



Franklin Youth Soccer - Academy Program Philosophy

- Program emphasizes a group training model that mixes players of all abilities in pods that do not change week over week.
- This training model also allows players to benefit from the instruction of multiple coaches.
- Our emphasis is on **individual technical development**, with age-appropriate tactics woven in over time.
 - Can our players perform with technical proficiency under the pressures of time, space and opposition?
 - Can our players control and play the ball under pressure? Do they look comfortable with the ball? Are they confident on the field?
 - Are our players taking risks, and learning how to play creatively and deceptively?
- The emphasis in the Academy is not on team success; it is on the child's development.
- Opposing coaches work collectively to improve the overall level of play, rather than accumulating a winning record.
 - Kids play to win, but we coach to have them learn.
- If we see that teams are unbalanced after the first few weeks of the season, we may move players around to promote end-to-end play and competitive games that challenge all players appropriately.
- Small field sizes are used to generate the need for players to play with skill, rather than rely on athleticism to solve soccer problems in the game.

- An “East Group” and a “West Group” often play against each other on Saturdays to present players with games where they can engage physically and technically at their level of readiness. (Our approach varies from season to season based on the mix of players.)
 - More touches = better soccer players.
- Training and games for any given week are built around a “theme of the week.” That theme may be posted on Lower Dacey field on Saturday mornings or shared with you by email. Coaches will focus their attention on that particular theme during their games
- We always emphasize FUN, and hope that our players will develop a love of the game through our program!