



Elite Development Series (EDS)

Purpose

To create a partnership amongst clubs to enhance player, team, and coach and club development in the region and limit the time spent on travel for boys and girls U9-U12 (U8-U12 in Fall 2016).

Goals

- To bring like-minded clubs together who are committed to enhancing their program offerings while growing the sport of soccer in their community.
- To create a competitive platform for players and teams while minimizing regional travel
- To share resources that will enable clubs to further player, coach and organizational development.

Principle

The series seeks to provide the optimum developmental environment for players, coaches and clubs by emphasizing development through quality training and meaningful competition.





Standards

Individual clubs must maintain a standard of competition and compliance with “best operational practices” to enhance player and club development as prescribed by the governing bodies of soccer including WYSA, USYSA, USSF, and FIFA. Clubs will be evaluated to ensure adherence to the series principle. To be considered for participation, teams will need to meet certain requirements and maintain standards that ensure sustainability, transparency and accountability; most importantly, a safe and constructive playing, working and learning environment for players, officials and coaches.

Features

An important priority of the series is to eliminate the pressure to win at an early age. Winning, to either maintain a team’s position in a league or, to secure the right for promotion, can contribute to decisions at the club level that can be counter-productive to player and team selection and development. Changing the environment and condition of competition best allows for the attainment of the goal to develop players in the league. We will do this using the EDS Star System.

EDS Star System - Ratings are used to help identify appropriate competition for a team to enhance development. If teams are training as a pool, the pool will receive an average star rating of the group.

Star System	
	This team is inconsistent at performing at the base level for their age group. This team may benefit from playing down.
	This team is performing at a base level for their age group. This team should continue to play teams in their age group.
	This team consistently performs above the base level for their group. They may be able to compete against older age groups with 1 or 2 stars.
	This team is advanced for their age group and would benefit from playing older age groups. EDS will find ways to continue to challenge 4 star teams.

Teams will not be given stars for the invitational start up spring 2016 season. Instead, teams will be evaluated during this season and will be assigned their starting stars for the fall 2016 season.



The star system will ensure like skilled teams are competing against each other; while attempting to give teams 1/3 of games that are winnable, 1/3 of games that are battles, and 1/3 of games are slightly out of reach. Team stars will be given based on recommendations from the team coach, other coaches in the series, and D.O.C.s within the series. Series participants will acknowledge the value of the EDS Star System in competition and understand that this process of evaluation will be repeated each season based on series performance and other criteria as determined by series members.

Feedback

Every team participating in EDS will receive two feedback comments per game. U10 & under teams will receive two qualitative feedback comments, one from their coach one from the opposing coach. U11& U12 teams will receive one piece of qualitative feedback from the opposing coach and one piece of quantitative feedback, the score. All feedback will be posted on the EDS web page within the week after the event. The referee will collect all feedback using the EDS game report.

Flexible Rosters and Age Groups

EDS allows players to play on two rosters at EDS events. This allows individual and team development. Players can only compete at their age level and above to play up. Play ups must be designated on the roster. There are no guest players allowed in EDS. Every player competing within EDS must belong to a club that participates in the Elite Development Series. Players must be written on each roster. Teams can play outside their age groups to play a team that is at an appropriate competition level.

Player and/or Parent Development Clinics

The series is committed to providing clinics and programs on designated event dates to enhance player or parent development and engagement. These clinics should be used as the opening ceremony event and games will not start until after the opening ceremony. In the future, the series will consider identifying additional opportunities for player's development such as but not limited to an EDS select team for tournament play, etc.

Coaching Opportunities

The series format and scheduling allows for a club to maximize coaching participation on game day. Game day provides a unique opportunity to schedule coaching clinics and opportunities that multiple clubs and their coaching staff could benefit from.

Schedule – COMING SOON!

Spring 2016 Invitational Season: Teams will be invited to participate in the opening evaluation season to determine whether or not EDS may be appropriate for them in fall 2016 and to help EDS get off the ground.

****Goal for Invitational start up spring 2016 season is to have a minimum of 2 games each date per team.**

Participation

- Teams must meet specific EDS standards in order to be invited or accepted into the series.
- Specific standards and criteria will be laid out in detail upon completion of the opening invitational 2016 season
- Standards must be met and updated in order to retain ability to participate in EDS
- EDS will accept applications into the series and current table members will vote on acceptance based on the specific stands and criteria



Event Date Fees

Invitational Spring 2016 Season

- \$100 per club per event (does not include referee fees)
- \$50 per club if just bringing 1 team (does not include referee fees)
 - 50% to host site
 - 50% to scheduler (host site is the scheduler unless they decline, in that case one of the clubs at the table gets first priority on becoming the scheduler)
- Fall 2016 fees may need to be adjusted based on feedback from spring 2016 season.
- The goal for Fall 2016 is 4-5 major competition dates.

Referee Payment for certified referees only.

Age	AR1- team 1	AR1 – team 2	
U9/U10 (6v6)	\$15	\$15	
Age	Center (each team pays ½)	AR1 – team 1	AR2- team 2
U11/U12 (8v8)	\$25	\$16	\$16

*Fall 2016 will follow the USSF mandates and play 7v7 at U8-U10 and 9v9 at U11 -U12.

League Governance

The table- The EDS table currently consists of the clubs that collaborated to create the Elite Development Series; Euro FC Winona, Viking Youth Soccer Association, and Rush WI West. In order to be considered for a spot at the table your club must have at least 4 teams participating in the league in at least 2 of the EDS competition dates. The current table must then vote your club into a seat at the table.

Voting table process- Each table member has one vote per 4 teams entered into the league. Each table member must identify who their voting representative is (President, D.O.C, etc.). You can have two different representatives if you have two votes.

Other

Each club that participates in the series will have a page on their website promoting and informing members about the series and its respective features, or there will be a link to redirect them to another club's EDS page. Quantitative and qualitative feedback for all teams will be posted on the website. Scores for U10 and under will not kept or posted.

Additional EDS Documents

- EDS Invite/Acceptance Criteria & Application
- EDS Game Day Report
- EDS Game Day Roster
- EDS Summary Feedback Form
- Medical Consent Form

Official EDS Logo

- Created by Andrea Thurner
- Alynn425@gmail.com

