



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 teams who aspire to play at the highest level of US Youth Soccer in the future (National League and/or Midwest Regional League). The DA focuses on player and club development through coaching education.

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 age groups
- The opportunity to earn a spot in the Midwest Regional League as a U13 team
- Commitment from your club to educate their coaches and focus on player development
- 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 each team's head coach to at least three MSYSA approved coaching education events each year
- Ensure that all rostered coaches, assistant coaches, and trainers meet minimum coaching licensing standards
- Submit training schedules, training blocks, and lesson plans three times during the year for review by MSYSA
- 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 by 4:30pm on March 31, 2014, 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. When reviewing club applications, MSYSA will be looking at the club's structure, player programming, player development, coaching development, history of participation in MSYSA programs and events, and adherence to MSYSA submission/payment deadlines. A maximum of two (2) teams per age/gender group will be accepted from each club.

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 Junior State 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 \$10.50 per player and coach.

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

The DA offers competition at the U11 and U12 age groups. The U11 teams play 9 v 9, and the U12 teams play 11 v 11. All teams within the same age/gender group are placed into the same division. Games are played in a round robin format, and are self-scheduled by the teams involved provided that game logistics are mutually agreed upon and that all games get played within the season designated by MSYSA. Teams are scheduled for 8-10 games in the fall season and 6-8 games in the spring season. There will not be a public posting of DA game scores. 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 directly with MSYSA (roster and passcards come directly from MSYSA). U11 teams may roster up to 18 players and U12 teams may roster up to 22 players. Teams are allowed to use up to two (2) club passcard players in each game, provided that the DA club passcarding rules are adhered to. A player may only play for one team in the DA each season.

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

Teams that are accepted into the DA are required to play in the DA Division of the Junior State Cup. Only the U12 teams who play in the DA Division of the Junior State Cup will be considered for MRL participation the following year at the U13. The eight Junior State Cup DA Division Quarterfinalists will earn MRL endorsement. However, in order for a team to retain an earned MRL spot from U12 to U13, the team's U13 roster must include at least 9 of the players from the team's U12 DA 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.