

**ALAMO AREA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
RECREATIONAL ACADEMY RULES & POLICIES FOR 2008/2009**

AAYSA ACADEMY RULES

Academy Teams: Member clubs within AAYSA may form Academy programs using a defined curriculum and qualified staff to teach individual skills to Division IV Under 10 and/or Under 9 youth players in a team training format that is accomplished in an age appropriate learning environment.

1. The U9 and U10 age divisions shall be designated Academy TEAM.
2. The Academy Teams will play only other Academy Teams during regular season play. Academy teams participating in an Invitational tournament must play other Academy teams. Exceptions may occur if the Recreational team is aware and accepts that they may play an Academy team.
3. The Academy Teams Player Cards will be marked to indicate that they are Academy teams.
4. The Academy Teams will be made available for all players, however, at the time the players register, it is up to the parents to decide if their child will play Academy or not.
5. Academy players will play 6v6 for both age levels for 2008-2009.
6. Academy Rosters will max out at 10 players per team.
7. Academy players cannot be rostered or play on a recreational team during ordinary league play.
8. If an Academy team disbands, all players will be divided up among the recreational teams.
9. Players who should be registered in Under 8 may play up to Under 9 if their league allows moving up. They may not play up 2 levels to Under 10.
10. All of AAYSA Academy teams will be formed by using a random draw every season. Players will be registered for the Academy team and placed on a space available basis. All players will be accepted based upon the number of teams that has been set for Academy training and may not be excluded from participating in an Academy program for any other reason.
11. **Referees for Academy teams.** There will be a center referee only.
12. **Field size.** 6v6: 30 to 50 wide by 40 to 60.
13. **Recruiting.** There will be no recruiting of players. Direct solicitation of individuals to play for a club's Academy league team(s) shall be prohibited. For purposes of this rule, "direct solicitation" shall be defined as communication, whether spoken or in writing, between a club representative and a player; "direct solicitation" does not include websites maintained by a club, banners or other written communication (including letters, flyers and emails) that are prepared by or on behalf of a club and that are not specifically addressed (by mail, email, or other form of delivery) to a player, whether individually or as a part of a group. "Club representative" shall be defined as a club's board member, coach, assistant coach, manager or trainer. "Club" shall be defined as any organization that registers individuals to play soccer through AAYSA and/or STYSA and includes any sub-club, group or other organization associated with such club. "Player" shall be defined as an individual who was not previously registered to play with the club initiating the communication and shall include such player's parents or guardian. Direct solicitation is permitted after the last published AAYSA Academy game has been completed.

2008-2009 AAYSA ACADEMY POLICIES

All Academy Programs must be applied for and approved by STYSA and ran through a Club of AAYSA. Only registered and approved Academy Programs compliant with STYSA rule 3.5.1.2. to include documented standard club curriculum and complete listing of all staff are required to compete in the 2008-2009 seasonal year.

The Recreational Academy committee recommends a minimum of sixteen (16) participants to constitute a defined academy program.

Coaching Credentials and Associated Policies

The Recreational Academy committee's goal for Academy Coaching staff members is to have "Qualified individuals emphasizing individual age appropriate skill development".

Academy Director of Coaches – All Academy Director of Coaches will be required to obtain a National Youth License by September 1, 2009.

All **Academy Coaching Staff** members must possess a minimum of the U10/U12 Youth Module License.

The committee will assess possible continuing education requirements during the 2008-2009 seasonal year and, if appropriate, document additional requirements for the 2009-2010 seasonal year.

Youth/League processes

The use of **Game Cards** will be required for all inter-association play. As per AAYSA standard procedures, the game card must be provided to the gender appropriate Recreational Vice-President within 72 hours from the conclusion of the game.

Player cards will be required for all matches.

Player movement – Per AAYSA Academy rules #9 above, all AAYSA Academy teams will be formed by using a random draw every season. Players may be moved within an Academy club program through the end of August of the new seasonal year – thereby allowing Club Academy programs movement of players within the club for the purpose of establishing parity between the teams.

League format – The goal of the Academy League will be based on a nine month league – September to May of the new seasonal year. Plans call for an initial team grouping for a mini-league format for the first 4 games in order to assess team parity within the playing groups. Teams can potentially be moved in order to assure balance.

An **8 goal Mercy Rule** will be enforced for all academy matches. The mercy rule will require that any academy game will conclude upon the eighth goal difference being scored during a match.

The Recreational Vice-Presidents will be responsible for monitoring the number of games that this occurs and if appropriate, will work with the respective DOC of the club who causes the game to conclude due to his/her team excessive scoring. **All games are to be schedule by the appropriate Vice Presidents.**

Planned Meetings

A mandatory Coaches meeting for all Academy Coaches will be held during August 2008 in order to ensure effective communication and expectations.

An all Academy Director of Coaching meeting will be held during mid-October in order to assess the program and define any needed improvements for the remainder of the fall 2008 season and spring 2009 season.