

# Houston Winter Break Cup – 2021

## Tournament Rules



### CLASSIFICATION, AGE DIVISIONS & FIELDS:

The Houston Winter Break Cup – 2021 is hosted by the Houston Dynamo | Dash Youth South on December 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The tournament is for U9-U15 boys & girls competitive / recreational teams registered with US Club Soccer and United States Youth Soccer. The tournament is sanctioned by US Club Soccer, USYSA, SAY, AYSO & USSSA. Games will be played at Centennial Park in Friendswood and Dave Finkel Fields (DADS Club) in Clear Lake.

### BRACKETING AND FLIGHTS:

Brackets for each flight will be on a first come first serve basis. Every consideration will be made to place all teams in an evenly matched bracket. The Bracketing Committee reserves the right to combine age groups or more teams to fill a bracket if necessary. Each team can select a Preferred Flight, but this is a request & not a guarantee: Gold (More Competitive), Silver (Competitive) & Bronze (Less Competitive).

### ACCEPTANCE AND SCHEDULES:

We will need any coaching conflicts or requests before schedules are published. Schedule is final as published. No changes will be allowed. Schedules should be published on or before the end of Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of December. 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. Teams will not be accepted or scheduled until payment is made.

### TEAM REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN:

|                |                                   |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Check In       | On-line ONLY!                     |
| Check In Dates | All Teams<br>Nov 24 – Dec 9, 2021 |

The Houston Winter Break Cup – 2021 registration must be completed through the online registration at <https://www.gotSPORT.com/forms/app/?eventid=79680>. All players (except guest players) must be registered to the team (application deadline of **December 1, 2021**). **Applications are not considered complete until payment has been received.** All teams must have approved USSF ID cards for each of the players including up to four (4) guest players for 7v7 and six (6) guest players for 9v9 & 11v11. Teams or players will not be allowed to participate without approved paperwork. **Non-US Club Soccer Teams from outside STYSA must submit an approved USYSA travel permit along with an official roster.**

### Team rosters are limited to:

| <u>Age Levels</u> | <u># Players on field</u> | <u>Roster Size</u> | <u># Guest players</u> |
|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| U9-U10            | 7 v 7                     | 12                 | <u>4</u>               |
| U11-12            | 9 v 9                     | 14                 | <u>6</u>               |
| U13-15            | 11 v 11                   | 18                 | <u>6</u>               |

You will need to include a scanned copy of your official roster signed by your local association or club registrar with uniform numbers, a copy of each player card and a copy of each player's medical release.

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All of these items need to be loaded into your GotSoccer Account or emailed to [jdevore@dynamodashyouth.com](mailto:jdevore@dynamodashyouth.com) by Midnight Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> of December. Once your info has been checked, you will receive a confirmation email. There will be NO Saturday morning check-in!

### TEAM AND PLAYER CREDENTIAL CHECK:

Each team must be able to present its validated roster and player cards to either a Tournament Official or the Referee before the start of each match, if requested. A player may play for only one team in the tournament and must be listed on the approved 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 and/or Home Association.

### 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.

### GAME TIMES, BALL SIZE, AND # OF REFEREES:

| Age Group     | Ball Size | Round Robin Game Length | Semi-Final Game Length | FINALS Game Length | # Of Referees |
|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| <b>U9-10</b>  | 4         | 2 x 25 min.             | N/A                    | 2 x 25 min.        | 1             |
| <b>U11-12</b> | 4         | 2 x 25 min.             | N/A                    | 2 x 25 min.        | 1             |
| <b>U13-15</b> | 5         | 2 x 30 min.             | N/A                    | 2 x 30 min.        | 3             |

Teams must be at the scheduled game field and ready for inspection by the referee at least 15 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.

### 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.

### PLAYING CONDITIONS:

Both teams shall occupy the same side of the field. All game spectators, including parents and visitors for both teams will occupy the opposite side of the field. In case of inclement weather, the Tournament

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Director and/or Site Coordinator will determine if a game is to be played. Once the game has started, the decision rests with the referee. If any games are canceled, it is up to the coaches of the teams to check with the Site Coordinator, Communications Director or 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.

### UNIFORMS:

As a convenience, the home team wears their "colored" uniform and the visitors wear white. Team wearing wrong color will have to change. Each player's uniform U11-U19 should have an easily identifiable number. U9-U10 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 STANDINGS AND TIE BREAKERS:

Team standings will be based on the following scoring system:

|           |                                                                       |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Win       | 3 Points                                                              |
| Tie       | 1 point                                                               |
| Loss      | 0 Points                                                              |
| Red Cards | Minus 1 point for each Red Card a team receives during the tournament |

Each team's total points from all first-round games will determine the placement of teams in each bracket, with the team earning the highest total points being the bracket winner. 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.

Ties in the standings will be resolved in the following order:

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Round Robin Games</b>  | In the event that two or more teams are tied in points at the end of these games, the following tiebreakers shall be applied in order given until a winner is determined. While following these criteria, never revert back to the top of the list even after a team has been eliminated from the tiebreaker. <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Winner of head to head competition.</li><li>2. Net goals (goal difference, limit of +/- 3 per game)</li><li>3. Most goals scored (maximum of 3 goals per game)</li><li>4. Goals against</li><li>5. Most total wins</li><li>6. Pk's from the spot</li></ol> |
| <b>Championship Games</b> | All championship games ending in a tie will be broken by penalty kicks from the spot.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

Tournament officials will be responsible for collecting the match results, but each coach is responsible for verifying the posted scores prior to the team's next game.

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### WILD CARD SELECTION & ADVANCEMENT PAIRINGS:

**If a team wins all three games in a bracket of 4, then they are the outright winner and no final will be played.** For brackets with wild cards, wild cards will be selected from the pool of remaining teams after the others from the listed grid have been identified. Ties on points will be broken in accordance with the rules listed above. Once the wild card team has been determined then the group of advancing teams will be paired as follows:

| Teams | Format        | Round 1                               | Semi- Finals | Finals                         |
|-------|---------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 4     | 1 group of 4  | Round Robin                           | none         | W1 v. W2                       |
| 5     | 1 group of 5  | Round Robin                           | none         | Points                         |
| 6     | 2 groups of 3 | Round Robin and/or a Cross Over Group | none         | Top 2 Points in either bracket |
| 8     | 2 groups of 4 | Round Robin                           | none         | 1 v. 2                         |

Where possible advancement pairings will be made to avoid any duplication of preliminary games.

### AWARDS:

Members on the submitted rosters of the First and Second place teams shall receive awards.

### TEAM AND SPECTATOR DISCIPLINE:

An ejected player is ineligible for their next scheduled game. An ejection for "violent conduct" will result in that person being expelled from the tournament. An ejected coach or trainer is ineligible for the next scheduled game, for that team. A second red card to the same individual results in that person being expelled from the tournament. Any ejected player, coach or trainer must report to the complex tent. Violation could result in further game suspensions. All red cards will be reported to your State Association. The coach 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 within two minutes of the ejection or the game could be terminated by the referee with further sanctions added by the Tournament Director. Any coach who removes his/her team from the field during a game will cause the match to be abandoned by the referee and further sanctions may be 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 crew will terminate the game and additional penalties could be imposed by the Tournament Director. Teams exhibiting poor sportsmanship will not be allowed to participate in subsequent Houston Dynamo|Dash Youth tournaments. Consumption of alcoholic beverages on tournament grounds is prohibited.

### TEAM PROTESTS AND APPEALS:

No protests will be considered.

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### STAY TO PLAY (HOTELS):

Hotel Accommodations for this event will be handled by Team Travel Source. ALL TRAVELING TEAMS are required to book hotel accommodations through Team Travel Source as a requirement of participation in the event. The Houston Winter Cup 2021 is a STAY-TO-PLAY tournament. Link for hotels: <https://info4832536.wixsite.com/sds-tts/houston-dynamo-dash>.

### HARD CAST:

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

Even if it is covered with a soft covering.

### 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 cost. Refunds will NOT be given once tournament begins.

### MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR:

Any situation or questions on rules of competition not covered herein will be governed by US Club Soccer. Any matter not provided for in the Tournament rules or US Club Soccer rules shall be determined by the Tournament Director, whose decisions shall be final.

### 7v7 RULES:

No heading allowed, punting and throw-ins are allowed and off-sides will be the restraining lines.

\*\*\*Tournament Director reserves the authority to revise these rules prior to your team starting the tournament on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021.