



Essentia Health



2020 East Select Soccer

For the past 6 months, the leadership at East Select Soccer (ESS) has been taking in your feedback and working very hard to explore alternative options to offer the best competitive soccer program in the area. While changes at the younger ages haven't been as extreme as the older teams, many of you have experienced the changing structure of soccer in Minnesota. We are very excited about the current direction of the club and the shape that our club has begun to take. While some of the details need to be worked out with the Twin Cities Soccer League (TCSL), Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) and Arrowhead Youth Soccer Association (AYSA), we are confident that we can find the perfect match with these three groups to bring a competitive and enjoyable experience for everyone in ESS.

Here is what we are proposing for the 2020 season:

U9/10 Jamboree Teams- We are proposing no changes to the U9/10 jamboree teams. We will continue to offer winter training indoors at local elementary schools until the snow melts on our outdoor fields. We will offer outdoor training in April and May at outdoor fields including but not limited to Ordean East, East High School, St. John's, Lowell Elementary ...etc. After school is out, the teams will participate in practices at East High School 2-3 times during the week. These teams will function the same as previous years for their competitive game play. Teams will participate in the traditional tournament structure and have similar practice arrangements.

U11/12 Competitive Teams- Previously ESS offered league play through MYSA to our U11/U12 teams. Unfortunately, MYSA has failed to offer competitive leagues with reasonable travel for these age groups. They continue to cater to the teams located in the metro. For the 2020 season, teams will be formed based on ability and placed in tournaments that offer proper competition. Members of these teams can anticipate participating in five tournaments, two of which will be located in Duluth.

U13 and older Competitive Teams- ESS is proposing a new two tier structure. The hope is that this structure can be maintained for all seasons going forward. ESS will be banding age groups into two year groupings and plans to always offer two U14, two U16 and two U18 teams at the boys and girls levels. This means that U13/14 age players will be trying out for the U14 teams, the U15/16 players will be trying out for the U16 teams and the U17/18 players will be trying out for the U18 teams. Age offerings will remain constant going forward, meaning that in 2021 we intend to offer the same setup (U14, U16 and U18) so a younger player in 2020 would be an older member of the same age team in 2021. In offering two teams at each group, we will be selecting teams based on ability. We will be classifying our teams as "Academy" and "Select".

Academy Teams- These teams will be participating in the TCSL in the North Metro Division. We are hopeful that by participating in this league, we will be able to be properly placed in competitive divisions against clubs in the cities of like ability. Because Duluth falls beyond the geographic offerings of TCSL, we will be playing all of our games as away games.. As a way to reduce travel expenses for our teams, ESS does intend to organize bussing for up to 4 of the games throughout the season. Players on an Academy team can anticipate 8-10 games in the North Metro and additional tournaments based on the ability of the team.

Select Teams- We are currently working with MYSA and AYSA in an attempt to form a localized league with sanctioning. This would allow our teams to play league games locally and also play in competitive tournaments against teams from the metro. This league formation still needs to go through the MYSA and AYSA approval stage. If this league comes to form in 2020, ESS teams can anticipate 8-10 localized games with an additional 3 competitive tournaments. If MYSA or AYSA are unable or unwilling to offer this localized league, the Select teams will then be playing a tournament only schedule which would consist of approximately 5 tournaments that would be selected on a team by team basis.

Tryouts:

Sunday, September 29th

U11/12 Boys tryout from 12-1:30 at Duluth East High School

Sunday, October 6th

U11/12 Girls tryout from 12-1:30 at Duluth East High School

Sunday, October 13th

U11/12 Girls tryout from 12-1:30 at Duluth East High School

U9/10 Boys and Girls kick around from 1:45-2:45 at Duluth East High School

U11/12 Boys tryout from 3-4:30 at Duluth East High School

All U13+ Tryouts will take place at the conclusion of the Duluth East High School Season at times that are TBD.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact eastselectsoccer@gmail.com or call Steve at: 218-464-7009

Thank you everyone and we are looking forward to an exciting 2020 East Select Soccer Season.

ESS Board of Directors