



GORGE ACADEMY

OVERVIEW

Player & Coach Development

GORGE MISSION

Developing Community & Good Citizens Through Soccer

AUTHOR

Gorge Technical Committee

Our Youth Programs

Gorge offers recreational and competitive programs for youth aged 3 to 18 years:

- Developmental FUNdamentals Program – U5-U7
- Developmental House League Program – U8-U12
- Recreational League Program – U13 – U18 (VIPL. Gold, Silver and Bronze levels)
- Elite play via Lower Island Wave Teams
- Academy Program – Boys & Girls U9 – U13

What is the Academy Program?

The Academy Program is a full year old program that will provide the opportunity for athletes to train above the currently existing recreational program level. The Academy is beginning in the 2014 season with U9 - U14 ages. Gorge considers the Academy as an important new level of training that will create a stronger pathway for athletes who may aspire to the “next level of play”. The Academy also increases program offerings from the Club and will make Gorge more competitive and attractive to both players and coaches.

The structure of the Academy also requires qualified coaches; Gorge is committed to providing access to development and ongoing training for coaches within the Academy program. Additional training will ensure our culture is focused on developing individual player performance and a coach’s ability to identify and modify player technique. Furthermore, an ability to mentor is imperative to ensure our players and coaches reach their full potential.

Gorge is proud and lucky to have longtime coach and dedicated volunteer Jamie Ackinclose to lead the Academy.

The Academy Program’s Goals

The Gorge strongly encourages the development of the proper mindset and positive training habits at all levels of play; however, the Academy will now place a stronger emphasis on the following areas to build a more robust soccer culture:

- Individual skill and development
- Team skills and development
- Physical Training
- Mental Training
- Nutritional Management
- Recovery Principles
- Injury Treatment & Prevention

In addition, the Academy will focus on time management for balancing school, sport and family life; establish a code of conduct for players, coaches, managers, Club officials, parents and fans. The

Academy will work to build a solid framework to ensure Academy coaches know individual players and train each player appropriately to foster success.

How Can My Child Get Involved?

The Academy Program is a new level of training that provides the opportunity for teams to train above the currently existing Recreational program level. Academy participation is a personal choice for elite level athletes who are committed to taking their soccer game to the next level.

To ensure player and team success, the Academy program requires a year-round commitment. This means there will be 40+ weeks of structured programming (September through to early July) that will vary in intensity and frequency during in-season, off-season and pre-season training and game play.

Initially (Phase 1 and 2) all players are welcome to the Academy our goal is to serve all levels of players in the club to ensure every player has the opportunity to develop to their potential. As the Academy moves into Phase 3 (outside of the regular season), the Club now attempts to identify those soccer-centric players with passion, skill, and motivation whom will develop into elite-level players. For those recreational-minded players in the club that want to continue to play soccer in the off-season the pathway is provided through the Spring League played out of Hampton.

Our goal is integrity in the Academy program – this means developing our local players wherever possible and not displacing them with players from neighboring communities.

Some players may also aspire to the HPL and/or Provincial stream of play. Gorge will continue to fully support these players and participating in the Academy does not mean you are not able to play at these levels.

How Much Will Participating in the Academy Cost?

To be clear, our goal is to provide Academy participation for FREE. However, elevating the performance level of our players means that we need to ensure they have well trained coaches, higher quality fields on which to practice and play, and access to all of the tools they need ensure their success. The Academy program's increased commitment to 40+ weeks of structured programming means that there MAY be some small additional associated costs (especially in Phase 3 when team play has travel costs involved).

Although the situations and playing environment (i.e. teams, travel, etc.) change annually, Gorge's Academy costs should not exceed \$125 per athlete per season. This all-encompassing fee includes: academy administration, equipment, uniforms, referees and the use of higher quality fields/facilities for practice and play. Coaches may also be provided with a small honorarium for their commitment and the additional time they will be dedicating to players. Team travel and incidentals are extra.

For additional questions around budget and breakdown contact Gorge at our offices.

Accessibility and affordability for all children to play soccer continues to be a long-standing imperative for Club. The cost to play should not be a barrier and a number of community support programs exist for fee assistance. Information is available on our website or by contacting the Gorge offices.

In addition, Gorge is working diligently to obtain sponsor support to help offset costs through our *Grass Roots Community Partner* initiatives. We are actively seeking a sponsor for the Academy program.

Your Role as a Parent & Ongoing Supporter of the Gorge

We understand that changing a culture is difficult and it takes time. The Gorge is committed to working with you, parents and supporters, as we implement the new Academy program for our young athletes. We look to you for your support in explaining these new changes and in encouraging your child's commitment to soccer. If you have additional questions about the Gorge Soccer Association or the new Academy Program we encourage you to speak with the Technical Director or the President of the Gorge Soccer Association.

The club strongly supports the academy as a way of providing training for all levels of players – it means there is a place for every player, volunteer and enthusiastic supporter at the Gorge Soccer Association and we encourage our players to play with integrity, respect and consideration for each other.

Success is not measured by wins or losses; instead it is demonstrated on individual player development and how we play as a team. We encourage every player to be the best that he or she can be.

Gorge Soccer Academy

Phase 1 - Fall Academy

- September - November
- Additional to team training
- Free program to all Gorge u9-u14 players to provide additional training to all players desiring extra training
- Focus on soccer fundamentals, player skills, speed of play and decision making.
- Coaching development within academy - co-coaching with Head Coach
- Coaching training via BCSA courses
- Coach & player assessment / identification.

Phase 2 - Winter Academy / Futsal

- November - March
- Additional to team training
- Further free player development via indoor soccer (Futsal) program
- Focus on player fundamentals and speed of play (body & mind)
- Small-sided play
- Coaching development for Futsal
- Coach & player assessment / identification

Phase 3 - Spring Academy Teams

- April - June
- Post-season training
- Free program provided for soccer-passionate & skilled players.
- Recreational players are streamed into the Spring League
- Player - Individual development
- Player - Team play development
- Coaching development through game environment
- Referee development via games