



# RISE SOCCER CLUB FAQ

## WHY DID HOUSTON EXPRESS AND ECLIPSE DECIDE TO MERGE?

The Houston Express and Eclipse Boards of Directors voted unanimously to merge and form Rise Soccer Club. The soccer landscape in Houston is extremely complex and constantly changing, and it is the merger of these proud clubs in a historic endeavor to become the strongest youth soccer organization in Houston that sets the stage for improving player development. By pooling our vast resources, Rise SC will be able to provide players an unrivaled experience with minimal geographic challenges, while maintaining the community element. Our combined facilities, coaching staff, and administrative resources will uniquely position Rise SC to provide opportunities for our players regardless of their level of play.

## WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THE MERGER? WHEN WILL WE BECOME RISE SC? WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THE SPRING SEASON?

The merger start date is officially January 1, 2017; however, Eclipse and Houston Express teams will continue to play under their current banners during the Spring 2017 season. Meanwhile, the organizational transition will be ongoing so that we are able to operate as one club, Rise SC, starting in the Fall 2017 season.

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RUNNING THE CLUB? IS THIS PERSON A PAID EMPLOYEE?

Rise SC will be run by the paid Executive Director, Colin Chesters. Colin has a strong coaching and leadership background, including running San Diego Surf, one of the top youth clubs. More information on his experience can be found on the club website. In addition, the club will continue to rely on volunteers.

## WHAT IS THE BOARD STRUCTURE FOR THE NEW CLUB? WHAT ARE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES?

The Board of Directors will include an 8-member team, with equal representation from Houston Express and Eclipse. Responsibilities will include creating policies and strategic objectives, hiring and supporting the Executive Director, approving budgets, securing funding, and ensuring club performance.

## WHAT IS THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR THE NEW CLUB? WHO ARE THE TRAINERS? WHAT OTHER EMPLOYEES WILL BE HIRED TO SUPPORT THE CLUB?

Rise SC is governed by an 8-member Board of Directors. Underneath the Board of Directors is the Executive Staff, which includes the administrative and coaching staff. As soon as information becomes available, it will be released to all Express and Eclipse families. Our goal is to put in place the Executive Staff that will make Rise SC the best club it can be.

### **WHAT IS THE MEANING BEHIND THE RISE SC NAME? HOW WAS IT SELECTED?**

The name Rise SC is the journey of Houston Express and Eclipse together. Our boards agreed the best long-term future for our clubs is as a single club, working together to combine resources and maximize our geographical advantages. Both clubs are proud, long-existing organizations within their communities, and for the merger to work, the future could not be as Houston Express or as Eclipse. From these ashes came Rise SC. That is why our new club badge and logo will incorporate a phoenix, the mythical bird that dies and rises again from its ashes. Together we Rise!

### **WHAT IS THE LOGO AND COLOR SCHEME? WILL WE BE A NIKE OR ADIDAS CLUB?**

The Rise SC badge and colors will be released very soon, along with our Fall 2017 uniforms. The colors and uniforms will not resemble Houston Express or Eclipse uniforms in any major way. As with the names, the colors and uniforms are all new. More information on will be released when it is ready.

### **WILL WE CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN ALL EXISTING FIELDS IN THE HOUSTON, SUGARLAND, AND MISSOURI CITY AREAS? WHAT ARE THE PLANS FOR FUTURE FIELD DEVELOPMENT?**

Rise SC will maintain all existing facilities currently operated by Houston Express and Eclipse. Future plans for field development will be an early discussion topic of the Rise SC Board of Directors. Part of being a top club in the country is having the best facilities in the country.

### **HOW WILL THE MERGER IMPACT THE RECREATIONAL PROGRAM?**

Both recreational programs will remain geographically based and remain the same; however, the club will look at options to expand and make improvements to each program over the coming months, such as in-house scrimmages, cross-play between Eclipse and Houston Express recreational teams, futsal jamborees, etc.

### **HOW WILL THE MERGER IMPACT THE ACADEMY AND SELECT PROGRAMS?**

The larger player pool will allow the club to form elite teams from both Eclipse and Houston Express players, which can then compete at the highest levels nationally. All 11 v 11 and 9 v 9 age groups will have an elite player program. Academy and Select teams other than the elite teams will be formed from the players' local player pools and will train at their home campus.

### **AT WHAT AGE WILL WE FORM ELITE TEAMS?**

For the Fall 2017 season, elite teams will be formed starting at the U11 age group and older.

### **WILL THE COACHING, TRAINING, OR PLAYING PHILOSOPHY CHANGE?**

Luckily, both Houston Express and Eclipse already have similar philosophies in regards to playing style and training. We do not anticipate a need for any major philosophical changes.

**WHAT IS THE TRAINING CURRICULUM? WHO WILL CREATE THE CURRICULUM?**

Houston Express and Eclipse currently have a very good training curriculum in place. We will combine forces to develop a new and improved curriculum to launch in Summer 2017. Until then, the current curriculum will be used at both campuses.

**WHAT WILL THE COACHING STAFF LOOK LIKE?**

The coaching staff structure is still being created; however, we want the transition from Eclipse/Houston Express to Rise SC to be exciting for the players. We hope to structure the coaching staff and assign coaches to teams in a way, which will keep players with familiar coaches. We understand this familiarity with the trainer(s) coaching your team is a matter of utmost importance, and we will announce more information as it becomes available.

**WILL WE HIRE A COACH SPECIALIZED IN STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING? WHAT ABOUT A GK COACH?**

As we increase the size of the club and expand the curriculum, there may become a need to hire more specialized staff.

**WHICH LEAGUES WILL WE PARTICIPATE IN? WILL WE CONTINUE TO PLAY IN OUR CURRENT LEAGUES?**

Rise SC will always seek to provide our players with the best possible developmental environments and platforms. We will be guided by the best interests of our players and our organization and will partner with leagues, tournaments, and showcases, which best align with our objectives and values. The changing landscape of Houston soccer makes it difficult to know all of the leagues we will enter our teams. More information will be available over the next 4-6 months.

**HOW WILL THE TRYOUT PROCESS WORK? HOW WILL TEAMS BE SELECTED? AT**

All Academy and Select players will be evaluated fairly by members of the Rise SC coaching staff. Evaluation sessions, related to the formation of teams, will be run by coaches from both legacy clubs. Our goal is to get an overall picture of each player and not just make a determination based on watching one or two training sessions. By starting this process in January, the club can accomplish this goal prior to our formal tryouts in May. Informal evaluations will be held monthly beginning January 9-15, 2017 and running thru April 2017. Evaluation session schedules for January will be posted soon.

**DUE TO TEAM CHEMISTRY IN THE OLDER AGE GROUPS, WILL TEAMS BE ALLOWED TO STAY TOGETHER?**

If an existing team can bring state/national recognition to the program as they are currently structured or changes will primarily disrupt chemistry, then a team will stay together. However, if the club can create a stronger team, which can bring us state or national recognition, then the groups/players need to be combined.

## **WHAT TOURNAMENTS AND EVENTS WILL WE HOST? WHAT OTHER TOURNAMENTS WILL WE ENTER?**

We will continue to host the existing Houston Express and Eclipse tournaments and events and also look to add more events throughout the year. In regards to other tournaments, we will participate in local, state, and national events, such as the FC Dallas Showcase, Dallas Cup, Dallas Girls International Cup, CASL, Disney, WAGS, Iber Cup, etc. The goal is to identify which events best suit the needs of each team. Travel will be involved for all elite teams.

## **WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS REGARDING TRAINING, GAMES, TOURNAMENTS AND TRAVEL?**

We will be building an exciting schedule for all of teams, ability levels, and genders. This schedule will be presented to the players and families prior to the start of the season. Travel requirements and commitment levels will be more extensive on the older top-level elite teams. These teams will be flying to events 2-3 times per year and will also play in state 5+ times during the year. For the younger teams, we will likely not leave Houston or the surrounding areas.

## **WHAT WILL IT COST TO PLAY FOR RISE SC? HOW MUCH WILL UNIFORMS COST? HOW MUCH SHOULD I BUDGET FOR TRAVEL EXPENDITURES AND TOURNAMENTS?**

These are all extremely important questions; however, at this time, we are unable to provide specific information. The fee structure for Fall 2017 is closely tied to Fall 2016 programming, which has not yet been finalized. More information on the Fall 2017 fee structure will be provided as we get into the new year.