

Understanding the Differences between Junior Academy, Academy, Challenge and Classic Soccer

The following table has been put together to highlight the similarities and differences between Junior Academy Soccer, Academy Soccer, Challenge and Classic Soccer. This table is meant for parents and coaches alike and should be used as a tool to find what program fits your child best.

	Junior Academy	Academy Soccer	Challenge and Classic Soccer
Age Group	U5-U8	U8-U12	U11-U19
Main Objective	Player Development	Player Development	Competitive Play
Brief Description	<p>Junior Academy is primarily meant to be a fun learning soccer environment for players. Scores and standings are not recorded nor maintained by CMSC. This program is designed to develop an understanding of the game of soccer and is focused on ball skills and individual soccer enhancement. Players all pool trained and are not designated to one team.</p>	<p>Academy Soccer focuses primarily on individual skill development and prepares players for Challenge or Classic Soccer in later years. Scores are not recorded; standings are not maintained. All players generally play the same amount of time in each game. The season usually concludes with a regional Academy Festival. Some may also participate in pre-season & post-season festivals. Pool training format is used and the ratio is about 8 to 1</p>	<p>Club Soccer is the most competitive format available for young soccer players. The primary objective of club teams is to continue to develop players with more emphasis on winning games. Individual playing time varies from team to team but players do not usually get equal playing time. Scores and team standings are maintained throughout the season. The Club Soccer season usually concludes with a regional tournament. Most teams also participate in competitive preseason & post-season tournaments.</p>
Team Selection Process	Open Registration	Open Registration with *Evaluations	Competitive Tryout
Focus on Competition	Below Average - Average	Average - Above Average	Above Average - High
Regular Season	Fall and Spring Seasons	Fall and Spring Seasons	Fall and Spring Seasons
Amount of Travel	None - Minimal	Minimal - Regional	Regional
Relative Cost	\$	\$\$	\$\$\$
Coach/Trainer Background	Coaches and Trainers	Coaches and Trainers	Coaches and Trainers

*Academy Assessments differ from Challenge/Classic Tryouts. While Challenge/Classic team tryouts are competitive in nature, whereby players compete for a position on the Challenge/Classic team, selection to an Academy team/program is open to all players meeting age requirements and a brief assessment to group like abilities.