

## **SOUTH TEXAS CUP RULES OF COMPETITION**

### **Scope of Competition**

It is the intent of the South Texas Cup competition to mirror the policies, procedures, and rules of the most current edition of the STYSA General Rules of Play in conjunction with STYSA Competitions Manual.

The South Texas Cup competition shall be conducted at the following levels:

- The first level of competition is at the District level, which includes the Eastern and Western Districts. Age groups included in this level will be 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U, and 19U in both boys and girls.
- The second level of competition is at the State level, which includes the top 2 teams from each District and an El Paso team, should they choose to participate. Age groups included in this level will be 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U, and 19U in both boys and girls.

The South Texas Cup competition ends at the state level.

### **Player Eligibility**

- A Player must be properly registered and rostered in accordance with the rules established by South Texas Youth Soccer.
- A team that is found guilty for any reason of having an ineligible player on its roster or using an ineligible player forfeits each game involving that ineligible player.
  - Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to:
    - Reprimand
    - Forfeiture
    - Suspension from one or more matches
    - Recommendation of a more severe penalty and/or referral to the Appeals Committee
- A player who has been suspended may play after the player's term of suspension has expired.

### **Team Eligibility**

The South Texas Cup competition shall be open to any team whose players are registered with South Texas Youth Soccer if the team is in compliance with all the following requirements:

- The team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered youth player (as defined by South Texas Youth Soccer and US Youth Soccer).
- The team must be in good standing with its South Texas Member Association and must be in compliance with, and has not violated any of the bylaws and policies of South Texas Youth Soccer or US Youth Soccer.
- The team must not be qualified to participate in the South Texas State Cup or Presidents Cup.

### **Passes, Rosters, and Uniforms**

#### **Rosters**

- The South Texas Cup Roster will be the official spring roster as created by the team's Member Association, according to their deadlines and policies. Check with your Local Club/Member Association on roster freezes and deadlines for transfers/adds/releases.
- Each team in the South Texas Cup shall submit a roster with no more than the number of players allowed by South Texas Youth Soccer rostering requirements.
  - 11U-12U: 16 player roster; 16 players eligible for Game-Day roster.

- 13U-15U: 18 player roster; 18 players eligible for Game-Day roster.
- 16U-19U: 22 player roster; 18 players eligible for Game-Day roster.
- Up to three (3) guest players may be rostered for the South Texas Cup, and must be done so prior to any roster deadlines.
  - Guest players do count towards roster maximum for the competition.
  - Restrictions:
    - Guest players must be a primary rostered player for a team that is eligible but not registered for South Texas Cup.
    - Guest players must be the same age group or younger than the team they are guest playing for.
    - Guest players must be of the same level of play or lower than the team they are guest playing for.
    - Guest players who are rostered to another team participating in South Texas Cup, or any other Spring Cup competition are NOT eligible to guest play in the South Texas Cup.
  - For further information refer to the Guest Player Policy and Procedure.

#### **Passes**

- At the South Texas Cup, all players and team officials on the roster must carry an official South Texas Youth Soccer pass (ID card). A pass should include appropriate means of identification, a current photo of the player/team official, a signature of the Member Association Registrar or his/her designee, and a signature of the cardholder. All passes should be laminated and kept in alphabetical order. All passes and official rosters will be checked prior to every game by the referee or site coordinator.

#### **Uniforms**

- Each player (not including the goalkeeper) must wear an official uniform with a jersey number that is different from the number of every other player on that team.
- Each player (not including the goalkeeper) must have an alternate jersey of an opposing color (light vs dark) with a jersey number that is different from the number of every other player on that team.
- Should there be a game day situation which creates a discrepancy caused by a change of jersey number; the discrepancy has to be resolved by both coaches and the referee.
- If, in the opinion of referee, there is a color conflict, the home team shall change to a jersey of an alternate color.
- In the South Texas Cup competition and associated activities, team uniforms (including team officials) may have the name, logo, or other identifying mark of US Youth Soccer and/or one of US Youth Soccer's affiliated State Associations or affiliated clubs. Team uniforms may also have a mark or name related to an item or service that is appropriate for youth soccer.
- Any inappropriate marks or logos, as well as the name, logo, or other identifying mark of any youth soccer organization not affiliated with US Youth Soccer must be removed or covered when present at a game or associated activity.

### **Format and Rules of Competition**

**Rules of Play:** Except as otherwise provided herein, South Texas General Rules of Play shall apply.

**Game-Day Procedures:** South Texas shall establish and publish game-day procedures which will inform teams of proper game-day protocols and procedures for District level games. These procedures may be adjusted for the State level competition.

**Format:** All District Tournaments shall be round-robin format. District Tournaments with only one bracket of five (5) teams shall consist entirely of mini-games (with no semi or final). Tournaments with more than one bracket in the age group shall consist of mini-games on Saturday with the regulation-length semi-final and final rounds on Sunday. The length of these mini-games shall be as follows:

9U, 10U .....	20-minute halves
11U, 12U .....	25-minute halves
13U, 14U .....	30-minute halves
15U, 16U .....	30-minute halves
17U, 18U, 19U .....	35-minute halves

District Tournaments with only one bracket of four (4) or fewer teams shall play all games of regulation length. Regulation game times shall be:

9U, 10U .....	25-minute halves
11U, 12U .....	30-minute halves
13U, 14U .....	35-minute halves
15U, 16U .....	40-minute halves
17U, 18U, 19U .....	45-minute halves

**Substitutions:** Substitutions shall be unlimited and made with the consent of the referee at the following times:

- Prior to a throw-in by the team in possession.
- Prior to a goal kick by either team.
- After a goal by either team.
- After an injury to a player. If the injured player is being substituted for and the opposing team has a player at the half line waiting to sub, a substitution will be permitted on a 1 for 1 basis.
- After a player is cautioned s/he may be substituted.
- At halftime.

**Discipline:** Players receiving a red card may remain on the team bench. Team officials ejected by the referee must leave the field to a location that is out of sight and sound of the field.

The minimum penalty for an ejection is the player or team official not being permitted to participate in the immediate next competition match of his or her team. This penalty may be increased in accordance with Section 4 of the STYSA Administrative Handbook.

**Tournament Management:** All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors, to interpretation of the rules, or any other dispute or protest concerning the South Texas Cup competition, shall be referred to the South Texas competition administrator and South Texas Competitions Committee. All decisions of the competition administrator, in coordination with the Competitions Committee are final.

**Schedule:** District level games will be played in early April. The State level games will be played in late April.

- Groups and Schedules will be created by South Texas Youth Soccer.
- Any reschedules due to inclement weather or other extraordinary circumstances will be managed by South Texas Youth Soccer. Re-scheduling attempts will be made as quickly as possible.

**Grace Period:** Teams must be ready to play at the scheduled start time. A ten (10) minute grace period may be allowed. Any team not ready to play after this grace period has expired shall be reported to the site official and administrator by the center referee. The STYSA Appeals Committee shall decide when a forfeit is declared. A minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a legal team. \*11U and 12U games will require 6 players on the field of play at the start of the game.

**Home/Visiting Teams:** The team listed first in each game pairing is the home team. If, in the opinion of referee, there is a color conflict, the home team shall change to a jersey of an alternate color.

**Technical Area:** All players and a maximum of four (4) team officials (i.e. coach, assistant coach, manager, trainer) may be in the technical area. Team officials must have a South Texas member pass (Adult Participation Pass, also known as a Kidsafe Pass) that is visible at all times while on the team sideline. All team officials must remain within the designated technical area and behave in a responsible manner. All parents and spectators must be on the opposite touch line.

**Uniforms:** Each player must wear a uniform with a number on the back of the shirt. Duplicate numbers are NOT permitted. Teams MUST bring an alternate jersey with a number on the back. No jewelry may be worn during a match.

**Standings:**

All standings will be determined by points:

- 6 points for a win
- 3 points for a tie
- 0 points for a loss
- 1 point for each goal up to a maximum of three goals
- 1 point for a shutout

**Tie Breakers for Round Robin Play**

If the two or more teams are tied on points (as determined in standings) at the end of the Round Robin, the following progressive sequence will be used to determine final Round Robin standings:

- Winner in head-to-head competition; then if teams are tied,
- Highest goal difference (goals for minus goals against) with a maximum of three (3) goals difference per game counted both for and against. For example, if the score is 8-3, the calculation would be +3 goals for the winning team, -3 goals for the losing team. If the score is 6-4, the calculation would be +2 goals for the winning team and -2 goals for the losing team.
- Total goals allowed (Team with fewest total goals allowed advances.)
- Kicks from the Penalty Mark

Progress through the tie-breaking sequence only as long as all teams entering the sequence remain tied. Once the result at any step of the sequence is different for at least one team, standings shall be assigned

using the results from that step. Should any teams remain tied within the assigned standings, repeat the progressive sequence starting at step (1) with only the tied teams.

**Tie Breakers for other than Round Robin Play**

The game will be extended by two overtime periods in accordance with STYSA Rules. If the match is still tied at the conclusion of the overtime periods, then the match will be decided by Kicks from the Penalty Mark.