



HYSA/HFC announce the arrival of

## HFC Academy

*Starting this Spring 2012 Season*



### **About the Program**

HYSA/HFC is launching a new program that may affect how you and your child participate in soccer. The name of this new program is the HFC Academy. Here are some of the details:

- Academy teams will be formed in each age/gender division – U7, U8, U9, U10, U11, and U12, for both boys and girls
- Academy teams will be formed through a skills-based assessment process on Club Evaluation Day to be held this year on January 21, 2012
- Players who are selected and opt to play on Academy teams will NOT register to play in HYSA's recreational soccer league, but rather, they will train and play OUTSIDE the bounds of recreational soccer (tournaments, friendlies with other clubs, friendlies with other Academy teams, etc.)
- Academy teams will be coached by paid coaches rather than volunteer parents and will typically practice twice a week
- There will be a club registration fee for Academy and each Academy team will also have team fees associated with uniforms, travel to tournaments, friendlies, etc.

### **Program Rationale**

The ages of 6-12 are often referred to as the “Golden Years of Development.” That is why it is so important for us to place each child in the appropriate environment for their individual success in the sport of soccer. The education and development of technically-skilled soccer players is truly our top priority. Thus, we are launching a new program that allows players with the desire for higher levels of technical skills the opportunity to develop these skills within a professional training environment outside the realm of recreational soccer. This program seeks, in conjunction with the HFC Pepsi Juniors Program, to achieve its objectives by offering training with highly-credentialed coaches as well as team formation and competition opportunities. This program differs from (and is in addition to) the D2 platform where D3 (i.e., recreational) participation is a requirement. Academy players do not play recreational soccer and, in addition, these teams have paid coaches rather than volunteer parent coaches. The objective for Academy teams is to keep travel less than what is required for Select teams with ample local

games while also being able to occasionally travel and play in tournaments. Academy teams may play in local recreational games on some weekends by playing one age group up (e.g., U7 and U8 Academy teams will play against U10 rec teams and U9 and U10 Academy teams will play against U12 rec teams) while playing in tournaments or friendlies on other weekends.

## **Introduction to Academy Soccer**

HFC's Academy Program is offered for the following age groups:

- U7 Boys & Girls
- U8 Boys & Girls
- U9 Boys & Girls
- U10 Boys & Girls
- U11 Boys & Girls
- U12 Boys & Girls

Players will be strongly encouraged to play on age. The current matrix for determining age groups in recreational and select will be used. The current date used to determine age groups is August 1. For more information on player selection and playing up, please refer to the Evaluation section below.

## **Program Goals**

1. **Enjoy the Game:** Most importantly it is our goal for the players to have fun and enjoy playing the game of soccer. We strive to make every aspect of our program enjoyable for all players, including the training.
2. **Emphasize Individual Development:** We want players to take responsibility for their own development. We believe this to be the key to success. This individual accountability will be obtained through the clubs recent involvement in iSoccer. More information can be found in the Evaluation Section on the iSoccer program.
3. **Motivate Players to Play:** Our Academy players graduate with the desire, attitude and tools needed to become a successful player in our select program.
4. **Live the Game:** We want our players to have the desire to play on their own, watch soccer on TV, attend live soccer games, read about the game and participate in overseas matches where possible.

## **Description of Academy Program**

- The program is comprised of players ages 6-12 who desire to improve their abilities in a more competitive and challenging environment.

- The focus of the program is player development.
- The Academy Director oversees all aspects of player development.
- There is a specific curriculum for all Academy age groups.
- There is a fall and spring season commitment expected. The fall season runs approximately from early/middle August until middle/late November. The spring season runs approximately from late January until middle May.
- When necessary, players may be dual-registered under both the US Youth and US Club Programs for insurance and travel purposes.
- Players will not be able to participate in MSA Affiliated Tournaments, i.e., D1 State Cup, D2 Presidents Cup, State Games of Mississippi D2 tournament, D3 Kohls Cup Southern District or State Final as they will not qualify due to US Club affiliation/MSA Rules & Regulations. Teams may participate in any other tournament not listed above that accepts D1, D2, and/or Academy teams.
- Automatic enrollment in Juniors is included in Academy registration at no extra cost

### **Academy Team Formation**

For the upcoming Spring 2012 Recreational season, Academy teams will be formed from the results of the Club Evaluation Day on January 21, 2012. All recreational players will be rated at the evaluation, and players that finish in the top percentiles will be offered an Academy team spot. The number of players invited will be limited to one full team in each age group. We foresee this being different in the Fall 2012 season since the purpose will be to grow the Academy to training pools. Also, coaches in each corresponding age group can evaluate players unable to attend the session prior to the evaluation day or immediately afterwards to complete the team. The goal will be to grow this program and offer this to players outside of HYSA who wish for this level of training as well. The evaluation method will be described in the Evaluation Section below.

### **Club Evaluation Day**

The club has decided to institute a Club Evaluation Day to help disperse players more evenly by skill level when teams are formed. This evaluation is an attempt to form more equitable teams in the recreational program. The club has also decided to use this Evaluation Day as a springboard for identifying potential Academy players. Players who are invited to the Academy will have the ability to opt out and continue to play on recreational and D2 (All-Star) teams. The method for evaluating the players will be an existing evaluation system named *iSoccer*. More information about the *iSoccer* program is offered below.



# iSOCCER

iSoccer assesses only technical skills in this assessment system. While tactical development can start in the 8 year old level, the primary focus and concern is the technical ability of these players. We believe this form of assessment leaves less to question and gives easy to understand results from an assessment. A sample of the assessment is shown below.

## The iSoccer Six

See the Complete 16 Skill National Assessment below

### Toe Taps Foundations

20 Seconds  
As many as you can do

### Can You Raise Your Level?

<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 5px;"></div> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">1st Attempt</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 5px;"></div> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">2nd Attempt</p>		<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 5px;"></div> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">1st Attempt</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 5px;"></div> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">2nd Attempt</p>	
<h3 style="margin: 0;">Juggling PF Juggling NPF</h3> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">20 Seconds Take only your high score</p>		<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 5px;"></div> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">1st Attempt</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 5px;"></div> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">2nd Attempt</p>	
<h3 style="margin: 0;">Change of Pace PF Change of Pace NPF</h3> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">20 Seconds Two Cones 5 Meters Apart Dribbling in a Figure 8 with One Foot Each figure 8 is worth 4 points (1 pt=2.5m)</p>		<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 5px;"></div> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">1st Attempt</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 5px;"></div> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">2nd Attempt</p>	

Key: PF=Preferred Foot • NPF=Non Preferred Foot

## The iSoccer National Assessment

What is Your iSoccer Level?

<b>COMFORT &amp; JUGGLING</b> ToeTaps Foundations Juggling PF Juggling NPF Juggling Head	<b>DRIBBLING</b> Change of Pace PF Change of Pace NPF Change of Direction Moves/Scissors	<b>PASSING &amp; RECEIVING</b> First Touch PF First Touch NPF One Touch PF One Touch NPF	<b>OTHER</b> Aerial Control Ball Striking Speed
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[www.iSoccer.org](http://www.iSoccer.org)

Player and Coach Accounts • Log Scores • Track Progress • Compare to National Standard