

**RECREATION
vs.
ACADEMY & SELECT**



Have you ever wondered what exactly the terms Athena, Classic, and Academy soccer mean? Well if so, stick around and keep reading. Hopefully, all your questions will be answered!

The Recreational Program is a developmental soccer program for all youth players. The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or a similar process to roster players to any recreational team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited. Furthermore, recreational players may not be “cut” from the team. Players are assigned to teams using a fair system in order to distribute talent among all teams participating in the same age group within the league. Recreational teams are for children who love the game of soccer but do not want to commit to an Academy or Select team.

The Academy Program is a developmental program that leads to select for boys’ and girls’ teams from U-8 through U-12. U8 teams are considered Pre-Academy. Academy soccer is a good introduction to competitive soccer. It is geared toward players who are transitioning from recreational to select soccer. Professional trainers take over for practices and games in the academy program to help prepare the kids for the higher level of play that will be experienced in Select.

At the end of the U12 Spring season, teams participate in the Georgia State Soccer Association run Academy Cup which determines the level of placement into select at the U13 age group. Academy try-outs are usually held at the end of May, but coaches may allow new players to join mid-season with an individual tryout.

Select soccer is broken down into two divisions – Athena for girls and Classic for boys. These programs are for players who wish to seriously commit to play competitive soccer. Try-outs for Select are usually held at the beginning of June. Once a player has decided to play for a team, they commit for two seasons – both the fall and spring. U15 and up teams commit for the fall season, but usually play in end-of-year tournaments in May once the high school season has been completed.

Both Academy and Select teams regularly travel throughout Metro Atlanta; teams may occasionally travel throughout the state for league games. Teams may also travel out of state to participate in tournaments throughout the season though tournaments are typically pre-season or post-season. Recreational games are usually held at the home field or played within the county. Recreational teams may participate in tournaments if they are interested but they are not required.

The cost associated with Academy and Select is greater than Recreation because of added costs of professional trainers, tournaments, and possible travel. However, in comparison to other clubs in Metro Atlanta, the YMCA is very proud to offer lower fees to play which is largely due to our wonderful, dedicated sponsors and fundraising opportunities.

Thank you to Georgia Soccer for all their information on recreation and select soccer. For additional information please visit their website at www.georgiasoccer.org.

If you are interested in finding more information, please visit our website: www.ystrikersoccer.com.