



Ocean State Soccer School

2013-2014 Soccer Academy Program



Ocean State Soccer School is pleased to announce the continuation of its Academy program. The Ocean State Academy is a developmental program for young soccer players (**U7-U9 for 2013-2014**) who are interested in competing at higher levels of soccer in the future. The Ocean State Academy program provides a bridge between recreational soccer and competitive soccer by providing standardized guidance, education, and professional instruction to Academy participants.

Purpose: To help build a solid foundation for our youth players so they can achieve the highest level possible by creating technically sound players.

Principles: The principles of the Ocean State Soccer Academy are based on two training methods.

(1) To develop the proper techniques of youth players by repetitive training of the basics, and progress to a more intense training module; and (2) To help develop the confidence and ability to apply the skills developing in training in a game related environment.

Our Academy's system provides the ability to achieve both of these principles by providing positive and progressive technical sessions that allow our players to develop basic and then advance fundamentals in a fun, educational, yet increasingly competitive environment.

All training sessions focus on introducing and improving the ball handling skills needed to become a successful young soccer player. At this age, players will work on touching the ball as often as possible in order to learn the motor skills necessary to move with the ball in all possible directions. Ocean State Soccer Academy will offer other beneficial training environments such as Speed Training, Skills Training, Futsal, and Finishing Programs throughout the year.

The Academy Director is Mark D'Arezzo. Mark is a USSF "B" license coach, former Division 1 and Major League Soccer player, and one of the few "Coerver" certified instructors in the United States.

Format: The 2013-2014 Academy Program consists of 2 programs:

(1) Academy 2 program:

Who: The Academy 2 program is for returning 2012-13 OSS Academy players along with selected u8/u9 (3rd grader) eligible players.

What: The Academy 2 program is 10 month program, starting in Sep 2013. The Fall session consists of 1 weekly training session. The Winter session consists of 1 weekly training session. The spring season consists of 1 weekly Academy session plus 1 spring team training session. Academy 2 players will play the festival style format in the fall against selected teams from other towns and will play in the U10 RI "Superliga" league for the spring.

When: Academy sessions are currently scheduled for Thursdays, starting in mid-Sept, at 6pm at Ocean State Fields in the Fall/Spring and at WWIS South in the Winter.

Cost: \$250 for the year (includes the 2d jersey) plus selected team fees (app. \$150-175).



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(1) Academy 1 program:

Who: The Academy 1 program is for new OSS Academy players from the u7/u8 age group. Players **must** be concurrently enrolled in the Fall OSS Recreational program to join the Academy.

What: The Academy 2 program is 10 month program, starting in Sep 2013. The Fall session consists of 1 weekly training session. The Winter session consists of 1 weekly training session. The spring season consists of 2 weekly Academy sessions.. Academy 1 players will play in the OSS Recreational program in the fall and will play in the OSS Festival program in the Spring that schedules Academy players against selected competitive/travel teams from other communities as well as selected u8 tournaments.

When: Academy sessions are currently scheduled for Thursdays, starting in mid-Sept, at 5 pm at Ocean State Fields in the Fall/Spring and at WWIS South in the Winter. The 2nd spring training session is TBD, but likely on Tuesdays.

Cost: \$250 for the year (includes an initial OSS Competitive uniform kit) plus selected team fees (app. \$100-125) based on tournament participation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible for the Academy?

Academy 1 (new players) For 2013-2014, U8 level players along with any U7 players who are in 2d grade or selected by the Academy staff are eligible to enroll in the Academy. Additionally, Academy 1 players must participate in the OSSS recreational program.

Academy 2 Program: For 2013-14, returning Academy players along with u9 eligible players interested in joining the OSS Competitive program.

Will there be the usual U8/U9 “competitive” tryouts as in the past? No – the Academy program replaces the U8 competitive soccer program going forward. Going forward, the u9 competitive program selection for the spring teams will be based on Academy participation and evaluation. Academy participants have first priority for selection to OSS competitive u9/u10 teams starting in 2013-14.

Is there a cap on the size of the Academy class? Yes, in order to ensure high quality instruction to all participants, the Academy classes will be limited, with as close to an equal balance between male and female players as possible.

Is the Academy for both boys and girls? Yes, the Academy trains both boys and girls. Academy 2 participants will eventually be placed on single gender teams though.



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If I don't sign up this year, will my child not be able to participate in the competitive program next year? We recognize not all children are ready at U8 for competitive play. The Academy provides a transitional bridge between recreational and competitive soccer. However, first priority for selection to OSS competitive teams at the u9/u10 level will go to Academy participants so we would strongly encourage parents with children interested in competitive to enroll in the Academy.

Why the Academy program? The Academy approach is recommended by both US Soccer Federation and US Youth Soccer, the national organizations governing youth soccer in the United States. At the youth level, According to US Youth Soccer, the two biggest factors in influencing the early development of soccer players are the quality of coaching and the "culture" of the soccer program. The Academy program ensures *all* players are exposed to coaches with the appropriate level of experience and qualifications and given the same training curriculum. Also, the Academy places priority on the individual development of players and seeks to remove the unintended pressures that a focus on "winning games" can have on young players. In order to develop confidence in their abilities, players need an environment to take risks and apply what they are learning in match-like settings; a focus purely on team results tends to inhibit, not increase, player development.

So what about teams like in the past? The Academy program is NOT a refusal to recognize the social benefit of team identity or team-building that can be a great child-hood experience. The Academy Program will help as the Academy is a larger TEAM that enables players to train/compete/socialize with a larger group of players; build more friendships and increase their group of friends; compete with and learn from the other players that comprise the Academy Program. For matches, Academy 1 players will be put on actual "teams"; however, unlike in the past, teams may change based on the progress of individual players, the desire to expose all players to different coaches, and the desire of some players (and parents) to participate in extra opportunities such as tournaments or short-notice events with other clubs. This roster flexibility also gives the benefit of avoiding the cases where games are "one-sided" and we tell players to stop playing "soccer" as the game is supposed to be played. Remember, down the road, these players will transition during the Academy 2 program to the formal OSS competitive program with 'set' teams so we want to avoid placing them too early on a team that is not developmentally appropriate for them. Imagine if your child got placed for the whole year in school solely based on a standardized test score from a single two-hour exam!

I want to coach in the competitive soccer program so how do I get that opportunity? The Academy program is also a coaching developmental program! Recreational coaches who want to become competitive coaches can sign up to be become Academy instructors under the direction of the Academy director and staff. This enables you to learn how to teach technical skills, see how to run training sessions, time to get your coaching education/licenses, and exposes you to more of the players in the club. During the Academy program, adult volunteers will be assigned teams to coach during the indoor and outdoor seasons; however, as mentioned earlier, the composition of teams may change on a periodic basis to ensure players of similar physical and technical abilities play together to promote the optimal developmental environment.

Where can I learn more on the reasons for the movement to an Academy program?
[http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/assets/1/1/The Soccer Environment.pdf](http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/assets/1/1/The_Soccer_Environment.pdf)



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Summary

Program	Who	Training	Matches	Cost*	Other
Academy 1	New u7/u8 DOB: Aug 1 2005 – July 31 2007	1 x week (Fall/Winter) 2 x week (Spring)	Fall – Rec program Spring – Festivals plus tournaments	\$250	Must enroll in OSS Fall Rec Program
Academy 2	Returning Academy plus new U9 DOB: Aug 1 2004 – July 31 2005	1 x week (Fall/Winter) 1 x week (Spring) 1 x team training (Spring)	Fall – Festivals Spring – RI Superliga plus tournaments	\$300	

Notes:

Academy 1 – Fall recreational is a separate cost paid during the Recreational registration

Academy 2 - Fee does not include Superliga “referee” fees, which are part of the team fee structure. New u9 Academy players will also incur a \$50 fee to obtain the full Academy uniform kit (returning players already paid this as part of last year’s Academy fee).

**** Academy fees are paid in two parts. There is an initial \$100 fee paid at registration and then a second payment automatically charged later in the fall. You have the option to pay the entire Academy fee during registration.**

How do I enroll in the Academy? Sign up will be on the Ocean State Soccer website under the “OSS Academy” tab. Academy 1 players must register separately for Fall 2013 recreational program under the recreational tab.