

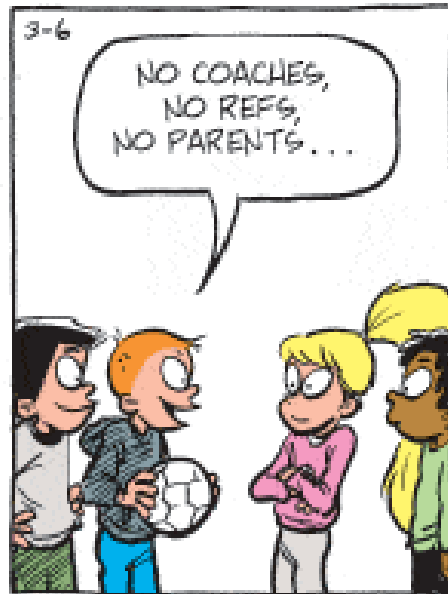


Developmental Academy Program

“Giving The Game Back”

Academies

- Clubs select a pool of players
- Teams are formed from pools, but players are interchangeable.
- No “A”, “B”, “C” teams.
- Club Academies play against each other.
- Non result oriented competition
- Inclusive vs. Exclusive



“As a kid you need to touch the ball as much as you can. You should always be with the ball. You should have a feeling that wherever the ball is, you can do anything with it. No matter where it is, where it is on your body, how it’s spinning, how it’s coming at you, the speed it’s coming at you, anything. You can learn the tactical side of the game later.”

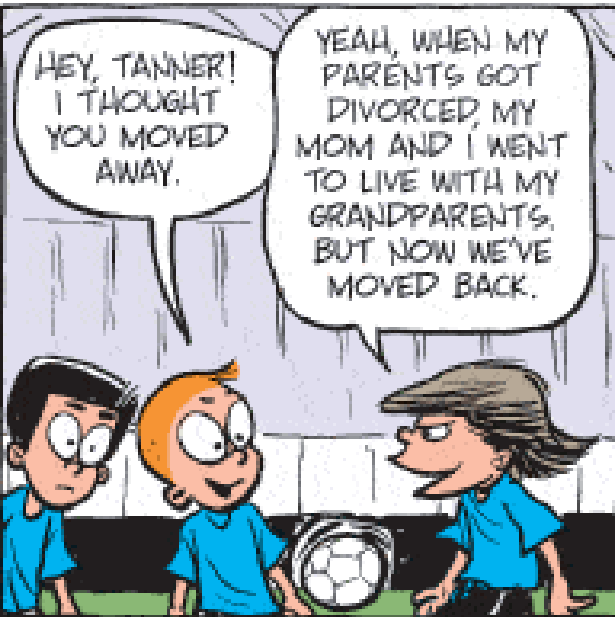


“It’s amazing to me that people put so much emphasis on trying to be tactical and worry about winning when it doesn’t matter when you’re 12 years old. We’re going to have big, strong, fast players. We’re Americans, we’re athletes. But if we never learn at an early age to be good on the ball, then it’s just useless.”



Why Change?

- They are not “miniature pros”
- Know and learn how skills are developed and prepared through phases.
- Encourage players to take risks and become creative.
- Winning is neither a priority nor should be a consideration.
- They (8 and 9 year olds) are far from the finished product!
- Give the game back to the kids!



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Pros

- More inclusive
- Development over pageantry.
- More playing time
 - Clubs split up Academy players into groups of 7-9
 - Parents should not be checking their watches as much.
- Player Centered (What this game is)
- More training than games (better for development)
- Give the game back to the kids!

Pros

- Less Traveling (bonus for parents)
- Referee Development
- Coaching Development
- Develop pride to play in a club
- Players can learn from other players (they actually learn better this way)
- Club pass options
- Club develops a bigger base of players to select for the future.
- Give the game back to the kids!

Perceptions

- This is not competitive!
 - Sure it is. If one club wears blue and the other wears red, they will compete.
 - Are pick-up games competitive-Yes!
 - Did we develop and learn-Yes!
 - Do they really need “competition” to be the BEST when they are 8/9? No!

Perceptions

- Kids want to be on teams!
 - True, but research has shown that they would rather play than sit the bench.
 - They will still be on a team, but each week their team will change as Academy Directors can do this. Players are no longer bound.
 - Players develop at different rates.

“It’s possible at any time during a player’s career to get into top physical shape, but you can’t teach skills to an old player. Youth coaches should keep in mind that individual skills need to be nurtured from an early age. Players who haven’t mastered the fundamental skills become frustrated because the game gets too difficult for them as they move into higher levels.”



Claudio Reyna, US World Cup Captain

Player-centered

vs.

Coach-centered

Model



Model

“Too often, we give children answers to remember rather than problems to solve.”

Roger Lewin, US Humorist, Author

Why Do Kids Participate?

- Competence (Learning and Improving)
- Affiliation (Being a part of a group)
- Fitness (physical health and development)
- FUN (Enjoying performance and relationships)



Academy Guidelines

- Clubs select Academy Director
 - Recommended minimum license: NYL or USSF C
- Clubs can determine own method on how Academies are formed. “No Cut” policy is recommended.
- Clubs should strive for at least 1:12 coach-player ratio.
- Club Academies are for those players that desire a higher level.
- Code of Conduct
 - Academy Director
 - Parents
 - Players

Academy Guidelines

- Academy players must be 8 years old by July 31st.
- Clubs must register Academy players with Indiana Youth Soccer.
- Transfers are only allowed per Indiana Youth Soccer's Registration Rule 5.4-3
- Club Academies may not start until August 1st.
- Club Academies will play four assigned dates.
- Club Academies may enter "playing groups" into tournaments
 - No more than two per season
 - Tournaments must be participation awards only (no championships)
 - May enter round robins (participation awards only, no championships).

Academy Format

- Four Academy Dates set up by Indiana Youth Soccer Leagues (CIYSL, GIRLS, NISL)
 - Saturdays-no Sundays
 - Two matches in one day
- Two or more academies may be assigned to a venue depending on numbers
- Playing Groups-no teams. Academy Directors can, however, have playing groups formed prior or can split up players at the fields.
- Play 6v6 (5 plus GK)
- Indiana Youth Soccer playing rules
 - Field size, duration, goals, etc.
 - No offside
 - Punt Rule
- Playing groups consist of 7-9 players.

Academy Format

- Clubs are required to have copies of player passes and submit them to both referee and other club's Academy Director.
- A minimum of 2 hours should be allocated between two matches.
- Academy Directors may "opt" to train players together between matches. No more than 45 minutes.
- First match-teams are balanced homogenously by each club's Academy Director
- Second match-teams can be balanced by abilities IF Academy Directors desire.
- No results or standings
- Each player plays at least half the match.
- No championship tournaments.