



## 2019-2020 YOUTH ACADEMY POLICY

The youth academy policy applies to clubs who are designated as “Certified Youth Academies” by the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association. (The criteria for the youth academy certification are outlined by the program, in WYSA accreditation documents.) This policy governs acceptable timing of, and contact with players, as well as the registration of academy players to clubs who are WYSA Certified Youth Academies. The youth academy policy aligns with the WYSA tryout policy.

### 1. Academy Promotion

General promotion of an academy program is permitted at any time, however direct contact with the parent/guardian of a player initiated by club staff or an agent of the club to solicit participation is limited to the Period of Open Promotion. The Period of Open Promotion is the same for youth academy and competitive players. (Open promotion begins two weeks before the respective district competitive player tryout date, and ends July 31, unless a player has already accepted a position with another club. In that case, their participation cannot be solicited. Under no circumstances may contact be directly with the player; player contact is limited to the evaluation or club open house.)

Activities not permitted during the Period of Open Promotion:

- Direct contact with a player (phone calls, text messages, emails, other written or in person communication)
- Unauthorized player participation in a team training session or evaluation prior to the tryout window (see WYSA Poaching Policy for authorization requirements)
- Contact with the parent/guardian of a player prior to the coach dismissing the team
- Discussions regarding reducing fee structure by any amount for club being promoted unless consistent with club policy

### 2. Evaluations/Open Houses

Clubs may host an evaluation night and/or open house when Open Promotion begins, not before. These events are to provide program information and/or conduct player evaluations. Evaluations are intended to assess a player’s level of play but should not be used to assign players to a specific team for the program year. Youth academies are vehicles of player development for U8 to U10 players. The characteristics of youth academies focus on pool rostering of players with flexible game day play. Use of the pool roster concept is highly recommended.

Clubs are expected to be committed to the concept of player development in an academy environment and should be clear that the young players within their academy are those who desire to learn and play at a higher level. Parent education is essential to academy programming. It is the club’s responsibility to educate parents about the goals, benefits and expectations of a WYSA Youth Academy. Soccer academies are to be used for training not recruiting.

### 3. Player Registration

Registration of youth academy players may begin the first day of open promotion. A completed registration form constitutes an obligation to the club for a seasonal year. Once a player has registered, a transfer request is required for movement to another club.