



Space City Futbol Club

COMPETITIVE PROGRAM PARENT INFORMATION HANDBOOK

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PURPOSE OF THE HANDBOOK

The Space City Futbol Club (SCFC) *Competitive Program Parent Information Handbook* is designed to provide key information to parents of players in SCFC's competitive program. While parents of players in any SCFC competitive program age group will find useful information in the handbook, it is targeted primarily towards parents of new competitive players coming from SCFC's Recreational or Academy programs or for parents of players new to SCFC. In the handbook, you will find the following:

- Overview of SCFC and its parent organizations
- Differences between SCFC's recreational and competitive programs
- Competitive program general philosophy and rules of play
- Fees and costs
- Tournaments
- SCFC competitive program divisions
- Initial registration, tryouts and selection of players to competitive program divisions
- Team formation, player pool
- Completion of registration and payment of fees
- Uniforms
- Need for parent volunteers
- Parent expectations and responsibilities

The handbook is intended to serve as a guide to parents and not replace official communications you receive from SCFC staff. Information in this handbook may be superseded by that contained in SCFC meetings, individual team handbooks, correspondence, and on the club website:

<http://www.spacecityfc.org/>

We are happy that you are considering entering your child into SCFC's competitive program. We look forward to working with all SCFC parents, regardless of the competition level, to ensure that all of our children participate in soccer in a fun, positive learning environment.

SCFC BACKGROUND

SCFC is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides youth recreational and competitive soccer to nearly 3,000 youth ages 5 to 18 in the Houston Bay Area. SCFC was formed in 2006 when the Clear Lake, League City and Friendswood Youth Soccer Clubs decided to merge in order to create additional playing opportunities for the youth in the area. The SCFC operational area includes three main regions: the Clear Lake area of Houston, Friendswood, and League City. The nearby communities of Clear Lake Shores, El Lago, Kemah, Nassau Bay, Seabrook, Taylor Lake Village, and Webster are also included in the SCFC operational area.

The competitive program is comprised of approximately 800 players on 55 teams.

SCFC Parent Organizations

SCFC is a member club of the [Bay Area Youth Soccer Association](#) (BAYSA), which in turn is a member of the Eastern District of South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA). STYSA is an affiliate of Region III of United States Youth Soccer (USYS), the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), and the Federation International de Futbol Association (FIFA). As such, SCFC play conforms to rules and regulations of these parent organizations. SCFC teams playing at the Division 1 (D1) level are members of [Eastern District Division One Association](#) (EDDOA); Division 2 (D2) teams are members of BAYSA.

SCFC Mission Statement

The focus of SCFC is the development of the ***individual*** player. The goal is to maximize the development of the individual through programming that challenges each player, a coaching staff that adheres to high standards and first class facilities. *We also feel strongly that getting a team to play with a high level of sophistication, a high level of intensity and having them compete to win are also in the best interest in developing the individual player.* SCFC is resolute in dedicating its time and resources to the technical, tactical, physical and psychological aspects of playing soccer.

SCFC Vision Statement

The SCFC is committed to becoming the premier full service soccer club for boys and girls in Houston and South Texas, Region III, USYS, and the United States. We strive to be recognized for creating a fun, positive learning environment for players of all levels, from recreational participants to aspiring elite performers.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN RECREATIONAL AND COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS

SCFC provides programs for both recreational and, beginning with the U11s, competitive levels of play. The major difference between the two programs is that the **recreational program relies on volunteer team coaches while the competitive program uses professional staff** to conduct practices, skills training and game day coaching*. In addition, the competitive program has the following attributes:

- Increased player and parent commitment as the program runs for a full year (August to June) as opposed to having separate Fall and Spring seasons;
- players often have multiple professional staff coaches in order to develop different skills and be exposed to different techniques, not a single parent coach as in recreational program;
- in some divisions, use of the player pool concept in which players can move between teams;
- a total of three nights of practices/training per week, with certain requirements for attendance that may affect game playing time;
- travel to away games increases beyond that of the SCFC operational area; and
- team participation in Houston regional tournaments or Texas regional tournaments, depending on the competitive division in which your child participates. Top teams in the club often travel to national events as well as have overseas opportunities over the summer.

*The D2 program offers both a pro staff led and volunteer coach led option. Even with the volunteer coach-led teams, the professional staff helps to

design the curriculum, oversee some practice sessions, and provide educational training for the volunteer coaches.

COMPETITIVE PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The Competitive Program, especially in the younger age groups (e.g. U11 and U12), emphasizes individual player development. Children develop at different rates. This is especially evident in the middle school ages. By emphasizing individual player development, the Professional Staff is able to present playing opportunities to players based on their own development rates. The SCFC Mission Statement reflects this emphasis on the individual player.

In the competitive program, scores are kept and movement of teams between the various levels of the competitive program within EDDOA is based on a point system based off of wins / losses / ties and goals scored for and against. In the D2 level, in which teams compete in BAYSA format, in the Fall for playoff positioning, wins / losses / ties and goals scored for and against are used. This system is similar to what you may have experienced in a tournament with your recreational team.

SCFC COMPETITIVE PROGRAM

Competitive Divisions

The SCFC Competitive Program is broken down into five levels according to level of competition: Premier, State Classic League (SCL), Division 1 (D1), Super 2 (S2), and Division 2 (D2). SCFC teams playing at the Premier, State Classic League, and D1 levels are members of Eastern District Division One Association (EDDOA); S2 and D2 teams are members of BAYSA.

Premier teams play within the most competitive division, followed by D1, S2, and D2. The more competitive divisions are designed for players with the highest current level of soccer skills. D1 is further broken down into tiers based upon skill level.

D2 is appropriate for those players interested in working towards the D1 level, but whose skills are not quite honed. At the D2 level, SCFC provides

two options: a pro staff led teams and volunteer coach led teams. This affords parents flexibility in the cost, while still providing a quality program.

Team Roster Size and Player Pool Concept

Teams in the U11 and U12 age groups play 8 v 8 format games. Team roster sizes will be less than or equal to 14 players. Teams in the U13-U16 age levels play 11 v 11; team roster sizes will be less than or equal to 18 players. Teams in the U16-U19 age levels play 11v11 with team roster sizes less than or equal to 22 players.

The U11 and U12 age groups at the D1 level use the player pool concept, whereby players can be moved up or down within the division (i.e. between teams) during the season based on performance, subject to the limits allowed by organizational rules. D2 has not adopted the player movement concepts of D1 yet, therefore, players cannot move between D2 teams during the season. SCFC is currently lobbying BAYSA to change this, but until then, the D2 rosters are frozen and players will not move from team to team. D2 players can be moved up to D1, but this is subject to league transfer rules.

Additional information about the rules of the game can be found on the South Texas Youth Soccer Association website at <http://www.stxsoccer.org/>.

Length of Season, Key Dates, Practices, and Games

The Competitive Program officially begins training with the pre-season team camp. The price for this camp is included in the club fees and runs for four days typically starting early August. Training and games continue through mid-December and then break for the holidays. Training resumes in late January to early February and continues through May.

For D1, S2, and D2 players, there will be two mandatory practices per week. An individual skills training session, mandatory for D1 players and optional, but highly recommended, for S2 and D2 players, will also be conducted once a week. Days, times and locations are to be determined for each. Missed practices and skills training sessions can be made up.

D1 and S2 teams will play in the [EDDOA](#) league. U11 to U14 games are typically played on Saturdays and the U15 and older teams typically play

games on Sunday. Games will be played in Atascocita, Cypress, Houston, Katy, Sugarland, Tomball, and Waller; maximum travel time is approximately 90 minutes.

D2 teams will play in the [BAYSA](#) league. D2 teams' home games will be held at Centennial Park, League City Sportsplex and Dave Finkel (Dad's) Fields in Clear Lake. Away games will be in the BAYSA region; maximum travel time is approximately 50 minutes. D2 travel is similar to what parents experienced with their U10 recreational program.

Tournament opportunities within and beyond the Houston region will be available to D1 teams at various points in the season. Tournaments for D2 teams will be held in the Houston region.

PLAYER EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The SCFC Competitive Program challenges the player to develop as an individual and as a team member. The professional staff want the players to have fun but to dedicate themselves to attending the practices, skills training sessions, and games. As such, the two practices per week are mandatory for D1, S2, and D2 as noted above. The skills training is mandatory for D1 players and optional for S2 and D2 players. Attendance will be tracked by team managers and game playing time is impacted by unexcused player absences. Missed practices can be made up. Players are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at all times and support other team members.

FEES AND COSTS

The competitive program training, with the exception of D2 volunteer coach led option, is provided by professional staff. The program is more intensive than recreational play. Therefore, associated fees and costs are higher than parents have experienced in the recreational program.

Program costs are provided on the [Registration for SCFC Programs webpage](#). The cost of the competitive program includes:

- Competitive uniform package (see *Uniforms* below for details)
- Competitive Training fees which includes:
 - Pre-season Team Camp

- Team training 2 nights per week
- One night per week of skills/agility training
- Game and tournament staff coverage
- Trainer travel for 2 tournaments in Austin and / or Dallas
- Tryouts
- All League dues for EDDOA (D1), BAYSA (D2), or similar organizations. These fees pay for items such as player insurance and game referees.
- Field use, maintenance and permit fees for all fields for the full season.
- Club overhead including advertising, website administration, and registration.

Tournament Fees and Associated Costs

Your player's team will also take part in tournaments. D1 teams will play in the Houston region and beyond; D2 teams will play in the Houston region. Parents are responsible for the player tournament fees and associated family travel costs. Tournament fees of approximately \$350 will be collected during the fall separately from the fees noted above. You may pay at one time or in installments from July to October. Unused fees will be refunded to you at the end of the season. You will receive more information from the pro staff or team manager.

Fund-Raising

SCFC encourages fund-raising to defray the season costs. There are multiple fund-raising opportunities throughout the year that you may participate in, or your team may elect to form some on their own. Fund-raising can help the individual team and the club as whole, including the growth of the scholarship program.

TRYOUTS AND SELECTION OF PLAYERS TO COMPETITIVE PROGRAM DIVISIONS

Tryouts

Players will be evaluated at tryouts conducted by SCFC professional staff. U11 tryouts are usually in early May; U12 and above tryouts are usually held in early June. Please see the [Tryouts – Competitive Program](#)

[webpage](#) for the current schedule. **Although there is no fee for tryouts, all players should register and complete a scholarship or payment plan request ahead of time. This will allow the pro staff to better plan the scholarship committee to determine your eligibility for a scholarship or payment plan and greatly speed up your player's check-in.** See the [Registration for SCFC Programs webpage](#) for more information on registering. Please note that weather or other conditions may cause a change of tryout venue or date; you will be notified in case there are any changes.

Tryouts typically consist of two-1.5 hour sessions held on separate days. Players should attend both sessions to allow the staff to fully evaluate their ability. The staff may choose to add a third day of tryouts if additional evaluation time is needed. At the tryouts, players will participate in individual skill drills and small-sided games culminating in 8 v 8 or 11 v 11 games. If a prospective player misses the tryouts, they may be able to attend a supplemental tryout sessions if space remains available for that age group.

In addition to the tryouts, players who participated in the SCFC U9/U10 Academy will also be evaluated based on their performance during the Academy sessions. Incoming recreational players are highly encouraged to take part in SCFC Game Nights that precede the tryouts (usually the late April/early May time period) at Centennial Park. This will allow the professional staff to better assess recreational players' skills levels. Recreational players still must take part in tryouts regardless of whether they attended SCFC Game Nights.

Based upon Academy player evaluations, evaluations of players at the SCFC Game Nights and at tryouts, all of the participating players will be ranked by the professional staff and then assigned to the appropriate Competitive Program division. A player that, in the opinion of the professional staff, is not yet ready for competitive level of play will likely be advised to continue in the recreational program. In that case, you will be able to return to the registration system and complete the steps to enroll your player in the recreational program.

Team Formation and Player Placement Offer

SCFC professional staff will form teams based upon evaluation of players' skills levels. You will be notified as to the division and team on which your child has been recommended for placement, at which time you will have the opportunity to accept or decline the offer. **Once you have been notified of the placement of your player, you will need to decide almost immediately (no more than 24 hours) if you intend to commit to that team. If you do not commit within the 24 hours that position is offered to another player.**

Acceptance of Player Placement Offer, Completion of Registration and Payment of Fees

Acceptance is defined as communication to the professional staff of your intent **and** returning to the SCFC registration system to complete registration (including payment) to secure a spot on the team. An e-mail from the registration system will be generated to guide you through the formal acceptance process.

Full payment for the Competitive Program is due after you accept the offer to play and complete your registration. Given the quality of the competitive program, SCFC feels that parents are getting good value for their money. However, we recognize that the registration fees and associated costs can be challenging to family budgets. As such, SCFC may provide scholarships or an extended payment plan option if your situation warrants.

Scholarship Program and Extended Payment Plan

SCFC has a limited scholarship program for Competitive Program players. When you register for tryouts you will receive a confirmation message that includes a link to the scholarship application form and instructions on its submission to the SCFC office; *the applications are due prior to tryouts*. You will be informed at tryouts of the amount of scholarship the club will be able to provide. You are responsible for paying the remainder of the fees to participate with your team.

If you would like to request a payment plan option, please also fill out the scholarship application and check the box for Extended Payment Plan. If an extended payment plan is offered to you, all fees must be paid by

November 1. Other Payments will need to be made as instructed, or your player will risk not being able to participate in practices and other club activities.

UNIFORMS

Your registration fee includes a uniform package that typically consists of the following*:

- Home or away game jerseys (alternates every other year)
- One pair game shorts
- One pair game socks
- Training jersey
- Practice T-shirt

*Uniform packages may vary year to year; more information will be provided at parent orientations or follow up communications. You may also wish to purchase additional items such as extra socks, t-shirts, game bags, hoodies, warm-ups, etc. These items will be available for ordering at uniform fittings.

Uniform Fitting and Pickup

You will have an opportunity for your player to try on uniforms at fittings usually held in mid-May (U11) or mid June (U12 and Up). Dates, times, and locations will be provided. **Girls are asked to wear swimsuits to expedite fittings.** Uniform pickup is generally held in early August.

THE NEED FOR PARENT VOLUNTEERS

As a non-profit organization, SCFC depends on parent volunteers to help grow and improve the club so more of our local youth and parents can enjoy soccer.

Volunteers help the professional staff with all aspects of running a soccer club, from serving as individual assistant coaches, team managers, and treasurers to performing competitive program- and club- level administrative, operations and committee tasks. Volunteer opportunities include promotion and advertising, communications, website administration, accounting and budgeting, registration, game scheduling,

field striping, equipment manager, scorekeeping, uniforms, tournament coordination, and volunteer coordination. You can volunteer for a particular age group or help with club-wide tasks.

In short, SCFC cannot function without volunteers. WE NEED YOU! Please participate in volunteer opportunities so that SCFC can provide the best possible experience for all players and parents.

When you register, you have the opportunity to indicate what volunteer role(s) you can perform. You can also contact the club to volunteer by calling (281) 724-9915. Please note that if you are interested in serving as a volunteer assistant coach or team manager, who provides support to the team's professional staff coach, you must fill out an application. Information on team manager roles and applications can be found on the [SCFC Competitive Program webpage](#) or by contacting the VP – Competitive at vp1@spacecityfc.org.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Please help your team's players, the coach and the other parents by observing the following:

1. ALWAYS encourage your kids; do it in a positive way.
2. DO NOT talk negatively about players (yours or others) in front of the players or other parents.
3. PLEASE have your player at practice and games ON TIME so that all players can start as a complete team.
4. All fees MUST be paid when due or your child will not be allowed to practice and / or participate in games.
5. PLEASE encourage your player to come to the Staff Coach or Manager to discuss anything they do not understand.
6. PLEASE help as much as possible with volunteer activities, fundraisers, and sponsorship activities.
7. ALWAYS look for the best in your player and his or her team. Accentuate the positive, not the negative.
8. PLEASE remain on your designated half of the sideline across from your team. Do not run up and down the sidelines.
9. Let the players play and the Staff Coach and Manager do their jobs. Cheer your player and team, but DO NOT coach them.

10. Leave the referees alone! There will be some bad calls in every game, both in our favor and in favor of the other team. Let the Staff Coach and Manager worry about the referees.
11. There will be periodic times throughout the year where evaluations are requested of your Professional Staff and Team Managers. Strive to ensure that those evaluations don't contain any surprises for either. **COMMUNICATE!** Concerns or complaints that are not addressed because they haven't been communicated frustrate all of us.