

Questions and Answers from the Academy Skills Introduction Session

Q: What is the thinking behind offering only a U12 and U14 Academy Squad? Why not have a U11, U12, U13 and U14 Academy Squad?

A: Having a large pool of players allows for identification of players of more similar abilities.

Allowing the younger players to develop by playing with older players builds skills.

Roughly a quarter of the players on the current U12 Squads are U11 players.

Also, you don't have the same group of players always on the team. This allows another kids to develop leadership skills when they move into the next group the following year.

Q: Do the younger player automatically end up on the second Academy Squad team?

A: Academy Squad players are placed on teams according to their ability. There is no attention paid to the age of the player during the tryouts. That being said, because players mature and develop over time, the second team has more of the younger players this past year?

Q: What is the expectation for current Academy players?

A: The Academy Squads follow the same SYSA Player commitment policy that the BAYS teams do. This is 75% of games and 50% of practices. The difference is that Academy Squads are a two season commitment.

Q: If a player does not make the Academy Squad, do they still have to be evaluated for BAYS?

A: Yes, players need to be evaluated amongst the other players participating in BAYS in help with placement. By attending BAYS evaluations it will help us to better place your player. We prefer having more data than just the coach evaluations.

The Academy Squad tryout information is not used in the BAYS placement process.

Q: Is the U14 Academy squad expected to play in just the Fall?

A: No, it is a two season commitment, just like the U12 team.

Q: What happens to U11 players who do not make the Academy Squad and have to return to BAYS? Will their team play in a lower division BAYS team? Concern here is that the current top U10 team will have players leave for club and Academy Squad and not be as strong/competitive for the players who stay with BAYS. How can this be addressed?

A: The goal is to place the team in the division to support the best competition for the kids within the BAYS organization. This may be a division II section based on the ability of the entire team.

Q: Regarding the field change when going from U10 to U11 (8v8 format). Is it better not to go to Academy because of the jump to 8v8?

A: No. Each player develops at their own rate. This allows naturally gifted technical players to transition faster than they normally would because of the advanced development program that they will go through.

Q: Academy Criteria decisions. Does athleticism vs core skills affect evaluations?

A: We put more influence on the specific soccer skills vs pure athleticism. We are trying to also focus the BAYS coaches on skill development. The development program focuses on building blocks and creating a foundation that players can utilize within games. These skills are relatively easily identified amongst the NE Revolution Academy coaches and evaluators. They evaluate more on the application of technique and the understanding of the game. We want to teach them when to use their individual skills.

Q: How do we identify players for Academy? Are you looking for “B players” to become “A players” or are you looking for “A-minus players” to become “A players”.....what is the philosophy?

A: The Academy Squad is for players that are technically gifted and have a passion for the game. Sometimes these players have been placed on higher teams in the past and some have been placed on lower teams in the past. It's all about the application of technique in game situations.

Q: Is there a difference between the one-year difference of players with regard to size, speed and potential collisions?

A: There will be large differences in size at some age levels (U10-U14). We will consider that when positioning players, but often times the smaller kids are a better fit for their age group. If we see kids backing away from challenging situations, we will assess this through the tryouts.