



# HOUSTON EXPRESS SOCCER CLUB



**West U. Soccer**  
**Recreational Program for**  
**Boys and Girls Ages 4 thru 11**

**FALL 2010 ONLINE REGISTRATION**  
**REGISTER NOW!**

**\$50 Late Fee For Returning Players**  
**Registering after May 14**

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

## **WHAT'S NEW**

In 2009, there were over 1,200 players in our West U Recreational program on over 130 teams. Run all by volunteers – WE NEED YOU! Please volunteer to help us continue to bring the great sports experience to our children.

### **WEST U REC EVALUATIONS**

Player evaluations will be held at our South Campus fields on **Sunday, May 23, 2010**. We evaluate the players and have the coaches draft players to provide teams with a balanced level of experience and skill. This also fosters a fun environment for children to meet new friends and gain new experiences as teams are mixed up from year to year.

### **U5 TEAM FORMATION DAY**

Our U5 micro program has a separate day for team formation at **PERSHING MIDDLE** on **Saturday, May 22, 2010**. Players with last names starting with A through L are to be there from 8:30 until 9:30. Players with last names starting with M through Z are to be there from 9:45 until 11:00. This is a mandatory session to evaluate players and form balanced teams run by our coordinator. Players must come prepared to play with soccer shoes, shinguards, balls, and water.

### **AFTER WEST U REC EVALUATIONS**

After the draft, coordinators enter players into the system and coaches contact the parents to welcome them to their new team. Coaches then ask for Sponsors and Team Parents to help out with the team duties during the year. Practice schedules are created by the first or second week of August and parents are notified of the field location and time for practice (there are two practices per week). Games start after the Labor Day weekend. Exception: U5 Micros will practice one day per week.

### **WEST U REC TRAINING**

Mark Gibbs is our Director of Coaching and responsible for our player development and training programs. His full-time job is focused on how to develop players and on our Club's academy model that ensures players are reaching their peak potential and cultivating a love of the game of soccer. Our recreational program provides in-house professional trainers to ensure the highest quality coaching is provided for your son or daughter. We emphasize learning the game of soccer in fun, low-key way with particular focus on participation and ball skills.

### **SUMMER CAMPS**

Our club holds summer camps in July and August for our recreational players. The camps will be July 26-30 (morning) and August 2-6 (evening). Please visit our website for additional information at [www.houstonexpresssoccer.org](http://www.houstonexpresssoccer.org)

## IMPORTANT DATES

May 14	Registration due, but PLEASE register before player evaluations!
May 22	U5 Micro Mandatory Team Formation Session at Pershing Middle
May 23	West U Rec Player Evaluations
May/June	Team Meetings – completed by June 25
June 30	Sponsors Due
July 26-30	Mark Gibbs/West U Rec Camp (Morning)
August 2-6	Mark Gibbs/West U Rec Camp (Evening)
August 23	West U Rec practice begins
September 10/11	Games begin
September 26	Team Photo Day
November 20	End of fall season

## HOUSTON EXPRESS SOCCER CLUB

### WEST U. RECREATIONAL SOCCER & HOUSTON EXPRESS SOCCER CLUB

#### ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS

**West U. Soccer** includes all of our younger and recreational teams that play other teams from within our Club. This is where players are introduced to the game with the younger players playing Micro soccer (U5 – U8 age groups) which is three-on-three soccer with small goals. The small sided games (Micro) enable players to get the maximum number of touches on the ball and to quickly learn the basic skills with the soccer ball. The emphasis is on learning ball skills and developing body control and athleticism. All games are played at our clubs fields in and around West U and at our facilities at South Campus (off of Stella Link). As the player progresses in age then more players are added to the field with 4V4 at U8, 6V6 at U9&U10, and 8V8 at U12. Field size increase as well and goalkeepers are added at the U9&U10 level. The recreational program is about having fun while playing soccer. In the fall, we have two practices per week (either Mon & Wed or Tues & Thur) with one led by our in-house trainers and one led by the team coach. Our games are typically Saturday mornings between 8 am and noon with some games on Friday nights at either 6:00 or 7:30 pm. Exception: U5 has one practice per week (Wednesday or Thursday) with games on Saturday mornings.

For those players looking for the more competitive level of play, we have our **Houston Express Soccer**. These teams play in Houston Youth Soccer Association (HYSA), Eastern District Super II, and Division I and players are selected by our trainers through our evaluation day to one of three different levels of competitive play. Players travel around the Houston area playing against the other clubs in the city. Teams typically play divisional play and a couple of tournaments per session.

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.**

Our Club is one of the leading youth soccer clubs in Southeast Texas. We expect to field approximately 2,200 players on more than 175 teams for the 2010 fall season. 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 25+ 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.

**The Club is focused on providing a meaningful experience: fun, learning, and player development** – not only as soccer players, but also as maturing youths. Player development begins with our small-sided micro program for ages 4-7 where the emphasis is on development and fun. This is the best format for younger players. All players attend weekly camps run by professional trainers and learn basic skills and playing concepts. As players move up the age ladder, team size is increased and more advanced skills are introduced. However, the focus of the program for ages 11 and younger remains individual player development and fun. Once players begin full field, 11v11 soccer (the same as adults) at playing age U-13, the club programs range from recreational to Division I, the highest competitive level. For more information on the differences between the West U Recreational and Houston Express programs for players ages 8 thru 11, please visit our website, [www.neartownsoccer.org](http://www.neartownsoccer.org) > Houston Express > U9/U10 Development Program.

## COACH & REFEREE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the backbone of Near Town Soccer. All adults wishing to be a Coach, Assistant Coach, Referee or other team volunteer for Fall 2010 should indicate their interest when they register a player. All adult volunteers must also complete an online Adult Registration and Background Check . **We do not want to turn away players, who could be your child, because we do not have enough parent volunteer coaches or referees!**

- Registration      ALL player registrations MUST be done by a Parent or Legal Guardian of that player.  
**Also, any player who has not previously submitted a copy of their birth certificate to the club must do so. Please mail to Houston Express Soccer Club, 5925 Kirby, Suite E 487, Houston, TX 77005 or scan and email to [wuregistrar@houstonexpresssoccer.org](mailto:wuregistrar@houstonexpresssoccer.org)**
- Fall Fees            **WU SOCCER – \$250 fee includes** Uniform, club fees, association fees, South Campus Facility fee and once per week camp training fees. The U5 Micros fees will be \$150 and include uniforms.
- Late Fees            RETURNING players registering after May 14 must pay an additional \$50 late fee. NEW players registering after May 14 do not pay a late fee. Registrations submitted after May 14 are subject to acceptance/rejection based upon team availability.
- Refunds              Players who voluntarily withdraw IN WRITING either to [wuregistrar@houstonexpresssoccer.org](mailto:wuregistrar@houstonexpresssoccer.org) or to the WU Rec 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    We ask all players to attend the player evaluation sessions for their age group – **U5 players will attend a mandatory separate team formation day session**. If your child cannot attend evaluations, please email the age group coordinator for your child.
- Player Age            A player’s age for the entire playing year (Sept. 1, 2010 through Aug. 31, 2011) is that person’s age on July 31, 2010 – see age calculation table below.
- Playing Up            Recreational Under 10 (ages 8 & 9) and Under 12 (ages 10 & 11) have mixed age teams. All other teams for ages 5-7 are single age teams. **Absent compelling reasons to the contrary, players will play in the lowest age group for which they are eligible.**
- Special Requests      Please indicate your special requests. We do our best to manage special requests but cannot guarantee your request will be honored.

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

[www.houstonexpresssoccer.org](http://www.houstonexpresssoccer.org)

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT FIELD CONDITIONS CALL THE HOT LINE:

281-397-4570

### TEAM SIZES, GAME FORMAT, BALL SIZE

Age Group	Ball Size	Players/Team	Game Format	Goalkeepers	Field Size	Goal Size
U5	#3	Maximum of 6	3 v 3	No	Small	Small
U6 & U7	#3	Maximum of 6	3 v 3	No	Small	Small
U8	#3	Maximum of 7	4 v 4	No	Small	Small
U10	#4	9 to 10	6 v 6	Yes	Mid	Mid
U12	#4	11 to 12	8 v 8	Yes	Mid	Mid

## **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 contact 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 Friday, June 25. 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 Parent, team Field Coordinator, 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](http://www.stxsoccer.org)) and STSR ([www.stsr.org](http://www.stsr.org)) 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 2010.** Sponsor fees vary according to the type of team, but the average is about \$40 per player. Sponsor funding is critical to the financial health of our organization so please consider sponsoring a team. The sponsor's name is imprinted on the jersey, an ad is in the club directory and there is recognition on our club website.

**REFEREES** – We especially want to encourage parents and older players to consider becoming referees. In our West U Rec program we use a mix of USSF certified referees and our club trainers for our Under 10 and under 12 games. We encourage the parents of our younger children to become certified referees. Our referees are paid for the games they work. We are fortunate that many of you grew up playing soccer and already know the game. Please help us with this so our players can stay safe and learn the game!

## **HOUSTON EXPRESS SOCCER**

If you are interested in the Houston Express Soccer program for players age 8 and older, please visit our website, [www.houstonexpresssoccer.org](http://www.houstonexpresssoccer.org), for more information.

## **WEST U RECREATIONAL PROGRAM**

The club offers a recreational program for ages 4 through 11. In the U5 group the teams will be mixed gender with boys and girls playing on the same teams. For the rest of the program, it is made up of single-age, single-gender teams U6 through U8 and mixed age, single-gender teams for U10 (ages 8 & 9) and U12 (ages 10 & 11). Recreational teams typically have 2 practices per week: 1 team practice and 1 professionally run group training session. The U5 Micros will have one practice per week. There are weekly games against other recreational teams on local Club fields. Games are on Friday night and Saturday. Club playing rules for recreational games dictate that all players must play at least 50% of every game (subject to disciplinary restrictions) and that no player play more than 75% until all other players have played 75% of a match.

If the number of recreational players in the U12 age group is insufficient to form a league, we will notify you and refund your full registration fee.

## FOR QUESTIONS ON THE RECREATIONAL PROGRAM

Age Group	Coordinator	Email
Under 5 (8/1/05-7/31/06)	Barry Donovan	bdonovan@alumni.rice.edu
<b>Girls' Program</b>		
Under 6 (8/1/04-7/31/05)	Lee Melcher	leroy@melcher.org
Under 7 (8/1/03-7/31/04)	Stephanie Veal	stephisat@gmail.com
Under 8 (8/1/02-7/31/03)	Nick Abaza	lawabaza@aol.com
Under 9 & 10 (8/1/00-7/31/02)	Steve Combs	scombs@issupport.com
Under 11 & 12 (8/1/98-7/31/00)	Ceci Mesta	ACMesta@gmail.com
<b>Boys' Program</b>		
Under 6 (8/1/04-7/31/05)	Naveen Jaggi	Naveen.jaggi@cbre.com
Under 7 (8/1/03-7/31/04)	Michael Dawes	mdawes@aftercollege.com
Under 8 (8/1/02-7/31/03)	Robert Woelfel	rwoelfel@gmail.com
Under 9 & 10 (8/1/00-7/31/02)	Lionel McBee	l.mcbec@usa.net
Under 11 & 12 (8/1/98-7/31/00)	Tony Nolte	Nolte14@att.net

## FALL 2010 PLAYER EVALUATION SCHEDULES

PLEASE CHECK IN 20 MINUTES EARLY

BRING WATER, A BALL, WEAR SOCCER CLEATS OR SNEAKERS AND WEAR SHIN GUARDS.  
THE PLAYER'S SOCKS SHOULD BE WORN OVER THE SHIN GUARDS AND COMPLETELY COVER THEM.

**ALL EVALUATIONS ARE HELD AT SOUTH CAMPUS, FIELD L2**

**MAP IS ON THE CLUB WEBSITE**

**Please note alphabetical breakdowns.**

If a player cannot attend the correct group please attend the other group. We ask all players to attend player evaluations. In the event you cannot, your child will be placed on a team randomly – a coach will not be permitted to “draft” the player during the team formation process.

Field Status Hotline 281-397-4570

**There are no player evaluations for the Under 5 players and they have their team formation day on Saturday, May 22, 2010 at Pershing Middle.**

Sex	Age Group (Birth Date)	Last Name	Date	Start	End	Rainout Date & Time
Both	U6 (8/1/04-7/31/05)	A-K	Sun, May 23	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	Wed, May 26, 5:30PM
Both	U6 (8/1/04-7/31/05)	L-Z	Sun, May 23	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	Wed, May 26, 6:30PM
Both	U7 (8/1/03-7/31/04)	A-K	Sun, May 23	1:30 PM	2:30 PM	Wed, May 26, 5:30PM
Both	U7 (8/1/03-7/31/04)	L-Z	Sun, May 23	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	Wed, May 26, 6:30PM
Both	U8 (8/1/02-7/31/03)	A-K	Sun, May 23	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	Thurs, May 27, 5:30PM
Both	U8 (8/1/02-7/31/03)	L-Z	Sun, May 23	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	Thurs, May 27, 6:30PM
Both	U9 & 10 (8/1/00-7/31/02)	A-K	Sun, May 23	3:30 PM	4:30 PM	Thurs, May 27, 5:30PM
Both	U9 & 10 (8/1/00-7/31/02)	L-Z	Sun, May 23	4:30 PM	5:30 PM	Thurs, May 27, 5:30PM
Both	U11 & 12 (8/1/98-7/31/00)	ALL	Sun, May 23	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	Thurs, May 27, 6:30PM