



**2024 – 2025**

**Junior Academy**  
**(JA) Program**

**U9-U12 Boys & Girls**

**Born 2016-2015-2014-2013**

***\*Not including our U12 PreECNL &  
U12 PreECNL – RL Boys & Girls who  
play 11v11***

# **CESA**

## **Junior Academy Program**

**Ambition. Passion. Excellence.**

### **The Goal of CESA's Junior Academy Program**

Is to provide an **ENJOYABLE** atmosphere, where each player can be challenged and **DEVELOP** their **TECHNICAL** skills but also develop a **LOVE of the game of SOCCER.**

### **Introduction**

CESA's Junior Academy Program is designed to support and guide players who wish to transition from recreational to competitive soccer. The program is designed for recreational players who want to increase their technical skills while also learning a little more about the tactical aspects of the game.

**The most important aspect of CESA's Junior Academy Program is training.** Our professional coaches provide technical and some tactical training three times per week in 1.5-hour sessions (three mandatory team practices with coaches and an optional but recommended skills/finishing session). In addition, players are encouraged to work at home on basic technical skills such as juggling, receiving, passing, etc.

It is important that the player understands that a commitment to practice will help the player to reach their goals.

## **Commitments August – May (10 months)**

### **Financial obligations to CESA are non-refundable for the 10-month commitment**

#### **Financial**

- ❖ *\$50 Player Placement Fee is non-refundable or transferable.*

Upon accepting the position offered on a Junior Academy team, the parents are responsible for the following:

- ❖ **Junior Academy Program CESA Club Fee \$1,495** per year:
  - **\$425 is required within 48 hours of the team acceptance email.**
  - **Remaining \$1,070** can be paid in full online by **July 11<sup>th</sup> discount** **OR** can be paid in Automatic Recurring Credit Card Installments, drafted on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each scheduled month, beginning in August.
- ❖ **Team Start-Up Fee** (payable to Team) due at the Team Parent Meeting of \$200
- ❖ **Team Fees** are in addition to the CESA Club Fee and are typically \$50 - \$70 per month (payable to the Team). This pays for tournament application fees, the coach's travel expenses, and other team expenses.
- ❖ **Uniform Cost** (Year 1 of 2-year cycle) approx. \$270
- ❖ **Junior Academy Pre-Season Team Camp** at MeSA Soccer Complex is \$150 – Full Day Camp – Online Registration
- ❖ Players & families are responsible for their own travel costs.

#### **Training**

- Arrive on time for practice
- Attend practice and make-up practice
- Attend tournaments and games
- Attend skills sessions and goalie training (if applicable)
- Practice at home on basic technical skills
- *Our U12 PreECNL & ECNL - RL Boys & Girls may play in the SCYSA Statewide U13 League*

## **Parent Commitment**

- Parents are asked to support their coach and the Junior Academy Program by ensuring their child attends training as listed above.
- Parents are asked to represent CESA in a positive manner with correct sideline behavior and to set a good example for their players.
- Junior Academy parents will be asked to volunteer for team and tournament duties. Your support is needed at all CESA tournaments and functions throughout the year.

## **Joining a Team**

Players interested in joining the CESA Junior Academy Program must be evaluated every year to determine pool placement.

- Current players will be evaluated throughout the year and during these evaluations.
- Players not in the CESA Junior Academy Program will also need to attend evaluation sessions held in May.
- **All** players **MUST PRE-REGISTER** in order to be considered for placement. Registration can be completed online at the CESA Website [www.carolinaelitesc.com](http://www.carolinaelitesc.com)
- Players can also request to be assessed for potential inclusion in the CESA Junior Academy Program at any time during the year.

## **Games, Tournaments and Travel**

- Games for U10 Black – U12 consist of nine players per team competing in two thirty-minute halves on an 80x50 yard field.
- Games for U9s and U10 Red consist of seven players per team competing in two twenty-five-minute halves on a 66x42 yard field.
- Games are on Sundays at the MeSA Soccer Complex.
- **Some games** are played on Saturdays when we host out-of-town clubs.
- Friendly games are played in other cities within a 2-hour radius such as Columbia, Atlanta, Charlotte or a one-night hotel stay if we play in Savannah/Hilton Head.
- Teams typically participate in 2-3 tournaments per season – generally 2 tournaments are in town and one or two tournament outs are of town.

## **Junior Academy Pre-Season Camp**

CESA Junior Academy offers a Pre-Season Team Camp at MeSA Soccer Complex (\$150) in end of July/early August of each new Fall season.

- Main focus is soccer with an emphasis on small sided games, technique and speed of play.
- CESA professional coaches coach players.

## **Junior Academy Summer Training**

CESA Junior Academy Program offers a Summer Training Program. Sessions run from June to July. More details can be found on the CESA Website.

- Designed for players who want to continue working on their technique and ball skills during the summer.
- The sessions will focus on improving overall technique and consist of small-sided games.
- CESA Staff coaches coach players.
- There is an additional fee for the sessions.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: Is the Junior Academy the same as Travel Soccer?**

**A:** No. The Junior Academy Program is specifically designed for the U9 to U12 age groups. The Travel Program is for players in the U13 age group and older. However, like the Travel Program, the Junior Academy Program provides professional coaches and advanced training.

**Q: Can a player join a team if he or she did not start in the Junior Academy Program at the U9 level?**

**A:** Yes. Players can be evaluated for a team in their age group during Junior Academy Evaluations in May or at any time during the year. Prior inclusion on a Junior Academy Team is not required.

**Q: What is a “Pool of players”?**

**A:** Some Junior Academy Teams are pools. A pool is a group of players that train together with more than one coach.

**Q: Do all teams train at the MeSA Soccer Complex?**

**A:** Junior Academy Teams will train at the MeSA and/or Wenwood Soccer Complexes.

**Q: Can I choose to have my player on a team that trains by our home?**

**A:** No. Players are placed on the team that best suits their abilities. The coach decides where a team trains.

**Q: Do all teams train 3 times each week?**

**A:** All Junior Academy Teams train three nights each week, plus the optional benefit of participating in CESA's Functional and Skills Development Program.

**Q: When and how do we find out about game and tournament schedules?**

**A:** Game schedules are posted online via a CESA Website link and updated throughout the season.

**Q: Does every away game require a hotel stay?**

**A:** No. For some games, players travel in the morning and return that evening to locations around two hours away.

**Q: Do players travel via bus to away games?**

**A:** Players are responsible for their own transportation and lodging for away games.

**Q: Do all players have to stay in the same hotel?**

**A:** Travel coordinators arrange for out-of-town accommodations for the team. Staying with your team enhances camaraderie among teammates and facilitates easy communication about any changes on game day. CESA prefers that all players stay at the same hotel.

**Q: Is the Pre-Season Team Camp mandatory?**

**A:** CESA encourages all players to participate in the Pre-Season Team Camp. This camp is a great way for players to prepare for the upcoming season and get to know other players on their team and their coach.

**Q: Is the Summer Training Program mandatory?**

**A:** No. CESA is offering optional training for those players who want to work on their technique over the summer.

**Q: Are there ways I can be involved with coaching my child?**

**A:** No. CESA's professional staff trains all teams.

**Q: Can I still be a “team parent” for my child’s team?**

**A:** Junior Academy Teams rely on parents to fill volunteer jobs. Positions include:

**Team Manager** - responsible for maintaining team records, tournament registration, and communicating information to the team.

**Team Treasurer** - responsible for budgeting and managing team funds by collecting fees and paying expenses.

**Travel Coordinator** – responsible for arranging accommodations for out-of-town games.

**Q: Are all fees due at the beginning of the season?**

**A:** \$1,495 Junior Academy CESA Club Fee may be paid in increments: **May - \$420** required within 48 hours of the ‘accept team position email’ and **August thru Feb – remaining \$1,070** can be paid in full (**July 11<sup>th</sup> discount**) or in 8 installments of \$135 (August thru February) and 1 final installment of \$125 (March) – auto draft

**Mid June:**

- \$150 Pre-Season Camp at MeSA Soccer Complex
- Team Start-Up Fee (Amount due is dependent upon the funds needed to cover the cost of early season tournament entries. The fee is payable to your Team Treasurer. Can be paid at Parent Meeting in June.
- \$270 approx. for full Uniform Kit (Year 1 of 2-year cycle)

**August – March:**

- Team Fees, which depend on each team's size and the number of tournaments entered, are due to the Team Treasurer by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each previous month.
- **The remaining \$1,070 can be paid in full online by July 11th (discount) OR** in Automatic Recurring Credit Card Installments, which will be drafted on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each scheduled month, beginning in August.

**Q: Is Financial Assistance available?**

**A:** Yes, financial assistance is available to those who qualify. Application Forms are located on the CESA Website. Follow the link to “Junior Academy” and then to “Forms.” ***All Financial Assistance Forms must be turned in by the July 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.***

**Important Dates**

April: Online Player Placement Registration

May: Player Placements

June: Parent Meetings

July: Junior Academy Pre-Season Camp at MeSA

**June/July: Junior Academy Summer Training Program & 5v5 League**

August-December: Fall Season

**End of December & Early January: 5v5 League**

January-May: Spring Season

**Financial obligations to CESA are non-refundable for the 10-month commitment**

**The Player’s Progression Through The CESA Program – [HERE](#)**

**Club Fee Structure - [HERE](#)**

For more information about the CESA Junior Academy Program, please get in touch with the Junior Academy Program Director, David Minihan at [\*\*daithi552@hotmail.com\*\*](mailto:daithi552@hotmail.com) or 864.329.1113.