

SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE



PARENT INFORMATION PACK

SAVANNAH UNITED

Club Pyramid (4 through 19 years old)



SELECT PROGRAMS BEGIN

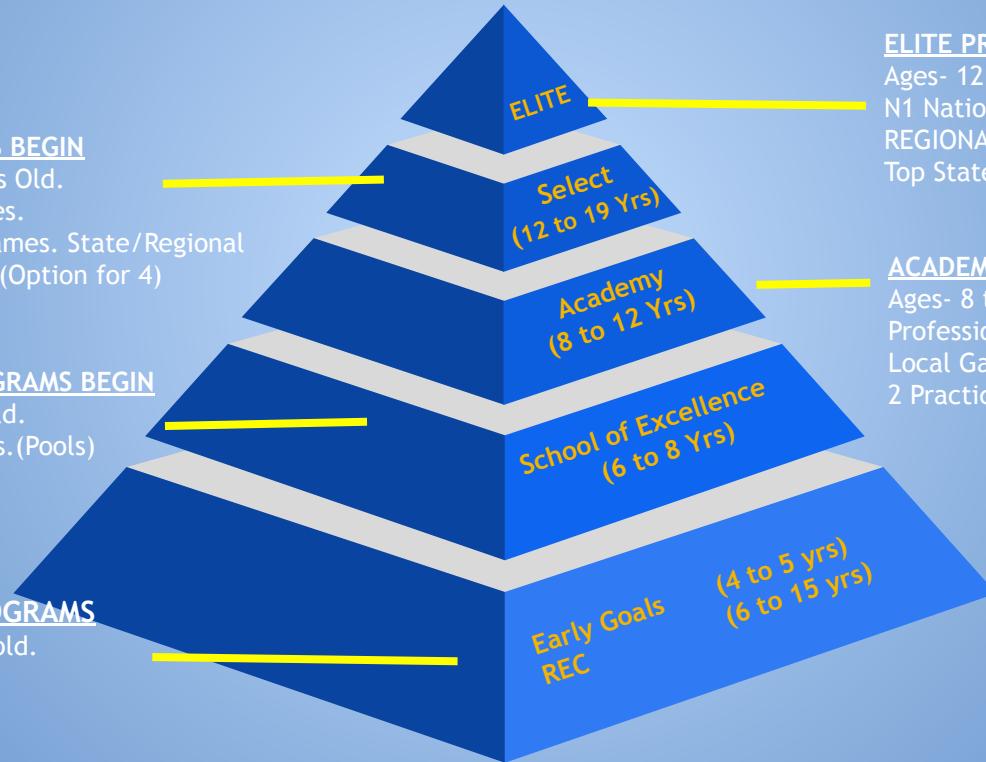
Ages- 12 to 19 Years Old.
Professional Coaches.
Local and Travel Games. State/Regional
2 Practices a week (Option for 4)

PRE ACADEMY PROGRAMS BEGIN

Ages- 6 to 8 Years Old.
Professional Coaches.(Pools)
Local Games.
2 Practices a week.

NON-TRYOUT PROGRAMS

Ages- 4 to 15 years old.
Beginner Programs.
Volunteer Coaching.
Local Games.
1 Practice a Week.



ELITE PROGRAM

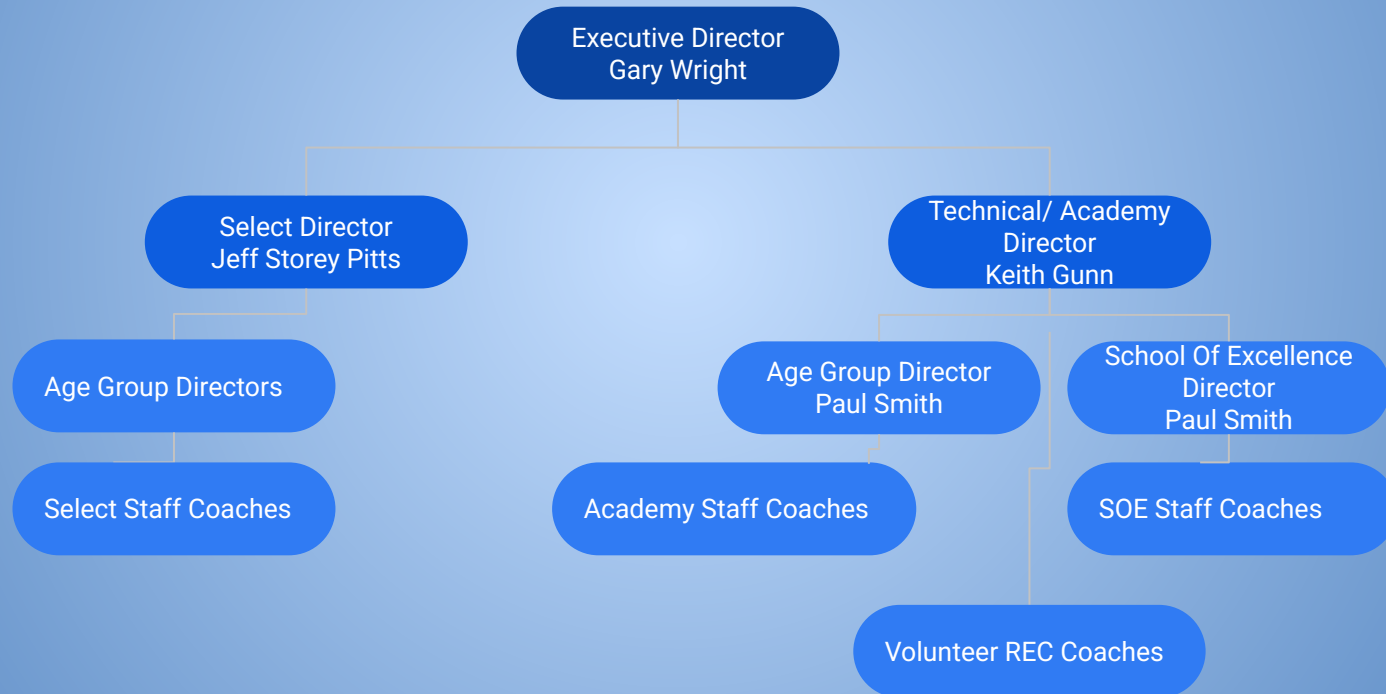
Ages- 12 to 18 Years Old.
N1 National League.
REGIONAL
Top State Level.

ACADEMY PROGRAMS BEGIN

Ages- 8 to 12 Years Old.
Professional Coaches.(Pools)
Local Games 60% Travel Games 40%
2 Practices a week (Option for 4)

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Club Program: Staff Structure



School of Excellence Director

Paul Smith

- English FA Licensed
- Coerver Coaching Diploma
- U.S.S.F. Licensed
- 31 Years Coaching/Director Experience
- Former Professional Player (Notts Co.England)
- NCAA- All-American 1996 (Methodist Univ.)
- NCAA- Hall of Fame Inductee 2011
- p.smith@savannahunited.com



West Girls Director

Rob Long

- U.S.S.F. “C” Licensed
- 10+ Years Coaching/Director Experience
- High School MVP Player (Effingham County)
- All Coastal Empire All Star Leading Scorer
- Key figure in soccer growth and development in Effingham County over the past 10 years.
- r.long@savannahunited.com



West Boys Director

Chris Stevenson

- U.S.S.F. “C” Licensed
- Scottish FA Licensed
- 15 Years Coaching/Director Experience
- National Diploma In Sports Development.
- University of Edinburgh, Scotland.
- Assistant Women’s Coach, Falkirk FC
- Development Officer, Scottish FA
- Regional Director, Challenger Sports
- c.stevenson@savannahunited.com



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School of Excellence: General Information



- The S.O.E is designed as an introduction program for u6,u7 & u8 age groups
- S.O.E is ran by professional full time Directors
- S.O.E targets long term player development and should be viewed as a training program NOT a league.
- Our younger Academy teams have seen significant improvement since S.O.E.'s inception

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School of Excellence: Logistics



- All practices will be held on **TUESDAY and THURSDAY** on Field 4
- First PRACTICE is Tuesday August 25th.
J. Ross Sports Complex from **5:30 - 6:30 PM**
SEE Directors for WEST LOCATION Times.
- Games will be on Saturdays Mornings
(First game September 12th; Final game Nov 7th)
- ***Once games are scheduled the kick off times will be consistent so you can plan.***

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School of Excellence: Logistics



- We want this program to stand out at the fields so we will follow the dress code below:
- Practice: Wear **YELLOW Top, Black Shorts, Socks**
- Games:
Wear WHITE PINSTRIPE TOP, Black Shorts and Socks
MUST BRING YELLOW Top as alternate Jersey
- Soccer Cleats, Shin Guards, Ball and Water are also Required at every practice and game.



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School of Excellence: Structure



- The training will focus on individual development
- Our curriculum is based on US Soccer Federation Methodology “Play, Practice, Play”
- Games on Saturday will be in these formats
U6 (3v3)(4v4) (No GK)
U7/8 (5v5) (4 field players + 1 GK)
- Goalkeepers will rotate on game days

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School of Excellence: Player Characteristics



VERY IMPORTANT!!!

- Characteristics of players this age need to be understood in order for the program to achieve its goals. All assessment is “Age Appropriate”
- At this age we work on the basic fundamentals of motor skills, technical skills, mental processing and group interaction (“my ball” vs. teamwork)
- Realistic assessment and awareness of this age allows players to develop at their own rate
- We must allow time for experimentation and room for mistakes
- At this age- Players will **NOT** have a good understanding of positions or tactics
- At this age- Players will **NOT** play like adults
- At this age- Players will need literally thousands and thousands of touches on a ball and hundreds of games to develop. IT TAKES YEARS!

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School of Excellence: Parent Expectations



- Parents play a HUGE part in a child's youth soccer career
- For the best results parents need to:
 - Be punctual with all player equipment needed
 - Enjoy the journey without false expectations
 - Support the child and club structure positively
 - Trust the Club Directors
 - Direct questions to the Directors **NOT Coaches**
 - Refrain from sideline coaching or negative behavior!

.....THAT'S IT!

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School of Excellence: Parent Expectations

- The entire club has a few policies that we ask our Academy/Select families to follow
- Club-wide policies:
 - NO, interaction with your player during training & games
 - No halftime trip to the players bench!
 - 24 hour rule- No Interaction with coaches directly after games. **Always contact your Director first.**
 - Refrain from coaching from the sidelines. You will be asked to stop and your player may be substituted.

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School of Excellence: Program Goals



- Set our youngest players on a path focused on long term player development
- Inspire a true love and passion for the sport (arguably the most important thing)
- See marked improvement in player's comfort on the ball and discovery of space
- Set children on a path to a healthy lifestyle

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School of Excellence: What Is Next?



- S.O.E. is designed for Fall and Spring play and should be viewed like school. To get the best out of it, you should commit the years u6,u7 and u8 to it.
- After u8 our S.O.E. players to move seamlessly into the Academy Program (U9) the next Fall and attend the try out in May.
- Each age group curriculum will tie in directly to the next phase of player development each year.
- Please refer back to club structure and get to know your Director. They are there to help!