



# Academy Parent Info Outline

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## Academy Philosophy

- Focus is on Development and Fun keeping no scores, standings, or results
- Player Focused development opposed to making a team to win games – Free from the pressures of results-orientated environments.
  - We want to develop players who understand soccer, not focus on developing a team to win
  - Academy U9 & U10 is completely player focused training - Learning to Train: This is the phase of development that fits into the larger scope of a structured system throughout HFC. Academy is the building block and foundation to the competitive options of soccer at HFC. Academy serves to prepare the young soccer players to move into Classic and Challenge programming as U11's
- Rotation of players, no set teams
  - Players will see lots of different kids through the season
  - Players will work with several coaches through the season
  - Training and game groups are based mainly on ability and occasionally on parity
- Limited instruction from the sidelines from our coaches during games
  - We want to allow the players to make decisions so the coach will NOT overload the player with information. Soccer is a player's game, the kids must learn to make decisions on the field and making mistakes is an important part of the learning process.
- NO Yelling or giving instruction from Parents at training or games
  - Feel free to cheer during games but we do not allow parents to give instruction, yell at players, opponents, coaches, or referees. Cheer in the past tense!
- During training
  - Wear your training shirt, soccer shorts, soccer socks, shinguards are mandatory
  - Bring plenty of water
  - We provide balls for Academy (so there's no need to bring your own)
  - Parents & Siblings need to stay off the turf during training
    - You're welcome to stay and observe, but we ask that you keep a respectful distance such that your child's focus is on the session. If he/she can easily look over and see you hovering around their training session, you're too close.
    - HFC believes that the training ground is for players and coaches only, and creates the best environment possible for learning. Parents, please stay off the turf and keep a respectful distance. You will unknowingly be a distraction and/or source of pressure to your young athlete. When there's more distractions and/or pressure on and/or around the field it becomes harder for the players to truly focus
- During Games
  - Parents & Siblings need to stay off the turf during games
  - Observe from the exterior sidelines of the turf only.
- Parents: Be an encouragement
  - Give support, be loving, give approval
  - Support hard work and fun
  - Support your child trying to do what the coaches taught
  - The best things to say to your young athlete: **Work Hard, Have Fun, I Love You**

Questions: Feel free to contact David: [david@abysa.org](mailto:david@abysa.org) , 828-299-7277 x306

***Did you know that the behavior of adults in youth sports settings greatly impacts a child's long-term participation in sport?***

According to the NY Times, more than 73% of all kids who play organized sports end up quitting by the time they reach 13.

Two major reasons they quit:

1. It's no longer fun.
2. It's too competitive/too much pressure.