



## Information for prospective

### Henderson County Soccer Association (HSA)

### ACADEMY players and parents

#### Henderson County Soccer Association Mission Statement:

HSA's mission is to be able to provide the means for the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of the county's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition.

#### Henderson County Soccer Association's Academy Philosophy and Goals:

- The Academy program philosophy is the emphasis of individual player development over team development. The goals of the program are to focus on the technical development of each child without the pressures of short-term wins/losses/results. Academy players are "pool-trained" which means that they all practice together and that there are no set teams within the Academy groups. Teams are decided on by the coach and trainer depending on the game format for any specific weekend.
- To provide the highest quality leadership, coaching, and resources in order to provide an environment that will allow players to reach their maximum potential in the sport of soccer in a competitive environment.
- To promote player commitment, character development, responsibility, self-confidence, team work, and respect for all others.

#### Player Commitment:

Player commitment to Academy with Henderson County Soccer Association means that the player views training as an important part of their individual development. Once selected for Academy, players are expected to fulfill their commitment to themselves, to their Academy teammates and to HSA for the duration of the year.

#### Parental Commitment:

A player's commitment to Academy soccer with HSA can only be accomplished with Parental Commitment. Parental Commitment is essential to ensure that the Mission and Goals of HSA Academy are met.

Parents are expected to fulfill their commitment to their son or daughter by:

- Ensuring their preparation and attendance for all training sessions, games, and team events
- Providing positive reinforcement to all players, before, during, and after training sessions and games

Parents are expected to fulfill their commitment to HSA by:

- Supporting Henderson County Soccer Association fund-raising efforts
- Fulfilling all financial obligations to Henderson County Soccer Association in a timely manner
- Being positive representatives of HSA at all games, tournaments and team events

#### Seasons and Training:

Academy teams play both a Fall and Spring season. If selected to Academy, the player is expected to play both seasons. Each season lasts around 10 weeks with most games scheduled on the weekends. Teams play between 7-11 games per season, meaning there are usually 5-7 "game" weekends. A team may also choose to attend an Academy Festival during its season, usually within the state of North Carolina.

Players are required to attend a minimum of two 90-minute team training sessions a week and are encouraged to attend any additional weekly skills sessions if offered. It is recommended that players attend a camp prior to the opening of their season, as well as any winter and/or summer training opportunities that are offered as well.

**Competitive Evaluations:**

Any player from North Carolina is welcome to participate in evaluations scheduled in May and early June with HSA. Evaluations typically consist of two 60-90 minute sessions on consecutive days. Players are encouraged to attend both sessions.

**How Academy groups are formed:**

HSA holds open evaluations every year to form teams from the best soccer players that are capable and committed. The average academy group has 15 - 18 players on their roster. HSA coaches and trainers make all decisions on Academy selection. Unless excused by the Director of Coaching, every player must play in his or her true age group. Players will only be assigned to an older age group team for player development reasons, not for convenience, and these are exceptions.

**Notification of Selection:**

HSA will notify via e-mail all players who have been selected, not selected or those to be asked to attend a supplemental tryout at a later date. All e-mails will be sent as soon as possible after the final tryout date. It is very important that you let us know if you will accept a position, if offered, by the final tryout date. If you are undecided, please contact us. An HSA representative will help you with any questions you might have about the program.

**Fees:** HSA Academy fees are \$250 per season. The Academy season runs a full calendar year, which includes 2 full seasons, both Fall and Spring. Camp fees are not included. Uniform fee is not included.