

## Academy Meeting Recap Spring 2010

The Club has formed a new academy committee, chaired by Jim Cooke. The other members are Cheryl Morgan, Jim Hamilton, Greg Trussell, and Phil Adzima. Purpose is to have more people involved with the growth and improvement of the program. The committee will meet approximately every 6 weeks. If you would like to attend any of the meetings or be added to the distribution list of the meeting minutes please contact Jim Cooke.

Bryan Mayer initiated the process of developing a "United" shield to replace the current United logo. With input from all the academy coaches a final design was approved by the board of directors. All future uniform orders will have the shield on the left breast of the jersey. Parents are not required to purchase a new uniform until their child has outgrown their current one.

New teams formed starting in fall 2010 will have uniform cost included in their club dues. Current teams will continue to place uniform orders through their team manger.

Effective fall 2010, the Speeders will be renamed United '97 Black. The Firebirds will be renamed United '96 Black. The United will be renamed United '96 Gold. All academy teams will now be using the same naming convention.

Raising U14 teams, United '96 Black & United '96 Gold will have tournament costs built into the fee structure. All academy fee structures will now include tournament costs.

A winter futsal program is being considered for 2011. Plan is to have Don Payne, president of Piedmont Futsal League, conduct the training. The 8 week program would start in early January. Teams would attend one day a week for a one hour session. The first ½ hour Don would conduct training. The second ½ would be "pick up" style play. Cost will be under \$50 per player. A final decision has not yet been made to include the program next year. Input pro or con is welcomed.

The academy program is a "cost neutral program." Meaning that, the program must at least break even. We ensure this by basing the budget on minimum roster sizes. The fall 09 budget was based on a total academy roster of 105. Actual players rostered were 106. Any profit generated by the program is rolled over as a reserve into next year's budget. Currently \$100 per player per season goes towards FCSC's administrative cost which includes field dues and maintenance costs, staff salaries & administrative overhead. The remainder of the academy fee covers league fees, VYSA fees, coach salaries, equipment fees, coach licensing fees, and miscellaneous fees.

FCSC academy costs are equal to or lower than other "club structured" programs in Northern Virginia.

All academy teams will be doing a Memorial Day weekend tournament. Coaches have been asked to finalize tournament selection by the end of March

Tournament selections will be made and communicated to the parents as early as possible starting with the fall 2010 season. Goal is to announce tournament schedules for the upcoming season prior to the end of the current season.

Centralized tryouts for all academy teams will be held at Athey either the second or third week of June. We hope to implement an online registration process this year.

The Adidas run sand soccer tournament June 26 & 27 in Ocean City, MD is highly encouraged. If we have at least 5 teams participate we will ask for a club discount rate. Managers are asked to e-mail Jim if they plan to attend.

Although the academy program does have a mandatory summer program, outside camps are encouraged. Jim recommended the Premier Athletic Club's summer camp for those considering a residential camp. Dates are Jul 18 – 22.

The academy committee is in the process of developing an on line survey.

Dave Wilson volunteered to take on the role as the ODSL representative for the club.

Adidas spirit wear with the new United shield will soon be available.

FCSC has entered into a joint agreement with Eurosport to offer a 20% discount on all Adidas soccer cleats.

Parents were reminded that orders placed with Eurosport that go through the portal link on FCSC's home page earn the club 7% cash back on each order.

Recruiting players from surrounding clubs into our program is a top priority. Parents are ambassadors for our program and are encouraged to promote our club to friends and neighbors. Team business cards will soon be available for parents to hand out.

All players are encouraged to consider Virginia's Olympic Development Program (ODP). Players born in 1999 or 2000 are eligible to participate in the ODP academy program this coming fall. Players born in 1998 or earlier are eligible to try out for the Northern Virginia district pool in early August. Contact Jim Dalton or Jim Cooke for more information on the ODP program.

Beginning the last week of April practices will move indoors to Auburn Middle School when fields are closed.

Fauquier County Parks and Recreational Department offers up to a \$150 scholarship for families with financial need. Application and instruction sheet are available on FCSC's web site. From the home page click on News and Information then click on forms.

In addition to the county scholarship program, FCSC's Board of Directors has instituted a reduced fee for services policy for those with need. First volunteer opportunity is Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup>. Contact any club official for more information.

FCSC is aggressively perusing fund raising and sponsor ship opportunities.

Harris Teeter is our new Rec sponsor. We are looking to enter into a similar agreement for sponsorship of the academy program. Although commercial logos cannot be placed on our uniforms we can place them on training jerseys and warm ups. If any parent knows someone that may be interested in sponsoring our program please contact Jim.

Teams wanting to fund raise on their own may take advantage of FCSC's status as a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization. Contact Cathy Howard for details.

The academy committee is working on developing a scrip program. More details soon.

Maureen Kersey presented details on the upcoming fund raising banquet April 17<sup>th</sup>. All academy teams are asked to provide a basket or other item for the silent auction. Teams are encouraged to sell at least one team table (8 – 10 guests).

Coach Lanza will be heavily involved all the teams' practices this season.

Coach Lanza discussed playing time policy. For the younger age groups players should average half a game. Some games playing time may be more, some games less, but over the course of the season, each player should have played at least half of the total game minutes. There is no requirement to ensure players get equal playing time. Any concerns can be addressed directly with coach Lanza.

Priority during training sessions is the development of the individual player's technical ability. On average 70% of a training session will be devoted to technical training with 30% devoted to tactical training.

FCSC's mission statement is "Soccer for Life." Goal of the program is to help each player realize their full potential, whether that be professional, colligate or high school.

Coach Lanza thanked the academy parents for their continued support and efforts towards the various fund rising activates.

Jim Cooke concluded the meeting with a brief question and answer session.