

Q: What is the Academy Program?

A: The VVSC Academy program is stage one of our Long-Term Player Development Pathway. The intent behind offering play at U7 through U10 is to provide players with the opportunity to play with and against players of similar ability and commitment. Playing at an appropriate level encourages maximum success and enjoyment.

Q: What is the difference between VVSC Academy and Recreational soccer?

A: The characteristics of players who would participate in VVSC's Academy Program are below. If your player exhibits the majority of the characteristics listed, they are probably more suited for our Academy. The academy program or a recreational program lies in the level of investment, commitment and interest about 7 and 9 year olds and their parents/guardians.

- Demonstrates sound technical skills (control, dribbling, and shooting)
- Physically stronger than most players within their age group
- Athletically quicker than most players within their age group
- High level of coordination and good agility
- During games is aggressive in their attitude and approach to getting involved
- During games tends to dominate the play
- Demonstrates high level of focus and concentration during practices and games
- Started to narrow down the number of extra-curricular activities
- Soccer is a high priority
- Practices with a ball in their own time outside regular schedule of games & practices
- U10 player who will try-out for the U11 competitive age group in the following year.

Q: Who can participate in the Academy program?

A: The academy program is open to any player (boys and girls with dates of birth between (1/1/2012-12/31/2008) who have a desire to further develop their soccer skills and receive professional training. Special request for players playing up must be approved by the Academy Director of Coaching. The academy structure will follow the guidelines established by the Colorado Soccer Association and United States Soccer Federation. Please feel free to contact Travis Yoakum, VVSC Director of Coaching, with any questions.

Q: What is the Academy Program Philosophy?

A: The U8 & U10 age groups are often coined as the 'Initial Stage' of player development because during this phase players have an increased capacity for learning. Therefore, VVSC coaches would like to maximize player development during this limited window of trainability. Our qualified professional coaching staff looks at player development through 'bi-focal lenses' and understand the present needs of this age group while, at the same time, retaining the long term vision of the ideal goal of helping every player reach their full soccer potential.

Q: What does practice involve?

A: Players will have the opportunity to train two nights per week; both practices will be under the direction of the Director of Coaching and Academy Director. VVSC also utilizes current club players to help coach in the Academy. This is our mentoring program that we offer our players. Training sessions last approximately 90 minutes in duration.

Q: When and where are games played?

A: Academy teams will play in Jamborees instead of a CSA league. They will play approximately 3-4 jamborees (total of 12 potential games). Jamboree matches will be played on Sundays. Academy clubs must still follow the playing guidelines (e.g players must experience 50% playing time in matches). However, the emphasis is placed on creating a playing environment that is more conducive to the individual as opposed to team development. Jamborees will be held at the following locations: Edwards, Glenwood Springs, Carbondale/Basalt and Summit County. Each participating club will get to host one jamboree.

Q: Do Academy teams play in tournaments?

A: In addition to the jamborees, the Academy will also, participate in no more than 1 tournament per season (Fall/Spring). These tournaments are in-state and are sanctioned by the Colorado Soccer Association (CSA). The tournaments will be held in Grand Junction or Denver.

Q: How long is each season?

A: There are two seasons Fall and Spring. The Fall Season is from September to late October. The Spring Season is from April to the end of May.

Q: Who coaches the Academy teams?

A: Players will have the opportunity to train two nights per week; both under the direction of the Director of Coaching and Academy Director. VVSC also takes advantage of our mentor program. This places current VVSC youth players as coaches to help facilitate practices.

Q: How are teams formed at Jamborees/Tournaments?

A: VVSC will form balanced teams for competition and will restructure the age group from the Fall Season to the Spring Season to ensure that our focus remains on the individual. Teams will first be formed by age group/birth year. If there are not enough players in a single age group/birth year, we will then decide to place players on different teams regardless of age. This will depend on skill level of player and commitment.

Q: What is the cost to participate?

A: The cost of the program is \$300 per season and \$600 a year, if you register for the entire year.

Q: What do my registration fees go towards?

A: VVSC uses the funds towards the following: coaches fee, field rental, field maintenance, training equipment and goals.

Q: What do the players wear?

A: Players will wear a VVSC uniform during Jamborees and tournaments, these can be ordered through Gazelle.

Q: How do I register for the Academy program?

A: You can register for the Academy program by [clicking here](#).