

FWUSA
ACADEMY



FWUSA Special Edition

Fort Wayne United Soccer Association introduces the best new soccer program in town!

Every once in a while, circumstances arise that lead a forward thinking club to develop a program that can rocket the level of soccer upwards in a single blast. That time has come, and FWUSA is ready to take-off in the quest for the stars!

Indiana Youth Soccer has developed a plan for the elimination of travel soccer teams in the U9 & U10 category. The goals of the plan are to get rid of long drives, heavy expenses, and all the negatives of competitive soccer at the premier levels for young kids. At these age groups, fun and skills training are seen as more important than the standings in some leagues paperwork. The IYS is looking at no cuts, no tryouts, and limited travel to friendlies to keep families close to home.

Given an understanding of what IYS is trying to accomplish, and realizing that the program will be voluntary this year but mandatory next, the FWUSA Board of Directors decided to rethink our approach to soccer at the younger ages. Select has always offered a program for recreational play in the 4 through 8 year old category. Some U7 and U8 players have chosen to "play-up" into Select or Citadel in the past, but this also will not be allowed by the IYS beginning this fall.

So a decision had to be made on a program that will provide the best possible training to all players who wish to play - combined with the best

possible competitive game and team situation in town. FWUSA is in the unique situation of offering the best of all worlds to players in the U10 and below categories through the new FWUSA Academy! Select and Citadel U9 & U10 teams will now be part of the Academy, as will the Future Stars program.

Practices will be held twice per week under the leadership of **Hani Rabi** (Citadel DOC) and a staff of fully licensed (USSF National & State) trainers who can elevate the training that every player in the Academy receives. Games will be held each Sunday utilizing USSF referees and in a tournament like atmosphere amongst other FWUSA teams.

Training will be age specific, and broken down into age groups that will insure every individual receives the necessary training that kids their age can handle. Exceptional players who are advanced for their age can be accommodated, though most players gain the most by playing "on age".

Recreational coaches who wish to test themselves and their teams out in a tougher environment, and get their players the advanced training this program offers, will be allowed to bring in a team intact. All coaches in the weekly games will be volunteer coaches, who have complete control over their team during game days and the tournament.

Coaches will be invited to join in during the weekly training so that they can improve themselves while their players are also gaining new skills. At the U11 age group, Academy volunteer coaches will have the option of continuing with their teams into Select League play; or (if qualified) apply for a coaching position within the Citadel FC travel division.

It will be the goal of the FWUSA Academy to help parents spend more time with their kids, and less time on the road. Academy practices will be held in two locations that will reduce the time spent driving twice per week - one on each side of town. The elimination of travel league play for the U9 & U10 categories means that parents can remain in town each weekend, and yet get the level of training that has - in the past - been mostly associated with premier travel programs like Citadel.

The FWUSA Academy will offer some great things for our families while meeting the new IYS requirements:

1. Premier level training
2. Teams & volunteer coaches
3. USSF games each week
4. Season ending tournament
5. No travel out of town
6. low costs

The face of soccer is changing in town, and FWUSA is the place to be!