

Texas Academy League Championships 2026-2027 Rules

SPORTSMANSHIP ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY:

All Spectators, Coaches and Players MUST show respect for each other and the authority of the Referees. Help us set a great example for our youth!

- Please cheer enthusiastically for your team
- Please acknowledge the good play of both teams
- Please do not “help” players or coaches or criticize referees
- Let the players make their own decisions on the field

TOURNAMENT CHECK IN:

All teams must complete their event rosters in Gotsport no later than Thursday at noon prior to the game weekend.

- Rosters are frozen when a team starts their first game of the tournament.
- Players may not play without the required documentation.
- Player may not be rostered or play on more than one team in the tournament.

ROSTERS:

13U-19U - Texas Academy League

Minimum roster of 14 primary players.

No maximum total player count.

Maximum 18 players on a matchday roster

All players must have been registered and rostered with Texas Academy League prior to May 7th, 2026.

No Loan or Guest players allowed

JERSEY NUMBERS:

The shirt number of each player must be the same as the player’s shirt number on the match report or roster. If the numbers are not the same the referee shall not allow the player to take part in the match until the numbers are the same. Any team found switching player jersey numbers during the game without notifying and getting referee approval shall automatically forfeit the match.

RULES OF PLAY

REFEREES: All matches will use Federation Certified Referees.

FIFA LAWS of the Game will apply.

Duration of Game by **HALVES** and Balls Size as Follows:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Length of Halves</u>	<u>Halftime</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>
U13	30 Minutes	10 min	4
U14	30 Minutes	10 min	5
U15-U19	35 Minutes	10 min	5

****Regular bracket games can end in a tie. If a playoff game is tied at the end of regulation time, FIFA Penalty Kicks will determine the winner. Penalty Kicks will be taken immediately following the game.**

PRE-GAME CHECK IN:

Teams must check in game ready with the referee on the field 15 minutes prior to the start of each scheduled game. At this time the player equipment will be checked. Failure of a team to report to the referee prior to kickoff will result in a forfeit of the game. **Once the game is complete both coach and referee must sign off on the scorecard.**

SUBSTITUTIONS:

U13-U14 – Re-Entry allowed per half.

U15-U19 - No re-entry per half.

PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT:

It will be at the Referee's discretion to determine the safety and suitability of player equipment including the wearing of an orthopedic cast or hard brace. Shin guards are mandatory for all players. No jewelry or hair pins allowed.

COACHING:

All coaches have total responsibility for the conduct of their players, substitutes, and spectators at all times. Coaching from the sidelines, giving direction to one's own team on points of strategy and position, is permitted, provided:

1. No mechanical devices used.
2. The tone of the voice is instructive and not derogatory.
3. Each coach or substitute remains within (10) yards on either side of the halfway line.
4. No coach, substitute, or spectator makes derogatory remarks or gestures to the referee's other coaches, players, substitutes, or spectators.
5. No coach, substitute, or spectator uses profanity or incites, in any manner, disruptive behavior.

CAUTIONS AND EJECTIONS:

A player or coach receiving two cautions (yellow cards) in a single game is considered to have been given an ejection (red card) for the purposes of awarding point for the tournament competition. A player who has been ejected (sent off) will not be replaced. A player or coach who has been ejected will not return for that game. A player or coach who assaults a referee will be expelled from the Tournament. For this tournament a coach CAN be red carded.

For U.S. Teams, each State Association will be notified of any disciplinary action taken or required to be taken. For Foreign teams, the Federation will transmit the disciplinary action taken or required to be taken to that team's provincial or national association.

The Tournament will conform to the established guidelines as set forth in the table below:

OFFENSE	Minimum: Player Suspension	Minimum: Coach or Team Representative Suspension
Second Caution	1 Game	2 Games
Foul or Abusive Language directed at anyone other than a game official	1 Game	2 Games
Serious Foul Play – Denies an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball; Denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by offense punishable by a free kick, in a non-dangerous way (i.e. pulling a jersey).	1 Game	N/A
Serious Foul Play other than above	2 Games	N/A
Violent Conduct	3 Games	4 Games
Foul or Abusive Language directed at a game official	3 Games	4 Games

THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR AND SITE DIRECTOR DO NOT HAVE ANY AUTHORITY OVER ANY DECISION MAKING NORMALLY DONE BY THE REFEREE DURING THE COURSE OF A GAME AND CANNOT OVERTURN ANY REFEREE DECISION.

SUSPENDED AND TERMINATED GAMES:

If in the opinion of game officials a game must be suspended (for any reason), the game may be resumed, but is subject to being ended not less than (5) minutes prior to the start of the next scheduled game. A game that has started the second half will be considered final if it's not possible to complete the game within the designated time slot. If in the opinion of the game officials, a game must be terminated for misconduct of players, coaches, or spectators, the offending team could be suspended from further play and forfeits that game and all remaining games. All previous points earned remain as played. Additionally, the home league and State Association will be contacted as appropriate.

INJURY:

Delays of the game due to injury will result in appropriate time being added to the full game time, based on the judgment of the referee. However, all preliminary games will be terminated not less than (10) minutes prior to the scheduled start of the next game.

DETERMINING WINNERS:

Teams will be awarded points in group games on the following basis:

- Three (6) Points per Win
- One (1) point per goal up to three (3) goals scored
- One (1) point for a shutout
- One (1) Points per Tie
- Zero (0) Point per Loss

In the event of a tie in points at the end of the bracket play, the winner for the advancement to Semi-Final or Final will be determined as follows:

1. The winner in head-to-head competitions
2. Goal Differential (limit of 8 per game)
3. Goals For (limit of 8 per game)
4. Goal Against (limit of 8 per game)
5. Most Wins
6. Most Shutouts
7. If a tie still exists after steps 1 through 6, FIFA Kicks from the Penalty Mark will be taken fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start of the Semi or Final Game.

In the event of a **three-way tie at the end of bracket play**, the winner for advancement to the Final will be determined as above without consideration for comparison of head-to-head competition to eliminate one team. If the teams are still tied 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 penalty kicks. The winner of the first contest will then compete against the bye team in penalty kicks to determine the group winner. The bye team will be the home team.

HOME TEAM:

The home team will be the team which appears first on the game schedule. The Home team will supply the game ball. The game ball will be subject to Referee approval. The Home team will play in their light-colored jersey but will be required to switch to alternate jerseys to accommodate a color conflict as declared by the referee. If the Home team cannot supply alternate jerseys, the home team may forfeit the game.

All spectators will sit on the opposite side of the field directly across from their team's bench.

FORFEITS AND BYES:

All teams who forfeit will have the game(s) scored a 0-3 loss. Teams failing to report ready to play within five minutes of the scheduled kick off time will forfeit. Home Teams unable to supply alternate jerseys, or teams failing to check in at Mandatory Tournament Check in or for taking actions which cause a game to be terminated, will forfeit. Byes will be scored and tournament points awarded the same as a forfeit. Teams must have a minimum of 7 players to start.

PROTESTS/APPEALS:

NO PROTESTS OR APPEALS WILL BE ALLOWED

DISPUTES:

All disputes will be settled by the Tournament director or designee and the decision will be final.

AWARDS:

Team trophies will be presented to the first place team in the U13-U19 age divisions, there will also be 1st and 2nd place medals awarded.

REFUNDS: NO REFUNDS will be granted to any team accepted to participate in this Tournament.

TOURNAMENT PLAY:

Each team is guaranteed a minimum of 3 games unless there is a cancellation or forced adjustment to the schedule for reasons beyond the control of the tournament organizers.

GENERAL INFORMATION

HEADQUARTERS: Tournament Headquarters will be located at each venue location. Standings will be available online through GotSport. Awards will be present at the Headquarters tents.

TRAINERS AND FIELD MARSHALLS: The tournament will supply Field Marshalls and Athletic Trainers to help provide your teams a safe experience. Contact the check-in tent for the location of the Trainers.

FIELD SET UP AND CONDITIONS: It is the responsibility of each team to treat these facilities with care. The tournament expects that each team clean their sidelines and or pre-game gathering areas of all debris and trash, including tape, immediately after each game. Each field will have numerous trash receptacles, please use them. Your cooperation in this area will ensure that we are able to use these facilities for future tournaments.

INCLEMENT WEATHER CONTIGENY PLAN: In the event of inclement weather, the Tournament Director reserves the right to modify all tournament rules to fairly and safely complete the tournament. The health and safety of players is our first priority. The tournament has an obligation to protect the fields and facilities that are being used for tournament play. All decisions will be based on field conditions with input from the Facility Director. It is the responsibility of the coaches to be available for any contingencies and to monitor the tournament website for updates. Field Marshall's at the location will be informed of any changes and will provide instructions to all teams. Coaches are asked to be patient and remain flexible if this unfortunate situation arises.

As a result of inclement weather, and at the direction of the Tournament Director, one of the schedules will be implemented:

1. All games are to continue as scheduled.
2. Eliminate pre-game warm up on the field, game times to continue as scheduled.
3. Eliminate pre-game warm-up on the field and shorten all games. The Tournament Committee will determine the game length.
4. Shots from the Penalty Mark will replace games.
5. Or as communicated by the Tournament Director.

REMINDERS:

Pick up all trash and belongings from the sidelines after each game.

NO DOGS permitted at the fields.

NO ALCOHOL or **SMOKING** permitted.

NO STAKING of canopies, tents or umbrellas on any portion of Turf fields.

Grass staking is allowed.

NO NOISE MAKERS allowed during games.

THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK!