

U11+ Soccer Divisions Explained

There are four different levels of soccer available to players 10 and older (U11), a recreational level (Division III) and three different competitive levels (Division I, Super II, and Division II). All three competitive teams require tryouts for players to earn a position on the respective team.

Division I is the most competitive level and is designed for the most committed and skilled player. Division I soccer is administrated and controlled by the Eastern District Division One Association (EDDOA). Teams are formed from the most skilled players, who must earn a playing position by trying out for the respective team. Training is demanding and is year round.

Consistent with the highest competitive level of play, the time commitment of the player (other sports or outside interests beyond soccer are expected to be minimal) and the respective monetary cost are greater than other levels of play. Division I teams must qualify to play in the Division I program. As should be expected, performance is a major priority and one consequence of this demand is that a player is not guaranteed a specific amount of playing time in Division I games.

Div 1 and S2 are considered full year options. Training is 10 months of the year. Players not able to commit to playing year round competitive soccer need to play Div II.

Division II consists of two separate levels of competitive teams, Super II and

"Blue". **Division II (Blue)** is a competitive level of soccer designed to address two essential needs: 1) to provide an opportunity for players who aspire to eventually play Division I a place to play and to develop their skills and techniques and 2) to provide a competitive alternative to players who do not want to make the time commitment to Division I play. "Blue" competitive teams play home games but do travel to away games within the Bay Area Youth Soccer Association (BAYSA).

Division II soccer teams compete as club teams in the Bay Area Youth Soccer Association (BAYSA) program. Players must tryout to earn a position on Division II teams. Training is a part of Division II and will require additional fees. Teams do not have to qualify to play in the BAYSA Division II program. Playing time (50% per game) is a BAYSA rule.

Super Blue or S2 is a separate league within the current Division II program. It originated as a division of play for those teams that failed to qualify for Division I. Consequently, the skill level, time commitment, cost and team competition are a transition from Division II to Division I. S2 teams play in a league that encompasses all of greater Houston and surrounding areas, consequently many of the games involve more travel time and home field will be identified at a field nearest your home field generally on or near Beltway 8. Administration of the S2 program is under the control of EDDOA. Team selection for U11 S2 teams will be part of the EDDOA selection process for Division I teams. Qualifying tournaments in August will be used to select 24-36 teams. These teams will compete in the fall and in late October the top 12 will be designated Division I and the remaining 12 teams will become S2. U12 and above teams desiring to play S2 must meet qualifying requirements (final four team at Eastern District fall Play-offs) and may have to play in a qualifying tournament in early August. Currently, playing time in S2 competition is set at 50% per game.

Both Division I and Super II teams play their games at designated sites within the greater Houston area. There is a commitment to more traveling for games with these teams.

Recreational teams (Red) or Division III typically practice two times per week and play their games ½ at home and ½ within BAYSA. The focus at this level is fun and skill development.

BSYS requires all u11 players and up tryout for two reasons 1). To get them registered before we have to order uniforms and to obtain payment. 2) To know which players will be able to handle "playing up" to an older age group if we have too many in their age bracket and too few in the bracket above or if we have room on the roster of a blue team we know who has the skill level to compete at the blue level.