

U8 Pool Training FAQ

Why are you doing away with my team? The Pool Training Program is focused on player development first and foremost. Rather than dividing players into teams for the season, players are united to train together, improving camaraderie and cohesion throughout the group. Each training group is led by parent volunteers who are provided a weekly training plan and guided by an experienced, licensed trainer at each practice.

Will we play official games? Yes, each Saturday we will play an official game with referees.

Will practice teams change each week? Training groups are roughly sorted by age to start the season. During the first three weeks the players will be evaluated and moved between groups to challenge them. After the first three weeks each player will have a set training group that they practice with each week until the end of the season.

Do we have different game teams each week? At the start of the season while players are being evaluated the game teams may change from week to week to achieve different goals... make balanced teams, group similar-ability players to help develop confidence or challenge players, etc... By the last third of the season each player will be assigned to a balanced team and will play games each week with the same group of kids.

Will my coaches change each week? By Week 4 each player will have an established training group with the same trainer each week. By the last third of the season each player will have been assigned to a balanced team and will be with the same trainer and team each week.

Do we keep score? Our games have never been officially scored as we are all playing soccer to have fun!

Who has pool style training? All players born 2011-2014 will participate in one of our Pool Training Programs. The programs vary a little by age, but they all will have the same benefits for the players.

What are the time requirements for players? Each player still has one practice and one game. Boys born in 2011-2012 will practice on Tuesday nights. Girls born in 2011-2012 will practice on Monday.

Will there be a tournament? There will not be an end of the season tournament. We really want to encourage a love of soccer for all the players, not just the "winners".

What is the ultimate goal? We strive to develop players at all levels of play – recreational, travel, and premier by building and improving their skills, confidence, fitness, initiative, and a sense of teamwork. We hope to foster a love of soccer for life!

What do we need to buy? Each player needs a jersey, black shorts, black socks, shin guards, cleats, and a size 3 ball.