

**ALAMO AREA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION  
ACADEMY RULES & POLICIES  
FOR 2009/2010**

**AAYSA ACADEMY RULES**

**Academy Teams.** Member clubs within AAYSA may form developmental 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 Teams.
2. Director of Academy and Club DOC's are responsible for team bracketing, game day format, and all other aspects of the youth player's soccer experience. Directors of Academy and DOCs should consult with STYSA coaching leadership in setting the strategies.
3. Academy teams participating in an Invitational tournament must play other developmental teams. Exceptions may occur if the Recreational team is aware and accepts that they may play a developmental team.
4. The Academy Player Cards will be marked to indicate that they are academy teams.
5. 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.
6. Academy players will play small sided games for both age levels for 2009-2010. Academy will play 6v6 with a roster limit of 10.
7. Academy players cannot be rostered or play on a recreational team during ordinary league play.
8. 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.
9. NO Slide Tackles will be allowed.
10. Offsides will be called for U9/U10 per STYSA Rules.
11. **Referees for Academy teams.** There will be a center referee only.

12. **Field size.** Accommodate small sided games.

13. **Recruiting.** There will be no recruiting of players. Direct solicitation of individuals to play for a club's Developmental 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 Developmental game has been completed.

14. Director of Coaches will schedule the games to play.

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

**Academy Director of Coaches** – All Developmental 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.

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.

### **Planned Meetings**

A mandatory Coaches meeting for all Academy Coaches will be held during August 2009 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 2009 season and Spring 2010 season.