

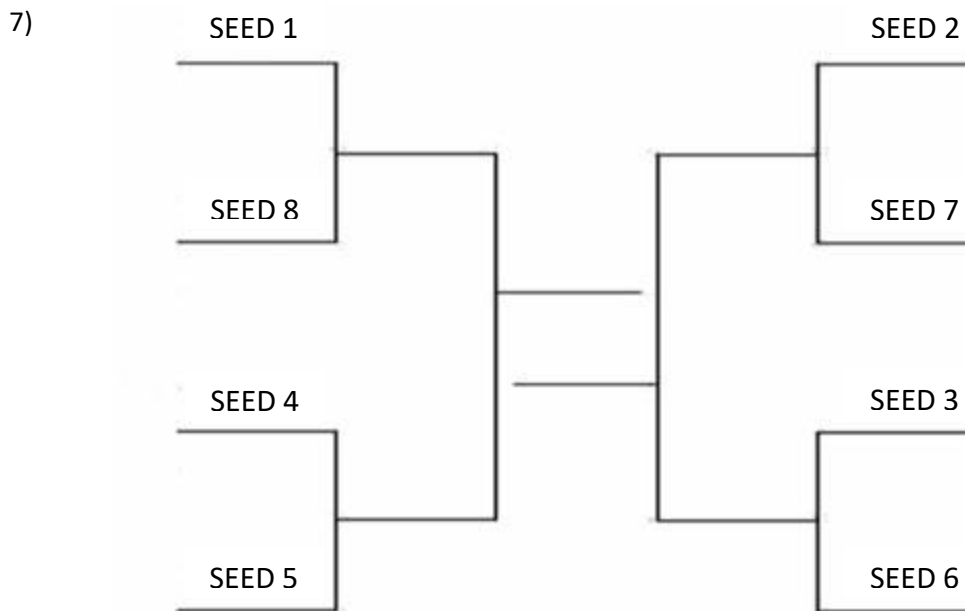


2020 NWSL CHALLENGE CUP PRESENTED BY P&G and SECRET RULES AND REGULATIONS

All policies and procedures found in the NWSL Competition Manual and NWSL Operations Manual are in effect, except where not applicable or superseded by the 2020 NWSL Challenge Cup Rules. In addition, all protocols and guidelines created for the tournament are in effect. The Tournament Committee will rule in situations not covered by this document or the aforementioned documents.

I. Preliminary and Knockout Stages

- 1) The 2020 NWSL Challenge Cup will be played in preliminary rounds comprised of four matches per team, followed by two knockout stages (quarterfinals and semifinals), and the final.
- 2) All nine teams will be included in a single table, ranked by points. In the event two or more teams are even on points tiebreakers as described in Section II will be employed to determine standings.
- 3) The matches in the preliminary rounds will be played following the NWSL produced schedule. Each team will play four matches, according to a league system (three points for a win, one for a draw, zero for a defeat).
- 4) The eight teams advancing from the preliminary rounds will be placed into the seeded bracket below to contest the quarterfinals.
- 5) The four winners of the quarterfinals will advance to contest the semifinals.
- 6) The two winners of the semifinals will advance to contest the final.





II. Equal Points and Qualification for Knockout Stage

- 1) If two or more teams are equal on points after the completion of the preliminary stage, the following criteria, in the order below, shall be applied to determine the preliminary round ranking:

- A) Head-to-Head (only if two teams are tied and they've played each other);
- B) Superior goal difference in all preliminary matches;
- C) Greatest number of goals scored in all preliminary matches;
- D) lowest team conduct score relating to the number of yellow and red cards obtained:

yellow card:	1 point
indirect red card (as a result of two (2) yellow cards):	3 points
direct red card:	4 points
yellow card and direct red card:	5 points

Only one of the above point totals shall be applied to a player in a single match.

- E) drawing of lots by NWSL.

- 2) The top eight teams, as determined by the process outlined in this Section II, will advance to the knockout rounds.

III. Home and Away Designation

- 1) The home team for each match shall be determined randomly by NWSL assignment. Each team will have two home matches and two away matches in the preliminary stage. In the knockout rounds the home team will be the higher seed.
- 2) The home team shall be permitted to choose to wear either their primary or secondary kit. The away team must wear a kit that does not conflict with the home team's selection. The away team will call the coin toss.

IV. Tournament Rosters

- 1) The final list of 22-28 players selected by each team to participate in the 2020 NWSL Challenge Cup will be finalized on June 21, 2020. Only the 22-28 players on the final roster will be permitted to participate in the tournament. Players may not be added to the roster after June 21, 2020 for the duration of the tournament. Players may join their teams late as long as they are included on the final roster.
- 2) Of the 22-28 players on the final roster, three must be goalkeepers.



V. Yellow and Red Cards

- 1) Single yellow cards will be cancelled after the quarterfinal matches have been played.
- 2) If a player receives two cautions during two different matches, she will automatically be suspended from her team's subsequent match.
- 3) If a player is sent off as a result of a direct or indirect red card, she will automatically be suspended from her team's subsequent match in the tournament. Further sanctions may be imposed in the case of a direct red card.
- 4) Any direct red card suspension that cannot be served during the 2020 NWSL Challenge Cup will be carried over to the team's next NWSL Regular Season match. Indirect red card suspensions will not carry over to the team's next NWSL Regular Season match.

VI. Extra Time and Kicks from the Penalty Mark

- 1) There will be no extra time in any match played in the 2020 NWSL Challenge Cup.
- 2) In the knockout stages, if a match is tied at the end of normal playing time, kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedure specified in the Laws of the Game.
- 3) There will be a five-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.

VII. Start List

- 1) All players on a team's tournament roster may dress for each match, except for those serving a suspension.
- 2) At the match coordination meeting, both teams will receive a start list with all players' full names and shirt numbers together with the full names of the technical staff who will be seated on the bench. The start list should be duly completed by selecting the 11 players who will start the match, indicating the captain. The Start List must be signed by the head coach.

VIII. Technical Area

- 1) No more than 26 people (9 officials and all players not starting on the roster) shall be allowed to sit on the team bench. Suspended players or officials and injured players will not be allowed to sit on the team bench.

Effective Date: June 24, 2020



- 2) Additional technical seats in the stand shall be allocated for accredited officials providing technical support to the team during the match (kit manager, assistant physiotherapist, etc). Staff occupying such seats shall have access to the locker rooms and fields during pregame, half time and postgame.

IX. Substitutions

- 1) Teams are permitted five (5) substitutions during each match to be used in accordance with IFAB Laws of the Game temporary addendum to Law 3 (shown on pg. 5).
- 2) In any match in the knockout round that is level 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.

X. Hydration Breaks

- 1) There will be a mandatory hydration break in each half of the match.
- 2) They hydration breaks will occur near the 30th and 75th minutes respectively, at the Referee's discretion.
- 3) Each break will last no more than one (1) minute in length.

XI. Trophy and Player Medals

- 1) Medals will be presented to each of the top two teams in the final competition. All players on the teams' final roster are eligible to receive a medal, as are all members of the technical staff (maximum 35 medals per team).
- 2) The winner of the final will receive the 2020 NWSL Challenge Cup Trophy. The trophy will be presented by the NWSL Commissioner to the team captain and team owner of the winner of the final.
- 3) At the conclusion of the 2020 NWSL Challenge Cup, the NWSL will also select winners of the following awards:
 - a. Golden Boot
 - b. Golden Glove
 - c. Golden Ball
 - d. Best XI