Below FAQs are intended to provide a brief introduction to parents and players who may be new to Academy soccer

1. What is Academy Soccer?

Select soccer is more competitive than Recreational soccer. The training and coaching is carried out by licensed, professional soccer coaches. Compared to Recreational soccer, Select soccer requires a greater time and financial commitment from the parents and players. It mainly involves games in and around the metro Atlanta area, but potentially away games and tournaments can be in other parts of Georgia. Some teams attend out of state tournaments.

2. What age groups does Academy soccer apply to?

Academy is from U9 to U12 which includes players ages 7 to 12.

3. Are the genders split?

Yes. The teams are split into boys and girls teams.

4. How do I know which age group my son/daughter is in?

The player must have their birthday between August 1st and July 31st inclusive, for that age group. For example, a U9 would have their ninth birthday between the above dates. Age group charts with calendar years are available on the website to refer to.

5. Is Academy soccer that different from Recreational soccer?

Yes. Expectations for the players in Academy soccer are much higher. There will be two 1 ½ hour practices per week, an optional Friday night practice and one or two games per weekend. In Recreational soccer, players are placed on a team on a first come first served basis, regardless of ability level. Academy players are selected at Tryouts on ability.

6. When are Tryouts?

Georgia Soccer sets the dates tryouts can be held each year. Tryout dates are posted on the website when they are made available by the state. They are held every year around the end of May for Academy and in early June for Athena and Classic. Players also may be considered to sign up for academy program during mid-season (January/February).

7. How long is the commitment for?

The Academy players are registered through Georgia Soccer to play for their club for one year. The soccer year is split into two seasons. The Fall Season, which runs from August to late November/early December and the Spring Season which runs from February to May. If a player leaves their team part way through the calendar year, the full fee must still be paid. The expectation though, is that soccer is the player's primary sport and the commitment is for the full year.

8. How many teams are there in each age group?

It varies between age groups, but usually there will be between two to four teams per gender age group.

9. What are the team levels in an age group?

Age groups are divided into Teams by colors; Blue, White, Red, Black, Silver depending on the number of teams for that particular age group.

10. Can a player move between teams at AYSA?

Yes. The coaching staff can make this decision on a weekly basis depending on each teams' needs. In the academy program players can be moved up or down at any given week, depending on their ability level, their rate of development and their commitment level. Please note that players can only be moved down to another team at their current age bracket. In other words a U11 player ca not play with U10s but a U10 Blue player can play with U10 White).

11. How are games scheduled in Academy?

All academy games are scheduled by your club's academy directors and are scheduled for Saturday mornings and occasional Sunday afternoons. Schedules are created based on distance and proximity between clubs as well as making sure every player/team has at least one game each weekend. There is no official ranking system for academy teams so clubs match up according to number of teams before skill level, although skill level is considered as well. Usually clubs schedule home and away matches for the fall and spring season. So, whichever club AYSA teams travel to play during the fall season, those teams will travel to AYSA during the following spring season.

12. Apart from regular season games, will the players go to tournaments?

Yes. Teams are required to do at least one pre season and one post-season tournament each season. So with two seasons, this means a minimum of four tournaments per calendar year. Some higher-level teams attend more than four tournaments and additional fees may apply .

12. If a player cannot attend a particular tournament, do we still have to pay?

Yes. It is club policy that the tournament fees are divided equally between all rostered players for that team, regardless of whether the player can make the tournament or not.

13. How many players on a team?

U9 and U10 will play 6v6. Usually, eight to ten rostered players per team.
U11 and U12 will play 8v8. Usually, ten to twelve rostered players per team.

14. How much playing time will my son/daughter get?

The guideline is at least the equivalent of half the game. Playing time will be affected by performance, ability, effort and commitment, both at practice and in games. This is a coaching staff decision.

15. Are players expected to attend every practice and every game?

Yes. If a player cannot make a practice or a game, the coach must be notified with as much advance notice as possible. Whilst it is expected that a player will be at each practice and game, it is accepted that sickness and special occasions may mean a player misses an occasional practice or game.

16. What nights and times are practices?

It depends on the age group. Currently we have the following practice times for our Academy teams (*Subject to change*):

- U9 and U10 Teams (Boys and Girls) practice on Tuesday – Thursday from 5:30 pm to 7.00 pm.
- U11s and U12 Teams (Boys and Girls) practice on Monday - Wednesday from 5:30 pm to 7.00 pm.

17. Where do the teams practice?

All practices are held at our home field Arizona Avenue. We may shift certain practice sessions to our other fields which is in close proximity due to weather and field conditions.

18. Are there written codes of conduct for players and parents?

Yes. AYSA has written codes of conduct for players and parents. These can be found on the AYSA website, www.aysa.net under Program Info and Parent Info.

19. Where can I find more information?

Please visit www.aysa.net