



SKY Soccer Club

Academy Select Parent Resource Handbook



www.skysoccer.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME

- [1.1 Values + Mission](#)
- [1.2 Player Pathway](#)
- [1.3 What is SKY Academy Select Soccer?](#)

PROGRAM INFORMATION

- [2.1 Why Choose SKY Academy?](#)
- [2.2 Club and Team Structure](#)
- [2.3 Team Selection Process](#)
- [2.4 Level of competition](#)
- [2.5 Season Schedule](#)
- [2.6 Number of Sessions/Games](#)
- [2.7 Travel Expectations](#)
- [2.8 Cost Breakdown](#)
 - [2.8.1 Explanation of Fees](#)
 - [2.8.2 Where do my fees go?](#)
 - [2.8.3 Fees by Age Group](#)
 - [2.8.4 Uniform Information](#)
 - [2.8.5 Financial Aid](#)

COMMITMENT

- [3.1 Player/Parent/Coach Expectations](#)
- [3.2 Volunteer Requirements - Parent + Team Service Projects](#)

HOW TO JOIN

- [4.1 Before you register...](#)
- [4.2 Registration](#)
- [4.3 Tryout Process](#)

PARENT RESOURCES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE

- [5.1 Parent Awareness and Education](#)
- [5.2 Don't Wait Ask Now \(get answers to your questions\)](#)
- [5.3 Where to get answers - Escalation Path](#)

GLOSSARY OF TERMS





WELCOME > VALUES + MISSION

In our shield, there are 3 stars representing our core values and known as our **3Cs**:

Community: SKY Soccer Club is a community first organization

Character: Our players' soccer and social development are equally important to our mission

Commitment: Our players are committed to our Club, our Club is committed to our players and to our community

Our core values align with our mission of

Developing Great players and People to Enhance the Community we Serve.

Our mission is further defined as:

Develop Great Players AND People - We want our players to succeed, on and off the field.

It's our goal to help them grow as soccer players, and as a part of the community.

Enhance Our Community - Without the Southern Kentucky community, SKY Soccer wouldn't exist.

We want our efforts to add value and enrich the lives of those that choose to associate with us.

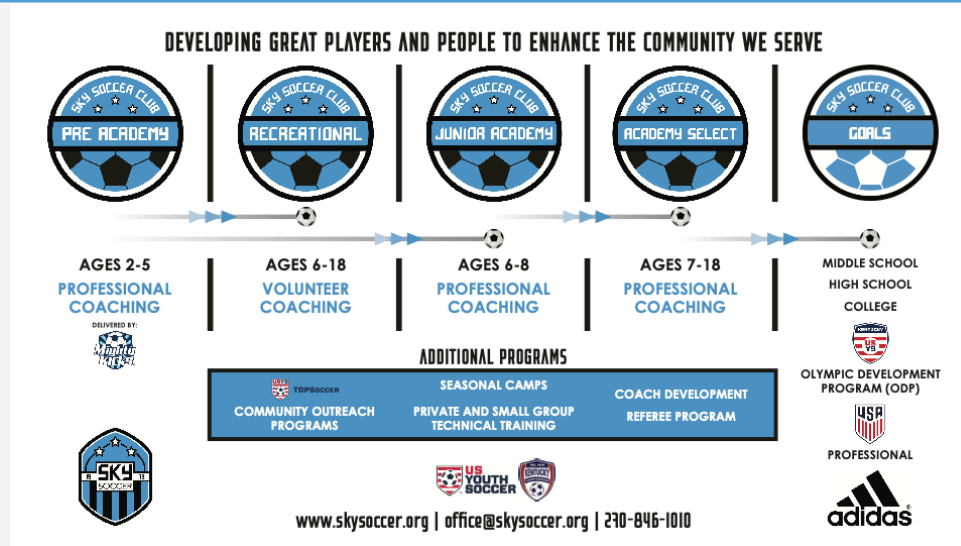
Grow The Game - Everyone that comes through our programs shares a passion for soccer, whether that's playing, coaching, refereeing and/or supporting the club and players. We want to provide opportunities to anyone with the desire to learn, play and participate in the Beautiful Game.





WELCOME > PLAYER PATHWAY

Our **Pathway** provides players of all abilities the opportunity to meet and exceed their goals. Our continued investments in people and strategic partnerships over the last few years has enabled a player pathway that provides high quality, professionally designed and delivered programming for players of all ages and abilities. Our players are experiencing high level, age and developmentally appropriate technical training, from an experienced professional and licensed coaching staff. Connecting programs for players ages two to eighteen through a single, seamless program pathway sets us apart from most clubs in the state and region.

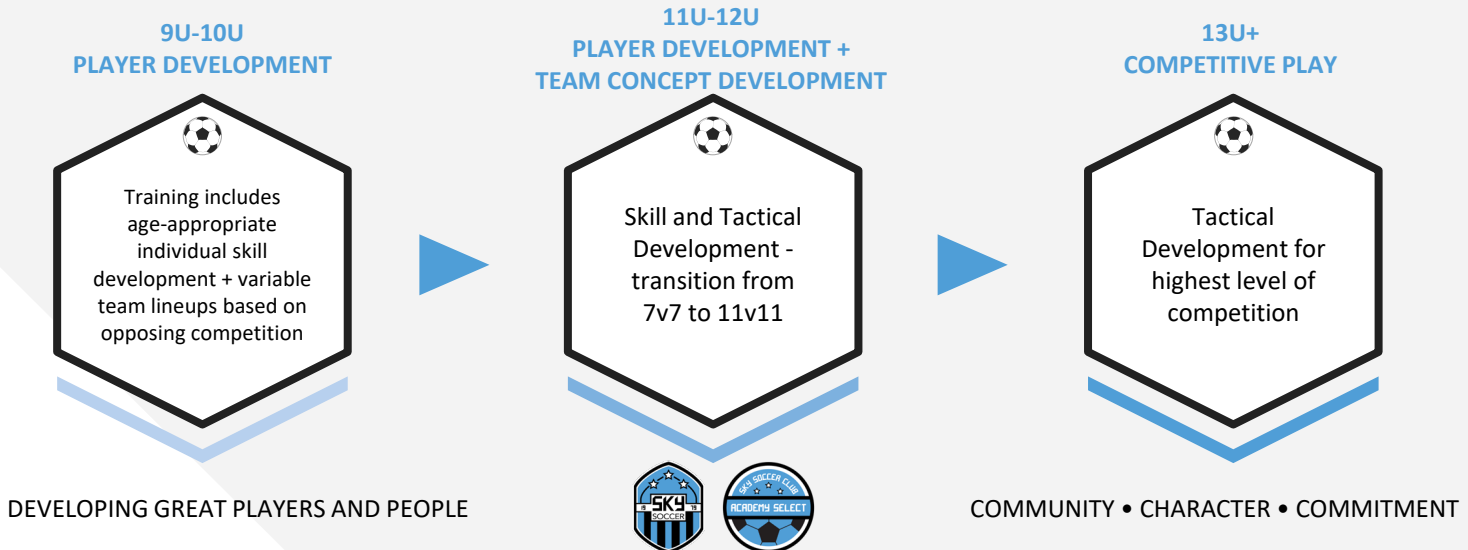




WELCOME > WHAT IS ACADEMY SELECT SOCCER

SKY Soccer Club's Academy Select Soccer program offers the highest level of training and competitive game play available for players in 9U - 19U divisions.

SKY Academy Select Soccer is the most competitive format for young soccer players. Our player centric approach and pathway is aligned with the US Youth Soccer's player development model and focuses on supporting overall player growth and developing a love for the game.





PROGRAM INFORMATION > **WHY CHOOSE SKY SOCCER CLUB ACADEMY**

The impact of youth sports on a player's life can be significant. SKY Soccer Club's culture and mission dictates the influence and development of kids as players and people. Our mission at SKY Soccer Club is to develop great players and people and enhance the community we serve.

This is ingrained in all that we do. A college or professional scout will not ask how your player's team finished in the "big" tournament. Instead, technical skill, tactical understanding, academics, maturity and community involvement, will be most important.

Our approach is to influence the whole player through our culture and coaching.

[READ MORE ABOUT WHY YOU SHOULD CHOSE SKY ACADEMY FOR YOUR PLAYER](#)





PROGRAM INFORMATION > CLUB + TEAM STRUCTURE

SKY Soccer Club is governed by a board of directors that provides oversight for all SKY programming and activities. The Academy Program is led by our Director of Coaching (DOC), Steve Henson. The DOC is responsible for supporting our Academy Teams, Players, Coaches, Managers and Treasurers in a joint effort to provide the highest quality program and experience possible for our players and their families.

Our Club Administrator and Registrar plays a significant role in managing key administrative and compliance components of the the Academy program, including working with KYSA and managing official player administration and rostering.

Each Academy Team will have a Coach, Manager (volunteer) , and Treasurer (volunteer). The Coach and Manager will work together with support from the DOC to schedule practices, friendlies, determine appropriate tournaments, leagues and level of competition for the team. The Manager and Treasurer will work together on the Team budget and communicate Team Fees based on the activities the team will participate in.

While the Manager and Treasurer may serve for longer periods of time, it is ideal for these positions to change every two years.

Coaches are assigned to teams by the Director of Coaching based on numerous factors. Coaches may change seasonally when circumstances dictate. When possible and appropriate, we will change coaches every couple of years for teams in younger divisions.



DEVELOPING GREAT PLAYERS AND PEOPLE



COMMUNITY • CHARACTER • COMMITMENT



PROGRAM INFORMATION > TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

Team selection process varies by age group. Tryouts are required for all age groups to assess players and ensure player placement on age and developmentally appropriate team. **Tryout participation, player ability and offer acceptance are important factors in determining player team placement, number of teams per age group and level of team competition** (league, tournaments, etc.). During tryouts we will hold parent meetings to explain potential directions for each team and age group.





PROGRAM INFORMATION > COMPETITION LEVEL

SKY Soccer Club strives to provide our Academy players with the highest level of age and developmentally appropriate training and competition level. Statistics show that players are continuing to exit youth sports at younger ages due to pressure and emphasis on winning games over development of individual technical, emotional and social skills that build a love for the game. Our growth, retention rates, and player and team success over the last few years has proven the value of our model.



DEVELOPING GREAT PLAYERS AND PEOPLE

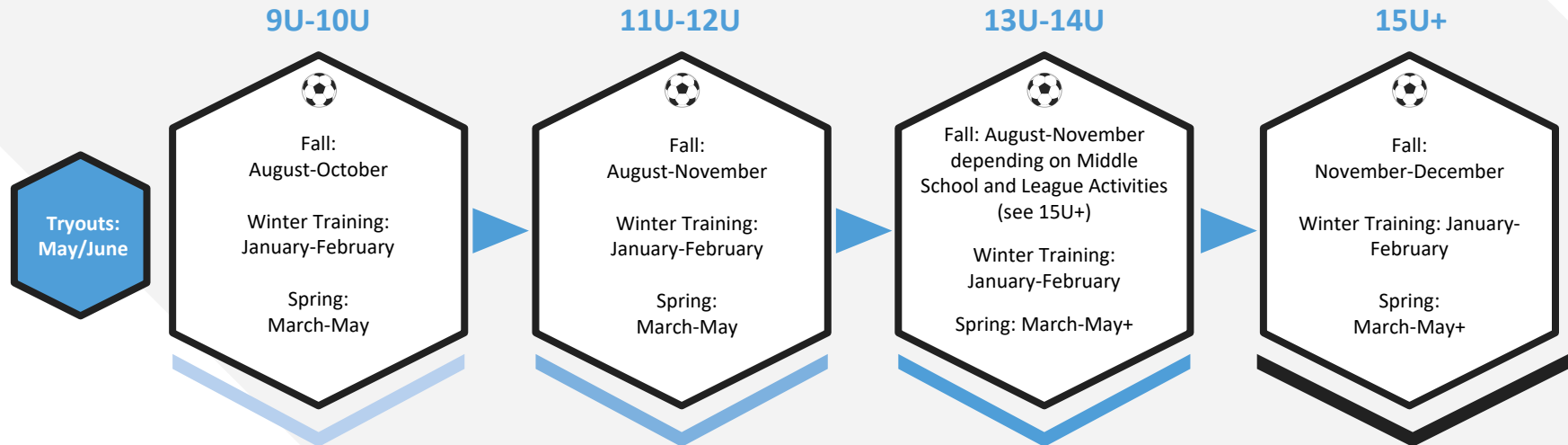


COMMUNITY • CHARACTER • COMMITMENT



PROGRAM INFORMATION > SEASON SCHEDULE

The Academy season schedule is based on age division, however the commitment is for the “seasonal” year of August through May. Our training and game schedules follow periodization formats with appropriate opportunities for rest and participation in school and other activities. **A seasonal year is broken into 3 seasons: Fall, Winter, Spring.**





PROGRAM INFORMATION > NUMBER OF SESSIONS AND GAMES

We expect that our Academy teams, while actively in season have three on field “events” per week. An event is a practice session (1.5hrs), a scrimmage, and/or a game. A typical week will consist of two practice sessions and a game day (Saturday/Sunday) that will include 1-2 games. If games are not scheduled we expect that an additional practice session on the weekend is provided. We also offer optional free Goalkeeper and Skills Training sessions throughout the season.

9U-10U



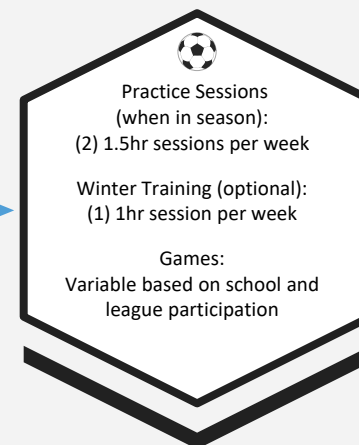
11U-12U



13U-14U



15U+





PROGRAM INFORMATION > TRAVEL EXPECTATIONS

When families hear “travel” soccer, they often look at models of other travel sports and think that they’ll be living in hotels and on the road Friday-Sunday every weekend throughout the season, which is not true. In fact, our younger age teams are highly encouraged to keep all game events within a 90 mile radius and attend no overnight tournaments. As players get older and teams earn more competitive League and Tournament opportunities, occasional overnight travel will be required.

9U-10U



Minimal travel for away games (Friendlies and Tournaments):

Middle TN, Central and Western Kentucky

10U League play may include travel to Louisville and Lexington areas

11U-12U



Skill appropriate travel for away games (Friendlies, League, Tournaments):

Statewide and Regional - limited overnight travel

League play will require statewide travel

13U-14U



Skill appropriate travel for away games (Friendlies, League, and Tournaments):

Statewide and Regional - typically 1-2 overnight events per season

15U+



Skill appropriate travel for away games (Friendlies, League, Tournaments):

Statewide, Regional and National





PROGRAM INFORMATION > COST > EXPLANATION OF FEES

SKY is a 501(3)c non-profit organization with open records and bookkeeping for all its members. Fees to participate in the Academy Program are broken down into two primary categories **Club Fees (paid to Club)** and **Team Fees (paid to Team Treasurer)**. It is important to note that many Clubs charge one large fee and then dictate to the teams what and how many events they may participate in. Our approach provides each team with flexibility to engage in more or less activities with a lower overall cost structure, where the team manages their own budget and bank account for the activities they wish to participate in, within guidelines provided by the Club. Our Director of Coaching and Club Administrator oversee the scheduled activities and budgets and provide recommendations based on the team's age and ability to ensure a positive experience and reasonable cost for families.

CLUB FEES

Club Fees include a **Registration Fee** as well as a **Fall Fee** (for teams that play a fall season) and **Spring Fee** which cover Club costs such as, but not limited to: coach compensation, facilities and equipment management and maintenance, administration costs the club incurs as an organization with hundreds of academy players, ref assignor fees, Kentucky Youth Soccer Association (KYSA) player/coach registration fees, player insurance fees, etc.

TEAM FEES

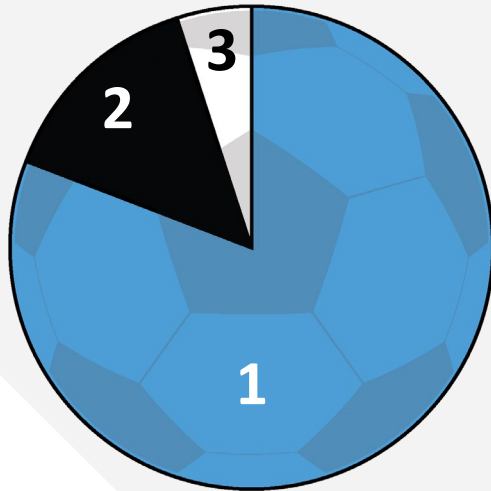
Team Fees pay for but are not limited to, city park field usage fees, tournament fees, referee fees for friendlies, league fees, coaches travel expenses, winter training fees, and team equipment. Team fees are placed in a team bank account and managed by the Team Treasurer. The team treasurer will provide an itemized budget so you know where all the money is being spent.





PROGRAM INFORMATION > COST > WHERE DO MY FEES GO?

There are three primary expense categories for the Academy Program that are paid from Club Fees **1) Coaching Staff Fees**, **2) State Affiliate Player Fees**, and **3) Club Admin Costs**. This is the same for players that play for Fall & Spring, or only Spring (older ages).



■ STATE FEES ■ COACHES ■ ADMINISTRATIVE

1

Coaching Staff Fees - 85%, we pay our Academy coaches a scale based on their license/credentials which is comparable to all clubs in the region.

2

State Affiliate Player Fees 5%, these are paid directly to KYSA on a per player basis each seasonal year and cover USYS, KYSA Affiliate fees and player insurance.

3

Club Admin Costs (Office, Staff, Field, Equipment, etc.) - 10%, this is the everything it takes to run the soccer club, and it's important to note that the Academy program is allocated 10% of the overall SKY administrative budget whereas 90% of the administrative budget is allocated to recreational programming.





PROGRAM INFORMATION > COST > FEES BY AGE GROUP

A fee breakdown and estimate is illustrated below by age group. Remember Team Fees are variable and we have listed estimates based on historical information. See [EXPLANATION OF FEES](#) for more information. Flexible payment plans are available. SKY Soccer offers financial aid for our youth soccer programs based on demonstrated need. The SKY Soccer Board of Directors reviews and approves all applications that are completed and forwarded for consideration. For more information about Financial Aid, click [here](#).





PROGRAM INFORMATION > COST > UNIFORM INFORMATION

In addition to Club & Team Fees, players are required to purchase the uniform kit. For most players the kit will last two years, which is equal to the Adidas uniform cycle explained below. In an effort to keep overall costs down, the Club works hard to assemble the highest quality uniform, while limiting the components and cost of the required kit.

SKY Soccer Club has a sponsorship agreement with Adidas enabling access to exclusive uniform, coach gear, equipment and other benefits for our Academy program. Uniform cycles are typically 2 years, meaning every two years uniform styles are no longer available and new uniforms must be selected and purchased. Fall 2022 will begin a new cycle, and each player must purchase the new uniform kit. Uniforms are purchased via our Adidas retail partner Soccer.com. Instructions for ordering uniforms are provided after tryouts.

REQUIRED UNIFORM KIT \$175-200

- (2) Game Jersey's (Home/Away)
- (1) Game Short
- (2) Game Socks (Home/Away)
- (1) Practice Jersey



OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Warm up Top/Pants
- Backpack
- Goalkeeper Kit





PROGRAM INFORMATION > COST > FINANCIAL AID

Our goal is to make sure all players offered a spot on an Academy Select team are able to play regardless of family financial circumstances. To accomplish this, we offer payment plans and financial assistance to qualifying families. SKY Soccer offers financial aid for our youth soccer programs based on demonstrated need. The SKY Soccer Board of Directors reviews and approves all applications that are completed and forwarded for consideration. All application information is kept 100% confidential. You will be notified within 14 days if your application has been approved.

REQUIREMENT CHECKLIST FOR ELIGIBILITY

1. Commitment to attend a minimum of 80% of scheduled practices and games.
2. Application must be completed by a parent, guardian, or head of household, with all requested information provided. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
3. All applications are due by June 30th for the upcoming season. Incomplete or late applications may not be considered

Club Registration/Acceptance Fee must be paid for application to be considered. Scholarship money is only good towards club fees. Team Fees, Uniform fees and personal travel to tournaments and games is not covered by scholarship money.

All applicants will be notified of the decision of the Board of Directors by July 15th.

For questions regarding Financial Aid, please contact kprater@skysoccer.org. To see full details and apply, click [HERE](#)





COMMITMENT > PLAYER/PARENT/COACH EXPECTATIONS

SKY Soccer Club is committed to providing our players and families the best possible experience. We do this by providing a fun, safe and competitive instructional environment. To continue to achieve our goal, we require collaboration between the Club Administration, our Coaches, Parents & Guardians, Players and Referees. We invest in educational and awareness opportunities for all of these stakeholders to develop a greater understanding of how to develop great players and great people.

PARENT

You are a SKY VIP and we could not do this without you. Parents/Spectators must set the example for the children by exemplifying the highest standards of sportsmanship. Parents/Spectators participate in a match by watching, cheering and supporting the efforts of all participants of the match. Soccer must be Fun. The game is for the children, and their participation and enjoyment of the game is the most important element.

[Full Parent Code of Conduct](#) Learn More [SoccerParenting.com](#) Take the Pledge! [TheSidelineProject.com](#)

PLAYER

Our players must show respect for themselves, their teammates, coaches, referees, parents and administrators. To achieve our mission to develop great players and people we need our players to exemplify our

["3Cs", Community, Character, Commitment.](#) [Full Academy Player Expectations](#)

COACH

Our coaches are the foundation of our Program, serving as role models and key contributors to our players development on and off the field. Our coaches are held to a high standard and we invest in their development including technical and soft skill training opportunities.





COMMITMENT > VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS PARENT + TEAM SERVICE PROJECTS

SKY Soccer Club is largely a volunteer organization. We have nearly 200 volunteers each year doing their part to support our youth in our recreational programming. Our mission is to develop great players and people and enhance the community we serve. One of our 3Cs is Community. This drives our requirement of Academy families volunteering at Club events throughout the seasonal year and serve as an example to our players and community. **Volunteer requirement: each family is required to have at least one family member volunteer at each of our two competitive tournaments throughout the year.** The tournament volunteer shift is usually three hours or less. These events are our Club's biggest fundraisers, directly impacting our fees and ability to serve our community with high quality soccer programming.

All of our Academy Teams are highly encouraged to complete at least one community service project during the seasonal year. These have proven to be fantastic team building activities as well as a highlight for our Club's players living up our missions and values.





HOW TO JOIN > **BEFORE YOU SIGN UP...**

Before Registering for Tryouts, please review the following sections of the Academy Select Parent Resource Handbook the information has been carefully organized to provide families with all of the required information about the program.

WELCOME

PROGRAM INFORMATION

COMMITMENT





HOW TO JOIN > **REGISTRATION**

Tryout Registration will open in early April. Please be sure to use an email that is accessed regularly.

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)





HOW TO JOIN > TRYOUT PROCESS 1 of 2

The tryout process is the same regardless of age group. **You must register in order to be officially recognized as a participant and be eligible to receive an offer for a team, if earned.** [DETAILS ON HOW TO REGISTER.](#)

Be sure to read about the [TEAM SELECTION PROCESS](#) for a better understanding of the goals of tryouts for different age groups.

Tryout Sessions - There are two sessions per age group, and it is recommended that players attend both sessions, however if you are unable to be at both or either sessions, you should make sure the Director of Coaching (DOC) (doc@skysoccer.org) is aware.

Day of Tryout Session - When you arrive for tryouts you will be asked to sign in, you'll receive your tryout shirt and number bib, and be directed to the appropriate field.

Team Coaches - while we do everything we can to officially assign coaches to teams ahead of tryouts, it is not uncommon for different coaches to run a tryout session. It is also possible, but not typical, that team coaching assignments are changed between the time tryouts take place and the start of the season. This situation is an exception to the rule and we would communicate extensively with the team during this time.

Pro tip - Attention Parents - It is important that we provide a fun and competitive environment for the players and that is achieved by the players and coaches being able to progress through the tryout sessions without distractions. Parents are not permitted to be on or around the field during the tryout sessions. Parents should not attempt to coach or cheer on their players during tryouts. This approach creates a less intimidating atmosphere for the players and allows them to show their talents and willingness to compete while having fun.

[WHAT HAPPENS AFTER TRYOUTS?](#)





HOW TO JOIN > TRYOUT PROCESS 2 of 2

When tryouts are over the Coaching staff and Director of Coaching work together to determine which players should be placed on which teams based on various criteria.

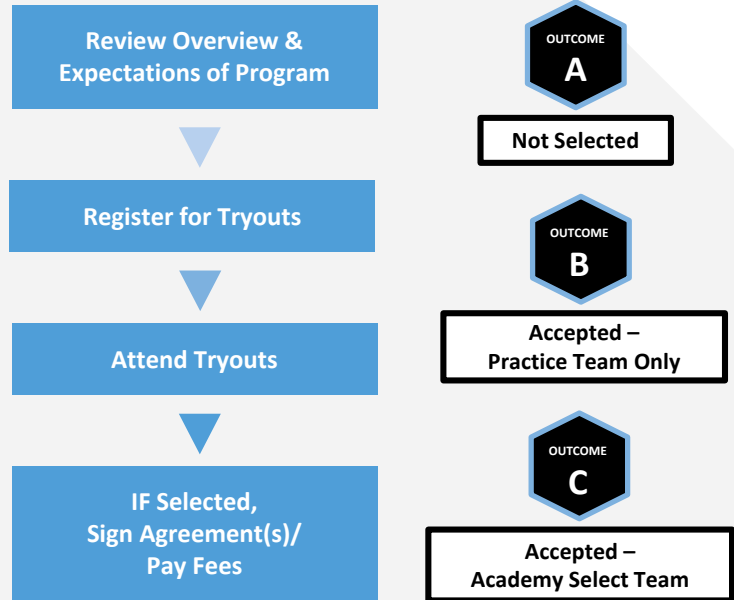
Outcomes of tryouts:

Not Selected - you will be notified via email if you haven't been accepted on a team. Player development and experience is our number one priority at SKY. If you are not selected for a team you are welcome to discuss the outcome with our Director of Coaching and seek information on programs, skills and other opportunities for player development at SKY.

Accepted - Reserve/Practice Player - If not selected for the "full" team, you may be offered a spot as a reserve, or practice player, and details about this role will be provided.

Accepted - Full Team - you will be notified via email that you have been selected for a team via email in the form of an official acceptance and offer message. [OFFER ACCEPTANCE INSTRUCTIONS](#)

Offers - Offers are usually sent to all registered participants via email within 48hrs and you are required to accept or decline your offer within 48hrs of receipt. This includes paying the Club registration fee. See [PROGRAM INFORMATION>COST](#) section for details.





HOW TO JOIN > OFFER ACCEPTANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Based on the [OUTCOME OF TRYOUTS](#), offers will be sent out via email for acceptance. At this time the system will ask you to set up your payment plan for the seasonal year. You can find the cost breakdown [HERE](#). A few things you need to have on hand when accepting your offer:

- ★ Birth Certificate (or other proof of birth i.e.: passport)
- ★ Headshot of Player (used for player card, best if shoulder up)
- ★ Health Insurance Information (used for Medical release form)

Once your offer is Accepted and teams are officially formed, you will receive information via email about season start dates, practice days and times, and other important seasonal details.

[STEP BY STEP ACCEPTANCE INSTRUCTIONS](#)





PARENT RESOURCES > AWARENESS/EDUCATION

There are many excellent resources for parents and guardians to learn more about soccer and more importantly how best to support their players through their sports journey. Statistics continually show that youth athletes are dropping out of sports at earlier ages than ever before. We believe in the power of sports and want our players to receive all of the benefits of playing sports and to do that it must be a fun and safe experience.

SKY Soccer Club has partnered with the Soccer Parenting Association to provide educational and awareness programs and content to our families. We hope that all of our families will join us in taking The Sideline Project pledge and being a positive influence in our players' soccer lives.

Here are some recommended resources for our families

- Soccer Parent Resource Center – [Soccer Parent Resource Center](#)
- Sideline project - Take the Pledge! [TheSidelineProject.com](#)
- US Soccer Free Grassroots Intro Course - [USSF Soccer Intro Course](#)





PARENT RESOURCES > **DON'T WAIT, ASK NOW!**

A common theme among parents, players and coaches is to expect that concerns will go away by talking about them on the sidelines during practices and games. To the contrary, this approach generates more questions, more concerns and dissatisfaction that is not in alignment with our commitment to providing our players and families the best possible experience and delivering a fun, safe and competitive instructional environment. While we ask that our coaches and team managers regularly communicate with parents and players about team goals and expectations, during the flow of a season parents and players often have questions or concerns. While we cover many of these items in this handbook, we expect there will still be questions. **PLEASE DON'T WAIT, ASK NOW, THE ANSWERS ARE AVAILABLE.** Read more about our [CLUB AND TEAM STRUCTURE](#) and see [ESCALATION PATH](#)

COMMON QUESTIONS...

- Playing time
- Rosters (parity vs. skill based)
- Age and developmentally appropriate levels of competition
- Game rules
- Schedules (tournaments, leagues, friendlies)
- Team and Club Fees
- Team and Club Procedures
- Tactical approach



WHERE TO GET ANSWERS - ESCALATION PATH





PARENT RESOURCES > ESCALATION PATH

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In rare situations that our DOC is unable to resolve an issue, or if your concern is with the DOC, you should feel free to reach out to our Board of Directors (board@skysoccer.org).

DIRECTOR OF COACHING

Our Director of Coaching is here to support our Academy Program's coaches, players and families. DO NOT HESITATE TO REACH OUT TO OUR DIRECTOR OF COACHING. Our DOC has decades of experience and can answer your questions and assist you and your coach to resolve issues you have.

COACH

Have your player speak to the coach or schedule time with the coach to speak with them with your player. Use the "24-hour rule" - do not address questions/concerns for 24hrs after a game or from when a situation arises. If you email the coach, feel free to copy the Director of Coaching doc@skysoccer.org, so they can assist the coach with resolution.

THIS HANDBOOK

We've put a lot of valuable information in here for you.



WHERE TO GET ANSWERS - ESCALATION PATH





PARENT RESOURCES > GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Academy: Academy style training focuses on developing core fundamental technical skills for the individual through appropriate levels of competition to prepare young players for future individual and team success.

Academy Select: Academy Select is our most competitive programming and is focused on the next level of player technical development along with team tactical growth to achieve results at the highest level of competition possible.

DOC (Director Of Coaching): The DOC is responsible for the evaluation and development of club coaches as well as player evaluation and overall Academy and Academy Select methodology and culture.

Friendly (pl. friendlies): Also known as classic matches. A game(s) played against a team(s) from another soccer club. Friendlies do not have a trophy or other sort of award at the end. Friendlies tend to only be against two other teams, but maybe three teams might play in a Friendly; these other teams might all come from one club/city, or from multiple clubs/cities

Guest Playing: A player permanently rostered to one team is allowed to play with another team for one game or tournament. Guest playing for a non-SKY team will require team coach and DOC approval.

Modified parity: The ability to divide players into two, three or more teams based on differing competition levels or brackets in a tournament.

Pool Play: A format used in tournaments to determine placement for semi-finals and/or finals.

Playing up: When a player plays with an older age group. Ex. a true U13 player is placed on a U14 team. A player “playing up” is typically a permanent member of the team where a guest player only participates for one game or tournament but is rostered to a different team.

Stratification: process of player placement based on ability

Seasonal year: Runs Fall – Spring. The “Seasonal Year” for Fall 2022 - Spring 2022 is “2022”. The fall season begins in August and runs through mid to late November. The spring season begins in mid-February and runs through late May. U9-U14’s play both fall and spring. U15 and up, boys and girls play in spring only, but can have a late fall season (November and December) depending on the team. Any “middle school” teams can choose to have a late Fall season after the conclusion of the middle school season.

Winter Season/Training: indoor training and tournaments organized by each team and following the guidelines provided by the DOC.

Tournaments: These are more self-explanatory. It is important to note that a tournament may start on Friday night and go through Sunday. Typically, teams play 3-4 games during a tournament weekend and on average three tournaments a season (including our own). The approved tournament list will be provided by the DOC. If your team would like to attend a tournament that is not listed, please contact your DOC for approval.

Tryouts: Tryouts are held in late May/early June each year and teams for the following seasonal year are formed each year at this time.





CONTACT INFORMATION


Phone: 270.846.1010

Email: office@skysoccer.org



HANDBOOK DEVELOPED IN
COLLABORATION WITH:



JASON  **ELMER**
GRAPHICS

www.jasonelmergraphics.com