



## **Alexandria Soccer: U7/U8 Academy** 2017/2018 Season

Alexandria Soccer: U7/U8 Junior Academy Updates Press Release: Alexandria, Virginia Alexandria Soccer has expanded the U7/U8 Academy coaching staff and pool of players for the 2017/2018 season.

As part of its initiative to provide our youngest players professional instruction at the youngest ages Alexandria Soccer offers both the U7/U8(1st-2nd grade) Ball Mastery and U7/U8 Junior Academy programs each fall and spring seasons. Each program is designed to fit the developmental stages and comfort level in the game each individual player is at. The Ball Mastery program is an open registration for any player regardless of comfort level, while the Jr. Academy program requires an ASA staff coach recommendation through an identification process. Interested players for the junior academy are able to attend an "ID Day", where they practice and play games alongside current Jr Academy players and work with the Jr Academy coaching staff. Players are encouraged to attend multiple "ID Day's" during the winter months so they can receive a proper program recommendation for the spring.

The current ASA Jr. Academy structure is entering its third year and has seen tremendous growth in excitement, interest, quality and participation on both the boys and girls side. In order to properly manage the interest and develop the player's skill level at an appropriate pace we have expanded our coaching staff to include six highly qualified and motivated coaches to work with the players. Overseeing and coaching in the Junior Academy program is our Junior Academy Director, Grigor Boychev, who in the 2015 was named VYSA Boys Competitive Coach of the Year. Grigor holds his USSF "B" license and is on the ASA technical staff. He leads a staff that includes Will Hanna, Ben Hawkins, Annie Young and other ASA coaches.

All of the coaches on our staff have previous experience developing individual players at the youngest ages and are currently working with older travel teams that mirror the ASA style of play and philosophy. As part of the Jr. Academy program the players are still encouraged to participate on their recreational team, which means attending practices and/or games. The Jr. Academy structure includes one or two training sessions a week as well as one game each weekend in the local Jr. Academy league both fall and spring. With the changing landscape of youth soccer, on the competitive side, to group players and teams by their birth year, this year's Jr Academy pool of players will consist of players who would be in three different travel groups for the 2017/2018 year. For example:

- Players born in 2009 = U9
- Players born in 2010 = U8
- Players born in 2011 = U7

For more information on the Alexandria Junior Academy visit the club websites.

- [Junior Academy Program](#)