

MLS NEXT CUP QUALIFIER

ROSEVILLE REGIONAL RULES & REGULATIONS

COMPETITION RULES

Format

- Three (3) matches guaranteed.
- Three (3) group stage matches.
- Semi final for group winners & Final for semi winners
- 1st place teams will qualify for MLS NEXT Cup.

Matches

- Group Stage and Knockout Round: 2 x 30 minute halves
- 5 minute halftime.
- If at the end of regulation the match is a draw, kicks from the mark (PK's) will be held to determine a winner.
- In the Final, if at the end of regulation the match is a draw, 2 x 5 minute extra time periods will be played.
- If the match remains a draw after 2 x 5 minute extra time periods, PK's will be held to determine a winner.

COMPETITION RULES

Group Scoring

- Three (3) points for a win
- Two (2) points for a draw and win in PK's
- One (1) point for a draw and loss in PK's

Tiebreakers

- Head - to - head
  - Does not apply if more than two teams are involved
  - Winning in PK's constitutes as a head - to - head victory
- Highest number of wins in regulation
- Goal difference
- Goals for per match
- Fewest disciplinary points
- Coin flip

Match Equipment

- *Each team is required to have two different sets of kits with corresponding numbers.*
- *Each player is required to have a consistent kit number throughout the competition.*
- *Failure to adhere to this policy may result in discipline including, but not limited to, player ineligibility and/or awarding of disciplinary points, to be determined in the sole and absolute discretion of the Competition Staff.*
- *The team listed as the Home Team is required to wear white/light-color uniforms.*
- *The team listed as the Away Team is required to wear dark/contrasting uniforms.*
- *If both teams are wearing the same color, it is the responsibility of the listed home team to change kits.*

COMPETITION RULES

Match Timeframe

- Friday
    - All teams play 2 group games
- Saturday
    - All teams play 1 group game
    - All group winners play a semi-final
- Sunday
    - Semi-final winners play in the final

Qualification Structure

- U13
    - 4 Groups of 4 - Top team advances to the Semi
- U14
    - 4 Groups of 4 - Top team advances to the Semi
- U15
    - 4 Groups of 4 - Top team advances to the Semi
- U16
    - 4 Groups of 4 - Top team advances to the Semi
- U17
    - 4 Groups of 4 - Top team advances to the Semi
- U19:
    - 4 Groups of 4 - Top team advances to the Semi

COMPETITION RULES

Roster Rules

- Maximum of twenty (20) players per roster.
- Substitutions: 3 moments per half. No re-entry allowed in the half. Halftime does NOT count as a moment.
- Maximum of five (5) Technical Staff members in the Technical Area.
- Players can only be rostered with one team throughout the duration of the event

Roster Freeze

- The MLS NEXT Cup Qualifier Roster Freeze will go into effect Monday, October 26th at 5 PM EST.
- All teams must submit their matchday roster in Kitman Labs for their first MLS NEXT Cup Qualifier match by the roster freeze deadline.
  - The 20 players selected for the first match, will be the only players selectable for the remainder of the event for that team.
  - The matchday roster submission process will be consistent with the current regular season process within Kitman Labs.

New Rules

- 8 Second Rule (GK holding the ball for longer than 8 sec results in a corner kick)
- Captain Rule (only captain can speak to the ref)

COMPETITION RULES

Age Groups

- U19 Age Group: Players born on or after August 1, 2007
  - Up to three (3) overage (8/1/2006) players eligible per roster
- U17 Age Group: Players born on or after August 1, 2009
- U16 Age Group: Players born on or after August 1, 2010
- U15 Age Group: Players born on or after August 1, 2011
- U14 Age Group: Players born on or after August 1, 2012
- U13 Age Group: Players born on or after August 1, 2013

Technical Areas

- *Only one (1) person at a time is authorized to convey tactical instructions from the Technical Area.*

- A *maximum of five (5) Technical Staff members not including the team's Athletic Trainer (ATC), shall be allowed in the Technical Area during a match.*

- *Failure to comply with this requirement may result in awarding of disciplinary points, to be determined by Competition Staff.*

- *A suspended player or Technical Staff member will not be allowed to sit on the bench or stand in the Technical Area.*

COMPETITION RULES

Substitutions

- 3 moments per half. No re-entry allowed in the half. Halftime does NOT count as a moment.

Head Injury Substitution Procedure

A player who is suspected to have suffered a head injury may be substituted while being evaluated by a Qualified Medical Professional (QMP). The substitution for the evaluation of the concussion/head injury will not count against the team's total number of substitution moments in the match (temporary substitution).

If the player is deemed by a QMP to not have suffered a concussion, the player may re-enter the match at any stoppage of play and must replace the temporary substitute; this head injury evaluation substitution will not count as a substitution moment. Furthermore, the temporary substitute will be able to re-enter the match at a later time if not previously substituted out earlier in the match for a non-head related substitution.

If the player is deemed by the QMP to have suffered a possible concussion and is not cleared to return to play, the temporary substitute will be considered a permanent substitute.

Policy Principles

- *A "concussion substitution" may be made regardless of the number of substitutes or moments already used.*
- *If all substitutes have been used the "concussion substitute" can be a player who has previously been substituted.*
- *Each team is permitted an unlimited amount of "concussion substitutions".*
- *If the team has only 2 goalkeepers eligible to play on the match day roster and the starting goalkeeper has been subbed out during the match and the new goalkeeper is suspected of a concussion, the previously substituted goalkeeper will be allowed to re-enter for the head injury evaluation.*
- *If the goalkeeper cannot return, the previous goalkeeper will remain in the match.*

COMPETITION RULES

Discipline

- Regular Season
  - Only Egregious red card suspensions will carry over from the MLS NEXT AD regular season to MLS NEXT Cup Qualifier.
  - All red card suspensions will carry over from MLS NEXT Cup Qualifier to the MLS NEXT AD regular season.

- Yellow Card Accumulation
  - Three (3) yellow cards received during the Event will result in a one (1) match suspension.
  - Yellow Card Accumulation will not carry over from the regular season into MLS NEXT Cup Qualifier.
  - Yellow Card Accumulation will not carry over from MLS NEXT Cup Qualifier into the regular season.
  - A player cannot miss the Final due to Yellow Card Accumulation.

- Red Card suspensions will be served the next match
  - If a suspension from MLS NEXT Cup Qualifier exceeds the number of matches remaining at MLS NEXT Cup Qualifier it will carry over to the MLS NEXT AD regular season.

- The Competition Staff reserves the right to increase a suspension depending on the severity and circumstance of the red card

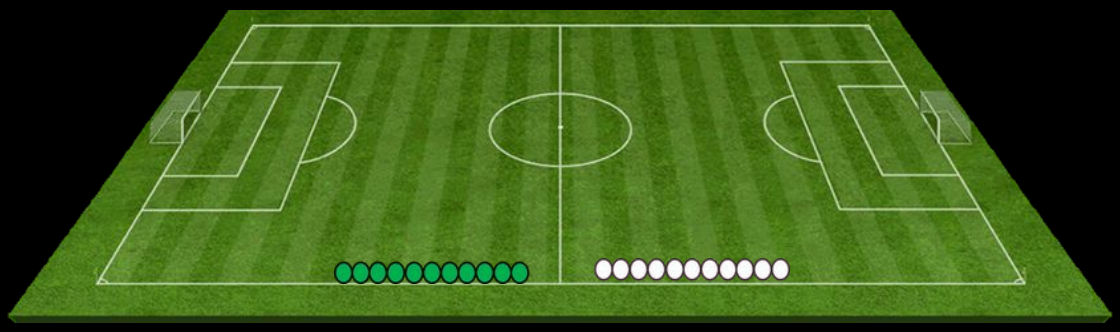
- Disciplinary Points
  - Player: one (1) point for each yellow card & three (3) points for a straight red card.
    - Two (2) yellow cards resulting in a red card will count as two (2) disciplinary points.
  - Staff: three (3) points for a yellow card & seven (7) points for a straight red card.
    - Two (2) yellow cards resulting in a red card will count as six (6) disciplinary points.

COMPETITION RULES

Matchday

Pre-Match Procedure

- No locker rooms
- Warm-up:
  - All players warm up outside of penalty area
  - Goalkeepers will only be allowed inside the penalty area ten (10) minutes before the start of the match
- Walk-outs only for Championship matches
- Five (5) minutes before the scheduled kick-off, players and balls must be off the field
- Team captains will gather with the referee crew for coin toss



HOME TEAM AWAY TEAM



COMPETITION RULES

Weather Delays

- Referees will be notified when lightning is within our warning area of 15 miles.
  - When lightning strikes within 10 miles, we will clear all fields and ask everyone to seek shelter.
  - Communication will be sent via email/phone.

- If the match is suspended and can be resumed later in the day or next morning (at discretion of Competition Staff).
  - We will do our best to continue the match from the moment of the delay. A continued match will restart at the minute the match was suspended with the same players on the field, score, substitutions, substitution moments, and disciplinary record.

- If the match is postponed and can be played later in the day or the next morning (at discretion of Competition Staff).

- If we cannot complete the match and we meet minutes played threshold.
  - Group Stage through Semi-Final matches will be considered complete at the 45th minute.
  - All Final matches will be considered complete at the 55th minute.

- If we cannot complete the match and we do not meet the minutes played threshold (above).
  - We will use a penalty shootout to determine a winner.

- In the event we cannot perform a penalty shootout.
  - We will perform a coin toss to determine a winner.

MLS NEXT Prohibited Behavior Reminders

MLS NEXT prohibits discriminatory conduct

On-Field Conduct

Banned Terms

Use of a Banned Term or discriminatory gestures will result in a red card and suspension of three (3) or more games.

MLS NEXT is committed to facilitating a diverse and inclusive environment. Discrimination or offensive remarks of any kind arising out of or in connection with an individual's background, ethnicity, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or identity, in English or any language, will not be tolerated.

Examples of Banned Terms	
"Sp*c" / "Sp*ck" / "Bean*r" / "Wetb*ck"	"Ch*nk" / "Sl*nt"
"Rag He*d"	"K*ke"
"N*gga" / "N*gger" / "N*gro"	"Monkey" / "Mono" / "Gorilla" / "Gorila"
"Black Boy" / "White Boy" / "Jew Boy"	"Cracker"
"P*to" / "Mar*cón"	"F*g" / "F*ggot" / "Homo" / "B*tty Boy"

Taunting

Participants are expected to respect each other and ensure that each match is played and conducted in accordance with discipline and sporting behavior.

Match officials will issue yellow cards for unsportsmanlike behavior, including taunting the opposing team.

Off-Field Conduct

Hazing & Bullying

MLS NEXT prohibits any conduct that can be considered hazing, bullying, or harassment. Anyone who is found to have violated the MLS NEXT Code of Conduct or the MLS NEXT Safety & Wellbeing Policy will be subject to discipline.

Physical misconduct will not be tolerated and will lead to discipline.

Improper Use of Cell Phones

Taking a photo or video on a cell phone, using any social media app or otherwise, is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, restrooms, or changing rooms.

Anyone who uses their cell phone to take a picture or a video of anyone in a state of undress (e.g., disrobed, or partial or full nudity where private body parts are exposed) shall be subject to discipline and this individual will be reported to the Center for SafeSport and/or local law enforcement.

Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, Vaping

The illegal use of drugs (as determined by federal law), alcohol, tobacco, or vaping by players and participants in MLS NEXT is strictly prohibited during the MLS NEXT Season and at MLS NEXT Events. Violations will be subject to discipline.

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PRE-MATCH STATEMENT

Before every Match, the Match Official will read the following statement:

MLS NEXT AD prohibits discriminatory conduct and a red card will be issued to anyone who uses a Banned Term or makes a discriminatory gesture, and they will be suspended from future games.

Yellow cards will be issued for unsporting behavior to any player who taunts the opposing team.

Respect your opponent and the game, and let your play speak for itself.

IN-MATCH DISCRIMINATORY CONDUCT PROCEDURE

Step 1: Player tells the coach or referee that they have heard a banned term.

Step 2: The referee stops the match and addresses the coaching staff for each team.

Step 3: Each coaching staff addresses their players.

Step 4: The referee will ask the field marshal to call the League Operator to come to the field.

Step 5: The referee will not resume the match until both teams are ready to resume play.

- The match is permitted to resume before League Operator arrives.

Step 6: The League Operator will go to the field and address the concerns of both teams.

If a match is abandoned, MLS NEXT AD will conduct a post-game review/investigation to determine outcome, including forfeiture, etc.

DISCIPLINE FOR DISCRIMINATORY CONDUCT

Enhanced player and team discipline for acts of discrimination or harassment.

Team's 1st act of Confirmed Discrimination or Harassment	Team's 2nd act of Confirmed Discrimination or Harassment
↓	↓
Individual player disqualified* AND Team deducted 1 point	Individual player suspended* AND Team removed from competition

MLS NEXT AD reserves right to sanction more severely based on nature of conduct.

*Individual player will be suspended for at least three (3) matches and, any matches not served at the Event will be served in the next regular season or Event matches.