



# **SOUTH TEXAS YOUTH SOCCER**

## **SPRING CUP MANUAL**

Last Updated: May 2009

This Manual is designed to document the methods, procedures and guidelines for the South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA) Spring Cup competitions.

Each year South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA) hosts a series of Spring Cups that are designed to accomplish the following:

1. Determine a STYSA State Champion which, in the U14 through U19 age groups will represent STYSA in the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series Regional and National competitions.
2. Determine the President's Cup Champion which, in the U13 through U17 age groups, will represent STYSA in the Region III President's Cup Regional Competition with the other twelve states composing Region III.
3. Provide a format where a team doing above average in one level of play may test itself against the next higher level of play.
4. Provide a format where teams may enter a STYSA sponsored competition with teams that they may not normally play against.
5. Provide a quality competition during a period of the year when other sports may decrease the number of teams playing soccer.

STYSA will host the following Cup competitions each Spring. The format and details of these competitions may differ based on the Cup and the District in which the team plays.

- ◆ U. S. Youth Soccer National Championship Series – Open Entry
- ◆ President's Cup – Open Entry
- ◆ Director's Cup – Restricted Entry
- ◆ South Texas Cup – District and State – Restricted Entry

### **Two Types of Competitions:**

Open Entry – competition is open to any STYSA registered team of the appropriate age group who wishes to participate.

Restricted Entry – competition is limited to STYSA registered teams who qualify based on their previous Fall level of play as defined by the competition.

## **COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS**

### **General Requirements:**

1. All participants must be properly registered with STYSA.
2. All participants must be properly rostered to the team with which they participate.
3. A player may participate in only one Cup competition during the year.
4. A team may participate in only one Cup competition during the year.
5. A player may play for only one team in Cup competition.
6. All teams must play in a qualifying league to be eligible for Cup play. A qualifying league is defined as a league sanctioned by STYSA, comprised of a minimum of 4 teams who play 6 or more games between September 1<sup>st</sup> and the Cup entry deadline as specified by the STYSA Perpetual Calendar. Note: In US Youth Soccer National Championship Series, the U19 age group is exempt from playing in a 4-team league.
7. For the Cups with restricted entry, the level of play in which the team participated in the immediately preceding fall shall determine the team's eligibility.
8. All teams that wish to participate in Cup play must comply with the registration procedures appropriate for their competition as posted on the STYSA website at [www.stxsoccer.org](http://www.stxsoccer.org).

### **Discipline & Protest Procedures**

1. The STYSA Progressive Disciplinary System applies to all Cup competition at the state level and below.
2. While penalty points do not accrue in advancement play beyond the state competition, ejections issued during Cup play at the state level must be served at Regional play. If an ejection is received in the last game of State play, then the individual must sit out the first game of Regional play.
3. In each Cup, each level of play will have its own disciplinary system (D&P). Decisions from the individual disciplinary systems may be appealed to the STYSA Appeals Committee and/or Executive Committee as designated by the STYSA D&P Procedures. If D&P Procedures are not published for a level of play, the STYSA D&P Procedures shall be used.

Note: Ejection shall mean that a player is issued a Red Card or receives two cautions in a single game.

### **Cup Competition Management Authority**

The STYSA Executive Vice President will server as the Tournament Coordinator and Manager for all STYSA Spring Cup as well as Fall Championships, and State League Competitions. The decision of the Tournament Manager, in conjunction with the Cup Committee, is final and may not be appealed.

# STYSA SPRING CUP DESCRIPTIONS

## **US Youth Soccer National Championship Series**

Of the four South Texas Youth Soccer Association Spring Cups, the USYSNC State Cup is the highest level of competition.

- This is an open entry competition recommended for Premier League and upper level Division I teams.
- This competition will be played under the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series rules as published by US Youth Soccer.
- These rules apply from the first game played at the local level that determines advancement / elimination of a team.
- Viewed as the highest level of competition, there shall be no play time requirement, no matter what the designated level of play is of the team entered in the competition.
- The State Tournament will be held in May on the date specified on the Perpetual Calendar and will include either 4 or 5 teams, two from each District and one team from El Paso, if entered in accordance with the entry requirements.
- The site of the USYSNC State Cup will alternate between Districts each year.
- The U14 and older State Champions will represent the State Association at the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series Southern Regionals to be hosted by one of the twelve Region III states in June each summer.
- The Regional week long event will identify the Regional Champions who will then represent the State Association and the Region at the National Championship Tournament in mid-July.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

- To be eligible, all players must be properly registered and in compliance with all state registration rules.
- Any team found to have an ineligible player on the roster or having used an ineligible player in any game during the competition forfeits each game involving the ineligible player and the team will be ineligible to advance to the Regional competition.
- Each player and team official participating in the USYSNC State competition must have a properly prepared and laminated ID Card for the current seasonal year that has been signed by the individual named on the card and the appropriate league official and includes a recent photo of the individual.
- Each player (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 (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.
- In, in the opinion of referee, there is a color conflict, the home team shall change to a jersey of an alternate color.
- A team not ready to play at the scheduled start time will be granted a 10-minute grace period. If the team is not prepared to play at the end of the grace period, the game will be declared a forfeit and the team removed from the competition.
- A team must have at least 7 players on the field of play at the start of the game. If the team has less than 7 players, the team will forfeit the game.
- Both teams and team officials participating in the game shall be on one touch line. Parents and spectators will be on the opposite touchline.
- A team may have no more than four (4) individuals designated as team officials on the team sideline at any given time. Bench Pass credentials will be issued for the

State Tournament to the four (4) adults who are deemed to be in compliance with all state rules.

- All team officials must remain within the designated technical area and behave in a responsible manner.

#### **GAME PLAY**

- Ball sizes, game lengths, and overtime periods will be in accordance with STYSA Rules.
- If inclement weather affects the USYSNC State Cup, the following process will apply regarding play and the determination of the winner.
  - If play is suspended or the start of play is delayed, the State Cup Committee may eliminate overtime periods in the event of a tie and go directly to FIFA Kicks from the Penalty Mark.
  - The game length may be reduced as needed by the State Cup Committee. If the game is terminated after the start of the second half, the result of the game will stand. In the event, the game is tied when terminated, advancement in the competition will be determined by FIFA Kicks from the Penalty Mark.

## **President's Cup**

This is the second tier of Spring Cup competitions and also identifies a State Champion in each age group.

- This is an open entry competition recommended for lower level Division I and upper level Super II teams.
- The competition will be played under the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series rules as published by US Youth Soccer.
- These rules apply from the first game played at the local level that determines advancement / elimination of a team.
- Viewed as the highest level of competition, there shall be no play time requirement, no matter what the designated level of play is of the team entered in the competition.
- The State Tournament will be held in May on the date specified on the Perpetual Calendar and will include either 4 or 5 teams, two from each District and one from El Paso, if entered in accordance with the entry requirements.
- Alternating between Districts each year, the President's Cup will be hosted by the District not hosting the USYSNC State Cup.
- State Champions in the Under-13 through Under-17 age groups will represent the state at the Region III President's Cup to be hosted by one of the Region III state associations in early June.
- Regional Champions will then advance to a National President's Cup Tournament in late July or early August.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

- To be eligible, all players must be properly registered and in compliance with all state registration rules.
- Any team found to have an ineligible player on the roster or having used an ineligible player in any game during the competition forfeits each game involving the ineligible player and the team will be ineligible to advance to the Regional competition.
- Each player and team official participating in the President's Cup competition must have a properly prepared and laminated ID Card for the current seasonal year that has been signed by the individual named on the card and the appropriate league official and includes a recent photo of the individual.
- Each player (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 (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.
- In, in the opinion of referee, there is a color conflict, the home team shall change to a jersey of an alternate color.
- A team not ready to play at the scheduled start time will be granted a 10-minute grace period. If the team is not prepared to play at the end of the grace period, the game will be declared a forfeit and the team removed from the competition.
- A team must have at least 7 players on the field of play at the start of the game. If the team has less than 7 players, the team will forfeit the game.
- Both teams and team officials participating in the game shall be on one touch line. Parents and spectators will be on the opposite touchline.
- A team may have no more than four (4) individuals designated as team officials on the team sideline at any given time. Bench Pass credentials will be issued for the State Tournament to the four (4) adults who are deemed to be in compliance with all state rules.

- All team officials must remain within the designated technical area and behave in a responsible manner.

#### **GAME PLAY**

- Ball sizes, game lengths, and overtime periods will be in accordance with STYSA Rules.
- If inclement weather affects the President's Cup State Tournament, the following process will apply regarding play and the determination of the winner.
  - If play is suspended or the start of play is delayed, the President's Cup Committee may eliminate overtime periods in the event of a tie and go directly to FIFA Kicks from the Penalty Mark.
  - The game length may be reduced as needed by the President's Cup Committee. If the game is terminated after the start of the second half, the result of the game will stand. In the event, the game is tied when terminated, advancement in the competition will be determined by FIFA Kicks from the Penalty Mark.

## **Director's Cup**

The third tier of the Spring Cup series is identified as Director's Cup.

- This is a restricted entry competition open to teams that played at the Super II or Division II level in the previous fall season and is recommended for lower Super II and upper level Division II teams.
- The competition will be played under STYSA rules.
- These rules apply from the first game played at the local level that determines advancement / elimination of a team.
- All teams must retain a consistency of rosters between their Fall and Spring rosters as designated in the entry instructions.
- There is a requirement to play each player at least 50% of the time.
- The State Tournament will be held in May on the date specified on the Perpetual Calendar and will include either 4 or 5 teams, two from each District and one from El Paso if they have entered a team in the age group.
- There is no advancement from the Director's Cup.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

- To be eligible, all players must be properly registered and in compliance with all state registration rules.
- Any team found to have an ineligible player on the roster or having used an ineligible player in any game during the competition forfeits each game involving the ineligible player.
- Each player and team official participating in the Director's Cup competition must have a properly prepared and laminated ID Card for the current seasonal year that has been signed by the individual named on the card and the appropriate league official and includes a recent photo of the individual.
- Each player (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 (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.
- In, in the opinion of referee, there is a color conflict, the home team shall change to a jersey of an alternate color.
- A team not ready to play at the scheduled start time will be granted a 10-minute grace period. If the team is not prepared to play at the end of the grace period, the game will be declared a forfeit and the team removed from the competition.
- A team must have at least 7 players on the field of play at the start of the game. If the team has less than 7 players, the team will forfeit the game.
- Both teams and team officials participating in the game shall be on one touch line. Parents and spectators will be on the opposite touchline.
- A team may have no more than four (4) individuals designated as team officials on the team sideline at any given time. Bench Pass credentials will be issued for the State Tournament to the four (4) adults who are deemed to be in compliance with all state rules.
- All team officials must remain within the designated technical area and behave in a responsible manner.

## **GAME PLAY**

- Ball sizes, game lengths, and overtime periods will be in accordance with STYSA Rules.
- If inclement weather affects the Director's Cup State Tournament, the following process will apply regarding play and the determination of the winner.
  - If play is suspended or the start of play is delayed, the Director's Cup Committee may eliminate overtime periods in the event of a tie and go directly to FIFA Kicks from the Penalty Mark.
  - The game length may be reduced as needed by the Director's Cup Committee. If the game is terminated after the start of the second half, the result of the game will stand. In the event, the game is tied when terminated, advancement in the competition will be determined by FIFA Kicks from the Penalty Mark.

## **South Texas Cup**

South Texas Cup is a developmental level State competition offered in the Spring.

- This is a restricted entry competition is open to Division II or Division III teams from the previous fall season and recommended for lower Division II and upper Division III teams.
- There is no designated registration date as there is for the other three competitions as South Texas Cup is managed in a format similar to the Fall Championships.
- Teams make their local association aware of their interest in participating in this competition and then participate locally through the spring season.
- In early April each Member Association reports the number of teams per age group and competition level who are eligible for consideration. The District Vice Presidents the prepare allocations awarding each participating Member Association a percentage of the teams in each age group.
- Member Association are responsible for reporting the names of advancing teams and paying the entry fee for all teams from their association on or before the Monday prior to the District Tournament.
- District Tournament will be held in early May within each District with the number of teams per age group determined by the number of participating associations.
- The State Tournament will be held the following weekend and will include the first and second place teams in each age group from the two District tournaments, along with a representative from El Paso if entered.
- There is a requirement to play each player at least 50% of the time.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

- To be eligible, all players must be properly registered and in compliance with all state registration rules.
- Any team found to have an ineligible player on the roster or having used an ineligible player in any game during the competition forfeits each game involving the ineligible player.
- Each player and team official participating in the South Texas Cup competition must have a properly prepared and laminated ID Card for the current seasonal year that has been signed by the individual named on the card and the appropriate league official and includes a recent photo of the individual.
- Each player (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 (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.
- In, in the opinion of referee, there is a color conflict, the home team shall change to a jersey of an alternate color.
- A team not ready to play at the scheduled start time will be granted a 10-minute grace period. If the team is not prepared to play at the end of the grace period, the game will be declared a forfeit and the team removed from the competition.
- A team must have at least 7 players on the field of play at the start of the game. If the team has less than 7 players, the team will forfeit the game.
- Both teams and team officials participating in the game shall be on one touch line. Parents and spectators will be on the opposite touchline.
- A team may have no more than four (4) individuals designated as team officials on the team sideline at any given time. Bench Pass credentials will be issued for the

State Tournament to the four (4) adults who are deemed to be in compliance with all state rules.

- All team officials must remain within the designated technical area and behave in a responsible manner.

#### **GAME PLAY**

- Ball sizes, game lengths, and overtime periods will be in accordance with STYSA Rules.
- If inclement weather affects the South Texas Cup State Tournament, the following process will apply regarding play and the determination of the winner.
  - If play is suspended or the start of play is delayed, the South Texas Cup Committee may eliminate overtime periods in the event of a tie and go directly to FIFA Kicks from the Penalty Mark.
  - The game length may be reduced as needed by the South Texas Cup Committee. If the game is terminated after the start of the second half, the result of the game will stand. In the event, the game is tied when terminated, advancement in the competition will be determined by FIFA Kicks from the Penalty Mark.

## **ENTRY PROCEDURES / REQUIREMENTS**

Instructions will be posted in late Fall each year with specific details detailing the process for entering teams into US Youth Soccer National Championship Series, the President's Cup and the Director's Cup. Entry into South Texas Cup will be through the local association and will be based on an allocation process similar to the conclusion of the Fall season. Registration will be through an online process which will require the team administrator to designate the competition the team wishes to enter and payment of the entry fee. All entries and fees must be submitted prior to the stated deadline. Requests for late entry will be review by the Cup Committee who will determine whether the team will be placed on a waiting list or is denied entry.

Recommendations will be provided as to which competition is best suited for each level of play; however, open entry tournaments (USYSNC and President's Cup) will accept teams from other competition levels with the understanding that they must comply with the same requirements as all other teams. Teams playing in a league that qualifies teams for the next season will be seeded into the appropriate Spring Cup competition based on the Fall competition.

A team wishing to "challenge" into a higher competition than they qualified for must enter both the competition for which they are qualified and the competition into which they wish to participate, including payment of the entry fee for both competitions. Challenges will not be considered valid and will not be accepted unless both Cups have been entered and both entry fees paid. The appropriate District Vice President will determine whether a challenge match is required and, if so, designate the date and location of the game.

- If the challenging team wins the challenge, the lower Cup fee will be refunded less a challenge game fee at the current cost per game.
- If the challenging team loses the challenge, neither Cup registration fee will be refunded.
- If the number of challenge games required at established game fee exceeds the entry fee, the team will be responsible for payment of any additional fees.

Note: El Paso teams do not have to challenge as they are, by the rules, awarded one team into the State Tournament in each age group.

## **FINAL ROSTER REQUIREMENTS**

A final roster date will be designated at the time teams enter the competition. This is the date by which all roster changes must be completed in preparation for play. Typically this date will be no more than 14 days prior to the start of the competition within each District. Changes to a team's roster will be accomplished by the Registrar of the Club / Association through which the team is registered. An earlier deadline may be established locally to allow the Registrar time to process all requests prior to the state deadline. No changes to the roster after that date will be recognized on the team's playing / game roster.

## ROSTER CHANGES

All changes to the roster must be processed through the current state registration system prior to the stated deadline. It is the responsibility of the team to provide the required documentation, properly completed and in compliance with the rules, to the Association Registrar within the time line designated. All documents related to roster changes must be sent to the State Office before or immediately after the final roster deadline. Again, it is the responsibility of the coach or team manager to determine whether the paperwork will be submitted by the Association Registrar or if the team representative is responsible for submitting the documents. Failure to forward the paperwork due to confusion as to responsibility is not a valid reason for late submission.

If any question arises regarding a roster change and the appropriate documentation is not on file and cannot be located, the team is at risk for disqualification from the competition. It is advised that the Coach / Team Manager retain copies of all above mentioned documents for the entire seasonal year.

Roster change requirements include:

- **Transfer** – Any player who was rostered to another team for the fall season must complete a Transfer / Release form prior to moving to another team. Included on the form must be the parent's signature and complete information regarding the player, the team from which the player is releasing and the team which the player is joining. Transfers should be accompanied by any state specified transfer fee.
- **Release** – Any player who was rostered to the team in the fall remains rostered to the team for the spring. A player must request in writing a release from the team prior to their being removed from the roster. Coaches or managers may not release a player involuntarily unless they meet the criteria stated in the rules. The three reasons for involuntary release are: 1) violation of state or national rules; 2) moved an unreasonable distance to continue participating; and 3) sustained an injury that will prevent playing. Any requests for release based on the previous reasons that does not include a parent's signature must be documented as to why the parent's signature could not be obtained. Failure by a player to show up for practice, register for the spring, or pay club, association, or training fees are not valid reasons for release. **Any player for whom a signed form is not submitted will remain on the roster through the spring competition.**
- **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 player must register through the local organization, providing any required information / documents and pay the registration fee. Payment of fees to the state will be accomplished with the submission of Spring registration by the state member association.

# HOSTING REQUIREMENTS FOR SOUTH TEXAS CUP STATE

## Playing Site Fields

- An adequate number of fields for the tournament format.
- Fields of the appropriate size for the games being played.
- All fields will be marked according to FIFA guidelines.
- All fields will be marked prior to the beginning of the tournament and at least one or more times during the tournament, if deemed necessary.
- Nets, corner flags and markings are the responsibility of the host organization.

It is preferred that the fields be located at a single site. If multiple sites are necessary, a reasonable distance between playing sites would be expected. All infrastructure noted here may not be necessary, depending on distances. However, one site must be designated as the primary tournament site. Ideally, the playing venues should be no more than 30 miles from team lodging. Airport access must be reasonable and the site must have reasonable access and sufficient parking space for teams, administrators, referees and spectators.

## Tents

Separate 10' x 20' tents should be provided for:

- Tournament Headquarters – with an adequate number of tables and chairs provided
- Referee Headquarters – with an information board or table and an adequate number of tables and chairs provided

## Medical Treatment and First Aid

Arrangements should be made based on the requirements of the facility being used. If a county or city park is being used that requires onsite medical personnel, the hosting organization must comply with the requirement. If there are no specific requirements, then the tournament headquarters should have detailed directions and the phone numbers for the nearest medical facility.

## Hotel

A hotel will be selected to serve as the host hotel. If the hosting organization wishes to hold a Friday night check-in or any organizational meetings for referees or coaches, arrangements for the meeting room space is the responsibility of the hosting organization. A reasonable number of rooms must be available for parents and team staff from out-of-town. It is appropriate for the hosting organization to receive a rebate on room bookings if available.

## Awards

The state staff will inventory, package and ship or deliver the medals and patches to the tournament coordinator, allowing for a maximum of 20 per team.

## Hosting Expenses

The hosting organization will be reimbursed by the state at the rate established in the STYSA Financial Policies for each team hosted. Any expenses incurred by the hosting association related to medical, security, field usage, etc. will be covered by the hosting fees. Referee reimbursement will be at the rate established in the current Financial Policies.

# HOSTING REQUIREMENTS FOR DIRECTOR'S CUP

## Playing Site Fields

- An adequate number of fields for the tournament format.
- Fields of the appropriate size for the games being played.
- All fields will be marked according to FIFA guidelines.
- All fields will be marked prior to the beginning of the tournament and at least one or more times during the tournament, if deemed necessary.
- Nets, corner flags and markings are the responsibility of the host organization.

It is preferred that the fields be located at a single site. If multiple sites are necessary, a reasonable distance between playing sites would be expected. All infrastructure noted here may not be necessary, depending on distances. However, one site must be designated as the primary tournament site. Ideally, the playing venues should be no more than 30 miles from team lodging. Airport access must be reasonable and the site must have reasonable access and sufficient parking space for teams, administrators, referees and spectators.

## Tents

Separate 10' x 20' tents should be provided for:

- Tournament Headquarters – with an adequate number of tables and chairs provided
- Referee Headquarters – with an information board or table and an adequate number of tables and chairs provided

## Medical Treatment and First Aid

Arrangements should be made based on the requirements of the facility being used. If a county or city park is being used that requires onsite medical personnel, the hosting organization must comply with the requirement. If there are no specific requirements, then the tournament headquarters should have detailed directions and the phone numbers for the nearest medical facility.

## Hotel

A hotel will be selected to serve as the host hotel. If the hosting organization wishes to hold a Friday night check-in or any organizational meetings for referees or coaches, arrangements for the meeting room space is the responsibility of the hosting organization. A reasonable number of rooms must be available for parents and team staff from out-of-town. It is appropriate for the hosting organization to receive a rebate on room bookings if available.

## Awards

The state staff will inventory, package and ship or deliver the medals and patches to the tournament coordinator, allowing for a maximum of 20 per team.

## Hosting Expenses

The hosting organization will be reimbursed by the state at the rate established in the STYSA Financial Policies for each team hosted. Any expenses incurred by the hosting association related to medical, security, field usage, etc. will be covered by the hosting fees. Referee reimbursement will be at the rate established in the current Financial Policies.

# HOSTING REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESIDENT'S CUP

## Playing Site Fields

- An adequate number of fields for the tournament format.
- Fields of the appropriate size for the games being played.
- All fields will be marked according to FIFA guidelines.
- All fields will be marked prior to the beginning of the tournament and at least one or more times during the tournament, if deemed necessary.
- Nets, corner flags and markings are the responsibility of the host organization.

It is preferred that the fields be located at a single site. If multiple sites are necessary, a reasonable distance between playing sites would be expected. All infrastructure noted here may not be necessary, depending on distances. However, one site must be designated as the primary tournament site. Ideally, the playing venues should be no more than 30 miles from team lodging. Airport access must be reasonable and the site must have reasonable access and sufficient parking space for teams, administrators, referees and spectators.

## Tents

Separate 10' x 20' tents will be provided for:

- Tournament Headquarters – with an adequate number of tables and chairs provided
- Referee Headquarters – with an information board or table and an adequate number of tables and chairs provided

## Medical Treatment and First Aid

Arrangements should be made based on the requirements of the facility being used. If a county or city park is being used that requires onsite medical personnel, the hosting organization must comply with the requirement. If there are no specific requirements, then the tournament headquarters should have detailed directions and the phone numbers for the nearest medical facility.

## Hotel

A hotel will be selected to serve as the host hotel.

- Meeting Room – if the hosting organization has Team Check-in on Friday evening
- Meeting Room – may be needed if the referee coordinator chooses
- Meeting Room – may be needed if a coaches meeting is scheduled
- Rooms - a reasonable number of rooms must be available for parents and team staff from out-of-town.

It is appropriate for the hosting organization to receive a rebate on room bookings if desired.

## Awards

The state staff will inventory, package, and ship or deliver the medals and patches to the tournament coordinator, allowing for a maximum of 20 per team in U11 through U15 and 24 per team for U16 through U19.

## Hosting Expenses

The hosting organization will be reimbursed by the state at the rate established in the STYSA Financial Policies for each team hosted. Any expenses incurred by the hosting association related to medical, security, field usage, etc. will be covered by the hosting fees. Referee reimbursement will be at the rate established in the current Financial Policies.

# HOSTING REQUIREMENTS FOR USYSNC STATE CUP

## Playing Site Fields

- An adequate number of fields for the tournament format.
- Fields of the appropriate size for the games being played.
- All fields will be marked according to FIFA guidelines.
- All fields will be marked prior to the beginning of the tournament and at least one or more times during the tournament, if deemed necessary.
- Nets, corner flags and markings are the responsibility of the host organization.

It is preferred that the fields be located at a single site. If multiple sites are necessary, a reasonable distance between playing sites would be expected. All infrastructure noted here may not be necessary, depending on distances. However, one site must be designated as the primary tournament site. Ideally, the playing venues should be no more than 30 miles from team lodging. Airport access must be reasonable and the site must have reasonable access and sufficient parking space for teams, administrators, referees and spectators.

## Tents

Separate 10' x 20' tents will be needed for the first three areas. Several smaller tents will be needed for the Field Marshalls and Red Card Area.

- Tournament Headquarters – with an adequate number of tables and chairs provided
- Referee Headquarters – with an information board or table and an adequate number of tables and chairs provided
- Appeals Committee – with an adequate number of tables and chairs provided
- Field Marshalls – placed at strategic points around the complex
- Red Card Tent – with adequate chairs to be used as a holding area for players who have been issued a red card during a game

## Medical Treatment and First Aid

Arrangements should be made for onsite medical personnel at each venue. Detailed information on the location and directions / phone numbers of the nearest hospital an/or medical facility should also be quickly available.

## Hotel

A hotel will be selected to serve as the host hotel.

- At least 10 rooms should be available for state staff, committee members, etc.
- At least 20 double/double rooms should be available for use by the referees, at the referee organization's expense.
- A reasonable number of rooms (estimated 60 teams x 15 rooms per team) must be available for parents and team staff
- 80% of the rooms available should be double/doubles (two queens/two double beds)
- Meeting Room – a meeting / hospitality area of adequate size will be required on Friday night for Team Check-in. Sufficient tables and chairs must be provided for staff, leaving room for team representatives to move from area to area.
- Meeting Room – for a referee session
- Meeting Room – for a coaches session

It is appropriate for the hosting organization to receive a rebate on room bookings if desired.

## **Communications**

A minimum of 16 mobile radios for the SCC, field marshals, and ancillary services will be required. Either adequate equipment to recharge the batteries each day or a sufficient number of batteries must be available onsite to ensure uninterrupted service throughout the tournament.

## **Golf Carts with Tops**

The following minimum number of gasoline-powered golf carts needs to be available for transportation at the playing venue, with as many as possible having more than two seats and at least one with a carry body:

- 3 carts for SCC
- 2 carts for referee staff (all should have rear passenger seat)
- 1 cart for medical subject to logistics of accessing the site
- 1 cart for security
- 2 carts for ancillary services: water, trash

## **Referee Procedures**

The Youth Referee Administrator will identify the referees to be assigned to USYSNC State Cup games and issue invitations to each no later than the first week of May. He will then coordinate the assignment of referees to the first day of games. Every effort will be made to assign center referees for the second and third days of the USYSNC State Cup based on the assessments from the first day. Assistant referees and fourth officials will be assigned randomly and independent of the assessments. Assignment of a center referee who is from either team's home club will be avoided.

## **Awards**

The state staff will inventory, package, and ship or deliver the medals and patches to the tournament coordinator, allowing for a maximum of 20 per team in U11 through U15 and 24 per team for U16 through U19.

## **Hosting Expenses**

The hosting organization will be reimbursed by the state at the rate established in the STYSA Financial Policies for each team hosted. Any expenses incurred by the hosting association related to medical, security, field usage, etc. will be covered by the hosting fees. Referee reimbursement will be at the rate established in the current Financial Policies.

# PRE-TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

## Scheduling of Games

- The State Cup Committee and Host Organization will oversee the scheduling of games for the competition based on information provided by the host with regard to field sizes, locations, field conditions, availability.
- Preliminary schedules will be developed based on initial entries submitted with the final schedules available the Monday preceding the State Cup.
- The format of the tournament shall be in compliance with State Rules which require a full round robin. Games may end in a tie.

## Pre-Tournament Documentation

At least two weeks prior to the State Cup, a team representative will be provided with copies of all documents required for Team Check-in and instructions for submitting each document.

- Bench Pass Request
- Code of Conduct
- Team Contact Information
- Medical Release Form
- Penalty Point Report
- Advancement Commitment Form

## Mandatory Check-in

A team representative is required to check-in the team on Friday night or at the time and location designated. Requests for an exception must be submitted in writing prior to the event stating the reason one team representative cannot be present on Friday evening. Each request will be considered on a case-by-case basis

## Check-in Documentation

The team representative must provide the following documents at Team Check-in:

- US Youth Soccer Player Pass - each player must have an ID Card that includes the player's name, age group, birth date, a current photo of the player, is signed by the player and registrar, and is laminated with a material that allows the information to be seen and read
- Adult Participation (Kidsafe) Pass - each adult must have a pass of the color defined for the current seasonal year that includes the adults name, a current photo of the adult, is signed by the adult and registrar, and is laminated with a material that allows the information to be seen and read. This pass must be visible at all times.
- Team roster – any roster provided by the team will be checked against the roster provided by the State. Any discrepancies must be resolved as the State Roster will be the official roster for the State competition
- Penalty Point Report – this report may be brought to the site by the team or may be provided by the Member Association / Gaming League through which the team plays. The report must include all cards issues to players and coaches and, if any suspension was required, the date on which the suspension was served must be identified.
- Completed and signed copies of any other documents required for that competition

Copies of birth certificates are not required as this information is considered to have been verified by the Association or Club Registrar at the time of registration. If a player's birth date is challenged, the team representative will have 24 hours in which to provide a copy of the document for the player being challenged.

Any birth certificate of age verification document that is in a foreign language must have an English translation attached to the original document. Translations may be provided by anyone recognized as a translator by South Texas Youth Soccer Association. No parent or other family member will be allowed to translate for any member of their son or daughter's team unless they are certified or accredited to teach the specific language, i.e. high school teacher, professor of languages at a university or college, a court translator, or anyone recognized as an official translator by the organization. All translations will be dated and include qualifications to translate, the translator's signature, address and telephone number.

### **Official Game Cards**

The official record of the tournament is the game card filled out by the referee. All game cards will be produced prior to the event and will be available for distribution to the referee prior to the game for which they are scheduled. The Game Card must include, but is not limited to:

- Game information – date, location, game number, field number
- Scheduled and actual start time
- Division of play – age and gender
- Team names – designated as “home” and “away”
- Team uniform colors
- Name of team taking opening kickoff
- Jersey number of players who scored
- Game time of scores
- Final score of the game
- Coaches Name
- Details on cautions and sendoffs
- Notation for any person sitting out a Red Card suspension
- Referee comments
- Referee signatures

At the end of each match a team administrator from each team is required to inspect and sign the game report. Any discrepancies should be brought to the attention of the referee at this time. Once the report is turned into tournament headquarters by the referee, it will be deemed as the official report and no changes to information on the card will be permitted.

In the event that one or both coaches wish to file a protest regarding the match, this must also be noted on the game card and both coaches shall remain onsite until the issue is resolved.

## **ON SITE PROCEDURES**

### **Game Balls**

South Texas Youth Soccer Association will provide balls of the appropriate size for each age group. Note: The game balls for each age group **MUST** meet the requirements of the competition. Once the game begins, a protest cannot be lodged because of an illegal ball.

### **Grace Periods**

Teams must be ready to play at the scheduled start time. A fifteen (15) minute grace period may be allowed. Any team not ready to play after this grace period has expired shall be reported to the Tournament Director 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 Team – Visiting Team**

The team listed first is the home team. The visiting team will have the choice of jersey colors. If, in the opinion of the referee there is a color conflict with the jersey color of the opponent, the home team shall change jerseys.

### **Team and Spectator Location**

The teams will sit on the opposite side of the fields from the spectators. Teams will be separated by a minimum distance of 20 yards, 10 yards either side of the center line, or by a table or bench. A maximum of four adults per team will be permitted on the team sideline and all must have visible the Bench Pass issued by the Tournament.

### **Bench Passes**

Bench Passes must be requested by the designated procedure and deadline in order that they may be prepared in advance for distribution at Team Check-in. Bench Passes will only be issued to individuals who have been certified through the STYSA Kidsafe Program and are in compliance with the coach licensing requirement. Each individual will be required to produce a copy of their Adult Participation (Kidsafe) Pass for the current seasonal year when picking up their Bench Pass at Check-in.

### **Uniforms / Equipment**

- Each player must wear an official uniform with a six-inch minimum size number on the back of the shirt (this includes goalies). Duplicate numbers are not permitted.
- The wearing of shin guards is mandatory for all players. A player will not be allowed to play without wearing them at all times during the game.
- In accordance with state rules, no player will be allowed to play with a hard cast, padded or otherwise.
- The referee has final judgment as to any equipment a player is allowed to wear. In the event a player wishes to wear a brace or other apparatus during a game, the player must have the apparatus inspected by the Referee Committee prior to the start of the competition. A log will be maintained by the Referee Committee of all inspections and will include the date and time of the inspection; the player's name, age, and team name; and whether the apparatus may or may not be worn during play.

## **Player / Adult ID Cards**

Before each game, the referee or assistant referee will obtain the player and team official passes from either the field marshal or coach. The passes will remain with the referee for the duration of the game. Passes of individuals ejected from the game will be turned in by the referee or field marshal with the Game Card to Tournament Headquarters. It will be the responsibility of each coach, or his/her designee, at the end of the game, to obtain the remaining passes back from the referee and also from tournament headquarters for any players or coaches who were ejected and have served the required suspension.

## **Determination of Winners - 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

If a forfeit is declared because of a rules violation or protest, the winning team will be awarded 10 points, the game scored 3-0 and marked a forfeit. If a team fails to appear or play a game, the team shall be removed from the competition immediately and their games shall not count. (See Forfeiture Rule)

## **Tiebreakers**

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; then, if the 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 5.8.5.)

## **Forfeiture Rule**

In the event a team in round-robin competition forfeits any match, the official game scores for all of that team's games will be recorded as 3-0 losses. A team that forfeits a match will be considered to have withdrawn from the tournament, with final review by the STYSA Appeals Committee.

## **Unfinished Games**

If any game is abandoned, the STYSA Appeals Committee or any three (3) members of the STYSA Executive Committee shall decide: a) if the score at the time of the abandonment shall be the score of the game; b) if the game shall be declared a forfeit for one or both teams; or, c) if the game shall be replayed. There shall be no appeal of the decision.

## **Failure to Complete the Tournament**

Any team that fails to complete the tournament may be subject to disciplinary sanctions by STYSA.

## **Player Ejections**

- A player who is sent off must be escorted from the field by a person with a Bench Pass to the designated red card holding area for the duration of the match.
- The player's pass, together with the referee report, shall be turned over to appropriate person at Tournament Headquarters by the referee.
- The minimum penalty for an ejection is the player not being permitted to play in the immediate next competition match of his or her team. This penalty may be increased at the determination of the STYSA Appeals Committee. No appeals shall be allowed.
- If the team of an ejected player allows the player to participate in the game he or she is required to sit out, that team will automatically forfeit the game.
- An ejected player may rejoin their team after the match from which he/she has been ejected has completely ended.
- A team representative is responsible for picking up the player's pass from tournament officials following the completion of the disciplinary period.

## **Bench Personnel Ejection, Point Accumulation, Send-off, or Request to Leave**

- If a coach, assistant coach, trainer or any other adult associated with the team is not ejected or asked to leave a game by a referee but reaches 9 penalty points (e.g., third caution), then the suspension is for the next game actually played by the team which played the game in which the coach received his 9<sup>th</sup> point. Suspension shall not be served in forfeited games.
- If a coach, assistant coach, trainer or any other adult associated with the team is ejected or asked to leave the game by the referee, the suspension requires that they leave the facility and cannot return for the remainder of that day and for the next regularly scheduled match day, and for the next game actually played by the team which played the game from which they were ejected.
- If a coach, assistant coach, trainer or any other adult associated with the team is not ejected or asked to leave a game by a referee but reaches 18, 24 or 30 penalty points, then the suspension will be for the next 2, 3, or 4 games actually played by the team which played the game in which the coach reached the appropriate points.
- The coaches' pass together with the referee's report of the incident shall be turned over to the appropriate person at Tournament Headquarters who will submit it to the STYSA Appeals Committee.
- The minimum penalty for the ejection is a one game suspension to be served in the next immediately following game played by the team.
- The penalty may be increased at the determination of the STYSA Appeals Committee. No appeals are allowed.
- Any other individuals who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team, such as relatives and spectators, are also subject to the jurisdiction and authority of US Youth Soccer and the STYSA. A team may be held responsible for the actions of any individual at any game that is a supporter of that team.

## **Tournament Discipline**

Tournament discipline will be the responsibility of the STYSA Appeals Committee. Any extenuating circumstances that would prevent a team from complying with all requirements must be submitted to the designated Tournament Coordinator prior to the tournament. Failure to comply with all tournament requirements could result in a fine, probation, suspension or a combination of these determinations.

Coaches are responsible for their behavior as well as that of their coaching staff, parents and players.

## **Protests**

All questions relating to the qualifications of the competitors or interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest shall be referred to the STYSA Appeals Committee.

- 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.

# PLAYING RULES

## Substitutions

The number of substitutions shall be unlimited. Substitutions may be made with the consent of the referee, at the following times:

1. Prior to a throw-in in your favor
2. Prior to a goal kick by either team
3. After a goal by either team
4. After an injury by either team when the referee stops play
5. At half time
6. When the referee stops play to caution a player, only the cautioned player may be substituted prior to the restart of the game

## Play Time Requirements

- US Youth Soccer National Championship Series State Cup – There is no play time requirement.
- President's Cup – There is no play time requirement.
- Director's Cup – Coaches must make every effort to pay each registered player that is present one-half of the game unless unable to do so due to a player's illness or injury or for disciplinary reasons. In the event a player is present but will not be playing, the coach must inform the referee and the opposing coach as to the reason the player will not participate.
- South Texas Cup – Coaches must make every effort to pay each registered player that is present one-half of the game unless unable to do so due to a player's illness or injury or for disciplinary reasons. In the event a player is present but will not be playing, the coach must inform the referee and the opposing coach as to the reason the player will not participate.