

## Houston National Cup Tournament Rules

Each team will play a minimum of 3 games.

The tournament divisions, match duration, maximum roster size are displayed in the table below:

	2019-2018	2017-18	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008-2007
	U8-U7	U10-09	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18-U19
Format	5v5	7v7	9v9	9v9	11v11	11v11	11v11	11v11	11v11	11v11
Roster Max	12	14	16	16	18	18	18	18	18	18
Heading	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Build-Out	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Match Time	2x 20	2x 20	2x 25	2x 25	2x 30	2x 30	2x 30	2x 30	2x 30	2x 30
Half-Time	5 Min	5 Min	5 Min	5 Min	5 Min	5 Min	5 Min	5 Min	5 Min	5 Min
Ball Size	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5
Offside	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Number of brackets for each division will depend on the numbers of teams that register for the tournament. Bracket Permitting Flight 1 Platnum and Flight 2-3 Gold will be formatted.

**Team/Player Eligibility:** Teams must be comprised of properly registered National Member Organization within US Soccer sanctioning including USYS, US Club, USSSA, and any affiliate of US Soccer Federation. Otherwise, the player must sign a waiver and show proof of age.

**Team Registration Platform:** Team registration with be completed through Got Sports Registration. Rosters can be submitted within platform or digital form provided by tournament director prior to event.

**Match Schedule:** Tournament Schedule will be released within 3-4 days of the event via an email link sent by tournament director/Got Soccer system. Coaching conflicts will be avoided during schedule distribution and any other change requests are not recommended and/or guaranteed.

**Match Day Team Arrival:** Only teams that have not finalized their rosters or ID's online have to do a check-in.

The Field Marshals are at the games to assist you with anything you might need and to handle the administrative concerns of the games. They do not have authority over any decision made by a referee.

The Field Marshals will hold the player, coach, and team official passes for both teams in their possession during the game. At the conclusion of the match, please head to Field Marshal tent to pick up player cards and verify the score.

**Cheating:** Any team caught cheating will result in the forfeit of ALL games, whether played or not, in the tournament. A refund will NOT be issued in any circumstance. A Letter of Cheating will be sent to Club Directors and State Association

**Entry Fees:** *Entry fees per team are determined by the age format in which the team is playing. Referee Fees are included.*

**Point System:** Win – 3 Points, Tie – 1 Point, Loss – 0 Points

Forfeits: Winning team is awarded a 3-0 win.

**Terminated Game-** team/spectators responsible for match termination due misconduct will be awarded loss 3-0 if team is winning or tied. Score will stand if offending team is losing the match.

Game results will be updated in the tournament standings link provided before the event.

**Tiebreaker for Pool Play:** *Ties in points in the preliminary rounds shall use the following tiebreaker rules in order:*

1. Goal differential (goals scored minus goals allowed) 5 max per game
2. Most goals scored.
3. Head-to-head competition
4. Kicks from the mark or coin flip.

If more than two (2) teams are tied at the end of the preliminary round, the tie breaker criteria listed shall be used in the order shown until one team is advanced or one team is eliminated, or both. If the remaining teams are still tied at this point in the tie-breaking process the tournament Director will provide further instructions.

**Match Rules:** The Houston National Cup follows the FIFA/IFAB current laws of the game except adjusted rules stated in this document. The spirit of the game in a fair and safe environment for the players, coaches, referees, and staff is our priority.

- Unlimited substitutions will be allowed at any stoppage of play at the discretion of the referee
- Home team will need to have alternate uniforms if both teams are same color. (Pinnies will be available if needed).
- Home team must provide 3 match ball at the start of the match
- In 7v7 and 9v9 matches goal keepers can punt freely however, can not score directly from a punt. No Build out line's rules will be played and offside is called from the halfway line to the goal line per the FIFA Laws of the Game.
- A player receiving a red card will be suspended for the remainder of the match and for the following team's game (1 game suspension minimum). The tournament committee has the right to extend the suspension depending on the severity for the red card.

- Send-offs for violent conducts or referee abuse may result in the player/manager being banned for the remainder of the tournament at the discretion of Tournament Committee.
- Pool play games may end in ties and elimination games will go directly to FIFA penalty kicks to decide a winner. The referee can terminate a match due to the irresponsible action(s) of players, coaches, managers, or team, and spectators.

Protests: Protests can be submitted before your next match and will incur a fee of \$100 with no refunds. Any situation that arises and is not covered in the rules will be resolved by the tournament committee.

The tournament committee decision will be final and there will not be an appeal process. Protests regarding referee judgment calls and subjective decisions will not be accepted.

Equipment: Houston National Cup follows FIFA/IFAB Law 4 – \_The Players Equipment states, "A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous."

- All items of jewelry are forbidden and must be removed at the discretion of the referee.
- All players must wear shin-guards (no exceptions).
- No metal cleats or screw-in studs will be allowed.
- Same jersey and short colors must be worn.
- All jerseys must have numbers.
- Goalies must wear different color jerseys from both teams.

**Code of Conduct:** It shall be the responsibility of each team to maintain proper spectator conduct. The coach, manager, and team shall be held primarily accountable for the conduct of the spectators from their respective teams. At no time shall offensive, insulting, or abusive language be permitted.

Harassment towards assigned referees will not be tolerated and coaches, managers, players, are subject to ejections/suspensions. Spectators are subject to being removed from the field for inappropriate conduct.

**Refund Policy:** To receive a full refund, withdrawal and refund requests must be made before or on the tournament deadline.

Any withdrawal or refund request made after the deadline or after the tournament match schedule is made public will not be refunded for any reason. No refunds will be given for any reason after schedule has been made public including weather, travel cancelations, "acts of god", and any other reason prior, during, and after the event.

***Houston National Cup Tournament reserves the right to amend the tournament rules as conditions may warrant.***