



## MICHIGAN STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR'S ACADEMY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### 1. What is the Director's Academy?

The Director's Academy (DA) is a statewide program of the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association for U11 and U12 (U13Y) teams who aspire to play at the highest level in US Youth Soccer (National League and/or Midwest Regional League). The DA focuses on player development through coaching education and roster flexibility.

### 2. What does my team get for participating in the Director's Academy?

As a participating team in the DA, you will receive:

- Access to the best competition in Michigan at the U11 and U12 (U13Y) age groups
- Consideration for participation in the Midwest Regional League as a U13 team
- Commitment from your club to educate their coaches
- Flexibility to schedule games on your timeframe and use club passcard players as you see fit
- Enough DA patches for at least two sets of game jerseys

### 3. What sort of commitment is expected by clubs who have participating teams?

Clubs who have one or more teams participating in the DA are required to:

- Send at least one club representative to an MSYSA-approved coaching education event
- Ensure that all rostered coaches, assistant coaches, and trainers meet minimum coaching education standards (US Soccer "D" License or NSCAA National Diploma)
- Submit 12 weeks of training sessions plans at three times during the year (fall, winter, and spring), with the winner training plans incorporating small-sided games
- Advertise club tryouts in the Michigan Soccer magazine

### 4. What is the Director's Academy application process?

Clubs interested in having one or more team participate in the DA must submit their club application each May with payment for the following seasonal year. On the club application, they will specifically indicate which teams desire DA participation. Once accepted into the DA, there are no refunds.

### 5. What criteria are used when selecting clubs/teams for participation?

Admission in the DA is club specific and age/gender specific. This means a U11 boys team from Club X may be accepted into the program while a U12 boys team from the same club may not be accepted. When reviewing club applications, the DA Advisory Panel will be looking at the club's player development programs and coaching education initiatives, as well as prior DA history, prior league play history, team composition (ODP players), prior tournament history, and adherence to MSYSA submission/payment deadlines.

### 6. What are the costs to play in the Director's Academy?

An initial payment of \$895 per team is due into the MSYSA State Office at the time of the club's application. Of that, \$445 will automatically be applied to the team's Director's Academy Cup fees. Other costs involved are referee fees (\$35-\$50 per team per game depending on age group), host facility rental fees (if applicable), travel

fees to/from games, and registration fees. Registration fees are determined by MSYSA affiliate members, and every team is required to register with an MSYSA affiliate member.

### **7. What is the structure/format for the Director's Academy?**

The DA offers competition at the U11 and U12 (U13Y) age groups. The U11 teams play 9 v 9, and the U12 (U13Y) teams play 11 v11. Sixteen (16) teams are accepted into the DA in each gender/age group, and all sixteen teams are placed into the same division. Games are played in a round robin format so that every team plays against every other team at least once. Games are self-scheduled by the teams involved, provided that game logistics are mutually agreed upon and that all games get played within an approximate 10 month time frame (mid-August to mid-June). MSYSA, in conjunction with the State Youth Referee Administrator, is responsible for assigning referees to DA games.

### **8. What are the rules relating to rosters?**

All teams are required to register with an MSYSA affiliate member, however they will get their roster and passcards from MSYSA. The roster may change at any time provided that such changes are approved by MSYSA. At no time shall a player appear on more than one DA roster. Teams are permitted the use of an unlimited number of club passcard players. See the DA rules for the definition of a "club". At no time shall a player play for more than one DA team per age group or play in more than two (DA) games per day. For the U11 age group, the maximum number of players that may appear on the DA roster and the game roster is 18. For the U12 (U13Y) age group, the maximum number of players that may appear on the DA roster is 22, although only 18 are eligible to appear on the game roster.

### **9. How does the Director's Academy tie in with the Director's Academy Cup and the Midwest Regional League?**

Teams that are accepted into the DA are required to play in a special end of the season, DA-only tournament (DA Cup). Only U12 (U13Y) teams who play in the DA and DA Cup will be considered for MRL participation the following year at the U13 age group. The DA Cup Semifinalists will earn MRL endorsement, as well as the next four (4) highest DA finishers who were not Semifinalists. In order for a team to retain an earned MRL spot from U12 to U13, the team's U13 roster must include at least 51% of the players from the team's U12 roster, or the team must receive prior approval from the DA Advisory Panel.

### **10. If my team plays in the Director's Academy, do we also have to play in our local MSYSA affiliated league?**

No. Although a team must register with an MSYSA affiliate member, they do not have to play in that member's league (unless otherwise required by that affiliate member). In the absence of specific rules by an affiliate member, the decision to play in both the DA and local league or just the DA is at the discretion of your team or club.