



ACADEMY

WELCOME TO THE NWA LIGHTNING SOCCER ACADEMY

Academy Program Concept

An academy program is primarily an in-house developmental concept with the goal of developing highly skilled and competent individual players that eventually will be prepared to apply these skills at U-11 and above age level as the team concept becomes a more appropriate emphasis for players that are proficiently skilled.

A major difference in running a successful academy program and helping in player retention and individual player development as opposed to the "team forming" model that is not as appropriate for a young soccer player's development is the focus on player improvement versus team improvement and preparation for the short-term goal of winning a game at U-10 and below.

With this program, NWA Lightning Soccer Club believes it will help to develop it's players all around individual technical skills up to U-10. Then at U-12 and above, these players will become technically sound players ready to apply their skills into teams that can compete to win with skill and flair. "Players First Winning Second"

Training will be conducted by qualified professional coaches who understand the how to teach very young players how to develop individual skills through fun, competitive, age appropriate demanding skill building and small game play.

ACADEMY PROGRAM INFORMATION POINTS

1. When does practice start and what will practice be like for Academy players?
 - First practice will begin third week of August in the Fall and third week of February in the Spring. Practice days and time to be determined
 - Practice will be a combination of "pool" practice, individual age group practice, and skill development and homework
 - Soccer "Homework" will be verified by the parents and coaches as being completed, much like homework in our school system

2. What is the cost of the program?
 - Registration Fee for the U-9 & U-10 Academy Fall and Spring Season is \$300.
 - A. One payment
 - B. Uniform not included
 - Registration Fee for the U-8 Pre Academy Fall and Spring Season is \$225.
 - A. One payment
 - B. Uniform included

3. What does the Registration Fee cover? What am I investing in?
 - Registration Fee for the Academy includes the following:
 - Paid Coaching Staff and Trainers for the Academy Program (Licensed Coaches)
 - Structured Program Design focusing on individual player improvement
 - Dedicated equipment for the Academy program
 - Registration and player insurance

4. Will we be playing matches with other Academy Teams? Where are they located?
 - Yes, Academy players will play matches against other Academy Teams
 - 6-8 Matches are planned for the Fall and Spring Season
 - Academy Teams have being formed in Bentonville, Springdale, Tulsa, Ft. Smith & Springfield, MO.
 - U-8 Pre Academy may have a similar game schedule.

5. Will we be playing matches against our NWAL Rec Teams?
 - Yes, we may play friendship match against our REC Teams during the Season
 - We will play intra-squad Academy games I.E. U-8 V U-8, U-8 V U-9, U-9 V U-10
 - We will play Academy league games with other clubs
 - U-8 Pre Academy may play games with other clubs.

6. Will Academy Players play in Tournaments and will this require travel?
 - Yes, Academy Teams are scheduled to play two or three tournaments, 2 local and 1 Away
 - We do not anticipate a lot of overnight travel requirements for players/families
 - Possibility exist our U-9 – U-10 Academy Group may travel to an overnight tournament.
 - U-8 Pre Academy will not travel.

7. Does my child have to try-out for the Academy?
 - Academy does not have a try-out, ONLY an evaluation (Open to all)
 - Academy players are on the roster for one year
 - Academy is for all player(s) who wants more

8. If you decide the Academy program is not for your child after Fall season, what can you do?
 - You can enroll your child in Recreational Soccer for the Spring Session
 - Provided there is space available at the Recreational Division – no gaurantee

9. Why does the State require special registration documents for Academy Teams?
 - Academy teams are considered Recreational Level II Teams
 - Academy Teams are considered Developmental Teams
 - Recreational Level II Teams (Flash/Academy) can practice twice per week or more
 - Recreational Level II Teams can travel and play in tournaments
 - Recreational Level II Team Players are Issued State Player Cards
 - Different insurance requirements

10. How many players will be on an Academy Team Roster? Pool Registration
 - U-8 – will depend on the playing format (4 V 4 6 – 8 players / 6 V 6 8 – 12)
 - U-9 – will depend on playing format (6 v 6 8 – 12 players / 8 v 8 12 – 14)
 - U-10 – will depend on playing format (6 v 6 8 – 12 players / 8 v 8 12 – 14)
 - Teams are SPLIT EVENLY

11. What paperwork do I need?
 - Birth Certificate – with state seal on it
 - 2 pictures 1 X 1
 - Medical release form (must be notarized)
 - \$300 registration fee for U-9 & U-10 Academy
 - \$225 registration fee for U-8 Pre Academy