

SYSA Spring Skills & Games Academy

Registration is open now for all players **ages U6-U8** for the Skills & Games Clinic. To register your child for the Skills & Games clinic, please find the link on the spring soccer page on the SYSA website. Please read through the questions and answers below to understand more about the Academy and how it will work for your player.

WHAT IS SYSA'S SPRING SKILLS & GAMES ACADEMY?

The Academy is a six-session soccer program for U6 to U8 (5-year-old through 8-year-old) players. Our goal is to provide all young players a chance to experience the joy and excitement of the great game of soccer in a comfortable, fun, and safe setting. The program includes soccer skills instruction by professional coaches with players placed into small groups based on age and experience, followed by soccer games played during each session with teams formed within each group.

WHY IS THE SKILLS & GAMES ACADEMY SEPARATE FROM THE SPRING SOCCER LEAGUE?

We get many requests each year from families with new players who want to participate in the SYSA Spring Soccer league, or with players who played in the fall but don't have a spring team. Unfortunately, SYSA Spring Soccer is organized around teams that played in the previous fall. Because of that, it is difficult and often not possible for us to incorporate players onto existing teams, especially at the youngest ages. To provide a way for these players to enjoy soccer in the spring, we offer a small, separate six-week program.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Any child who wants to play soccer in the spring and does not have a team to play on, and is within the U6 to U8 age range (see the last question for how age grouping works), can participate. While we do encourage players to find teams within their neighborhood to play on, we realize this is frequently not possible in the spring. Players who were on a fall team and whose team is not playing in the spring can also participate. The academy is limited to the first 150 players who register.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The cost is \$90 for each player for all six sessions. Financial assistance is available for families that need it. Please contact the SYSA Registrar Paige at pfbloonso@hotmail.com to apply.

WHERE WILL THE GAMES BE PLAYED?

The Skills & Games Academy will take place at the Roosevelt HS playfield, in NE Seattle, on 67th St and 15th Ave NE.

WHEN WILL THE GAMES BE PLAYED?

The Academy sessions will run back to back on the following dates; your child's session will be listed on your registration confirmation e-mail.

Week #1 = April 13 from 3-5pm

Week #2 = April 20 from 5-7pm

Week #3 = April 27 from 3-5pm

Week #4 = May 4 from 5-7pm

Week #5 = May 11 from 3-5pm

Week #6 = May 18 from 3-5pm

HOW LONG IS EACH SESSION?

Each session is one hour long.

CAN THEY PLAY WITH THEIR FRIENDS?

Yes, playing with friends is encouraged! We will organize the players into groups to accommodate training and playing with friends whenever possible.

WHAT EQUIPMENT WILL MY PLAYER NEED?

All players should be equipped with soccer shoes, shin guards, and appropriate athletic clothing such as athletic shorts, a t-shirt, and sweatshirt. We will have some soccer balls at the field, but we encourage players to bring their own balls too. Players under U8 use a #3 size soccer ball, the smallest ball size available.

WHAT DOES THE "U" IN THE AGE GROUP DESCRIPTION MEAN?

Most youth soccer organizations use a "U" system to organize players by age. The "U" stands for "under," and the number stands for the age of the player. So a U6 player is a child still at or under the age of 6 years old on July 31 of the year they are playing in. For example, for a child to be a U6 player in fall 2018, their birth date must be before August 1, 2012. That means they would still be 5 years old before August 1, 2018. A chart of ages and birth years can be found at [this link](#) to help you figure out your child's playing age. All Spring Soccer team and player age groupings are based on fall 2018 age groups.