

NMSSA State Cup

March 2003

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It's State Cup Time Again

If you've been in the NMSSA State Cup before, welcome back. This package includes your handy dandy NMSSA State Cup entry form and will be deposited on your doorstep. Or at least in your mailbox. If you're new to this and haven't participated in NMSSA State Cup before, we have the biggest and best coming up this year.

NMSSA State Cup happens near Albuquerque at the New Mexico Soccer Tournament Complex at Santa Ana pueblo near Bernalillo. We have twenty-two large soccer fields, complete with lots of amenities. There's a spot for everyone that wants a fun tournament experience and at \$ 250 it's a deal to good to pass up.

Please note that the tournament entry fee is now \$ 250. There is no longer a bond. Red cards get billed at the field and fines for forfeit games will be levied at the conclusion of the tournament.

Read this, too: There will be a gate fee of \$ 3 per car each day of the tournament. You only have to pay once a day. That's how we pay for the complex and its \$ 400 thousand budget.

The entry deadline is April 18, so get

hopping. When we run out of space, that's it, and even with the new fields, there are only so many entries we can accommodate. Please enclose your tournament entry fee. **Your team is not entered until we get your whole entry fee** If you have questions, call NMSSA at 505-346-0831.

Roster rules are on page 2. Please read them. We try to make this reasonably some and fair to the teams competing.

Do not call us and tell us to save you a spot. Do not assume that you're in the tournament cause we know that you always enter. Send your form and your money and then you're in the tournament.



So, What's State Cup???

NMSSA State Cup, in its 18th year, is the state championship tournament of the New Mexico State Soccer Association. It's different from the National Cup tournament and it's different from the youth state cup tournament staged by NMYSA, as well as being different from most state association championship tournaments.

What's so different? In our State Cup, we compete by division. Therefore, instead of worrying about playing the best team in premier division of Albuquerque Soccer League while you cruise in fourth division in league play, we bracket the competition to let everyone have a chance of winning at their own competitive level.

This year, we will feature four divisions of men's play and four divisions of women's play. This is a pretty healthy step up from our first year, in 1984, when we had two men's and two women's divisions.

Many state associations, most (see page 2)

It's our 18th Annual State Cup and completely at one site at the NM Soccer Tournament Complex. Don't miss it.

Rules You Should Know

Your entry fee is \$ 250. If you get a red card, the player is fined \$ 25. If you get a fighting red card, your player is fined \$ 50. If you forfeit a game, including consolation games, without informing anyone and having it cleared with the other team, your team is fined \$ 50.

No passcard, no play. Just like League games.

You have to present a roster of your players prior to your first game. We will provide the roster form in your tournament package.

This year we are allowing three guest players. They must come from teams in your competitive division in League play. That means no premier players in fourth division. All guest players must have a passcard. Guest players do not have to come from your own league, but they must be registered with NMSSA on a current passcard and not under suspension. You only get three for the whole tournament. You don't get to rotate in a new three each game or day. If you are a woman playing A division in Albuquerque, you don't get to play in D division by dual registering on a Las Cruces team. You play at the highest level at which you're registered. After we receive your entry, you get a roster form to use at the tournament. You notify us by 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 1, 2003, who you intend to use as qualifying guest players. We will advise you as to whether those players are eligible. You can then use a maximum of 21 players for the weekend. You can use 21 players from your own team, or any combination of your own players and three guest players adding up to 21. You do not have to list your own players until they actually show up at the tournament. You cannot change guest players after 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 1, 2003.

All games are 30 minute halves.

Qualifying round games stand if tied. Knockout games play two 5 minute overtimes (with a golden goal), then kicks from the mark.

You get 9 points for a win, 3 for a tie, 0 for a loss. If you hold your opponent scoreless, whether a win or a tie, you get an extra bonus point. Ties in standings are broken by head to head competition, then goal differential, then goals allowed.

You get the same referees you normally see for league games. We don't save the really good referees in a trunk in the attic to bring out once a year for State Cup. So you should have no surprises at the tournament.

First and second place teams receive individual awards and a team trophy. Third place teams receive a team trophy. The

winning team in each bracket will also receive an MVP award to be presented to a player on their team.



What's NMSSA State Cup????? *(from page 1)*

notably southern and northern California, play their state cup tournaments in one division, winner take all. In addition, their setup is in knockout format, meaning you lose, you leave. That's not the kind of tournament that a lot of people can afford to invest in, as the loser of the first game had an expensive adventure.

In National Cup play, you enter in New Mexico, win the state tournament (one division for amateurs, one division for Over-30) and you play in interstate and regional competition to determine national champions. With NMSSA State Cup, you simply play to see who's the best in New Mexico that weekend and there are no further travel plans to be made. It's competitive, but

it's intended to be fun and everyone goes home when we're done.

In order to help the competitive nature of the older brackets of girls youth soccer, we have worked a deal with New Mexico Youth Soccer Association to include their U-16 through U19 girls teams and we will have the U-18 Classic Banditos who won the U-17 regionals last year. Those teams don't have a lot of competition available in New Mexico or their leagues due to low numbers of teams. We include them in our competition to let know we're here, when they're finished with youth soccer, and to provide them some competitive games to help them prepare for the Region IV USYSA Tournament in late June.

18th Annual NMSSA State Cup Tournament

May 3 and 4, 2003
Albuquerque, New Mexico

- Entry Fee: \$ 250 per team (no bond is included in this fee. See page 1)
- Sanction: The tournament is sanctioned by the New Mexico State Soccer Association and only NMSSA registered teams are eligible to participate. All teams must be currently registered and in good standing with NMSSA.
- Divisions: Men's A, B, C, and D and Women's A, B, C, and D. A maximum of three (3) guest players may be used. Guest players must come from teams in competitive League divisions no higher than that of the highest competitive level team in a bracket. All players must hold a current and valid NMSSA player passcard. All players must be registered no later than April 18, 2003. Your nominations of guest players must be received by NMSSA no later than 5 p.m. on May 1, 2003.
- Deadline: Entries received after April 18, 2003, will be accepted only on a conditional basis. Entry fees will be returned if the division for which a team has applied is full. Division placement is at the discretion of the NMSSA Executive Committee.
- Rules: The tournament will be played according to the June 2002 FIFA Laws of the Game, as modified by NMSSA. Tournament rules, including any modifications to the FIFA Laws, will be provided to all teams entering the tournament.

Return Entry Form to NMSSA, 1820 San Pedro NE Ste 6, Albuquerque NM 87110 (505) 346-0831

Team Name _____ Division Men A B C D Women A B C D

Team Representative _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State* _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ e-mail _____

Uniform Colors Shirt _____

*-note that we included a "state" blank for those who gave us "NM" as your Zip

How Do I get to the NM Soccer Tournament Complex??

Depends on what direction you arrive. If you're coming from Albuquerque, take Interstate 25 north to the second Bernalillo exit, which becomes NM State Road 165 and goes on to Cuba. You exit and head west, over the freeway, into Bernalillo. You go a few miles, across the river, past Jackalope, and past the Star Casino to the stoplight at the intersection of SR 44 and SR 528, which is the Tamaya Resort. For some reason State Road 165 becomes State Road 44 at the first stop light, which we can't figure out.

Turn north at the light and the road will take you right into the complex. Your team rep will have a map of the individual fields and a schedule for you to ignore so you can then come to the tournament director and ask what field you're on. Please park in the areas that are indicated as parking lots. If you park on the road next to the fields and the "No Parking" signs, we have your car removed and then you aren't very happy.

Hotels in the Area

We're going to save you time and post hotels for Albuquerque, Rio Rancho and Bernalillo on the NMSSA web page.

Accommodations at the New Mexico Soccer Tournament Complex

There is no supply of potable water at the complex. That's a sizable investment we haven't been able to fund yet. Therefore, bring your own.

There are plenty of toilets. If they are out of toilet paper, you have to come tell us, as we have plenty of spares for you. If it's out when you leave, it might be nice if you let us know.

We'll have ice packs and first aid

kits, as well as pullover jerseys at the tournament director's tent.

We generally don't generate enough business to convince food and beverage vendors to set up shop. Fortunately, almost every fast food franchise in the world has set up shop down the road on State Road 44.

Do not bring your dog (s) or other animals to the complex. We will ask you to leave with them!! Also, as we asked earlier, park in the parking lots, not on the road.

NMSSA State Cup

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