

## Seattle Youth Soccer Association

### **SYSA Spring Skills Academy**

Welcome to Seattle Youth Soccer Association's (SYSA's) **Spring Skills Academy!** Please read through the questions and answers below to understand more about the Academy, and how it will work for your player.

NOTE: For an explanation of how age grouping works and what the "U" means, see the last question in this FAQ.

#### ***WHAT IS SYSA'S SPRING SKILLS ACADEMY?***

The Academy is an eight-week soccer program for U6-U8 (5 years old – 8 years old) players. Our goal is to provide all young players a chance to experience the joy and excitement of the great game of soccer in a comfortable, fun and safe setting. Each week will include soccer skills instruction by professional coaches, followed by soccer games played during each session, with teams formed within each group. Players will be placed into small groups, based on age and experience.

#### ***WHY IS THE SKILLS ACADEMY SEPARATE FROM THE SPRING SOCCER LEAGUE?***

We get many requests each year from families with new players who want to participate in the SYSA Spring Soccer league, or with players who participated in the fall, but don't have a spring team. Unfortunately, **SYSA Spring Soccer is organized around teams that played in the previous fall season.** Because of that, it is often not possible for us to incorporate players onto existing teams, especially at the youngest ages. To provide a way for these players to enjoy soccer in the spring, we offer this small, separate eight-week program.

#### ***WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?***

Any child who wants to play soccer in the spring and does not have a team to play on and is within the U6 to U8 age range (see the last question for how age grouping works), can participate. While we do encourage players to find teams within their neighborhood to play on, we realize this is frequently not possible in the spring. Players who were on a fall team and whose team is not playing in the spring, can also participate. The league is limited to the first 150 players who register.

#### ***HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?***

The cost is \$150 for each player for all 8 sessions. Financial assistance is available for families that need it. Please contact the SYSA Registrar Paige Blomso at [paige.blomso@sysa.org](mailto:paige.blomso@sysa.org) to apply.

### ***WHEN AND WHERE WILL GAMES BE PLAYED?***

Each year, the Spring Skills Academy takes place at the **Roosevelt High School** playfield, in northeast Seattle, on 67<sup>th</sup> St and 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE.

**All sessions are on consecutive Saturday afternoons**, and begin early April and run until mid-May. Check the Skills Academy page on the SYSA website for dates and times specific to each year.

### ***HOW LONG ARE THE SESSIONS?***

**Each session is 50 minutes long.**

The 10 minutes between the end of the first session and the beginning of the second session will allow players and parents to enter and exit the field area in time for the next session to begin. We hope to minimize congestion at the field, as well as the entry and exit points.

### ***CAN KIDS PLAY WITH THEIR FRIENDS?***

**Absolutely!** Playing with friends is encouraged, and there is a spot on the registration form to list friends that your child wishes to participate with! We will organize the players into groups to accommodate training and playing with friends whenever possible.

### ***WHAT EQUIPMENT WILL MY PLAYER NEED?***

All players should be equipped with soccer shoes/cleats, shin guards (required) under socks, and appropriate athletic clothing (athletic shorts, t-shirt and sweatshirt). It's important to bring weather appropriate gear each week as well, to keep players warm and comfortable outdoors. We will have some soccer balls at the field, but we encourage players to bring their own balls too. Players U6-U8 use a #3 size soccer ball, the smallest ball size available. Be sure to put your child's name on all equipment that they bring to the field, including their ball and water bottle!

### ***WHAT DOES THE "U" IN THE AGE GROUP DESCRIPTION MEAN?***

Most youth soccer organizations use the "U" system to organize players by age. The "U" stands for "under", and the number stands for the age of the player. So a U6 player is a child still at or under the age of 6 years old on July 31<sup>st</sup> of the seasonal year they are playing in. An age group calculator can be found on the spring soccer page of the website, to help you figure out your child's playing age.

All Spring Soccer programs in SYSA are based on the previous fall age groups.