



## Junior Academy Vision

- The way I see it, it all always comes down to 5 simple words:

### “It Is All About Standards”

- My main goal is to create a serious and professional environment where coaches, players, parents, and board of directors can identify with. I believe in Teamwork and Sportsmanship as the main concepts to emphasize and reinforce every day. I believe in “Winning Forever,” but not as the outcome of a game. Winning forever is a philosophy, an ideal to live by. These Academy ages, U9-U12 years of age, are the golden time for a young player to be introduced to very important principles, ideals, and life lessons that hopefully will stick with them for the rest of their life. We must look past the outcome of one game or one single season, and consider instead the long-term implications of our actions. So let’s stand together and cheer when we win. But certainly cheer also when we lose. We can always learn from adversity, shape our character and personality. For if we are truly living out our mission, even when we lose, we will be winning....forever

## Club Philosophy, Mission Statement

SCUFC will provide a positive environment for the continuing development of players who demonstrate talent, commitment, good sportsmanship, and the desire to excel in the sport of soccer. Through professionalism in leadership and quality coaching, South Carolina United FC will field teams that compete at all levels of soccer.

- We will teach a high level of soccer skill and tactics. We will foster a club atmosphere in which the good of the whole is valued as well as the needs of the individual. We will offer the opportunity for all to experience the sense of pride and accomplishment that comes from dedication and teamwork.
- We will nurture the interests and build the knowledge base of soccer for both players and spectators. We will organize and train youth travel teams who seek the highest level of team competition and achievement at the local, state, regional, and national levels.

## Coaching Philosophy

- The main idea has to be PLAYER DEVELOPMENT instead of TEAM DEVELOPMENT. We must provide equal opportunities for success to all our JR. Academy players
- Our job is simple: To spread the seeds for the future. Very rarely we are actually going to witness the final product during the academy ages. Yet still, that should not stop us from doing the best and most professional job we can
- We should work hard and give 100% effort at all times, which does not exclude having fun and enjoying what we do. Players at these ages get attached to us as coaches so we must be good and positive role models for them
- Knowledge, Respect, Accountability, Reliability, and especially Responsibility are the main aspects we require and expect from our coaches. Anything less than that will not be accepted within our Junior Academy Program

## U9- U10 Program Philosophy

- We believe players at these ages are too young to be labeled into A level or B level since that could possibly be more detrimental than beneficial in the big picture. They all mature at different times and rates and therefore it is critical to create an environment where every player is challenged and given the opportunity to improve as a soccer player and human being
- Winning and losing, team records, player position on the field, tactical adjustments, etc., etc.; should NEVER take priority over the Player Development Concept and the building of the proper Technical Base
- Every player should play, even though this is not Recreational level where playing time is a guarantee. Playing time should not be equal or even, but should definitely be FAIR instead. Hardest workers (who are frequently but not necessarily the best players in your team) should be rewarded for their efforts and attitudes
- Every player should be encouraged to play all positions on the field and not just the 1-2 where they excel. Every position has very distinctive characteristics and consequently a proper mental adjustment would be in place from practice to practice, from match to match

## U11-U12 Program Philosophy

- We believe players at these ages are mature enough to understand the differences between the levels of competition and consequently, we will divide them into A and B teams (C level as well when applicable).
- Winning and losing, team records, player position on the field, tactical adjustments, etc., etc.; become more and more important as they get close to Academy graduation age but still Technical Development should take priority when looking at the Player Development Concept
- Every player should play a fair amount of time according to their participation and efforts in practice. Hardest workers should continue being rewarded for their efforts and attitudes during practices especially
- At U11, player positioning starts to be more specific but still player should be encouraged to play different positions on the field. At U12, we should devote similar time during practice to player positioning training and team tactics than technical functional training.
- Still, we understand players at these ages don't drive themselves, so coaches need to address the playing time issue with the parents in order for them to be aware of the reasons why their child plays less time

## TIP and Pool Training

- The Talent Identification Program is designed:
  1. To integrate all training sites into one so our academy really feels like one program and not three, and
  2. To identify the players with more and less experience (more advanced, less advanced) within the even teams and therefore have the chance to train them separately according to those levels
- Spencer Lewis (former SCUFC player, USC player, Men's Team Coach at Newberry College) and I will be directing this program
- The idea is to offer extra training sessions at no cost to players focusing on Technical Functional aspects and small side competition
- Once the levels have been clearly identified, we will take the top teams at each age group to compete at high quality out of state competitions

## Academy Communication

- Coaches are expected to take care of their teams and be aware of all Junior Academy dates and events. They are expected to work together with the team managers handling all soccer and administrative communication.
- Parents are expected to support their coaches and players, cheering for them regardless of the outcome of the games. Parents are not expected to act as referees or coaches giving any kind of tactical instruction to players.
  - If a parent has a concern or a complaint, he/she should wait at least 24 hours and then set an individual meeting with the coach. A group email copying all parents in a team is NEVER a good way to communicate concerns since it creates a mass of unnecessary confusion.
  - If a parent contacts Tripp Miller or myself, the first question we will ask is "Did you talk to the coach?". If not, we will ask them to contact the coach and set a 1 to 1 time to meet.
  - If issue is still unresolved and parents are still unsatisfied, I would expect the coaches to offer them my email and cell phone number so they can call me. If they are still unsatisfied, I will instruct them to talk to Tripp.