

## Competitive League Philosophy

1. Blue Teams will be established and nurtured within the Homewood Soccer Club (HSC) with the goal of producing Select Teams capable of representing the Homewood Soccer Program in Alabama Youth Soccer Association (AYSA) competitive leagues. The Blue Teams will allow the most skilled youth players in Homewood the opportunity to develop their skills to the fullest within HSC.
2. The Blue Teams will be comprised of the best available players, both boys and girls, in the age divisions beginning with U-11 through U14. The Blue Teams will be given an increased level of nurturing that is focused on developing higher team performance and individual player skill. Examples will include better coaching and the opportunities to play in competitive tournaments.
3. U-16 Blue Teams will be formally created when a sufficient number of talented players within this age group show that they are ready to compete at the AYSA level of competition.
4. Blue Teams comprised of a single year age group will be established only when there are enough skilled players to establish both odd year and even year teams within an age Division. This rule is intended to prevent playing younger players up on an older team that will prevent the younger age group from having a competitive Blue Team.
5. Players will be offered the opportunity to play on a Blue Team for their age division based on the player's performance during an evaluation process conducted in early June of each year and the recommendations of both the Director of Coaching and the Soccer Director. Teams established in the fall will be kept intact for the spring season to the maximum extent possible. The replacement of players on a Blue Team will be selected based on a special evaluation session and the approval of both the Director of Coaching and the Soccer Director.
6. Acceptance of the offer to play on a Blue Team will require the player and the player's parent or sponsor to sign an agreement to play the additional Blue Team Fee (explained below) and to abide by the Parent and Player Commitment Statement.
7. The need for better coaching for the Blue Teams will be addressed by the hiring of coaches for the Blue Teams by HSC. A portion of the cost for these paid coaches will be included in the HSC budget. Costs for paid coaches above the amount in the HSC budget will be covered by a portion of the Blue Team Fee. All paid coaches in the HSC must be selected by the Director of Coaching and be approved by the Soccer Director. All coaches in HSC, both paid and volunteer, must abide by the HSC Coaching Expectation Statement.
8. Blue Team primary uniforms will be the same as the standard HSC uniform. The Parents Advisory Committee will establish the HSC uniform. All team members will wear the appropriate shin guards, shoes, and the same color soccer socks. Each team can select sock color. Blue Teams will be allowed to acquire a secondary uniform, especially a secondary uniform shirt for tournament play or when the visiting team uniforms have similar colors to the HSC uniform. The decision on acquiring secondary uniforms will be made by the Team Coach. A second uniform shirt can be of identical quality to the primary uniform shirt or it can be a less expensive option, such as a T-shirt (white or an other color or design). In any case, it should have the player's number and the Homewood Soccer patch. The cost of a secondary uniform will be established and included in the Blue Team Fee.
9. The HSC will pay the registration fee for one in state tournament each season for each Blue Team. If a Blue Team expects to participate in more tournaments, an amount must be included in the Blue Team Fee. The actual selection of additional tournaments will be made jointly by the Team Coach and the Director of Coaches and approved by the Soccer Director.
10. The parents of each team player will be required to pay the Blue Team Fee. Team members will not be asked or expected to directly pay any additional costs for playing on the team (except normal transportation costs). Any costs that the team elects to incur must be covered by outside contributions or team fund raising activities (both options must abide by HSC policies).
11. The Blue Teams will have 1 1/2-hour practices at least twice a week. The coach may also add additional practices if space allows.
12. Game day playing time for Blue Team players is not guaranteed.