



Essex United Soccer Club started with the intent of bringing together youth soccer players from Essex Town and Essex Village (UNITED!) to find friendship through soccer and to build on their passion for the world's most popular sport. Since those early days, we have grown to include players from nearby towns such as Westford, Fairfax and the Islands.

Founded in 1991 with one U12 boys team, EUSC grew in the spring of 1992 with three boys teams and in 1994 two girls teams were added at the U12 level. Essex United has continued to grow to have multiple boys and girls teams ranging from U6 to U19.

Our coaches are seasoned volunteers and our sessions are designed specifically to address the needs and skills of all youth ages. EUSC encourages well-rounded players; our format and pricing allows players the flexibility to explore their varied interests throughout the year. Our goal is to assist youth in reaching their potential, gain confidence and develop skills that will help them on the pitch and in life.

Our grassroots mission is to provide a quality experience at a very affordable price, which is why none of our staff is paid. Every single role in the club is voluntary, including all coaches, board members and tournament positions.

For us, nothing is more rewarding than watching youth blossom as athletes and as people. We love the game of soccer almost as much as working with the players!

**AGE GROUP EXPECTATIONS AND COSTS:**

<b>Age s</b>	<b>Game Format</b>	<b>Late April to Mid-June Training</b>	<b>Games</b>	<b>Fees</b>	<b>Est. Uniform Fee</b>
U6	10 Player Minimum	1 Hour Saturday AM	No	\$60	None
U8	4 v 4	1 Hour 1X Week	Sundays	\$160	\$50
U10	7 v 7	1.5 Hours 2X Week	Sat/Sun	\$240	\$75
U12	9 v 9	1.5 Hours 2X Week	Sat/Sun	\$240	\$75
U14	11 v 11	1.5 Hours 2X Week	Sat/Sun	\$240	\$75
U16	11 v 11	1.5 Hours 2X Week	Sundays	\$240	\$75
U19	11 v 11	1.5 Hours 2X Week	Sundays	\$240	\$75

**2021-2022 BIRTH YEAR GROUPINGS:**

U6 = 2016, 2017, 2018

U8 = 2014, 2015

U10 = 2012, 2013

U12 = 2010, 2011

U14 = 2008, 2009

U16 = 2006, 2007

U19 = 2003, 2004, 2005

**REGISTRATION:**

Registration opens each year in Mid-August

Link: <https://system.gotsport.com/programs/81W596357>

Most players opt to register BEFORE tryouts so they receive tryout updates (weather delays, etc..) and are considered “first come/first serve” for teams that end up being “walk-on” teams

Registration closes when an age group reaches its limit or on January 1, because we must submit our teams to the spring league

## **TRYOUTS:**

Tryouts are held annually in late September for ages U10-U14 only. U6 and U8 players can sign up anytime up until February 1. U16 and U19 teams are based on interest levels. If we have enough players for a team by January 1, we will proceed with a team meeting to make plans for the spring season.

To qualify for an "A" team, players **must** attend at least one tryout – there are no exceptions.

Players must attend the tryout that is within their own age division – no "playing up".

## **WINTER TRAINING AND LEAGUES:**

EUSC secures once per week indoor training space on Saturday mornings from December-March at no additional cost and is optional for all teams and players

Teams that opt to find other training space or choose to register with indoor leagues will require additional fees to cover those costs

Participation in winter training and leagues is completely optional and is up to the availability of each team's coach and players

## **SPRING TRAINING:**

Spring training starts outside as soon as the fields open, usually late April.

Our home fields are at the Tree Farm Recreational Facility at 189 Old Colchester Road in Essex.

Training shirts are included in the registration fee and should be worn to all training sessions.

Teams determine their practice days and times according to what will work best for the coach and the majority of players to minimize absences due to other activities.

## **SPRING GAMES:**

EUSC plays in the Vermont Soccer League, which provides game opportunities starting the first weekend in May and running through mid-June in towns all over the State of Vermont.

Most games are within 15-45 minutes, but all teams should be prepared for an occasional drive to towns like Derby or Rutland.

Coaches have two weeks in April to adjust game dates/times in order to avoid conflicts, so be sure to let coaches know of any obvious scheduling considerations your player may have.

## **TOURNAMENTS:**

All league play stops for Memorial Day weekend and Father's Day weekend

U6 & U8 teams are off those weekends, but U10+ teams may opt to attend a tournament, or they can also take the time off. U19 teams are off Memorial Day weekend as well, but may choose a local tournament on Father's Day weekend, but not an away tournament as it is usually graduation weekend

EUSC covers the registration expense of one away tournament while families cover their own travel expenses

The Vermont Soccer Association typically hosts a festival style, non-results tournament for all U8, U10 and U12 teams in the league in early June. There is no additional cost to families for participation

### **Essex United Tournament & Shootout**

Another way EUSC keeps its costs contained is through our single fundraiser, the Essex United Tournament & Shootout.

ALL parents are required to donate two hours of volunteer time per registered player (1 player = 2 hours, 2 players = 4 hours, etc...) on tournament weekend, so it is important that all families are aware of the dates and take care to be available that weekend.

Aside from being our only fundraiser, it is also a celebration of grassroots clubs across the state and beyond and is a great way to cap off all that was accomplished in the season. We want to see all EUSC players enjoy their moment at our tournament.

***\*\*This year's tournament will be held on June 25 & 26 – mark your calendars!\*\****

## **HOW TO VOLUNTEER WITH EUSC:**

Coach or Assistant Coach: EUSC begins each season by bringing together all current and potential coaches for a meeting to review what the year ahead will look like and options for receiving additional training and support. Coaches who are interested will be reimbursed for

earning coaching certifications. EUSC recognizes that we are only as good as our coaches, so we place the highest value in finding and keeping coaches who share our philosophy.

Team Manager: This role involves supporting the coach and the team. This could mean organizing players for indoor leagues or for planning an away tournament. A good team manager has organization skills that help make the coach and the team shine.

Team Parent: A team parent works with the other parents on the team to organize special events, be it snacks for the younger teams or team dinners for the older teams. A team parent could also connect with other team parents in their age group to bring the teams together if, for example, they were all at an away tournament and could have a pizza night together at the pool. These make big, lasting memories and build friendships for years to come.

Tournament Committee: Parents who have experience with team volunteering often feel ready to take on a role with the tournament. An email will go out in December/January to parents and coaches regarding open positions on the committee. Parents who are active on the Tournament Committee are excused from the two-hour per player requirement.

Board Member: Our board is comprised of volunteers who have 3-15+ years of experience in our club and all have served the club in other roles across the spectrum.

**Thank you for your interest in Essex United! For any further questions, please reach out to us at [info@essexunitedsoccer.org](mailto:info@essexunitedsoccer.org) and we'll get right back to you!**