



www.mobilebayfc.net

Blast Academy Mission

Blast Academy is a non-profit organization that creates a competitive soccer experience for the committed soccer player. We are affiliated with Alabama Youth Soccer Association (AYSA) and US Club Soccer.

We strive to create an environment that provides players with a valuable learning experience, an opportunity to improve their soccer skills, and to enhance player character, integrity, respect and love for the game.

The vision for academy teams is to play fundamentally good soccer, where all players are comfortable on the ball and able to perform the basics skills in order to progress as a soccer player. By the time a player leaves the academy, it is our goal that each player is competent in all fundamental and basic aspects of the game such as passing, receiving, dribbling, heading, etc. Player development is what the Academy is all about. Players will improve by being coached correctly. Please understand that every child varies in their development and these are strictly guidelines. Guidelines are meant to be flexible as all players of the same age are certainly not at the same developmental level. It is important we challenge all players at a level that befits their ability.

We will establish a positive mentality throughout the club by being prepared to deal with wins and losses and continually push ourselves to do better with positive and corrective feedback, team discussions and evaluations. We aim to make players self reliant learners who are involved and included in their own learning process. Practices should be engaging, competitive, fun and dynamic so the best is continually brought out of the players in a safe and educational environment. Players should feel the freedom to express themselves and have no fear of failure.

FACT SHEET of Blast Academy:

Club Name	Blast Academy
Club Website	www.mobilebayfc.net
Affiliation	Alabama Youth Soccer Association (AYSA) and US Club Soccer Gulf Coast Academy League
Home Practice and Game Field	Founders Park
Club President	Thomas Mclendon
Director of Coaching	Daniel Whelan

Number of Teams	8
Number of Training Sessions per week	U9 –U12 Teams - Two practices per week
Spring Fees:	Coaching – Admin – Tournament – Insurance – Registration – Uniforms.
Additional Expenses could include:	Additional Tournaments and coaches travel
Approximate Number of Tournaments	2-3. One or two weekend overnights trips per season
Training and Game Philosophy	U9-U12 the club’s focus is player development and team building. If players receive good coaching, develop good habits, and play well winning will become a bi-product.

Long Term Player Development

It has been suggested that to achieve excellence more than 3 hrs of deliberate practice daily for 10 years is required. To implement this properly, a long-term plan is necessary. Fundamentally, the general goal in the development of an elite player can be simply about enhancing the development. In addition to technical development, we want to help players with mental development. Just as they practice technical skills to improve their play, they also need to practice decision-making. This can very easily be done by placing them into situations repeatedly and allowing them to make decisions on their own.

Player Development

Player development is what the academy is all about. Players improve by being coached correctly.

Training

Training is the most critical part of youth soccer development. What is taught on the training field is ultimately what will make the player. The training field is also where a true club style of play can be developed. Once again this is where our curriculum will be most beneficial. Coaches will always demand the highest standards in training and will provide a fun, challenging and safe learning environment. Players will receive two evaluations per season from coaches as a tool to continue their development.

Individual Player Development

We strongly encourage all players to work at their game away from practices. All players develop at different speeds and different ages. There will be players that are not selected for a team, but later

make a team through hard work and dedication. We will encourage individual player development at training and at home through our “Merit Badge System”.

Competitive Games

Good competition is very important in the development of good soccer players. It is important that players are tested through playing. Players need be put into environments that are challenging and force the player to figure out the problems. It is important that the correct level of competition is found but also important to take players out of their comfort zones on a regular basis by playing against better teams.

Player Conduct

Good and sporting conduct by players both on and off the field is essential. Players should be proud of the club they play for and realize they are representing the club at all times.

Developing the Club Culture

In the last ten years the concept of a real club has started to evolve. Directors of Coaching are making decisions for their club and not leaving it up to the individual team manager or coach. Club concepts on the style of play for the whole club are starting to emerge. There is the vertical integration of players throughout clubs whereby players play up or move from the B team to the A team at different times during the season. This is why we have a set curriculum that coaches stick to. The curriculum enables that all players are receiving the necessary coaching and learning the necessary skills to improve and keep moving forward as a player.

Style of Play

As with many oversees professional clubs there is a style of play that the u10's to the senior team adopt. The best example of this is FC Barcelona. All their youth teams train in the same way as the 1st team so that everyone within the club could conceivably play with any team within the club.

Here is the style of play/philosophy I would like to introduce to our academy teams:

Firstly, they must be the more sporting team, committing fewer fouls than the opponents.

They must try to win by playing very well, more creatively than the opposition, with attacking football.

They need to win on the scoreboard as a result of the previous two.

This playing style will be initiated by coaches at training sessions where players will be encouraged to express themselves, take risks, and be tactically aware.

Team Information:

Team Parent

A team parent will be selected by the Director of Coaching and coach of each team. In most cases the team parent will have a son or daughter on the team. Team administration handled by the team parent will include uniform delivery, tournament coordination, and additional fee collection. The team parent is not an assistant coach, and will not sit on the coaches side during games.

Team Selection

Rosters are selected by the coaching staff at tryouts and throughout the season. Players will be evaluated and selected according to their performance at try-outs and performance in the season. Since our goal is to field the most competitive team(s) at each age level, there is no guarantee that a returning player will automatically make the team.

During the soccer season the team and its players participate in practices, league competition, tournaments, and state cup. The coaches will make decisions on player selections, game lineup, player

positions, amount of playing time, tournament participation, etc. Players must be positive in fulfilling the role they are asked to perform for the team at any time, even if that role has them not playing at all, not in the starting lineup, not playing a desired amount, or playing a different position. Blast Academy is a competitive environment and no minimum playing time is guaranteed.

Developing Positive Relationships with Parents

1. Make sure your children know that--win or lose--you love them and are not disappointed with their performance.
2. Be realistic about your child's physical ability.
3. Help your child set realistic goals.
4. Emphasize improved performance, not winning. Positively reinforce improved skills.
5. Don't relive your own athletic past through your child.
6. Provide a safe environment for training and competition. This includes proper training methods and use of equipment.
7. Control your own emotions at games and events. Don't yell at other players, coaches, or officials.
8. Be a cheerleader for your child and the other children on the team.
9. Respect your child's coaches. Communicate openly with them. If you disagree with their approach, discuss it with them.

Source: US youth soccer.

The Role of the Parent

The role of the parent is extremely important for all young athletes. Parents should provide their kids with positive feedback at all times. At training and during games, players should feel that they can perform what the coach is asking them to do and not what their mother or father is asking them to do. There is to be no coaching by parents from the sidelines during games or at training. Referees are not to be abused in any way. Coaches are not to be approached by parents either before or after games concerning players. This is a time for both the coach of the team and the players to be focused on the task at hand. If you have a coaching concern please direct it to the coach at a more appropriate time. If it cannot be resolved at the level please contact Daniel Whelan, Director of Coaching, at either 251-510-5660 or dwhelan@umobile.edu, who in turn will talk to the coach about the perceived concern or problem.

The youth soccer club is much like a school system. It takes time and there are developmental aspects that have to be covered in order to eventually get the final product.

To Cheer or Not To Cheer-That is the Question

Most coaches and parents of beginner players unknowingly emphasize the wrong skills. In typical youth club play, the players are encouraged by both the parents on the sidelines and the coaches to "boot" the ball up the field. Shouts of "get rid of it!" and "kick it!" are all too common. The further forward a player kicks, the louder the cheers. Players are so indoctrinated to 'kick it forward' that very few of them dare to get out of pressure by dribbling. Even when no one is around to pressure them, we see players just kicking the ball without any thought.

Part of this might be because of the cheering they get from the sideline when they do this. However, kicking is not a skill. All of us, with no learning, can kick a ball. What we really want to emphasize is learning and skill development. So, please, do not cheer for kicking...cheer for dribbling and creativity. We do not want to 'coach' the players out of developing skills and showing creativity-do we?

The Coach

The coaches at Blast Academy are instructed to be good role models for the children. Our Coaches are instructed to conduct themselves in a manner which reflects positively on the organization. Our Coaches will not berate or abuse game officials.

The coach will be at every practice and game, foregoing any unforeseen emergencies or conflicts. Please make every attempt to have your child at every practice and game (on time) as well as it is part of learning the responsibility of being on a team. We understand that players may have conflicts here and there. Please let the coach know of any conflicts you might have for the season or games so that he or she can prepare for practices and games accordingly.

The Director of Coaching and Team Coaches are responsible to create an environment where you can play quality competitive soccer. The soccer we play will be taken seriously. We expect you to commit to the sport of soccer and your team as your first recreational activity and priority during the Club season.

Do not expect the coaches to praise everything you do well. After a time there are things the Coach will come to expect from every player. There are times when the coaches will say very little, and times they may yell out instructions. There are times they will be critical of players, and other times they will be generous with praise. Players and parents are expected to take constructive criticism along with praise for a job well done, and be able to deal with both.

The Coach will attend as many games as the schedule permits, but conflicts will occur from time to time. In situations where conflicts do occur, and they will, the team Coach with assistance from the Director of Coaching will designate a Coach to cover that particular practice or game.

The coach is responsible for player selection, player positioning (line-up), player participation (playing time), team direction, team strategy, and team curriculum and schedule. There is no minimum playing time. Playing time will be determined by a player's work ethic (during practices and games), attendance at practice and games, timeliness, general progress, attitude and ability. The coach will make this determination. Understand there may be times where you may not understand or agree with their decisions but you have entrusted your coach as a soccer expert with these matters.

Congratulations on being selected to join the BLAST ACADEMY for the 2013 season! Our coaches hope that this will be an enjoyable year for you and your family. As part of our registration process, we want to ensure that you are fully aware and understand the commitments of playing on this team.

By initialing and signing the next page, you state that:

I understand that since this is a competitive environment, there is NO guarantee of minimum playing time.

Players Initials

Parents /Initials

I will make every attempt to make it to every practice and game on time. Absence or continuous tardiness at practice can negatively influence playing time.

Players Initials

Parents Initials

I have been advised about the required fees, and you agree to pay all fees associated with the club and team unless you are approved for a Financial Aid.

Players Initials

Parents Initials

I have read and agree to comply with the rules, guidelines, and policies put in place by Blast FC Academy.

Players Initials

Parents Initials

PLAYER NAME (PRINT)

PLAYER SIGNATURE

Date

PARENT NAME (PRINT)

PARENT SIGNATURE

Date

(CLUB REPRESENTATIVE)

(TEAM COACH)

Date

