



2024 Houston SCORES Cup: Player Info Packet & FAQs

Who is America SCORES?

America SCORES inspires youth to lead healthy lives, be engaged students, and have the confidence and character to make a difference in the world. SCORES' core programming centers around an innovative, team-based, school-based model that integrates poetry/spoken word, soccer, and service-learning into a cohesive whole-child program, which we deliver through free after school programs and summer camps. America SCORES serves more than 13,000 high-need students at Title I public schools every year across North America.

What is the SCORES Cup?

America SCORES is proud to host the world's largest annual corporate charity soccer tournament series, the SCORES Cup, which has run for the past 15+ years across our 16 cities in North America. With over 350 corporations having previously participated, and run in partnership with many Major League Soccer (MLS) and National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) teams, our premier corporate soccer tournaments raise on average \$1.5-\$2 million for SCORES programming each year, one of the drivers for us being able to run free soccer and literacy programming for so many youth every year.

Where can I learn more about America SCORES?

- About America SCORES: www.americascopes.org/
- About the SCORES Cup: www.scorescup.com/
- Email Rob at RUvanovic@AmericaScores.org

Can I make a personal donation?

Of course, we would be honored! Each team has their own company fundraising page which has already been created, in case you would like to support your team's campaign, which can be found here:

- To support your SCORES Cup Team's Campaign, click on your company:
<https://www.mightycause.com/event/Na98zf>

Tournament Location:

The 2024 Houston SCORES Cup will be held at Houston Sports Park: 12131 Kirby Dr., Houston, TX 77045

Tournament Schedule:

Check-in will begin at 8:00am on Saturday, May 18, 2024. All players must check-in in order to receive their jersey. In order to check-in, players must have already filled out the online waiver, or fill in a paper waiver during check-in. Online waiver check-in will end on Friday night in order to prepare the physical rosters.



Group stage matches will kick-off at 9:00am and run until noon. Each team will have a lunch break from noon – 12:45pm. After lunch, the playoff rounds will kickoff at 12.45pm, with the SCORES Cup and Challenge Cup Finals kicking off at 2pm. Teams that finish in 1st or 2nd place during the group stage will advance to the SCORES Cup playoffs, while teams that finish in 3rd or 4th place during the group stage will advance to the Challenge Cup playoffs. **All companies will make the playoffs.**

Where can I find my team's schedule?

The tournament schedule can be found at: www.scorescup.com/houston. Click on "2024 Houston SCORES Cup Schedule".

Where can I submit my player waiver online, prior to arriving?

Player waivers can be submitted here: <https://app.waiverforever.com/pending/fEZf2Ll5j61714359664>

Note that online waivers will close on the night of Friday, May 17th, to allow for time to create the physical rosters.

Parking:

Sufficient parking is available at Houston Sports Park and is free. If the lot is filled (which shouldn't happen), the alternative option would be street parking on Mowery Road.

Check – In:

All players will be required to check-in prior to their first game (no later than 10:00am) on Saturday, May 18th. During checkin, players will receive their jerseys, a gift bag and complete a player waiver if they have not done so ahead prior to arrival. **Players will not be allowed to participate without completing a waiver.**

Team/Roster Requirements:

- Games will be 7v7 (6 field players and 1 goalie).
- **A minimum of two (2) female players** from each team must be on the field at all times.
- The maximum roster size is 15.
- A minimum of five (5) players must be present at the start all tournament games in order to prevent a forfeit.

Games:

Each participating team is guaranteed a minimum of 3 group stage and 1 playoff game. Games will be ***22 minutes*** in length; Play-off games will be held following the completion of group stages after the lunch break.

Field Surface:

Fields 1A and 1B are **TURF**. Fields 4A and 4B are **GRASS**. Groups A and C will play their group stage matches on turf fields and Group B will play their group stage matches on grass. The SCORES Cup playoff bracket (1st and 2nd place teams) will play their playoffs on **GRASS** and the Challenge Cup playoff bracket (3rd and 4th place teams) will play their playoffs on **TURF**.

Should you prefer to use different footwear based on the field surface, please come prepared with both.



Spectators / Friends, Family & Colleagues:

The Houston SCORES Cup is an open event and any friends, family or colleagues are more than welcome to join as spectators! We can only guarantee there will be enough breakfast and lunch for the participating players, but once players have been served, all guests are welcome to be included.

Are there any prizes?

Yes! In addition to the winners of the Cup receiving a trophy (theirs to show off in their office until the 2025 Cup) and eternal glory, the Houston Dynamo have graciously donated tickets to the winning teams to a TBD home game.

Volunteers

All referees are professionals volunteering their time. Please treat them with respect and gratitude for spending their Saturday volunteering in support of America SCORES' mission to ensure the Cup is enjoyable for all players. All tournament staff and photographers are also professionals that are volunteering their time, including a large group of volunteers from Starbucks, Packeze and HPE.

Gift Bags

Packeze have graciously donated gift bags (along with banners), which each player will receive upon check-in, which includes upon other items, more information about America SCORES, a 2 for 1 Houston Dynamo/Dash ticket offer and offers from our corporate partners.

Photos:

Two professional photographers, volunteering their time in support of the America SCORES mission, will be taking team photos and action shots during the matches. These photos will be available in due time after the Cup, and the links will be shared with all team captains and co-captains.

Tournament Rules:

Rules are standard modified 7v7 rules, **with strictly no slide-tackling**. Playoff matches, if tied, will go directly to penalty kicks (3 per each team). Substitutions will be made "on the fly" from half-field (you do NOT need the referee's acknowledgement to make a substitution - unless it's the goalkeeper - and as long as the departing player has left the field).

Each captain has received a copy of the tournament rules, should you have any more detailed questions.

Facilities:

Restrooms will be available on the playing grounds.

First Aid:

A certified Athletic Trainer will be available throughout the tournament to take care of all medical needs.



Uniforms:

Official 2024 Houston SCORES Cup jerseys will be provided; they are to be worn during all tournament games. You will only be able to receive a jersey upon completing a player waiver.

Equipment:

- **SHIN GUARDS are MANDATORY for all players**
- Only **molded rubber cleats**, sneakers, and **artificial turf soccer shoes** will be allowed.
- Anyone wearing **screw in** or **metal studs** will **NOT** be allowed to play!
- **Teams are expected to bring any necessary goalkeeper equipment.**
- Game balls will be provided; teams do not need to bring any additional balls

Food/Beverage:

America SCORES will provide water, Gatorade, a light breakfast, lunch and snacks throughout the day. Lunch is provided for all participating players and volunteers, and if there is any extra, guests of players are welcome to join in. Please join us during the day in thanking our food sponsors, Starbucks, and our beverage sponsors, Pepsi!

To reduce our impact on the environment, players are asked to help deposit bottles into the appropriate recycling bins.

Weather:

The tournament will proceed, rain or shine.

Have any more questions?

Please feel free to reach out to Rob Uvanovic at RUvanovic@AmericaScores.org or 508.446.3748!

