



H-Town Soccer Tournament

The H-Town Soccer Tournament 2024 will be held on December 6th, 7th, and 8th 2024. The tournament is open to boys and girls from U8 (2017) through U18 (2007) Games will be played at Milby Park, Memorial Park, and Mason Park.

BRACKETING:

Brackets for each division will be on a first come first serve basis. Every consideration will be made to place teams in an evenly matched bracket. The tournament officials reserve the right to combine age groups or ore teams to fill a bracket if necessary.

CLASSIFICATION AND AGE DIVISIONS:

The tournament is sponsored by City of Houston and sanctioned by the South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA). This is an unrestricted tournament open to boys and girls competitive teams from ages U11-U18 and recreational teams from U8-U18. Single age group brackets and levels of play brackets will be formed if sufficient teams support the groupings. Brackets may have to be combined to create a playing group. Unless otherwise amended below, the current Laws of the Game (as published by USYS) will apply to this competition.

ACCEPTANCE AND SCHEDULES:

Schedule is final as published. No changes will be allowed. Schedules should be published on or before the end of Wednesday, November 29th. **Once a team is accepted there are no refunds for teams that drop out on their own. If we drop a team, then we will refund their full registration fees or give credit to a future tournament. Teams will not be accepted or scheduled until payment is made.**

TEAM ROSTERS and TEAM CHECK IN:

All teams must have proper player identification for each player, including guest players. All players must be officially registered through USYS, US CLUB, recreation league, or association to be eligible for play. All Teams need to submit a copy of their official roster, player cards, and medical release forms through GotSport. You can also send a scanned copy of your roster, a copy of each player card and a copy of each player's medical release to Adrian.juarez@houstontx.gov by midnight Thursday, November 30th. Once your info has been checked, you will receive a confirmation email.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

Current player cards for each player will be required as part of check-in for all U11-U19 teams (birth certificates for U10 and below). No Card-No Play-No Exception. U15-U19 teams are allowed a maximum of eighteen (18) players on a roster (including guest players). Only 18 players are eligible to participate in each match. Teams may have up to 6 guest players. Team managers or a team representative should have a signed medical release form for each player in their possession. A player may play for only one team in the tournament and must be listed on the GotSport roster. If a player plays in a game and is not properly registered, the team will automatically forfeit that game and may face further penalties as determined by the Tournament Director.

TEAM, PLAYER, and COACH CREDENTIAL CHECK:

Each team must be able to present laminated or virtual player cards to either a Tournament Official or the Referee team before the start of each match, if requested. Coaches must have an official "Kid Safe" pass for the current year.

NO PLAYER WRITE-INS ON GAME CARD:

Player write-ins are not allowed on the game card. Unapproved write-ins will automatically result in a forfeit for the offending team, regardless of the game outcome or the team's standing in the tournament.

AGE:	# OF PLAYERS ON FIELD	ROSTER SIZE	# OF GUEST PLAYERS
U8	4 V 4	10	6
U9-U10	7 V 7	14	6
U11-U12	9 V 9	16	6
U13 & UP	11 V 11	18	6

GAME INFORMATION:

All teams will be guaranteed to play at least three games. In round robin play, ties at the end of regulation time will stand. For championship games, ties at the end of regulation time will be broken penalty kicks from the spot.

Teams must be at the scheduled field and ready for inspection by the referee at least 10 minutes before the scheduled game time. Each team must be prepared to present a game ball of appropriate size, weight, and pressure to the referee before the start of the game for his/her selection. All games will have a 5-minute half.

AGE:	BALL SIZE	GAME LENGTH	Half Time
U6-U8	3	2 X 20	5 min
U9-U10	4	2 X 20	5 min
U11-U12	4	2 X 25	5 min
U13 & UP	5	2 X 30	5 min



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PLAYER SUBSTITUTIONS:

Players may be substituted with the consent of the match referee at the following times:

- 1 Before a throw-in in your favor or if the throw-in team is making a substitution
- 2 Prior to a goal kick by either team
- 3 After a goal is scored by either team
- 4 When the referee approves an injury substitution by one team, the other team may substitute an equal number of players
- 5 At half-time

No player shall enter or leave the field of play without the consent of the referee.

SCORING SYSTEM:

The H-Town Soccer Tournament will use the 10-point system explained below: In the event a team forfeits a match, all points from tournament games involving that team will be dropped from the calculation of final standings. All forfeited games will be scored as 1-0 (8 points to the opposing team). Any team who forfeits cannot qualify for advancement.

	POINTS
WIN	6
LOSS	0
TIE	3
SHUTOUT	1
GOALS	1 per goal, up to 3 goals

The following will be used to break ties in or between qualifying groups when teams tied in qualifying points

- Results of head to head competition
- Goal difference
- 3 FIFA kicks from the penalty spot (penalty kicks).

4v4 Playing Rules

- Normal fouls per FIFA
- No Offside rule
- Playing field will be approximately 35yds x 24yds
- Games will be 40 minutes long, with 5 min half times
- No goal keeper
- After a goal is scored there must be a kickoff to restart the game.
- All free kicks are indirect
- A goal may not be scored directly from a kick off
- There are no throw-ins allowed
- All restarts for the ball out of play can be taken as a **pass-in or dribble-in**, except corner kicks must be passed-in.
- A pass-in is indirect and must be taken from behind the touch or end line. Once the ball has entered the field, it is considered a dribble-in and becomes in play.
- All penalty kicks will be taken from mid-field. All players must be behind the kicker (open goal with no goal keeper). The play is live once the ball is touched.
- Opponents must be 5 yards away from all restarts – including out of bounds restarts.
- Goal kicks are indirect and must be taken from the end line.
- Teams may substitute **“on the fly”**. Substitutions on and off the field should occur at the center field line from the same touchline as the team is located. “On the fly” substitutions are allowed without waiting for the referees permission to leave or enter the field of play. If a team has more than four players on the field and a goal is scored, the goal shall not be awarded. Any goal scored during a substitution “on the fly” by the defending team shall be allowed.
- **“The Crease”** – a 2-yard semi-circle around the goal • If a defender plays the ball while he/she is in the “the crease” in front of his/her goal, the opposing team will be awarded a penalty kick from mid-field. The defending team may not form a wall to defend this kick.
- If a member of the attacking team touches the ball in the “the crease”, the defending team will be rewarded an indirect free kick from the top of the “the crease”.
- If the ball stops dead in the “the crease”, the defending team will be awarded a free kick on the top of the “the crease” .

AWARDS:

Awards will be presented to the 1st and 2nd place teams for the U9 – U18 divisions. Awards will consist of individual medals for each player on the roster. Awards can be picked up at the Tournament Headquarters located at Milby Park following your last game. U8 players will receive participation medals.

UNIFORMS:

As a convenience, the home team wears their "lighter" uniform and the visitors wear darker. Team wearing wrong color will have to change. Each player's uniform U9-U18 should have an easily identifiable number. U6-U8 don't have to have numbers on uniforms. Teams without two sets of uniforms will be allowed to use "pennies" to provide a unique identification.

TEAM PROTESTS AND APPEALS:

There is NO appeal or protest process. Referees' decisions are final. Any other non-game issues should be immediately reported to tournament headquarters and will be resolved by the Tournament Director or a representative.

TEAM AND SPECTATOR DISCIPLINE:

Spectators will sit on the opposite side of the field as their team. The coach/manager is responsible for the actions of verbal and physical abuse of referees by his/her spectators. Such abuse will not be tolerated. Violations may result in termination of the game and further sanctions by the Tournament Director. Any individual that has been sent off must leave the field area immediately or the game could be terminated by the referee with further sanctions added by the Tournament Director. If a player refuses to give his or her correct name when requested by a referee or tournament official, the referee may terminate the game and additional penalties may be imposed. Teams exhibiting poor sportsmanship will not be allowed to participate in subsequent City of Houston tournaments. The use of artificial noise makers is prohibited.

EJECTIONS:

A red carded player is ineligible for their next scheduled game. An ejected coach or trainer is ineligible for the next scheduled game of the team he/she was ejected from, even if that game is a semi-final or final game. A second red card to the same individual results in that person being expelled from the tournament. Any ejected player, coach, or trainer will be noted on the game card. All red cards will be reported to your State Association.

HARD CAST:

No player will be allowed to play with a hard cast.

RAINOUT POLICY:

In the event of a total rainout prior to the first game of the tournament, teams will be refunded all but \$125 to help cover administrative costs. Refunds will NOT be given once tournament begins.

In case of inclement weather, the Tournament Director will determine if a game is to be played. If any games are canceled, it is up to the coaches of the teams to check with the Tournament Director for rescheduling information. Games shall be considered complete if one half of the game has elapsed. The score at the stoppage of play will be the final score. If one half has not elapsed and the game is stopped, the game will be rescheduled if it could affect the outcome of the tournament and if conditions permit as determined by the Tournament Director

REFUNDS: Under no circumstances will the City of Houston be responsible for any expenses incurred by any team. A team withdrawing from the tournament after being scheduled for games will forfeit the entry fee in full. In the event of inclement weather, the Tournament Director has the authority to restructure or cancel the tournament. It will not be rescheduled for another date and no refunds will be issued once play has begun. If the tournament is cancelled entirely, a portion of the entry fee may be refunded. The amount of the refund will be determined by the Tournament Director and the tournament committee after all expenses have been calculated. A full refund will **not** be issued.

COMPLEX RULES: In addition to the rules established above, additional rules, and procedures are implemented by the soccer complexes. Please note that Alcoholic Beverages, Firearms, Pets, Tobacco Products, Drones, and Glass Containers are prohibited on the complex ground

