



# HOUSTON EXPRESS SOCCER CLUB



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

**SPRING 2010 ONLINE**  
**REGISTRATION**  
**REGISTER NOW!**

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

## **WEST U REC EVALUATIONS**

Player evaluations will be held at the Rice School (7550 Seuss Houston, TX 77025)  
**Sunday, January 31, 2010.**

## **WEST U REC EVALUATIONS FORMAT**

**All MICRO Players (Ages 5 – 7) must attend the evaluations (excluding U5).** Those players that do not attend will be randomly assigned by the age group coordinator (no special requests will be considered). U5 Micro players will be assigned to teams by the age group coordinator on February 6 at Pershing Middle School at 9 am. The coordinator will email parents more details the week before the session.

For U10 and U12 (Ages 8 – 11), **only players that DID NOT play with our club in the Fall of 2009 must attend evaluations.** Players returning from playing with our club from the Fall 2009 season DO NOT need to attend the evaluation sessions. We have evaluated the players that previously played with our club via the coaches and trainers during the Fall 2009 season and the coaches will draft players using these assessments to provide teams with a balanced level of experience and skill. The new players will be evaluated by the coaches and our club trainers to establish their playing level.

All coaches for all age groups (excluding U5) must attend as the team drafts will be held after the evaluations have been completed.

## **AFTER WEST U REC EVALUATIONS**

Coaches will contact the parents to welcome them to their new team by Monday, February 8. Coaches then ask for Sponsors and Team Parents to help out with the team duties during the year. Practice schedules are created by the third week of February and parents are notified of the field location and time for practice (there is one practice per week). **Games start Sunday, February 28.**

## **PRACTICES & SEASON OVERVIEW (except U5 see below)**

Practices will be held one day per week on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday with games to be held on Sunday afternoons starting at 1:00 pm and the last games starting at 4:00 pm. The practice sessions are trainer led practices and the trainers are provided by the club. Our focus in the spring is on player skill development and our practice sessions are open academy style which means you can attend any session for your age group. There is less emphasis on team in the spring but we leave it open for coaches to elect to train as a team. There will be 8 games with one rain out date of May 16 for any games cancelled due to weather. We will not have games or practice the week of Spring Break – March 14 – 20. No games March 14, March 21, April 4 or May 9 due to Holidays. There may be a game or two on a Friday night to give us an 8 game schedule.

## U5 PRACTICES & SEASON OVERVIEW

U5 practices will be held one day per week on either Wednesday or Thursday with coaching by parents and youth volunteers at Pershing Middle School. Games will be held at Pershing Middle School on Saturday mornings at 8:30 or 9:30 am. The age group is mixed gender and the teams will be by the age group coordinator. The age group coordinator will provide additional details to all U5 registrants by email during the final week of January.

### IMPORTANT DATES

January 22	Registration due
January 23	U6/U8 Coach Licensing Clinic
January 24	U10/U12 Coach Licensing Clinic
January 31	West U Rec Player Evaluations & Team Draft Day
February 12	Team Meetings – completed by February 12
February 19	Sponsors Due
February 22	West U Rec practice begins
February 28	Games begin
May 2	End of spring season
May 16	Make-up Games

Registration	ALL player registrations MUST be done by a Parent or Legal Guardian of that player. <b><u>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, 5925 Kirby, Suite E 487, Houston, TX 77005 or scan and email to <a href="mailto:wuregistrar@houstonexpresssoccer.org">wuregistrar@houstonexpresssoccer.org</a></u></b>
Spring Fees	<b>WU SOCCER – \$110 fee includes</b> uniform T-shirt, club fees, association fees and training fees.
Refunds	Players who voluntarily withdraw IN WRITING either to <a href="mailto:wuregistrar@houstonexpresssoccer.org">wuregistrar@houstonexpresssoccer.org</a> or to the Houston Express Soccer, 5925 Kirby, Suite E 487, Houston, TX 77005 <b>PRIOR to February 1</b> will be eligible to receive a refund of fees paid LESS A \$20 PROCESSING FEE. <b>NO REFUNDS ARE GIVEN AFTER February 1.</b> Players registered on time, but not placed on a team due to lack of space will receive a full refund.
Player Evaluations	All U6 – U8 players must attend (ages 5 – 7). For U10 and U12 (ages 8 - 11), we ask only <b>New</b> players (those players that did not play in the Fall of 2009 with our club) to attend the player evaluation sessions for their age group. 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, 2009 through Aug. 31, 2010) is that person's age on July 31, 2009 – see age calculation table below.
Playing Up	Recreational Under 8 (ages 6&7) Under 10 (ages 8 & 9) and Under 12 (ages 10 & 11) have mixed age teams. U 5 and U6 are single age teams. <b>Absent compelling reasons to the contrary, players will play in the lowest age group for which they are eligible.</b>
Special Requests	Please indicate your special requests. We do our best to manage special requests but cannot guarantee your request will be honored. These will only be considered if your child attends the evaluation prior to team formation for those required to attend.

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	#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 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, February 12. 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 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 ASKED TO HAVE A SPONSOR FOR SPRING 2010. Sponsor fees for U5 through U8 are \$100 per team and U10 – U12 are \$210 per team.** 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 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 only USSF certified referees 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!

### FOR QUESTIONS ON THE RECREATIONAL PROGRAM

Age Group	Coordinator	Email
Under 5 (8/1/04-7/31/05)	Barry Donovan	bdonovan@alumni.rice.edu
<b>Girls' Program</b>		
Under 6 (8/1/03-7/31/04)	Lee Melcher	leroy@melcher.org
Under 7 & 8 (8/1/01-7/31/03)	Sandeep Khurana	sandeep.khurana@dvn.com
Under 9 & 10 (8/1/99-7/31/01)	Jill Mercado	jill_mercado@yahoo.com
Under 11 & 12 (8/1/97-7/31/99)	Nick Abaza	lawabaza@aol.com
<b>Boys' Program</b>		
Under 6 (8/1/03-7/31/04)	Naveen Jaggi	Naveen.jaggi@cbre.com
Under 7 & 8 (8/1/01-7/31/03)	Michael Dawes	mdawes@aftercollege.com
Under 9 & 10 (8/1/99-7/31/01)	Jon Clayton	jonclayton@swbell.net
Under 11 & 12 (8/1/97-7/31/99)	Jon Clayton	jonclayton@swbell.net

## SPRING 2010 PLAYER EVALUATION SCHEDULES

PLEASE CHECK IN 10 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 RICE SCHOOL  
7550 SEUSS, HOUSTON, TX 77025**

If a player cannot attend the correct group please attend the other group. For U10 & U12, we ask that only **NEW players** (if you did not play in our club during the Fall 2009 season) 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

Age Group (Birth Date)	Birth Date	Date	Time	Location
U6	8/1/03-7/31/05	Sunday	1:00 -2:00	The Rice School 7550 Seuss Houston, TX 77025
U7 & U8	8/1/01-7/31/03	January 31	2:00-3:00	
U9 & 10	8/1/99-7/31/01	Rain Date	3:00-4:00	
U11 & 12	8/1/97-7/31/99	2/7	5:00-5:30	

## HOUSTON NEAR TOWN SOCCER

### 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, more players are added to the field with 4V4 at U8, 6V6 at U9&U10, and 8V8 at U12. Field size increase and goalkeepers are added at the U10 level. The recreational program is about having fun while playing soccer.

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 season.

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 have nearly 2,000 players and over 200 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 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.houstonexpresssoccer.org](http://www.houstonexpresssoccer.org) > Houston Express > U9/U10 Development Program.

## **COACH & REFEREE VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers are the backbone of Houston Express Soccer. All adults wishing to be a Coach, Assistant Coach, Referee or other team volunteer for Spring 2010 should indicate their interest when they register a player. All adult volunteers must complete an online Adult Registration. The club runs a background check on all volunteer adults. **We do not want to turn away players, who could be your child, because we do not have enough parent volunteer coaches or referees!**