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NORTH CAROLINA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

ACADEMY PROGRAM

CHARTER & 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. The North Carolina Youth Soccer Association State Academy Program will be offered for the U10 Age Group.

General

1. In addition to these Academy Program Rules, the rules and policies of NCYSA, and USYSA are applicable.
2. Clubs must notify/apply to implement and participate in the Academy Program based on the rules herein
3. A State Soccer Academy Council would be created for the governance of the State Academy Program. Subject to the NCYSA Executive Board, the State Soccer Academy Council may deny a club permission to participate in the program and/or to apply sanctions if a club fails to meet the criteria listed in these guidelines, or intentionally violates them.

Associations

4. Associations will be granted permission to participate in the State Soccer Academy for a period of one (1) year. They must participate for the full year (fall

and spring seasons). Associations must re-apply for admission every year. Associations may offer the Academy program in addition to Recreation and/or Challenge programs in the same age group, exclusively or as part of their Recreation and/or Challenge programs.

5. Each association participating in the Academy program must appoint an Academy Director who holds a National Youth License. Each Academy Director will have a period of one (1) year to obtain the National Youth License. The Academy Director acts as the liaison between the local academy and the State Soccer Academy Council. 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.
6. Staff working with Academy Programs must hold the Youth II Module qualification designed for working with players U8-U10. They will have a period of one (1) year to obtain the Youth II Module qualification.
7. Associations must administer an Academy Parent Education program in accordance with the academy philosophy established by the State Soccer Academy Council.
8. Each association must have an established yearly curriculum for it's academy program that must be submitted to the NCYSA Director of Coaching before the fall season. Help in creating a academy curriculum can be provided by NCYSA Director of Coaching and the State Soccer Academy Council.
9. 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

10. Players must be registered with the North Carolina Youth Soccer Association.
11. Associations may have an Academy Program, a Challenge Program and a Recreational Program. A player may participate in the Academy program and the Recreation or Challenge program. A player may participate in the Recreation or Challenge program of one association and the Academy program of another association, subject to the additional NCYSA carding regulations. NCYSA strongly recommend that a player not participate in both recreation or competitive play and academy program.
12. 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 Academy team.
13. Only players that are true U10 players are eligible for the Academy Program.
14. Players in Academy program match attendance will play a minimum of one half of each game and preferably more.
15. Each player will receive two written evaluations per year from the Academy Director of their association; one in the second half of the fall season and one in the second half of the spring season.

Matches

16. The State Academy Program is offered for the U10 age group
17. Game Format: Follow the US Youth Soccer Modified Rules for U10 US Youth Soccer Association Modified Rules for U10 can be accessed at:

[http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/doc lib/US%20Youth%20Soccer%20Official%20Under%2010%20Playing%20Recommendations.pdf](http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/doc_lib/US%20Youth%20Soccer%20Official%20Under%2010%20Playing%20Recommendations.pdf)

18. NCYSA, through the scheduling meetings, will oversee the scheduling of the Academy League.
19. Matches will be in the form of academy matches with NO published scores or standings
20. An academy player may play in a maximum of two (2) matches per day. It is highly recommended that, if a player plays in two (2) games on a given day, the player only plays a maximum of one half of each match.
21. Team Travel and Tournaments:
 - i. It is recommended that teams drawn from an Academy program pool do not participate in any elimination bracket tournaments. It is recommended that they participate in festivals.

Referees

22. Hosting association will assign referees
23. Each Academy match will be assigned one referee (per USYSA Rules)
24. Referee fees shall be split per game between the participating associations.

Training

26. Each association will provide its Academy participants with a maximum of three (3) training opportunities per week. Two (2) of the trainings can be mandatory, while the third is optional.
27. Training should be conducted at the same time and at the same location with all participants within the U10 Academy Program. Pool training format - not specific teams.

Strategic Planning & Development

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