



South Texas Youth Soccer Presidents Cup

Player/Team Eligibility And Format & Rules of the Competition

Effective January 2017

Scope of Competition

It is the intent of the South Texas Presidents Cup competition to mirror the policies, procedures, and rules of the most current edition of the US Youth Soccer Region III Presidents Cup in all respects.

The South Texas Presidents 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 U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U18, and U19/20 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 U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U18, and U19/20 in both boys and girls.

The South Texas Presidents Cup competition shall advance teams to the following levels:

- The top U13, U14, U15, U16, and U17/18 South Texas Presidents Cup team(s) in both boys and girls shall advance to the Region III Presidents Cup event.
- The top U13, U14, U15, U16, and U17/18 team(s) from the Region III Presidents Cup event in both boys and girls shall advance to the National Presidents Cup event.
- For 2017 only, US Youth Soccer will allow the U17/U18 age groups to be “partially” combined. Teams with players born August 1, 1999 and AFTER will be eligible for this partially combined bracket. A team with player(s) born BEFORE August 1, 1999 will play in the true U18 bracket.

Player Eligibility

- A Player must be properly registered and rostered in accordance with the rules established by South Texas Youth Soccer.
- Players who were on the Primary Roster for a South Texas team who participated in SRPL are not eligible to compete in the South Texas Presidents Cup.
- 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.
- A player who has been suspended may play after the player’s term of suspension has expired.

Team Eligibility

The South Texas Presidents 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. Qualification is based on Division I and Super II league results.

Passes, Rosters, and Uniforms

Passes

- At the South Texas Presidents Cup competition, each player and team official listed on the team’s roster must carry an official South Texas Youth Soccer pass (ID card). The member pass issued to a player shall identify the club by name or other appropriate means of identification. The pass shall have a current photograph of the player/team official permanently attached and

signature of the Member Association Registrar or his/her designee. Team official passes must also be signed the card holder. All passes must be individually laminated, and should be kept in alphabetical order by last name on a ring or other containing device.

- Team rosters and player/team official passes will be checked at every game. The team's South Texas Presidents Cup roster and player/team official passes must be available prior to each game, to be checked by the referee or site official. For the South Texas Presidents Cup Finals Weekend, if the player passes have been previously checked at registration, and found acceptable, the tournament committee MAY waive the requirement that the passes be available at each game if the passes are not able to be present due to extraordinary circumstances (as determined solely by the South Texas Presidents Cup tournament committee).
- Team bench personnel (with a maximum of four (4)), must be present on the team sideline at each game. The team official's pass must be visibly worn in order to remain in the team area.

Rosters

- South Texas shall set a roster freeze date for the South Texas Presidents Cup. Once a player is rostered to a team's Presidents Cup roster and the roster freeze date has passed, no movement of players is permitted. For the South Texas Presidents Cup Finals Weekend, the use of club pass will be permitted, however only players from eliminated Presidents Cup or lower Cup competition teams may be used.
- Each team in the South Texas President Cup competition shall submit a roster with no more than the number of players allowed by South Texas Youth Soccer rostering requirements. All rosters should include the number of each player's jersey. 18 players are eligible to play in a given match; players on the team roster but not participating may be on the bench in street clothes. A team must have a roster continuity of at least 9 players throughout the Presidents Cup competition. This roster continuity requirement will be based off of the roster following the roster freeze date.
 - Rosters must be entered into the GotSoccer system no later than the roster freeze date set by South Texas Youth Soccer.
 - All information listed on the roster must be verified and approved by the appropriate official of the South Texas Member Association.

Uniforms

- Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Each player on the team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team including goalkeepers.
- In the South Texas Presidents 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.

Concussions

A player diagnosed with a possible concussion shall not re-enter competition, training, or partake in any activities for at least 24 hours. Even if there are no signs or symptoms after 15-20 minutes, activity should not be taken by the player.

A player diagnosed with a possible concussion may return to US Youth Soccer play only after release from a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy specializing in concussion treatment and management.

It should be noted that state or local laws in the location of the South Texas Presidents Cup is being held may be more restrictive than these rules.

For any player diagnosed with a possible concussion, the player (if possible), any parents present at the event, along with a team official, must sign and will be issued the USYS "Possible Concussion Notification" form.

Additional information on the USYS Concussion Protocol can be found at

http://championships.usyouthsoccer.org/assets/929/15/Concussion_Procedure_and_Protocol%20FINAL.docx

Format & Rules of the 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.

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 question relating to the qualifications of competitors, to interpretation of the rules, or any other dispute or protest concerning the South Texas Presidents 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 April/May. The State level games will be played over the third (3rd) weekend in May.

- 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.

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 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. Goalkeeper's jerseys are required to have a number.

- South Texas Presidents Cup State Finals
 - Rosters, Game Cards and Uniform Numbers for State Finals weekend must be consistent and accurate. The number on a player's uniform must match what is listed on the Game Card and what is listed for the Official Team Roster. If a player is wearing a different number than what is listed on the Official Roster and Game Cards for State Finals weekend, the number on the Game Card and the Official Roster must be changed. Every change request to STYSA will result in a \$25.00 administrative fee.

Scoring: Team standings shall be determined by accumulation of points awarded as follows: 6 points for a win, 3 points for a tie, 0 points for a loss, 1 point for each goal to a maximum of 3 goals, 1 point for a shutout.

Tie Breakers: In the event two or more teams accumulate an equal number of points within any group, the following tiebreakers will be considered in order until the tie is broken:

- Winner in head-to-head competition (this criteria is not used if more than two 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 the fewest total goals allowed advances.)
- Penalty kicks (See Admin Handbook 5.8.5.)

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.

Protests and Appeals

All question relating to the qualifications of competitors, to interpretation of the rules, or any other dispute or protest concerning the South Texas Presidents 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.

- Validity – To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest must:
 - be verbally lodged with the referee and the opposing coach at the game site before entering the field of play or before leaving the game site except as noted below.
 - be filed with the Chair of the STYSA Appeals Committee or his/her representative within 30 minutes of the completion of the game in protest.
 - include one written copy of the protest including all particulars regarding the grounds on which the protest is being lodged; and
 - include the protest fee of \$200 in the form of cash or a cashier's check or money order made payable to STYSA.
- Timing

- Game Situations - All protests must be received by the Chair of the STYSA Appeals Committee or his/her designee within 30 minutes of the completion of the game being protested.
- Non-game situations - All protests must be received by the Chair of the Protest Committee or his/her designee within four hours of the scheduled start time of the last game in the bracket or division in question, whichever is latest.
- Playing Conditions - All protests relating to the ground, goal posts, bars or other appurtenances of the games shall be entertained only if a written objection has been lodged with the referee and the opposing coach prior to the start of the game.

Procedures

- The STYSA Appeals Committee shall immediately upon the receipt of a protest notify the teams and shall give a copy of the protest and all particulars to the teams, which will then have the right to defend their cases, with or without witnesses (maximum of 2 per each team).
- A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations is not sufficient grounds for protest. Judgment decisions of the referee are not subject to protest.
- The STYSA Appeals Committee shall compile the necessary information to hear the protest, from all available sources before the protest is heard. This shall include, if possible, coaches, field marshals, referees, assessors, witnesses if necessary, etc.
- After compiling the necessary information, the STYSA Appeals committee will meet to conduct the protest hearing. The decisions of the committee shall be binding on all parties. The STYSA Appeals Committee will notify the parties of the committee's decision.