



Houston Near Town Soccer Club



Houston Express Soccer Ages 8 thru 18

FALL 2009 **ONLINE** REGISTRATION
REGISTER NOW!

\$50 Late Fee For Returning Players Registering
after May 31

[Information & Online Registration
www.neartownsoccer.org](http://www.neartownsoccer.org)

HOUSTON EXPRESS NEWS

Last fall, Houston Express featured 69 teams at playing levels ranging from Division I to Division IV, with over 900 players participating. Our club's Director of Coaching Mark Gibbs joined Houston Express in August 2007 and also serves on the South Texas Olympic Development Program (ODP) training staff. Mark previously served as Director of Coaching for clubs in Arkansas and Mississippi as well as being responsible for ODP for the State of Mississippi. All of our club's training staff are licensed and include multiple trainers holding National A licenses, National B licenses, and National Youth licenses. We look forward to you joining this exciting team.

2009 Message from Mark Gibbs, Director of Coaching

The 2009 soccer season is but a few months away, and the planning process to ensure a successful year has commenced. Before I announce a few new initiatives for this coming season, I would like to recap some highlights from last year...

Successes in 2008

Participation - During the 2008 soccer season, Houston Express was home to over 900 players and 69 teams representing the club. We have an additional 1,000 players in our West U Recreational program on over 130 teams.

College Bound Players

Lindsey Edwards committed to play at the University of Texas @ Tyler Patriots, and Cami Koski signed a National Letter of Commitment to attend the University of Houston – Cougars. Well done!

Olympic Development Program (ODP)

Congratulations to our players who have been selected to the ODP teams and will represent South Texas this summer. Good luck to the following players: Tony Black, Patrick Dunigan, Shareef Elsaadi, Fred Lang and Joseph Wager. In addition, Stephen Luther, Karl Maier, Kathleen Monks and Christiana Sullivan participated in the ODP pool.

Boys 96 Navy are Super 2 State Fall Champions!

The team's success was a direct result of the Bellaire and Houston Express soccer communities coming together. The team is managed by Ricardo Pigniatelli and Kopi Vogiatzis and coached by Eric Johnston. Congratulations to all the boys and their parents.

Boys 93 White (Div II) and Girls 96 Navy (Super 2) Take 2nd in State

Under 16 Boys (managed by Mark Zimmerman and coached by Steven Poss) and the Under 13 Girls (managed by David Marks and coached by Mark Gibbs) had fantastic seasons! The Club congratulates them for their success.

Houston Express Teams Promoted to Next Level

Congrats to the 96 Navy Girls, 96 Navy Boys, 93 Navy Girls, 93 Navy Boys and 92 Navy boys for moving up to the next level of competition! Numerous Houston Express teams finished at the top of their brackets and advanced to fall playoffs!

Labor Day Tournament '08 - We experienced a fast start to the season that weekend with numerous teams playing in finals in three separate cities: Dallas, Austin, and Houston.

Initiatives for 2009

Expansion of Volunteer Base - The Board of Directors needs your help to expand awareness of the Club. Areas of help include: refereeing games, fundraising, managing teams, sponsoring teams, helping out with club photos, the directory and many other opportunities. Help wanted....we need you!

Fields - Tired of using the porta-potty at the South Campus? As we seek to complete the fields at the South Campus facility, please consider a donation to help. You can do this by going to the following link www.southcampus.org or you can contact the club President, Bob Corrigan, rcorrigan@fulbright.com, for more information.

Adidas partnership – Adidas is once again the primary uniform vendor for the club. To assist with the efficient start-up of the 2009 season, the Board has already ordered its uniforms from ADIDAS. You are able to go to Soccer4All, 2425 Rice Blvd, and have your player try on a sample uniform today to assure proper sizing!

Summer Camp Reminder

For a full schedule of available Summer Camps, please refer to the www.neartownsoccer.org

The Houston Express Mission:

Houston Express Soccer has developed teams and players in Houston for the last 25 years. We strive to instill a love for the game in our young players and cultivate that passion as each athlete matures. We seek to promote character and self-confidence in each of our players and pride in our players, teams and our club. We work to foster an environment that allows each player to participate at a level appropriate with his or her interest and ability, be it recreational or competitive. Houston Express Soccer takes pride in the development of club members as athletes, students and responsible young men and women.

The Houston Express Philosophy:

Houston Express Soccer seeks to enhance the development of soccer players at all levels of play in and around the Houston area. We are a full service organization that is committed to serving competitive and recreational player in coordination and cooperation with other local clubs and local, state and national sports associations to ensure that all young men and women have the opportunity to play soccer. Current Houston Express Soccer players, and those interested in playing with the club this coming Fall, will have the opportunity to participate in an open selection and evaluation process in their respective age group. Following a professional evaluation of all interested candidates, Express Soccer will offer candidates the opportunity to join teams that play at appropriate skill levels for the coming year. Professional and qualified trainers train all Express Soccer teams, developmental, recreational and competitive.

IMPORTANT DATES

May 4-7	Fall 2009 Player Evaluations for Under 9, Under 10 and Under 11 players
May 31	Last day to register without a late fee for returning players
June 1-June 4	Tryouts for all Houston Express Under 12 and older players
June 8-12	European Elite Soccer Academy, coaches from Liverpool FC
August 3-7	Houston Express Pre-Season Camps (Morning & Evening)
August 10-14	Houston Express Pre-Season Camp (Morning)
August 10	Houston Express Division I and Super II practices begin
August 17	Houston Express Division II, Division III and Division IV practices begin
September 5-7	Labor Day tournaments
September 12-13	Regular Season Games begin

HOUSTON EXPRESS & WEST U. SOCCER– ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS

Our Club is one of the leading youth soccer clubs in Southeast Texas. In Fall 2008, we fielded over 1,900 players on more than 175 teams. Comprehensive programs are available for boys and girls ages 4-18 regardless of experience or playing level -- from beginners and recreational players through and including Division I, the highest competitive level in youth soccer. Over the past 30+ years, club competitive teams have participated in many state championships and won numerous prestigious tournaments. Many of our older players also participate in their middle and high school soccer programs and our top alumni have moved to collegiate playing levels.

Houston Express Soccer includes all of our teams that play in Houston Youth Soccer Association (HYSA), Eastern District Super II, and Division I. West U. Soccer includes all of our younger and recreational teams that play other teams from our Club. Each is a division of Houston Near Town Soccer, a Texas non-profit corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations to the Club are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. **We encourage and welcome donations. Such gifts are important to the Club and are used to help fund the programs of the Club.**

COACH & REFEREE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the backbone of our club. **All adults wishing to be a Coach, Assistant Coach, Referee or other team volunteer for Fall 2009 should indicate their interest when they register a player. All adult volunteers are subject to a background check.**

Registration	ALL player registrations MUST be done by a Parent or Legal Guardian of that player. <u>Also, any player who has not previously submitted a copy of their birth certificate to the club must do so.</u>
Fall Fees	HOUSTON EXPRESS SOCCER – \$250 fee consists of \$80 uniform fee (including <u>both</u> navy and white jerseys) and \$170 registration fee covering club fees and association fees but does <u>not</u> include training, tournaments, travel, EDDOA or EDSII registration fees.
Late Fees	RETURNING players registering after May 31 must pay an additional \$50 late fee. NEW players registering after May 31 do not pay a late fee. Registrations submitted after May 31 are subject to acceptance/rejection based upon team availability.
Refunds	Players who voluntarily withdraw IN WRITING either to expressregistrar@neartownsoccer.org or to the Registrar, 5925 Kirby, Suite E 487, Houston, TX 77005 PRIOR to June 30 , will be eligible to receive a refund of fees paid LESS A \$20 PROCESSING FEE. NO REFUNDS ARE GIVEN AFTER JULY 1. Players registered on time, but not placed on a team due to lack of space will get a full refund.
Player Evaluations	All players must attend the player evaluation sessions for their age and intended playing level
Player Age	A player's age for the entire playing year (Sept. 1, 2009 through Aug. 31, 2010) is that person's age on July 31, 2009 – see age calculation table below.

FOR MAPS TO FIELDS, FORMS & GENERAL INFORMATION CHECK WEB SITE

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT FIELD CONDITIONS CALL THE HOT LINE:

281-397-4570, Option 1

www.neartownsoccer.org

TEAM SIZES, GAME FORMAT, BALL SIZE

Age Group	Ball Size	Players/Team	Game Format
U9 & U10	#4	Max 12	8 v 8
U11 & U12	#4	Max 12	8 v 8
U13 & Older	#5	14 to 18	11 v 11

TEAM SELECTIONS & PLAYER NOTIFICATION AFTER EVALUATIONS

Teams are normally selected within 7-10 days following the final evaluation session for the type and level of team in each age group. Coaches will call the players on their team. Any player that registered on time should contact the age group coordinator if they have not heard from a coach within 14 days after their last evaluation session.

TEAM MEETINGS & PARENT VOLUNTEERS FOR TEAMS

All teams are required to hold a parent meeting before Thursday, June 25th. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss team matters such as coaching philosophy, financial arrangements, etc. Also, each team will ask parents to volunteer for various positions such as Referee, Team Manager, Treasurer, etc. All Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Referees **MUST** be licensed by September. Coach and Referee clinics are available all summer. Check the South Texas (www.stxsoccer.org) and HYSA (www.hysa.us) web sites for training course schedules. All coach, assistant coach and referee volunteers over the age of 18 are reminded that they must complete an online adult registration form.

ALL TEAMS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A SPONSOR FOR FALL 2009. Sponsor fees are \$425 per team. Sponsor funding is critical to the financial health of our organization. Sponsors can register and pay online!

REFEREES – We especially want to encourage parents and older players to consider becoming referees. HYSA imposes a referee quota each year based upon the number of teams we have. Failure to meet our HYSA referee quota means that **NO** teams in the club are allowed to participate in State Playoffs at the end of the season. All Houston Express teams, except Division I teams are required to provide a licensed referee or pay a \$200 fee in lieu of providing the referee to the club. Division I teams are encouraged to continue to support the club with referees.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR FALL 2009 SCHEDULE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

HOUSTON EXPRESS SOCCER PROGRAM PLAYER EVALUATION SCHEDULE

ALL EVALUATIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE SOUTH CAMPUS

South Campus map is posted on the club website

PLAYERS ARE ASKED TO ATTEND AT LEAST 2 SESSIONS

BRING WATER, A BALL, WEAR SOCCER SHOES OR SNEAKERS AND WEAR SHIN GUARDS

IF ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT WEATHER, CALL OUR HOT LINE 281-397-4570, OPTION 1

PLAYERS ARE ASKED TO ATTEND 2 SESSIONS

PLAYER CHECK-IN FOR ALL SESSIONS WILL BE AT FIELD L2

Age Group	Birth Date	Dates	Time	
Boys Under 9	August 1, 2000 - July 31, 2001	Mon May 4, Wed May 6, Thurs May 7	5:30-6:50	L1
Boys Under 10	August 1, 1999 – July 31, 2000	Tues May 5, Wed May 6, Thurs May 7	5:30-6:50	L2
Boys Under 11	August 1, 1998 – July 31, 1999	Mon May 4, Tues May 5, Thurs May 7	6:50-8:10	L2
Boys Under 12	August 1, 1997 – July 31, 1998	Mon Jun 1, Tues Jun 2 & Wed Jun 3	5:30-6:50	L1
Boys Under 13	August 1, 1996 – July 31, 1997	Mon Jun 1, Tues Jun 2 & Wed Jun 3	6:50-8:10	L2
Boys Under 14	August 1, 1995 – July 31, 1996	Mon Jun 1 & Tues Jun 2	6:50-8:10	L1
Boys Under 15	August 1, 1994 – July 31, 1995	Mon Jun 1 & Tues Jun 2	6:50-8:10	L2
Boys Under 16	August 1, 1993 – July 31, 1994	Mon Jun 1 & Tues Jun 2	8:10-9:30	L1
Boys Under 17, 18	August 1, 1992 – July 31, 1993 August 1, 1991 - July 31, 1993	Mon Jun 1 & Tues Jun 2	8:10-9:30	L2
Girls Under 9	August 1, 2000 - July 31, 2001	Mon May 4, Wed May 6, Thurs May 7	5:30-6:50	S2
Girls Under 10	August 1, 1999 – July 31, 2000	Tues May 5, Wed May 6, Thurs May 7	5:30-6:50	S1
Girls Under 11	August 1, 1998 – July 31, 1999	Mon May 4, Tues May 5, Thurs May 7	6:50-8:10	L1
Girls Under 12	August 1, 1997 – July 31, 1998	Mon Jun 1, Tues Jun 2 & Wed Jun 3	5:30-6:50	L3
Girls Under 13	August 1, 1996 – July 31, 1997	Mon Jun 1, Tues Jun 2 & Wed Jun 3	5:30-6:50	L4
Girls Under 14	August 1, 1995 – July 31, 1996	Mon Jun 1 & Tues Jun 2	6:50-8:10	L3
Girls Under 15	August 1, 1994 – July 31, 1995	Mon Jun 1 & Tues Jun 2	6:50-8:10	L4
Girls Under 16, 17, 18	August 1, 1993 – July 31, 1994 August 1, 1992 – July 31, 1993 August 1, 1991 – July 31, 1992	Mon Jun 1 & Tues Jun 2	8:10-9:30	L4

For Questions About Houston Express Program

GIRLS' PROGRAM	COORDINATOR	EMAIL
Under 9 & 10	Trey Brady	Tbrady@stavismargolis.com
Under 11 & 12	Van VanLandingham	mdvan21@hotmail.com
Under 13 & 14	Scott Dorfman	Srdorfma@texaschildrenshospital.org
Under 15 through Under 19	Richard Sanders	Richard_sanders@kindermorgan.com

BOYS' PROGRAM	COORDINATOR	EMAIL
Under 9 & 10	Barry Loder/Michael Prentice	loder@sbcglobal.net, mpsculpt@mac.com
Under 11 & 12	Mark Fournier/Tony Black	fourall@comcast.net, tblack@bcm.edu
Under 13 & 14	Mike Long/Eric Schaeffer	mlong@sanchezog.com, eschaeffer@schalaw.com
Under 15 through Under 19	Karl Maier/Michael Thomas	kkmaier@alumni.rice.edu, mlthomas@mltig.com