



SANTA CLARA SPORTING INVITATIONAL SOCCER TOURNAMENT

August 8, through 10, 2008

Welcome to the 5th Annual Santa Clara Sporting Club Invitational Soccer Tournament. This tournament is approved by US Club Soccer, a National Affiliate Member of the USSF.

AGE GROUPS

The tournament is approved to host 144 teams and will host Class 1, U-9, 10,11,12,13,14,15,16 and 17. All teams will be guaranteed at least 3 games with a max of two per day. U-9 and U-10 Divisions will be guaranteed at least 4 games. Teams qualifying for the Championship and Consolation matches will play up to 6 games.

LOCATION

Tournament headquarters will be located at Santa Clara Sporting Club, which is located at 282 Brokaw Road, in Santa Clara. Contact person is Jason Azevedo at (408)844-8570 or (408)398-7254. Games will be played in the following locations in Santa Clara: Curtis School, 890 Pomeroy Avenue; Central Park, 2625 Patricia Drive; Wilson Fields, 1840 Benton St; Santa Clara Soccer Park, 5049 Centennial Boulevard at Tasman Drive; Sutter Field at 3200 Forbes Ave; San Jose: Evergreen Valley College Fields, 3095 Yerva Buena Road; Lincoln High School, 555 Dana Ave.; Willow Glenn High School, 2001 Cottle Ave; Milpitas: Milpitas High School, 1285 Escuela Parkway.

CREDENTIALS

At the Mandatory Registration, teams must provide the required credentials. All U.S. teams must provide valid laminated Player ID Cards with photos, and signed Medical Release Forms. USYSA teams from outside CYSA-North must also provide approved Travel Papers which must include a roster listing all players authorized to travel. Proper Loan Forms will be required at Registration along with other required credentials, as required by the team's State Association. International teams must provide a certified Team Roster, League Identification Cards, Medical Release Forms, Travel Papers, and Passports. In the event an international team does not have League ID Cards, a photo of each player should be provided. All player and coach passes will be checked prior to the beginning of each match at their scheduled field 30 minutes before the scheduled game time with the field marshal at the headquarters tent. Guest Players will be allowed up to 5 with proper paperwork and passes.

Registration

A mandatory credentials check will take place from 6:00 – 9:00 PM at Santa Clara Sporting Club, which is located at 282 Brokaw Road, in Santa Clara on Thursday, **August 7, 2008**. Each team must send a representative to the check-in with all player passes and credentials.

AWARDS

Team trophy, t-shirts and medals will be awarded to the Champions. Finalists will receive team trophy and medals. Tournament Luggage Tags and programs will be given to each participant.

ENTRY FEES

A check, money order or Credit Card payment in the amount of **\$500 (U-9 and U-10)** and **\$600.00 (U-11 through U-17)** made payable to Santa Clara Sporting Club must be submitted by the application deadline. Entry fees will be refunded in full to any team not accepted to the tournament.

WITHDRAWAL

Teams withdrawing after acceptance will forfeit their entry fees. Any team withdrawing must do so in writing and postmarked no later than **June 20th, 2008**.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications need to be received by Santa Clara Sporting Club by **June 16th 2008**. No incomplete applications will be accepted. Late applications will be considered on a space available basis only. In the instance that the tournament fills all brackets prior to the application deadline, the tournament reserves the right to declare that it is full and closed to applications.

SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed and accepted or rejected based on pre-established criteria. The objective will be to provide evenly matched competition. Your application date may be taken into consideration as well. Only properly sanctioned and complete applications will be considered for acceptance.

NOTIFICATIONS

Notification of acceptance or rejection will be mailed to each timely applicant no later than **July 1, 2008**. Entry fee refunds will be included in the rejection notices.

HOUSING

Housing for visiting teams will not be provided. A list of local accommodations will be posted on the Santa Clara Sporting website at www.santaclarasporting.com.

HOME TEAM

The team listed first on the game schedule is the home team. The home team being required to change jerseys to resolve conflicts in jersey color. The referee shall determine if there is a conflict in either jersey colors or keeper jersey colors. Home team will be responsible to provide the age appropriate size ball.

LENGTH OF GAMES

U9 and U10 games shall have two 25-minute halves. U11, U12, U13 and U14 games shall have two 30-minute halves. U15, U16 and U17 games shall have two 35-minute halves. In preliminary games, all ties will stand. If quarterfinal or semifinal match is tied at the end of regulation play teams will go directly to penalty kicks per FIFA law to determine the winner. If a championship match is tied at the end of regulation play, two 5-minute overtime periods will be played to their completion. If still tied at the completion of the last overtime period, the game will be decided by penalty kicks per FIFA law. Overtime periods may be shortened or eliminated if the game has been significantly delayed at the start, by injuries, and/or other matters. The length of any game may be shortened (in equal halves) if the Tournament Committee deems it necessary due to field conditions, weather or darkness.

Laws of the Game

All matches must be played in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game, except as specifically modified as follows in the tournament rules.
All matches will use certified referees.

Tournament Play

Eight team divisions

will consist of two (2) Brackets of four (4) teams each. Each team will play the other teams within its Bracket for a total of three (3) preliminary round games. The winner of Bracket A will play the second place team of Bracket B in a semifinal game #1 and the winner of Bracket B will play the second of Bracket A in semifinal game # 2. The semifinal winners will meet for the Championship Game.

Twelve team divisions

will consist of three (3) brackets of four (4) teams each. Each team will play the others within its bracket for a total of three (3) preliminary round games. The winner of group A will play the top third placer finisher (Wildcard 1) in Quarter Final 1. The winner of Group B will play the second best third place finisher (Wildcard 2) in Quarter Final 2. If teams have played each other in bracket play, wildcards 1 and 2 will switch. Winner of Group C will play runner up of A in Quarter Final 3. Runner up of B will play runner up of C in Quarter Final 4. The winner of Quarter Final 1 will play the winner of Quarter Final 3. The winner of Quarter Final 2 will play the winner of Quarter Final 4. The semifinal winners will meet for the Championship game.

Sixteen team divisions

Brackets will consist of four (4) Brackets of four (4) teams each. Each team will play the other teams within its Bracket for a total of three (3) preliminary round games. The winner of Bracket A will play the second place team in Bracket B in Quarterfinal #1, the winner of Bracket B will play the second place team in Bracket A in Quarterfinal #2, the winner of Bracket C will play the second place team in Bracket D in Quarterfinal #3 and the winner of Bracket D will play the second place team in Bracket C in Quarterfinal #4. The winner of Quarterfinal #1 will meet the winner of Quarterfinal #3 and the winner of

Quarterfinal #2 will meet the winner of Quarterfinal #4. The semifinal winners will meet for the Championship.

SCORING

Tournament points will be awarded to and deducted from teams based on the following system:

- 3 points for a win
- 1 points for a tie,
- 0 points for a loss

The maximum point total possible for any game is 3 points.

Forfeit games will be scored as 2-0 (3 points) in favor of the team that did not forfeit. If a team forfeits or withdraws prior to the completion of the preliminary games, all games in which they played shall be scored as a forfeit.

ALL GAME RESULTS WILL BE COSIDERED FINAL AND NO PROTESTS OR APPEALS WILL BE ALLOWED.

TIE BREAKING PROCEDURE

In case of a tie in tournament points following the completion of the preliminary tournament games, the tie will be decided based in order of the following criteria:

1. Head to head* - team which won in head to head competition between the teams which are tied advances.
2. Goal differential. (to a maximum of 4 per game)
3. Team with fewest goals against advances.
4. Team with the most goals scored (to a maximum of 4 per game) advances.
5. Team with fewest red cards advances.
6. Kicks from the penalty spot as per FIFA Laws – team with most successful kicks advances.

*Should there be a tie in tournament points between three or more teams; the tie breaking begins with #2 above. When and if two teams remain tied at any point while using this procedure, the order of tie breaking will recommence at #1 above.

START TIMES/FORFEITURES

Teams must be at the field thirty (30) minutes prior to the start time of their matches with picture player passes in order to be checked in by field marshals and/or referees.

All games will be started within five (5) minutes of the scheduled time. If a team has not taken the field with a minimum of seven (7) players within the five (5) minute grace period, the game will be forfeited to the team in attendance with at least seven (7) players on the field. If neither team takes the field within the five (5) minute grace period, no points will be awarded to either team.

The referee and/or Tournament Committee may terminate a game at his/their discretion and the Tournament Committee may award a forfeit if:

1. A team leaves the field during the match without approval of the referee.
2. A team is sent from the field by the referee for violent play and/or misconduct by the coaches, players or fans.
3. A team is deemed to be in gross violation of USYSA, CYSA or Santa Clara Sporting Club Invitational Tournament rules.

Match and Score Reporting

Field Marshalls will be responsible for reporting match results, cautions, and ejections to the tournament headquarters. Score Cards to be signed by both coaches and submitted to field marshalls to be forwarded to tournament headquarters.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Unlimited substitutions are allowed for age groups U16 and below. For age groups U17 and above with one or more foreign teams participating, FIFA's Limited Substitution Policy (Max 6 Substitutions with no re-entry) will be in effect. All substitutions may be made at the following times with approval by the referee.

1. Prior to throw-ins for your team.
2. Prior to goal kick by either team.
3. Prior to the restart of the match following a goal scored by either team.
4. At the start of the second half of play.
5. At the beginnings of overtime play.
6. Prior to the restart of play following an injured player being removed from the field (either team may substitute).

Limited substitution – A player receiving a caution (yellow card) may be substituted for at the time of the caution. The player may reenter the match at the next available unlimited substitution opportunity for his/her team.

EJECTIONS

Any player, coach, assistant coach, or registered team official receiving a sendoff (red card) will automatically be suspended from their next tournament game. The sendoff report and player pass will be forwarded to the Tournament Director who will review the circumstances and determine if any additional suspension will be added. The Tournament Committee will have the authority to extend the suspension as deemed necessary. All sendoffs will be reported to the tournament director or committee and appropriate action will be taken. Any player or coach not serving full suspension prior to end of tournament, the player and coach pass along with disciplinary report will be forwarded to the teams State Association at the conclusion of the tournament.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Good sportsmanship will prevail at all times. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players, parents, assistant coaches, team officials and spectators affiliated with their team.

Player Equipment

Shin guards – Required for all players (no exceptions). No casts will be permitted.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Any injuries shall be reported to the Tournament Director or Field Marshal so that an accident report form can be completed. In case of a serious injury, 9-1-1 will be called if requested by a parent, coach or referee. Tournament headquarters will be notified of the medical emergency.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances is expressly prohibited at any of the sport complexes. Any team (including player, coaches, parents and affiliated spectators) found violating this rule will automatically forfeit all games played, face possible expulsion from the tournament and will not be invited back to the Santa Clara Sporting Club Invitational Soccer Tournament.

NO DOGS ALLOWED AT FIELD SITES

All participants and spectators should be advised not to bring their dogs to the field sites.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Games may be shortened or cancelled due to inclement weather.

Cancellations

If the tournament must be cancelled due to inclement weather, acts of civil disobedience, war, destruction of facilities, or other circumstances deemed by the Tournament Committee to be beyond the control of the hosting league, the tournament may retain up to 30% of the entry fee once the tournament's expenses are verified and approved by the Tournament Committee. Refunds of no less than 70% of the team's entry fee will be postmarked and mailed to the teams within 45 days of the approved tournament date.

RULES NOT COVERED

The Tournament Committee will review any problem that is not specifically covered and reserves the right to establish policy as deemed necessary. The decisions of the Committee will be final and there will be no appeals.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

The Tournament Committee shall consist of the Tournament Director, Referee Coordinator and designated Santa Clara Sporting Club directors.

CONTACT INFORMATION For more information regarding the Santa Clara Sporting Club Invitational; please contact Jason Azevedo at (408) 844-8570 or (408)398-7254.