

Athens United Soccer Association
FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)
About Academy/ Select Soccer

1. **Where do the teams practice and play?** All practices are at Holland Youth Sports Complex at 250 Vincent Drive, Athens, GA. You can get there by getting off Loop 10 at Chase Street, heading away from town. Go about ½ mile and turn left onto Newton Bridge Road at the red light. Go 2 miles and turn left onto Vincent Drive, park is 500 yards on the right. After you turn in, look to your right- the fields are on the right. You have to go past the fields and turn right into the parking lot. The fields have clean bathrooms and a nice playground for younger kids.
2. **What days of the week do teams practice and for how long?** Most Girl teams practice Monday and Wednesday from 5:30-7pm for the younger teams and 7-8:30pm for the older teams. Most Boy teams practice Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30-7pm for the younger teams and 7-8:30pm for the older teams.
3. **How far do teams travel for games?** Around ½ of the games are at Holland Park and ½ of the games involve some travel. Most of the games are within an hour of Athens, but some games involve more travel. Many times, teams carpool, especially with farther travel. You can click [here](#) for directions to most fields from Athens. Comments about bathrooms, playgrounds and nearby stores are also given.
4. **How does my child get to the games?** Parents are expected to get their child to the games. Most coaches want players at games, ready to go, 30 minutes to 1 hour before game time. Please ask your coach or team manager what their policy is.
5. **How many games are there in a season?** Most seasons have an 8-10 games schedule.
6. **Do all the teams play in tournaments?** Most teams play in 1-2 tournaments a season. In the fall, most participate in our Athens Invitational in August and another tournament at the end of November/ first of December. In the spring, most teams participate in a tournament in May. Older teams tend to have more tournaments.
7. **How many games are in a tournament, and how far do you travel?** Tournaments CANNOT have more than 2 games a day, as a state rule, so most will have 2 games on Saturday and 1 on Sunday, with the playoff games scheduled for Sunday afternoon. Travel for tournaments depends on the team and coach. Typically, younger teams, play in the northern ½ of Georgia. Older teams can travel out of state.
8. **Who pays for tournaments?** New for 2008/2009 season, 1 “travel” tournament is included in your fees. This is to encourage teams to participate in at least 1 tournament a season. The club will cover the registration fee (\$300-425), and the coach’s food, gas and hotel. If teams compete in more than 1 tournament a season, they will be responsible for splitting the costs among the players and collection is up to the team manager.
9. **What is a “season”?** Fall season runs from beginning of August- beginning of December (regular games are Sept- mid November) and Spring season runs from beginning of February – mid May (regular games are March- mid May).
10. **Who are the coaches for 08-09?** Please click [here](#) to go to the coaches pages.
11. **How often do the coaches change?** Coaches can change after every year, but it is recommended that a team not have a coach over 2 years. Just like in school, players learn new things from new coaches and over time tend to need a new “spark”.

12. **What is Athens United's philosophy on coaching?** The coaches are to support and guide players who wish to improve their skills, technical and tactical aspects of the game.
13. **Where do the players live?** Players come from many different counties: Clarke, Barrow, Madison, Oconee, Oglethorpe, and even as far away as Morgan County.
14. **What is the difference between recreational soccer and academy/select soccer?** Recreational soccer is for "fun" with emphasis on having a good time. Academy/select soccer is more on skills and improving the game. Most of these players started in academy/select because they were "bored" in recreational soccer and needed a challenge and wanted to improve their game.
15. **What is the difference between academy and select soccer?** Academy is for U10-U12 players who wish to make the transition from recreational to competitive soccer. Academy teams train (practice) in a pool of players. For games, the players are split into teams. Select is for U13- U19 and builds on skills learned in previous years. It is similar to Academy in many aspects but there is no pool of players that split for game days. Most U15- U19 teams only play a Fall season and play for their respective high schools in the Spring.
16. **What if my child wants to play high school soccer?** Academy/ Select is a great way for your child to learn the skills need to play high school soccer. Though it is possible for a child to make the high school team playing recreational soccer, his/her chances are greatly increased by playing academy/select soccer. An additional note, most college scouts do not look at high school players for considering players for their school, but look at the club soccer teams.
17. **What is expected of the parents?** Parents are expected to bring a positive attitude to the field (positive cheering, not coaching from the sidelines). Athens United has a wonderful reputation of being "great parents" and we hope to continue that tradition. Everything that is said at the field reflects on Athens United, so we only want positive things said. As a parent you need to make sure that your child is prepared for each practice and game. At younger ages, this might mean checking their bag to make sure they packed everything, to verbally checking they have everything, to full responsibility of the player. Players needs to come to every practice with shin guards, cleats, shorts, shirt (some teams all wear the same shirt), and WATER. Players need to have all of the previous for games and both jersey shirts.
18. **How much does it cost to play academy/ select?** Fees for 2008/ 2009 are:
 U10- \$450
 U11 & U12- \$500
 U13- U19- \$550
 Uniform fee if new- \$90 (Nike uniform- 2 shirts, 1 shorts, 2 socks)
 * While at first glance, these fees seem high if you are used to recreational soccer fees, what your are getting in return is much more. All coaches are licensed with USSF and have either played in high school, college, or professional. All coaches have undergone a thorough interview and receive instruction from Dave Thureson, our coaching director. These coaches are here because they love the game and have vast knowledge of the skills that will improve your child as a soccer player. To quote one player "I have learned more in 1 practice at Athens United, than I learned in a whole season playing recreational soccer."
 If you break it down, there are: 15 weeks of practice, 10 games, 1 tournament, state insurance fees, referee costs (which is \$60-105 a game), field maintenance costs (paint, nets, goals, etc.) and staffing costs. Athens United Soccer Association is a non-for-profit organization, which means we are not looking to make a profit, but want to provide the best soccer club in Northeast Georgia.
19. **What if I can't pay all of my child's fees?** Fees for Fall 2008 are broken into 2 payments- 1st payment is due at signing day (June 12th for Academy and June 25th for Select). The 2nd payment is due August 15th. This is the end of the 2nd week of practice, so you will receive reminders of the 2nd payment due date. If the fees are still too much, we have sponsorships available. Athens United wants all players to have the opportunity to play soccer, so a limited number of funds are set aside to help families that need financial

support. Sponsorship forms are available at the field (in the concession stand bulletin board and online by clicking [here](#)).

Please note-

1- sponsorship forms must be turned in by July 11 to be considered. Any sponsorship forms after June 25th will only be considered if funds are still available and in past years, funds are exhausted on applications turned in on time.

2- If forms are not **completely** filled out, you will not be considered.

3- Parents are required to work 10 hours for each sponsorship player. If hours are not completed, then sponsorship can be revoked for the next season.

4- Sponsorship is granted for the year August 08-May 09, but it can be revoked for lack of hours worked and lack of participation of player (regularly attending practices and games).

20. **Who do I contact if I still have a question?** If you still have questions, please contact Denise Carlton at ausamanager@gmail.com or by phone at 706-353-2241. If you have a question that pertains to coaching, please contact Dave Thureson at director.ausea@yahoo.com or 706-338-1665.