



WYSA Youth Academy

Youth Academies are player development methods for 8U through 10U players. The characteristics of Youth Academies are a focus on pool rostering of players with flexible game day play. It also provides a higher level of training for the players desiring a more advanced development model. In addition, the Youth Academy receives assessment and oversight by the WYSA Directors of Coaching.

In order to achieve accreditation, a club is assessed on the structure of their current or potential academy program that includes the coaching education and license level of the director of coaching, trainers, and other coaches associated with the program. In addition, their training program(s) and methods (sessions per week, training calendar, coaching methods and environments) are examined. Finally, The WYSA Directors of Coaching observe player development methods and team training sessions with post observation assessment meeting (s) aimed at providing quality feedback to enhance current or projected academy programs.

The purposes of the Youth Academies are:

- Provide soccer players, who aspire of becoming a more accomplished player, an avenue to test and enhance their skills.
- Provide soccer players an opportunity to train with experienced coaches.
- Provide soccer players an opportunity to investigate the level of play with which they are comfortable, how they fit in with other teams, and for which coaches they would like to play.

Clubs should be clear that the young players within their own academy are those who desire to learn and play at a higher level. Clubs should help parents and players recognize that an academy program is available for players wishing to participate in high level soccer training and playing opportunities. Soccer academies are to be used for training not recruiting and clubs should be committed to the concept of player development in an academy environment

Soccer academy teams may utilize flexible rostering (club passes, or rostering “across” age groups) which allows for the movement of players based on the changing dynamics of team competitiveness and player development. A club’s academy team may participate in league play (pending that league’s approval), may coordinate with other clubs to participate in “friendly” game formats or group play events with other soccer academy programs.

Academies are to be certified by the WYSA Director of Coaching or designee. Coaches, trainers, administrators, etc. of soccer academies are subject to the WYSA risk management policy and must satisfactorily pass a criminal background check.

WYSA offers two playing options for WYSA Youth Academy clubs, a Club Program and a Team Program. Both programs are open to WYSA certified Youth Academies in the Ozaukee, Metro, Kickers, Racine, Kenosha, Stateline and Waukesha WYSA Districts.

Clubs must register teams for participation in the Fall (September – Nov 1st) and Spring (late April – early June) seasons. Applications and team payments will be submitted online, and clubs must be prepared to meet the WYSA established registrations deadlines. Each season will consist of 6 playdates (games) along with the WYSA Youth Academy Festival (Mega Date), the Festival will kick off the season and each team can expect to play two games, the event is free and open to all WYSA Youth Academies.

Both the Club Program and Team Program will offer play at 8U, 9U, 10U age groups along with both boys' and girls' team being accepted (pending registration confirmations).

To be considered for participation, clubs will need to meet requirements or accreditation and maintain standards that ensure sustainability, transparency and accountability, soccer stewardship and most importantly, a safe and constructive playing, working and learning environment for players, officials and coaches.

WYSA Youth Academy Clubs are encouraged to review both options and select based on what fits your club needs the best!

Club Program Overview

Age Groups: 8U, 9U, 10U

Gender: Boys and Girls

Level of play: Matchups are determined & set by the two participating clubs.

Clubs must meet a minimum number of teams for participation, when possible, clubs will be broken into sub groups to ensure the best playing environment for players.

Minimum number of Teams: (1) per age and gender * (some flexibility at the 8U girls' level)

Play dates and Scheduling:

Each club will receive three home and three away play dates. Clubs will be provided game dates and matchups by WYSA, the clubs will be responsible for submitting game times, field names/numbers along with confirmation of matchups with appropriate team names by the established WYSA deadlines.

Changes to the WYSA scheduled playdate are acceptable if both clubs agree to the change, clubs should communicate with each other regarding the scheduled playdate to confirm matchups, coaching assignments, etc to ensure a successful playdate.

Games are played at the hosting club location with all academy teams present. All games must be played on the scheduled playdate, no scores or standings will be kept. The hosting club must be able to provide adequate field space for all matches, along with parking and restrooms. Additionally, Clubs are requested to confirm all matchups the week leading up to your match.

Team Program Overview

Age Groups: 8U, 9U, 10U

Gender: Boys and Girls

Level of play: A, B, C

*if necessary, the divisions (A, B, C) will be combined pending registration numbers

Games and Scheduling:

Each club will receive three home and away games. Clubs will be provided game dates and matchups by WYSA, the clubs will be responsible for submitting game times, field names/numbers along with confirmation of matchups with appropriate team names by the established WYSA deadlines. Changes to the WYSA scheduled playdate are acceptable if both clubs agree to the change, clubs should communicate with each other regarding the scheduled game.

Games are played at the hosting clubs' location, in a team vs team matchup, the major difference between the club and team program is how the games are scheduled and played. Both programs will follow the same rules, but the club games are played with the whole academy present vs team which will only have that match being played. All games must be played on the scheduled playdate, no scores or standings will be kept, and the hosting club must be able to provide adequate field space, parking and restrooms. Additionally, Clubs are requested to confirm games the week leading up to your match.

WYSA Youth Academy Participation Requirements

Coaching:

- Youth Academy Directors need proper qualifications
- Coaches hold appropriate licenses for the age groups
- Do Not "over coach" from the sidelines, players must learn to solve problems
- Responsibility of coaches to adjust during playdates with opposing coach

- Youth Academy Directors: (D License or National Youth License minimum.)
- Coaches: E license OR (2) in person US Soccer Grassroots Modules: 4v4-7v7
- Coaches, trainers, administrators, etc. of soccer academies are subject to the WYSA risk management policy and must satisfactorily pass a criminal background check.

Training

- Coaches should follow "Best Practices" as outlined by US Soccer for given ages to ensure that Academy Philosophies are carried out.
- Carried out in an appropriate "quality" environment which is safe and conducive to learning.
- Involve game-like activities which enhance the players' abilities and should always involve some "Unrestricted Play".
- Training should be scheduled on a regular basis with 2-3 trainings/games per week
- There should be a seasonal plan which is appropriate for the team age

- Observation of player development methods and team training sessions

- Assessment of clubs training methods to include (sessions per week, training calendar)
- Submit a training plan which is appropriate for the age groups and meets US Soccer best practices.
- WYSA will visit your club to review the training environment

Administration:

- Regularly attend WYSA Youth Academy Meetings
- Complete applications, scheduling and other club administration tasks on time
- Club must meet on field playing requirements regarding team participation

Facilities:

- Proper Field and Goal Size for 8U and 9U/10U
- Safe playing environment for participants

Yearly Review:

- Clubs will receive a written review with a satisfactory or unsatisfactory grade in the areas above.
- Every two years Clubs must have review completed by the WYSA Director of Coaching or WYSA Associate Director of Coaching.
- If clubs are found to be deficient in areas the club will be put on probation or potentially removed from the program.

WYSA Youth Academy 9U and 10U Playing Rules

Game Day Rules

- 7v7 including keepers
- 50-minute game with 10 min halftime (2 x 25 minutes)
- 1 referee per field
- Regular Throw-Ins, if a foul throw is committed the player is allowed a second attempt. If a foul throw is committed on the second attempt the throw-in is awarded to the other team.
- Substitutions are unlimited and can occur at any stoppage
- Recommend a Max of 9-11 players per match/per team. We want players to play as much as possible, try to avoid too many subs per team.
- Coaches need to manage the substitutions for equal playing time.

Build Out Line

- On a goal kick the opposing team's players must be outside the build out line until the ball is in play.
- When the GK has the ball in his/her hands during play, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is put into play.
- Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the GK can pass, throw or roll the ball into play (punts and drop kicks are not allowed)
- Ideally, the GK will wait to put the ball into play once all opponents are past the build out line but the GK can put the ball into play sooner accepting the positioning of the opponents

- After the ball is put into play by the GK, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes.
- **Into play is classified as dropped onto the ground, thrown or played by the GK**
- Coaches are responsible for addressing issues with their players regarding intentional delays or encroaching over the build out line
- Referees should be flexible when enforcing the 6 second rule and counting the time of possession should only begin when all opponents have moved behind the build out line

Punting & Heading

- Players are prohibited from deliberately heading the ball during competition & training
- Indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team at the spot of the infraction if a player deliberately heads the ball during a game
- If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line and the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.
- GKs are prohibited from punting the ball and drop kicking the ball
- If the GK punts the ball an indirect free kick shall be awarded and should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred
- Any Head injury-remove from the field player should not return until evaluated by a Health Care Professional, player can be replaced immediately

Offside

- The build out line will also be used to denote where offside offenses can be called
- Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the midfield line and the build out line
- Players can be penalized for an offside offense between the build out line and the opposing goal line

Field Size

- Length – 55 -70 yards Width – 35 – 45 yards
- Goal size – 6.5 x 18.5 or 7 x 21
- Goal Area: Length 4 yards, Width 8 yards
- Penalty area: Length 12 yards, Width 24 yards
- Penalty Arc and Center Circle – 8 yards
- Build out line – Marked equidistant between the penalty area line and the midfield line (on turf)

Coach/Academy Director Code of Conduct

- Before, during and after the game, be an example for your club, players and staff
- Before the game, introduce yourself to the opposing coach and to the referee.
- During the game, you are responsible for the sportsmanship and conduct of your players and parents. It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behavior.
- Encourage parents to applaud and cheer for good plays by either team and discourage them yelling at players and the referee.
- After the game, thank the referee and ask your players to do the same.

- WYSA will monitor the sportsmanship of all clubs during these play dates and any clubs who fail to meet the expectations listed above may be removed from the Program.

Referees

- Especially young and inexperienced ones - are like your players and yourself, in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments. On the other hand, you could discourage and demoralize the referees by criticizing their decisions, by verbally abusing them and inciting - or even accepting - your own players' overly aggressive behavior.

WYSA Youth Academy 8U Playing Rules

Game Day Rules

- 4 v 4 (side by side)
- 50-minute game with 10 min halftime (2 x 25 minutes)
- Ball Size: 3 Goal Size: 4' x 6'
- No referees
- All free kicks are indirect, NO PKS
- Goal Kicks, corner kicks taken within the general vicinity of goal or corner
- Regular Throw-Ins, if a foul throw is committed the player is allowed a second attempt. If a foul throw is committed on the second attempt the throw-in is awarded to the other team.
- Substitutions are unlimited and can occur at any stoppage
- Coaches need to manage the substitutions for equal playing time.

Build Out Line

- No build out line at the 8U age level, the build out line will start at 9U

Heading

- Deliberate heading is not allowed. If this happens, indirect free kick from the spot of the head ball.
- Any Head injury-remove from the field player should not return until evaluated by a Health Care Professional, player can be replaced immediately

Offside

- No offside at the 8U age level, offside will start at 9U

Field Size

- Length – 25 - 35 yards Width – 15 - 25 yards
- Goal size – 4' x 6'

Coach/Academy Director Code of Conduct

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- Before the game, introduce yourself to the opposing coach and to the referee.
- During the game, you are responsible for the sportsmanship and conduct of your players and parents. It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behavior.
- Encourage parents to applaud and cheer for good plays by either team and discourage them yelling at players and the referee.
- After the game, thank the referee and ask your players to do the same.
- WYSA will monitor the sportsmanship of all clubs during these play dates and any clubs who fail to meet the expectations listed above may be removed from the Program.

Referees

- Especially young and inexperienced ones - are like your players and yourself, in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments. On the other hand, you could discourage and demoralize the referees by criticizing their decisions, by verbally abusing them and inciting - or even accepting - your own players' overly aggressive behavior.