



Welcome to the 2017 South Texas State Cup! We are looking forward to a great event as teams compete to be crowned South Texas State Cup Champion, and to represent South Texas at the US Youth Soccer Region III Tournament, with possible advancement to Nationals! PLEASE NOTE the below information is for all teams: U13-U19/20...and NEW this year – U11 and U12 age group (the U11 and U12 age groups will finish at the State Finals – there is no advancement to Regionals or Nationals) We wish all teams the best of luck!

Now that your team is registered for State Cup, it is time to begin preparing your team for the competition. This includes:

- Familiarize yourself with information being posted on the State Cup webpage of the stxsoccer.org website. ALL pertinent information AND updates will be posted there. With rain-outs and other situations that come up, new or updated information may be posted daily (hopefully not!)
 - Go to www.stxsoccer.org, scroll over the “State Competitions” drop-down menu and select the “State Cup” option, OR
 - Go directly to http://www.stxsoccer.org/state_cup/
- Be knowledgeable and understanding the Rules of Competition. Rules and policies specific to the South Texas State Cup will be posted on the above webpage.
- Finalizing any changes to your roster and communicate appropriately with your club/association registrar. This must be done BEFORE the roster freeze date listed in this document.
- Be aware of any deadlines that may be applicable to your team.
- Keep up-to-date on any email communication regarding the State Cup and ensure a prompt reply if a response is needed.
- The State Cup competition has a very condensed playing schedule. As such teams must be available for every play date, even if the date was not originally scheduled. Any rainout reschedules may use previously available play dates.

The information above and on the following pages is meant to guide you as you prepare for the upcoming 2017 State Cup competition.

THANK YOU for your continued efforts in helping ensure a great experience for your players, parents, and coaches. We wish your team the best of luck in the 2017 South Texas State Cup!

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IMPORTANT STATE CUP DATES

ADMINISTRATIVE DEADLINES **Make sure your Registrar is aware of these dates******

February 13, 2017 – Transfer/Release Window Deadline for U11-U14

March 1 - State Cup Entry Deadline

March 13 – Transfer/Release Window Deadline for U15-U19/20

March 20 - State Cup Payment Deadline due

April 10 – Roster Freeze Date – New Players

PLAY DATES

April 8-9 – Open Bracket Play-In: (if necessary)...*there is a separate Open Bracket GotSoccer Registration*

April 29-30 – Group Play Begins – 1 game that weekend (U11-U15 on Saturday, U16-U20 on Sunday)

May 6 – Group Play Date #2

May 7 – Group Play Date #3

May 13-14 – District Playoff Round – 1 game playoff

May 20-21 – RAIN DATE

May 27-29 - State Cup Finals Weekend, **Western District Hosting, Location: Five Mile Dam, San Marcos**

June 22-29 - Region III Tournament, Location: Greensboro, NC (Bryan Park Soccer Complex)

July 24-30 - Nationals, Location: Frisco, TX (Toyota Soccer Complex)

REGISTRATION AND COST

Registration is now OPEN. Please go to the South Texas State Cup webpage to register. ONLY teams listed as qualified for State Cup may register! The cost for the 2017 South Texas State Cup is: U11-U12 - \$500 per team and U13-U20 - \$750 per team. All teams must be registered for State Cup by March 1, 2017. Payment options include CHECK, CREDIT CARD, or E-CHECK. If paying by check, note the team the payment is for. Send checks to the following address: South Texas Youth Soccer, Attn: State Cup, 15209 US Hwy 290 E, Manor, TX 78653.

SCHEDULING AND FORMAT

The South Texas state office will be scheduling all matches at pre-determined soccer complexes. All Eastern District group games will be scheduled at locations in the Houston area. Western District group games will be scheduled at locations in the Austin and San Antonio areas (Five Mile Dam Park and Schertz/STAR)

The format for the 2017: U13–U20 - Each District will have 2 groups of 4 teams in each age group (8 total teams). Each group will play a round robin “group play” stage (3 games). The top two point earners from each group will advance to the District Playoff Round (A1vB2; B1vA2). The 2 teams which win the District Round games will advance to the State Finals Weekend. **Club Pass is NOT allowed during the District Rounds!**

*****The U19/20 age group will allow for flexibility/rescheduling in cases where players are still in College.**

The format for the 2017: U11–U12 – The top 8 WDDOA/DDL teams (when possible) will be seeded into State Cup. However the U11-U12 age group will not limit the number of teams participating, the goal will be to keep group sizes at 4 (round robin – 3 games). It is possible there will be more than 2 groups in an age/gender, advancement to the State Finals will be based on the total number of teams and advancement scenarios will be posted on the State Cup website once determined.

El Paso will receive a BYE into the State Finals Weekend, per South Texas rules, should they choose to send a team.

OPEN BRACKET PLAY-IN

Teams that selected to try and play into the South Texas State Cup (National Cup) will be contacted directly by the State Office regarding the Play-In match schedules. The State Cup and Presidents Cup Open Bracket Play-In round will be on April 8/9. The bottom 2 seeds in State Cup will be part of the Open Bracket into State Cup, should there be teams registering for the State Cup Open Bracket. The bottom 4 seeds in Presidents Cup will be part of the Open Bracket into Presidents Cup, should there be teams registering for the Presidents Cup Open Bracket.

Any registered USYS team, not seeded into State Cup, may enter the Open Bracket of State Cup. To enter the State Cup Open Bracket, teams must register for "2017 Open Bracket – State Cup / Presidents Cup" GotSoccer event. Should a team(s) enter the Open Bracket, the #7-#8 State Cup seeds will become part of the State Cup Open Bracket event. The format of the Open Bracket (played in one weekend, April 8/9) will be dependent on the number of teams entering the event. The top 2 teams from the State Cup Open Bracket will fill the #7 and #8 positions in State Cup.

Any registered USYS team, not seeded into Presidents Cup or State Cup, may enter the Open Bracket of Presidents Cup. To enter the Presidents Cup Open Bracket, teams must register for "2017 Open Bracket – State Cup / Presidents Cup" GotSoccer event. Should a team(s) enter the Open Bracket, the #13-#16 Presidents Cup seeds will become part of the Presidents Cup Open Bracket event. The format of the Open Bracket (played in one weekend, April 8/9) will be dependent on the number of teams entering the event. The top 4 teams from the Presidents Cup Open Bracket will fill the #13- #16 positions in Presidents Cup.

FINALIZING YOUR ROSTER FOR STATE CUP

****The TRANSFER/RELEASE DEADLINE: This means that any transfers/moves/releases MUST be finalized by this date. Any "new" players to STYSA may be added to your roster after the transfers/release deadline, with final approval by STYSA. NO GUEST PLAYERS OR CLUB PASS PLAYERS ARE ALLOWED. All players listed on the roster must be "primary" players to the team****

The Roster Freeze Deadlines are:

April 10 – Any new players, approved to add to your roster, must be added by this date. In addition, the roster continuity throughout the State Cup competition (includes Regionals/Nationals) will be based off of this Roster Freeze date.

How to Make Changes to Your Roster:

All changes to rosters of teams entered in the State Cup competition must be processed in the GotSoccer system prior to the final roster deadline indicated above. Rosters generated from any other player registration system will not be allowed. It is the responsibility of the team to provide the required documentation for changes to the Association Registrar, allowing sufficient time for the registrar to process the change in the registration system.

IMPORTANT: All teams must retain a "Club Core" greater than 50% from their Fall 2016 League Roster and per NCS Rules/Policies must retain a Continuity of 9 from the Roster Deadline set for April 10th.

- **U11 through U12 teams** – maximum roster is 14 players
- **U13 through U15 teams** – maximum roster is 18 players
- **U16 through U18 teams** – maximum roster is 22 players
- **U19/U29 teams** – maximum of 22 players – **Continuity of 9 pulled from the April 10th Deadline**

Roster Changes

- A 'previously rostered player' is defined as a player who transfers on to a team from a different club. A player who changes teams within the same club is not considered a previously rostered player and does not count towards the transfer limit of 5.
- **U11 and U12 teams** may have no more than **3 previously rostered player** transfers on the team at the roster freeze deadline.
- **U13 and older teams** may have no more than **5 previously rostered player** transfers on the team at the roster freeze deadline.

- There is no limit to the number of new players that can be added to a roster as long as the team retains the roster consistency identified above.
- Any player rostered to the team in the Fall who is **not returning** is required to submit a signed Release form prior to being removed from the team.

Transfer – For the purposes of State Cup play, any player who was rostered to another team for the fall season must complete the STYSA Transfer/Release form in order to move to a different team; however, only those players who were previously rostered to a team in a different club will be counted toward the maximum transfer limit of 5.

The Transfer form must include the following:

- ✓ Player's name (as it appears on the roster), address, ID number, date of birth, and signature of the player/parent.
- ✓ Club Name, Team Name, and Team Number of the team the player is leaving.
- ✓ Club Name, Team Name, and Team Number of the team the player is joining.

New Player – A “new player” is one who has not played with any STYSA or US Youth Soccer league or association during the current seasonal year. The team manager or coach is responsible for the following:

- ✓ Registering the player with the local club or association in the GotSoccer registration program.
- ✓ Paying any required registration fees to the **local club or association**. (The association will pay fees for the player when submitting their entire Spring registration information to STYSA)

Release – Any player who was rostered to the team in the fall remains rostered to the team for spring. A player must request in writing (signed by the parent) a release from the team prior to being removed from the roster. Coaches or managers may not release a player involuntarily unless they meet the criteria stated in the rules. For any player to be released under the involuntary rules, documentation must be provided with the release that verifies the situation meets the requirements. **Any player for whom a form is not submitted will remain on the roster for the spring competition.** Not registering for the spring season is not a valid reason for removing a player from the roster.

Player Registration Forms may be found at: <https://usys-assets.ae-admin.com/assets/975/15/PlayerRegForm.pdf>

Any roster change made in the GotSoccer system after the stated deadline will result in the player being ineligible to participate with the team in the Cup competition. Game cards used by teams in the competition will be compiled from the team's roster as of the final roster deadline.