

Street-Cup Festivals



Soccer In The Streets is an Atlanta-based non-profit organization that empowers under served youth through soccer, character development, mentorship, and employment opportunities.

Street-Cup Festivals™, first introduced by Soccer in the Streets in 2001, are free one-day tournaments that use competition to test participants' mastery of life skills taught in introductory programs. Games are played with small teams in order to increase interaction, teams are created on the day of the event in order to promote diversity, and games are played without referees to reinforce positive conflict resolution techniques.

The inspiration for Street-Cup Festivals™ came from mini-tournaments that were used to reward kids for their participation and introduce them to positive competition. The format was improved when the "Soccer For Peace" no referee model was adopted.

Soccer in the Streets uses the power of soccer to reinforce the life skills lessons that are taught and believes that the kids should be able to manage themselves and have the freedom to play, interact, problem-solve, innovate and take ownership of their participation in the game.



What does it look like?

Free to participate, one-day festival tournaments during out of school time. Kids sign in by age and make up teams "on-the-fly." Teams are mixed to ensure parity.

Field space and schedules are improvised based on the space and number of kids attending.

Kids make up their rules, enforce them and keep score while adults supervise, mediate if necessary and keep time.

Older age groups keep standings while younger kids do not. All participants receive a t-shirt and memento, as well as healthy snacks. Tournament & Fair Play winners receive awards.

We commit to the following:

- 100% of the participants will have a safe and fun experience
- We will give guidance and assistance to the extent that the kids will be able to manage themselves
- We will offer continuous opportunities for kids to provide their input and organize themselves

Goals:

- ZERO incidents of fighting and disrespect towards adults, teammates or opponents.
- CLEAR EXAMPLES of tolerance, cooperation and teamwork at all age levels.
- LEADERSHIP by older age (teen) participants and CIVILITY by younger participants

Street-Cup Festivals are designed to be inclusive and flexible. All ages, genders, physical abilities, backgrounds, soccer skill levels and experience should be encouraged to participate. EVERYONE gets something out of playing the game, especially when it belongs to them. Organizers can accommodate where they see fit.

