

TUESDAY APRIL 9<sup>th</sup> - 2019

# U8 ACADEMY – PRE TRAVEL INFO SESSION

## THE INCOMING U9'S (2011's)



# U8 ACADEMY/PRE TRAVEL INFO SESSION OBJECTIVES FOR THE EVENING

WE SEEK TO PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- WSA DEVELOPMENT PHILOSOPHY
- THE SET UP OF THE U8 PRE TRAVEL PROGRAM
- PRE TRAVEL TOURNAMENT
- EVALUATION OF PLAYERS – FORMING OF TRAVEL TEAMS
- COMMITTING TO U9 TRAVEL
- ROLE OF THE VOLUNTEER COACH
- EXPECTATIONS FOR PARENTS



# WSA DEVELOPMENT PHILOSOPHY

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- PLAYER ENJOYMENT AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRAL TO THE EXPERIENCE
- PLAYER CENTERED COACHING – DEVELOP COMPETENT DECISION MAKERS
- PLAY A POSITIVE – POSSESSION BASED STYLE OF SOCCER
- WE WANT PLAYERS TO COMPETE, HAVE A DRIVE TO WIN, BUT THE FOCUS IS NOT JUST ON THE OUTCOME
- OUTCOME BASED COACHING IS DETRIMENTALLY TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND ENJOYMENT OF OUR PLAYERS (ENFORCES BAD HABITS)

# WSA DEVELOPMENT PHILOSOPHY

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- WE FOCUS ON THE PROCESS AND TEACH PLAYERS TO PLAY THE GAME “THE RIGHT WAY”
- INCREASES PLAYERS ENJOYMENT AND PLAYERS WILL GROW UP TO BECOME BETTER SOCCER PLAYERS
- ALL PLAYERS WHO JOIN THE TRAVEL PROGRAM SHOULD BE PLAYING AT LEAST HALF A GAME EACH WEEK
- AT U9 PLAYERS ARE ROTATED OVER AND EXPOSED TO ALL POSITIONS (INCLUDING THE GOAL)

# U8 ACADEMY – PRE TRAVEL PROGRAM

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- 8 WEEK PROGRAM (FRIDAY & SATURDAY)
- PROGRAM IS RAN BY AN ACADEMY DIRECTOR
- ACADEMY DIRECTOR IMPLEMENTS A CURRICULUM BASED ON WSA DEVELOPMENT PHILSOPHY.
- PLAYERS WILL BE EVALUATED ON AN ONGOING BASIS
- FOCUS ON MAKING SURE PLAYERS BECOME MORE CAPABLE AND COMFORTABLE ON THE BALL
- IN THE LONG RUN WE WANT PLAYERS TO BE ABLE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS ON THE FIELD **ON THEIR OWN** – DECISION MAKING
- TRAINING WILL INCLUDE A LOT OF 1V1 – 2V1 – 2V2 SCENARIOS – BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF PLAY
- PROGRAM ENDS WITH THE PRE TRAVEL TOURNAMENT (JUNE 8TH & 9TH)

# U8 ACADEMY – TOURNAMENT

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- U8 PROGRAM ENDS WITH THE PRE TRAVEL TOURNAMENT (JUNE 8TH AND 9TH)
- ALL PLAYERS ARE INCLUDED IN THE TOURNAMENT
- PLAYERS ARE RANDOMLY DIVIDED OVER A NUMBER OF TEAMS
- ALL TEAMS WILL PLAY 2 GAMES, BOTH SATURDAY AND SUNDAY (4 GAMES IN TOTAL)
- ALL GAMES ARE PLAYED IN THE 7V7 FORMAT

# U8 ACADEMY – PLAYER EVALUATIONS

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- PLAYERS ARE EVALUATED ON AN ONGOING BASIS – NOT ONLY ASSESS WHERE THEY ARE CURRENTLY, WE SEEK TO TRACK THEIR DEVELOPMENT.
- IT IS THEREFOR HELPFUL TO ATTEND AS MANY SESSIONS AS POSSIBLE – TO ASSESS/EVALUATE ALL PLAYERS ACCURATELY
- PLAYING ABILITY IS IMPORTANT (UNDERSTANDING OF THE GAME – ABILITY TO MAKE DECISIONS) – BUT ATTITUDE; EFFORT; COACH ABILITY AND ABILITY TO DEAL WITH SETBACKS ARE ALL PART OF THE EVALUATION AS WELL
- ALL EVALUATIONS ARE BASED ON 3 CATEGORIES (COMMUNICATION; DECISION MAKING & EXECUTION)

# U8 ACADEMY – PLAYER EVALUATIONS

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- HEAVY FOCUS IS ON A PLAYER'S OVERALL UNDERSTANDING OF THE GAME; ABILITY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS ON THE FIELD AND THE EXECUTION OF DECISIONS.
- THE PHYSICAL COMPONENT IS CONSIDERED, BUT BEING ABLE "TO RUN FAST" OR "KICK THE BALL HARD" ARE ALONE NOT ENOUGH TO BE A GOOD SOCCER PLAYER.



# U8 ACADEMY – PLAYER EVALUATIONS

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## IMPORTANT NOTE:

- WE VALUE THE TALENT / POTENTIAL OF EACH AND EVERY PLAYER
- HOWEVER, TALENT ISN'T THE ONLY FACTOR CONSIDERED
- A PLAYER'S ATTITUDE; EFFORT; COMMITMENT; PERSEVERANCE; COACHABILITY AND DISCIPLINE ARE ALSO CONSIDERED
- TALENT IS IMPORTANT, BUT ALONE NOT ENOUGH TO HELP YOU DEVELOP

PLEASE REMEMBER: EARLY SUCCESS IS NO INDICATION OF FUTURE SUCCESS

# U8 ACADEMY - EVALUATIONS

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**COMMUNICATION:** TACTICS / UNDERSTANDING OF PRINCIPLES OF PLAY  
*(BASED ON AGE)*

**DECISION MAKING:** SPATIAL AWARENESS / GAME INSIGHT  
*(HOW DOES A PLAYER READ HIS OR HER ENVIRONMENT?)*

**EXECUTION :**TECHNIQUE *(EXECUTION OF DECISIONS)*

COMMENT SECTION: ADD ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ABILITY TO IMPACT GAME, ATTITUDE, APTITUDE, COACH ABILITY AND/OR PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES

# U8 ACADEMY - EVALUATIONS

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OBJECTIVE IS TO EVALUATE PLAYERS BASED ON THEIR DEVELOPMENT AS A SOCCER PLAYER, NOT JUST BASED ON THEIR PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

BASED UPON OUR DEVELOPMENT PHILOSOPHY, WE SHOULD EMPHASIZE:

- BEING IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME (THINK AHEAD, RATHER THAN JUST RUNNING HARD)
- ABILITY TO MAKE DECISIONS, UNDER PRESSURE OF OPPONENT (HOW MUCH TIME/SPACE DOES A PLAYER NEED).
- ABILITY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS (ON THEIR OWN)
- SPEED AT WHICH DECISIONS ARE EXECUTED (FUNCTIONAL TECHNIQUE)
- DEVELOPMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL ATTRIBUTES (WILLINGNESS TO COMPETE; ATTITUDE; COACH ABILITY; TEAM PLAYER)

# U8 ACADEMY - EVALUATIONS

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MAIN OBJECTIVE:

TO EVALUATE PLAYERS BASED ON THEIR DEVELOPMENT  
AS A SOCCER PLAYER, NOT JUST BASED ON THEIR  
PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

# U9 TRAVEL

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- 3 PRACTICE SESSIONS A WEEK (1.5 HOURS EACH)
- 2 WEEK DAY SESSIONS COVERED BY PROFESSIONAL COACHES
- SATURDAY PRACTICE COVERED BY PARENT COACHES – SUPPORTED BY WSA STAFF
- 10 GAMES PER SEASON, 5 HOME & 5 AWAY (FALL & SPRING)
- FALL SEASON STARTS EARLY SEPTEMBER – RUNS THROUGH NOVEMBER
- THE SPRING SEASON START MID MARCH AND RUNS THROUGH JUNE.
- AWAY GAMES CAN BE PLAYED AGAINST TEAMS FROM TOWNS WITHIN AN HOUR RADIUS OF WESTFIELD.
- ALMOST ALL TRAVEL TEAMS ALSO COMMIT TO WINTER TRAINING.

# U9 TRAVEL – COACH ASSIGNMENTS

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- ALL U9 TRAVEL TEAMS WILL BE ASSIGNED 1 HEAD COACH AND 1-2 ASSISTANT COACHES.
- THESE COACHES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR RUNNING THE SATURDAY SESSIONS (CURRICULUM PROVIDED) AND THE COACHING OF GAMES.
- THE PROFESSIONAL COACH ATTENDS 5 OUT OF 10 GAMES. HE/SHE NORMALLY TAKES THE LEAD WHEN IN ATTENDANCE.
- ANYONE WHO WANTS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A COACHING POSITION SHOULD VOLUNTEER DURING THE U8 ACADEMY. THIS, HOWEVER, IS NOT A GUARANTEE THAT SOMEONE WILL BECOME A COACH.

# EXPECTATIONS FOR PARENTS

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- SUPPORT THE TEAM
- MAKE YOURSELF FAMILIAR WITH THE WSA DEVELOPMENT PHILOSOPHY
- UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WANTING AND NEEDING TO WIN (CHILDREN DON'T SEE WINNING AS AN IMPORTANT REASON TO PLAY SPORTS).
- SIDELINE SUPPORT - COACHING IS DONE BY COACHES – NO CONFUSION
- LET YOUR CHILD OWN THE EXPERIENCE – CREATE INDEPENDENT PROBLEM SOLVERS
- ENJOY WATCHING YOUR CHILD / CHILDREN PLAY THE GAME OF SOCCER

# INTRO MEETING - SUMMARY

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- PLAYER CENTERED APPROACH – CHILDREN CENTRAL TO THE EXPERIENCE
- ENJOYMENT OF PARTICIPANTS #1 OBJECTIVE
- WE SEEK TO CREATE INDEPENDENT PROBLEM SOLVERS
- PLAYER PLACEMENT BASED ON NEEDS OF PLAYERS – BEING PLACED ON THE RIGHT TEAM
- PLAYERS ARE EVALUATED ON THEIR ABILITY AS A SOCCER PLAYER (BEING FAST OR ABLE TO KICK THE BALL HARD NOT ENOUGH TO BE A GOOD PLAYER).



# INTRO MEETING - SUMMARY

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- SUCCESS AT AN EARLY AGE NO INDICATOR OF SUCCESS A FEW YEARS DOWN THE ROAD
- UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WANTING AND NEEDING TO WIN – PLAYER CENTERED APPROACH
- SIDELINE ETHICS - ENCOURAGEMENT OF PLAYERS – NO NEED TO COACH
- **ENJOY WATCHING YOUR CHILD OR CHILDREN PLAY THE GAME!**