

Manhattan Soccer Club Academy

Academy Overview

Frequently Asked Questions



May 2010

ACADEMY MISSION

- The mission of the Manhattan Soccer Club Academy is to offer a progressive soccer curriculum that maximizes the soccer and personal development of every player. This program is built upon the following core tenets:
 - Provide a clear and consistent soccer teaching philosophy.
 - Introduce children to soccer at a young age with professional soccer coaches who can teach correct soccer techniques to maximize long-term development, communicate the importance of commitment and instill in players a love and appreciation for the game. Executed well, the Academy will enhance the commitment level of both players and parents.
 - Develop technically sound, well-rounded soccer players. Training sessions, which will be the primary focus of the Academy development curriculum, will be focused on technical skills such as dribbling, trapping, passing, heading, and shooting with both feet. Coaches will use league and tournament play to hone soccer development skills learned during training sessions.
 - Instill in players a sense of responsibility, good habits and positive behavior by reinforcing a clear and consistent value system throughout the Academy. We believe that instilling these important tenets will impact our players off the field. A primary goal is to teach the following:
 - Behavior and good sportsmanship (discipline, self-control and respect for coaches, referees, teammates and opponents)
 - Teamwork (on and off the field)
 - Commitment (reliability, attendance, promptness, preparation, work ethic)
 - Etiquette (proper attire, proper equipment)
 - Insure a safe playing environment by incorporating instruction on proper nutrition, conditioning and sports injury prevention into the curriculum.
 - Communicate expectations clearly to players and parents.

1. What is the Manhattan Soccer Club Academy?

- Manhattan Soccer Club Academy (“the Academy”) is a not-for-profit corporation created by the Manhattan Soccer Club to provide a high quality soccer development program to current and future MSC players.
- The Academy will provide a constructive but fun environment.
- The Academy has a seven member Board of Directors, elected by the MSC.

2. What age groups will be included in the Academy?

- There will be two separate programs within the Academy:
 - The first program will be beginner development for players eligible to play the equivalent of U6 - U8 in the fall of 2010.
 - The second program will be intermediate development for players eligible to play in U9 – U12 in the fall of 2010.

3. How will the structure of the Academy differ from the current structure of MSC?

- All coaches and administrators of the Academy will be employees of the Academy rather than independent contractors hired by individual teams.
- Overall expectations with respect to practice, tournaments and comportment will be decided, communicated and executed by the Academy Directors, including administrators and coaches.
- Currently, each MSC team sets its own budget. Under the Academy structure, the Academy management and Board will set an overall Academy budget.
- Player fees will be standardized for each age group. The player fee will cover the Academy’s complete soccer curriculum including training, field fees, gym rentals, league fees, tournament fees, uniforms and related tournament costs (including coach per diem costs).

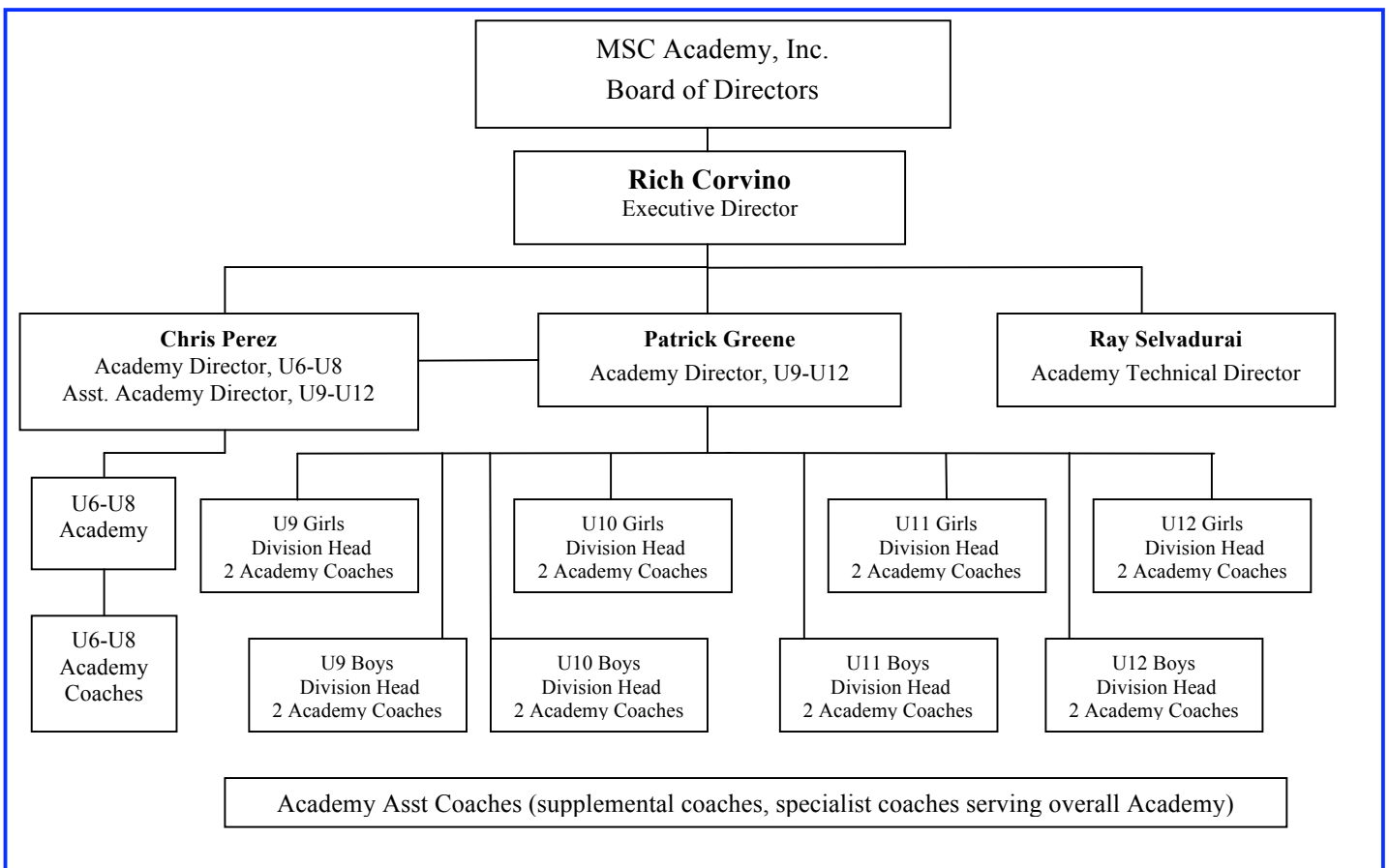
4. What is the reason for this change?

- MSC has become one of the largest and strongest youth soccer clubs in the Northeast with numerous teams playing premier level soccer. The Board of Directors of the MSC determined that the current structure of the club may be limiting the overall soccer development of some of our players. Under the current structure of the club, individual coaches and a small number of parents on each team determine the program for the team. This results in significant inconsistencies in development and training and in decisions regarding games, leagues and tournaments. Accordingly, the overall experiences and development of MSC players are often very different. It was determined that soccer professionals, guided by the Academy Board, are the most qualified individuals to structure and manage a comprehensive soccer program.
- The Board of MSC determined that training often has not focused sufficiently on fundamental soccer skills such as trapping, passing, shooting, dribbling and heading, and basic tactics such as crossing, moving off the ball, switching fields, etc. There is a belief that if a comprehensive curriculum can be integrated across teams and years, the MSC will be able to significantly improve the overall quality of our soccer program and the skill level of our players. Particularly at the younger ages, experts believe that strong technical and ball skills are the building blocks essential to developing strong players.

5. Who will manage the Academy?

- Rich Corvino, currently President of MSC, has been selected by the MSC Academy Board to be the Academy’s first Executive Director and will be paid a reasonable salary for this job.
- The Executive Director will have the following responsibilities:
 - Manage the strategic and day-to-day operation of the Academy, reporting directly to the Academy Board.
 - Manage the Academy Director, Assistant Academy Director and Academy Technical Adviser (collectively, the “Academy Directors”)
 - Work with Academy Directors to hire Division Heads and Academy Coaches
 - Assist Academy Directors in communicating with parents of Academy players
 - Develop and execute the Academy training schedule.
 - Communicate regularly with Parent Division Coordinators.

Academy Organizational Structure



6. Will Rich Corvino remain as President of MSC?

- Rich Corvino was selected to be Executive Director of the Academy by the Academy's Board of Directors.
- Assuming that he is re-elected as an MSC board member in July 2010, he has agreed to remain as President of MSC for one additional year and intends to step down as President in July 2011.
- The MSC Board concluded that it is in the best interest of MSC that he remain as President of MSC for one additional year due to the significant changes that will be occurring as a result of the formation of the Academy as well as other MSC initiatives currently in progress.

7. Who will run the Academy soccer program?

- Patrick Greene will be the Academy Director for the U9-U12 Academy Program and will also be the Division Head of the fall 2010 U10 Girls Division.
- Chris Perez will be the Academy Director for the U6-U8 Academy Program, the Assistant Academy Director for the U9-U12 Program and will be the Division Head of the Boys U12 Academy age group.
- Ray Selvadurai will be the Technical Director of the Academy.
- The soccer resumes of the Academy Directors can be found in the attached appendix.

8. When will players and teams switch to the Academy structure?

- Beginning in fall 2010 based on approval at the MSC General Meeting in June, 2010.
- The spring 2010 tryouts will be organized and managed by the Academy Executive Director, Academy Directors and the MSC Tryout Coordinators in order to complete team rosters.

9. Explain the team structure in the Academy? Will it change from the current structure?

- As is the current practice, the spring 2010 tryout will determine the roster of each team.
- Each Academy Division is expected to have three teams although a Division could have two teams if there are not a sufficient number of players to fill a third team.
- The current U9 and U10 Divisions (boys and girls) will have approximately 40 and 45 players, respectively, and these teams will keep their current names.
- The current U11 Divisions (boys and girls) will each have approximately 45 players, and the names of the teams will change (consistent with current practice)
 - These three teams will be named Premier, Red and Black
 - The current U11 boys Division will be reduced from four to three teams.
- The incoming U9 Division (boys and girls) and each subsequent U9 Division (boys and girls) will have approximately 40 players with the names Premier, Red and Black with a number commensurate with the birth year of the age group.
 - A U9 girls team could be called MSC Girls '01 Red
 - A U12 boys team could be called MSC Boys '98 Premier

10. Will players remain on the same team for the full year? Will players only play with their designated team?

- One of the goals of the Academy is to create integration and movement of players among teams in a Division so that the players recognize that they have a sense of belonging to their designated team, to their age group, to the Academy, and to the Club.
- The Academy Directors will coordinate with the Division Heads to shift players among teams after the fall season by identifying players who will benefit developmentally from moving to a higher level or to a lower level team.
 - Currently, rosters only change after tryouts at the end of the spring season.
- Additionally, beginning at U10, two U.S. Club rosters will be created for each Division in order to enable “mixing and matching” of Academy players.).
- U.S. Club allows up to 25 players on the roster and allows players to be added or removed from the roster enabling significant flexibility in selecting different rosters for different tournaments. U.S. Club rosters are permitted at most tournaments and in certain leagues (although not WYSL).

11. How will coaches be assigned to teams?

- Each Division will have a Division Head, a Division Coach and an Academy Coach who will act as integrated and coordinated supervisors of each Division.
- Each Division Head will take direction from the Academy Directors in developing and implementing the soccer curriculum appropriate for the particular Division.
- The Division Head will lead the Academy training sessions and will be responsible for all players within the Division.
- Additionally, the Academy Directors will rotate among all Divisions on a weekly basis and both supervise and coach training sessions in coordination with the Division Heads to ensure that the Academy curriculum is being taught to all players.
- The Division Head, Division Coach and Academy Coach will supervise a portion of training sessions, league games and tournaments for each of the three Division teams during the season.

12. How many times a week is practice? Do all three Division teams practice together?

- In addition to games and tournaments, all Premier team players will train three times per week during the fall and spring seasons, and twice per week during the winter season. Non-premier teams will train at least two times per week during the fall and spring seasons, and twice per week during the winter season.
 - In the fall and spring, there will be two Academy training sessions (all three teams together) per week and one individual team training session per week.
 - In the winter, there will be one Academy practice per week and one individual training session per week.
 - Premier players will be expected to attend the two Academy sessions and the individual team session.
 - Non-premier players will be expected to attend at least one Academy session and one team session.

13. Will the required commitment by Academy players be any different than at MSC today?

- The answer is somewhat dependent upon the practice and tournament schedule of your current team. However, it is important that all families understand that the Academy was created, in part, to enhance the overall quality and intensity of the MSC soccer program. As such, any player participating in the Academy will be expected to attend training

sessions as described in Section 12 above and be available to play tournaments which often take place over holiday weekends.

14. Are there enough Academy roster spots for all current MSC players? How will players be selected for the Academy?

- If every player chooses to return for the fall 2010 season or there are non-MSC players who attend tryouts, in certain divisions there will not be enough roster spots available for every player who attends tryouts.
- The Academy coaches will select players for the Academy based on both soccer skill and COMMITMENT. Today, many of our teams have families with very different levels of commitment; and, as such, on a number of teams, only 50-75% of players attend practice sessions regularly. The goal of the Academy is to provide players with outstanding teaching and highly committed coaches. In return, the Academy will expect a similar level of commitment from its players. Accordingly, families who are unable to commit to the Academy's expectations that a player will attend practices, league play and tournaments will not be well suited for the Academy. The Academy would rather select a weaker player with strong motivation to improve than a highly skilled player who has multiple outside commitments that will prevent him or her from regularly attending Academy practices, games and tournaments. This does not mean that the Academy does not support players who participate in other sports. However, the Academy expects that soccer will be our players' highest priority extra-curricula activity.

15. Will my player have the same coach that she or he has today?

- The majority of players in the current U9 and U10 Divisions will continue to train (or work) with their current coach as well as with other coaches currently coaching in their Division.
- In the current U11 Boys Division, the merger of four teams into three teams with larger rosters will cause many players to have new coaches, although similarly to the U9 and U10 Divisions, certain coaches currently in the U11 Division will remain with their age group.
- In the current U11 Girls Division, the change to larger rosters will also cause some change from current coaches.
- As of today, the Executive Director and Academy Directors have not finalized coaching positions for the Academy but are actively working to finalize coach positions.

16. Will the coaches designated to an Academy Division move up next year with the players?

- A decision with respect to future movement of coaches has not yet been decided.

17. Will Academy teams play in WYSL and other leagues?

- Academy teams will play in WYSL as well as other competitive leagues in the tri-state area including Tri-League, MAPS and JAGS.
- The primary purpose of league play, particularly at U9 and U10, will be to extend the development of Academy players beyond training sessions and to use games as a tool to teach players in a "live" environment. As a result, game coaches will make decisions regarding line-ups, playing time and player positions based upon a number of factors, including the demonstrated commitment of the player to attend and contribute positively at practices, and with the goal of maximizing the long-term development of each player.
- Players will learn and play multiple positions.

- There will be usually be two Academy Coaches on the sideline of each game such that parent assistant coaches will no longer be required (although the Academy will ask a number of parents to have coach cards in the unusual case that an Academy coach is not present).
- The Academy Directors will attend as many Academy league and tournament games as possible, and will often be the second coach on the sideline during league or tournament games.

18. Will there be minimum playing time rules during league and tournament play?

- The playing time rules will be those currently defined in MSC's Rules and Regulations

19. How many tournaments will each team play?

- The Executive Director and Academy Directors will configure a high quality tournament schedule in advance of each season and will provide advance notice to families of the tournament schedule.
- The Academy will seek to bring a large number of Academy teams to the same tournaments, and will use those opportunities to build Academy unity.
- It is currently anticipated that the U9 and U10 Divisions will play in approximately 4-6 tournaments per year in locations within reasonably close proximity to New York City.
- The U11 and U12 Divisions will play in approximately 5-7 tournaments per year, and will seek to play at least 50% of their tournaments at locations within reasonable proximity to New York City.

20. How will Academy practices be organized?

- The Academy Directors will build curricula in advance of the fall season, and will ensure that every Academy session is structured and organized consistent with the curriculum.
- There will be no fewer than three coaches at each Academy training session, although it is expected that there will often be four or five coaches at a training session.

21. How will the Academy effectively teach players with varying skill levels?

- The Academy Directors are fully aware that each Division will have players with different skill levels and will structure creative and challenging training sessions to maximize the training experience of every player.
- With the on-field involvement of the Academy Directors and the ability to have coaches assist in Divisions outside of their own, the coach-to-player ratio will often be low. As a result, at Academy training sessions, the Division head will be able to divide players among different training stations and provide small group lessons for players requiring enriched training and for players requiring more development.

22. Will there be goalkeeper training?

- Yes. There will regular goalkeeper training as part of the Academy.

23. Will the Academy have an organized fitness program?

- Yes. Fitness and injury prevention will be an important part of the overall Academy curriculum in order to instill in players at a young age the importance of overall fitness to their performance on the field.
- The Academy will employ individuals qualified in youth fitness and injury prevention.

24. Will teams make their own budgets?

- As highlighted in question #2, the budget for the overall Academy, for each Division and for each team will be determined by the Executive Director in coordination with the Board.
- The player fee will cover the Academy's complete soccer curriculum including training, field fees, gym rentals, league fees, tournament fees, uniforms and related tournament costs (coach per diem costs).

25. Will I be paying more than I do now?

- Based on the Academy's estimated budget, it is expected that the total annual cost per player will be the same or less than the average annual player cost.
- The annual cost per player is expected to increase incrementally from U9 through U12. It anticipated that U9 player fees will be approximately \$1,800 per year and that U12 player fees will be approximately \$2,100 per year.
- The board of directors of the Academy is highly focused on player fees and will work closely with the Executive Director to manage costs as carefully as possible.

26. How will Academy players order uniforms? Who will pay for them?

- Uniforms and training gear (other than shoes, cleats or sneakers) will be provided to all Academy players. The cost for uniforms and training gear is included in Academy fee.
- In advance of the fall 2010 season, every Academy player will receive a home and an away game shirt, two pairs of shorts, two pairs of socks, two practice shirts, a hooded Academy sweatshirt and a soccer bag.
- In addition to the above, U10 and U11 players will receive a track suit.
- In subsequent years, it is expected that all new incoming players (of any age) will receive the items described above.
- Team Managers will work closely with the Executive Director to arrange uniforms for players on their teams.

27. What will be the role of parents in the Academy?

- Parents will be encouraged to support MSC, the Academy and their players' teams by assisting in various volunteer functions such as helping with MSC and Academy events, raising money for MSC, and supporting the team Manager with practice and game logistics, tournament travel etc.
- The Academy will request that two parents on each team take the appropriate WYSL courses in order to be able to coach in a game in the unusual situation that an Academy coach is not available.

28. How will parents communicate issues or concerns?

- Each Academy Division will have a designated Parent Division Coordinator who will be the first point of communication with respect to concerns.

29. How will the role of the team Manager change in the Academy structure?

- The team manager will continue to play a vital role in the Academy and will have the following responsibilities:
 - Organize team communications.
 - Ensure that each player on the team is registered.
 - Manage or delegate logistics related to league games.
 - Manage or delegate logistics related to tournament travel.
 - Work closely with Academy Directors and Division Heads to ensure that league and tournament schedules are communicated to the team.
- The team manager will no longer be responsible for:
 - Choosing a coach or managing coach/parent issues.
 - Managing scholarship requests.
 - Setting up a team budget with team treasurer and collecting fees.

30. Does the formation of the Academy require a vote at the MSC General Meeting?

- While it is within the rights of the MSC Board to establish the Academy, there are aspects of the Academy's program that require changes to the Club's Bylaws and Rules and Regulations. Accordingly, the MSC Board will propose a number of amendments to the current rules that are consistent with the terms of this Academy overview in advance of the year-end General Meeting of the Club, and the MSC teams will be asked to vote to approve the changes.

31. If I have additional questions about the Academy or the impact of the Academy on my team or my player, who can I contact?

Below is a list of the key contacts if you have additional questions:

Executive Director/Academy Directors:

- Rich Corvino, Executive Director: rcorvino@nyc.rr.com
- Patrick Greene, Academy Director: pjgreene8@gmail.com
- Chris Perez, U6-U8 Academy Director & U9-U12 Asst. Academy Director: cperez1313@aol.com
- Ray Selvadurai, Technical Director: bravessoccer10@yahoo.com

Academy Board Members:

- Vance Condie, Academy Board Member: v5condie@gmail.com
- Thomas Janover, Academy Board Member/Secretary: tjanover@kramerlevin.com
- Peter Jurew, Academy Board Member: pjurew@yahoo.com
- Jason Kahan, Academy Board Member, Vice President: jkgnyc@mac.com
- Jerome Kapelus, Academy Board Member, President: jkapelus@gmail.com
- Valerie Parkas, Academy Board Member: valerie.parkas@mssm.edu

- Eddie Sutton, Academy Board Member: eddie.sutton@gmail.com

APPENDIX: ACADEMY DIRECTORS' BIOGRAPHIES

Patrick Greene, Academy Director

Patrick Greene has been a MSC coach since 2000 and is currently the Co-Head coach of the Club. Patrick has stood out as an MSC coach who successfully introduced and executed an Academy-like structure for the current U16 girls and U13 girls that has resulted in strong teams in each of these age groups. Due to his inclusive approach, each of these teams today includes a large number of players who were initially assigned to B teams.

Patrick has strong coaching credentials, including NSCAA Director of Coaching Diploma, an NSCAA Advanced National, an NSCAA Goalkeeping and a USSF license.

He is currently Head Coach of the MSC Santos and the G'99/'00 division and Head Coach of the MSC Hotspur and the G'96/'97 Division. Previously, he was Coach of the MSC Pride and the G'93/'94 Division and was Head Coach of the MSC Hawks from 2000-2004.

Patrick is Head of the English Department at De La Salle Academy, a middle school for academically gifted and financially under-privileged students, and has been a teacher at De La Salle Academy since 1996.

Chris Perez, Academy Director, U6-U8; Assistant Academy Director, U9-U12

Chris has coached at a number of high level youth soccer programs in the past ten years including Youth Director of Port Washington Soccer Club from 1998-2002, Director of Player Development at Magic Soccer Training Academy from 2007 to 2009, and Director of Coaching and Player Development at Coral Spring Soccer Club in Coral Springs, Florida. While there, he created and built a soccer curriculum, was responsible for hiring and managing coaches and managing teams, and also helped create and implement club-wide standards and policies. Chris was also the Head Varsity Coach at the Olympic Heights High School team that was ranked fifth in the nation in 2004-2006. Chris is currently Head Coach of the MSC U11 Roma and the U15 Sparta, and manages MSC's U6-U8 soccer development program.

Chris played high level youth soccer in Long Island and captained Long Island during two Empire State game competitions. He also captained Ulster Community College's soccer team. He has completed the NSCAA Advanced National Diploma Course as well as the NSCAA National Diploma Course.

Ray Selvadurai, MSC Academy, Technical Director

Ray Selvadurai, a former Youth All-American and Regional ODP player from Long Island, went on to an acclaimed college soccer career at Brandeis University (MA), where he was a four-year starter, a two-time all-UAA star and NSCAA Regional All-American. As a senior, he captained the Judges to an ECAC New England Title. He has coached several Manhattan Soccer Club teams to the highest levels of play at the State, Regional and National levels. At the scholastic high school level, Ray became the coach to reach 50 wins in the shortest time, leading the Riverdale boys to consecutive Ivy Prep League Titles in 2005 and 2006, as well as three straight NY State finals appearances in 2004, 2005, and 2006, winning the state title in 2006. Players under Ray's tutelage have gone on to be scholarship players at the college Division I and II levels, and have captained Division III college teams. They have also qualified as youth National Olympic Development Players, college All-Americans, and several have gone on to play at the professional level. Ray is also owner of the *Skills on Soccer Summer Soccer Camps* located in New York City, www.skillsonsoccer.com.