



2024 EUSC Spring Season Soccer Guide

Our Spring Soccer Guide will assist in answering questions about EUSC and should be reviewed thoroughly before registering your player.

Founded in 1991, Essex United Soccer Club is a **100% volunteer-run** not-for-profit, which began with the goal of bringing together youth players from Essex Town & Essex Village 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 in numbers and to include players from nearby towns.

Essex United prides itself on building competitive teams to participate in the Vermont Soccer League and should be viewed as a step-up from recreational level soccer in the area. EUSC encourages well-rounded players and our format/pricing allows the flexibility to explore varied interests throughout the year.

Our grassroots mission is to provide a quality experience at a very affordable price, which is why none of our staff is paid. 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. For us, nothing is more rewarding than watching youth blossom as athletes and as people.

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PLAYER COMMITMENT GUIDELINES

Below are guidelines that establish club level expectations for U8-U19 players within the Essex United Soccer Club. Essex United prides itself in building competitive teams to participate in the Vermont Soccer League and should be viewed as a step-up from recreational level soccer in the area.

These guidelines are meant to assist head coaches in setting the foundation for expectations at both practices and games.

1. It should be expected that players attend all scheduled practices and games. As Essex United does not guarantee "equal playing time" coaches determine playing time based on player commitment to the team for scheduled events.
2. Minimum expectations (75% of practices and 90% scheduled games). Coaches may alter or provide flexibility to players with conflicts at their discretion.
3. Players not meeting the expectations of the coach may be reassigned to lower level teams after approval of the Essex United president and/or head coach coordinator. This will allow teams to move up players with a greater amount of commitment to backfill rosters.
4. Parents should review these guidelines and expectations prior to team selections and communicate problems to the Head Coach of the team.

NOTE: It is not the intent of Essex United to prohibit players from participating in other activities. It is the expectation that every player provides a serious commitment to the team as absence may result in poor team morale and/or forfeits from games and tournaments. **It should be the understanding of every coach, player and parent/guardian that commitment is more important than skill when building team foundations.**



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2024 Season AGE GROUPINGS AND COSTS

Ages Brackets & Birth Years	Game Format	Late April to Mid-June Training	Games	Fees	Est. Uniform Fee* 2024 & 2025 season cycle
U6 (2018/2019)	10 Player Min.	1 Hour - Saturday AM	No	\$60	None
U8 (2016/2017)	4 v 4	1 Hour per Week (Coaches may run 2 practices a week - coach dependant)	Sundays	\$150	\$90
U10 (2014/2015)	7 v 7	1.5 Hours twice weekly	Sat/Sun	\$240	\$125
U12 (2012/2013)	9 v 9	1.5 Hours twice weekly	Sat/Sun	\$240	\$125
U14 (2010/2011)	11 v 11	1.5 Hours twice weekly	Sat/Sun	\$240	\$125
U16 (2008/2009)	11 v 11	1.5 Hours twice weekly	Sundays	\$240	\$125
U19 (2005/2006/2007)	11 v 11	1.5 Hours twice weekly	Sundays	\$240	\$125

Financial Aid is available - all requests must be made to the club President at info@essexunitedsoccer.org.

REGISTRATION

Registration opens each year in Mid-August

Registration Link [HERE](#)

Registration closes when an age group reaches its limit and/or is based on VSL (Vermont Soccer League) registration submission deadlines for teams and players.

Priority for team placement is given to players who attend tryouts, even if already registered. If teams fill after tryouts, all players who were registered and unable to attend tryouts will be placed on a waitlist and are considered "first come/first serve" for teams that end up being "walk-on" teams. Registration prior to tryouts is encouraged so that families receive tryout updates (weather delays, etc.).



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TRYOUTS

Tryouts are held annually in late September/ early October for ages U10-U14 only.

“Try-ins” may be offered for U8 groupings during this period, however there are no formal tryouts or cuts for this age group. Players must attend the tryout that is within their own age division – no “playing up”.

U16 and U19 teams are based on interest. If there are enough players for a team by January 1, we will proceed with a team meeting to make plans for the spring season. U16-U19 players interested in playing the 2024 season should register asap to indicate interest. Registration for these age groups is set to “waitlist” so no payment will be made until we can verify a team has been formed, at which point families will be notified and registration fees charged.

To qualify for a high division team (most competitive), players are strongly encouraged to attend **at least** one tryout. Due to weather, we encourage all players to make it a priority to attend the first tryout date available. We understand that some players are participating in fall sports and the tryout dates will not be ideal for all families.

Priority for team placement is given to players who attend tryouts, even if already registered. If teams fill after tryouts, all players who were registered and unable to attend tryouts will be placed on a waitlist and are considered “first come/first serve” for teams that end up being “walk-on” teams. Registration PRIOR to tryouts is encouraged so that families receive tryout updates (weather delays, etc.). Families will have two weeks after team placement notification is sent to accept team placement, after which EUSC reserves the right to fill teams with those on registration waitlists/walk-on.

FAMILY EXPECTATIONS & INVOLVEMENT Essex United is a **100%** volunteer-run not-for-profit organization. Our Board and Coaches are dedicated volunteers devoted to bringing the game and love of soccer into the lives of area youth. Everyone plays a part in making the season successful and EUSC players’ families are no exception. During the course of the season families may be called upon to help the team, coach or club in a number of ways and it is expected that you’ll assist where you can. **Parental/Guardian involvement is mandatory and forms part of your player’s registration fee.**

TEAM COACHES Essex United prides itself in maintaining an active, experienced and educated coaching staff. **All coaches are volunteers.** Our coaches are exposed to training in a variety of ways and almost all of our head coaches have obtained formal coaching licenses from the United States Soccer Federation. Several coaches have advanced USSF Licenses. Training is available throughout the year in collaboration with local area colleges and schools. New coaches are provided with support and training opportunities.



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[EUSC Abuse, Harassment, Bullying & Discrimination Policy](#)

Physical aggression, threats, taunting, racially-motivated insults, inferences to sexual and gender identity, and all other forms of abuse, harassment, bullying & discrimination will not be tolerated by Essex United Soccer Club.

If it is reported or observed that an EUSC player has engaged or is engaging in such behavior, the EUSC Board will investigate all claims and reserves the right to discipline and/or remove said player from the club if found violating EUSC policy.

EUSC / EUSC Coaches reserve(s) the right to remove an EUSC player from the field if observed engaging in such behaviors, regardless if the outcome is game forfeiture. If EUSC / EUSC Coach(es) observe abuse, bullying, harassment or discrimination during a game, regardless of which team, EUSC / EUSC Coach(es) reserves the right to forfeit the game rather than put a player, regardless of whose team they are on, through any form of abuse, harassment, bullying or discrimination.

This club policy is in addition to that of our governing bodies, Vermont Soccer Association and United States Youth Soccer, linked here:

[VSA Player Code of Conduct](#)

[USYS Code Of Conduct Policy](#)

[VSA Zero Tolerance Policy Against Abuse](#)

[WINTER TRAINING AND LEAGUES](#)

EUSC secures once per week indoor training space on Saturday mornings from November-March at no additional cost to families. Participation in winter training and leagues is completely optional and is up to the availability of each team's coach and players. In addition, some coaches may opt to join indoor leagues through the fall and winter.

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



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SPRING TRAINING

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

U10+ Team practices run 1.5 hours, 2x/week with the exact days and times determined by coaches.

U8 Teams will either practice 1hr/week once a week or twice a week, depending on the coaches' availability. Our U8 program is focused on skill development and FUN for our community's younger athletes. There are no tryouts, however we may offer a "try-in" during the fall. Spring training sessions will include activity based skill development and small sided games. The teams will also travel and compete with the other clubs in our area. Winter training indoors may be offered pending interest.

U6 This is often the very first organized soccer for many players, so the emphasis is on having fun, being athletic, and enjoying playing with the soccer ball. U6 groups meet 1x per week on Saturdays. Memorial Day and Father's Day weekends are off.

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

Coaches may ask for input from families as to their player's availability for practices, however the final determination for practice days will be made by the coach.

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 driving time, however all teams should be prepared for an occasional drive to towns such as Derby or Rutland. It is important that all players attend these away games.

Coaches have only two weeks in April to adjust game dates/times to avoid game conflicts once the VSL schedule is released. Be sure to let coaches know of any scheduling considerations your player may have asap!



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TOURNAMENTS

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

U6 & U8 teams are off those weekends. U10+ teams may opt to attend a tournament or they can also take the time off.

EUSC covers the registration expense of one away tournament for U10+ teams, while families cover their own travel expenses

The Vermont Soccer Association typically hosts a festival style, non-results tournament for U8, U10 and U12 teams in early June. There is no additional cost to families for participation. D2 teams typically play in league semifinals that weekend.

EUSC TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS & FAMILY EXPECTATIONS

The 32nd Annual EUSC Tournament & Shootout will take place June 22 & 23, 2024.

Our club hosts the Essex United Tournament & Shootout each year which serves simultaneously as the club's single fundraiser and as a rich soccer experience and end of season celebration for nearly 100 teams and 1200 players. Funds raised from the tournament allow the club to sustain low registration fees for your family, provide scholarships, cover league costs, team equipment, VT Soccer Festival, away tournaments, coaching courses, and so on.

We depend on parental involvement to make the event successful and require ALL families to do their part and donate their time for the tournament. **EUSC requires all U8 - U19 families to volunteer 3 hours minimum of their time during tournament weekend as well as a designated item toward the concession tent.** We appreciate your time. If your family is away during tournament weekend there are ways to assist prior to event weekend. Reach out early to see where you can help. Families who do not participate in assisting with the tournament risk their player not being approved for subsequent season play with the club. **As tournament volunteer participation is required and forms part of your players' registration fee, families who are found not to have volunteered their minimum time requirement for the tournament will be charged \$350 to the credit card used at registration.**



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AGE VERIFICATION The USYS organization requires age verification for ALL players. The Vermont Soccer Association (VSA) can not verify your player for season play without first having seen an official document, such as a birth certificate or other approved government document. If you would like to provide this document in person, please stop by the VSA located at 528 Essex Rd # 208, Williston.

UNIFORMS Families are responsible for ordering their player's full uniform kit, which is not included in registration costs. Uniform kits may change year-to-year depending upon supplier inventory and changes. Once EUSC sends out ordering information, please order your player's uniform as soon as possible thereafter. Jersey numbers are assigned by the registrar only.

For the 2024 & 2025 Spring Seasons: We will have a new two-year uniform cycle, including home and away jerseys, training jersey, black shorts & black soccer socks. While field rentals and VSA/VSL fees have increased we are not increasing player registrations fees to cover these costs, however training shirts will now be the responsibility of families to purchase while ordering the uniform kit.

PUBLICITY PHOTOS - As we further develop our website and publicity information, we would like to be able to include photos of our players. If you would NOT like your player photos published, please contact our club President in writing at info@essexunitedsoccer.org.

REFUND POLICY - Players who registered prior to January 26, 2024 will have until January 26, 2024 to withdraw due to conflict and will receive a full refund. Due to the team and player registration schedules with the VSA for VSL spring play, no refunds will be issued after January 26, 2024.



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[HOW TO VOLUNTEER WITH EUSC](#)

We would love to have you involved! **EUSC is 100% run by volunteers from our board members and coaching staff to the tournament committee.** If you're interested in assisting in a board member capacity or perhaps focusing on your player's team, there are a variety of ways to participate. Reach out to our club President and they will let you know how you can become involved - info@essexunitedsoccer.org.

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