



West Houston Soccer Club



PARENT LETTER

Dear Parent:

Thank you for bringing your child to the West Houston Soccer Club. We have been working to make soccer a safe, fun learning experience for over 30 years. We want your child to have fun, learn to play soccer, and enjoy being a part of a team. Please take the time to read this letter thoroughly as it will answer many of the questions you may have regarding the club and the "Beautiful Game" of soccer.

WHAT IS THE WEST HOUSTON SOCCER CLUB? The club is a registered, non-profit youth soccer organization that was established in 1976. We are a volunteer organization with parents of players and supporters of the game providing the personnel necessary to run this successful organization. The club is a member of and operates under the governing rules of the Houston Youth Soccer Association (HYSA), the South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA) and the United States Youth Soccer Association. Our home fields are on Westheimer Parkway near South Barker Cypress in George Bush Park.

WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS A PARENT? Your role as a parent falls into two categories; responsibilities to your child's team and to the club.

PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE TEAM: You will be expected to bring your children to all practices and games, on time and with all of their necessary equipment. As a part of your registration fee, the club will provide each player a uniform (shorts, shirt and socks) which must be worn at all games. You will need to provide soccer shoes, shin guards, drinking water for all practices and games; and an appropriate size soccer ball (U6 - U8 = size "3"; U09 - U12 = size "4" and U13 and older = size "5"). For all players who are U8 and older, you will also have to provide your coach, as soon as possible, two 1-inch head shots of your child (such as wallet size school pictures) that will be used for Player ID Cards.

Parents are also responsible for their child's behavior and are expected to work with their coach and referees to correct any misconduct. This may require close parental supervision during practices and games. It is difficult for a coach to give each player the attention they deserve when one or two children are creating a distraction. Any child that, by their actions, presents a threat to others or themselves will be asked to stay away from practices or games until the problem can be brought under control.

Parents along with coaches, assistant coaches, referees and all other adult volunteers are expected to be good role models and exhibit good sportsmanship. Abusive behavior, profanity, taunting or any other type of unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated. In addition, alcoholic beverages at practices or games are strictly prohibited. Violation of these rules may result in fines and individuals or teams being banned from games and practices. All adult volunteers are required to display their "Kid Safe" pass at all times when on the fields or participating in soccer sanctioned events.

PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE CLUB. The West Houston Soccer Club is a voluntary organization. For the club to continue to function as a viable operation, we need everyone's participation. We ask that each adult member volunteer their time. Even if you only have a few hours to participate - we can find something for you to help with. There are always more "things" that need to be done than people to do them. Without your help; we will not be able to continue to offer your children all of the benefits that playing soccer has to offer - both on and off the field. Please talk with your coach about ways that you can be further involved in your children and the game of soccer.

REFEREES ARE NEEDED. Looking for a way to really help? There is a great demand for soccer referees. Each team is required to provide at least one adult referee to the club each season. West Houston has a quota of HYSA games that we are required to officiate during the course of the season. If we do not meet our quota, all playoff eligible teams from our club will not be able to participate in the District and State playoff games. As our club grows, so does our quota; so each year we need to add to the current pool of referees. How would you feel as a player - or a parent of a player - if you worked hard all season long and your team was playoff bound, only to be told that you are not eligible because our referee quota was not met? Refereeing can be a fun experience as a first job. You can choose where, when and how often you will work and it may be the only job you have for a long time where you are the BOSS! Referee Pay is anywhere from \$10 - \$20/hour so this is a great gig for high school and college players. **You must be at least 12 years old to referee.** Please contact our referee assignor (Shelly Landry) or any club official for additional information. The list of upcoming referee clinics and more information can be found at <http://www.stsr.org>

WHAT AGE GROUP WILL MY CHILD PLAY IN? Your child will be placed onto an age appropriate team based upon his or her age as of July 31st of the year. The age group is calculated by adding 1 to your child's age on July 31st of this year. For example, if they are 7 on July 31st, then they will play in the U-8 age bracket. A child may only play on an older team if that child has exhibited extraordinary skills for a player their age or due to extenuating circumstances. The Board of Directors will have the final say on this matter. They will look at the child's skill, experience, size, maturity level and will also take into consideration the thoughts of coaches and the parents. This process requires a written request to the Board from the parents. There are limitations to the number of younger player who may play up at the U8 through U11 age groups.

WHERE WILL MY CHILD'S GAMES BE PLAYED? All Under 6 players will be placed on "In-House" teams and will play small sided games. All of the U6 teams will play all of their games at the West Houston fields. All U8 and older teams are HYSA teams. That means that half of the games will be played at the West Houston fields while the remainder of the games will be played at other HYSA clubs located in Sugar Land, Bellaire, Missouri City, Westside (Bear Creek), etc. You will know at the start of the season, where and when all of your games will be played.

HOW MUCH PLAYING TIME WILL MY CHILD HAVE? STYSA rules stipulate that each player, regardless of age, skill, etc., must play at least 50% of each game unless the coach has taken formal disciplinary measures.

WHEN WILL THE GAMES AND PRACTICES START? Games are set to start in early March for the Spring season and early September for the Fall season. U6 teams may start a week or so later. The season for high school aged teams (U15 and older) will begin play late March or early April. Teams in this age group, may play games on both Saturdays and Sundays. Practice days and times are established by the individual coaches within the limitations of field availability.

WHAT IS MY REGISTRATION FEE USED FOR? Registration fees pay only for uniforms, a supplementary insurance policy to pay medical expenses not covered by a primary insurer for injuries that occur during games or practice, referee payments, regular field maintenance, HYSA registration, Kid Safe background checks, and general club expenses. They do not pay for major improvements to the fields and club programs. To cover these expenses, we look to our Team Sponsors.

REFUNDS - Registration fees are 100% refundable until one month before the season starts, and 50% refundable until the first game of the season upon return of the uniform that may have been issued. After the 1st game - refunds cannot be issued. A refund request, along with an explanation **must be submitted in writing** (mail, fax or e-mail).

WHAT ARE THE TEAM SPONSORS AND WHY ARE THEY NEEDED? Each team is required to obtain (per season) a minimum of \$100.00 for U6 and U8, \$150 for U9, U10, U11, and U12 8v8 teams, and \$225 for all 11 v 11 teams from U11 up to U19 from sponsoring entities. Sponsors can come from parents' place of employment, area stores and restaurants, companies the parents do business with, etc. Monies from sponsors play an important role for the club. As stated earlier registration fees do not cover the full cost of operating the club. Expenses for lit fields and other major improvements we've made over the last several years, and those that we are hoping to make in the future (such as installing an irrigation system) are only possible with sponsorship money. The businesses in the community are also recognized for their efforts - plus the donation is tax deductible. The team benefits by having fulfilled its obligation plus if they can raise any funds above the minimum required amount, 80% of those additional funds can be rebated back to the team for any soccer related expense. The purpose of this program is not to get the parents of players to fork over more money. It is the design of the program that sponsors are local area business or parent employers. However, if the minimum sponsorship obligation cannot be met with outside donations, then one way for the team to fulfill its obligation is for the parents to chip in.

FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES - With the exception of team photos, there is no specific fundraising activity planned for that will require the participation of each member.

HOW CAN I HELP? There are many people who work hard to make the West Houston Soccer Club one of the best soccer clubs in the area. We could become even better if more members would get involved in their club. Please understand that (except for referees) all those who work with your children for this club are unpaid volunteers. This club, as with any organization is only as strong as its volunteer base. Please consider getting involved.

Contact a board member and they will point you in the right direction!

www.westhoustonoccerclub.org

NATIONAL FUSION SOCCER CLUB (NFSC). NATIONAL FUSION is the competitive program offered out of West Houston. This program is geared towards Academy (U9 - U10) Division II (U11-U19), Super 2(U11 - U19) and Division I (U11 - U19) teams playing within the Houston and surrounding areas. **Academy teams may play Saturday or Sunday.** Players for these teams exhibit better than average skills and want to train with a professional trainer. In addition to team specific training, the NFSC trainers conduct and coordinate the training program for our U8 - U10 skills training program, all players are required to participate.

The West Houston Soccer Club's and National Fusion's philosophy for Training is to:

- Offer complete and total training packages for ALL kids at ALL levels, from Rec Plus to Developmental to the highest Competitive levels that are focused on mastering the fundamentals.
- Develop youth soccer players both technically and tactically in both a possession and attack oriented game.
- Teach our players to have the skill, ability, and confidence to adapt their style of play on the field to best meet the competition, their team mates and the playing conditions.
- Continuously prepare our players through innovative training modules to play at the highest levels of the game.
- Prepare our players to be fully committed players who are students of the game and are passionate about the beautiful game.

Please contact Chris Davis or Moses Ochiche for more information about the NFSC training program. www.txnational.org

CLUB OFFICIALS - If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please do not hesitate to contact any of the volunteers listed below:

BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President - Chris Lenzsch (832-276-3808) - lenzsch@swbell.net
Vice-President - Alex Parra arpara@ptsmedia.com (713-825-2410)
Secretary - Phil Lopez (281-392-6258) - vplopez@consolidated.net
Treasurer - Maricela Cancino (281-772-030)
mcancino@freedomhillfarm.com
Registrar - Dee Dillman eastviewdk@yahoo.com (281) 620-5547
Facilities Manager - Al Ramirez (281-924-0195) - alramirez47@msn.com
Equipment Manager - Danny Walker (832-603-1173)
dcwalker75@att.net
Training - Chris Davis (713-826-7562) - cdavis@txnational.org
Moses Ochiche (281-222-2407) - mochiche@hotmail.com
Referee Assignor - Shelly Landry (281-565-4363) - shelly@hssoa.com

COACH'S MANAGERS

U13 - Carlos Felix (713-855-3816) - robertocarlos05@sbcglobal.net
U11 - Rich Kiser (832-755-7546) - rkiser1@comcast.net
U10 - Saad Skarya (281) 381-8989 saadskarya@hotmail.com
U8 - Esteban Avendano (832-748-2920) - eacaw1@hotmail.com
U6 - Joel Buckley (832-969-4509) - jrbuckley55@comcast.net

Anticipate hearing from your child's coach by mid-February for Spring season and mid-August for Fall season. If you have not heard from the coach by then, please contact the appropriate Coaches Manager.

PLEASE NOTE: U6 teams will not be formed until the end of February. Please be patient. We are happy to assist you with any questions or concerns you might have. **281-597-1420 - Select Option "2"**