

U9 and U10 SHARKS ACADEMY INFO GUIDE



Naples Sharks provides top level coaching and playing opportunities for U9 and U10 players through its Sharks Academy.

As the club continues its growth, it continues refining its programs to provide top quality player development opportunities. With this in mind Naples Sharks provides its Academy for U9 and U10 players in the 2011/2012 year.

What is Naples Sharks?

Naples Sharks is the traveling soccer program provided by Naples Youth Soccer Club. It is a full service club. We provide recreational soccer - Naples Extreme, developmental soccer in the Academy and then competitive soccer.

What is traveling soccer?

Traveling soccer is an opportunity for soccer players to experience better competition and challenges by playing in a traveling league. The U10 league we play in is based in Southwest Florida and extends from Naples to Cape Coral. Half of the regular season games are played at home here in Naples at North Collier Regional Park. The season is longer than recreational leagues and runs from Sept thru March and players train two times a week. Traveling soccer also gives players greater access to the quality coaching that Naples Sharks provides. Players are expected to have a greater level of commitment to the game than in recreational leagues, and usually have more experience at the game, particularly at the older age levels. The teams also play in 2 or 3 jamboree and tournament style events. From U11 and above the competition levels are increased and by U13 we have highly competitive teams playing in State Leagues and tournaments.

What is the Academy?

Naples Sharks believes that the youngest age group players should be exposed to the highest level coaching available. This allows players to be introduced to the game in a structured developmental training program that will accelerate their playing ability. All players are accepted into it and all players play in all games. Players are continually challenged to develop their individual skills. During games the coaching staff will concentrate on the player's efforts to constantly using 1v1 dribble moves instead of the win at all cost mentality. Moves such as Scissors (step over the ball away from the opposite foot, and then use the opposite foot to push away) and drag backs, will be encouraged at every practice and game.

Who will coach?

We are excited to assign the very best coaching staff to the Academy. Our full time Director of Coaching and Operations, Gavin Spooner (USSF A License) will oversee the programs. Our Assistant Director of Coaching, DJ Driscoll (USSF National Youth License and USSF C License), will serve as the U10 boys and girls Academy Director.

How does the Academy work?

Naples Sharks hopes to field 2-3 teams of U9 /U10 Boys and 2-3 teams of U9/10 Girls. We plan to have a more experienced team play in the SWFL competitive league and then mixed experience level teams play in a recreational cross-association league (LCYS). Depending on the level of play, it could be 1 team in SWFL and 2 in LCYS or vice versa. The players will practice under the direction and training of the Academy Director D. J. Driscoll and the assigned coaches, and will receive professional training. The age group teams would train with the other teams in that same gender and age group. From session to session the grouping of players varies. Sometimes players are split by experience level, sometimes by age group and sometimes they will practice independently for team objectives. All academy player practice two times a week. During the season teams are somewhat fixed but with the flexibility to move players from team to team. Additionally the academy teams will have opportunities to compete in tournaments and events. Goalkeeper training, additional skills training and speed and agility sessions are all offered for free within the academy.

Why train together?

For a number of reasons. At younger ages physical maturity appears at different rates in children. A strong 8 year old, may not be that at 14. By reducing training group size too early, many players are left behind, for the wrong reasons. Training together allows all players to receive the same training, and the opportunity for less experienced players to learn from their peers. More experienced players will also be continually challenged by the expert training and training in a smaller group with other experienced players as well as developing leadership skills.

This sounds different. Why this approach?

Actually this structure is becoming common place in the leading youth organizations in this country. Its idea is supported by the leading soccer educationalists in the world. Simply put its Skills development over winning at all costs. It also fits perfectly the small sided games concept that competitive players will play through the U12 age group. This will be year 4 of the Sharks Academy. Our 1st group of players from the academy (2008/2009) will this year play as a state cup u13 boys team.

What are the long term benefits?

The concept is individual player and group development. Winning trophies at U9, U10, and U11 mean little in the player's long term skills development. Every player will be developed individual to the best of their ability, in a fun and structured environment. This program will allow players to play in an environment that continues to challenge, but will work on removing the pressure to win at all costs. The long term outcome will be more capable Shark players, which in turn leads to more capable Shark teams and to increased successes on and off the field at older age groups.

This sounds good. How do I join and how much is it?

Players are evaluated at 2 sessions during the clubs scheduled tryouts. These take place at North Collier Regional Park.

U9 + U10 BOYS	Tues May 31 SAT June 4	6-7:30 PM 10-11:30 AM
U9/10 GIRLS	WED June 1 SAT June 4	6-7.30 PM 12-1:30 PM

Tryout and evaluation info for all age groups can be found online: www.naplessoccer.com

How much does it cost?

This year the club has maintained the fee for the Academy program at \$399. Compare to other youth competitive sports and you'll see this is great value for 75 hours of training, 20 + games, specialized skills and speed and agility training with professional, state and nationally qualified coaches. All players will need to also purchase a 2 yr uniform package.

What about Older Players?

Beyond the Academy, Naples Sharks provides competitive soccer teams for ages U11 through U18/19. We offer a highly qualified and experienced coaching staff. These coaches work under a curriculum of player development and are overseen, by our full time Director of Coaching and Operations, Gavin Spooner.

Soccer Camps?

The club provides a variety of soccer camps during the winter, spring and summer. This summer's camps are the weeks of June 13, June 27 and Aug 8 weeks. Please visit www.naplessoccer.com for schedule and full registration info.

Contact?

Visit www.naplessoccer.com or Contact D.J. Driscoll: adoc@naplessoccer.com (630) 639-3011 for more information.