

Houston Winter Break Cup – 2022

Tournament Rules



CLASSIFICATION, AGE DIVISIONS & FIELDS:

The Houston Winter Break Cup 2022 is hosted by the Houston Dynamo|Dash Youth South on December 10th & 11th, 2022. The tournament is for U9-U19 boys & girl's Competitive & Recreation teams. The tournament is sanctioned by USYSA & US Club Soccer. Games are played at Centennial Park in Friendswood, Dave Finkel Fields in Clear Lake and El Franco Lee Park in Houston.

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 Saturday the 3rd of August. 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 received.**

TEAM REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN:

Check In	Online ONLY!
Check In Dates	All Teams Nov 21 – Dec 8, 2022

The Houston Pre-Labor Day Cup 2022 registration must be completed through the online registration at <https://events.gotsport.com/forms/app/Default.aspx?eventid=86d238b>. All players (except guest players) must be registered to the team (application deadline of **November 28, 2022**). **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, six (6) guest players for 9v9 and six (6) guest players for 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:

Age Levels	# Players on field	Roster Size	# Guest Players
U9-U10	7 v 7	14	4
U11-U12	9 v 9	16	6
U13-U19	11 v 11	18	8

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. All these items need to be uploaded into your GotSport Account. There will be NO Saturday morning check-in!

Houston Winter Break Cup – 2022

Tournament Rules



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. Rosters will be frozen on Friday the 8th of December at 3pm in GotSoccer. That is when game cards will be printed at that time. **WRITE-INS ARE ONLY ALLOWED, ON GAME CARDS, IF THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR OR SITE COORDINATORS APPROVE IT.**

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 Game Length	Ball Size	Round Robin	Semi-Final Game Length	FINALS Game Length	# of Referees
U9-U10	4	2 x 20 min.	N/A	2 x 20 min.	1
U11-U12	4	2 x 25 min.	N/A	2 x 25 min.	1
U13-U19	5	2 x 30 min.	N/A	2 x 30 min.	3

**Mandatory one (1) minute water breaks will be given halfway thru both halves. Clock will continue to run.

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.

Houston Winter Break Cup – 2022

Tournament Rules



PLAYING CONDITIONS:

Both teams shall occupy the same side of the field. All game spectators, including parents & visitors for both teams will occupy the opposite side of the field. In case of inclement weather, the Tournament Director and/or Site Coordinator 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 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 Tournament Director/Site Coordinator will decide if the game can be continued, if the game will be rescheduled or if the game is considered final and score counts.

UNIFORMS:

As a convenience, the home team wears their white uniform and the visitors wear dark. 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, the other will receive a 3-0 score and receive 3pts for the win.**

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

Round Robin Games	<p>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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Winner of head-to-head competition2. Net goals (goal difference, limit of +/- 3 per game)3. Most goals scored (maximum of 3 goals per game)4. Goals against (maximum of 3 goals per game)5. Most total wins6. Pk's from the spot
Championship Games	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. **If weather prevents any teams from playing their three games, then the Tournament Committee may use a point per game average to decide who advances to the finals.**

Houston Winter Break Cup – 2022

Tournament Rules



WILD CARD SELECTION & ADVANCEMENT PAIRINGS:

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 vs W2
8	2 groups of 4	Round Robin	None	Winner of group 1 vs Winner of group 2
6	2 groups of 3	Round Robin and/or a Cross Over Group	None	Top 2 point in either bracket

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. 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.

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 Break Cup 2022 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 cover with a soft covering.

Tournament Rules



RAINOUT POLICY:

Neither the Event Director nor the Event Sponsors are responsible for any expenses incurred by any team in the event that the Event is cancelled in whole, or in part: or in the event games are discontinued or cancelled due to inclement weather or adverse field conditions, nor will any refunds be made. Event Director reserves the right to adjust game lengths and schedule due to weather, field conditions or other conditions. The Event Committee may restructure the game lengths or cancel the event due to inclement weather. In the event of total cancellation prior to the event, a partial refund, less startup cost and an administrative fee will be issued. Once play has begun, no refunds will be issued.

MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR:

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

7v7 Rules:

No heading is allowed and keepers cannot punt the ball. We will use throw-ins and kick-ins are not allowed. There will be direct and indirect kicks based on the foul and referees' decision. There will be pks from the spot for fouls in the box. There will be a restraining line for offsides, for goal kicks and not for goalie throws, so teams can learn to play out of the back. Kicks above the knees are ok.

*****Tournament Director & Site Coordinators reserves the authority to revise these rules prior to your team starting the tournament on December 10th, 2022**