

— THE HONEST MAP OF YOUTH SPORTS

The real cost of youth sports in Houston

The all-in numbers nobody shows you before you sign up. Eight sports, broken down honestly — so you know before you commit.

Free from Klubbi.

Free for families, always.

8

SPORTS • ONE SEASON

THE PRICE YOU SAY YES TO

The number you see is almost never the number you pay.

You see the number first. Soccer registration, \$125. It feels manageable. You sign up. Then the season starts.

The cleats are a little big. There's a team snack rotation. A ball you didn't know they needed. A medal day, a coach's gift, an end-of-season party. None of it was on the registration page. **All of it was real.**

This is how youth sports costs work in Houston. The real number arrives in pieces, a little at a time, across a whole season. By the time you've added it all up, the season is over and you're signing up for the next one.

We did the adding up for you.

This guide breaks down the true, all-in cost of a first recreational season in eight youth sports across the Houston area — from Katy to Pearland to The Woodlands. Not the sticker price. The real one. No surprises. No pressure. Just the honest numbers, from people on your side.

TWO NUMBERS PER SPORT

For each sport, we show you two numbers.

- THE ADVERTISED PRICE

What you see on the page

The fee that gets you in the door — the registration number a program puts in front of you.

- THE TRUE COST

Everything else

Registration plus uniform and gear, fees, and the extras that add up quietly over a season.

- ON THE RANGES

This guide covers ages 3 to 14, so gear shows as a range, not a single price — a preschooler's cleats and a thirteen-year-old's cleats aren't the same cost. Younger kids land near the low end; older kids, and anyone in a competitive program, near the high end. League and registration fees stay steady across ages, so those are a single number.

We built this around a first **recreational** season, because that's where most families start. A rec league in Katy, Pearland, or Cypress is the realistic first step. In each section we also tell you what happens when a kid moves up to select, club, travel, or competitive play — because that's where the numbers really climb.

Every figure is based on Houston-area program averages and current local retail prices. Costs vary by neighborhood, program, and age — use this as a starting point, not a final bill.

• KATY AREA

Soccer

ADVERTISED

\$125 →

TRUE ALL-IN

\$190–245

+ \$65–120

The Saturday-morning default. Cleats, a ball, shin guards — and a jersey that usually comes with the fee.

COST BREAKDOWN

WHAT YOU SEE

\$125

WHAT NOBODY SHOWS YOU

+ \$65–120



\$0

\$190–245

■ LIKELY AT LEAST • ■ UP TO, BY AGE & SIZE

THE LINE ITEMS

● Registration	\$125
jersey, shorts, socks included	
● Cleats	\$20–50
● Shin guards	\$8–20
● Ball	\$12–25
correct size for age	
● Team extras & end-of-season	\$25
● True all-in cost	\$190–245

WHAT SURPRISES PARENTS MOST

The jump from rec to select. A rec season in Katy stays close to the advertised price, and registration usually covers the uniform. Tip: many stores sell a starter pack — cleats, shin guards, and a ball together — for less than buying them separately.

WHERE IT CLIMBS →

Select or club soccer can push a season well over \$2,000 a year once you add club fees, a uniform kit, and tournament travel.

• CY-FAIR AREA

Baseball

More personal gear than any sport here — plus a buyout most families never see coming.

ADVERTISED

\$200 →

+ \$180-315

TRUE ALL-IN

\$380-515

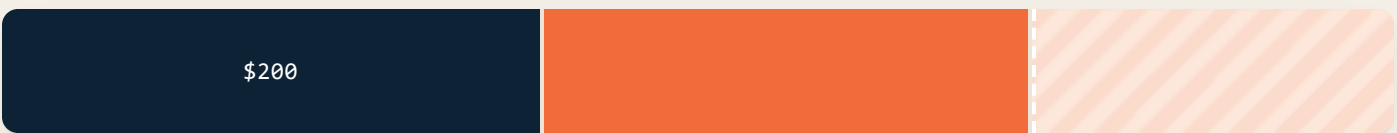
COST BREAKDOWN

WHAT YOU SEE

\$200

WHAT NOBODY SHOWS YOU

+ \$180-315



\$0

\$380-515

■ LIKELY AT LEAST • ■ UP TO, BY AGE & SIZE

THE LINE ITEMS

● Registration	\$200
uniform top & hat, fields, team gear	
● Glove	\$30-80
● Bat	\$30-70
● Helmet	\$20-40
● Cleats	\$25-50
● Volunteer / fundraiser buyout	\$50
● Team fees	\$25
banner, party, coach gift	
● True all-in cost	\$380-515

WHAT SURPRISES PARENTS MOST

The personal gear and the buyouts. Registration covers the jersey and the field, but the glove, bat, helmet, and cleats are on you — and kids outgrow them almost every year. Many Houston leagues also add a volunteer or fundraiser buyout, often around \$50.

WHERE IT CLIMBS →

Travel and select baseball climb much higher, with weekend tournaments and hotel stays.

• PEARLAND AREA

Basketball

ADVERTISED

\$85



TRUE ALL-IN

\$130–165

+ \$45–80

One of the cheapest first seasons in the city. Shoes are most of the cost.

COST BREAKDOWN

WHAT YOU SEE

\$85

WHAT NOBODY SHOWS YOU

+ \$45–80



\$0

\$130–165

■ LIKELY AT LEAST • ■ UP TO, BY AGE & SIZE

THE LINE ITEMS

● Registration	\$85
jersey included	
● Basketball shoes	\$30–65
● Extras	\$15
mouthguard, gear bag	
● True all-in cost	\$130–165

WHAT SURPRISES PARENTS MOST

How little the rec season costs — and how fast that changes. A city or church rec league in Pearland or Cypress is one of the most affordable sports on this list, jersey included. Shoes are the main personal cost — preschool sizes on the low end, grade-school sizes on the high end.

WHERE IT CLIMBS →

Competitive club teams add multiple tournament entry fees that quietly outpace everything you spent on the rec league.

• THE WOODLANDS AREA

Swim

A summer-league suit and a quiet stack of per-event meet fees.

ADVERTISED

\$90



TRUE ALL-IN

\$155–195

+ \$65–105

COST BREAKDOWN

WHAT YOU SEE

\$90

WHAT NOBODY SHOWS YOU

+ \$65–105



\$0

\$155–195

■ LIKELY AT LEAST • ■ UP TO, BY AGE & SIZE

THE LINE ITEMS

● Summer league registration	\$90
● Suit	\$20–45
● Cap & goggles	\$15–30
● Meet fees a few events, billed per event	\$30
● True all-in cost	\$155–195

WHAT SURPRISES PARENTS MOST

Two things. Many neighborhood summer leagues require an active subdivision or pool membership to join — check that before you register. And meets are billed by the event, often around \$10 each, so a few across the summer add up on their own.

WHERE IT CLIMBS →

A year-round competitive club runs \$185–\$250 to register, plus a USA Swimming membership and monthly dues on top.

• SUGAR LAND AREA

Gymnastics

ADVERTISED

~~\$75 / mo~~ →

BILLED MONTHLY

TRUE ALL-IN

~\$830–855 / yr

Billed by the month — which is exactly how the year-total stays out of sight.

COST BREAKDOWN

TUITION • 10 MO

\$750

FEES + WEAR

+ \$80–105

\$0

~\$855 / yr

■ LIKELY AT LEAST • ■ UP TO, BY AGE & SIZE

THE LINE ITEMS

● Monthly tuition	\$75
one class a week	
● Annual registration / participation fee	\$55
● Practice leotard & wear	\$25–50
● Annualized total	~\$830–855
about 10 months	

WHAT SURPRISES PARENTS MOST

It's billed monthly, so the yearly total stays hidden. A class that sounds reasonable at \$75 a month is more than \$800 across the year once you add the annual fee and practice wear.

WHERE IT CLIMBS →

Competitive team tuition runs roughly \$290–\$350 a month, and a single competition leotard can cost \$400–\$600.

• SPRING AREA

Football

Flag is the easy on-ramp. Tackle is a different number entirely.

COST BREAKDOWN

WHAT YOU SEE

\$95



\$0

\$145-175

■ LIKELY AT LEAST • ■ UP TO, BY AGE & SIZE

THE LINE ITEMS

● Flag registration	\$95
jersey & flag belt included	
● Mouthguard	\$5-12
● Cleats	\$25-50
recommended	
● Photos & extras	\$20
● True all-in cost	\$145-175

ADVERTISED

\$95



TRUE ALL-IN

\$145-175

+ \$50-80

WHAT NOBODY SHOWS YOU

+ \$50-80

WHAT SURPRISES PARENTS MOST

The gap between flag and tackle. Flag football is the affordable first step, and the jersey and belt usually come with registration. Tackle is a different commitment — many Houston leagues ask families to buy their own helmet and pads, often \$200–\$300, on top of registration.

WHERE IT CLIMBS →

Tackle gear — helmet and pads — can add \$200–\$300 if the league doesn't issue equipment.

• CLEAR LAKE AREA

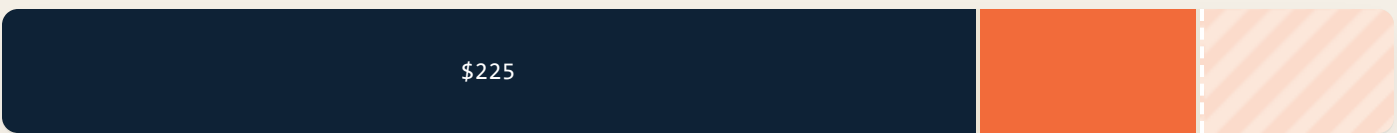
Volleyball

A developmental session bundles a lot — until club changes the math.

COST BREAKDOWN

WHAT YOU SEE

\$225



\$0

■ LIKELY AT LEAST • ■ UP TO, BY AGE & SIZE

WHAT NOBODY SHOWS YOU

+ \$50-95

THE LINE ITEMS

● Youth training session	\$225
uniform, gym, coaching, 2 tournaments	
● Court shoes	\$40-70
● Knee pads	\$12-25
● True all-in cost	\$275-320

ADVERTISED

\$225 →

TRUE ALL-IN

\$275-320

+ \$50-95

WHAT SURPRISES PARENTS MOST

The gap between a youth training program and club. A developmental session bundles the uniform, gym time, coaching, and a couple of tournaments into one fee. Club volleyball is one of the biggest commitments on this entire list.

WHERE IT CLIMBS →

A Houston club season commonly runs \$1,800-\$4,000, with the uniform package, USAV registration, and tournament travel billed separately.

• KATY AREA

Cheer

ADVERTISED

\$90



TRUE ALL-IN

\$165–235

+ \$75–145

Rec sideline is friendly. All-star is the widest gap on this whole list.

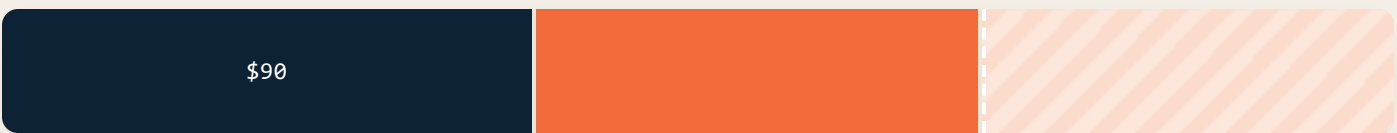
COST BREAKDOWN

WHAT YOU SEE

\$90

WHAT NOBODY SHOWS YOU

+ \$75–145



\$0

\$165–235

■ LIKELY AT LEAST • ■ UP TO, BY AGE & SIZE

THE LINE ITEMS

● Rec / sideline registration	\$90
● Uniform / shell	\$30–60
● Shoes	\$30–55
● Bow & poms	\$15–30
● True all-in cost	\$165–235

WHAT SURPRISES PARENTS MOST

How far apart rec cheer and all-star cheer really are. Sideline cheer is affordable and a great first season. Competitive all-star is one of the most expensive things in youth sports — each piece small on its own, together the largest gap on this list.

WHERE IT CLIMBS →

Add gym tuition, competition fees, choreography, custom music, travel, and a governing-body membership and an all-star season commonly runs \$2,000–\$5,000 a year.

SIX HONEST TAKEAWAYS

What the numbers add up to.

1

The advertised price is the floor, not the ceiling.

Across almost every sport, the real first-season number is higher than the registration fee. Planning for the sticker price alone is how families get caught off guard mid-season.

2

Younger kids cost less to outfit.

Gear scales with size, so a first season for a 4-year-old lands near the low end of every range. As kids grow, the gear grows with them — part of why costs creep up year over year even in the same sport.

3

Recreational is the affordable on-ramp.

A first rec season in Pearland, Cypress, or The Woodlands tends to stay close to its advertised cost — especially where the jersey comes with registration. A smart, low-cost way to find out if a sport sticks.

4

Competitive is a different conversation entirely.

Select, club, travel, and all-star programs are where the totals climb — sometimes ten times higher than rec. There's no wrong choice, only the choice you make with the full picture in front of you.

5

The extras are where the surprises live.

Personal gear, per-event fees, buyouts, monthly billing, and end-of-season costs are rarely on the registration page. They're real, they're normal, and they're predictable once you know to look.

6

You can absolutely make this work.

Knowing the real number ahead of time is what lets you plan for it, compare programs honestly, and pick the season that fits your kid and your budget. That's the whole point of this guide.

ONE LAST THING

Imagine if every program just told you the **real number** up front.

That's what we're building. On Klubbi, every program shows its true cost — the whole picture — before you ever commit. No digging. No surprises arriving in pieces over the season. Just the honest map of youth sports in Houston, free for families, always.

- Browse the honest map at joinklubbi.com