



Archer Soccer Meeting – What is travel soccer?

What is Academy Soccer? Fall 2016 Players born 2005-2008

Academy level soccer in Georgia is considered to be one step up from recreational level soccer and provides a good introduction to the player and family commitment required by Select soccer.

The Academy program is designed to develop players (U9-U12) in a more structured and professional environment to give them the technical and tactical skills to prepare them for higher level competitive programs.

What would aim be?

Our aim is to develop individual players for the long term and not compromise for victories in the short term. For example some coaches (and a great many parents) encourage younger players to play a long ball game because they are uncomfortable with their players under pressure at their own end of the field. This "long ball" philosophy is counterproductive to long term development. At ARCHER we will allow our players to play from the back in order to keep possession. They will occasionally give up the ball and more goals may be scored on them in the short term, but they will be comfortable with the ball and technically more competent in the long term. Soccer is a game of mistakes, we will allow our players to make them and learn from them. This is a vital part of development.

What is Select Soccer? Fall 2016 Players born 1998-2004

The Select Program represents the highest level of competitive club soccer available to players in the U-13 age group and above. Select teams compete in either the GYSA statewide divisions - Athena for girl's teams and Classic for boy's teams - or, in the case of exceptionally competitive teams at the U-14 age group and above, the Region III Premier League East division and the USYSA National League.

What would our aim be?

It is ARCHER's intention to offer select players the opportunity to compete at the highest level possible. We believe in creating an environment that is challenging, both technically and tactically, and that stimulates the players to reach their highest potential and personal goals.

Are the genders split?

Yes. The teams are split into boys and girls teams.

How do I know which age group my son/daughter is in?

The player must have their birthday between January 1st and December 31st inclusive, for that age group. An age group chart with calendar years is available to view below.



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Age Group Born On or After

Under 9 1-1-08 (From 1-1-08 to 12-31-08)
Under 10 1-1-07 (From 1-1-07 to 12-31-07)
Under 11 1-1-06 (From 1-1-06 to 12-31-06)
Under 12 1-1-05 (From 1-1-05 to 12-31-05)
Under 13 1-1-04 (From 1-1-04 to 12-31-04)
Under 14 1-1-03 (From 1-1-03 to 12-31-03)
Under 15 1-1-02 (From 1-1-02 to 12-31-02)
Under 16 1-1-01 (From 1-1-01 to 12-31-01)
Under 17 1-1-00 (From 1-1-00 to 12-31-00)
Under 18 1-1-99 (From 1-1-99 to 12-31-99)
Under 19 1-1-98 (From 1-1-98 to 12-31-98)

Is Select soccer that different from Recreational soccer?

Yes. Expectations for the players in Select soccer are much higher. There will be two 1 ½ hour practices per week, with one or two games per weekend. Higher level teams practice at least two times per week with the option for a third practice. In Recreational soccer, players are placed on a team on a first come first served basis, regardless of ability level. Select players are selected through tryouts and ability.

When are Try Outs?

Try Out dates are held around the end of May for Academy and in early June for Athena and Classic. Academy players do not tryout, but rather are assessed to make sure that the program is a good fit for the player.

How long is the commitment for?

Players are registered through Georgia Soccer to play for their club for one year. The soccer year is split into two seasons; The Fall season, which runs from August to late November/early December and the Spring season which runs from February to May. If a player leaves their team part way through the calendar year, the full fee must still be paid before a release is given. The expectation is that soccer is the player's primary sport and the commitment is for the full year.

How many teams are there in each age group?

It varies between age groups, but usually there will be between one to three teams per gender age group.



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What are the team levels in an age group?

Age groups are divided up into A, B, C, D and E level teams, with the A level being the top team. At Archer, these levels are given names respectively, Premier, Red, and White. However, if an age group does not have a Premier (A level) team in that age group, the top team will be called Premier.

Can a player move between teams?

Yes. The coaching staff will make this decision. In Academy, there are no set teams so players can be moved between teams, depending on their ability level, their rate of development and their commitment level. In Athena and Classic, the structure is more rigid and a player does not usually move down during the calendar soccer year. However, a player is allowed one transfer per year and could move down onto a lower level team, if the move is supported by the coaching staff. Players on a lower level team can 'club pass' up to a higher level team, for one or more games, if the coaches agree.

Apart from regular season games, will the players go to tournaments?

Yes. Teams are encouraged to do at least one pre-season and one post season tournament each season. So with two seasons, this means a minimum of four tournaments per calendar year. Some higher level teams may attend more than four tournaments.

What is the financial cost of being on a Select team for a year?

It varies, depending on age group and team level and the number of tournaments that the team goes to. Registration fee covers: field usage, insurance, practices, professional coaches and referees, during the regular season as well as a summer team camp.

In addition, there is the uniform cost.

If my select player cannot attend a particular tournament, do we still have to pay?

Yes. It is club policy that the tournament fees and expenses are divided equally between all rostered players for that team, regardless of whether the player can make the tournament or not. For academy players, tournaments are encouraged, but not required. Tournament fees are only due if players participate. However, there are no refunds if a player commits and then does not participate.

How many players on a team?

It varies by team in Academy we have the ability to schedule thru number of games that suit the pool size, and typically will assign 9-10 players to 7v7 games and 11-12 players for 9v9 games. U13 and above play 11v11 and can have up to 23 on a roster although the target number is 16.



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How much playing time will my son/daughter get?

The guideline is at least the equivalent of half of the game. Playing time will be affected by performance, ability, effort and commitment, both at practice and in games. This is a coaching staff decision.

Are players expected to attend every practice and every game?

Yes. If a player cannot make a practice or a game, the coach must be notified with as much advance notice as possible. Whilst it is expected that a player will be at each practice and game, it is accepted that sickness and special occasions may mean a player misses an occasional practice or game.

Timeline of events

DATE:	EVENT:
Late May-Early June	Tryouts
Mid-June	Signing day
Late July	Summer Camp
Early August	Fall practices begin
Early September	Fall Season begins
Late November	Fall Season Ends
Early February	Spring practices begin
Early March	Spring Season Begins
Late May	Spring Season Ends

Can we start mid-year?

Yes, if we decided to start the Academy/Select programs in the middle of the timeline above we could hold tryouts in January and start going in to a spring season. Players can also join teams during the year if places are available.