

2026 -2027 Academy Program Overview

Beginning in 2026-2027, Tosa will have a full academy: U8, U9 and U10 teams guided under our select programming. The Academy Director will oversee the program by mentoring our volunteer coaches in best practices and providing curriculum for player development. The Academy Director will also help with scheduling league playdates, recommend tournaments, and generally help support the coaches and players in the program.

- **Practice:** 2x per week
- **Games:** Academy League (we hope to be in the WYSA Club Academy League)
 - U9 and U10: 7v7 format
 - U8: 4v4 format
- **Tournaments:** 1 in fall, 1 in spring
- **Winter training:** 1x/week Jan–Mid-March + optional futsal or indoor league
- Academy players will have opportunities to guest play with other academy teams
- Teams will typically play games on the same day and at the same location
- As much as possible, teams will practice at the same time and location to encourage mixed training and “age group” training.
- **Fees:** TBD for the 2026-2027 season
 - Academy Fees includes registration, leagues, tournaments, referees, MKSC fees, equipment, field and gym rental and maintenance fees, etc
 - Uniforms will be an additional cost and we aim to keep this cost under \$100.

Academy Age Groups

Age Group	Grade	Birthdate Range
U8	2	8/1/2018 - 7/31/2019
U9	3	8/1/2017 - 7/31/2018
U10	4	8/1/2016 - 7/31/2017

*If you have a player with an August birthday and will be entering the grade ahead of their soccer age group, they may play up with their grade. For example, if your child has a 8/15/2019 birthday and is in the U7 age group but is entering 2nd grade, they are allowed to play U8, in both rec and the academy.

Academy Format

- U10 teams: 3 teams for boys and girls. Roster goal of 10-12
- U9 teams: 2 teams for boys and girls. Roster goal of 10-12
- U8: 1 team for boys and girls. Roster goal of 10-12 (split into two teams on game day)

Academy Player Expectations - These are important!

- **Commitment:** Players are expected to make soccer their first priority in the fall and the spring (They should make 80% - 90% of practices and games as a guideline).
- **Interest and Desire:** Players should be excited about playing more soccer and be eager to learn. Academy is NOT a program where kids "play with their friends." They play on a leveled team with players around their same ability.
- **Effort:** Players show their commitment and excitement through the effort they show in practice and in games. Lack of effort will tell the coaches and evaluators that the player is not ready for the next step yet.
- **Discipline:** Listening, engaged, helps other teammates, etc.

Player Evaluation and Communication

- Current Coach recommendations
- Players will be evaluated on athleticism, skill, effort and discipline.
- Players who do not meet these expectations will be asked to stay in rec.

Player Evaluations, Communication and Limited Availability

- In order to manage our growth and success in this new Academy Program, we will be limiting the roster spots at each age group as indicated above under the Academy Format.
- Players will be evaluated on athleticism, skill, effort and discipline.
- Players will be asked to stay in rec after the evaluation if coaches believe that rec is the best place for continued development and love of the game for the player.

It is important to note that ALL players at these young ages can become great soccer players as they get older regardless if they play on an academy team or a rec team.

Player development relies mostly on the player. The players that spend time honing their skills in their backyard and basement, head to the local fields to play pick up with friends, and those that watch high level soccer will be the players that develop into very good and excellent players.

It is also important to note that development is not linear and it happens at different times for different people. Some players develop faster than others and that does not mean that the players who are slower to develop will always be behind. When players hit their teen years, the playing field starts to level out tremendously. There are players who had a hard time making a top select team in Tosa who are now key players on their respective high school varsity teams, starting and playing every minute. When they were 9, they were very small and timid. They continued to work at the game and now are on level with some of the players who were always on those top teams in Tosa and at other clubs.