPETITION*

THE 2012 US YOUTH SOCCER NYSW Championships competition will have cup preliminary games to determine the final four teams, followed by the final tournament. The tournament places the top four teams in each age group in competition for the State Championship.

THE 2012 US YOUTH SOCCER NYSW Champion in each age group and in each gender shall represent New York State West at the Regional Competition.

Registered teams that participated in the previous year's Final Four series at State Cup will be seeded in the order they finished, provided their current season cup roster total has at least 51% of the same players as the previous year.

Examples:

| <u>Current Season Cup Roster Total</u> | <u>Number from Previous Season Cup Roster to equal 51%</u> |
|--|--|
| 22 players                             | 12 from previous season                                    |
| 21 players                             | 11 from previous season                                    |
| 20 players                             | 11 from previous season                                    |
| 19 players                             | 10 from previous season                                    |
| 18 players                             | 10 from previous season                                    |
| 14 players                             | 8 from previous season                                     |

No entries in the U12 age group will be granted a bye into the Final 4 if two or more rounds of play down matches are required. All entries at this age group will be required to play a play down match to qualify. New entries in other age groups will be seeded according to a random selection during the blind draw. Once the seeding and blind draw has placed the teams in the play down brackets, they will play a **single elimination format** for the play down rounds to advance to the Final Four (or less) weekend. The Final Four weekend in all age groups will be conducted in a **round robin format** with four (4) teams maximum. If an age group has only two entries, they will play two matches during the Final Four weekend and the winner will be determined by the 2 match aggregate of the results.

If a State Wild Card Team is a Regional or National Cup Champion, the #1 position will be given to that team and the State Cup Champion will be given the #2 position. Otherwise, the positions will be determined by the order of finish from the previous year Final Four and the blind draw, provided all roster requirements are met.

The number of play down games required in any particular age group is determined by the number of entrants in that competition. Specifics on play down brackets can be found in Appendix A of this document.

**In all brackets - the 1<sup>st</sup> team in each pairing shall be listed first and be designated the HOME team.**

**NOTE:** Blind Draw Date- the blind draw will be held the Country Inn and Suites, Cortland, NY, at 2:00pm, April 21, 2012. Team Representatives are encouraged to be present.

## *RULE NYSW 7203 -- TEAM ELIGIBILITY*

### Section 1. Open Competition

THE US YOUTH SOCCER NYSW Championships competition shall be open to any team whose players are registered with US Youth Soccer through NYSW if the team is in compliance with all of the following:

- (1) The team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered youth players (as defined by US Youth Soccer and NYSW).
- (2) The team must be in good standing with NYSW and must be in compliance with, and has not violated, any of the bylaws and policies of US Youth Soccer and NYSW.
- (3) The team must have 50% plus 1 of its rostered players residing within the boundaries of NYSW.
- (4) The team **MUST** compete in at least a 4 -team **APPROVED** US Youth Soccer league during the current seasonal year sanctioned by NYSW or, with prior approval, in another US Youth Soccer State Association or in a US Youth Soccer Regional or National League. The league competition must consist of a minimum of one (1) game against each of the 3 different teams participating in the league. U19 age groups are excluded from this 4 - team league rule.
- (5) The team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between their League Roster and every level of the National Championship competitions by maintaining a minimum of 9 players common to the League Roster and the National Championships Roster at each level of the competition. All players on the National Championships Roster must carry a player pass for that club. No guest players are permitted at any game of this competition.
- (6) In order for a team to enter the U13 age group, the team **MUST** have a majority of its player's true U13 age appropriate. U12 teams must play 8 v 8 . Majority shall be defined as 50% plus 1 player.
- (7) All teams entering must have the league that they will play in during the 2011-2012 seasonal year verified by the NYSW Cup Chairperson. Failure to play in an approved league will result in disqualification from the current competition and subsequent year's competition.

### Section 2. Proper Player Registration

- (1) A club may issue a club pass to any youth player who is a registered youth player of the club before the team to which such youth player is to be rostered for the New York State West level of the National Championships competitions submits its National Championships roster for its first competition at the New York State West level.
- (2) Only at the New York State West level of the National Championship competitions (but not at the regional and national levels of the competitions):
  - a. A team may roster any player not having a club pass of that team's club if a written request, stating the reason why this action has been requested, has been made to and approved by New York State West Youth Soccer on a form provided; and
  - b. At the time a team's National Championships roster for competitions at the New York State West level is determined under this rule, may not have more than 5 rostered youth who were previously rostered during the current seasonal year with a club other than the club of which the team is a member. The rostering of such youth players with such club shall be made in compliance with the rules of New York State West Youth Soccer.
  - c. A player is considered rostered to a team not later than when the player first participates for the team in competition approved by any State Association or its member leagues, clubs and teams. NYSW is not required to consider the following as a rostered player:
    - i. A player on a school team
    - ii. A player on a recreational team

- (3) In addition to the application of the club pass provisions of the policy, a team participating in the National Championship competitions may involuntarily release a player from its roster if the player has violated bylaws, policies, or requirements of the Federation, US Youth Soccer, NYSW, another State Association, or the Club/Association that he or she is registered with.
- (4) A team may have on its team roster only players of the following age groups for the seasonal year in which the team is participating in the National Championships:
  - a. For teams competing in the Under 12 through U15 age groups, each player on the team must be (a) of the age of the age group in which the team is participating in that seasonal year, or (b) of the age in either of the next 2 younger age groups of that age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year.
  - b. For teams competing in the U16, 17, 18, and 19 age groups, each player on the team must be (a) of the age of the age group competition in which the team is participating in the seasonal year, or (b) of the age of any younger age group, through the U14 age group, of that age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year.

### Section 3. Team Rosters and Game Rosters

Every team participating in the Championship series including the preliminary games shall have a team roster, a cup roster determined under this rule based on the players on the team roster, and a game roster for every match or competition.

- (1) Team Roster - The team roster shall be the certified RosterPro State League roster. The team roster shall have a minimum of 9 registered players on its roster at all times.
- (2) National Championships Roster – A team shall have a National Championships Roster based on the team roster at the New York State West level of the competition, approved by New York State West. U12 rosters may have up to 14 youth players, U13 roster may have up to 18 youth players. All other age groups may have up to 22 youth players on the roster at all levels of the competition.
- (3) Game Roster  
All teams involved in a play down match will present a copy of their National Championships roster to the competition authority prior to the match. For all matches including the Final 4, U14 and older teams, a game roster shall be prepared by the team and submitted to the competition authority not later than 15 minutes prior to each scheduled game. The game roster shall have a maximum of 18 players and a minimum of 7 players. Every player listed on the game roster must be included on the team roster to be eligible to participate with the team. Players listed on the team roster but not on the game roster for a particular match must not appear in uniform at the team bench. Players not on the game roster and on the spectator sideline must have his or her uniform covered. For preliminary play down games, the referees are the designated competition authority and the game roster will be submitted to the referee 15 minutes prior to the start of the match. Passes of players not on the game roster will be surrendered to the competition authority for the duration of the match.

### Section 4. Roster Violations that cause a Forfeit

A team shall forfeit each game of the team in which:

- (1) an unregistered player was with the team at the game in a uniform or,
- (2) a player was improperly entered on the team's roster or,
- (3) the team no longer has a recognized team official as required by Rule 7211, section 1 on the team bench.

## Section 5. Roster Freeze

The team must provide its National Championships roster for the National Championship competitions as follows:

1. At the NYSW level, prior to the team's first National Championship competition or no earlier than 14 days prior to the beginning of that age group competition in NYSW.
2. At the regional level, at the time of the team's registration for the team's age group competition at that level shall be determined by the region which shall be no later than 7 days prior to the beginning of the team's age group competition at the regional level; and
3. At the national level, at the time of the team's registration for the team's age group competition at that level that shall be determined by the National Championships Committee which shall be no later than 7 days prior to the beginning of that team's age group competition at the national level.

## Section 6. Roster Movement for Regional and National Levels

(a) At the regional and national levels of the National Championships competitions, a team of a club may have on its National Championships roster an eligible player of that club who was not on the team's National Championship roster at the prior level of the team's National Championships competition.

(b) A player may be rostered to only one team's National Championship roster at each level of the National Championships competitions during the seasonal year.

## Section 7. One Age Group

A team may compete in only one age group of the National Championships competitions during the seasonal year.

## Section 8. Games other than Cup Games on the same day

A Multiple Rostered Player shall not be allowed to play for more than one (1) team per day on any day that their National Championships Team has a game.

## *RULE NYSW 7204-- TEAM OBLIGATIONS*

### Section 1. Home Team Play down game obligations

- (1) For all preliminary games, the Home teams are responsible for having properly marked and cut fields, secured goals, nets and corner flags. The Home team shall make every reasonable effort to acquire the use of an alternate field in the event a field is determined unplayable.
- (2) For all preliminary games, it is the Home team's responsibility to contact the visiting team to set a date and time for the game.
- (3) The Home team must furnish a game ball.

### Section 2. Team Officials Obligations

- (1) It shall be responsibility of each team's officials to control the actions of its players and supporters. Any team failing to control its supporters shall be asked to leave and NYSW may place additional sanctions against those officials.

## *RULE NYSW 7205 -- FORFEITS FOR FAILURE TO COMPETE*

### Section 1. Forfeit Procedure

Any team intending to forfeit a National Championships match shall give written notice of such intention to the NYSW Cup Chairperson, not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled date of the game. Such team will be assessed a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and will be declared ineligible to enter the National Championship competition in the next seasonal year.

### Section 2. Failure to give 14 day forfeit notice

Any team failing to give such notice of forfeit fourteen (14) days prior to date of game, shall be assessed a fine of seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00) and will be declared ineligible to compete in the remaining National Championship competitions plus the next two (2) seasonal year National Championship competitions.

### Section 3. Forfeit Fee Payment

All fines are payable to NYSWYSA within thirty (30) days of the forfeit.

### Section 4. Forfeits and Fines at Regional or National Level Competition

Any team advancing to Regionals/Nationals will be responsible for any fines given to them for failure to compete in those competitions.

## *RULE NYSW 7206 -- FORFEITS GENERALLY*

Any National Championship team proven guilty of violating this policy or of any other requirement of US Soccer, US Youth Soccer or, NYSW, shall be subject to sanctions including but not limited to, forfeiture of all games, fines, suspensions, and the preceding competition or competitions may not be replayed.

## *RULE NYSW 7207 -- PLAYER ELIGIBILITY*

### Section 1. General

- (1) A player must be properly registered and rostered in accordance with the rules of US Youth Soccer and NYSW.
- (2) A youth player may be on the National Championship roster of only one team at each level of the National Championships competitions during any seasonal year; provided, however, that a youth player who was rostered to a team of a club at a National Championship competition level that does not advance to the next level and who has been issued a club pass of that club in accordance with this policy may be rostered to another team of that club at the next level of the National Championships competitions. Subject to the foregoing, and subject to the provisions of Rule 7203, Section 1 (5), at each level of the National Championships competitions, a team may add to its National Championships roster for that level as many registered youth players holding club passes of that club of which a team is a member as the team or its club determines so long as the roster does not exceed the maximum number of players permitted for the age group. A team may not change the club of which it is a member at any time after the commencement of the National Championship competitions and in any event only in compliance with the rules of NYSW.
- (3) A player who has been suspended may play after the player's term of suspension has expired.

- (4) The first National Championships roster of a team to which the player is rostered is the only team with which the player may participate at each level of the National Championships competitions for a seasonal year.
- (5) If a player is over age, is not registered or is improperly rostered on a team's roster, that team shall forfeit all games played prior to finding such situation.

## Section 2. Registration

- (1) Local Registration - A player must register in the National State Association in which he or she resides with his or her parent(s) or guardian(s). Or in the case of a student in residence at a boarding school or university, the player may register in the National State Association in which the boarding school, college/university, or a division of the college/university is located. Any other question of residency may be determined by NYSW by means of a voter registration card, a current driver's license or from an original copy of a school transcript which shows the student's home address. All documents must be originals, no photocopies will be accepted.
- (2) At the time of local registration, the player must show an acceptable proof of age.

## Section 3. Rostering

- (1) In accordance with NYSW policy, a player may register and play for two teams – one primary and one secondary team. The first team for which the player is issued a member pass is considered the 'primary' team. All players on the National Championship roster must have a primary pass to the club of that team.
- (2) In accordance with US Youth Soccer National Championships Policy, a player may participate on only one National Championship team during any one level of the competitions. For example, a player who rostered with and played for a youth team in Virginia, participating in that States National Championship competitions in the fall, may not participate in the National Championships competitions for a team in New York State West in the spring of that same playing year.
- (3) A player rostered to a US YOUTH SOCCER NYSW Cup team may have previously 'primary' rostered to another club during that playing year. In that case, appropriate transfer documentation must exist. The completed NYSW Team/Player Status Form must be available. That form must contain all necessary information and required signatures and the transfer must have occurred prior to the roster freeze date.
- (4) Initial rostering shall commence no later than the player's first (1<sup>st</sup>) participation in any competition sanctioned by a National State Association or its member leagues, clubs, or teams.
- (5) A player is not bound to a team until he/she has been issued their member pass.
- (6) Any player rostered to a National Championships team is bound to that Cup team for that level of the National Championship Series unless the player completes a transfer or is released.

## Section 4. Member Passes

- (1) To be eligible to participate in this Cup competition, each player must have an approved State issued Member Pass.
- (2) The Member Pass must include a current photograph of the player, and validation by NYSW. The pass must be laminated with clear laminate, no yellow laminated passes will be accepted.
- (3) ALL information printed on the pass MUST be legible.
- (4) Player information common to the Member Pass, and Cup Roster must match exactly.

## Section 5. Rosters

- (1) League Rosters - must be an official NYSWYSA RosterPro certified roster.
  - i. In RosterPro, use the roster administration function to create your initial league roster.

- ii. To create the National Championships roster, in RosterPro use the roster administration function to place an existing team into a league. Place the team's existing league roster created in step i. into the appropriate Cup League, either State Cup U12-18 Teams or State Cup U19 Teams.
- (2) National Championship Rosters – must be an official NYSWYSA RosterPro certified roster. All rosters must contain at least 9 players in common with the League Roster. All players MUST have a jersey number on listed on the roster.
- (3) All players, coaches and team officials must be listed on the National Championships Roster. All required information must be included and correct.

## Section 6. Medical Release Form

All players MUST have a current Medical Release Form at all games. These will be checked at registration. No player will be allowed to participate without this form. It is suggested, but not mandatory that Medical Release Forms be notarized.

## *RULE NYSW 7208 -- LEAGUES*

### Section 1. Approved Leagues

- (1) All teams must compete in at least a four team - **APPROVED** league during the current seasonal year in NYSW, or with NYSW permission, in another National State Association or Regional League. The only exception is the U19 age group. Questions about which leagues are considered Cup approved should be directed to NYSW.
- (2) The league competition must consist of a minimum of one game against each of three (3) different teams participating in the league.
- (3) The league must play on appropriate sized fields and 11 v 11 (8 v 8 for the U12 age group).
- (4) For U19, U18, and U17 age groups, participation in an adult or amateur league may qualify the team with prior approval from NYSW.

### Section 2. Approved League Structure

- (1) All leagues must have the following:
  1. Bylaws
  2. Officers/Board of Directors
  3. Rules
  4. Schedules
  5. All leagues MUST be a member or associate member of NYSW, another National State Association or US Youth Soccer.

### Section 3. Approved League Team Composition

- (1) In order for a league to be approved, it must meet the following criteria:
  1. At least twenty-five percent (25%) of the total entries must be from different clubs.

2. An age group must have at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the entries from at least two clubs.
3. A team can play up only one (1), two (2) year age group except for U16. Example: U14 can play U16, but not U17 or above.
4. The games must be full-length games as per FIFA times.
5. Must play at least a three-week schedule. No one (1) weekend leagues allowed.
6. All games played must have certified USSF Referees. They **MUST** be assigned by a USSF Certified Referee Assignor.
7. A report recapping all games, standings red cards and winners must be sent to the NYSW State office at the conclusion of the league.

#### Section 4. Approved League Sanctioning

Only sanctioned US Youth Soccer leagues will be considered for qualifying leagues. USSF Academy teams are not eligible for this competition. Any new league that wishes to be considered as a Cup qualifying league should submit their request to the Cup Chairman by October 15th of the current seasonal year. The NYSWYSA Cup Chairperson has the right to reject any team not playing in an approved league.

### *RULE NYSW 7209 -- TEAM AND PLAYER BREACHES OF RULES*

#### Section 1. NYSW Oversight

It is the responsibility of the NYSW Cup Chairperson to investigate a properly protested violation immediately following its receipt. Failure to cooperate with that investigation shall result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension.

#### Section 2. Result of Violations

Any team found guilty of using an ineligible player is not eligible to compete further in the National Championships competition in the current seasonal year. Any coach, manager or official found guilty of knowingly using an ineligible player is not eligible to compete further in the National Championship competitions in the current and subsequent seasonal year. A player found guilty of submitting falsified birth information is prohibited from competing further in National Championship competitions in the current and subsequent seasonal year.

#### Section 3. Red Cards and Send Off's

A player, coach or team official who is sent off from any National Championship competitions is prohibited from participating in the next National Championships match for which they are scheduled to participate. A player, coach or team official may receive more than a one - game suspension to be determined by the Cup Committee. Red cards stay within the competition in which they are issued. This means that for red cards that are not issued during a National Championships match (such as cards issued during league play or tournament play), the player shall not serve the associated suspension in National Championship match play (either during a play down match or a final four match)

#### Section 4. Misconduct

Players, coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained in this policy, including cautions, ejections and standard suspension. Any other individuals who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team, such as relatives & spectators, are also subject to the jurisdiction & authority of NYSWYSA. Any coach or team official shall be held responsible for the actions of any individual at any game that, in the opinion of the referee, is a supporter of that team.

## *RULE NYSW 7210 -- PROTESTS AND APPEALS*

A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the US YOUTH SOCCER NYSW Championships Competitions, are not sufficient grounds for a protest or appeal. Violators may expect appropriate action by NYSW. Any Player, Coach, or Team Official, who has been suspended from the US YOUTH SOCCER NYSW Championships Competitions due to disciplinary action by the Cup Committee, may appeal the decision to the NYSW.

### Section 1. Appeals

Anyone filing an appeal must conform to the NYSW Adjudication Manual.

### Section 2. Protests

All questions relating to the qualifications of the competitors or interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest, shall be referred to the NYSW Cup Chairperson.

For game protests, the NYSW Cup Chairperson shall compile the necessary information, to hear the protest, from all available sources before the protest is heard. This shall include, if possible, coaches, field marshals, referees, assessors, available witnesses if necessary, etc. At the Final's tournament, all coaches or their designated representatives MUST remain at the game site until the protest is decided.

After completion of compiling the necessary information, the NYSW Cup Chairperson will meet with the Protest Committee, of which there must be four (4) members present, to conduct the protest meeting. The four (4) members of the protest committee shall be appointed by the NYSW Cup Chairperson. No member of the protest committee shall be from the District of any of the teams involved in the protest. The NYSW Cup Chairperson will only vote in case of a tie. The decision of the Committee shall be binding. The NYSW Cup Chairperson shall notify both coaches of the Committee's decision. If the protest is upheld and the game has to be replayed, it will be up to the NYSW Cup Chairperson to schedule the game as he/she sees fit.

#### **The following rules apply to all protests:**

- (1) The protest must be verbally lodged with the referee and the opposing coach at the game site before entering the field of play or leaving the game site except as noted in #4 below.
- (2) The protest must be filed with the NYSW Cup Chairperson with the following:
  - a. Fee in the amount of \$500.00. This fee may be in cash, cashier's check or money order. All checks and money orders must be made payable to NYSW. No protest fees will be returned for any reason.
  - b. The protest must be submitted in writing with a minimum of five (5) copies and must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged.
  - c. Any information to be presented by witnesses must be in writing.
- (3) The NYSW Cup Chairman MUST receive the protest within one (1) hour of the completion of the game being protested.
- (4) Any protest relating to the fields, goalposts, bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained if the NYSW Cup Chairman and the Referee Administrator have approved them.
- (5) The NYSW Cup Chairperson shall immediately upon the receipt of a protest, notify the team against which the protest is made and shall give a copy of the protest and all particulars to that team, which will then have the right to defend its case, with or without witnesses.
- (6) A lawyer shall not represent a team at the hearing of any protest unless the lawyer is listed on the team's roster as a coach, assistant coach or other team official.

(7) Judgment decisions of the Referee are not subject to protest.

## *RULE NYSW 7211 -- GAME PLAY*

### Section 1. Passes, Rosters, Uniforms and Score Cards

- (1) At all Cup Games, players and all team officials must have a current State certified Member Pass.
- (2) At all Cup Games, the team must have a Certified National Championships Roster. The team's National Championships roster and member passes must be available at the game site at all times.
- (3) Each player must have a number on the player's jersey. The number must be affixed to the back of the jersey and must be clearly visible. Each player on the team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team. Goalkeepers must also have a number on their jersey. Zero '0' is an acceptable jersey number. Double zero '00' is not an acceptable jersey number.
- (4) Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from other players and game officials.
- (5) At every level of the National Championships competitions, a player or team official at a game site to participate in a game of the competitions may only have on the outer wear of the player or team official a name, logo, or other identifying mark of a youth soccer organization of US Youth Soccer, NYSWYSA, or other member of US Youth Soccer, or a member of NYSWYSA. A name, logo, or other identifying mark of any other youth soccer organization must be removed, replaced, or covered before the player or team official may continue to remain at the game site for the game.
- (6) At all Final 4 Cup Games, both teams must return their score card to the tournament headquarters. Failure to return the card will result in a \$25.00 fine during the first two days of competition and will result in a \$50.00 fine on the final day of the competition.**

### Section 2. Playing Rules

The playing rules of THE US YOUTH SOCCER NYSW Championships Competitions shall conform to the FIFA "Laws of the Game" except as provided by this rule.

Except as otherwise provided for in this section, the length of games, overtime play periods, ball size, ball circumference, and ball weight for each age group shall be as follows:

| <u>Age Group</u> | <u>Game Length</u> | <u>Overtime Play</u> | <u>Size</u> | <u>Circumference</u> | <u>Weight</u> |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Under 19         | Two 45' halves     | Two 15' periods      | #5          | 27-28 in.            | 14-16 oz.     |
| Under 18         | Two 45' halves     | Two 15' periods      | #5          | 27-28 in.            | 14-16 oz.     |
| Under 17         | Two 45' halves     | Two 15' periods      | #5          | 27-28 in.            | 14-16 oz.     |
| Under 16         | Two 40' halves     | Two 15' periods      | #5          | 27-28 in.            | 14-16 oz.     |
| Under 15         | Two 40' halves     | Two 15' periods      | #5          | 27-28 in.            | 14-16 oz.     |
| Under 14         | Two 35' halves     | Two 10' periods      | #5          | 27-28 in.            | 14-16 oz.     |
| Under 13         | Two 35' halves     | Two 10' periods      | #5          | 27-28 in.            | 14-16 oz.     |
| Under 12         | Two 30' halves     | Two 10' periods      | #4          | 25-26 in.            | 11-13 oz.     |

### **OVERTIME PLAY**

- For all games EXCEPT Final 4 tournament games:

All matches that are tied at the end of regulation play will be decided by playing two overtime periods as called out in the table above. If a game has overtime play and is still tied after the end of overtime play, FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" rules will apply in order to determine the winner.

- For all “round robin format” games:

Games tied at the end of regulation time, will remain a tie and be scored as such.

### **SUBSTITUTIONS**

For the National Championships competitions at all levels—

- (1) for the Under 12, 13, and 14 age groups, unlimited substitutions shall be allowed; and
- (2) for all other age groups, a maximum of 7 substitutions for each team shall be allowed in each game during each half of play and during overtime play. After leaving the game during a half of play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game during that same half of play. After leaving the game during overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game.

### **GRACE PERIOD**

A fifteen (15) minute grace period shall be allowed at the start of the game. For all preliminary/playoff round match games, any team not ready to play after the grace period must be reported by the referee to the NYSW Cup Chairperson within 24 hours for appropriate action.

### **UNFINISHED GAMES**

Unfinished games due to any cause shall be replayed providing neither team is at fault and play has not begun in the second half of regulation time. If play is stopped during the second half of regulation time and cannot be resumed, and neither team is at fault, the game will be declared finished and complete. If a play down match is stopped during the second half of regulation time and cannot be resumed, and the match is tied when it is stopped, the entire match will be replayed on a different day. Should play be stopped at any time due to one (1) of the teams being adjudged at fault, whether the game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit shall be at the discretion of the NYSW Cup Chairperson and 2 other members of the NYSW Board of Directors.

### **SCORING SYSTEM**

|      |                  |
|------|------------------|
| WIN  | Three (3) Points |
| TIE  | One (1) Point    |
| LOSS | Zero (0) Points  |

### **TIE BREAKERS**

- (1) Head to Head
- (2) Most Wins
- (3) Goal Difference (maximum goal difference will be four (4) per game)
- (4) Least Goals Allowed
- (5) FIFA Penalty Kicks
  - a) immediately following the round robin games at a time and place determined by the State Cup Committee. The home team for the kicks will be whichever team was the home team when the two opponents played head to head. Any player/person send off or suspended during the head to head match cannot take part in the kicks.

### **Three way ties within an age group:**

A three way tie will be decided using the same tie breakers as 2, 3, 4, and 5 above. If FIFA penalty kicks have to be taken, there will be a draw by the State Cup Committee. The first team drawn will receive the bye, the next team drawn will be the home team against the remaining team in the first contest of penalty kicks. The winner of the first contest will then compete against the bye team in penalty kicks to determine the winner of the age group. The bye team will be the home team.

Selection of wildcard teams will follow the same criteria as called out in the scoring system and the tie breakers.

## **FORFEITS**

If a team participating in the competition during the Final 4 Weekend forfeits a game, the scoring will be as follows:

- (1) For each forfeited game, the **NON-forfeiting team** shall be awarded
  - a. Three (3) points for a win
  - b. Goal differential shall be equal to the average goals for game(s) in the same age group allowed by the team that forfeits.
  - c. Zero goals allowed.
- (2) For each forfeited game, the **forfeiting team** shall be awarded
  - a. Zero points for the loss.
  - b. Zero goals for.
  - c. Four (4) goals allowed.

## *RULE NYSW 7212 -- GAME OFFICIALS*

### Section 1. USSF Registered Referees

For any and all US YOUTH SOCCER NYSW Championship Cup Games, the game officials must be registered and assigned by the Western NY Referees Group.

### Section 2. Referee Match Fees

The fees for game officials shall be consistent with the current contract between NYSW and the Western NY Referees Group.

### Section 3. Referee Match Fees for Play down Games

For all games played by teams to qualify for the Final 4 Weekend, game fees shall be paid to the referee's on the fields by the teams playing the game.

### Section 4. Referee Match Fees for Final 4 Weekend

All games played at the Final 4 Weekend, game fees shall be paid to the referee's by NYSW, not the teams.

### Section 5. Referee Authority

The referee shall have the power to decide the fitness of the field in all games. In other respects, the duties of the referee and assistant referee are as defined in the "FIFA Laws of the Game."

### Section 6. Failure of Referee to Appear

In the event the assigned referee fails to appear and when assistant referees have been appointed, one of the assistant referees shall take charge. When assistant referees have not been appointed and the referee fails to put in an appearance, the coaches or managers of the home team need to contact the Cup Chairperson as soon as possible. The game may be conducted if other USSF certified referees can be located. Any game conducted without USSF certified referees will not be counted in the Cup standings.

## Section 7. Violent Conduct during a Match

The referee has the power during the game to deal with players guilty of violent conduct or using threatening or abusive language. The referee shall forward the name of any offender within 2 days thereafter to the NYSW Cup Chairperson. No player shall leave the field of play without the consent of the referee.

## *RULE NYSW 7213 – TEAM AND PLAYER REGISTRATION AT FINAL 4 WEEKEND*

### Section 1. Team Must Register

All teams playing in the Final 4 Weekend must register their team at least 1 hour prior to their first (1st) game. Teams should consider registering early as the registration area can be very busy at times.

A team official must be present to check-in.

The team's Certified NYSW National Championship Series Roster should be on file at the headquarters/check-in table.

### Section 2. Documents to Present at Registration

At registration, each team must have the following:

- (1) Proof of residence - Any other question of residency may be determined by NYSW by means of a voter registration card, a current driver's license, or from an original copy of a current year school transcript which shows the student's home address.
- (2) If a player lives outside of NYSW boundaries, he or she must have proper paper work showing permission to play in NYSW from the proper National State Association.
- (3) Medical Release Forms.
- (4) Member (Players) Passes for all players, coaches and team officials. **All passes MUST be laminated.**
- (5) A commitment form.
- (6) A Code of Conduct form.

## *RULE NYSW 7214 -- MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR*

The NYSW Board of Directors shall determine all matters not provided for in these rules provided that the matter is not covered by the National Championship Rules and decisions so made shall be final and binding.

Released for 2003 as Ver.5, 31 Jan. 2003  
Released for 2004 as Ver. 1, 1 Jan, 2004  
Released for 2005 as Ver. 1, 27 Jan 2005  
Released for 2006 as Ver. 1, 06 Feb 2006  
Revised to include U12 play, Ver.2, 19 February 2006  
Released for 2007 as Ver. 1, 16 Jan 2007  
Released for 2008 as Ver. 3, 12 Feb 2008  
Released for 2009 as Ver. 1, 27 Jan 2009  
Released for 2010 as Ver. 4, 18 Jan. 2010  
Reformatted for 2011 and released 3 Feb 2011  
Revised to meet new national changes, 16 Sept 2011  
Revised to meet 19 Nov 2011 Amendments to the NCS rule, 6 Dec 2011  
Released for 2012 Ver. 1, 22 Dec 2011  
Released for 2012 Ver. 2, 9 January 2012

# Appendix A

---

Play Down Brackets – the number of play down matches is determined by the number of entrants in the particular age group competition. See the specific examples in the attached pages.



# NY West Youth Soccer National Championship Series



## 5 Teams

**Seed 1**

BYE

**Seed 2**

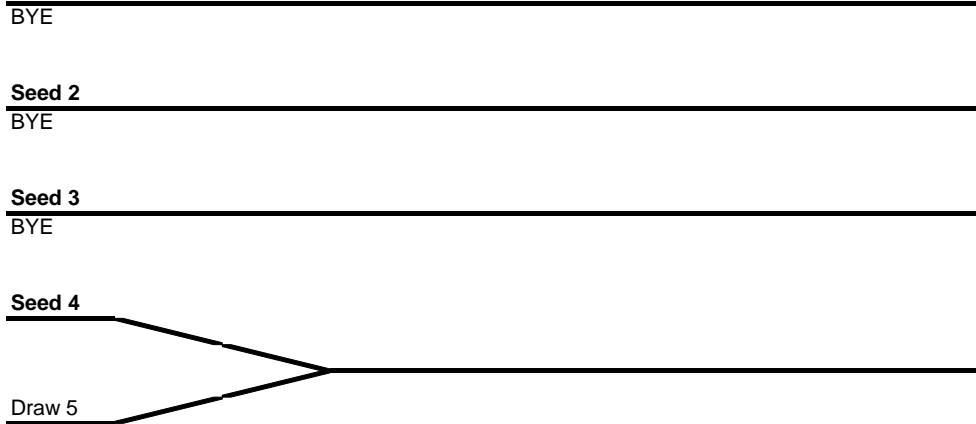
BYE

**Seed 3**

BYE

**Seed 4**

Draw 5



Note:

1. Unseeded teams are assigned randomly
2. Teams receiving a 1st round bye must play a proven winner in the 2nd round

**5 Teams**



# NY West Youth Soccer National Championship Series



## 6 Teams

**Seed 1**

BYE

**Seed 2**

BYE

**Seed 3**

Draw 6

**Seed 4**

Draw 5

Note:

1. Unseeded teams are assigned randomly
2. Teams receiving a 1st round bye must play a proven winner in the 2nd round

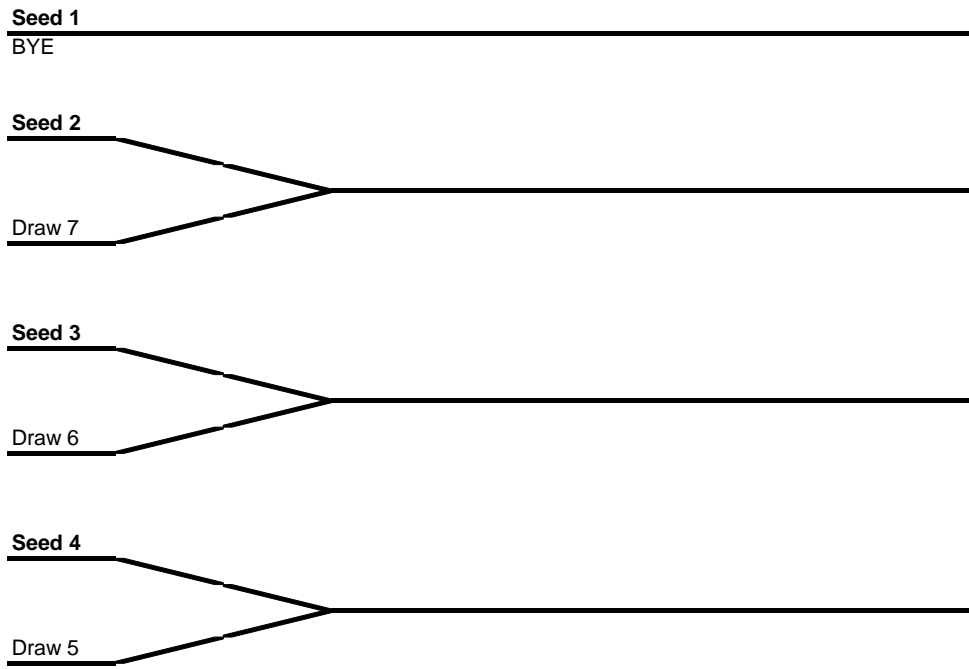
**6 Teams**



# NY West Youth Soccer National Championship Series



## 7 Teams



Note:

1. Unseeded teams are assigned randomly
2. Teams receiving a 1st round bye must play a proven winner in the 2nd round

**7 Teams**

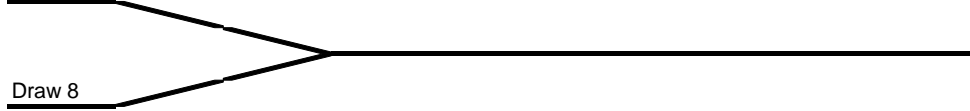


# NY West Youth Soccer National Championship Series



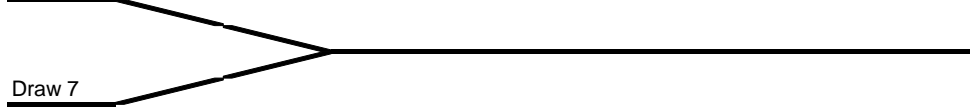
## 8 Teams

Seed 1



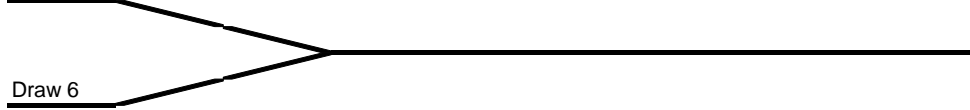
Draw 8

Seed 2



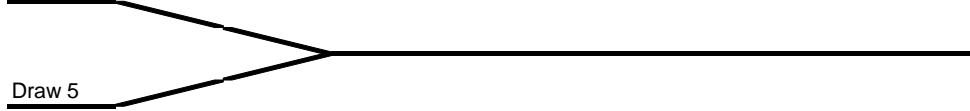
Draw 7

Seed 3



Draw 6

Seed 4



Draw 5

Note:

1. Unseeded teams are assigned randomly
2. Teams receiving a 1st round bye must play a proven winner in the 2nd round

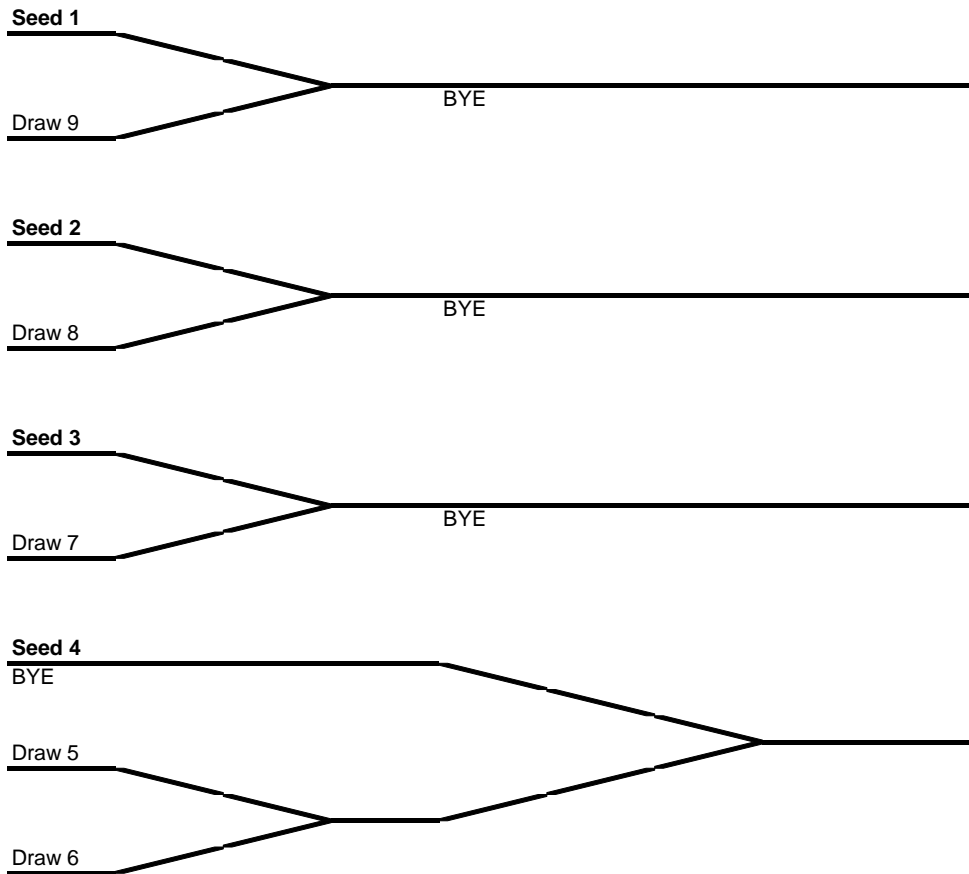
8 Teams



# NY West Youth Soccer National Championship Series



## 9 Teams



Note:

1. Unseeded teams are assigned randomly
2. Teams receiving a 1st round bye must play a proven winner in the 2nd round

9 Teams

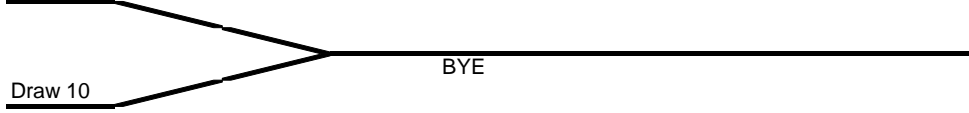


# NY West Youth Soccer National Championship Series

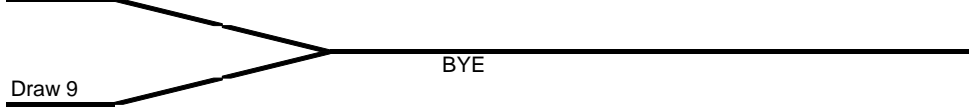


## 10 Teams

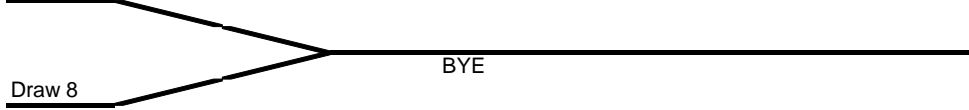
**Seed 1**



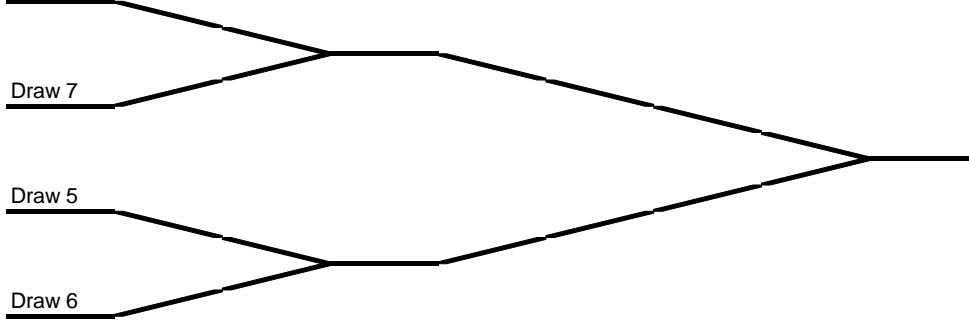
**Seed 2**



**Seed 3**



**Seed 4**



Note:

1. Unseeded teams are assigned randomly
2. Teams receiving a 1st round bye must play a proven winner in the 2nd round

**10 Teams**

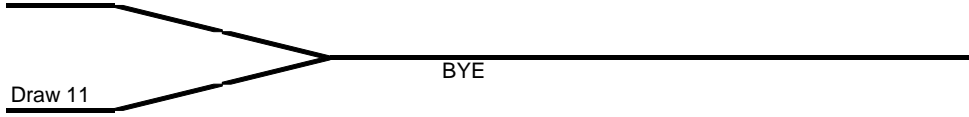


# NY West Youth Soccer National Championship Series

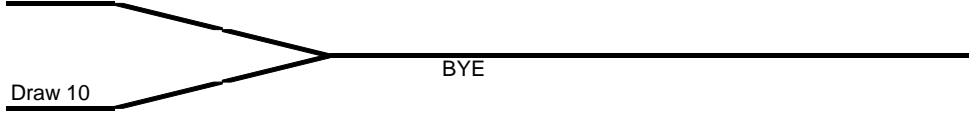


## 11 Teams

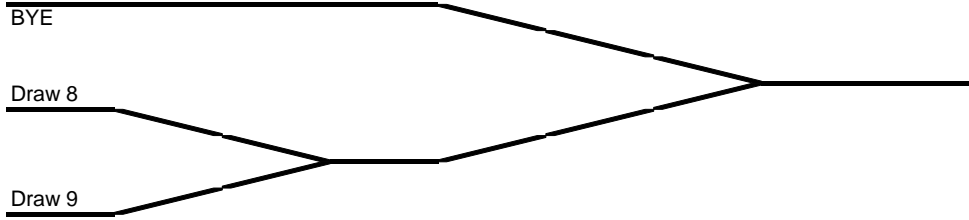
### Seed 1



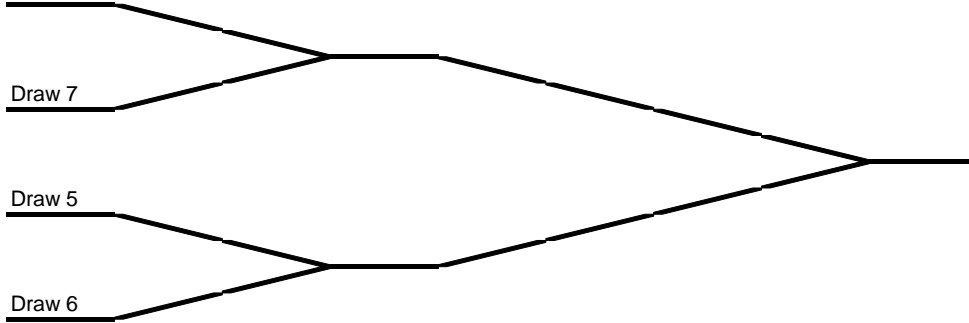
### Seed 2



### Seed 3



### Seed 4



Note:

1. Unseeded teams are assigned randomly
2. Teams receiving a 1st round bye must play a proven winner in the 2nd round

11 Teams

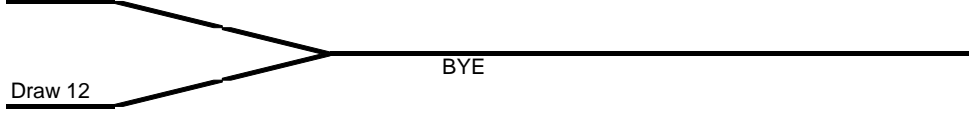


# NY West Youth Soccer National Championship Series

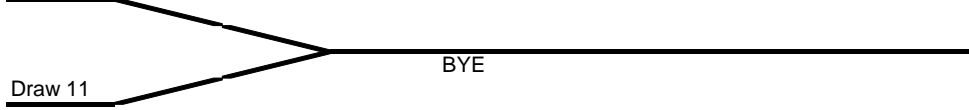


## 12 Teams

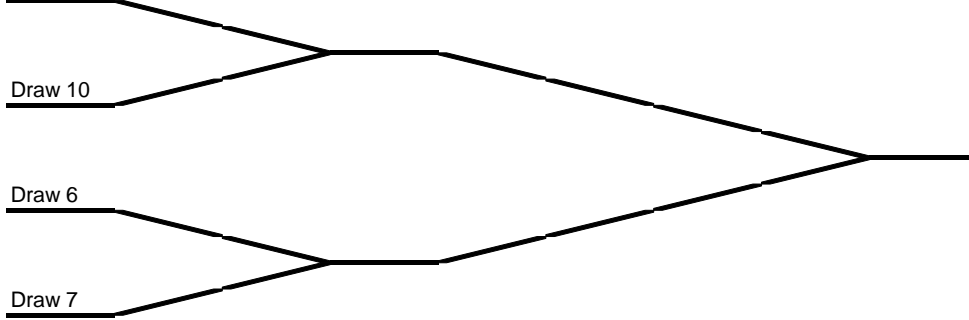
**Seed 1**



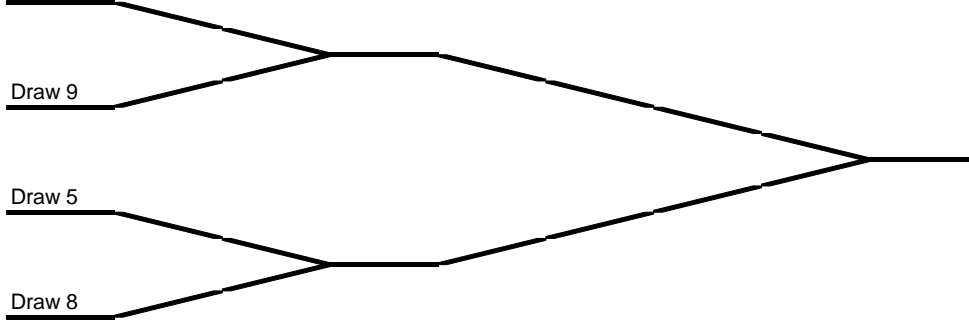
**Seed 2**



**Seed 3**



**Seed 4**



Note:

1. Unseeded teams are assigned randomly
2. Teams receiving a 1st round bye must play a proven winner in the 2nd round

**12 Teams**

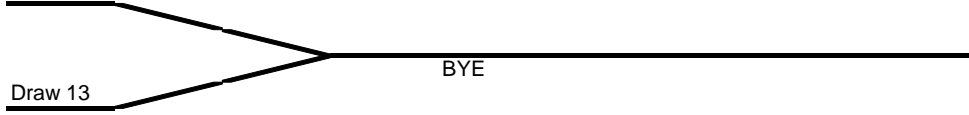


# NY West Youth Soccer National Championship Series

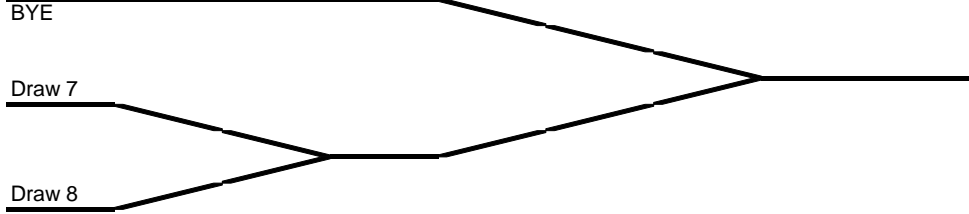


## 13 Teams

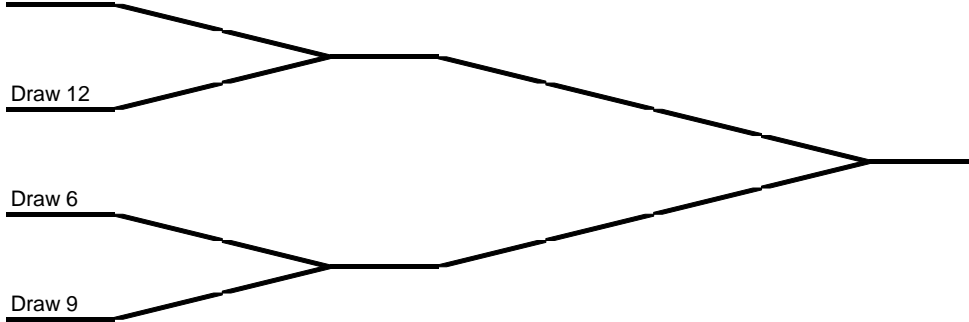
### Seed 1



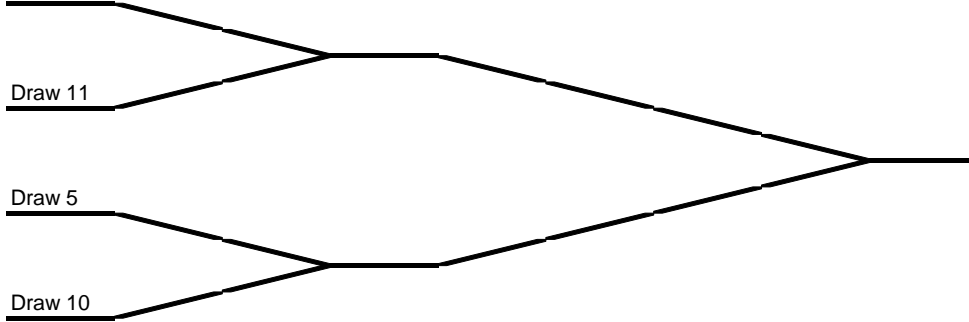
### Seed 2



### Seed 3



### Draw 4



Note:

1. Unseeded teams are assigned randomly
2. Teams receiving a 1st round bye must play a proven winner in the 2nd round

13 Teams

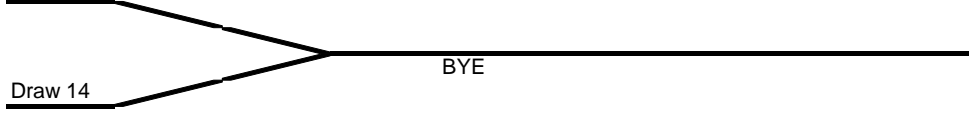


# NY West Youth Soccer National Championship Series

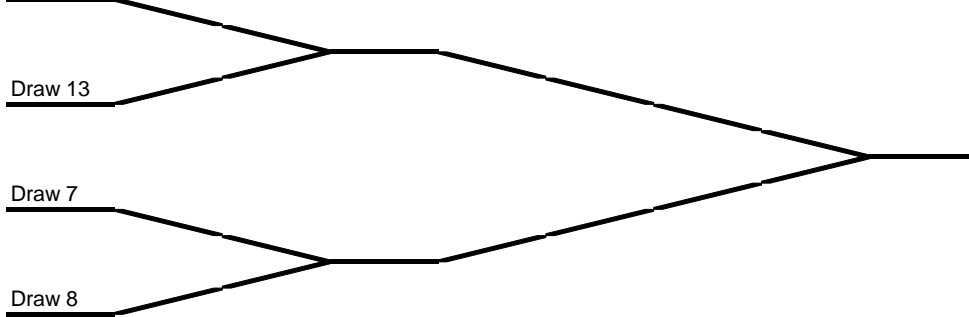


## 14 Teams

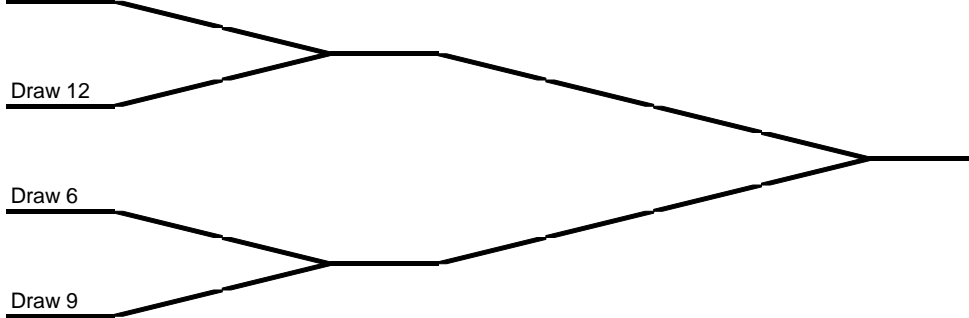
### Seed 1



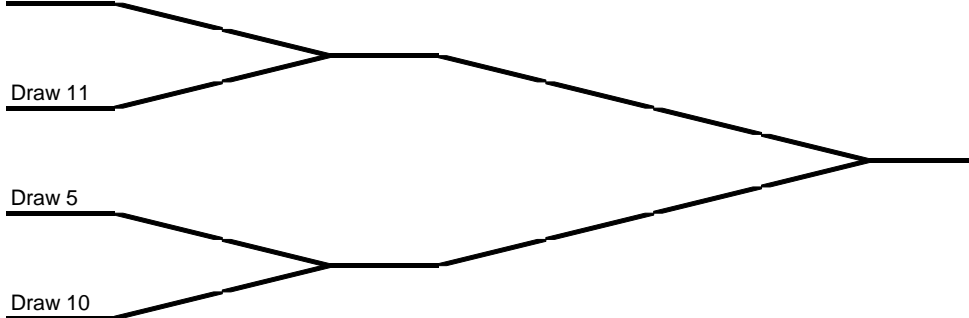
### Seed 2



### Seed 3



### Seed 4



Note:

1. Unseeded teams are assigned randomly
2. Teams receiving a 1st round bye must play a proven winner in the 2nd round

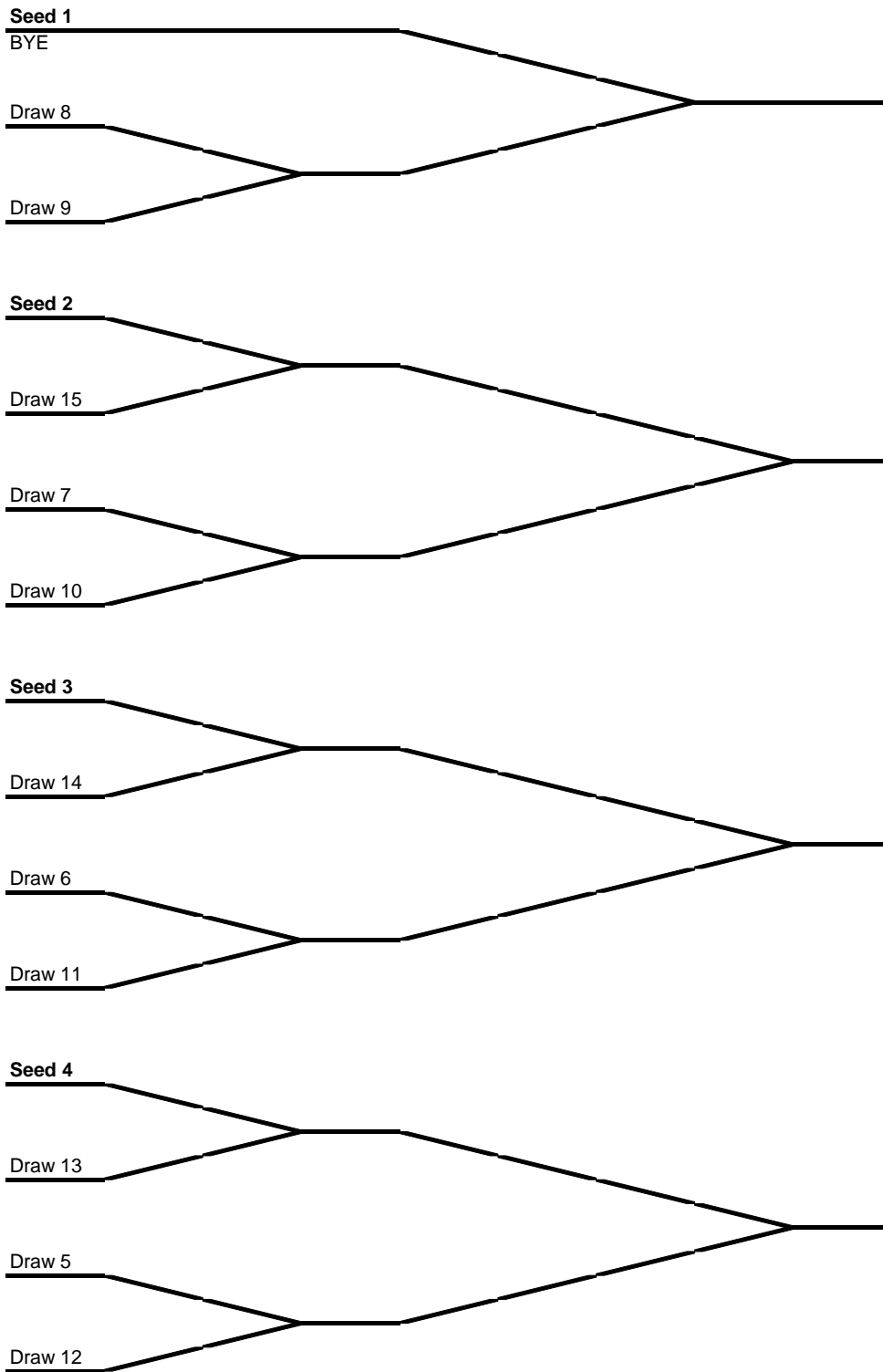
14 Teams



# NY West Youth Soccer National Championship Series



## 15 Teams



Note:

1. Unseeded teams are assigned randomly
2. Teams receiving a 1st round bye must play a proven winner in the 2nd round

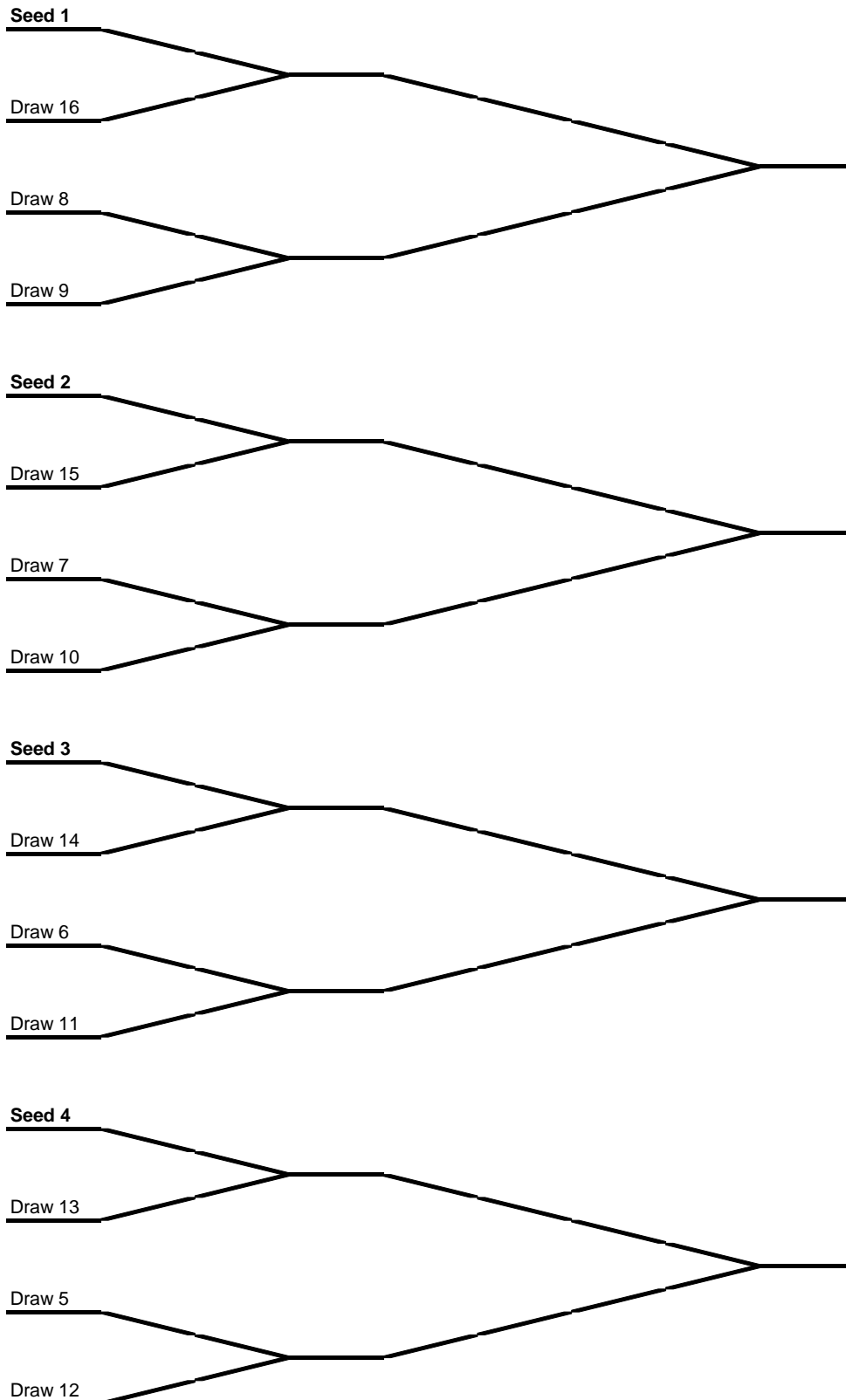
15 Teams



# NY West Youth Soccer National Championship Series



## 16 Teams



Note:

1. Unseeded teams are assigned randomly
2. Teams receiving a 1st round bye must play a proven winner in the 2nd round

16 Teams