

**GYSA State Soccer Academy Guidelines**  
(Revised May13, 2005)

**Administration**

**General**

1. Rules and regulations not referenced herein apply as per GYSA Rules and Regulations.
2. The State Soccer Academy Committee, subject to the GYSA Board review, reserves the right to 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.

**Club**

3. Clubs 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). Clubs must re-apply every year.
4. Clubs must administer an Academy Parent Education Program in accordance with the curriculum established by the State Soccer Academy Committee.
5. Each club must appoint an Academy Coordinator (Director) who is a Nationally Licensed coach. The Coordinator 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. The Coordinator acts as the liaison between the local Academy and the State Soccer Academy Committee. If a Nationally Licensed Coach is not available to be the Coordinator, the club can request a mentor from the State Soccer Academy Committee to assist with their program.
6. Each club will be required to attend two seasonal scheduling meetings; one for the fall season and one for the spring season.

**Games/Tournaments**

7. Game format:
  - a. **U10:** 6v6 (includes a goalkeeper).
  - b. **U11:** 8v8 (includes a goalkeeper).
  - c. **U12:** 8v8 (includes a goalkeeper).
8. Game halves should not exceed 30 minutes.
9. Games must be scheduled so that the Academy Coordinator or a qualified assistant is present whenever possible.
10. Games will be in the form of friendlies, with no published scores or standings. Roster development and team formation will be done locally at the club's discretion. Travel will be reasonable and equitable.
11. An Academy player can play in a maximum of two (2) games 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 game.
12. Team travel and tournament participation are at each club's discretion except:
  - a. U10 Academy teams are permitted to participate in a maximum of three competitive, elimination bracket tournaments per year.
  - b. U11 Academy teams are permitted to participate in a maximum of four competitive, elimination bracket tournaments per year.
  - c. U12 Academy teams have no restrictions, but it is highly recommended by the State Soccer Academy Committee that clubs limit their U12 teams to a maximum of 5 tournaments per year.

13. Players who are enrolled in the Academy cannot participate in Recreational Tournaments, Recreational All-Star tournaments or Recreational Divisions in competitive, elimination bracket tournaments.
14. **Tournament rules take precedence over Academy Guidelines.**

### **Players**

15. Players must be registered with the Georgia Youth State Association.
16. **Player passes must have pictures effective Spring 2005.**
17. **Player passes must be inspected by the referee prior to each game.**
18. Clubs can determine their own method for admitting players into the Academy. The “No-Cut Policy” is recommended. Every player who wishes to join should be accepted unless the numbers exceed the playing space available and/or coaching staff is limited.
19. Clubs may move players between “playing groups” and/or teams when it is developmentally appropriate.
20. **Academy players may play up on older Academy teams.**
21. Players in game attendance will play a minimum of one half of each game and preferably more depending on the size of the game roster and the game format (6v6, 8v8, etc.).
22. It is ***highly recommended*** that players should play for at least 15 minutes at a time before being substituted. **Of course this is determined by the demands of the game.**
23. Each player will receive two written evaluations per year; one in the second half of the fall season and another in the second half of the spring season.
24. Clubs may have an Academy Program and a Recreational Program, but no player may be registered in both programs.

### **Training**

25. Each club will provide its players, as part of the Academy, with a maximum of three practice opportunities each week. Two of the trainings can be mandatory, while the third is optional.
26. Training should be conducted at the same time and at the same location with all players within a specific age group.

### **Teams**

27. Team Format:
  - a. **U10 teams may be heterogeneously grouped (mixed grouping) or homogeneously grouped (ability grouping) for the fall and spring seasons at the discretion of the club. It is highly recommended at the U10 age group that the teams be heterogeneously grouped for the fall season.**
  - b. U11 teams may be heterogeneously or homogeneously grouped for the fall and spring seasons at the discretion of the club.
  - c. U12 teams may be heterogeneously or homogeneously grouped for the fall and spring seasons at the discretion of the club.