

SEASON 2025-2026

WELCOME TO THE BARÇA ACADEMY CHICAGO FAMILY!



HISTORY

Founded in 1899, FC Barcelona is unlike many other clubs around the world as members own the club and decide the board of directors in a democratic election.

Hence the club motto "Més que un club" which translates to "more than a club". "More than a club" is at the heart and soul of FC Barcelona, and is transferred to its world- renowned youth soccer system, BARÇA Academy. Each and every player around the world within BARÇA Academy is connected to one another.

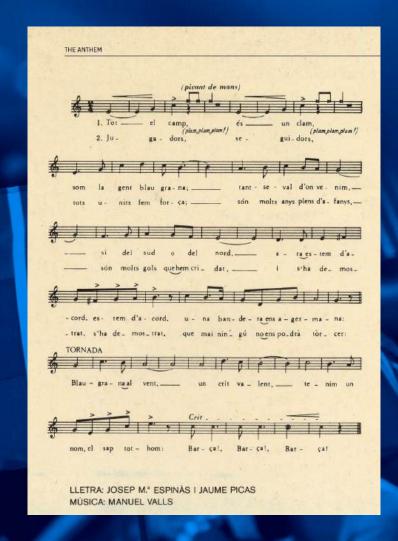
This means the unique Barça game philosophy and style you see in the world-famous Spotify Camp Nou, FC Barcelona's home stadium in Barcelona, Spain, is the same that Barça Academy players will try to implement and practice every day following the same club's training methodology





The Anthem

The 'Cant del Barça' song was composed in 1974 and is now the Club's anthem. It was written for the Club's 75th anniversary by the writers Josep M. Espina's and Jaume Picas, with music by Manuel Valls, and is still completely relevant. It is a strong, rhythmic anthem that sings of assertiveness (tenim un nom, el sap tothom / we have a name everyone knows) and above all integration (som la gent blaugrana, tant se val d'on venim / we're the blue and garnet supporters, no matter where we come from; una bandera ens agermana / one flag unites us as brothers) and perseverance (s'ha demostrat que mai ningu'no ens podrà tòrcer / and we have shown that no one can ever break us).



Tot el camp és un clam som la gent blau-grana. Tant se val d'on venim si del sud o del nord ara estem d'acord, estem d'acord, una bandera ens agermana. Blau-grana al vent un crit valent tenim un nom el sap tothom: Barca, Barca, Barca! Jugadors Seguidors tots units fem força. Són molts anys plens d'afanys, són molts gols que hem cridat i s'ha demostrat, s'ha demostrat, que mai ningu' no ens podrà tòrcer. Blau-grana al vent un crit valent tenim un nom el sap tothom: Barça, Barça, Barça!



LA MASIA

FC Barcelona's youth academy.

La Masia, translated to "The Farmhouse" in English in honor of the original academy house, is the term used for FC Barcelona's youth academy located in Spain.

The Academy currently includes more than 300 young players and is the first youth academy in the world to have trained all three finalists for the Ballon d'Or in a single year (Andres Iniesta, Lionel Messi, and Xavi). The Academy has been a significant factor in FC Barcelona's European success.

Many attribute FC Barcelona's success to the La Masia "Philosophy of Play" which all players learn.

This philosophy consist of the application of the "love the ball" paradigm, where the ball takes a protagonist role in how the players understand the game, which significantly impacts their decision-making.







Why we are MORE THAN ACADEMY?

LEAGUES & CUPS: YSSL, MCL, NPL, CPISL (Indoor), USYS NATIONAL LEAGUE, Presidents Cup

3 INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS x YEAR

1-2 NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS x YEAR

2-3 STATE TOURNAMENTS x YEAR

OUR OWN TOURNAMENT – BA CHICAGO CUP (3rd Edition)

FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAM – MONTHLY NEWSLETTER + FAMILY DAYS

VIDEO ANALYSIS WEEK - 2 x year

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS – 2 x year

UNIQUE METHODOLOGY



* EXCLUSIVE TRAINING CAMP *EXCLUSIVE TRYOUT BARÇA ACADEMY RESIDENCY ARIZONA



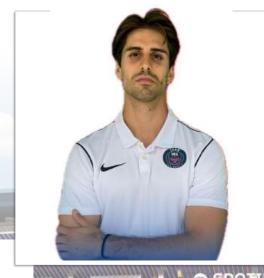


OUR STRUCTURE - DIRECTORS

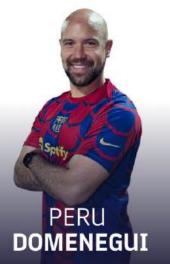
GERARD AUBAREDA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LLUC GUASCH TECHNICAL DIRECTOR















OUR STRUCTURE - COACHES



















COMPETITIONS





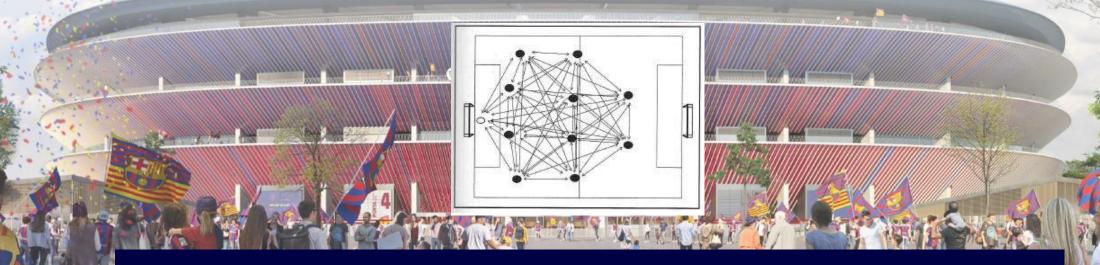
TEAMS – Finding the balance

Team Formation Process

At BARÇA Academy Chicago, teams are formed primarily based on player development needs, observed level, and the best context for growth.

- •Players are grouped by **skill level**, normally by age, to ensure that each player is challenged at the right pace and surrounded by the appropriate environment.
- •Our staff evaluates players throughout the **Fall, Winter, and Spring** seasons through training sessions and matches, and changes are made only when clearly beneficial to the player and team dynamics.
- •We aim to maintain **a consistent team block** during each season to ensure stability and team cohesion.
- •Whenever possible, same coaches will remain with their groups if we believe continuity benefits the team and the coach's performance merits it.

 This dynamic structure helps us stay true to our commitment: providing each player with the best possible environment to grow, improve, and enjoy the game.



•LONG TERM PROCESS VS SHORT TERM PROCESS



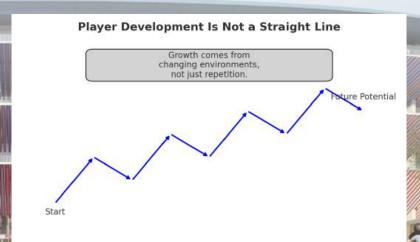
TEAMS – Finding the balance



- •Staying+Promoting: +++ Confidence + les comfort
- •Promoting a player = more demand, new estimulation, faster pace, less comfort.
- •Staying = emotional security, leadership, more confidence.
- •Dropping = reset, more ball touches, less pressure.

 What matters is not where they are, but what they are learning in that space.

FINDING THE BALANCE AND PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT DURING THE TIME IS THE KEY



•LONG TERM PROCESS VS SHORT TERM PROCESS



INTERNAL LEAGUE (U7-8,9,10,11)



What is the Internal League and Why is it important?

The Internal League is a specially designed competition created to reinforce learning and accelerate development in an environment we control entirely.

Every Friday during the final month of the season, mixed teams made up of players from different age groups will compete in organized matches. This format allows us to alter contexts, amplify our playing identity, and generate emotional challenges that are harder to recreate in regular training.

Why do we do it?

Because it works

This initiative is directly inspired by the training structure of Barca Academy in Barcelona. Those of you who have seen the Barcelona Academy World Cup (BAWC) have witnessed firsthand the level and emotional maturity their players possess. This maturity is not only built through external competition, but through internal environments like this one that promote creativity, adaptability, and intention.

During the Internal League, we create game conditions aligned with our weekly focus, whether it's playing under pressure, recovering the ball, or interpreting space. The different constraints we add each week ensures that players are constantly challenged to think, solve, and adapt.

We encourage all families to give the Internal League the importance it deserves. It is a fundamental part of the Barca methodology and one of the reasons why our players continue to grow with purpose, not just playing more, but playing better.





INTERNAL LEAGUE RULES – 1st GAME

Week 1 - Internal League Game Rules & Methodological Focus

This first Friday marks the beginning of our Internal League, a learning space where players from different teams and age groups will be mixed to foster new dynamics, interactions, and individual growth. Every week, each team will play against one of the four other teams in a 5v5 format.

For this first game, we have implemented a specific set of rules that alian with the methodological focus of the week; the Recovery Moment. Over the last two weeks, players have been practising on:

- •Reacting immediately after losing possession
- *Understanding how and when to press
- *Adopting a proactive defensive mindset
- *Taking initiative even without the ball
- *Reducing space and time for the opponent to act
- •Forcing the opposition into less favorable areas

To promote these learning intentions, this week's rules are designed to maximize exposure to these moments:

- *5v5 teams:, Increases repetitions of key game situations and direct interactions with the ball.
- *35-minute halves: Creates longer game phases to challenge attention and physical adaptation.
- •Extra Penalty: gives them the oportunity to react as fast as posible after a recovery and understand that the other team can be disorganized
- *No goalkeeper in second half: Forces players to press forward to the one with the ball and have an excellent reaction after a lose.
- No offside: Encourages players to understand the spatial occupation without relying on positional rules.
- •No fixed positions: Promotes adaptability, rotation, and responsibility for covering spaces based on the situation, not the label.

The absence of traditional positional roles and the continuous nature of play invite players to read the game context, anticipate actions, and collaborate with teammates to recover the ball efficiently.

This environment reflects our commitment to developing players with autonomy, game intelligence, and a collective mindset.

Let's enjoy the process and use this league as a space to challenge, grow, and play the Barça way — even without the ball.

1899 (5) 2024







TOURNAMENTS

In addition to the leagues and friendly games, the BARÇA Academy Chicago staff will work on selecting the best tournaments according to the club standards and will invite teams considering the different aspects of the tournaments, always prioritizing the players interests and development needs.

BARÇA Academy Chicago teams are required to attend any scheduled tournament by the BARÇA Academy staff. Team families must confirm their commitment to a tournament before the established deadline in order to proceed with the team's registration.

Generally, BARÇA Academy Chicago teams will play at least 3-4 tournaments during the year, to prepare the different seasons. Additionally, some selected teams will also have the opportunity to participate in international tournaments (BAWC, Las Americas, MIC).

Tournament fees are not included in club fees, it is for this reason that families will be invoiced via SportsEngine and will be expected to cover their portion of the cost in order too participate





TOURNAMENTS

3 IT

- LAS AMERICAS CUP U9-U11-U13 (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC) **2 NT**

- PRESIDENT'S CUP (AUSTIN)
(ALL AGES)
- TARGET CUP (MINNESOTA)
(ALL AGES)

2-3 ST

- PRE-SEASON CUP (ILLINOIS) (ALL AGES)
- MEMORIAL DAY CUP (ILLINOIS) (ALL AGES)

- BA CHICAGO CUP (3rd Edition, ILLINOIS)

(ALL AGES)

- BARÇA ACADEMY WORLD

<u>CUP U8-U10-12-14-16</u>

(BARCELONA, SPAIN)

- MEDITERRANEAN
INTERNATIONAL CUP

(GIRONA, SPAIN) (AGE TBD)

AIC



SPONEY CAMP NOU.





PLAYERS PATHWAY



Young Sportmen's Soccer League Fall & Spring competition Local exposure Chicagoland only



Midwest Conference League Fall & Spring competition Regional exposure Midwest competition



National League Higher level competition National Exposure **Player Selection**



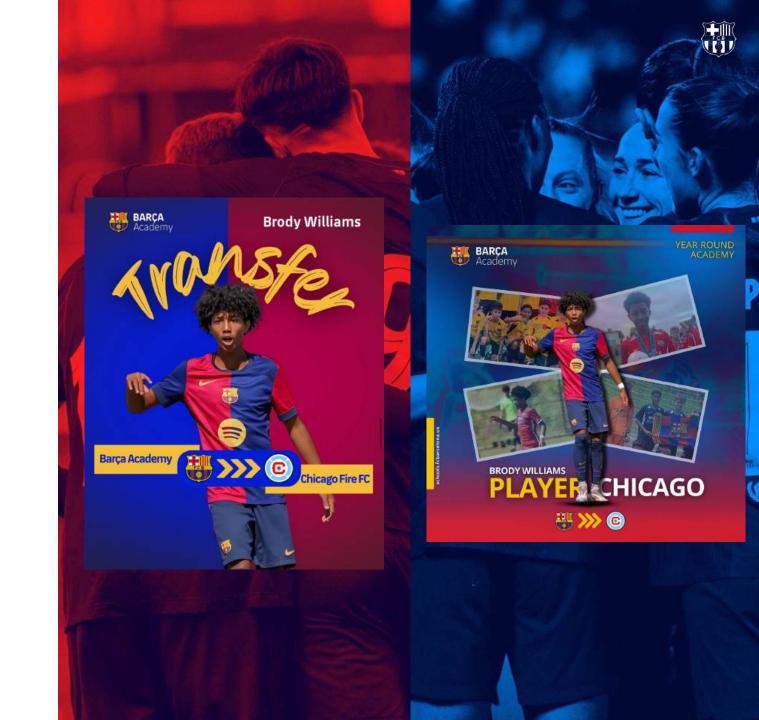
BARÇA Residency Academy Residency Academy Casa Grande, AZ Residential **Program MLS Next**



PLAYERS PATHWAY

Player Highlight: Brody Williams

One of the most inspiring examples of patience and trust in the process is **Brody Williams**, former talented midfielder at our Academy. Now, at just 15 years old, he has signed his first professional contract with **Chicago Fire FC**. His journey reminds us that belief, resilience, and loyalty to the process are just as important as talent.





FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAM

At BARÇA Academy Chicago we are committed to helping our players and their families achieve the best possible soccer experience. Parents are an integral part of our academies and have a huge impact on the structure and philosophy of youth soccer. We acknowledge the challenges facing parents in their pursuit for guidance on how to help their child reach his/her potential in life, how to be supportive, and how to help their academy in its mission to develop players on and off the field.

The BA Chicago handbook and Newsletters are meant to be an accessible resource to help parents best prepare for their child's participation in BARÇA Academy.

Some of the key guidelines are:

- Parents are expected to set a good example for the children at all times with their positive behavior, sportsmanship, attitude and language.
- Always be encouraging and supportive in regard to the child's play on the field.
- Comply with the rules, policies and procedures of the academy as stated in the handbook.
- Support the coach, manager and the team.
- Respect officials and accept their decisions.
- Trust and respect all coaching decisions and abide by the communication policy established in the handbook.



FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAM

MARCH NEWSLETTER (click to read)

APRIL NEWSLETTER (click to read)

IST EDITION - MARCH, 2025

https://fcbarcelanaus/academies/chicago/

NEWSLETTER



PROGRAM?

Family Education Program aims to bring families closer to the club's philosophy and methodology by providing and learning opportunities to players both on and off the

A WAY TO PLAY A WAY TO GROW

What to Expect in the Family Education **Program Newsletters**

OTIFY CAMP

Each month, our Family Education Program newsletter will provide valuable insights to help you better understand and support your child's soccer development. You'll find:

- · Training Insights: Explanations of key concepts and principles we focus on in our
- . Educational Articles: Relevant content on player development, nutrition, mindset, and
- upcoming events, initiatives, and ways to stay involved.

Our goal is to create a strong connection between players families, and coaches, ensuring a well-rounded learning experience both on and

BARÇA Academy 2ND EDITION - APRIL, 2025

https://fcbarcelanaus/academies/chicago/

NEWSLETTER



our journey of learning, growth, and passion for the game.

A WAY TO PLAY A WAY TO GROW

What to Expect in the 2nd Family Education Program Newsletter

Welcome to the second edition of our Family Education Program Newsletter

In this issue, you'll find valuable insights, academy news, tips to support your child's development, and updates from our teams recent experiences.

We are committed to strengthening the connection between families, players, and our academy values. Because together, we build not only great players but great people.

Let's keep growing, learning, and enjoying this journey together!







FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAM

METHODOLOGY EXPLANATION



OUR TEAMS INTERVIEWS



CIENTIFIC ARTICLES



NEWS



HEALTHY HABITS







TOURNAMENTS



YOUR OPINION





VIDEO ANALYSIS

Twice per season, players participate in Video Analysis Sessions where we review match footage to reflect on strengths, areas for improvement, key game situations. These sessions help players better understand the game, develop decision-making, and connect individual and team performance to our playing model.







SCAN THE QR





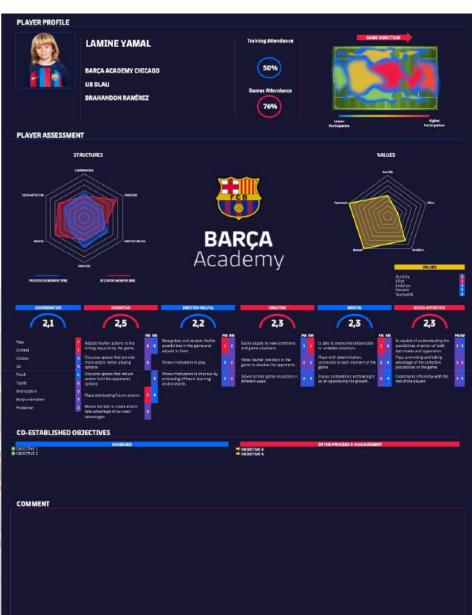


INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

Improving our reports

- •Players are evaluated based on **coordinative**, **cognitive**, **emotive**-**wilful**, **creative**, **mental**, **socio-affective**, **values**, **objectives** criterio understanding that all this things are together when you play.
- •We conduct two formal player evaluations (mid-season and end-of-season).
- •Individual goals are established through coach-player conversations.
- •Tools used: playing time, individual reports, coach notes, and feedback diaries.







DRESS CODE

IF DRESS CODE CHANGES DEPENDING ON THE DYNAMIC, WE WILL INFORM

TUESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY









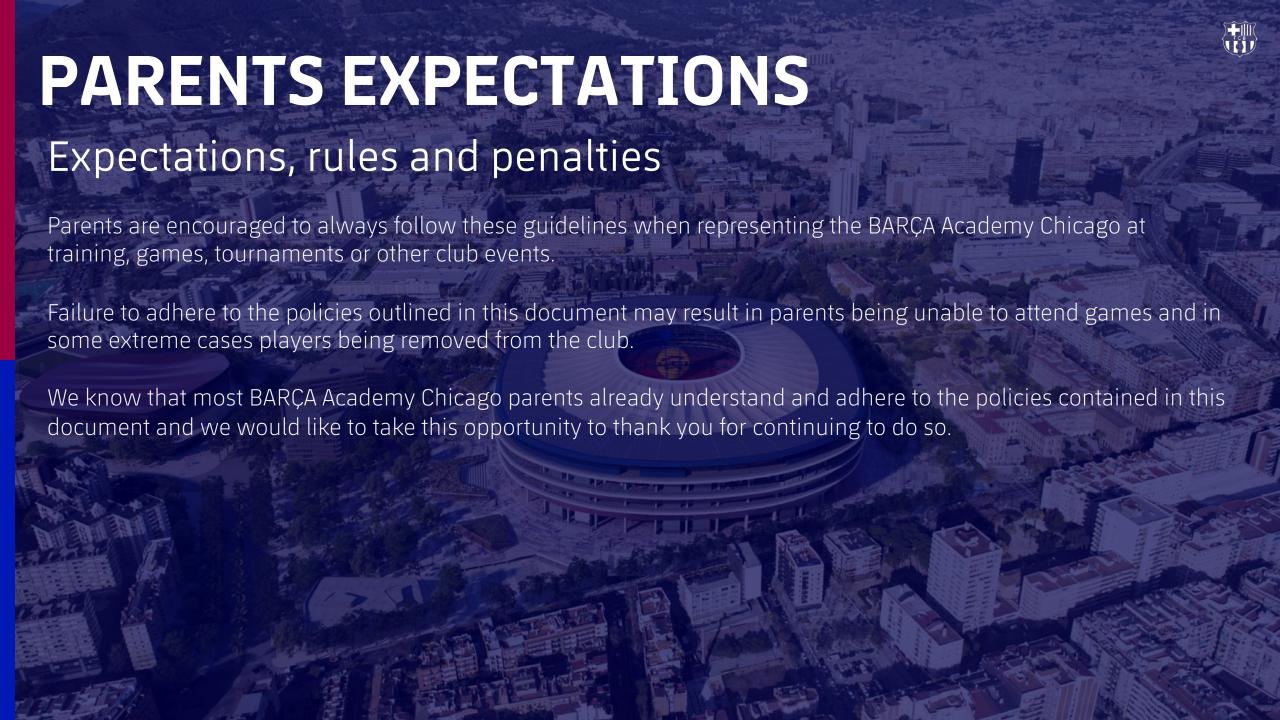








- •Players must wear the correct FC Barcelona kit for each session:
 - Tuesday: Blue kit
 - Thursday: Red kit
 - Friday: Blue kit (goalkeepers in black)
 - Shin guards and long socks are mandatory.
 - •Improper attire may result in a player being unable to train.





PARENTS EXPECTATIONS

Rules and penalties

1. Parent Sideline Behavior

We want to be known across the state for the excellent support of our parents and good sportsmanship during soccer games. Parents are asked to sit on one half of the field of play and the team bench should be situated on the opposite half of the field on the same side. A good distance, about 20 yards, should be kept between the team and the closest parent. Parents are prohibited from the field of play and should never walk behind or near to the bench during the game or halftime.

Parents are welcome to support the team during games as much as they would like but are asked to keep comments to praise and encouragement for the team only.

Parents should refrain from "coaching type comments" at all times and allow the head coach to provide the instruction and direction as the game is being played.

Negative comments directed at BARÇA Academy players, opposition players and officials are unacceptable and parents engaging in this type of communication will be asked to stop by the head coach or team manager immediately.

Parents who continue these types of comments will be asked to leave the game if they do not stop and will be reported to the Directors who will deal with the issue further

2. 24 Hour Rule

The club has a 24-hour rule in effect which means that parents should wait 24-hours after a game before contacting a coach or a director with an issue or conflict from a game.

This waiting period allows time for some reflection from both parties and usually takes the emotional response away which tends to result in the potential conflict being handled in a much more effective manner.

We ask that all parents always respect the 24-hour rule. This applies to phone calls, emails and text messages.



PLAYERS EXPECTATIONS

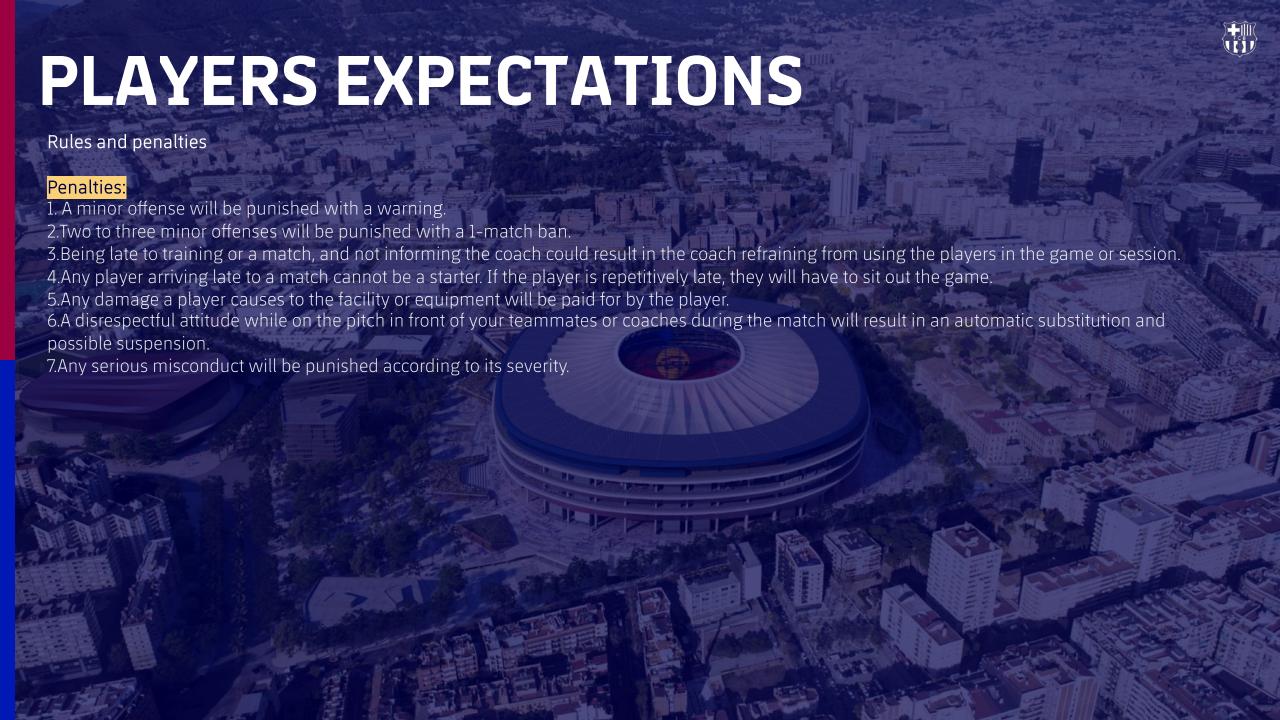
Rules and penalties

Rules:

- 1.Players must dress in proper BARÇA Academy attire with the proper soccer equipment.
- 2. Players (also families!) will not protest the referee decisions. The referees will make mistakes. The BARÇA Academy Chicago staff will handle all referee issues during matches.
- 3. The players must use proper language whether in public or indoors.
- 4.At the conclusion of every match, players must shake hands with the referees and opponents. After shaking hands, the players will go to the center of the field and applaud the supporters (parents) in gratitude for their support then go to a corner of the field and cool down and stretch as a team.
- The coach will then provide feedback and recap the game. Parents are not allowed to approach the players during this time period.
- 5.Players have to wait near the field until they are gathered by the coach and led out to practice by the coach. After practice, they are led to greet the

parents.

- 6.Players are not allowed to leave the field during, before or after a match or training session unless it is an emergency, or the coach gives the player permission. Players must always shake hands with the staff before leaving.
- 7.BARÇA Academy attire promotes our club values; you must therefore take care of your jersey and always respect the badge. Players must always have their tops tucked in neatly and are not allowed to take their jerseys off during training or games.
- 8.The players are not allowed to wear chains, bracelets, watches or any dangerous accessories during the training sessions and/or matches.
- 9.The attitude of the players on the bench must be as professional as the players on the field. Players are not allowed to eat meals on the bench; interact with fans, opponents, or teammates on the field. Players are not allowed to use their mobile devices during meetings, games, and/or training sessions.
- 10.Only players and BARÇA Academy staff are allowed on the BARÇA Academy bench and sideline.



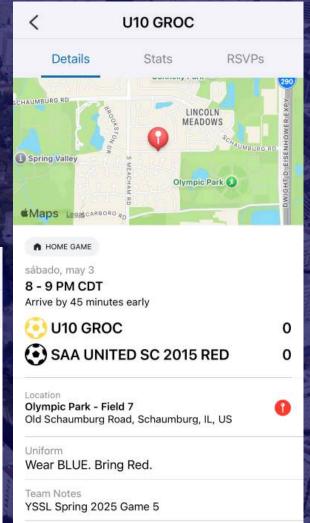


COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

- •Primary platform: SportsEngine for schedules, rosters, and RSVPs.
- •Mail: Urgent things and 24h after the last game
- •Monthly newsletter for all academy updates, key messages, and articles.
- •Coaches should be contacted directly for team-specific matters.









PRICING BA CHICAGO 25/26

CHICAGO 25/26

DEVELOPMENT

Program	Age Group	Trainings / Weeks	Competition	Winter	Yearly Fee	Season	Commitment Fee	July 15th	August 15th	October 15th	January 15th
Development	U5-U7	2	Internal Competition+Friendlies	2 training + Friendlies	\$1,999	Full Year	\$199	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$450

COMPETITIVE

Program	Age Group	Trainings/Weeks	Competition	Winter	Yearly Fee	Season	Commitment Fee	July 15th	August 15th	October 15th	November 15th
Competitive	U8-U10	2	YSSL + Tournaments	2 training + Indoor League	\$2,495	Full Year	\$199	\$574.00	\$574.00	\$574.00	\$574.00
	U11-U12	3	YSSL + NPL + Tournaments	2 training + Indoor League	\$2,795	Full Year	\$199	\$649.00	\$649.00	\$649.00	\$649.00
	U13-U14	3	YSSL + NPL + MCL + National League Soccer + Tournaments	2 training + Indoor League	\$2,895	Full Year	\$199	\$674.00	\$674.00	\$674.00	\$674.00
	U15-U19	3		2 training + Indoor League	\$2,895	Full Year	\$199	\$674.00	\$674.00	\$674.00	\$674.00
	U15-U19/Half season	3		2 training + Indoor League	\$2,245	Full Year	\$199	\$511.50	\$511.50	\$511.50	\$511.50

TECHNICAL

Program	Age Group Trainings/Week		Competition	Registration Fee	Monthly Fee	Season	Payment Due
Technical	U5-U18	1	N/A	\$50	\$129	Full Year	15th of each month
recimical		2	N/A	\$50	\$199	Full Year	15th of each month

Club fees do not include Tournament Fees
The official Barça Academy Uniform must be purchased separately through our partner soccer.com.

The commitment fee is non-refundable

If the yearly club fee is paid in full a 10% disocunt is applied towards the total amount



BA CHICAGO SOCIAL MEDIA:





CONTACT US:

PHONE:

- Gerard Aubareda: 773 817 6445 - Lluc Guasch: 980 335 6098

MAIL:

- Executive Director: gaubareda@islagency.com
Technical Director: lluc.guasch@fcbarcelona.cat

LOCATION:

- Olympic Park (Outdoor Season) - Grand Sports Arena (Indoor Season)

OFFICE HOURS:

Gerard Aubareda: OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Friday from 9am to 5pm / ON FIELD: Week days Lluc Guasch: OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Friday from 9am to 2pm / ON FIELD: Week days and weekends



THANK YOU

We look forward to a season full of growth, challenges, learning, and joy. Thank you for trusting us with your child's development and for being part of our BARÇA Academy family. Together, we build excellence.

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