



FOOTBALL
FEDERATION
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SAP ACADEMY PROGRAM



BOYS INFORMATION SHEET

What is SAP?

A key aspect of the new Football Federation Australia National Curriculum is the implementation of a Skill Acquisition Program (SAP) to perfect and accelerate the skill development of identified players at the critical ages of 9 to 13. This is the age group universally acknowledged to be the optimal mental and physical phase in which children are able to learn motor skills.



The Aim

To provide the necessary technical 'tools' to be able to play the game at the highest possible level with a focus on functional game skills.

The Focus

The focus of SAP is on functional game skills with an immediate skills transfer into positioning and small-sided games being an absolute requirement. It is based on World's Best Practice and has been developed by internationally acclaimed Technical Coaches and the FFA Technical Department.

Stage 1 of the SAP Expansion.

Whilst the long-term plan is to implement SAP programs across the state to provide more players with an opportunity to be trained through the Skills Acquisition coaching Program and SAP Coaches, Football Queensland have made the decision to focus more resources into coach education to reach this objective.

There will be a minimum of 3 advanced youth C licenses held annually, as well as an SAP Conference and workshops.

We have also made the decision to implement the SAP Academy Program, to provide talented young players in designated areas with an opportunity to train with players of similar abilities. NPL clubs through a licensing agreement will run this program once they meet the SAP criteria.

The role of the Licensee (FFA recognised club) plays an important role in providing a best practice training environment and youth training plan, whilst also providing SAP Academy Carnivals for players to test the skills in a competitive environment.

The match in isolation should not be the focus of the licensee, coach or parent.

FAQ'S – SAP ACADEMY PROGRAM : TALENT IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

1. What is the selection criterion?

First touch will be the primary focus as well as striking the ball, one v one, running with the ball and player mentality

2. Will unsuccessful players be provided feedback?

No. With so many players attending talent ID days we are not resourced to provide each player feedback. The most common reason for non-selection is "Poor first touch in tight areas".

3. How many trials will there be before squads are finalised?

As many as the SAP technical department sees fit. We envisage there will be at least a minimum of two sessions.

4. Where are the training venues and when is training?

It is expected that two sessions will be completed weekly at the licensee's facilities. If there is a clash with your club training, we would hope that the club would prioritise the SAP Academy sessions. We do try to stay away from traditional training nights, but this is subject to field availability.

5. When will the program commence and conclude?

Plan is as follows: Boys commence in late January / February (30 week program) or April (20 week Program), all programs will run until the September holidays (excluding school holidays).

6. Will the Academy programs play games?

The program is about technical development. There will be 5-6 SAP Academy carnivals which that showcase all SAP Academy players throughout the season

7. How many players per group?

Each venue will comprise of 12 players per age group, there will be 2005 born players and 2006 born players.

8. Who will I trial with?

You will trial with players of similar abilities and age. Please note we take into account the RELATIVE AGE EFFECT.

9. Is the program open to goalkeepers?

Yes the program does cater for goalkeepers. The modern goalkeeper needs to be competent in each of the four core skills. The long-term objective will be for the goalkeeper to spend one session with the Academy Program and a specific goalkeeper session in a central location (optional).

10. Is there a cost for this program?

Yes, the program has been subsidized at a set cost of \$5.00 per session plus a Nike SAP Academy uniform and Football Queensland that is anticipated to be around \$60.00. We feel this cost provides an opportunity for all players to attend.

For more information about the FFA Skill Acquisition Program, please contact FFA Skills Acquisition Trainer Dean Simpkins on deanS@footballqueensland.com.au or check out SAP Queensland facebook page for updates

