

2024 NWSL CHALLENGE CUP RULES AND REGULATIONS

All policies and procedures found in the 2024 NWSL Competition Manual and NWSL Operations Manual are in effect, except where not applicable or superseded by the 2024 NWSL Challenge Cup Rules. In addition, all medical protocols and guidelines created for the 2024 NWSL season are in effect. The League Office will rule in situations not covered by this document or the aforementioned documents.

I. Format

- 1) The 2024 NWSL Challenge Cup will be a one (1) game playoff between the winner of the 2023 NWSL Championship and the winner of the 2023 NWSL Shield. In the event that the NWSL Champion and the Shield winner are the same Team, this game will serve as a rematch of the previous season's Championship Game.
- 2) In the event the scheduled game is postponed for any reason, the teams, in conjunction with the NWSL, will make their best efforts to find an alternate date to play the game. However, if the game was postponed and then cancelled due to gross negligence by a participating team, then the game will be forfeited, and the opponent will receive the victory.

II. Yellow and Red Cards

- 1) There is no yellow card accumulation for the 2024 NWSL Challenge Cup.
- 2) A direct red card suspension that is received during the 2024 NWSL Challenge Cup will be carried over to the team's next NWSL Regular Season game. Indirect red card suspensions will not carry over to the team's next NWSL Regular Season game.

III. Extra Time and Kicks from the Penalty Mark

- 1) There will be no extra time in any game played in the 2024 NWSL Challenge Cup.
- 2) If the game is tied at the end of normal playing time, a penalty kick shootout will be utilized to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedure specified in the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 3) There will be a five (5) minute break between the end of normal playing time and the start of penalty kicks. The players shall remain on the pitch during this interval.

IV. Substitutions

- 1) Teams are permitted five (5) substitutions during each game to be used in accordance with IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 2) The NWSL will continue to participate in "The IFAB Concussion Substitution Trial" which allows two (2) "concussion substitutes" per team, per game following the IFAB guidelines:
 - A) A "concussion substitution" may be used regardless of the number of substitutes already used. When a "concussion substitute" is used, the opposing team then has

the option to use an “additional” substitute for any reason. A “concussion substitution” may be made:

- Immediately after a concussion occurs or is suspected;
 - After an on-field assessment, and/or after an off-field assessment; or
 - At any other time when a concussion occurs or is suspected (including when a player has previously been assessed and has returned to the field of play).
- 3) In the final if the game is tied at the end of normal playing, teams may not make substitutions after the end of normal playing time, except in the case of a goalkeeper who is unable to continue before or during the kicks, in accordance with the procedure specified in the Laws of the Game.

V. Game Day Roster

1. Teams must have a minimum of eighteen (18) on their game day roster. Teams will be permitted to have a maximum of twenty (20) players on their game day roster. The NWSL will consider exceptions to this requirement in cases where a player is injured or otherwise becomes unavailable within forty-eight (48) hours of a scheduled game.
2. Only players listed on the game day roster may dress for each game.

VI. Technical Area

1. Only the nine (9) named substitutes may sit on the bench. A maximum of nine (9) nonplaying personnel are allowed on each team bench. These persons can either be Coaches or medical staff. The Home Team is required to have a Team physician on its bench at every Game and therefore will be allowed nineteen (19) total individuals on its bench. If the Visiting Team does not bring its physician, the maximum number of bench personnel will be eighteen (18) total individuals. Team owners, general managers, and other executives are not permitted to sit on the bench unless they are an active roster Player or recognized team Coach.