



# Grapevine-Southlake Soccer Association

## 2nd Annual Recreational SOCCER FEST TOURNAMENT

<https://gssasoccer.org/soccerfest/>

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### TOURNAMENT RULES

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## REGISTRATION

- Players registered for the Spring 2026 season with North Texas Soccer or US Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) may participate. A player must be registered with the same National Association that the team is registered with in order to participate with the team.
- It is the responsibility of teams registered with US Club Soccer (USCS) to identify themselves as such (not having a USYSA roster) upon registration for insurance purposes.
- All USYSA registered teams traveling from outside of North Texas Soccer must submit approved Permission to Travel documentation as per USYSA policy.
- All official rosters must be submitted to the tournament registrar upon registration.
- The tournament website, where all registration forms, links and other information is available: <https://gssasoccer.org/soccerfest/>
- Maximum of 3 guest players. A competitive player may NOT guest play on a recreational team. Each guest player registered with North Texas Soccer must have a North Texas Soccer Guest Player Release form with all appropriate signatures. All players rostered to the team must be invited to participate in the tournament prior to adding guest players.
- A player may not play on more than one team in this Tournament.
- Games could be scheduled to begin at any time between 6:00 pm Friday, May 15 and Sunday, May 17 at 8:00 pm. No schedule requests will be honored except for requests involving dual head coaches properly attached to their teams in Got Sport.
- No refunds will be given after registration closes on April 17, 2026 for teams unable to participate in the tournament due to reasons beyond GSSA's control. Head coaches having more than one team in this tournament must be properly attached to both teams' rosters in Got Sport upon registration. If the Got Sport coach accounts do not match exactly on both rosters and, further, do not reflect the head coach's dual coach status, dual head coach accommodations are not guaranteed once registration closes.
- If a situation arises whereas not enough teams register to properly complete a divisional structure (e.g. reasons within GSSA control) a full refund will be provided to any team unable to participate.
- For coaches with 3 or more teams, dual coach conflicts may be inevitable but we will do our best to accommodate. All teams should have a backup assistant coach or manager to assist if necessary.
- No trainers are available at any complex. Managers are responsible for first aid.
- Teams will be placed in groups by gender and age, then seeded primarily by their points in Got Sport and secondly considering previous experience. It is the manager's responsibility to notate the team's record upon registration.
- There is no direct telephone number for the tournament. All communications should be sent to [tournaments@gssasoccer.org](mailto:tournaments@gssasoccer.org).
- The tournament director reserves the right to decline a team's application or to remove any team from the event at any time.

### CHECK IN PROCEDURES

- A team representative will check-in thirty minutes before the team's first game at the complex in which their first game will be held (generally at or near the referee's table).
- Teams (coaches and players) will check in with the referees ten (10) minutes before each game at their assigned field of play.
- All coaches must be listed on the official roster and be prepared to show proof of identification.
- Documents that must be electronically uploaded:
  - **Official Roster:** Teams must submit an official roster signed by their home association's registrar, even if a roster has already been submitted to the tournament registrar. Got Sport player screenshots are not acceptable.
  - **Guest Player Release forms.** Please see information under Guest Player Release Form Instructions. Please note: If your team is registered through North Texas Soccer; and your guest player lives in North Texas and is not currently registered with a North Texas Soccer member association, the player must register as a non-rostered player with a North Texas Soccer member association. Please have the player's family contact the Registrar of the member association that is appropriate based on the player's residence address to learn more about the association's requirements to register as a non-rostered player and to obtain a completed Guest Player Release form. All players (including guest players) must have a medical release form filed with the team manager at all times during the tournament.
  - **Zero Tolerance forms** must be signed and enforced by the team coach or manager. Please review these with your team(s) prior to the tournament.
- Documents that must be maintained on hand during all matches
  - **Official Roster** as submitted online.
  - **Guest Player Release forms**, as submitted online
  - **Zero Tolerance forms**, as submitted online
  - **Medical Release forms** for EVERY player. Teams are expected to have medical releases for all players on the team, including guest players, with them at all times. Teams who cannot produce them to tournament staff during random spot-checks will forfeit their match
  - One blank sit-out report
- **Team Check-In Sheets** are available online for your reference with regards to document requirements
- The tournament will provide match cards to the team representative at check-in or, in the case of a rescheduled or final match, directly to the referees before the match
- The tournament will pay the referees directly
- All USYSA-registered teams traveling from outside of North Texas Soccer must submit approved Travel Permits per NTSSA rules.

### GUEST PLAYER RELEASE FORM INSTRUCTIONS

For all North Texas Soccer-Registered Recreational Teams:

- Please go to the tournament tab on the website and click "documents" to download the official Guest Player Release form.  
[https://www.ntxsoccer.org/assets/74/6/guestplayerrelease\\_0520221.pdf](https://www.ntxsoccer.org/assets/74/6/guestplayerrelease_0520221.pdf)
- Please complete the form in its entirety including player registration number and all required signatures.
- Guest Player Release forms for any recreational player registered with a North Texas Soccer member association must be signed by the appropriate representative of the member association that the player is registered with. The member association must add the player's registration number to the form. Contact the Registrar of the member association that the player is registered with.

### SPECTATORS

- All parents and players shall abide by GSSA's Zero Tolerance Policy.
- No spectators shall be allowed on the field at any time. Infractions will result in a team fine of \$75.00 to be paid before the team's next scheduled game.
- Spectators must always remain six (6) feet from the touchline (sides the field) during the match.
- Spectators are not allowed to watch the game from directly behind the goal lines. If, due to field positioning or population of spectators, positioning behind the goal line is the only option then the spectators must be at least twenty (20) feet from the goal line, and refrain from making any noise, including cheering, that could be heard on the field (e.g. spectators behind the goal lines must be a safe distance away and remain silent to anyone on the field).

### INCLEMENT WEATHER

- In case of rain – HARD RAIN, NOT A SPRINKLE – follow GSSA's weather guidelines.  
<https://www.gssasoccer.org/Default.aspx?tabid=347825>
- Format for tournament play and/or completion of the tournament will be determined by the Tournament Director.
- The tournament director and/or field coordinator will determine if a game is to be played.
- Once the game has started, the decision rests with the center referee. If any games are canceled, it is up to the coaches of the teams to check online 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 must be rescheduled if it affects the outcome of the tournament and if weather permits. There is a possibility that medals may be awarded if all teams in an age group have completed pool play.
- If inclement weather cancels the tournament prior to the completion of a team's first scheduled game of the tournament, a maximum of fifty-percent (50%) of the team's entry fee may be retained by the tournament to cover the start-up costs of the tournament. If a team plays one game and then the tournament is canceled due to inclement weather, 25% of the team's registration fee will be refunded. If a team plays two games and then the tournament is canceled due to inclement weather, no refunds will be given. There will be no rain out date.

## LAWS OF THE GAMES

- All North Texas Soccer rules for sanctioned tournaments shall apply to this Tournament; other than rules specifically modified herein.
- All players must wear shin guards while on the field.
- **Each player, including guest players, are required to play a minimum of 50% of each game including overtime.**
- Each team must have unique numbered jerseys. Alternate jerseys or numbered T-shirts must be available with a unique number for each player. Pennies may be used over the jersey to resolve color conflicts. Goalkeepers are not required to have a number on their jersey but should be identified by number on the roster. Numbers must be permanently fixed to the player's jersey. No taped numbers will be accepted. Violators will be removed from the field and not allowed back on the field of play until player equipment is corrected.
- The first team listed on the schedule is considered the Home and the second team listed is the Away team. Home teams will wear their lighter colored jersey, as the Away team will wear their darker colored jersey. Any color conflicts will be resolved by the Away team changing jersey color. Both teams will be on the same side of the field with spectators on the opposite side sitting across from their team. The Home team may wear pinnies (not provided by tournament.)
- If a coach must step onto the field of play to attend to an injured player, then the player must leave the field until they are cleared to reenter at the next stoppage.
- Each team's head coach is responsible for all verbal & physical actions of his/her spectators. The coach can be ejected from the game by the referee for the actions of his/her spectators. Verbal or physical abuse of referees or assistant referees of the game will not be tolerated. Violations can result in the forfeiture of the game and/or expulsion from the tournament.
- Due to the tight schedule, no grace period will be allowed. Allow sufficient time to arrive at the field before game time. Referees are instructed to start the clock at the scheduled game start time.
- A game may be declared a forfeit by the Tournament Director/Committee if a team is not ready to play at the published time within ten (10) minutes of the game. At half-time the teams must be ready to resume play within five (5) minutes of the referee's designation.
- There is no guaranteed warm-up on the field before each game.
- Protests will not be allowed, except for ineligible players. A game shall be declared a forfeit by the Tournament Director or his delegate if an ineligible player participates in a game. Any protest of ineligible player by the offending team must be reported in writing with a one hundred- and fifty-dollar (\$150.00) cashier's check, money order or cash payment, before the end of the game to the tournament field headquarters. If the team is found not guilty of playing an ineligible player, the deposit will be refunded immediately. Coaches found guilty will be reported to North Texas Soccer.
- Each team must be prepared to present a game ball to the center referee prior to the start of the game for his/her selection.
- Players may be substituted with the consent of the center referee at the following times:
  - Prior to a throw-in in your favor.
  - Upon the ref's discretion, the opposing team may sub-in at the same time as the team in favor.
  - Prior to a goal kick by either team.
  - After a goal by either team.
  - When the referee approves an injury substitution by one team, the other team may substitute an equal number of players.
  - At half time.
  - When the referee stops to caution a player, only that player may be substituted prior to the restart of the game.
  - No player shall leave the field of play without the consent of the referee.
  - Players shall enter and leave the field at mid-field.

### TEAM AND PLAYER CREDENTIAL CHECK

Each team must be able to present its validated tournament game roster, medical releases, and player, coach, and manager cards to the tournament official prior to the start of each match, if requested. A player may play for only one team in the tournament and must be listed on the validated tournament game 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 SCHEDULES/LENGTH OF GAMES

- Game schedules will be posted on or around May 8, 2026.
- No scores will be kept for U4-U6 recreational teams.
- No Championship matches will be held for U7 and U8 recreational teams, group winners only.
- Division Structure (Championship matches only apply to U9 and above):
  - 3 teams – Each team will play the other two teams in the group. After two games, #2 will play #1 in the Championship.
  - 4 teams – Each team will play the other three teams in the group. #1 will play #2 in the Championship.
  - 5 teams – Each team will play two group games (opponents determined at random). After two games #4 will play #5 in the consolation. #2 will play #3 in the play-in and the winner of the play-in will play #1 in the Championship.
  - 6 teams – Two (2), Three (3) team groups. Each team will play crossover games against the other three (3) teams in the opposing group, the top two (2) teams with the highest total points of the two (2) groups combined will advance to the Championship.
  - 8 teams – Two (2), Four (4) team groups. Each team will play games against their group teams, the top team in each group will advance to the Championship.
  - 10 teams – Two (2), Five (5) team groups. Each team will play two group games and one cross over game, the top two (2) teams with the highest points of the two (2) groups combined will advance to the Championship.
- Each team is expected to play three (3) preliminary games, except for the 3<sup>rd</sup> place team in a 3-team bracket.
- Preliminary games (except for U4-U8 recreational which do not have a championship) will be shortened games. The Championship game will be full length.
- All Championship games are full length games for each respective age group unless the Tournament Director adjusts due to safety, weather, or extenuating circumstances
- Preliminary games may end in a tie. If the Championship game ends in a tie, two overtime halves will be played (two five-minute overtime periods for 7v7 and two ten-minute overtime periods for 9v9 and 11v11), and if the game is still tied at the end of the second overtime period, IFAB “kicks from the mark (KFTM) will be taken to determine the winner.
- Both teams in the Championship game may elect to go straight to KFTM to determine the winner.
- As stated above, the Tournament Director, or his/her proxy on the field, may adjust game times or eliminate overtime (go straight to KFTM) due to safety, weather, or any other extenuating circumstances.
- Maximum Roster size including guest players:
  - U4-U8 = 8 players
  - U9 – U10 = 12 players
  - U11 – U12 = 16 players
  - U13 - U14 = 18 players
  - U15 – U19 = 22 players

- Other rules are within the matrix / grid that follows, including registration fees. Note that GSSA reserves the right to offer discounts:

Informational Matrix:

DIVISION	GAME LENGTH	BALL SIZE	PLAYERS	MAX ROSTER	FEES
U4-U6	6-minute quarters	3	4v4	8	\$150
U7-U8	8-minute quarters	3	4v4	8	\$225
U9-U10	20-minute halves	4	7v7	12	\$375
U11-U12	25-minute halves	4	9v9	16	\$425
U13-U14	30-minute halves	5	11v11	18	\$475
U15-U19	35-minute halves	5	11v11	22	\$525

#### TIEBREAKERS

The following tiebreaker procedures will be used to determine the team advancing into the Championship game. These tiebreaker procedures will be applied, in order, to the teams tied in points until one team is selected for advancement.

- Head to Head game results - winner will advance
- Goal differential - using only first 3 goals per game
- Most Shutouts
- Fewest goals allowed
- Fewest card points - Yellow 1 point / Red 3 points
- Penalty Kicks

When determining "Wild Cards" if needed, the team(s) from all groups with the next highest number of points will be selected after all group winners have been chosen.

Groups that contain teams with different numbers of played games, points will be determined based upon the average of the 10-point system. All teams will divide points by total games played in order to obtain equality with the groups.

#### **U4-U8 RECREATIONAL SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

1. Corner kicks and throw-ins are allowed.
2. No kick-ins.
3. Improper throw-ins will be allowed a second try.
4. No coaches are allowed on the field during play.
5. No goalkeepers, and no permanent defenders.
6. No jewelry, no exceptions; as with all other age groups.
7. 2 Minute Break between quarters with a 5 Minute Halftime.
8. All kicks are indirect which means the ball must touch another player before going into the goal except for kickoffs, corner kicks and goal kicks.
9. No headers.
10. Shin Guards are required.
11. Flat soled shoes or soccer cleats only. No baseball cleats (extra toe cleat).

#### **U9-U10 Special Provisions**

Restarts for encroachment of the build out line:

- The BUILD OUT LINE is used to promote playing the ball out of the back in a no pressure setting. When the goalkeeper has the ball, either during play or from a goal kick, the opposing team players must move behind the build out line. Defending team players do not have to move behind the build out line b.
- The goalkeeper may then pass, throw or roll the ball to a teammate (no punting).
- Once the ball is in play, the opposing team may cross the build out line and play resumes.
- If the opposing team encroaches the build out line before the ball is in play, the goalkeeper distribution will be retaken.

#### **SCORING**

- Advancement shall be determined by the accumulation of points. The point system is:
  - 6 points for a win
  - 3 points for a tie
  - 0 points for a loss
  - 1 point per goal scored up to a maximum of 3
  - 1 point for a shutout
  - A forfeit game will be scored as 3-0
  - Maximum of 10 points awarded per game
  - Three (3) points to each team shall be awarded for a 0-0 tie
- The referee is responsible for bringing the completed Game Reports to the Scoring Table or Field Marshal within 30 minutes after the game is over.

#### **DISCIPLINE**

- A red-carded participant must sit out the remainder of the current game plus the following game of the tournament.
- Any participant receiving two red cards or who has committed verbal or physical assault will be banned from the tournament.

#### **CITY ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS**

- Due to City Ordinance, no pets are allowed at the complexes.
- Special turf rules:
  - No umbrellas or shades that will puncture the turf
  - No gum
  - No seeds
  - No food permitted
  - And other special rules may apply to ensure protection of the turf fields
- No grills or open flame will be allowed on-site.

#### **MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR**

Any situation, or questions on rules of competition not covered herein will be governed by North Texas Soccer rules and USYSA policies, in that order. Any matter not provided for in tournament rules, North Texas Soccer rules, or USYSA policies shall be determined by the Tournament Director, whose decisions shall be final.