

Academy Outlook 2019-2020

The Academy program continues to grow and mature. This year there are 125 players ranging from u11 to u17. Particularly encouraging is the growth in the youngest cohorts (u11-13) where the numbers have doubled from last year. The number of players has also increased in the U14-17 age groups. Players from teams such as the U14 girls, U15 boys, U16 boys and U17 girls who will be playing in the CSL during the summer 2020 season make up most of the Academy players at these age groups. This fulfills one of the original core mandates of the Academy, which is to help retain players in the senior youth ages and provide them with a high level of training and competition year-round.

The higher numbers across age groups will also help the Academy program reach its vision of a pathway for local players to play at the highest levels in the province. Starting with the u11-12 age group, players are introduced to the Academy environment. In line with long term player development (LTPD), these age groups focus on learning the game in a positive and engaging environment without the pressure of results and standings. Emphasis is placed on understanding the principles of the game with age-appropriate expectations, activities and teaching methods. The game is presented as a problem-solving activity of space and time. Players use the acquired technical and tactical skills to find solutions in a fun, challenging and high-paced environment.

At the U13-U15 age groups players are exposed to training in a high-performance environment. The focus is on constant improvement in training, competition with one's self, attentional consistency and internal attribution of performance. The coaches act as facilitators to help the players learn the relevant abilities and behaviors needed to compete at a higher level. At these age groups, players/teams will compete at regional-level competitions.

By the U16 level, players are expected to be competing at provincial-level leagues and tournaments (Provincial Indoor Soccer League, Ontario Indoor Cup, Ontario Futsal Cup). The success of the 2003 Girls in last year's Ontario Futsal Cup (finalists U16 division) and PISL indicates that our teams can compete against the best teams in the province. This year the 2004 boys and 2003 girls are playing in the PISL and will also participate in Ontario Indoor Cup and Ontario Futsal Cup against the top academies and clubs in the province.

The Academy program is self-sufficient and will maintain a balanced budget for the upcoming year. Technical staff from the Academy will all be involved in coaching during the summer sessions with U12-U17 teams, helping to raise the coaching level at the club.

As a staff we are excited to keep improving the program and offering a fun, fulfilling experience to the players.

Gergin Naoumov

PCSA Academy Director

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