



#### Valkyrie Members:

As our seasonal year has come to an end, I want to thank each of you for a fun, competitive, and successful soccer season. I was not sure if we would even have a soccer season, have enough players, or even have a practice field, but everything was able to work out and Valkyrie had the opportunity to play. We combined two teams and four age groups and became a dominant force in our league. It has been a pleasure to coach these young ladies this entire year. As we look to the future of this team, the offseason, and the upcoming Fall season, I have several updates below to keep everyone informed.

First, I am still awaiting confirmation from STYSA regarding our promotion into the State Classic League (SCL). Based on our season record and league standings we should not have any problem being promoted. The SCL will be a more competitive league than the Dynamo/Dash League (DDL) which we are currently in. There is also the possibility that in SCL we will play teams from the western part of Texas, such as San Antonio and Austin. If we do play teams from those cities, expect some regular season games to be close to those areas. Most games should be local as most teams will be from our area, however, we will not know any specifics regarding promotion, teams, or locations until the state finalizes standings and notifies the teams.

In addition, we are a highly competitive team, and soon playing in one of the highest leagues in the state. Since I started coaching, I have always held the standard of playing everyone at least 50% of the game, which is required for Div2 and below teams. Going forward, I will no longer be implementing the 50% standard, instead, I will be playing those who I believe will give us the best opportunity to be successful each game based on my evaluation throughout the season, weekly practices, and even on game days. This is not a decision I make lightly as I want every player to have enough playing time but at the level of competition we are now at, this will be the new standard. My goal will be, as it always has been, to give every player time in each game, but depending on the situation that time may be limited and not guaranteed. I will continue to strive to provide the best development environment I can for the team every practice and give all players the opportunity to develop successfully in training.

Next, Valkyrie will no longer be considered a seasonal team in which we are only playing/training during the Fall and Spring seasons, I am striving to be a year-round team and only stop training when the high school season is active. We are at a very high competition level and we can no longer take three months off at a time in between seasons as the process of getting the team back to competitive play is too great after such a long break. My desire is during the offseason, (mainly late spring through summer) we continue training, attend tournaments, and maintain our highly competitive standard so when the Fall season begins, we are already prepared.

Lastly, I would like to discuss the upcoming Fall season. I believe it is time for our team to have a better environment to train within, to grow at, and to excel in. Unfortunately, South Belt left much to be desired this year by not providing us uniforms or a practice field, among other discrepancies. So far, I have been greatly impressed with Pearland Soccer Club, their hospitality, communication, and the overall personality of the club. Therefore, I believe the best course for this team is to transition to Pearland and play under their club. I have spent time in negotiations with Pearland about registration fees as well. At South Belt, each player on average paid between \$300-\$350 for the entire year and this year did not include uniforms or practice facilities. Pearland's normal rate for players who want to play

on a competitive team such as ours is \$1300 for the entire year. Although that is more expensive than what we are used to, that price is still cheaper than most competitive teams/clubs in the area charge, which is usually in the \$2K range. However, Pearland has agreed to only charge each player \$600 for the entire year. This fee will include Fall and Spring DDL/SCL fees, uniform kits, and access to Hickory Slough for practices. This is a generous offer from Pearland and is only available for Valkyrie players. They will also offer payment plans if desired. This fee is slightly more expensive than South Belt, but the value we will receive will more than compensate for that.

I understand this is a lot of information and changes, but I wanted to have everyone on the same page and provide you all with my thoughts and vision for the team. I am always available to anyone who would like to discuss these updates and anything else that pertains to the team. Thank you all for your continued support and I am looking forward to this new chapter in the Valkyrie story.

Sincerely,  
Brian Hurley  
Coach, Valkyrie Soccer

