



# **SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH SOCCER**

## **2016/2017 SC YOUTH SOCCER FALL FESTIVAL**



### **1. PURPOSE**

This manual documents the methods, procedures, and guidelines used to stage the SC Youth Soccer Fall Festival. This annual competition decides which teams are SC Youth Soccer Fall Festival Champions. In order to continue to improve the games, this manual may be updated by a majority vote of the SC Youth Soccer Board of Directors.

### **2. SCOPE**

This manual is applicable to the annual SC Youth Soccer Fall Festival. Dates, times and the locations of the Cup will be set by the SC Youth Soccer Board of Directors and posted on the SC Youth Soccer website

### **3. APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS**

FIFA Laws of the Game as amended annually  
USSF Official Administrative Rule Book as amended annually  
Policy on US Youth Soccer National Championships as amended annually  
SC Youth Soccer Bylaws  
SC Youth Soccer Administrative Manual/SCYSA.ORG  
SC Youth Soccer Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
SC Youth Soccer Annual Calendar

### **4. COMPETITION DIVISIONS AND AGE GROUPS**

SC Youth Soccer Fall Festival Games are comprised of the following competition divisions and age groups: Girls and Boys Recreation Teams U8-U12. The winner of each division shall be the SC Youth Soccer Fall Festival Champion.

### **5. FEES**

Fees for entry into the SC Youth Soccer Fall Festival are set prior to the cup by the SC Youth Soccer Board of Directors and will be listed on the SC Youth Soccer website.

### **6. PERFORMANCE BOND**

Each team participating in the SC Youth Soccer Fall Festival will be responsible for a \$250 performance bond in addition to the team's registration fee. This performance bond will be invoiced as deemed necessary for the following infractions.

A team's performance bond will be forfeited by:

1. Improper registration.
3. Failure to be ready to play at the scheduled time plus grace period of ten minutes for any game. Time will be determined by game official.
4. Failure to participate in the entire awards ceremony if that team is a participant in the championship game.
5. Once a team has declared its intent to play, any failure to appear at Cup matches may result in the loss of the team's bond.
6. If a performance bond is forfeited, then a new performance bond must be posted before the team may continue as a part of the SC Youth Soccer Fall Festival.

### **7. PLAYER/COACH PASSES**

Passes will not be required at the SC Youth Soccer Fall Festival. Teams will play on their official or game day roster.

### **8. TEAM ROSTERS**

All teams entering these competitions must obtain either an official SC Youth Soccer State Roster, or SC Youth Soccer Tournament Team Roster/Game Day Roster, signed and sealed by the SC Youth Soccer State Registrar/designee 48 hours prior to cup. The Roster shall list the team coach, assistants, managers (if applicable) and all team players. Rosters are frozen 48 hours prior to cup. Rosters must be comprised of players from the same club. No player may be added or transferred on to a team after the 48 hour deadline. There may be no more than (4) coaches (including Club Coach or DOC) on the player's bench at any one time.

## **9. PLAYER EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS**

All teams shall wear matching uniforms consisting of jersey, shorts, and socks. Every field player shall have a unique and identifiable number attached to his/her jersey. Additional garments may be worn to protect against the elements, but all players must present a uniform appearance and all extra clothing is subject to the approval of the referee. Socks must be pulled up over each player's shin guards and all shirts must be tucked in at the start of each half of play. No jewelry of any type may be worn during a match under any circumstances. All players, including the goalkeeper, must wear shin guards during the duration of all matches. Additional equipment or clothing worn to reduce the chance of injury or to protect existing injuries shall be used only with the approval of the referee. The referee is the judge of whether player equipment, casts, or protective or other assistant devices shall be allowed as prescribed in the FIFA "Laws of the Game". In general, hard casts will be allowed only if they are (a) wrapped in their entirety with a half inch of foam or other cushioning material and (b) are, in the opinion of the referee, safe. At the first indication that a player with a cast or other protective device is using it in an unsafe manner, or to gain an advantage, the player shall be removed from the match not to return for the duration of the competition, or until the cast or device has been removed.

Should the referee in any match determine that the equipment worn by a player does not meet the FIFA criteria as documented for non-dangerous player equipment, and prevents the player from match participation, that referee shall be required to submit a written report to the Tournament Committee detailing the reason(s) for the decision. The report is to be submitted by the end of the day.

## **10. TEAM ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for the SC Youth Soccer Fall Festival, a team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered youth players and the team and its SC Youth Soccer affiliated organization must be in good standing with SC Youth Soccer.

The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any like process to roster players selectively to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited by SC Youth Soccer and renders a team ineligible for the SC Youth Soccer Fall Festival in recreation divisions.

## **11. FORMAT**

All teams will be placed in the best possible division based on the number of applications and team ability by the Tournament Director. No division will be larger than 12 teams.

## **12. TEAM PARTICIPATION**

The SC Youth Soccer Fall Festival will allow ALL recreation teams requesting and meeting all requirements to participate and compete for the Championship in their division provided there are enough teams (minimum of three teams) to form a division. **SC Youth Soccer requires each player play at least one-half (1/2) of each game except for reasons of injury, illness, or discipline.**

## **13. PAIRINGS**

The following pairing arrangements shall be used in the SC Youth Soccer Fall Festival:

### Four Team Division:

These teams will play a four team round robin. The two teams with the highest point total will play for the championship.

### Five Team Division:

These teams will play a five team round robin; the champion will be the team with the highest point total at the end of round-robin play. If there is no outright point winner at the conclusion of the round-robin play, the winner will be established using the Divisional Tie-Breaking Procedure.

### Six Team Division:

These teams will be placed into two three team brackets. These brackets will each play a three team round robin. The team from bracket A with the highest point total and the team from bracket B second highest point total will play in the Semi Final 1, while the team from bracket B with the highest point total and the team from bracket A second highest point total will play in the Semi Final 2. The Winner of Semi Final 1 will play the Winner of Semi Final 2 for the championship.

### Seven Team Division:

Each team will play two games on Saturday and then be seeded on Sunday based on Saturday's results. Consolation Games: #6 Seed vs #7 Seed and then the winner of that game will play the #5 Seed. Semi Final Games: #1 Seed vs #4 Seed and #2 Seed vs #3 Seed. Final: Winners of the semi Final Games.

### Eight Team Division:

These teams will be placed in two four-team brackets. Each bracket will play a four team round robin and the team from each bracket with the highest point total will play for the championship.

#### Nine Team Division:

These teams will be placed into three, three-team brackets. These brackets will each play a three team round-robin. The team from each bracket with the highest point total plus a wild card team will advance to semifinal play. The wild card team will be determined by game points earned during bracket play. In the event there is a tie for the Wild Card spot, the Divisional Tie Breaking Procedure will be used. (A vs wildcard [unless the wildcard is from the A bracket then it will be the C bracket winner], B vs C [unless wildcard is from the A bracket then B will play the wildcard].) The semifinal winners will play for the championship.

#### Twelve Team Division:

These teams shall be placed in four; three team brackets, A, B, C and D. These brackets will each play a three-team round robin. The team from each bracket with the highest point total will advance to semifinal play (i.e. A vs D and B vs C). The semifinal winners will play for the championship.

### **14. DETERMINATION OF SEMI-FINAL WINNERS**

Semifinal matches shall be played to a conclusion, including overtime periods. If the teams are still tied after two overtime periods the match will be decided by kicks from the penalty mark using FIFA guidelines with only those players on the field at the conclusion of play eligible to participate.

### **15. DETERMINATION OF CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS**

Championship matches shall be played to a conclusion, including overtime periods. If the teams are still tied after two overtime periods the match will be decided by kicks from the penalty mark using FIFA guidelines with only those players on the field at the conclusion of play eligible to participate.

### **16. DECORUM**

Coaches are responsible for the behavior of all players, coaches, parents, and spectators associated with their team. Coaches and their players shall be located on the opposite side of the field from the parents and fans.

The only persons allowed on the team bench during a SC Youth Soccer Fall Festival or Publix Recreation Cup match are those players/coaches/assistant coaches/managers listed on the approved Official SC Youth Soccer Roster, or coaches holding a DOC or Club Coach pass, with a maximum of four (4) coaches/assistants. All players and coaches shall have approved SC Youth Soccer player/coach passes and must be checked in by a tournament official before being allowed on the bench.

The only exceptions to this rule shall be:

- Any medical emergency requiring additional assistance, and
- During half-time visitors may approach the team bench with approval of the tournament official.

Upon verification by a tournament official or their designee, any team with unauthorized persons at their team bench when the match begins or at the start of the second half shall result in the coach for that team paying a \$50 fine to the tournament director at the conclusion of the match. This fine must be paid before the coach will be allowed to coach another match.

### **17. DETERMINATION OF DIVISION (BRACKET) STANDINGS**

During divisional (bracket) play, teams will be awarded game points as follows:

- Three (3) points for a win
- One (1) point for a tie
- Zero (0) points for a loss

### **18. DISMISSALS**

If a player/coach is dismissed from any match, the player/coach pass, together with the game report of the incident, shall be turned over to the Tournament Committee or its designee by the referee. The minimum penalty for a dismissal is that the player/coach shall not be permitted to participate in the remainder of the current match and the entirety of the team's next match. If a red card is given for violent conduct, the suspension shall be for two games. Penalties may be increased at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. If the red card/ejection was given in the last game of state hosted cup, then the player/coach will sit out the first of subsequent league play and the first game of any state hosted cup in the next seasonal year (no matter which club he/she played/is playing for). The club shall be notified of the red card/ejection by the Tournament Committee. The player/coach pass shall be returned following the disciplinary period. If a coach is "sent off", he/she will not be allowed to coach that team at the Fall Festival or Publix Recreation Cup for the duration of the suspension.

## **19. DIVISIONAL TIE BREAKING PROCEDURE**

Standings at the conclusion of division (bracket) play will be determined on the basis of game points. In the event of ties, standings will be established using the following tie breaking criteria in sequence until a winner has been determined:

1. Winner of head to head competition. (This criteria is not used if more than two teams are tied. See below.
2. Most wins.
3. Teams with the greatest net goal difference (NGD) which is computed as “goals for” minus “goals against” with a maximum of 3 NGD per game.
4. Team with the least goals against.
5. Team with the most goals (maximum of 3 goals per game).
6. Kicks from the penalty mark per FIFA Laws.

More than two teams tied:

If more than two (2) teams are tied, the sequence will start at 19.2 and will be followed until a team is eliminated. When a team is eliminated the remaining teams will then restart the sequence at 19.2 above until the tie is broken.

If three teams are still tied after computing the listed tiebreakers and FIFA Kicks have to be taken, there will be a draw by the Tournament Committee. The first team drawn will receive the bye. The next team drawn will be the home team against the remaining team in the first contest of FIFA Kicks. The winner of the first contest will then compete against the bye team in FIFA Kicks to determine the winner. The bye team will be the home team.

If four teams are still tied after computing the listed tiebreakers and FIFA Kicks have to be taken there will be a draw conducted by the Tournament Committee. The first team drawn (home team) will compete against the second team drawn (away team) in the first contest of FIFA Kicks. The third team drawn (home team) will compete against the fourth team (away team) in the second contest. The winners of these two contests will then compete to determine the winner. The winner of the first /second draw will be the home team.

## **20. ADEQUATE REST**

All teams are entitled to sufficient and, to the extent practical, equal rest between matches. A minimum of three hours between the scheduled start of two successive matches is considered to be sufficient rest. Where field or bracketing limitations make equal rest impossible, a minimum of three hours between the scheduled start of two successive matches is also considered to be equal rest.

## **21. FORFEITS**

A team which forfeits any game shall have the scores of ALL of its games recorded as 0-3 losses, thereby awarding every other team it played a 3-0 win over the forfeiting team.

## **22. GAME BALLS**

Game balls provided by tournament sponsors and approved by the Tournament Committee and referee shall be used for the entirety of all matches if they are available. Each team shall also furnish a playable game ball to the referee at the beginning of each match. Size four balls will be used for all U08-U12 matches.

## **23. ROSTER SIZE AND FORMAT**

<u>Age Division</u>	<u>Maximum Roster Size</u>	<u>Game Format</u>	<u>Minimum # of Players to Start/Complete Match</u>
U11-U12	14	8 v 8	6
U08-U10	12	6 v 6	4

## **24. GRACE PERIODS**

Teams not ready to play within 10 minutes after the scheduled starting time of any match shall forfeit the match. Any team that is not ready to play after this 10- minute grace period shall be reported to the Tournament Committee or its designee by the referee. The game shall be recorded as a forfeit (3-0 win for the non-forfeiting team). The team not ready to play shall forfeit its performance bond.

## **25. HOME TEAM**

The team listed first in each pairing on the schedule is the home team. The home team shall change jerseys if, in the opinion of the referee, there is a color conflict.

## **26. LENGTH OF MATCHES AND OVERTIME PERIODS**

Under 12: Two 30-minute halves, two 5-minute overtimes, if applicable\*

Under 11: Two 30-minute halves, two 5-minute overtimes, if applicable\*

Under 10: Two 25-minute halves, two 5-minute overtimes, if applicable\*

Under 09: Two 25-minute halves, two 5-minute overtimes, if applicable\*

Under 08: Two 25 minute halves, two 5-minute overtimes, if applicable\*

\*In divisional (bracket) play, the score at the end of regulation time shall stand, unless otherwise noted. If any semifinal or final match is tied at the end of regulation play, two (2) full overtime periods as outlined above will be played. If the match remains tied, kicks will be taken from the penalty mark using FIFA guidelines with only those players on the field at the conclusion of play eligible to participate.

If a match is abandoned by the referee for any reason not related to the performance of a team, it shall be replayed in its entirety if the second half of play has not begun - after the second half has begun the score will stand. If a match is abandoned for cause due to actions of a team, coach, parent, or spectator, the Tournament Committee shall determine whether to allow the score at the time of termination to stand, to forfeit the match in favor of the non-offending team, or to replay the match in its entirety. The referee shall report, with explanation, all abandoned games to the Tournament Committee or its designee by the end of the day.

## **27. PROTESTS**

All questions relating to the qualifications of the competitors or interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest whatever, shall be referred to the Tournament Committee or its designee. The Tournament Committee shall then refer the protest to a protest and appeals committee appointed by the Tournament Committee. The decisions of the latter committee shall be binding on both teams.

To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest must (1)(a) if involving the field of play, be lodged verbally with the referee and the opposing coach at the game site before entering the field of play, (b) be filed within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the game with an SC Youth Soccer tournament official and (2) be filed in writing with the SC Youth Soccer tournament official and include a protest fee in the amount of \$250.00 (cash, cashier's check, or money order only), five written copies of the protest (which must include a description of the grounds on which the protest is lodged), and five written copies of any information to be presented by witnesses.

All written copies of the protests must be received by the Tournament Committee or its designee within two hours of the completion of the game being protested.

All protests relating to the grounds, goal posts, bars, or other appurtenances of the game shall be entertained only if a written objection has been lodged with the referee and the opposing coach at the start of the game.

The Tournament Committee shall immediately upon receipt of a protest notify the team against which the protest is made and shall send a copy of the protest and all particulars to that team which will then have the right to defend its case with or without witnesses, should it desire to do so.

A lawyer shall not represent a team at the hearing of a charge or protest unless he is a bonafide member of one of the teams concerned (coach or assistant coach as specified on a team's SC Youth Soccer State Roster).

A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the competition is not sufficient grounds for protests.

Judgment decisions of the referee are not subject to appeal or protest.

## **28. RULES OF COMPETITION**

All SC Youth Soccer Fall Festival matches will be conducted in accordance with FIFA's "Laws of the Game" and the SC Youth Soccer Administrative Manual (including all SC Youth Soccer Board of Directors updates).

## **29. SUBSTITUTIONS**

Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at the following times:

- Prior to a throw-in in your favor.
- Prior to a goal kick by either team.
- After a goal by either team.
- After an injury by either team when the referee stops play (unlimited substitutions).
- At the beginning of the second half
- When the referee stops play to caution a player, only the cautioned player may be substituted prior to the restart of the game.