



**NORTH CAROLINA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

**ACADEMY PROGRAM RULES**

## Philosophy

**"True player development focuses on the development of the player, not the development of the team! Up to age 12, this should be the only criteria used in designing and running youth soccer programs."**

Ron Quinn, leading contributor US Youth Soccer Programming

**More than 73% of all kids who play organized youth sports end up quitting by the time they reach the age of 13 (Time Magazine, July 12, 1999)**

**The major two reasons children give up sport:**

- 1. It's no longer fun**
- 2. It's too competitive/too much pressure**

**"The emphasis on winning is a detriment to young players because it prevents us from developing technically proficient players. And we're not giving them the ability to make decisions. 'We want competition. They'll always be competition and it's not bad. The bad part is the emphasis on winning.'"**

John Hackworth, U.S. U-17 national team coach

**"Worrying too much about winning and losing gets in the way of development. There are always shortcuts that you can find to win the next game. That doesn't necessarily mean you'll be winning five, six years from now. The kids all try to win anyhow, so I don't think we need to add to this. No kid ever steps on the field and says, 'Today I'm going to lose.' They're naturally competitive. We should be concerned about the players' performance, not the final score."**

Manfred Schellscheidt, Head of U.S. Soccer's U-14 program

## Mission

Associations must be empowered to provide a variety of programming options for their players. The Academy Program philosophy is to emphasize player development over team development and focus on the technical development of each child without the pressures of short-term wins/losses/results.

## General

1. The North Carolina Youth Soccer Association State Academy Program will be offered for the U10 Age Group.
2. In addition to these Academy Program Rules, the rules and policies of NCYSA, and USYSA are applicable.
3. Associations must notify/apply to implement and participate in the Academy Program based on the rules herein
4. (A) A State Soccer Academy Committee would be created for the governance of the State Academy Committee. Subject to the NCYSA Executive Board, the State Soccer Academy Committee will accept associations to participate in the program upon determining compliance with these rules. The committee may apply sanctions if an association fails to meet the criteria listed in these guidelines or intentionally violates them.  
(B) The State Academy Committee would be comprised of the NCYSA VP for Player Development, the NCYSA State Director of Coaching and members selected by NCYSA Executive Board.

## Associations

5. Associations will be accepted for participation in the State Soccer Academy for a period of two (2) seasonal years. They must participate for the full year (fall and spring seasons). Associations must re-apply for acceptance every two (2) seasonal years.

6. (A) Each association must appoint an Academy Director who holds a National Youth License. Each Academy Director will have a period of two (2) years to obtain the National Youth License. The Academy Director acts as the liaison between the local academy and the State Soccer Academy Committee. The Academy Director must be in charge of all aspects of the Program, including, but not limited to, the establishment of training priorities, player admittance policy, coaching and administrative staff, selection and scheduling. Subject to the jurisdiction of the association's board of directors and president. (B) NCYSA will coordinate "Academy Liaisons" who are certified with the National Youth License and will provide assistance to those associations needing help in curriculum planning and development etc. There will be an "Academy Liaison" in every district of the state as outlined in the NCYSA Recreation District's to provide assistance.
7. Staff working with Academy Programs must hold the Youth II Module qualification designed for working with U10 players. They will have a period of one (1) year to obtain the Youth II Module qualification.
8. Associations must administer an Academy Parent Education Program in accordance with the academy philosophy established by the State Soccer Academy Committee.
9. Each association must have an established yearly curriculum for its academy program that must be submitted to the NCYSA Director of Coaching on a date set by NCYSA. Help in creating an academy curriculum will be provided by NCYSA Director of Coaching, the local "Academy Liaison," and the State Soccer Academy Committee.
10. Each association will be required to have its representatives attend two seasonal scheduling meetings: one for the fall season and one for the spring season.

### **Players**

11. Players must be registered with the NCYSA.
12. Associations may have an Academy Program, a Challenge Program and a Recreational Program, but a player registered in an academy may not participate/register in Challenge or Recreation or Classic. They must choose to participate in one or the other.
13. All players within an association's Academy Program will be registered directly to a U10 pool with their association and will not be assigned to a specific team.
14. Only players that are true U8 thru U10 as per USYS Guidelines are eligible for the Academy Program.
15. Players in match attendance should play a minimum of one half of each match and preferably more.
16. Each player will receive a minimum two written evaluations per year from their Academy that is approved by the academy director; one in the second half of the fall season and one in the second half of the spring season.

### **Matches**

17. It is recommended that games follow the USYS Modified Rules for small sided games.
18. NCYSA, through the scheduling meetings, will help facilitate the scheduling of the Academy Program. NCYSA will help provide oversight to schedule matches so that all Academy Programs obtain a minimum number of matches.
19. Matches will be in the form of Academy games with NO published scores or standings
20. It is recommended that an Academy player may not play more than 100 minutes in one day.
21. Team Travel and Tournaments:
  - i. It is recommended that Academies do not participate in any elimination bracket tournaments. It is recommended that they participate in festivals.
22. Players who are enrolled in an Academy Program cannot participate on any Challenge, Recreational or Classic team as guest players.
23. NCYSA will help facilitate regional Academy festivals during the fall and spring.

### **Referees**

24. The hosting association is responsible for providing officials for each Inter-Academy match.
25. Inter-Academy matches will be assigned one referee (per USYS Rules)
26. Referee fees shall be determined by agreement between the participating associations.

### **Training**

26. Each association will provide its players, as part of the association's Academy Program, with a maximum of three (3) training opportunities per week.
27. Training should be conducted in a pool training format - not with specific teams.

### **Strategic Planning & Development**

28. Explore growth of bi-monthly festivals to allow for different competition and to help scheduling.
29. Creation of Academy Manual for policy, questions etc