

 **2012 US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP STATE CUP**  
**Registration and Final Roster Requirements**

**Entry Fee - \$950**

**Entry Deadline – 11:59 p.m. on February 1, 2012**

**NOTE: All entries must be submitted through the Affinity online program.**

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS!**

**US Youth Soccer National Championship Series State Cup** is an open entry competition that is strongly recommended for Premier League, State Classic League and upper level Division I teams. The competition is open to Under-14 through Under-18 boys and girls teams who participated in the Fall 2011 season. Under-19 teams are not required to have played in the Fall 2011 season but must be registered prior to the Spring 2012 Cup entry deadline.

**NOTE:** Under-13 teams interested in participating in the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series State Cup competition should refer to the Under-13 instruction document as there are additional requirements in place for this age group.

There will be **NO** USYSNC State Cup competition offered in the Under-11 and Under-12 age groups.

Teams will be seeded into the USYSNC State Cup based on Fall 2011 league play with a maximum of six (6) teams per age group to be played in a 5-game round-robin format. In Western District the six teams will include 5 teams from WDDOA and 1 team from the Rio Valley Division One League. If the Rio Valley League has no team participating in the age group, a sixth WDDOA team will be seeded into the competition. A team that enters National Cup and is relegated to President's Cup through a challenge will receive a refund of the difference between the entry fees for the two competitions.

Teams should enter the Cup competition for which they anticipate they will qualify. The full entry fee must be paid prior to the deadline stated above; if paying by check, please be sure to mail the check in time for it to arrive in the State Office on or before the deadline.

**EL PASO:** In accordance with state rules, El Paso receives a bye into the State Tournament competitions. Teams from either of the two El Paso area associations interested in participating must register prior to the entry deadline and pay the designated entry fee. If multiple teams enter a single age group, whether from one or both associations, the South Texas Competition Administrator will schedule the necessary games along with the referees. Costs associated with the game will be covered by the entry fee. If necessary, a playoff game will be scheduled the weekend of May 5-6<sup>th</sup> to identify the one team to represent El Paso at the State Tournament in each age group.

**START OF PLAY DATE:** Play will begin the weekend of **April 14-15<sup>th</sup>** for Under-14 through Under-18 age groups. Schedules will be published no later than March 26<sup>th</sup> and will be final upon posting. No reschedules will be allowed once the schedule is posted. The start of play for the Under-19 age group will be determined after the number of teams entered has been determined.

**CLUB PASSES:** The US Youth Soccer National Championship Series competition will be divided into two levels of play – District and State. During District play, only players officially rostered to the team by the roster freeze date are eligible to participate. Club Passes will not be allowed during District play. For State Play, Club Passes will be allowed at the USYSNC State Cup Tournament in accordance with the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series rules. Teams opting to use Club Passes at the USYSNC State Cup Tournament are required to document the Club Pass players by 12 noon on **Tuesday, May 22, 2012**, the week of the State Tournament.

**If a team wishes to challenge into National Cup:**

Teams may “challenge” into the National Cup competition at the time they register and pay the entry fee for the lower level Cup competition for which they qualify. Challenge information can be found in the entry instructions for each of the other Spring Cups. Any team challenging into National Cup will be assessed a “challenge” fee in the amount of \$100 plus a \$200 per game fee for a minimum of two games (challenge cost = \$500). Payment of the challenge fee must be included with the entry fee. Failure to pay the entry and challenge fee by the entry deadline stated above will result in the challenge being disallowed.

### **Multiple teams challenge the lowest seeded team**

If multiple teams challenge into an age group, seeding of the challenging teams will be based on the final Fall standings in their respective District leagues. The challenge games will be determined based on the following format.

If two (2) teams challenge to compete for the challenge slot against the lowest seeded National Cup team, a single match will be played between the two challenging teams. The winner of that match would then compete in a two game challenge against the lowest seeded National Cup team.

If three (3) teams challenge to compete for the challenge slot against the lowest seeded National Cup team, the lowest challenge bracketed team (#3) will play against the second lowest challenge bracketed team (#2); the winner of that match would then play the highest challenge bracketed team (#1). The winner of that match would then compete in a two game challenge match against the lowest seeded National Cup team.

If four (4) teams challenge to compete for the challenge slot against the lowest seeded National Cup team, the teams would be seeded within a bracket and a seeding schedule would be built. For example, if four teams entered as challengers, bracket seeded team #1 plays #4 and team #2 plays #3. Losing teams will be eliminated. The two undefeated teams will play a final game to decide the challenge bracket winner who would then compete in a two game Challenge match against the lowest seeded National Cup team.

In the event the number of teams challenging is not a multiple of 4 (5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 teams), the teams will be seeded in order to play down to a bracket that is a multiple of 3 or 4. For example: if 5 teams challenge, then the team bracketed as #5 will play the team bracketed as #4 and then the 4 team challenge format above will be implemented.

If 6 teams challenge, the format will be 1 v 6, 2 v 5, and 3 v 4 and then the 3 team challenge format above will be implemented.

A game played between challenging teams cannot end in a tie – there must be a winner. Games tied at the end of regulation play will be determined by STYSA Rule 5.8.1.b. As losing teams are eliminated, no refunds will be issued. Should there be more than two challenge games the challenging teams will be responsible for any additional game fees.

### **In Challenge matches against the lowest seeded National Cup team:**

Using a 3-1-0 point system, the challenging team must acquire 4 points in order to win the challenge. If the seeded team wins the first game, a second game will not be required as the challenging team cannot achieve a 4 point advantage over the seeded team. If the challenging team wins or ties the first game, a second game is required. If the challenging team is successful and the team is seeded into a higher competition, the team is responsible for paying the difference in the entry fee between the Cup entered and the Cup for which they qualified.

In Eastern District, teams will be challenging the lowest seeded EDDOA team. In Western District, teams will challenge the lowest seeded team from their Division 1 organization; WDDOA teams will challenge the lowest seeded WDDOA team and Rio Valley Alliance teams will challenge the lowest Alliance seeded team. Any non-Division 1 team wishing to challenge into USYSNC must challenge the overall lowest seeded team in their age group in their District. The challenge game will be played at a site designated by STYSA.

**PLAYING SITES:** All games will be played at designated sites identified by South Texas Youth Soccer. Designated sites in various communities will limit the distance teams must travel and allow for controlled costs for the games. All field usage and referee fees for scheduled games are included in the entry fee. Designated site locations are currently being determined and will be announced prior to the start of play.

**ADVANCEMENT:** The qualification process within each District will identify the first and second place teams in each age group. The two representatives from each District and one El Paso team (if entered in that age group) will advance to the USYSNC State Cup competition to be held over Memorial Day weekend.

**PAYMENT OPTIONS:** There are three payment options available to teams entering the Cup competition – credit card, electronic check or personal check.

- Credit Card Payment - there will be a 2.7 percent processing fee charge added to the total credit card charge. This processing fee is not paid to the State or District but is a non-refundable standard fee charged when paying by credit card.
- Electronic checks - there will be a flat fee of \$5 for electronic checks. As with credit cards, the processing fee is not paid to the State or District but is a non-refundable service charge.

- Check – make checks payable to **STYSA** and mail with the payment coupon to the address shown below. In order to properly credit the payment, it is extremely important that you include the payment coupon or the name, age group and gender of the team for which payment is being made.

### **South Texas Youth Soccer Association (or STYSA)**

South Texas Youth Soccer Association – 15209 Hwy 290 East – Manor, TX 78653

**REMEMBER: Checks must be received in the State Office ON OR BEFORE the entry deadline.**

#### **IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD:**

**Your credit card will NOT be charged at the time you register for the competition.** After verifying that the team is eligible for the competition, an administrator will designate that the credit card is to be charged. The administrator will not have access to any credit card information.

#### **IF PAYING BY ELECTRONIC CHECK:**

Funds for payment by electronic check will be deducted from your account upon authorization by the bank.

### **TO ENTER THE USYSNC COMPETITION:**

- ◆ Go to <http://stx.affinitysoccer.com> and log in with your username and password.
- ◆ If you do not have a user name or password, contact your Club Registrar who can assign you one.
- ◆ Only individuals designated as a coach or manager on the team roster are eligible to register the team.
- ◆ On the “**My Account**” page, scroll down to the Teams Section. If account information does not appear on the page, click on the “My Account” button in the upper left corner of the page to open the file.
- ◆ **Click on the word “Tournament”** next to the team name / id# and season (Spring 2012) of the team you wish to register for the competition.
- ◆ On the next screen, click on the “**Select a Tournament**” to see a dropdown list of available tournaments.
- ◆ **Select 2012 US Youth Soccer National Championships and click the register button.** This will allow your team roster of players and administrators to automatically pull into the tournament application assuring that your team roster is linked to the competition.
- ◆ The system will then take you to the **Team Info** page. Designate the “**Playing Age Group**” you are entering. A team’s entry fee will be determined by the playing age group/flight choice. Example: If you are registering a BU16 team and play in Eastern District, you would select BU16 Eastern as your Playing Age Group.
- ◆ Click on the **Review tab** to complete your application into the competition. Click on “**SUBMIT APPLICATION.**” Failure to submit the application and designate the payment method will result in your application not being date stamped and the possible disqualification of the team for not having registered by the designated entry deadline.
- ◆ Indicate the method of payment and click the “**Submit for Payment**” button. You may pay by credit card, electronic check or check. If paying by check, you will need to enter a check number. If your check number is not available, enter the number “1” – this information will be updated when your check is received.
- ◆ After completing the payment process, **IF YOU ARE PAYING BY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER print the Payment Coupon and mail** to the address indicated above. **REMEMBER:** the check must be received prior to the entry deadline so don’t wait until February 1<sup>st</sup> to register if you plan to pay by check.

## **FINAL ROSTER DEADLINES / RELATED INFORMATION**



### **REMINDER: FINAL PAPERWORK / ROSTER FREEZE DATES**

**Rosters will be frozen at 11:59 pm on April 2, 2012 for U14 through U18 age groups**

**Rosters will be frozen at 11:59 pm on May 14, 2012 for Under-19 teams**

### **HOW TO MAKE CHANGES TO YOUR ROSTER**

All changes to rosters of teams entered in the National Cup competition must be processed in the Affinity system prior to the final roster deadline indicated above. 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. All signed transfer and release forms **MUST** be forwarded to the State Office within 48 hours of the roster freeze deadline. Please mail or deliver all final paperwork to:

## STYSA STATE OFFICE - 15209 Hwy 290 East - Manor, TX 78653

**REMEMBER:** All teams must have a roster consistency between the Fall 2011 and 2012 President's Cup rosters.

- U13 through U15 teams – maximum roster is 18 players - 9 of the same players must appear on both rosters
- U16 through U19 teams – maximum roster is 22 players - 9 of the same players must appear on both rosters

### **Roster Changes**

- Definition of 'previously rostered player' is a player who transfers onto 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 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 USYSNC 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 and the name.
- ✓ 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 Affinity 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 National Cup rules. **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.

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

## **STATE, REGIONAL & NATIONAL COMPETITION DATES**

### **USYSNC State Cup**

Date: May 26-28, 2012  
Host: South Texas Youth Soccer Association  
Site: Lindsay Lyons Park - Humble  
Ages: Under-13 through Under-19

### **Region III USYSNC Southern Regionals**

Date: June 14-24, 2012  
Host: South Carolina Youth Soccer Association  
Site: Greenville, South Carolina  
Ages: Under-13 through Under-19

## **US Youth Soccer National Championship**

Date: July 24-29, 2012

Host: South Carolina Youth Soccer Association

Site: Rock Hill, South Carolina

Ages: Under-13 through Under-19