

Spindletop Youth Soccer Association

Soccer For “Older” Players (U-11 through U-19)

When your child has reached the age of 10 (U11), or older, there are 2 basic opportunities for participation in youth soccer in our area: the Recreational Program and the Competitive Program.

The transition from recreational soccer to competitive soccer is a significant event. Recreational soccer emphasizes the fun and skill development as well as the social aspect of the game. Competitive soccer offers an opportunity for more in-depth skills development and game strategy.

South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA), the state governing body for our area, offers this option beginning at U11. This age marks the first time that those players can participate in the Competitive Program. This letter is designed to give you an overview of your options as a coach, a parent, or a player in the Golden Triangle area.

The local clubs in the Golden Triangle area which are members of the Spindletop Youth Soccer Association (SYSA) are:

- Beaumont Youth Soccer Club (BYSC)
- Gulf Coast Youth Soccer Club (GCYSC)
- Hardin County Youth Soccer Club (HCYSC)
- Orange County Youth Soccer Club (OCYSC)
- Sea Breeze Youth Soccer Club (SBYSC); and
- Spindletop Select Soccer Club (SSSC)*

There are no “geographical boundaries” placed on players. They may register and play with any of the 6 listed clubs. At the Recreational Level, parents are encouraged to register their child with a club

* Not to be confused with the Spindletop Association; SSSC is one of the six member clubs.

close to where they work or live; in the Competitive levels, players are encouraged to try out for more than one team. Trying out for a competitive team does not guarantee that the player will be offered a roster spot on that team, and a player may wish to try out for teams at different levels of play. It is important to note that merely trying out for a competitive team does not create any obligation; ultimately, the player, if offered a spot on the team, can decline.

Generally, the skills, dedication, and competitiveness of the player dictates which level of play is best for them, although at every level of play, encouraging the child’s love of the game and personal development is foremost. SYSA has posted a detailed explanation of the different levels of play at www.spindletopsoccer.com/competitive.html , and you are strongly encouraged to read this. However, a brief summary of the levels of play can be found below:

	Division I/Super 2	Division II Competitive	Division III Recreational
Age:	U11-U19	U11-U19	U11-U19
Level of Play:	Highest/Very High	High	Open
Tryouts:	Yes	Yes	No
Practices:	Local	Local	Local
Games:	Houston Area (Humble)	Golden Triangle	Golden Triangle
Training:	Usually Professional Trainers	Sometimes Professional Trainers, sometimes Volunteer-coach	Volunteer-coach

Recreational Play for age groups U-11 through U-19 (Division III - "D3")

D3 play emphasizes the fun, and skill development as well as the social aspect of the game. There are no tryouts necessary and all players are welcome. D3 teams consist of players who register within their local clubs. For convenience purposes, parents often register their child with a club close to where they work or live. D3 coaches are required to make every effort to ensure that all players get at least 50% of playing time in each game.

D3 coaches are selected/assigned through the team-formation procedures of their local club. Coaches are required to attend a developmental coaching clinic for their age group and must pass a background check. Additional coaching education and training is encouraged and offered locally. Some area clubs hire and offer paid training for all of their players, parents, and coaches; but other than club-paid trainers, D3 teams may not have team- or parent-paid trainers.

All D3 teams play at local club venues in the Golden Triangle area. They also compete for the Association (SYSA) Championship in their respective bracket. In the Fall Season, U-11 through U-14 D3 teams have the opportunity to qualify for the STYSA post-season Eastern District Tournament held usually in the first week in December.

D3 players may register to play in the Spring Season if they choose. There is no requirement to play in the spring and the Spring Season does not have post-season advancement. However, D3 teams can participate in spring Cups (a tournament in which games are played over a series of weekends) and in any of the STYSA sponsored tournaments during the fall, spring and summer.

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**\*\*\* (Competitive link)**

**Competitive Play for age groups U-11 through U-19**

**There are 3 levels within the Competitive Program**

**Division II, Super 2 and Division I**

**\*\* Division II - "D2"**

D2 play is the first competitive level offered. Teams are formed through a try-out process and some players may not be offered a spot on a D2 team, in which case they will be able to play in a D3 recreational program for that year.

D2 teams play at local club venues in the Golden Triangle area. D2 coaches are required to make every effort to ensure that all players get at least 50% of playing time in each game.

D2 coaches must apply and obtain the approval of their local club's Board of Directors and the Spindletop Association Board. The application/approval process takes place in February and tryouts are held in May for U11 and in June for U12 and older teams. D2 Coaches are required to attend a coaching clinic to obtain an "E" license (a weekend course). Any coach, assistant coach and/or trainer must all pass a background check. Additional coaching education and training is encouraged and generally offered locally.

You will receive a letter from the Association, likely in the Spring, explaining tryout and team-formation procedures for next year's Fall Season.

Expenses (above the registration fee charged by the club) may include custom uniforms and training fees. In some clubs, the training fees are required (to hire someone to train the players). In other clubs, training is provided by either the volunteer-coach or a paid trainer (if the coach and parents made arrangements for this). According to each club's rules, D2 teams may have uniforms provided by the club; may be required to purchase specific uniforms unique to the club; and may purchase customized team uniforms and/or equipment bags or other items on a team-by-team basis.

D2 teams compete for association championships and also for advancement to the Eastern District Tournament. Additionally, the top D2 teams from the Eastern District Tournament are eligible to advance to the South Texas Championship Tournament, or "State", against other D2 teams from the Eastern District and Western District of South Texas (STYSA). The State Tournament is usually held during the second weekend in December.

D2 players may register to play in the Spring Season if they choose. There is no requirement to play in the spring and the Spring Season does not have post-season advancement. However, D2 teams can participate in spring Cups (a tournament in which games are played over a series of weekends) and in any of the STYSA sponsored tournaments during the fall, spring and summer.

**\*\* Super 2 and Division I - "D1"**

Super 2 and Division I teams register with one of the six local clubs but play under the direction of another association, the Eastern District Division One Association “EDDOA”. EDDOA is the most competitive league within the Eastern District of STYSA. It is more demanding in terms of time (travel) and financial commitment (usually paid trainers and additional tournament participation). However, it provides the most competitive play opportunities for dedicated and skilled players.

-- **Super 2 (S2)** Super 2 is a division of EDDOA and is the next level of play above D2.

-- **Division I (D1)** D1 is a division of EDDOA and is highest level of play available in this area. There is frequent promotion and relegation (i.e., teams transferring from one level to another based on results) within each league (D1 or Super 2) and also between the two leagues (D1 and Super 2). D1/Super 2 provides the most competitive and consistent play opportunities for highly dedicated and skilled players, because of the number and quality of teams that are drawn every year from the Greater Houston area that comprises EDDOA.

EDDOA coaches must apply and obtain the approval of their local club’s Board of Directors and the Spindletop Association Board to hold tryouts. The application/approval process takes place in February and tryouts are held in May for U11 and in June for U12 and older teams. EDDOA coaches are required to attend a clinic and obtain an “E” license (a weekend course). The coach, assistant coach and/or trainer must pass a background check. Additional coaching education and training is encouraged and generally offered locally.

- Any club is allowed to field an EDDOA team, although most EDDOA teams are fielded by the Spindletop Select (SSSC) Club. You will receive a letter from the Association, likely in the Spring, explaining tryout and team-formation procedures for next year's Fall Season.
- At U13 and above, there is no guarantee that a team will qualify for D1 or Super 2. Based on their performance and standings, sometimes, the teams are relegated to play D2 until improvement qualifies them to move up.
- EDDOA teams practice locally but play out of town, usually in the Houston area (Humble).
- In each season, fall and spring, there are generally ten weeks of play with one game per Saturday. However, the number of games can vary depending on the number of teams participating.
- EDDOA teams often use paid trainers instead of coach-directed practice sessions, resulting in training fees being charged to the parents and players. However, there are many fundraising and scholarship opportunities to assist parents and players with these fees.
- Super 2 coaches are required to make every effort to ensure that all players get at least 50% of playing time in each game; but this is only encouraged and not required in D1.

EDDOA has District advancement - but only for teams U13 and older. At U11 and U12, the focus is developmental so there is typically no district or state advancement at these younger age groups in EDDOA. EDDOA requires teams to participate in the developmental league at U11 and U12 to qualify for D1 or Super 2 during the U13 season. If a team does not qualify by playing in EDDOA during the U11 and U12 years, it is much more difficult to play in the EDDOA at U13 and older, although it is possible to qualify by advancing through D2 competition or in other ways.

If you are interested in coaching or assistant-coaching with a club for an EDDOA team, you should contact the club you desire to associate with and express that interest.

**If you have any further questions, please contact: Jimmy Park, SYSA President (409) 755-6022.**

- Beaumont Youth Soccer Club (BYSC)  
<http://www.bysc.net>
- Gulf Coast Youth Soccer Club (GCYSC)  
<http://www.gcysc.com>
- Hardin County Youth Soccer Club (HCYSC)  
<http://www.hcysc.com>
- Orange County Youth Soccer Club (OCYSC)  
<http://www.orangetexasoccer.com>
- Sea Breeze Youth Soccer Club (SBYSC);  
<http://www.eteamz.com/seabreeze/index.cfm?>
- Spindletop Select Soccer Club (SSSC)  
<http://www.spindletopselect.org>

Note: The information on these websites is put out by the individual Clubs and is not approved by the Association.