



WEST HOUSTON SOCCER CLUB

Dear Parent:

Thanks for bringing your child to the West Houston Soccer Club. We are working to make this soccer season a safe, fun learning experience. We want your child to have fun, learn to play soccer, and enjoy being a part of a team.

Please read the rest of this letter for answers to commonly asked questions. If you want additional information call any of the board members listed on our website www.westhoustonsoccerclub.org or call 281-597-1420 and leave a message with your contact phone number.

What is the West Houston Soccer Club?

We are a registered non-profit youth soccer organization that was started in 1976 dedicated to the promotion of soccer at all levels of competitiveness in our West Houston, South Katy and Fort Bend communities.. We are members of the Houston Youth Soccer Association (HYSA), the South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA), and the United States Youth Soccer Association. We lease our practice and playing fields from Harris County. The fields are on Westheimer Parkway near South Barker Cypress in George Bush Park. All coaches and board members are unpaid volunteers.

Where will games be played and how much playing time will my child have?

All under-6 teams are "In-House" teams that play all of their games at the George Bush Park fields. All older teams are traveling teams. Traveling teams play teams of the same age from other HYSA clubs. This means that half of your games will be in places like Sugar Land, First Colony, Bear Creek, or Quail Valley. Our under-8 teams play in either HYSA or the SAL (Sugar Land-Alief-Lamar) intramural league. STYSA rules stipulate that each player, regardless of age, must play at least fifty percent (50%) of each game unless the coach has taken formal disciplinary measures. Any formal disciplinary measures must be discussed and agreed to by the parent before the game.

What age group will my child play in?

Your child will be placed into an age group based on his or her age on July 31 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 11 on July 31st, then they will play in the U-12 age bracket. A child may play in an older age group with Board of Directors approval only. The Board will consider the child's skill, experience, size, and maturity in making this determination. This process requires a written request from the parent(s) to the Board of Directors.

What are my responsibilities?

You are expected to bring your children to all practices and games on time with all of the needed equipment. The Club will provide a uniform consisting of a shirt, shorts, and socks that must be worn at all games. You will need to provide soccer shoes, an appropriate size ball (U6 & U8 = size 3 ball, U10 thru U12 = size 4, U13+ = size 5), shin guards, and drinking water for every practice and game. Two 1" photos of your child must be submitted to your coach as soon as possible for Player ID cards.

Parents are responsible for their child's behavior and are expected to correct any misconduct. This may require close parental supervision during practice and games. It is difficult for the coach to give each player the equal attention they deserve when one child is creating a distraction. Any child that presents a danger to themselves or others should be kept away from the soccer fields.

Coaches, referees, and parents are expected to be **good** role models. No alcoholic beverages, profanity, unsportsmanlike or abusive behavior is permitted at games or practices. HYSA or STYSA may fine individuals and teams, and you may be banned from games and practices for non-compliance.

When do we play?

Most teams should start games in early March for Spring season and early September for Fall season. In-house teams may start a week or so later. Practice usually starts 2 -3 weeks before the first game. Games for U14 and younger players are generally scheduled on Saturdays with the possible exception of making up a rained out game. The season for high school age teams (U15 and older) will start sometime around late March or early April after their high school season is complete. Games for the older teams may be scheduled on both Saturdays and Sundays. In-house games usually begin between 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Each respective coach within the limitations of field availability determines the team's practice schedule.

What is my registration fee used for?

Registration fees pay 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, HYSA registration, and field maintenance and general club expenses. Registration fees are 100% refundable until one month before season starts, and 50% refundable until the first game of the season upon the return of the unused uniform that may have been issued. After the first game they are no refunds.

What are Team Sponsors and Why are They Needed?

Each team is required to obtain (per season) a minimum of \$100 for U6 and U8, \$150 for U9, U10, U11 and U12 8v8 teams, and \$300.00 for all 11v11 teams from U11 up to U19 from sponsoring entities. Sponsors can come from parents' places of employment, area stores and restaurants, companies that parents do business with, etc. Monies from sponsors play an important role for the club. Registration fees do not cover the full cost of operating the club. Expenses for field and equipment maintenance, HYSA registration fees, cost of uniforms and referee pay are generally covered. However, the lit fields and other major improvements we've made over the last several years, and those we are hoping to make in the future (such as installing an irrigation system) are only possible with sponsorship money. This money also helps out those sponsoring the teams – as a tax deduction; and the teams themselves, as after the minimum contribution, a percentage of the sponsorship can be rebated back to the teams for soccer related purposes with a receipt. Since we do not require our parents to participate in fund raising activities (such as selling candy), sponsorship money takes the place of a fund raising activity (see below). Our federal tax ID number is 76-0231861.

Will there be fundraising activities? With the exception of team photos, there is no specific fundraising activity planned for that will require the participation of each member.

CLUB OFFICIALS

Please see our www.westhoustonsoccerclub.org Website Board of Directors for the entire club's current Club Officials.

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 of 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 any board member and they will be glad to point you in the right direction!

Have Fun, Play Soccer!