

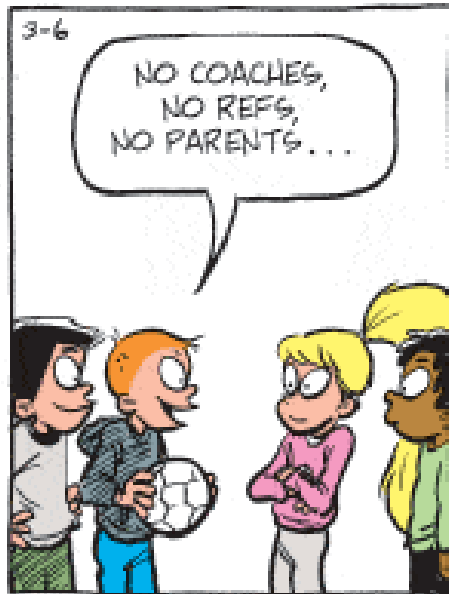


Developmental Academy Program

“Giving The Game Back”

Academies

- Clubs select a pool of players
- Teams are formed from pools, but players are interchangeable.
- No “A”, “B”, “C” teams or teams divided by abilities.
- Club Academies play against each other.
- Non result oriented competition
- Inclusive vs. Exclusive



“As a kid you need to touch the ball as much as you can. You should always be with the ball. You should have a feeling that wherever the ball is, you can do anything with it. No matter where it is, where it is on your body, how it’s spinning, how it’s coming at you, the speed it’s coming at you, anything. You can learn the tactical side of the game later.”



“It’s amazing to me that people put so much emphasis on trying to be tactical and worry about winning when it doesn’t matter when you’re 12 years old. We’re going to have big, strong, fast players. We’re Americans, we’re athletes. But if we never learn at an early age to be good on the ball, then it’s just useless.”

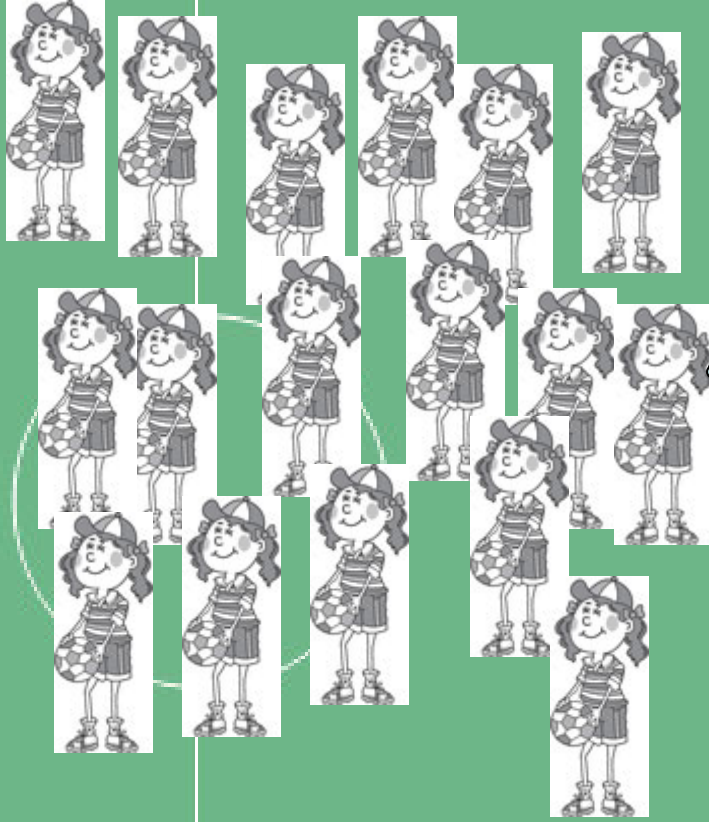


Tryouts?

- Clubs can advertise that players will be in “pools” and not teams.
- Clubs can determine own method on how Academies are formed. “No Cut” policy is recommended.
 - Clubs can build a bigger base with no-cut policy
- Clubs can put boys and girls together to make more pools.
 - Advantage for smaller clubs
 - Co-ed pools will play in boys league



Ok, I can only keep 12 of you!



Now, I am really nervous!

Registration of U9 Players

- **Player Registration Process**
- All players in the U9 Academy for each club must be registered as travel players for their club.
- The club registrar will create one U9 pool of players (“team”). This player pool will hold an unlimited number of U9 players.
- All the player passes will be printed and all will display the same group name – for example..... *Dynamo U9 Academy*.
- The club may choose to create a U9 Academy boys team and a U9 Academy girls team - or they may place both boys and girls in the same Academy group. In this case the team will be considered a boys team, by US Youth Soccer rules.
- The only way a club can create a combined U9/10 team is when a club does not have enough players for either age group. This request, however, will be reviewed by Indiana Youth Soccer before approval of a U10 team. **Example:** A club has 6 U9 players and 5 U10 players come to a selection/tryout day. This exception is for clubs who do not have enough true U10 players to form a U10 team.

Registration of U9 Players

- All Academy programs will be able to create tournament rosters.
- Programs may create several tournament rosters – with a 12 player maximum – mixing players for each tournament if they choose.
- The Academy director or club registrar will simply send a request for a roster with the names of up to 12 players to the State Office within a week of travel.
- The state office will then create an official stamped roster with only those 12 players on it. The roster will be stamped with the official seals and sent back to the club official for use at the tournament.
- This same roster can be used for several tournaments, or changed for the next tournament.

FAQ's

- **1. Do U9's have to play in the "Academy" format?**
 - Yes. Clubs who have true U9 player pools will submit them to Indiana Youth Soccer and inform the leagues how many U9 players they have.
- **2. Will the clubs submit U9's as teams?**
 - No. Clubs will submit all of their U9 players as a "pool" of players to both Indiana Youth Soccer and the leagues. The clubs will submit all of their players into one large "roster".
- **3. Do clubs have to keep all U9's that "tryout"?**
 - The "no-cut" policy is recommended but clubs can determine their own method of how they form their U9 pool of players.
 - Note: One of the reasons for this change is to allow clubs to not select out and give them the opportunity to build a bigger base of players for the future. Plus with the current "selecting" out process, many young players who may develop in the future are not selected due to roster limitations, having a bad tryout, etc.

FAQ's

- **4. How will the clubs register their U9 players?**
 - An online system will be created for the clubs to submit their U9 players.
- **5. Can you play up in a U10 division with a group of all U9's?**
 - No. Clubs that have all U9 players will not be allowed to play “up” as a team in the U10 division of a league.
- **6. Can a club have a combination of U9 and U10 players?**
- Yes, if this is the only way a club can create a team if in the event they do not have enough players for either age group. This request, however, must go through Indiana Youth Soccer first and get permission.
- **Example**: A club has 6-U9 players and 5-U10 players come to a selection/tryout day. The only way they can keep these players is then to combine the two age groups to play U10.

FAQ'S

- **7. Can clubs put *some* U9 players “up” on a U10/11 roster?**
 - Yes, if the club feels as though it is in that child’s best interest to play “up” then that will be allowed. That will be the responsibility of the club to make that decision, not Indiana Youth Soccer. Note: Having a child play “up” should be a reward and in the best interest of that child to have him/her play with some older players. It should not be used as a way to get around not playing in the Academy format.
- **8. Can clubs take U9’s to tournaments?**
 - Yes. Clubs will be allowed to submit a list of players to Indiana Youth Soccer for tournament purposes only.
- **9. Will these U9 players get player-cards?**
 - Yes, they will get player cards just like everyone else. All player passes will have a card that says “U9 Academy”

FAQ's

- **11. How many Academies will be assigned to a venue?**
- It all depends on the number of U9 players each club has. There may be sometimes 3 or 4 Club Academies put together at an “Academy Day”. The leagues will sort out which Academy plays each other based on numbers that each club submits.
- **12. How will the referees be paid?**
- Each travel leagues will decide how the referees will be paid.
- **13. What about teams from other states?**
- Teams from other states will remain but they need to be aware that our U9's will be playing in an “Academy” format.

FAQ's

- **14. What is to prevent coaches from recruiting players from other Academies?**
- Coaches, managers will all be required to sign a code of conduct prior to the season. This code of conduct will have language about recruiting. Transfers are only allowed per Indiana Youth Soccer's Registration Rule 5.4-3
- **15. Is this Academy format in effect for both the fall and spring seasons?**
- Yes.
- **16. Are Academy Directors required to hold the USSF National Youth License?**
- No. It is purely a recommendation.

Academy Days

- Clubs are encouraged to contact each other to discuss how many players they have, how they are forming groups, etc.
- Academy Directors/Age Group staff divide pools into groups of 7-10.
 - 1st match-pool groups will be balanced
 - 2nd match-pool groups can be divided by ability IF clubs elect to do this.
- Before or after one of the two matches, U9 pools will come together for the “Kicks For Cancer” campaign

Kicks For Cancer

- 2,000 touches
- Players get a minimum of an average of 500 touches per time, 1000 every two, etc.
 - Juggling
 - Touch ups
 - Passing/Juggling with Partner
- Players get donations/pledges
- Club (U9 Academy Players) that get the most pledges win tickets to a Chicago Fire match

Why Change?

- They are not “miniature pros”
- Know and learn how skills are developed and prepared through phases.
- Encourage players to take risks and become creative.
- Winning is neither a priority nor should be a consideration.
- They (8 and 9 year olds) are far from the finished product!
- Give the game back to the kids!

Pros

- More inclusive
- Development over pageantry.
- More playing time
 - Clubs split up Academy players into groups of 7-10
 - Parents should not be checking their watches as much.
- Player Centered (What this game is)
- More training than games (better for development)
- Give the game back to the kids!-FUN

Pros

- Less Traveling (bonus for parents)
- Referee Development
- Coaching Development
- Develop pride to play in a club
- Players can learn from other players (they actually learn better this way)
- Club pass options
- Club develops a bigger base of players to select for the future.
- Give the game back to the kids!

Perceptions

- This is not competitive!
 - Sure it is. If one club wears blue and the other wears red, they will compete.
 - Are pick-up games competitive-Yes!
 - Did we develop and learn-Yes!
 - Do they really need “competition” to be the BEST when they are 8/9? No!

Perceptions

- Kids want to be on teams!
 - True, but research has shown that they would rather play than sit the bench.
 - They will still be on a team, but each week their team will change as Academy Directors can do this. Players are no longer bound.
 - Players develop at different rates.

“It’s possible at any time during a player’s career to get into top physical shape, but you can’t teach skills to an old player. Youth coaches should keep in mind that individual skills need to be nurtured from an early age. Players who haven’t mastered the fundamental skills become frustrated because the game gets too difficult for them as they move into higher levels.”



Claudio Reyna, US World Cup Captain

Player-centered

vs.

Coach-centered

Model



Model

“Too often, we give children answers to remember rather than problems to solve.”

Roger Lewin, US Humorist, Author

Why Do Kids Participate?

- Competence (Learning and Improving)
- Affiliation (Being a part of a group)
- Fitness (physical health and development)
- FUN (Enjoying performance and relationships)



Academy Guidelines

1. Each club will designate an individual to oversee the U9 Academy Program. Clubs may appoint Academy Directors or the Director of Coaching may act as the designated person. It is recommended that each Academy Director holds at least a US Youth Soccer National Youth License and/or USSF C License.
 - Clubs can determine own method on how Academies are formed. “No Cut” policy is recommended.
 - Clubs should strive for at least 1:12 coach-player ratio.
 - Club Academies are for those players that desire a higher level.
 - Code of Conduct
 - Academy Director
 - Parents
 - Players

Academy Guidelines

- Academy players must be 8 years old by July 31st.
- Clubs must register Academy players with Indiana Youth Soccer.
- Transfers are only allowed per Indiana Youth Soccer's Registration Rule 5.4-3
- Club Academies may not start until August 1st.
- Club Academies will play four assigned dates.
- Clubs will be allowed to submit a list of players to Indiana Youth Soccer for tournament purposes only.
 - Recommendation-Enter tournaments that give participation awards only (no championships)
 - Recommendation-round robins (participation awards only, no championships).

Academy Format

- Four Academy Dates set up by Indiana Youth Soccer Travel Leagues
- Saturdays-no Sundays
 - Two matches in one day
- Two or more academies may be assigned to a venue depending on numbers
- Playing Groups-no teams. Academy Directors can, however, have playing groups formed prior or can split up players at the fields.
- Play 6v6 (5 plus GK)
- Indiana Youth Soccer playing rules
 - Field size, duration, goals, etc.
 - No offside
 - Punt Rule
- Playing groups consist of 7-10 players.

Academy Format

- Clubs will have player passes for all participants.
- Academy Directors/coaching staff should get players together between matches and work on their techniques, juggling, etc. Have fun. No more than 30 minutes. “Kicks For Cancer” program implemented.
- First match-teams are mixed/balanced if academies have more than one team. No A, B, or C teams.
- Second match-teams can be balanced by abilities IF Academy Directors desire.
- No results or standings
- Each player plays at least half the match.
- No championship tournaments.

Common Sense Academy Day Management

- If a club needs a player or two for the day-help them out.
- If a game is too lopsided then move the impact players to another game if possible.
- Change an impact player with a goalkeeper
- Youth-centered coaches find ways to make each game competitive and fun!
- No one enjoys a one-sided match.
- In between matches put differences aside for the good of the game and players. Utilize your talents to teach and give back.

Ethical Standards

- Coaches who place the outcome of matches ahead of the ongoing needs of the participants are being unethical.
- Coaches who bait, antagonize, or otherwise challenge the decisions of the officials are being unethical.

Ethical Standards

- In regard to playing time-Coaches who attempt to play their better players in an attempt to display superiority and do not provide young players with equal playing time and adequate rest are being unethical.
- With regard to positioning: Coaches who restrict the movement of players in this format in order to display superiority are being unethical. Let the players “play”.

Ethical Standards

- Coaches who rigidly organize and instruct players throughout the matches are guilty of over-coaching. Give the kids back the game.
- Coaches who routinely recruit players from other organizations as a short cut to developing from within are being unethical.