

**Men's Division**  
**SOUTH TEXAS**  
**CUP (STC) RULES**  
*Revised December, 2005*

6.1 GENERAL

The South Texas Cup (STC) is the official tournament, organized and administered by the Texas State Soccer Association-South, Inc. To encourage and increase player development, the State Association has created a system of competitions that recognizes the achievement of the better teams and players. These competitions are organized to establish state champions in the following categories:

- I. Men's O/30 Competition  
Division I
- II. Men's Amateur Competition  
Division I (Premiere)  
Division II

A multiple-registered player may play in one or more competitions, but may not play in more than one division within the same competition. The tournaments are held every spring. The tournament format is decided each year by the State Commissioners. The State Cup tournament is open to every registered team in the State Association.

6.1.1 SOUTH TEXAS CUP REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY

1. Registration shall be on the official forms provided by the State Association.
2. Team registrations for the South Texas Cup must be in the possession of the Commissioner two weeks prior to the TSSAS Semi-Annual (mid-year) meeting. No team registration shall be accepted after this date.
3. Team registration payment for entry into the STC must be made to TSSAS in the form of a **cashier's check, money order, or a league check**. No other form of payment shall be accepted. Team refunds will not be given if games are cancelled due to an act of God.
4. STC rosters are frozen at the mid-year meeting.
5. The approved team roster shall be that which is provided by the State Registrar to the Commissioners prior to the first games being played. Only 18 of the rostered players may play in each game.
6. Each league will be permitted two free entries into the State Cup for each competition. Leagues that have registered 1,000 or more players will be permitted three free entries per competition. The entry fee for all other teams is \$250.00. All teams must post a \$100 bond. Each league will receive \$40.00 per game for field usage. Referees will be paid \$40.00 for center, \$20.00 per linesman, and \$20.00 for a fourth official, if any.
7. All players must present their USASA approved laminated player passes prior to the game. No player shall be permitted to play without it. No player passes will be allowed with any sticker on the face of the pass. All stickers must be removed prior to check-in.
8. After the South Texas Cup Schedule is approved by the commissioners it shall be mailed out to all registered teams and league commissioners one week later. It is the responsibility of the State Commissioner to see that the schedule and the maps of the official playing fields are mailed in time.
9. The league commissioner should have the player rosters at least one week prior to start of games.
10. The league commissioner collects the referee reports and mails them to the State Commissioner.
11. All red-carded players' passes must be kept by the commissioner for further disposition. The player pass may be returned to the team only after the player has sat out the suspension and paid any applicable STC fines. (For following cup game(s)).
12. The competitions will be scheduled by the State Commissioner by an open draw at the mid-year meeting.

13. If rain-out games are to be scheduled they may be done only after the approval of all league commissioners for that district, and State Commissioner. The State Commissioner shall notify the teams with a phone call followed by a registered letter with a return receipt. A copy of the rescheduled games must be sent to the leagues of that district.
14. The league commissioner shall report the result of his or her district games Sunday night to the State Commissioner. (Men's 1st and 2nd Division Only)
15. The Men's State Commissioner shall keep weekly game results and will make them available to team managers, as individually requested.

#### **6.1.2 UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

1. For all competitions each team must have a matching and an alternate set of complete uniforms with permanent numbers on the back of every shirt, including goalie shirt, in contrasting colors.
2. For all competitions all players with the exception of the goalkeeper of the same team, must have matching uniforms with the same matching color, shirts, shorts and socks in order to be eligible to play in the STC.
3. For all competitions: shirts must have either a capped sleeve or sleeveless with a ribbed finish. No muscle shirts will be allowed.
4. For all competitions no two players on the same team may have the same jersey number, including the goalkeeper.
5. For all competitions sliding shorts may be worn beneath the shorts, but must be the same color as the primary color of the shorts.
6. If both teams have the same color shirts, the designated home team on the schedule shall change shirts or the game is a forfeit. Teams must appear at STC games in their designated primary colors.

#### **6.1.3 SOUTH TEXAS CUP ADMINISTRATION**

1. GENERAL
  - A. The State Cup Tournament, called the STC shall be organized and administered by the State Commissioner with the direct help and assistance of participating member league commissioners
  - B. This organization committee shall work under the direction of the State Board of Directors.
  - C. Upon completion of registration, scheduling shall be executed on a district basis to eliminate unnecessary travel by participating teams. An approved schedule shall be mailed to all participating leagues.
  - D. Once the official schedule is approved and has been distributed, teams that do not participate shall be fined.
  - E. The Men's Final shall be played on an enclosed field.
2. SCHEDULE (MENS 1st and 2nd DIVISIONS COMPETITION ONLY)
  - A. The schedule of a game shall be developed by the State Commissioner with help from the participating league commissioners by district on a strong vs. weak basis.
  - B. All official games on the schedule shall be on Sundays. Only for very special cases may a game be played on a day other than Sunday. The letter codes may be substituted for team names.
3. STATE COMMISSIONER RESPONSIBILITIES
  - A. Organize and administer the State Cups.
  - B. Represent the state at regional meetings.
  - C. Supervise the organization and scheduling of all State Cups and tournaments by working

- with the participating league commissioners.
- D. Serve as Chairman of State Cup Appeals Committee consisting of all participating league commissioners.
- E. Responsible to report in writing, to the President, all meetings attended while representing the State Association.
- F. Furnish the General Council with a complete South Texas Cup report.
- G. To conduct two meetings with all league commissioners.
- H. Responsible for all South Texas Cup communications.
- I. Responsible for the coordination and/or assignment of all referees during the South Texas Cup games.

#### 4. LEAGUE COMMISSIONER RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Report to the State Commissioner.
- B. Attend the November and AGM league commissioners' meetings.
- C. Report to the league in writing all items discussed and approved at the two league Commissioners' meetings.
- D. Work with the State Commissioner in the administration of the South Texas Cup.
- E. Represent the state at local South Texas Cup games; and handle all preliminary pre-game tasks: Check player passes, team rosters, uniforms, and make decisions on the eligibility of players in accordance to STC rules.
- F. Approve and sign all protest forms lodged at the field.
- G. Serve as a member of the STC State Appeals Committee.
- H. Responsible to send the official field map for the South Texas Cup Games to the State Commissioner.
- I. League commissioners, or designated commissioner, must be present at the STC games at their home field. A \$75.00 fine will be assessed if neither is present.
- J. If league teams are participating, the league commissioner or the designated appointee must be present at the South Texas Cup Semi-Finals and Finals. A \$100.00 fine shall be assessed to the league if neither is present.
- K. Designated field commissioners must be knowledgeable of STC rules.
- L. One person cannot serve as field commissioner for two simultaneous games.
- M. Neither a player nor a team official may serve as field commissioner during their own team games.

#### 5. LEAGUE RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Establish the number of teams to enter the State Cups in all applicable divisions.
- B. Timely completion of all forms for the registration of their teams and to meet the financial responsibility by the TSSAS Semi-Annual General Meeting where applicable.
- C. Responsible for properly lining the playing fields, placing corner flags and properly placing nets on goal posts.
- D. If league teams are participating, the league is responsible for sending their league commissioner or designated commissioner to the semi-finals and final games in their respective divisions.
- E. Provide a phone contact for emergency cases during the day of the STC games. The name of this person must be furnished to the State Commissioner by the TSSAS Semi-Annual General Meeting. Leagues that do not furnish this information by this date will be fined \$50.00.
- F. The leagues shall be responsible to pay for the registration fees for all its competing teams.
- G. Host team is to pay the referee team prior to each game and then submit an expense report to TSSAS for reimbursement.

#### 6. TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Players are properly registered and have the National player pass.
- B. Turn in a completed team entry form and fees to the commissioner by the mid-year meeting.
- C. Player rosters will be provided to the state commissioner by the TSSAS Administrator.
- D. Arrive 30 minutes before game time and be ready for player pass and uniform inspection. A team not ready for inspection 30 minutes prior to the scheduled game time will be fined \$50.00.
- E. A team dropping out of the STC after the schedule is distributed shall be fined \$300.00 and forfeit the entry fee and bond. A team that fails to show up or drops out before or at the STC semi-finals or finals of the competition shall be fined \$300.00 and the players of that team shall be suspended from participating in the STC the following year.

F. Performance Bond: All Divisions

A \$100 bond for teams in all divisions must be paid. In addition, TSSAS will require the team of any player receiving a yellow or red card during any game to immediately pay the applicable fine to a designated commissioner before being allowed to play in any other games. If the fine is not paid by the team, the League will be responsible.

#### 6.1.4 SOUTH TEXAS CUP PLAYING RULES

The playing rules shall be the rules of the National Amateur Challenge Cup, with the following exceptions;

- 1. A maximum of 25 USSF registered players shall be eligible to play in the South Texas Cup. Only 18 players per team/per game shall be eligible to play.
- 2. There shall be free substitution and a player may be substituted several times.
- 3. Substitutions must be made through the center of the field and with the permission of the referee.
- 4. If a semi-final or final game ends in a tie, the following rules will apply: 2-15 minute halves will be played. If the game remains in a tie following overtime play, penalty shots will be taken in accordance with Law 14, FIFA Rules.

#### 6.1.5 GAME ADMINISTRATION RULES

- 1. A player must be in uniform and must present to the game official a laminated USASA player pass.
- 2. Teams playing in the STC must be present on the field a minimum of 30 minutes prior to game time in order to be ready for inspection. A team not ready for inspection thirty minutes prior to the schedule game time will be fined \$50.00.
- 3. In all Semi-Final and Final STC games, the starting eleven (11) players will march from the sideline at the midfield towards the circle and will line up side by side with the referees in between the teams for the individual introduction. The substitutes and the coaches will remain by the team benches.
- 4. In all Semi-Final and Final STC games, all substitute players and coaches must be seated on the field benches and will stay seated the duration of the game.
- 5. Each league must provide a phone contact for emergency cases during the day of STC games. The name of the phone contact must be furnished to the state by the mid-year meeting. Leagues that do not furnish this information by this date shall be fined \$50.00 (Men's 1st and 2nd Division only).
- 6. League Commissioners or designated appointee must be present at the STC games at their home field. The league shall be fined \$75.00 if there is no league commissioner or designated field commissioner present at their home games.
- 7. The official time and location of the STC games are those listed in the STC official schedule.
- 8. All U.S. Challenge Cup competitions scheduled by the governing National Association

- take precedence over all STC games.
9. All protests must be filed through the league commissioner and the State Commissioner. Protest fees shall be \$100.00 and must be submitted in writing on the form (see in back of this section) supplied by TSSAS. The form must be faxed within 32 hours from game time. Protests will be accepted only where the outcome of the game is in question and for ineligible player(s). If the field commissioner determines that an ineligible player(s) has participated in the game or if a protest is based on the participation of an ineligible player(s) is sustained by the STC State Appeals Committee, the team for which the ineligible player(s) participated shall forfeit the game, and shall be suspended for the remainder of the competition. There shall be no protest accepted on referee calls. The protest fee shall be refunded if the protest is upheld. If a protest is filed in the STC, then within 24 hours of the receipt of the protest, a phone conference shall be called by the State Commissioner with all participating commissioners. A simple majority of the participating commissioners determines the outcome of the protest. In the event of a tie, the State Commissioner shall break the tie. **All protest decisions are final and may not be appealed any further.**
  10. Any player who is guilty of fighting will be suspended for the remainder of the STC, his team shall be fined, and his case may be brought before the STC Appeals Committee for further consideration.
  11. If a team suits an illegal player, the team is given a forfeit loss.
  12. Any player that insults a referee is suspended for the remainder of the STC games and his team shall and his case may be brought before the STC Appeals Committee for further consideration.
  13. An assault on a referee is defined by: an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee. Assault includes, but is not limited to: hitting, punching, choking, spitting at or on, grabbing, bodily running into, kicking or throwing at, damaging or injuring personal property.
  14. Referee abuse is defined by: a verbal statement or physical act which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment.
  15. Fines to teams:
 

A.	Players assaulting a referee	\$75.00
B.	Players insulting a referee	\$45.00
C.	Players receiving a yellow card	\$10.00
D.	Players receiving a red card	\$30.00
E.	Players guilty of fighting	\$45.00
  16. Player suspensions:
    - Under A above..minimum of 1 year
    - Under B above..minimum of 3 months
    - Under C above..no suspension
    - Under D above..1 game (STC game or league)
    - Under E above..3 months
  17. A game that is abandoned/terminated by the referee after the 60th minute of play is considered a complete game.

#### 6.1.9 REFEREE RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. All referees to be eligible to officiate must be a USSF Registered Referee in the current season.
2. State Commissioner is responsible for referee assignments and may, at his discretion, appoint the State Referee Administrator as the assignor.
3. If an assigned referee is required to travel 100 miles or more for a STC game he/she shall be reimbursed for the travel at a rate of \$.275 @ mile and with a meal allowance of \$30.00 @ day with receipts; except for coed.
4. Referees assigned to the semi-final or final games of the STC are reimbursed fully for all

- travel expenses except coed. All expenses must be documented by the appropriate receipts.
5. Referee fees shall be the maximum allowed by the current State Fee Structure.
  6. Official referee report forms shall be furnished by the State Association.
  7. Referees are to be paid as follows by the hosting league (will be reimbursed by TSSAS once an expense report is filed) prior to the start of the game: \$40.00 to the center referee, and \$20.00 to each linesman.

The budget should be established to include the expenses of the following 2 categories:  
Administration, Team Trophies and Medals.

#### Administration Expenses

1. Printing, photocopying, and mailing of all STC information and schedules.
2. Travel expenses for State Commissioners and State Officials.
3. Travel expenses for referees to the State Semi-Finals and Finals.
4. All phone calls and conference calls to handle STC matters and protests.
5. Security and State approved stadium rental for the State Semi-Finals and Finals.
6. Field marking or field rental.
7. Hospitality at all Semi and Final STC.
8. Game Balls (1 for each competition and 1 spare) for Semi and Final STC games.
9. Referee fees per 6.1.9, Referee Rules and Guidelines.

#### Team Trophies and Medals

Funds to purchase first and second place prizes (as determined by the State Commissioner)

#### Non-Budget Expenses

1. The hosting leagues responsible for the semi-finals and finals may print programs, and any other promotional items, including STC T-Shirts, at their own expense, and may sell them for profit.
2. The hosting league may charge an admission to the semi-finals and finals at a rate approved by the South Texas Cup Committee.
3. At the semi-finals and finals, 15% of all gate profits shall be given to the State Cup Committee to be used for general expenses.

#### 6.1.11 ORGANIZATION OF THE LOCAL COMMITTEE HOSTING THE FINAL AND SEMI-FINALS

1. GENERAL CHAIRMAN COMMITTEES
  - A. Publicity, Program, Tickets
  - B. Souvenirs
  - C. First Aid
  - D. Host Hotel Rooms
  - E. Hospitality
  - F. Transportation
  - G. Announcers & Field Events
  - H. Fields & Field Commissioners
  - I. Finance
2. RESPONSIBILITIES
  - A. GENERAL CHAIRMAN:  
He/she is responsible for the overall organization and development of the local events. Select the proper persons for each committee. To guide and expedite the work of every committee.
  - B. PUBLICITY, PROGRAM, TICKETS:

The chairman of this committee shall select a minimum of 3 persons to help with the committee work. To publicize the events through T.V., radio, newspapers, Chamber of Commerce, civic clubs, schools, churches, and etc. For publishing a printed program, describing the events and all participants. Space in this program should be sold to advertisers to at least cover the cost of the printing. Game tickets should be printed with space for possible advertisers on the back. A group should be organized to handle the sale of programs and game tickets during the game.

C. SOUVENIRS:

For taking bids on having souvenirs and other promotional items printed, as well as any other item approved by the General Chairman. A group should be organized to handle the sale of souvenir items in the host hotel and during the games.

D. FIRSAID:

The host league shall be responsible for providing a separate covered area (such as a tent) at the fields during the games as a first aid station. A first aid kit should be available at the fields. If possible a volunteer Doctor should be present during the games. Notify local hospital or EMS services of upcoming tournament. Water, ice and cups should be available at the first aid station at all times. A table and at least two chairs will be needed for the first aid station.

E. HOST HOTEL ROOMS

Arranging for a host hotel, offering discount prices for the guest and meeting rooms. A hospitality room for referees, officials, managers, and players should be set up at the hotel prior to the joint manager, commissioner and referee meeting.

F. HOSPITALITY:

The following guidelines are provided to the hosting organization:

Hospitality:

1. Place a placard, or sign in the foyer of the hotel to let everyone know there is a hospitality room, including the time and location.
2. The room should be large enough to accommodate approximately 50 persons at one time with adequate and comfortable seating arrangements.
3. Beer and soft drinks (including diet soft drinks) available.
4. Chips and dips and finger foods available.

G. TRANSPORTATION:

Arranging for transportation of State Officials and referees to and from the airport. Special arrangements should be made for transportation to the game site. Every effort should be made to aid visiting teams with transportation.

H. ANNOUNCERS & FIELD EVENTS:

A separate tent, or other separated area out of the sun, should be furnished with table and a minimum of four chairs for the State Officials use during the games. Tent should be provided with water and ice and cups. Scoreboard or posters should be provided for the game results to be posted.

Arranging for a P.A. system for the stadium and to coordinate all the announcements throughout the games. To schedule all the sequence of events

during the games, opening and closing ceremonies. Presentation of trophies and medals.

I. REFEREE HOSPITALITY:

A referee tent, or other separated area out of the sun, should be provided next to the State Officials tent with a table and a minimum of 10 chairs for the referees. Water, ice, cups, Gatorade, sodas and fruit should be available throughout the day for the referees. Help with referee transportation.

J. FIELD & FIELD COMMISSIONERS:

Arranging for the stadium and playing fields. The rental fees are the responsibility of the State. All fields must be marked and nets and corner flags must be in place. Must supply at least 2 game balls/field. Assigning a field commissioner at each field to handle last minute problems.

K. FINANCE:

Handling all finances for the events and properly documenting expenditures and income. Producing a complete financial report for all events. This report shall be sent to the Cup Committee upon completion of the tournament.