

U9 Academy FAQ's

1. Do U9's have to play in the "Academy" format?

Yes. Clubs who have true U9 player pools will submit them Indiana Youth Soccer and inform the leagues how many U9 players they have.

2. Will the clubs submit U9's as teams?

No. Clubs will submit all of their U9 players as a "pool" of players to both Indiana Youth Soccer and the leagues. The clubs will submit all of their players into one large "roster".

3. Do clubs have to keep all U9's that "tryout"?

The "no-cut" policy is recommended but clubs can determine their own method of how they form their U9 pool of players. Note: One of the reasons for this change is to allow clubs to not select out and give them the opportunity to build a bigger base of players for the future. Plus with the current "selecting" out process, many young players who may develop in the future are not selected due to roster limitations, having a bad tryout, etc.

4. How will the clubs register their U9 players?

An online system will be created for the clubs to submit their U9 players.

5. Can you play up in a U10 division with a group of all U9's?

No. Clubs that have all U9 players will not be allowed to play "up" as a team in the U10 division of a league.

6. Can a club have a combination of U9 and U10 players?

Yes, if this is the only way a club can create ONE team if in the event they do not have enough players. This request, however, must go through Indiana Youth Soccer first and get permission.

7. Can clubs put *some* U9 players "up" on a U10/11 roster?

Yes, if the club feels as though it is in that child's best interest to play "up" then that will be allowed. That will be the responsibility of the club to make that decision, not Indiana Youth Soccer. Note: Having a child play "up" should be a reward and in the best interest of that child to have him/her play with some older players. It should not be used as a way to get around not playing in the Academy format.

8. Can clubs take U9's to tournaments?

Yes. Clubs will be allowed to submit a list of players to Indiana Youth Soccer for tournament purposes only.

9. Will these U9 players get player-cards?

Yes, they will get player cards just like everyone else. All player passes will have a card that says "U9 Academy or something to that effect.

10. How will an Academy Day look?

The various leagues will set up play dates (4-5 of them). Clubs will be assigned to a venue based on the number of players they submit to both Indiana Youth Soccer and the leagues. Clubs must stipulate how many teams they will have for each play date.

The club's Academy Directors/coaching staff will split their player pools up into groups of 7-9/10 players.

There will be two regular (Indiana Youth Soccer playing rules) games in an Academy Day.

For the first game, the coaching staff for each club is to randomly /balance their Academy playing groups, if they have more than one. Split up the better players amongst the groups.

After the first game or before the second game, the clubs should then bring all of the players together to work on various skills and techniques for about thirty minutes. Indiana Youth Soccer has partnered with "Kicks For Cancer". This is a program in which players get pledges and do so many touches, juggles, etc. with a ball.

The second game of the day, if the clubs wish, may group the players by abilities. They should inform the other Academy Directors/coaching staff that they are doing this.

Note: The leagues are encouraged to set up Academy Days on Saturdays. The idea is also to have Academy Days every other Saturday.

There will be no results or standings kept.

11. How many Academies will be assigned to a venue?

That all depends on the number of U9 players each club has. There may be sometimes 3 or 4 Club Academies put together at an "Academy Day". The leagues will sort out which Academy plays each other based on numbers that each club submits.

12. How will the referees be paid?

The leagues will decide how the referees will be paid.

13. What about teams from other states?

Teams from other states will remain but they need to be aware that our U9's will be playing in an "Academy" format.

14. What is to prevent coaches from recruiting players from other Academies?

Coaches, managers will all be required to sign a code of conduct prior to the season. This code of conduct will have language about recruiting. Transfers are only allowed per Indiana Youth Soccer's Registration Rule 5.4-3

15. Is this Academy format in effect for both the fall and spring seasons?

Yes. Clubs will do this format for U9's for both seasons.

16. Are Academy Directors required to hold the USSF National Youth License?

No. It is purely a recommendation.