



## OK TEXANS Friendship Cup

April 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012

U7 - U10 ACADEMY Boys and Girls

U11 – U19 COMPETITIVE Boys and Girls

### Information, Guidelines, and Rules

#### Eligibility:

The **OK Texans FRIENDSHIP CUP 2012** is sponsored by OK Texans Soccer Club, Inc. and Central Tulsa Soccer Club, and is open to all Under 7 - Under 10 ACADEMY Boys and Girls teams **and** U11-U19 COMPETITIVE Boys and Girls Tournament, ODP, State Select or Competitive Club teams, which are affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) through USYSA and US Clubsoccer, fielding teams in the age brackets of competition. The tournament is sanctioned by the Oklahoma Soccer Association (OSA) and the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), and is open to invited USSF affiliated boys and girls teams U7-U19, affiliated with invited Clubs or invited guest teams. Single age brackets will be formed in each age group. International teams will be subject to proper certification and permission from USSF, FIFA and home football associations

U7 – U11 boys and girls age brackets will play 8 v 8; all other age brackets will play 11 v 11. A team may request to “play up” an age bracket, subject to approval of the Tournament Committee.

#### Team Registration:

- All players must be currently registered to the competing team or affiliated with an USYSA affiliated organization, or be a properly registered guest player. All players must have official player passes, which have been issued by the local association registrar of an authorized affiliate of USYSA.
- Teams must provide an official, stamped roster issued by their governing organization signed by the coach of record and the local association registrar **with player uniform numbers** at the time of registration..
  - International teams must comply with all applicable USSF Rules and FIFA regulations
- For U7 - U11 (8v8): Roster size must have a minimum of 11 and maximum of 14 players.  
For U11 (11v11) - U16: Roster size must have a minimum of 14 and a maximum of 18 players.  
For U17-U19: Roster size must have a minimum of 14 and a maximum of 22 players
- Each **Competitive** team will be allowed five (5) guest players, **Academy** teams will be allowed Unlimited guest players.
- Players may only play for ONE team in this tournament event, regardless of the age appropriateness of the player. She / He must be listed on the approved roster or be a qualified, appropriately registered guest player.
- Coaches/Managers should bring the approved paperwork to the team check-in for validation. Validated rosters will be required prior to participating in any match.
- This tournament is a STAY-TO-PLAY tournament. All visiting teams requiring lodging must stay at a tournament-approved hotel.

#### Team Check-In:

- for **LOCAL TEAMS** will be held on **Thursday night, April 26, 2012**, between **6:00pm. - 8:00pm.** at the OK TEXANS Clubhouse 3625 S. Elwood Ave. Tulsa, OK. 74107
- for **VISITING TEAMS** will be held on **Friday night, April 27, 2012**, between **6:00pm. - 9:00pm.** at the Host Hotel.

We will validate official rosters, distribute any schedule changes, and answer questions. All teams must have a representative present to validate the following required forms:

- Two (2) copies of a current, approved roster **with player uniform numbers**
- Notarized medical release form for each player
- Player Passes, which include each player's photo, signature, and is laminated.
- *Out of State* teams must provide an Approved Application for Travel or Travel Notification except US Club Soccer teams.
- All **international teams are required to present passports or other identifying documents at registration.** Tournament player picture identification cards are required for players outside of the USA.

#### Game Information:

- All teams will be scheduled to play a minimum of three (3) games – generally two (2) on Saturday and one (1) on Sunday, unless otherwise agreed. A winner will be determined in each competition group, and, where possible, each bracket will have a Championship match.
- Some teams will play on Friday evening. Friday evening games may be scheduled with consent of both teams, but not otherwise, except that Tulsa teams may be scheduled for Friday night games without consent.
- The Tournament Committee has established Gold and Silver Divisions for competition in age groups to enhance competitive play when the necessary number of teams or equivalent talent level required for such divisions make this

option possible. Each team will be invited to designate its preference, which the Committee will honor, unless competitive circumstances suggest such would not be appropriate.

- Kickoff will be at the scheduled time unless games are delayed. Each team must be ready to play at the scheduled time or immediately after the conclusion of the previous game as determined by the referee. A maximum grace period of 5 minutes will be allowed after the scheduled kick-off time. Teams must have seven (7) players present in order to begin a game, or the team is subject to forfeiting the match.
- **Team and Player Credential Check:** Each team must present a validated, official roster from its home association and player cards for each player to the Tournament Official prior to the start of each match, if requested. Players' jersey and shorts numbers must match the number associated with the player's name on the 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 Committee and/or Home Association.
  - For international players, player ID cards must be present at all matches. Identification cards are subject to review by the referee prior to each match so please keep your player book handy.

**Club Cup Championship:**

A Cup to be permanently retained by each winning Club will be awarded in both boys and girls divisions.

- A minimum of four (4) teams competing in either the Boys or Girls Division is required to be eligible for a Club to compete for the Club Cup Championship.
- For purposes of determining the Cup winner in each division, the aggregate scores from each Club's 4 teams who have the greatest point total will be used.
- In the event of a tie in points in Cup competition, the Cup will be awarded to the Club with the greater number of participating teams in the Division. If the results remain tied, the winner shall be the Club whose 4 teams used for the Cup Championship have scored the most goals.
- Bracket winners and runners-up will be recognized in each competition group.

**MVP Award:**

At the conclusion of each Finals game, each coach and his/her players will vote to stand out the opponent who most influenced the course and dynamics of the game consistently throughout the tournament weekend. Each coach will then present the MVP Award to the opponent at the Presentation Stage.

**Preliminary Game Lengths and Ball Size:**

Division	Format	Game Length	Half Time	Ball Size
Under 7 - 11	8 v 8	2 x 30 minute halves	5 minutes	4
Under 11-12	11 v 11	2 x 30 minute halves	5 minutes	4
Under 13 – Under 14	11 v 11	2 x 35 minutes halves	5 minutes	5
Under 15– Under 19	11 v 11	2 x 40 minute halves	5 minutes	5

**Inclement Weather:**

- In the event of inclement weather, the Tournament Director and/or Field Coordinator will determine if a game is to be played, and shall have the authority to change the format as follows:
  - 1) Relocate and/or reschedule game(s)
  - 2) To reduce by up to 50% the schedule duration of any game(s)
  - 3) To cancel any game in the preliminary rounds which have no bearing on deciding group winners
  - 4) To invoke any other means of determining a winner if/when necessary, including but not limited to penalty kicks
- Once the game has started, the decision concerning play rests with the referee.
- 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 is played; the score at the half will be the final score. If one half has not elapsed and the game is stopped, the game must be rescheduled if it affects the outcome of the tournament and if weather permits.

**Playing Conditions:**

- The HOME team and fans, listed first or on top in the HOME schedule, will occupy the north, or east, side of the field. The opposing team and fans must occupy the opposing side.
- In case of uniform color conflict, the HOME team is responsible for changing to an alternate color. As a convenience and courtesy to both teams, it is recommended that the HOME team wear its white (or light) jersey.
- Each team must be prepared to present a game ball to the referee for his/her selection before the game starts.
- Players must wear numbers on the back of their jerseys, and each player shall have a different number.
- Shin guards must be worn during games.
- No equipment changes may be made after the referee's equipment check without his/her permission.

**Substitution:**

Substitutions will be allowed during natural stoppage of the match at the referee’s discretion.

- After a goal (either team)
- Prior to a Goal kick (either team)
- Between halves (either team)
- Injury substitution or unusual stoppage approved by the referee for one team, the opposing team may substitute an equal number of players
- Prior to a throw-in (only the team in possession of the throw may substitute players)
- When the referee stops to caution a player, but only that player may be substituted prior to the restart of the game, at the referee’s discretion.
- Free substitution is permitted following the rules stated above are met.

Players shall leave or enter the field of play **only with the consent of the referee.** Players shall enter and leave the field at mid-field.

- There will be no re-entry for a player who leaves the game on substitution in Under 17 and older age groups in brackets in which one or more international teams are competing, in accordance with FIFA Rules.
- Any player sent off shall not participate in the remainder of the game in which the player was ordered from the field and is not eligible to participate in the team’s next scheduled game.
- No ejected player shall be replaced on the field. (All ejections must be reported to the tournament director).

**Brackets with International Competitors:**

If a competing team in a bracket is an International Competitor, FIFA rules and regulations governing Player Substitution in any Under 17 or Older groups will apply and will be observed in play for each team in the bracket in which International Competitors will compete.

**Team Standing:**

The following point system shall be used to determine winners within each division and team standings:

<b>Win</b>	3 points
<b>Tie</b>	1 point
<b>Loss</b>	0 points
<b>Forfeit</b>	Will be scored as a 3-0 win and a total of 3 points will be awarded

**Tie Breakers:**

In the event of a tie between teams in the preliminary round standings, the following procedure shall be used to determine the group winner:

- 1) Highest Point Total
- 2) Head-To-Head; winner of game played between the two tied teams
- 3) Total Goal Differential (goals scored less goals conceded over all games)
- 4) Most goals scored
- 5) Fewest goals allowed
- 6) Most shutouts
- 7) Fewest points accrued from combined yellow and red cards issued
- 8) If still tied, then FIFA penalty kicks will determine the winner

In Age Group Brackets where the Championship is determined in head-to-head competition in a finals match, the winner of the finals match shall be champion. In brackets where there is no head to head finals, the Championship will be awarded to the team with the highest total points in the bracket at the end of play.

**THERE IS NO OVERTIME EXCEPT IN MATCHES TO DETERMINE THE GROUP CHAMPION.**

In the event of a tie at the end of regulation play in a SEMI-FINAL or FINAL game, the following procedure shall be used to determine the Competition Group Champion:

- A 10-minute overtime - in two (2) complete overtime periods of five (5) minute halves - shall be played. The entire overtime period of both halves will be played. ***NO GOLDEN GOAL OR SUDDEN DEATH!***
- If the game remains tied, the Champion will be determined by FIFA penalty kicks.

**Game Reports / Referees:**

Tournament officials will be responsible for collecting match results, but **each coach or designated team representative is responsible for verifying the game card score at the conclusion of the match. The Tournament Committee will endeavor to assure correct results, but failure to verify the game result may constitute a waiver of opportunity to contest game results, particularly results of a prior day’s competition.** The referee and the coach of the winning team shall sign each game report.

### **Player / Coach / Spectator Discipline:**

- Any player sent off shall not participate in the remainder of the game in which the player was ordered from the field and is not eligible to participate in the team's next scheduled game.
- A player receiving two (2) cautions during the event is not allowed to play in the next match.
- No ejected player shall be replaced on the field.
- An ejected player or coach will serve a minimum one game suspension. Tournament officials reserve the right to increase the penalty, based upon the nature of the offense and FIFA guidelines.
- Ejected team personnel will not be permitted in the bench areas while under suspension.
- All red cards will be reported to the player's or coach's State Association and Home Association and the Home Club / League.
- Any coach who removes his/her team from the field during a game will receive a red card and the team will forfeit the game and all remaining games in the tournament.
- The Club of such team will become ineligible to participate in the Club Cup competition.
- Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on the game premises by any person is strictly prohibited.

**One (1) point deduction will be charged from a team's overall total score for each Red Card received by a team member judged to be at fault.**

### **< REFEREE ABUSE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED! >**

The Coach is responsible for the actions of verbal and physical abuse of referees or tournament officials by his/her spectators. Such abuse will not be tolerated. Violations may result in forfeiture of the game and/or expulsion from the tournament. Any individual ejected from the game must leave the field area within two (2) minutes of the ejection or the game will be forfeited. Any individual ejected from the game shall be confined to their respective vehicles for the duration of the match they were dismissed from and for the next scheduled game.

Pursuant to USSF Policy 531-9, all matters involving referee assault (or abuse) shall be referred immediately to the host state association.

### **Protests:**

Referees' judgment calls are not open to protest. Protests and appeals will be considered only if the rules of the game have been misapplied by the referee or if a team uses an ineligible player. Protests can only be filed by the designated coach or manager of the offended team, specified on the team's Tournament Entry Form, within 60 minutes of the completion of the game. A protest must be submitted in writing, along with \$100 cash or money order to the Tournament Director or to a member of the Tournament Executive Committee. If the protest is upheld, the appeal fee will be returned and corrective action as determined by the Tournament Chairman will be taken. The Tournament Committee must determine that the violation defined by the written protest materially affected the outcome of the game as a basis for sustaining an appeal. The protest fee is not refundable if the protest is not upheld. The Tournament Committee will deal with any team only through its coach, assistant coach or manager, as designated on the Tournament Entry Form.

**All teams and tournament participants must abide by the Oklahoma Soccer Association's and US Youth's policies, rules, and regulations and are subject to their disciplinary actions. Any teams wishing to participate in the tournament that are not US Youth members will be required to provide proof of medical & liability insurance. Any team that cannot provide such proof will be required to purchase the Oklahoma Soccer Association's event insurance.**

### **Refunds / Cancellations:**

- Teams not accepted will receive a full refund.
- Teams that withdraw after the original entry deadline (March 1, 2012) forfeit their entire entry fee.
- Teams are accepted conditionally with a \$200 deposit. The remaining registration fee must be received within 10 business days.
- Team that withdraw after 24 hrs. following the online registration is submitted will be assessed a \$200 fee toward administrative services.

If games are canceled or shortened due to inclement weather, acts of God or other factors beyond control, **AFTER THE TOURNAMENT STARTS**, there shall be no refunds of fees.

**IF THE TOURNAMENT IS CANCELLED** due to inclement weather, acts of God or factors beyond control, twenty-five percent (25%) of the tournament entry fees will be returned to each accepted Applicant.

### **Matters Not Provided For**

Any situation or questions on rules of competition not covered herein will be governed by OSA and USSF Administrative Rule books, in that order. Any matter not provided for in Tournament Rules or OSA or USSF Rules shall be determined by the Tournament Committee, whose decisions shall be final.