



Welcome to the Comba Academy and the Comba Family!

Thanks for considering the Comba Academy. We are excited to have you and your family join our soccer loving family. **We love Comba and hope that you and your little player will have the same great experience.** As you get started this letter should help you learn what to expect from Comba, our Coaches, and your overall experience.

What's the difference? Recreation Soccer vs. Comba Academy:

What's similar between recreational Soccer and the Comba Academy? Both Recreational soccer and the academy will expose the kids to the game of soccer. Both emphasize having fun playing the game we love. Both will introduce the kids to basic soccer elements, team building, exercise, and motor skills.

What is the advantage of the Comba academy? The Comba academy strives to prepare kids for competition level soccer. **Experienced coaches help to develop foundational skills so graduates can thrive when they enter competition soccer.** Kids that play rec instead of academies tend to struggle when they come to competition 1 year later because they don't get the same foundational soccer skills training. Academy players are more serious about playing a higher level of soccer so teammates and competition levels promote a better atmosphere of learning than with kids who aren't as serious.

Comba fees include 1 full year of soccer with 1 – 2 training sessions with qualified coaches, indoor and outdoor training, multiple seasons of academy level games (typically around 8 games per season), jerseys, and UYSA fees. Recreational soccer fees typically only account for 1 season w/ around 8 games of soccer.

Comba Mission Statement:

The mission of COMBA FC is to prepare athletes for the next level of competition. **We commit to do this through age-appropriate training, a positive development environment, and maintaining a fun enjoyable experience.** Focusing on the players first, each individual should have strong fundamentals, confidence, and good sportsmanship to carry them to their highest potential. Focusing on teamwork second, each individual will have a strong understanding of their individual role and how this creates a stronger team. **Comba Philosophy means we strive to:**

- Create a fun filled, positive experience for every boy and girl in the program.
- Promote sportsmanship and respect for players, coaches, parents, and referees.
- Enhance player self-esteem, confidence, emotional development and character
- Always put the best interest of the player above all others.
- Provide equal access, through scholarships, to the highest quality and most appropriate programs of development for boys and girls.
- Provide an environment for coaches to develop skills, leadership, tactics, and techniques needed to succeed in the game of soccer.

What Parents should expect from Comba Coaches:

Comba believes achieving our mission starts with quality coaches and organizational volunteers who are passionate, supportive and exemplary role models of sportsmanship.

Parents of the academy should expect coaches who:

1. Emphasize FUN by incorporating games that develop soccer knowledge and skills using age-appropriate games
2. Teach SKILLS DEVELOPMENT that will help players become better soccer players preparing them for competition level soccer
3. Teach POSSESSION STYLE SOCCER. At the academy we emphasize ball control skills and basic passing that lead to possession style soccer. Comba refuses to play 'boot ball' by playing soccer to win at all costs in favor of teaching how to build out of the back through ball movement and skill.
3. Introduce Tactical and Technical elements to the game including passing, dribbling, shooting, defending, and positional awareness
4. Use respect and positive coaching. Comba coaches are loved by their players. We strive to promote a positive, energetic, & fun atmosphere where kids learn through trust and encouragement. Our coaches do not yell at or belittle kids.

What Comba expects from Players:

We promise your kids will have fun and that they will develop to be better soccer players after participating in the Comba Academy. Developing players to be the best we can requires commitment from the players. What we expect from players:

1. Commitment to show up. Your Soccer Star will need to be at practices and games. Showing up consistently is essential to developing player skills.
2. Age-appropriate focus. We understand the bandwidth of academy players is limited. We rotate activities quickly to keep kids engaged. We are not a daycare for kids who aren't interested in soccer. We need basic focus levels.
3. Players should bring a size 4 ball, cleats, shin guards, and water to practice. Players should have a bathroom break and shoes tied prior to practices / games.

What Comba expects from Parents:

We expect parents will:

1. Download and use the Groupme app to communicate about practice times, game times, and other team communications.
2. Not yell at referees. Your soccer stars learn from our examples.
3. Get kids to practices and games on time and pick them up when practice ends
4. Cheer on kids from the sidelines but refrain from coaching from the sidelines

Thanks for considering Comba! We look forward to you and your soccer star 'Kicking it with Comba'. – Tracy Burnett Founder and Chairman of the Board