



# Arlington Aces Academy Program

## FAQ



### **1. What is the 2007/2008 Academy Program?**

The Arlington Aces Academy Program is an additional component to the AHPD soccer program that is designed for players who possess the desire and skill to compete at the highest levels of league and tournament play. The program offers Arlington's youth soccer players a unified and consistent approach to total player development. Players will develop by learning skills and strategies at age appropriate levels and benefit from the teaching philosophy of experienced soccer professionals. Academy teams are formed at U8-U18 age groups and are coached and trained by Elite Soccer staff. There may be more than one Academy team in each age group.

Practices occur twice per week with occasional three times per week training. In addition, the teams have a parent volunteer team manager who coordinates the administrative efforts. Elite Soccer staff coaches lead on-the-field responsibilities and work closely with the team manager on administrative duties.

### **2. Who is Elite Soccer?**

Elite Soccer is a community based soccer organization that has a 10-year history of providing soccer camps, training programs, and coaching services to the Arlington Heights community.

Elite Soccer Directors:

*Brendan Eitz*, Head Men's Soccer Coach at Loyola University Chicago, completed his twelfth year at the N.C.A.A. Division I level. Brendan offers extensive camp and team training experience and holds a U.S.S.F. 'B' Coaching License. He is a certified trainer for the Positive Coaching Alliance, which is based at Stanford University.

*Mike Steele*, Chicago Area Coordinator for Positive Coaching Alliance, has coaching experience at the youth, high school, and collegiate level. Mike holds a Master of Social Work and takes special interest in youth development issues and the promotion of athletic experiences that meet the needs of its participants. Mike holds a U.S.S.F. "C" and National Youth coaching licenses.

*Stein Garcia*, Elite Soccer Director of Coaching, has coaching experience at the highest levels of youth and collegiate soccer. Stein holds a M.S. Kinesiology - Youth Development, U.S.S.F. "C" coaching license, and is a former Division I player at Creighton University and UIC. Stein is actively involved in the promotion of youth sport issues and is a board member of the national organization, *Responsible Youth Through Sport*.

Elite Soccer subscribes to the tenants of *Positive Coaching Alliance*, which include:

- Developing skill and character
- Focusing on effort rather than results
- Filling the emotional tank with positive coaching
- Refusing to motivate through fear & intimidation
- Fostering internal motivation
- Coaching for mastery
- Encouraging creativity
- Empowering decision making

### **3. When do I tryout for the Academy Program?**

Academy, U8-U14, tryout dates are June 1-4, 2007. HS Girls Tryouts are May 18 and May 20, 2007.

Players who tryout for the Academy Program but are not selected are encouraged to tryout the following weekend for the Travel Program, June 7-10, 2007.

### **4. Is the Academy Program intended to be a "soccer only" commitment for the kids?**

No, Elite Soccer and the Arlington Heights Park District believe that in a community-based soccer organization there should not be pressure to "specialize" or commit at a young age to one sport. Continued participation in other sports is viewed as beneficial to the overall development of the athlete. The only additional time commitment as compared to the Travel Program is the participation in indoor soccer training, 1x per week in the winter, which is highly encouraged.

### **5. How and when will I learn the results of Academy Program team selections?**

Academy Team selections will be posted at [www.elitesoccer.net](http://www.elitesoccer.net) on June 6, 2007.

## 6. What happens after my child is selected for the Academy Program?

Mandatory registration for 2007-08 Academy teams will take place June 6 & 7, 2007 for U8 through U14 age teams.

## 7. Will I be able to tryout for the Travel Program if I am not selected for the Academy Program?

Yes, it is highly encouraged to tryout for the Travel Program if you are not selected for the Academy Program.

## 8. Is it possible to tryout for the Travel Program without making a decision about accepting an Academy Program team selection?

No, once you are selected for the Academy Program you have to accept or decline the invite, by June 6, prior to the Travel Program tryouts.

## 9. What are the Academy Program fees?

The following player fees apply to the Academy Program:

U8-U12: \$625 per player includes,

- Summer preseason camp
- Fall and spring training and game coaching
- Coaching at two tournaments (state cup entry if appropriate- additional fee collection necessary to cover coaching and entry fee).
- *Does not include uniform, indoor soccer league and training, and tournament entry fees*

U13-U14: \$675 per player includes,

- Summer preseason camp
- Fall and spring training and game coaching
- Coaching at three tournaments (state cup entry if appropriate- additional fee collection necessary to cover coaching and entry fee).
- *Does not include uniform, indoor soccer league and training, and tournament entry fees*

U15-U18 Girls: \$360 per player includes,

- Summer preseason camp
- Fall and spring training and game coaching
- Coaching at one tournament (state cup entry if appropriate- additional fee collection necessary to cover coaching and entry fee).
- *Does not include uniform, indoor soccer league and training, and tournament entry fees*

## 10. What additional costs may be incurred in the Academy Program?

- Participants in the Academy program pay a \$210 Arlington Heights Park District registration fee (same as travel program).
- Additional costs, estimated, not included in the above per player fee:
  1. Uniforms (optional), \$75
  2. Indoor soccer league, \$150
  3. Indoor training, \$120
  4. Tournament entry fees, \$50-\$75

Total cost for the Academy Program, U8-U14, will be approximately \$900 to \$1200 per child.

## 11. What is the indoor training commitment for the Academy Program?

Indoor training will be provided and it is encouraged that Academy players participate in at least the once per week training program in the winter months (approximately 8 sessions). The estimated cost for this part of the program is \$120. In addition, an indoor team will compete as long as interest dictates and the Academy coach will coach these games. The anticipated cost for the indoor league is \$150 - \$200.

## 12. What is the Academy Program playing time philosophy?

At the lower levels (U8 through U14), there is a "playing time guarantee." U8 - U10 players shall play a minimum of approximately 50% of the game minutes. U11- U14 players shall play a minimum of approximately 40% of the game minutes. . This playing time guarantee assumes regular attendance at practices and games as well as a positive attitude towards the game and the team. U15- U18 players do not receive guaranteed playing time.

## 13. What are the recommended roster sizes for each age group?

- **U8 & U9:** 10-11 players
- **U10 & U11:** 12-13 players
- **U12 & U13:** 16 players
- **U14:** 16-18 players
- **U15-U18:** 18 players

