



2026-2027 Academy
Series Rules and
Regulations

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SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

The Arizona Soccer Association (ASA), in administering the ASA Youth Academy, reserves the right to make corrections and clarifications to these policies and rules as it deems necessary, and when needed, to provide interpretations of the policies and rules as to their intent.

1.01 Name of Competition

The name of the Competition shall be the “Global Credit Union Academy Event Series”.

1.02 Playing Seasons

- Fall Season:
 - September 19 (GIRLS 4v4 & 7v7) – CCV Peoria
 - October 3 (BOYS 4v4 & 7v7) – AZ Athletic Grounds
- Spring Season:
 - January 23 (Boys & Girls 4v4 & 7v7) - Tucson
 - January 30 (BOYS 4v4 & 7v7) – CCV Peoria
 - February 27 (GIRLS 4v4 & 7v7) – AZ Athletic Grounds
 - April 3 (BOYS & GIRLS 7v7 & 4v4) – AZ Athletic Grounds

SECTION 2. TEAM APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

2.01 Team Eligibility

Any 7U-10U boys and girls Academy team affiliated with an ASA member club may apply to participate in the Youth Academy.

2.02 Acceptance of Rules

Any ASA Academy team applying to play in the Academy Event Series agrees to accept, abide by and comply with all rules, policies, and decisions by the Academy Event Series and further agrees to pay all fees for participation.

2.03 Coaching Conflicts

- 2.03.1** The Academy Event Series guarantees avoidance of two (2) head coach game conflicts per event. ASA does not guarantee avoidance of conflicts for more than two (2) teams.
- 2.03.2** A head coach must be designated for each team at the time of initial team registration in GotSport. ASA will consider two teams under the direction of one coach during the scheduling process, i.e., ASA will try to avoid scheduling matches at the same time involving those two (2) teams.
- 2.03.3** ASA will try to take into consideration a coach’s schedule in other ASA managed leagues. There is no guarantee that coaching conflicts between leagues will not occur.

- 2.03.4** Schedules will not be changed once posted should a coaching change occur on a team.

2.04 Return of Fees

- 2.14.1** The ACADEMY EVENT SERIES shall refund all fees paid for any team that is not accepted to play in the ACADEMY EVENT SERIES.
- 2.14.2** If a team withdraws before registration closes, all fees will be refunded, and no fines will be collected.
- 2.14.3** If a team withdraws after registration closes and before the ACADEMY SERIES brackets/schedules are published, one-hundred dollars (\$40) will be withheld from the refund.
- 2.14.4** If a team withdraws after the publication of the league schedule, the entire entry fee will be forfeited, and additional fines or other penalties may be assessed.

SECTION 3. TEAM ROSTERS

3.01 Team Rosters

- 3.01.1** Maximum roster size shall be limited by age group as shown below:

Age Group	Minimum Roster	Maximum Roster	Minimum # Players to Start Game	Play Format
7U - 8U	5	8	4	4v4
9U -10U	7	12	5	7v7

- 3.01.2** Loan players from outside your club are NOT permitted.
- 3.01.3** No player may play more than two games in one day in any ASA sanctioned event or league.

3.02 Club Pass Players

- 3.02.1** If the away team uses club pass players, please ensure to bring two game cards (one for the home team and one for the officials) that accurately represent the team.
- 3.02.2** Five (5) Club Pass Players are allowed per game.

Club Pass Definition

- 3.02.3** Issued to a registered youth player by a club in compliance with the rules of ASA of which the club is a member.
- 3.02.4** Specifies the club and team of which the youth player is a registered member (must be the same club in which the player is guest playing as a club pass player).
- 3.02.5** Players cannot Club passed to play down in a lower division or younger age group otherwise they are considered ineligible players.

3.05 Member Passes

3.05.1 Valid US Youth Soccer member passes will be used for the 2026-27 ASA Academy Event Series. All US Youth Soccer member passes must be valid for the current season, have a current player photo, and be laminated.

3.05.2 Coach pass requirement: Current Coach and Team Official passes must be presented and displayed to referees. If their pass is not presented the Coach or Team Official is not permitted to coach from the coach/player sideline or technical area. Failure to present a Coach or Team Official pass may result in a forfeit game.

SECTION 4. FORMATION OF DIVISIONS

4.01 Teams Playing Up

Teams may request to play up an age group.

SECTION 5. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

5.01 STANDINGS

Game results and age group standings will be only recorded in the 10U Competitive Division.

5.02 Match Line Up

Each team must complete and provide a Match Line Up on the GotSport game card, including club pass players if applicable, to the Referee at least thirty (30) minutes before the match (7v7 games only.). No more than the allotted number of players according to the ASA Gameday Standard roster size A team that plays an ineligible player shall forfeit any match in which an ineligible player played. The team may also be subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to suspension or expulsion of the team and team officials from the Academy League. Changes to the roster must be done before the game card is presented to the referee at check in. Changes can be made in GotSport prior to printing the game card; write in players on game cards are not allowed.

5.03 Forfeited Matches

A team that forfeits a game by failing to appear by the posted start time, shall be subject to a minimum fine of \$150 assessed per occurrence against its club and collected before any team from that club can be admitted to a subsequent season and be declined to the ACADEMY SERIES, for the next season of participation.

SECTION 6. MATCHES

6.01 Scheduling of Games

The League Commissioner will schedule all Academy League matches. Once the Academy League publishes the season schedule, match can only be rescheduled following the rescheduling format. The League Commissioner reserves the right to reschedule and notify teams should an unavoidable event

disrupts the integrity of the league. If matches are postponed by the Academy League, the League Commissioner will reschedule the matches at the earliest possible reasonable date.

6.02 Match Schedule and Rest Periods

All matches will be played as scheduled unless weather conditions dictate. It is the intent of the league to play only one match per day; however, when circumstances dictate, no more than two matches a day will be scheduled and no more than three matches per weekend. Every effort will be made to provide for a minimum of one game time's rest between matches. If specific fields are unplayable due to weather conditions, the home team may decide based on player safety concerns and will contact the League Commissioner to re-schedule the game. The following information must be provided: game #, game date/time, teams involved and location of field. It is the responsibility of both teams to coordinate the make-up match and relay the information to the League Commissioner to update the schedule.

6.03 Season

6.03.1 The league will host one season consisting of at least five series events indicated by the league.

6.03.2 A team playing in each series is expected to register each series events.

6.04 Academy Games and Game Sites

6.04.1 Games will be played as a series of Jamborees hosted by ASA or members clubs.

6.05 Rescheduling Games

6.05.1 Once the schedule has been published, the dates of games may not be changed without fees except for the following reasons:

- a) The field is closed by the city or other governing entity.
- b) Inclement weather causing the field to be closed.
- c) Scheduling errors made by ASA.
- d) ASA deems it in the best interest of Arizona soccer.

6.06 Inclement Weather

6.06.1 The Jamboree Coordinator or his/her designee shall have the authority to postpone a match due to inclement weather and/or unplayable field conditions prior to the kick-off of a match.

6.06.2 The Referee may postpone the game for inclement weather or unplayable field conditions.

6.07 Referee Jurisdiction and Match Facilitators

The Referee shall have the authority to take disciplinary action from entering the field of play for the pre-match inspection until leaving the field of play after the match ends (including kicks from the penalty mark). Each match will be controlled by a Referee who will have the full authority to enforce the Rules of Play and the Laws of the Game. For 4v4 games, when no referee is utilized, the Head Coach of each team and or a Match Facilitator shall assist to enforce the Rules of Play.

SECTION 7. RULES OF PLAY

7.01 Applicable Rules of Play and Laws of the Game

ACADEMY SERIES will be played under the applicable rules of US Youth Soccer and FIFA/IFAB Laws of the Game subject to the modifications in these rules. Teams are responsible for obtaining and being familiar with the Academy Rules of Play.

7.02 Substitutions

Unlimited substitutions will be permitted at any stoppage of play with the permission of the match Referee or coaches' mutual agreement.

7.03 Match Length and Ball Size

Age Groups	Length of Half	Length of Break	Ball Size
7U-8U	4x10 Minutes	5x1 minutes	3
9U-10U	2x25 Minutes	10 minutes	4

Note: In times of hot weather, a water break will be added in between game halves or quarters. The referee or match facilitator should inform the coaches prior to the start of the match.

7.04 Field Size Recommendations

Age Group	Game Length	Field Length	Field Width	Center Circle	Corner	Goal Area	Penalty Area	Goal (feet)
					Arc			
7U	40	25-35	15-25	4	1	N/A	N/A	4x6
8U	40	25-35	15-25	4	1	N/A	N/A	4x6
9U	50	55-65	35-45	6	1	2 / 2	12 / 12	6.5x18.5
10U	50	55-65	35-45	6	1	2 / 2	12 / 12	6.5x18.5

7.05 Official Match

A match shall be considered official after one full half of play is completed (the second half does not have to start). If less than one half is completed and the match is abandoned, the entire match must be replayed, subject to review by the League Operation Committee.

7.06 Lack of Appearance

Failure to appear or failure to timely appear for a scheduled match will result in a forfeit. A team must be present and ready to play within 10 minutes of the scheduled match time. For unforeseen circumstances (traffic accidents), the League commissioner has the authority to delay the match time.

7.08 Player Passes and Rosters

Each team must bring a laminated US Youth Soccer pass for each player and Team Official. No player without a current and valid player pass shall be permitted to participate in any game (unless approved

by the League Commissioner). Player and team official passes must be given to the Referee before the start of the match, if the Referee asks to see them.

7.09 Playing of Ineligible Player

A team that plays an ineligible player shall forfeit any match in which an ineligible player played and be subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to suspension and review from the disciplinary review board.

7.10 Team Rosters

7.11 Team rosters must be inputted into GotSport. The 10U Competitive Division will need to provide player passes on game day prior to the start of the game. **Player Equipment**

7.11.1 Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes. No toe cleat or metal cleats/spikes allowed.

7.11.2 Shin guards are mandatory. Socks must be pulled up to completely cover the shin guards.

7.11.3 All field players on a team shall wear similar colored jerseys, similar colored shorts, and similar colored socks.

7.11.4 A legible, unique number is required on the back of each jersey (no duplicate numbers).

7.11.5 Players and substitutes may not change or remove their jerseys/numbers during the match.

7.11.6 The home team as designated in the schedule will wear the team's LIGHTEST colored jersey. The visiting team will wear the team's DARKEST colored jersey. If both teams are wearing similar colored jerseys, and an alternate jersey is unavailable, the visiting team will wear pinnies to differentiate the two teams. At the direction of the referee, a goalkeeper may be required to change jerseys, regardless of home/visitor status.

7.11.7 No jewelry (necklaces, bracelets) or metal hair bows/pins. Exception: Medical Alert bracelet or necklace. These must be taped down. Players with casts or other such devices may participate, if, in the opinion of the referee or match facilitator, these devices do not present a danger to any player.

7.12 Team Bench Area and Technical Area

No more than four (4) team officials (being only team coaches, team administrators, and team medical staff) shall be permitted at the team bench area during a match. A suspended team official is not permitted at the Team Bench Area. The Team Bench Area must always be supervised by a Team Official and if no adult who possesses a member pass card from ASA/US Youth Soccer is available to become a Team Official to supervise the team Bench Area, the match is forfeited.

7.13 Spectator Sidelines

Team spectators will sit on the same sideline as their team. Each coach is responsible for the behavior of their spectators as provided for in Section 8.03. The Referee has the option, but not the obligation to display a yellow or red card to a coach, team official or bench personnel for irresponsible behavior or for the irresponsible behavior of its spectators or sideline.

7.14 Coaching from Sidelines

Limited coaching is permitted only from one touchline from the team's respective technical area (if marked) or from the centerline to 5 yards from the end of the team bench closest to the goal line (if no technical area is marked) to a maximum of 10 yards from centerline. Team bench persons may not enter the field without permission from the referee. Only the Head Coach can address the Match Referees.

7.15 Heading

Heading is not permitted for players participating in Academy competitions.

SECTION 8. MATCH OFFICIALS

8.01 Match Officials

8.01.1 Match officials will be assigned for 7v7 matches under the authority of a current certified USSF Referee Assignor working for the host venue/club. 4v4 matches will supervised and monitored by team coaches.

8.02 Payment of Match Officials

Referees and Assistant Referees appointed under the provisions of these Rules shall be paid by ASA for matches scheduled and played in the 2026-27 Academy Series.

Age Group	AR1	AR2	Center	Total
7U-8U	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
9U-10U	N/A	N/A	\$40	\$40

If fields are closed and/or games are cancelled and the Referees are not given reasonable notice (48 hours) prior to the scheduled start of a game, the Match Officials present will be paid for their first scheduled match only. If notification to the Referees is made prior to 48 hours from scheduled start time, the referees should not be paid.

8.03 Termination of Games

Each coach is responsible for the behavior of his or her players and sidelines, including control of parents, fans, and spectators. If a game is terminated or abandoned by the Referee, the Referee will provide the League Commissioner with a written report within 48 hours of the match. The ACC or D&R Committee may, based on the Referee report and any such additional information it considers appropriate, immediately suspend the team, team officials, players, or spectator pending the holding of a hearing. All such suspensions shall remain in effect unless and until modified or reversed following a hearing or an appeal.

SECTION 9. SEND OFFS, DISMISSALS, AND SUSPENSIONS

9.01 Protocol for Send Offs and Dismissals

Any player sent off from a match must leave the field area and retreat to the team bench or an area designated by the Match Official (player must have adult supervision) unless the referee or Academy Coordinator or designee grants an exception and allows the player to remain on the bench due to safety concerns. Any team official dismissed from participating in a match must leave the field area and retreat to the parking area of the complex or an area designated by the Match Official.

The Referee has the option, but not the obligation to display a yellow or red card to a coach, team official or bench personnel for irresponsible behavior or for the irresponsible behavior of its spectators or sideline. A Referee does not have to physically present a red card to demonstrate and/or confirm that a player, coach, team official, or bench personnel has been dismissed or sent off from a match.

9.02 Cautions and Send Offs - Suspensions

Any player or team official sent off or dismissed from a match for conduct other than fighting shall be suspended for at least the team's next scheduled game.

A referee does not need to physically present a red card to send off a player or team official. Any player sent off for fighting whether on or off the field and regardless of with whom shall be suspended for at least the team's next three (3) Academy League matches. Academy League's Competitions Committee may, based on the Referee report and such additional information it considers appropriate, impose greater discipline subject to the holding of a hearing.

9.03 Disciplinary Actions

Suspension/s for red cards received in Academy games can be served in Academy games with their primary rostered team (See NOTE below for exceptions). If Academy is finished (and no sanctioned tournament options are available), the suspension will be served in Presidents Cup. If the team does not participate in President's Cup, the suspension will carry over to the next season.

They will record the issuance of all red and yellow cards and other matters involving the conduct of a team, its players, coaches, or supporters and immediately distribute this information to the Academy Coordinator and the respective team. The Academy Competitions Committee (ACC) has the right to impose additional sanctions regarding any matters arising from participation in the Academy League.

9.04 Violation of Rules

Any violation of the rules herein will be subject to disciplinary action by the ACC.

SECTION 10. PROTESTS, APPEALS, AND GRIEVANCES

10.01 Protest

No game protests may be submitted in the Academy Division.

10.02 Appeals

An appeal is a review of a decision following an ACC hearing or decision. The appeals committee shall have the authority to affirm, reverse, or remand a matter on appeal. It shall affirm the decision appealed if the decision does not violate applicable laws, constitutions, bylaws, and rules and regulations and is supported by substantial evidence. Substantial evidence means evidence of a credible value that a reasonable person could accept. Only parties to the decision being appealed who have been adversely affected by the decision may appeal. All appeals are handled under Section 10.4 of the Rules.

10.03 Grievances

A grievance is an allegation of misconduct against a league official or against the ASA which has adversely affected the party filing the grievance. Grievances may be filed by any party with demonstrated harm caused by the alleged misconduct. The League Coordinator and Director of Competition will determine the validity of any grievance. (Allegations of misconduct against a referee or misconduct of a referee will be handled by ASA's D & R Chair under USSF Rules 531-9 and 531-10.)

All grievance hearings are handled by the Discipline and Appeals Committee under Section 10.4 of the Academy Rules.

10.04 Discipline and Appeals Committee

The League Coordinator shall be the chair of the ACC and Appeals Committee. The chair of the committee will appoint no fewer than three (3) and no more than five (5) members of the ACC to hold a hearing or decide an appeal. The members appointed will not be from or associated with the club(s) involved, or otherwise have a conflict of interest. The committee's decisions shall be in writing, issued within a reasonable time following completion of the review of an appeal, the holding of a grievance hearing, and shall be sent to the League Coordinator and all affected parties. If sufficient representation from the ACC is not available to reasonably review a case, the League Coordinator has the authority to appoint another qualified individual.

10.05 Filing Procedures

A request for a grievance hearing, or appeal must be in writing and filed via form on GotSport within twenty-four (24) hours of a completed game or twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the decision or adverse action for which a hearing is sought or being appealed. The following process must be followed:

- a) The ASA Grievance Form via GotSport completed within 24 hours of the match's completion.
- b) Provide copies of all relevant documents.

10.08 Disputes and Discipline

The ACC, in accordance with the disciplinary policies and procedures of ASA, will investigate all allegations of misconduct by teams, coaches, players or others involved in Academy operations and will impose an appropriate sanction for any violation found.