

Arizona Academy of Youth Soccer

Renegades

Who is eligible to play? This Arizona Academy of Youth Soccer (AAYS) is open to any player from the ages of 4 years old thru 18 years of age. We have 3 levels/tiers of play. The 1st tier is the Developmental-Rec level. This level is for the players that are just beginning or that just wish to get more touches on the ball (ages 4 to 14). These players will be instructed by the Academy coaching staff. They will be taught many of the basic skills to help them play at a higher level. The 2nd tier is the Academy Team Level. These players are basically like a club team. They will be taught technical and tactical skills to help them with their progression. There will be more emphasis on individual skills rather than team accomplishments. These players will benefit from the College Prep program when we have a visiting college coach....they will be included (in most cases) in these workshops. The 3rd tier is the College Prep level...U-15 and older. These are the players preparing to continue playing soccer throughout college. These teams will play in the Az. State or Open Leagues. These teams will also play many more tournaments than our Academy level teams. We will also be bringing in guest college coaches to run workshops/practice sessions and inform our players on the necessities to advance to the collegiate level.

We do NOT discriminate because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex or age. AAYS follows all the same laws of the game as Arizona Youth Soccer Association (AYSA).

What if we choose NOT to participate on Sunday's, can my child still play? YES!!! AAYS recognizes that in many communities, there are many players that do not participate in sports on Sunday. Whether it is because of religious beliefs or personal reasons, we try to accommodate these situations. AAYS supports non-Sunday players with the understanding this can affect the tournaments we plan to play in. We will try to adjust things to make it work for everyone involved.

What is the cost of this program? Depending on the level your child will participate in will determine the cost. The Academy has 3 tiers/levels of play.

(1)The Developmental/Recreational Program cost \$80 per player & session (fall and spring sessions available.... 2-3 months each session). If you pay for both sessions at the beginning of the year then the cost is \$140 per player. If you have 2 children in the Development Program, then the cost is \$80 for the 1st and \$60 for each additional child per session, from the same family. If families with multiple children pay for both sessions at the beginning of the year, then the cost will be \$140 for the 1st child and \$100 for each additional child from the same family. This level is for players 4 thru 14.

(2) The Academy Team Level (U-10 thru U-14) is \$695 for the entire season if paid by August 30th (the cost is \$745 if paid after the August 30th deadline due to the extra administrative/accounting fees). All Academy Team Level fees are due by January 1st. A season begins August and ends in March. This cost includes registration fees, training fees, uniforms, most tournaments (3-4 tourneys), field cost, referees, speed and conditioning & keeper training, games etc... The players will train twice a week in most cases

and sometimes a 3rd day during the week. There is NO family discount on multiple Academy players at this level of play.

(3) The College Prep Level (U-15 thru U-18) is \$1,500 for the entire season. Payment arrangements are available if needed but \$600 is due by August 1st. All College Prep level players' fees are due by February 15th. A season begins in August and ends in April/May (there is a break for high school during the fall). This includes cost includes registration fees, training fees, uniforms, most tournaments (6-7 tourneys), field cost, referees, speed and conditioning & keeper training, games etc... The players will train twice a week in most cases and sometimes a 3rd day during the week. We will also be bringing in different college coaches each month to run a workshop for our players at NO extra cost. There is NO family discount on multiple College Prep players at this level of play.

*Please note, AAYS does have opportunities to help with financial assistance such as fundraising, the Buddy Referral Program, etc.

Where are the practices being held and what times? We are currently in the process of building our own field at Gateway Bible Church just north of the Hohokam soccer fields in Mesa. The address is 1627 Pasadena Ave, Mesa, Az. It will be ready for action in August. The times will vary, depending on the age. The younger players will start at 5pm and the older teams later. We also plan on using the Hohokam fields as an alternate facility...especially for any older teams.

What league/organization will the AAYS be associated with and who will we play? We will be affiliated with the Arizona Association of Youth Soccer (AYSA) and will participate in tournaments sanctioned by AYSA/US Youth Soccer. Most of our Academy teams will not participate in the Az. State or Open Leagues until we feel they are ready to compete comfortably and at a high standard of play. This also helps with that reduced cost you received when registering with the Academy. However, we do plan on having an in-house league and also playing "many" practices games against other local club teams. We will be partnering with another Academy and possibly other clubs in the fall to play competitive games (our own league). The idea here is to reduce the pressure of having to win and increase the ability to actually learn from the game.

How many games/practices will the teams play at the Developmental-Rec level? These players will play a 7-10 game season. There are 2 seasons available: fall & spring. They will practice 2 times a week and at least once with one of our National Licensed Coaches.

How many games will the teams play at the Academy Level or College Prep level? We will play many games. We will try to schedule practice games almost every week starting late Sept. (Don't worry, you will NOT be playing every weekend....everyone can use a break from soccer). We will schedule each Academy Team to play in 3 to 4 tournaments while the College Prep Teams will play in 6-7 tournaments. We will announce the info on these tournaments ASAP so each family can plan in advance.

Will there be a goalkeeper or speed & conditioning trainer in this program? We plan on having both at NO extra cost. We are currently interviewing for a Keeper trainer and we do have a speed &

conditioning trainer ready to start in August. This training will be optional and will only be available on certain days TBD.

Will there be fundraising opportunities to help pay for some of the cost? We will have many fundraising opportunities. Gold Canyon Candles, a Juggle-A-Thon, Raffles, etc... The fundraisers are not mandatory but are very much encouraged to help support the program while helping your own account.

Can I get a sponsor to pay for my child? Is the AAYS a non-profit organization? Yes, you can get a sponsor to pay for your child to play with our Academy. We are a non-profit organization and we will give you a receipt for your sponsor. The AAYS Director of Finance (Kathryn Spencer kathryns@aays.info) will help you with this process.

Will the AAYS offer scholarships for those that are in need of financial assistance? Yes, the AAYS does eventually plan on helping those families in need. Our Academy must first establish itself before it will be able to start helping out with scholarships. In the meantime, the Academy will try it's best to help those families in need. We encourage everyone to use our Buddy Referral Program and the other fundraising opportunities we offer. Soliciting sponsorships is the easiest way to help financially as well. We are aware of the bad economy and that is why we are offering our program at such a great value and savings, especially compared to other local clubs and programs.

Is there other ways to help assist with the fees of the Academy besides sponsors or fundraising? We do have a Buddy Referral Program where you get \$10 credited to your account with each registered player you refer to AAYS. There is NO limit to the amount of credit you can receive to your account so keep sending us players and keep getting credit..... This program is valid for all of the tiers of the Academy: Developmental-Recreational /Academy/ College Prep Levels.

How will this be different to the clubs in the valley? This is an easy question....we honestly care about the player development for ALL players. We have been carefully hand picking our staff to ensure that each coach/staff member truly cares about helping with player development. We are NOT interested in "Winning at all/any cost". We are here to teach the players and help them technically and tactically to become better. We are NOT about the money....that should be evident by the cost of our program at any of our levels. Our coaches are sacrificing larger incomes to help the Academy players. We understand bad economy has hit many families hard and we do care. Soccer should NOT be about the money. We are also giving our Academy members things that most clubs will not give without charging extra fees (ex: GK Trainer, Speed & Conditioning Trainer, College Coaches Workshops & Seminars, etc). We are here to help "ALL" the players progress in soccer without putting our family members in debt!!!

Who will coach the teams? Once we know what teams we will have, then we will assign a head coach and an assistant coach (for some teams those assignments have already been made). Our AAYS Coaching Staff is committed to helping each other and "every" team when possible. The staff will be working together. In many cases, a head coach of a team may have another coach run a practice session. It is important for these players to have a chance to get instruction from another coach. This will help with their progression. Remember, we will be bringing in college coaches or possibly even guest coaches from other clubs to run sessions. The idea is to give our Academy players as much exposure

possible to different styles of coaching. Remember, we wish to develop every player and NOT just the so-called superstars.

How will the teams be chosen for this program? Our AAYS Coaching Staff will carefully evaluate each player during the Skills Assessment and Placement Days. The coaches will then place each player in a level where it will best suit them for a strong and steady progressive level and so they will be challenged. The players will be separated by gender and age and skill level. In some cases, we may combine age brackets to have a full team so we can compete in practice games against other club teams.

Can players play up in age? Under special circumstances only, can a player play up in age. These players will need to be evaluated closely by the coaches.

When do we pay and can we pay/register on-line? You can register your child to play in the Developmental-Rec program now. Registration is open!!! We are NOT set up for on-line registration/payments just yet. That may be a possibility in the future.

You can also start making payments NOW for the Academy and College Prep levels. Just contact our Treasurer/Director of Finance (Kathryn Spencer: kathryns@aays.info) and she will help you with any payments and set you up with an account.

Can I make payments or do I need to pay the full amount? The Developmental/Recreational Level players will need to be paid in full before August 15th.

You do NOT have to pay everything in FULL, if you are an Academy Team Level player or College Prep Player. Payments can be made if it makes it easier. However, to get that \$695 cost for the Academy Team level, it must be paid in full by August 30th. If not, then the cost is \$745 due to the administrative/accounting fees. This \$745 is due by January 1st.

The College Prep Players will need to pay \$600 by August 30th and the balance by Feb. 15th (\$1,500 total for the College Prep). Once again, please contact Kathryn Spencer: kathryns@aays.info

Can I help or volunteer? Of course you can! We are a new program and we need all the help we can get. Please contact one of the following AAYS Board Members and ask them how you can be of help. David Cruz, Carlos Matus, Julie Garcia-Matus, and Kathryn Spencer. We also have other people that are currently helping us but the one's listed may be able to answer most of your questions.

The Board of Director's for the Arizona Academy of Youth Soccer (AAYS) Renegades would like to thank you for participating in any of our events before the actual season starts in August. Whether it's the FREE Clinics or the Skills and Placement Days, we appreciate it! We are here to offer a wonderful service to the youth in Arizona. Our goal is to help ALL the players that join our Academy. Hopefully your experience while with us has been a very positive one and your child has learned something. We believe that the Game is its greatest teacher. Please give your child positive support and let him/her play the game. It will create great opportunities for them in the future. Thank you again.

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