



GREEN BAY LIGHTNING
SOCCER CLUB

Community, Character, and Passion

Growing community, character, and passion since 1993

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WELCOME TO GREEN BAY LIGHTNING – SPARKS ACADEMY

Green Bay Lightning begins its 29th season this year and we are glad to have you join us to check out our Sparks Academy program. We look forward to answering questions, discussing our mission, vision, and values, while sharing in some fun soccer activities with your child.

Our Sparks Academy Program has been specifically designed to provide an opportunity for young players (and their families) to start exploring the world of competitive soccer, with the emphasis on building character, motivating for development, and, most importantly, having fun!

Registration for all U8 and U10 Boys and Girls Youth Academy players will remain open throughout the year. Generally players in the Sparks Academy program will turn **age 6–10 after Jan 1, 2023**. Our **BOLTS program** is for ages **4 to 6** and will also be open throughout the year. This program is very similar but we do not have formal games scheduled during the year. If your son or daughter is 6 now or will be 6 in the spring of 2023, discuss the best option with your coach.

All players interested will be accepted into our Youth Academy, there are NO TRYOUTS. We promise to train and develop your sons and daughters following best practices set forth by US Youth Soccer and Wisconsin Youth Soccer.

Provided on the back is the outline for the curriculum of our season plan for the year that will walk through expectations and responsibilities of the club and coaches. Below are some brief introductions into our philosophies and outlook for these ages.

This initial and basic stage of development of players is so important. Players must spend the maximum time possible in contact with the ball and experiment by themselves. For many, this will serve as the early stages for a player to build a relationship with other players. Coaches will give different responsibilities to the players in order to develop a sense of team and the importance of respect and discipline. Basic motor skills like walking, running or jumping have to be combined with ball handling and ball control.

As players progress, 1v1 and 2v1 attacking and defending situations are important to develop individual skills as well as passing techniques for team play. We will use several small-sided games to develop basic attacking and defensive principles. Other important aspects of tactical training are possession, combination play, transition and finishing in the final third, as well as zonal defending. Players will rotate in two or three different positions to avoid early specialization. Speed, coordination, balance and agility are the main physical aspects as players continue to grow.

Please contact any of the Coaches listed below, if you have any questions. Thanks for joining us.

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