

Dear Parents,

Hello, I am Jay Sims, president of the GCY Soccer Club. If you have a son or daughter that is eligible to play at the U11, U12 or U13 age level this fall, then I would like to explain your options of playing levels for these age groups as it can begin to get a little confusing! You should be able to print this document and refer to it later, as needed.

There are basically 4 options for your player at these ages. The levels are recreational (also called **Division III**), **Blue** (also called **Division II**), **Super 2** and **Division I** qualifying. So how do you know where your young player should be? Well we can help with some parts of the decision but most is up to you and your player. I will try to break them down as simply as I can.

- 1) **Division III (Recreational):** This is basically the same level you played last year.
  - a. Fees – GCYS registration fee, maybe a tournament fee if the team decides to play a tournament.
  - b. Coaches – usually a volunteer coach (with appropriate coaches license) and very often the parent of one of the players
  - c. Practices – usually in the city in which you live, usually twice a week 1 ½ to 2 hours each
  - d. Games – regular season games played at a field within the Bay Area Youth Soccer Association (Galveston County, South Belt, Quest, Space City, Manvel, North Channel, Pearland East Lake or Alvin)
  - e. Playoffs – eligible if you are at the top of your bracket.
  - f. Creation of teams – blind draft – no tryouts
  - g. Season – regular season, maybe playoffs (BAYSA, STYSA) and spring season is completely optional.
  - h. Comments: This level is for the first time player or a player that is playing the sport to keep in shape or be with friends. This is also a good level to develop skills to prepare for a higher level of competition. The score is kept and everyone wants to win but this level of play is mostly for fun. Just remember about the blind draft so unless you are a coach your player may not necessarily be on the team you would prefer.
- 2) **Division II:** This is the first level of competitive soccer.
  - a. Fees –GCYS registration fee, tournament fees, training fees, and all soccer related expenses. Coaches will be able to provide trainer fees and other fee details at tryouts.
  - b. Coaches – usually a volunteer (with appropriate coaches license)
  - c. Practices –not always in the city in which you live (if there are not enough players in your city you may need to travel to one of the other GCYS cities), usually twice a week 1 ½ to 2 hours each
  - d. Games – Same as Division III (there is a proposed change to have this level of play be schedule with Houston as well. There are very few teams in this level for BAYSA and it becomes difficult to create a bracket without mixing age groups. So if this is approved you would also travel to the Houston area for some games.)
  - e. Playoffs – eligible if you are at the top of your bracket.
  - f. Creation of teams – Tryouts are held and players will be selected by the Director of Training and Pro Training staff to form the 1<sup>st</sup> select Div 2 team for the U11 and U12 regardless of residency. For U13 to U19 the head coach selects the players and invites them to play on the team.
  - g. Season – regular season, maybe playoffs (BAYSA, STYSA), and spring season is optional but many teams at this level want to continue to play in the spring.
  - h. Comments: This is a fun but competitive level of play. I would say that this level is for the player that really loves the game and you and your family are more committed to this sport than other sports. This level of competitive play is for those who want to continue to develop their skills through better competition. There is a requirement that coaches make every effort to play each player at least 50% of the game.

- 3) **Super II:** This is the second level of competitive soccer
- a. Fees – GCYS registration fee, EDDOA registration fee, usually 1 or 2 tournaments each year, usually a paid trainer twice each week
  - b. Coaches – usually a volunteer with at least a “D” license, the trainer usually runs practice and the coach will organize the game.
  - c. Practice – since there is usually only 1 or 2 teams per age group, the practice are usually determined by where most of the players or coach lives.
  - d. Games – regular season games played in cities that have field for EDDOA (currently: South Belt, Katy, Humble, Tomball, and Cypress)
  - e. Playoffs – Tournaments
  - f. Creation of teams – Tryouts are held and the head coach and trainer choose the best players and invite them to play on the team.
  - g. Season – this level of play begins what is called year round soccer. This regular season for this level is fall AND spring. Fall and spring are considered as one season. Many teams also will play indoor soccer when no games are scheduled.
  - h. Comments: this level is for the serious player. Someone that loves to play, watch and learn about the game of soccer. This is the player that seriously wants to play at the high school and college level.
- 4) **Division I:** This is the ultimate level of soccer offered through our club at this time.
- a. Fees - GCYS registration fee, EDDOA registration fee, usually 1 or 2 tournaments each year, usually a paid trainer twice each week.
  - b. Coaches must have at least a “D” license. The trainer often has a National coach’s license. Like Super II the trainer runs the practice and the coach organizes the games.
  - c. Practice – since this is the highest level of play we want the best Galveston County has to offer from all our cities. So practice may be held in a more centralized city, or closest to where most of the players live, or one practice could be held in one city and the second practice in another.
  - d. Games - regular season games played in cities that have field for EDDOA (currently: South Belt, Katy, Humble, Tomball, and Cypress)
  - e. Playoffs – Tournaments
  - f. Creation of teams - Tryouts are held and the head coach and trainer choose the best players and invite them to play on the team.
  - g. Season –year round soccer. The regular season for this level is fall AND spring. They are considered all one season. Many teams also will play indoor soccer when no games are scheduled.
  - h. Comments: This is the highest level of soccer offered by our club. This should be the best of the best. Our club really needs two U11 and U12 teams each year to allow us to build into one U13 Div-1 team (as this is when we go from 8 vs. 8 to 11 vs. 11). This is for the most serious soccer player with the highest skills. High School coaches will give first consideration to this level of player. Since you can continue to play at this level until you are 18, this is also the level that College scouts spend some time watching. So if you are looking for a place to play at the highest level with the best trainers and want your player surrounded by the best players, this is the level you want to be. Our club is dedicated to providing the opportunity to play soccer at all levels but for the serious soccer player Div-1 should be their goal. Each year our coaches and trainer for this level will be looking at players from Super II and Div II teams as possible additions to these teams. Just because you made the Div-1 team once does not mean that you are automatically on the team the following year. Each year we will work to improve our Div-1 teams so that GCYS’s Div-1 teams will truly represent the best players from all of our cities.

Sincerely,

Jay Sims  
President,  
Galveston County Youth Soccer