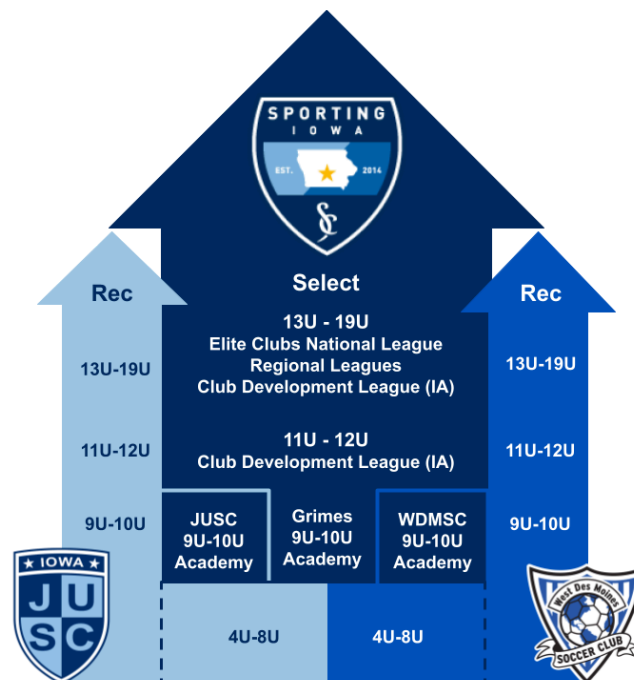


# Sporting Iowa Academy

## What

*At 9U, players may choose to play recreational soccer or join the 9U-10U Academy operated by Sporting Iowa. In recreational soccer, players stay active and develop skills in a fun and relaxed environment coached by parent volunteer staff.*

**Academy soccer** is an advanced, more competitive recreational program that serves as the first step along the select soccer pathway. The program is designed to strengthen players' technical foundations and prepare them for select soccer.



## Why

**League Requirement:** *Iowa Development League, IDL has moved on from open to tired ID Academy teams and divisions, which in part require clubs to come up with appropriate models to satisfy this new league requirement and to ensure that most players are placed in the most appropriate developmental environment.*

## How

**The Process:** This document serves as a stair-step process to player identification and enrollment to Sporting Iowa trained WDMSC & JUSC Academy players and highlights the registration process for the current families based on where they are at in the pathway.

**No player turned away:** Fall & Spring Registration Process is designed to ensure exposure of both Academy and Recreational programs to all 9U-10U families and provide pathway education and expectations of Academy programs.

### Family Agreement & Expectations

When registering for Academy, families agree that:

1. Academy is an invite-only program.
2. Players may be asked to attend a Free ID session (Summer or Winter, dates TBD).
3. If a player does not meet Academy Standards after two weeks of training, they may be placed in the Recreational program (space permitting).

**Educational Communications** to membership, to ensure most players are placed in the most appropriate development environment, all Spring 8U families transitioning to Fall 9U will be invited to a 8U to 9U Transition meeting and/or will be provided with recording and Q & A resource document. Academy Web Page will describe the process for ID-ing of new 10U players in fall and all new players in Spring.

 U8:U9 Transition Meeting May 2025.mp4 |  8U > 9U Transition – Q&A

## PlayMetrics Registration Process:

[WDMSC Academy](#) | [JUSC Academy](#)

- **Fall 2025:**

- 9U (2017s) Automatically invited to Academy, No ID session required - families choose between Rec or academy program links.

 U8:U9 Transition Meeting May 2025.mp4 |  8U > 9U Transition – Q&A

- All new, (2016) players interested in Academy must:  
(1) Register for the Recreational program, choose the 'Academy Pathway'

option

(2) Participate in at least one ID training session during the Summer Camps, (Date/Time TBD).

- **Spring 2026:** Invite only - All new players are required to participate in winter academy training ID sessions (TBD)

### **Academy Player Standards**

- Demonstrates good technical skills (control, dribbling and shooting)
- Higher level of motor skills
- Demonstrates high level of focus and concentration during practices and games
- Started to narrow down the number of extra-curricular activities
- Soccer is a high priority
- Practices with a ball in their own time outside regular schedule of games & practices
- Understands the rules of the game and executes within
- Understands the importance of training

### **Family Agreement & Expectations:**

- Academy is an invite-only program.
- Players may be asked to attend a Free ID session (Summer or Winter, dates TBD).
- If a player does not meet Academy Standards after two weeks of training, they may be placed on the Recreational teams (space permitting).

## What Is the Academy Program?

At 9U, families choose between two great soccer experiences:

- **Recreational Soccer:** A fun, relaxed environment with volunteer parent coaches where players stay active and build foundational skills.
  - **Academy Soccer (Sporting Iowa managed JUSC/WDMSC Academy):** A more competitive, professionally coached program designed to prepare players for the select soccer pathway. Academy is a step up from recreational soccer with higher expectations for player development.
- 

## Why the Change?

Due to changes in the **Iowa Development League (IDL)**, which now requires “tiered” academy teams, all clubs must ensure players are placed in developmentally appropriate environments. This helps every child thrive - whether in a recreational or academy setting.

---

## How the Process Works

This new process supports clear, equitable identification for **WDMSC & JUSC** families and newcomers. Here's what to expect:



## Fall vs. Spring ID Timing

Season	Who Needs ID?	When It Happens	Notes
Fall	New Academy 10U players	Summer ID Sessions (during Camps)	Invite-only, note in Rec registration process
	New 9U players	No ID needed	Families choose Rec or Academy via registration links

<b>Spring</b>	All new players	Winter ID Sessions (Invite Only)	Based on space and team needs
---------------	-----------------	-------------------------------------	----------------------------------