



Minnesota Thunder Academy

West Regional Academy Thunder Juniors Program

General Information

What is the Thunder Juniors Program?

Based out of our 5 Regional Academies (North, South, East, West, Urban), this program targets the development of the U8 to U12 competitive players interested in year-round, structured training in a pool and team context. Participants will be placed in teams or pool groups in August after tryouts and train with this group through the following July.

What is the West Regional Academy Juniors Program?

The West Regional Academy will conduct a year round training program that focuses on the proper technical development of the player and is designed for more committed players and families who want more soccer training and playing opportunities

There will be two different Juniors programs conducted at the West Regional Academy; one for U8-U10 players and one for U11-U12 players.

The U8-U10 program is an age group training program that is separate from teams and is open to all interested boys and girls. Training begins at the end of the MYSA Fall season and continues through the following spring.

The U11 and U12 program will be a team-based program for the committed player. At this level, teams will be introduced to regional competition by sending teams to challenging out-of-state events. More than one Junior Academy team may be formed depending on the level of interest.

What does a typical development year look like for the U8-U10 West Juniors Program?

After July/August tryouts, players are placed on a team according to their ability. After the MYSA Fall season, players who signed up for the West Juniors Academy Program will begin age group based training starting in November and finishing in April. Training will be held on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings at the Plymouth Dome and

Sunday's in local school gyms. The Minnesota Thunder West Academy staff trainers will conduct training.

What happens after the U8-U10 West Academy Juniors Program?

In April, players will return to their teams. The West Academy coaches and trainers understand players develop at different stages and over different periods of time. The advantage to participating in the Juniors program is your child will have a better chance of developing over the winter months. If a player was placed on a gold team at the July/August tryouts and shows significant improvement during the Juniors Program, the West Academy Juniors Director and West Academy Director reserves the right to place the player at the higher level Maroon team at the end of the training program.

What does a typical development year look like for a U11 or U12 West Juniors team?

The fall season will consist of 2-3 training sessions per week until MYSA Fall League games begin after Labor Day. If a team is playing in the MYSA Fall League, then there will be 1-2 trainings per week with 1-2 games per week on Saturday or Sunday afternoons. In addition to fall league play, teams will look to take part in one regional event in the fall likely in Des Moines (IA), Madison or Milwaukee (WI), or Rockford (IL). Should a team not participate in the MYSA Fall League, training will be 2-3 sessions per week, a regional event plus a local tournament.

Winter training will begin in November and run through April. Training will occur on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings at the Plymouth Dome and Sunday's in local school gyms. Junior teams will likely participate in Futsal games, which are held on Friday evenings at local school gyms. Some training will be held with the other Regional Junior Academy teams throughout the winter at Holy Angels or Augsburg domes. There will also be a winter league starting in January at the Plymouth Dome that Junior teams will participate in. Training will be conducted by the team's Head Coach as well as Minnesota Thunder West Academy staff trainers.

For the spring/summer season (Mar - July), Thunder Juniors teams will participate in MYSA summer league play and compete in 2-4 local tournaments and 1-2 regional events. These tournaments will be selected by the Coach and the Minnesota Thunder West Academy Directors.

What is the cost?

The West Juniors program is an additional program to the other club fees of the West Regional Academy. Families can expect to pay \$365.00 for this program. This will get each Junior Academy player 61.5 hours of training in the Plymouth Dome from November through the end of March. This works out to be \$5.94 per hour for training.

As a comparison, if you registered for the Coerver Centers of Excellence program, you would receive 27 hours of training for \$440.00 or \$16.30 per hour of training.

The Junior Academy fee includes the Soccer Saturday fee so Junior Academy players are automatically registered for Soccer Saturday and will train separately from the rest of the group. It includes a training kit consisting of two t-shirts, shorts, socks and a ball. It also covers the cost of the Junior Academy Training Staff.

How many Juniors teams will be formed at U11 and U12?

At U11 and U12, one Junior Academy team will be formed at each age and each gender (U11 and U12 Boys, U11 and U12 Girls) and will consist of the top team for each. Depending on the level of interest and ability of the players, a second Junior Academy team may be formed.

How do I sign up?

Go to the old Wings website at www.wings-sc.org, download the “Tryout” form and circle the Junior Academy option.