

# **Jr. Irish Soccer Club**

## **Academy Program Overview**

It is the mission of the Jr. Irish Academy Program to develop and promote premier youth soccer throughout the Michiana area. It is also the aim of the Academy Program to help develop a foundation of values on and off the field to prepare our players to become successful personally and athletically as they grow as individuals and function within a group setting.

Our Academy Program's primary focus is on Individual Player Development. We offer age appropriate training dedicated to individual skill and tactical development stemming from a curriculum which ensures all players and teams are developing together, building toward the future. During competition, we primarily play in a non-result-oriented league and tournaments which provides players the opportunity to experience all positions to learn the game through the principles of play and not just learn a specific position. Rotating through multiple positions provides players a holistic approach to their development. Success over Results is our motto meaning we want our players to play the game the right way and have success individually so we are not focused on getting results or wins (that comes later). We focus on proper technique and building the skill set early so players can grow more confidently in the game.

We will offer an 8 and under 4 vs 4 Competitive program for the 2014 & 2013 birth years. The 4-aside league is ideal for this age as it promotes player involvement and touches on the ball. We also field both Boys and Girls Teams for 9/10 and under for the 2012 & 2011 birth years.

We hold tryouts and evaluations in June for the following year August through May. However, we have a rolling registration which provides anyone at any time the opportunity to request an evaluation for placement during our calendar year. The Academy is a teaching environment and our focus is not on the team but the individual. Initial rosters are set in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August but our program is very fluid and we float players from team to team to insure they are in the best soccer environment possible. Everyone trains at the same time and play dates for games so all Academy teams attend together. Teams are not defined by age, but rather by ability since the primary focus of the Program is on individual development within team play.

We run a 10-month soccer curriculum. Our fall season begins in early August and runs through mid-October. The 5-week Winter Technical Training Program is held at Soccer Zone in Mishawaka IN. We will also offer a Jr. Irish Futsal Program at an additional cost. Our Spring Season begins in April and finishes up at the beginning of June. We expect players to participate in 2 practices each week during the Fall and Spring Seasons, and 1 training per week during the Winter Technical Training Program. Additional practices are possible, either "Free Play" or "Skills Training" during the Fall and Spring Seasons. We also offer basic Goalkeeper Training separate from Team Training. we expect all players to attend all schedule matches and events.

Traditionally we play on average 8-10 league matches and participation in 1 tournament per season in addition to our Labor Day Invite and Memorial Day Invitational. Over the course of the year, your child will participate in at least 50 hours of training, and play upwards of 25 games.

