

2021 Texas Gold Cup Rules & Policies



1. Each team must have unique numbered jerseys. No two players may have the same jersey number. Alternate jerseys or numbered T-Shirts must be available with a unique and permanent number for each player. (If you choose to tape a number onto a jersey/shirt and the tape peels during the game, the player will be removed by the referee. Pennies (mesh vests) may be used over the jersey to resolve color conflicts, but the numbers must be visible through the pennies. Goalkeepers are not required to have a number on their jersey but should be identified by number on the GotSoccer roster and SMC game report. Violators will be removed from the field by the referee and not allowed back on the field of play until player equipment is corrected. Home Team is team listed first (left or top) on schedule. Home Team will wear white or light-colored jerseys. AWAY TEAM ARE **NOT** TO WEAR WHITE JERSEYS.

2. Due to Covid, Team A team and spectators will sit on one side of the field. Team B team and spectators will sit on the other side of the field. Team and spectators on the same side.

3. Game time is forfeit time, unless specifically directed by the SMC tournament staff

4. No protests will be allowed

5. Game Lengths

| <i>Division</i> | <i>Field Dimensions</i> | <i>Goals</i> | <i>Game Length</i> | <i>Roster Max</i> | <i>Guest Players Max</i> | <i>Ball Size</i> | <i>Overtime in playoffs</i> |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 7U-8U (4v4) | 35 x 25 (yards) | 4 x 6 (feet) | 4 x 8 = 32 | 8 | 0 | 3 | Directly to PKs |
| 8U-10U (7v7) | 60 x 40 (yards) | 6.5 x 18 (feet) | 2 x 25 = 50 | 12 | 5 | 4 | Directly to PKs |
| 10U-12U (9v9) | 80 x 50 (yards) | 6.5 x 18 (feet) | 2 x 30 = 60 | 16 | 5 | 4 | Directly to PKs |
| 12U-14U (11v11) | 120 x 75 (yards) | 8 x 24 (feet) | 2 x 35 = 70 | 18 | 5 | 5 | Directly to PKs |
| 15U-19U (11v11) | 120 x 75 (yards) | 8 x 24 (feet) | 2 x 35 = 70 | 22 | 5 | 5 | Directly to PKs |

Field Dimensions and Goals may vary depending on the complex.

Pool Play games may end in a tie. Overtime only applies to Semi-Finals and Finals. If Semi-Final and Final game is tied after regulation, the game will go directly to PKs.

4v4 RULES

1. 4 v 4 (4 field players, no goal keeper)
2. KICK-INS, NOT THROW INS
3. NO OFFSIDE RULE
4. SUBSTITUTIONS ON ALL "DEAD" BALLS (KICK-INS, CORNER KICKS, GOAL KICKS, AFTER A GOAL IS SCORED). NO SUBBING ON THE FLY
5. NO PENALTY KICKS UNLESS THE GAME IS A SEMI-FINAL OR FINAL TO SETTLE A TIE. ALL FREE KICKS ARE INDIRECT (MUST TOUCH SOMEONE OTHER THAN THE KICKER BEFORE A GOAL CAN BE SCORED)
6. OPPONENTS MUST BE 3 YARDS BACK FROM THE BALL ON ALL FREE KICKS, KICK-INS
7. GOAL KICKS CAN BE TAKEN FROM ANYWHERE ON THE GOAL ARC OR GOAL BOX.
8. ON GOAL KICKS, THE TEAM NOT TAKING THE GOAL KICK MUST HAVE ENTIRE TEAM ON THEIR SIDE OF MIDFIELD (THE SIDE THEY ARE DEFENDING) UNTIL THE GOAL KICK IS TAKEN. ONCE THE GOAL KICK IS TAKEN, IT IS FREE PLAY
9. NO BUILD OUT LINE
10. LET THE PLAYERS HAVE FUN AND ENJOY THEMSELVES.

Scoring system for preliminary (pool) games will be as follows:

- a. 6 points for a win
- b. 3 points for a tie
- c. 0 points for a loss
- d. 1 point per goal scored in the game with a maximum of 3
- e. 1 point for a shutout victory (0-0 tie does not award a shutout point)
- f. A forfeit game will be scored at a 3-0 win in calculating preliminary (pool) game points for tiebreaker determination.

Tiebreaker System:

If two or more teams are tied in points after their preliminary (pool) games are completed, the following tiebreaker procedures will be used to determine the team advancing:

- a. Head to Head (disregard if more than 2 teams are tied)
 - b. Most number of shutouts
 - c. Goal differential (max of 5)
 - d. Most goals scored (max of 5)
 - e. Least goals allowed (no max)
 - f. PKs
6. For 9v9 and 11v11, each team must have a minimum of seven (7) players on the field to start or continue a game. For 7v7, five (5) players are required. For 4v4, three (3) players are required.
 7. There will be free substitutions, with the referee's consent at the following times:
 - a. A player receiving a yellow card (the player carded only)

- b. Prior to a throw-in for the team in possession (the opposing team may substitute when the team in possession subs)
 - c. Prior to a goal kick
 - d. After a goal by either team
 - e. After an injury by either team when the referee stops play
 - f. At the referee's discretion
8. Any send-offs should be reported to the SMC Tournament Staff immediately following the game. Any player or coach sent off (other than on account of receiving two cautions in the same game) shall automatically sit out the next played tournament game with their team (unless the send-off occurred in the last game of the tournament for that player or coach, in which case such player or coach would be required to sit out their next scheduled game played.) If the send-off was for fighting (or if it is the player's second tournament send-off) the player, coach, or spectator will be suspended from the remainder of the tournament. Any player receiving three (3) cautions (yellow cards) in the tournament must sit out the next played tournament game with their team (unless the third caution occurred during the last game of the tournament for that player or coach. In which case, such player or coach will be allowed to finish the game but would be required to sit out their next scheduled game played). SMC has the right to increase the suspension at its discretion based on the severity of the incident. Any player sent off must immediately report to the tournament headquarters with a manager or parent. Any coaches or spectators sent off must report immediately to the tournament headquarters.

Inappropriate behavior, serious foul play, and violent conduct will not be tolerated. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of his/her players and spectators, on and off the field, and must promote sportsmanship – win or lose. SMC tournament staff may remove a player, coach, and/or spectator from a game or the tournament for unacceptable conduct and/or actions that endanger the safety of others. SMC tournament staff may also remove an entire team for accumulating an unacceptable number of yellow and red cards.

9. All referee decisions are final. You may not protest "Judgement Calls"
10. The Tournament Director, or their tournament staff, is empowered to make all decisions regarding the competition during the tournament. The Tournament Director's decision is final in all matters. No appeals will be allowed.
11. In the event the referee or linesman are missing from the field, report immediately to SMC tournament staff. In the event the linesman is not available, each team may be required to provide a "club linesman"
12. If a game has played one full half, but is stopped short of full time, other than by acts on the part of one of the teams, the game shall be considered complete.
13. In the event of inclement weather, format for tournament play and/or completion of the tournament will be determined by the Tournament Director.

14. All scores shall be turned in to the SMC tournament staff by REFEREES in each match.
15. Net and Flags: Provide by the Tournament
16. All teams not accepted by the tournament will be refunded in full within ten (10) days of the notification of rejection, or notification to the teams accepted, whichever comes first. (Posting on websites can be considered notification of teams accepted.)
17. In case of rain – HARD RAIN, NOT A SPRINKLE – we will update via emails and texts to managers through GotSoccer and via our tournament website. If inclement weather forces the cancellation of all or part of the tournament, teams will have the option to receive a credit or cash refund of a percentage of their entry fee. This credit is to be used in future SMC soccer tournaments (within one year), and will be given in the following increments:
 - a. No games played = 75% credit or 50% cash refund
 - b. One game played = 50% credit or 25% cash refund
 - c. Two games played = 25% credit

Player Eligibility Rules

USYSA and USSF eligibility requirements will be strictly adhered to. We accept teams registered through US Club or a US Youth Soccer (USYSA) home association, such as NTSSA, STYSA, OSA, etc. If you are playing under a US Club roster, your guest players must also be registered through US Club Soccer and you must submit a signed US Club Soccer Player Loan Form for guest players. If you are playing under a USYSA roster, your guest players must also be registered through a USYSA member home association. Again, a team and its guest players must be registered through the SAME national organization.

For NTSSA-registered teams (11U-19U), we must receive a properly signed NTSSA Guest Player Release Form for each guest player. For 7U-10U NTSSA academy teams, we must receive an NTSSA Academy Tournament Roster signed by any NTSSA home association.

Players and teams are allowed to “Play-up”, which means participate in an older age group, but may NOT play in a younger age group where they exceed the age eligibility. If even as few as one player is too old for a specific age group, the entire team is too old for the same group. Girls may play on boys teams in boys divisions. If there is at least one boy on a team, the team is classified as a boys team and may NOT play in a girls division. 6U players are not eligible to participate in this tournament as 6U players may not play up to 7U-10U academy divisions. For USYSA-registered teams and players, teams forming for play in 11U age competition are restricted to having three (3) underage players on their rosters that are playing up. These players must be at least 9 years of age per Rule 4.1.2 to be signed. Players 9 years of age per Rule 4.1.2 may not play on teams older than 11U. There shall be no more than three (3) 10U players on any event/official/game day roster. *Any player turning 9 years of age by December 31 of the current soccer year, shall be considered a 10U player for the entire soccer year.

Signed, official team rosters and guest player releases must be submitted to SMC by via ONLINE CHECK-IN by 5:00 pm on the Friday prior to the tournament.

Entry Withdrawal – A team withdrawing an entry on or before the entry deadline for a tournament will receive a full cash refund of the Entry Fee, provided that the withdrawal must be made by email to steve@smcsoccer.com

Late Withdrawal – Any withdrawal after the entry deadline for a tournament will be considered to be a Late Withdrawal. If a fully paid entry is not found to replace the withdrawing team, no amount of the Entry Fee will be refunded or credited. SMC assumes no duty or responsibility to find a replacement entry for a Late Withdrawal.

Forfeit Policy

Teams participating in a tournament expect their opponent to be as diligent and conscientious as their own team in being on-time and prepared to participate in ALL scheduled games. To minimize the occurrence of forfeited games, SMC has adopted these Game Forfeiture Rules.

When a team forfeits a game in a tournament, the following rules apply:

- a. The team receives a loss for the scheduled game, 0-3
- b. The forfeiting team is still expected to play any and all subsequently scheduled games
- c. The team forfeits any team or individual awards given for participation in the forfeited game.
- d. A game ended prematurely by a game official or SMC tournament staff due to the misconduct of a player, coach, or spectator shall be deemed a forfeit by that team for purposes of this policy.
- e. When a team forfeits a game, the team will be required to pay a Forfeit Penalty for each forfeited game. The amount of the Forfeit Penalty is \$25 in the 7U-10U age groups and \$50 in all other age groups. Payment of the Forfeit Penalty is due prior to the team's entry in any subsequent SMC soccer tournaments.
- f. SMC tournament staff reserves the right to make a team ineligible for the playoff rounds for intentionally forfeiting a preliminary (pool game)
- g. Teams who forfeit a game(s) will be reported to their governing home association and are subject to any forfeit penalties, if any.

The forfeit policies may be modified or waived by the Tournament Director in the event of extenuating circumstances. Factors considered will include advance communications from the teams as to their unavailability to play the scheduled game, the timing of such communications, the circumstances causing the forfeiture and such other considerations deemed relevant by the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director's decision as to the application of the forfeit policies shall be binding upon all parties.