



NTH-Tophat North Junior Academy Girls

Welcome!



NASA Tophat

Who are we?



Programs

- Little Kickers: U4 through U5
- Recreational: U6 through U19
- TOPS: The Outreach Program for Soccer
- *Junior Academy: U7 & U8*
- Academy: U9 through U12
- Select: U13 through U19/U20



The NTH name

- NTH = NASA Tophat
- NTH-Tophat refers to the girls side
 - NTH-Tophat is sometimes used generically, sometimes to refer specifically to the NTH-Tophat Buckhead branch
 - NTH-Tophat North refers to the Metro North Park and United Quest Park locations
- NTH-NASA refers to the boys side



Staff

- Dave Smith: Executive Director
- Eric Ritter: Director of Operations
- Ted Colburn: Technical Director / Girls Academy Director
- Debi Royer: Business Operations Manager
- Jane Jarrett: League Registrar
- Randy Bowman: Facility Manager



Locations

- Metro North Park
 - *Terrell Mill Park*
- United Quest Park
 - Noonday Park
- Tophat
 - *Atlanta International School*
 - Howard School
 - Sutton Middle School
- J. J. Biello Park



Governing Bodies



- United States Soccer Federation (also called U. S. Soccer or USSF)



- Georgia State Soccer Association (GSSA)



Registration

- Online via www.nth-tophat.com or via a link from Registrar Jane Jarrett's e-mail
- Payment: pay in full option (\$1150) or installment plan (\$305 due at registration). Link: [fees](#)
- Parents agreement and code of conduct
- Players agreement and code of conduct
- Questions? Contact Registrar [Jane Jarrett](#)



Paperwork

- Copy of player's birth certificate (new players only)
- Notarized medical consent form (all players)
- Submit to coach or team manager:
 - In paper form during orientation meeting, or
 - Scan and e-mail as PDF files



Uniforms



- Entering 2nd year of a 2-year cycle, so only new players will need to order uniforms
- Order through soccer.com
- Label generic items to minimize lost & found hassles
- Link: [all about uniforms](#)



Fees (1 of 2)

- Main fees are paid to NASA Tophat:
 - Player registration
 - Coaching fees for fall and spring
 - Regular season games (usually 8-12 per season)
 - Capital improvement fee
 - Academy team camp



Fees (2 of 2)

- Uniforms
- In-house Junior Academy Girls fees (collected once per season)
 - Tournaments: \$50-70 per player per tournament
 - Indoor rental: \$5 per player per event
 - Web site and phone hot-line: \$5 per player per season
 - Admin costs: player passes, records binder, game day mini rosters: \$5 per player per year



Equipment

- Soccer shoes: turf shoes and maybe cleats
- Soccer ball (size 3)
- Shin guards
- Optional home equipment: best bang for the buck is a rebound net or kick-back wall
- Link: equipment



Summer Schedule

- Break until Academy Team Camp starts August 7
- Informal Saturday morning kick-arounds?
- Playing at home



Fall Schedule

- Academy Team Camp the week of August 7
- Practices likely start August 14
 - UQP: Past years have been Mon / Wed, 5:30 - 6:45 PM
 - MNP: Past years have been Tue / Thu, 5:00 - 6:15 PM
 - Open door policy
- Game days start the weekend after Labor Day
- Regular weekly games run through the weekend before Thanksgiving
- Halloween Soccer Shocker costume party (Oct. 26 or 27?)



Players (1 of 2)

- Thank your previous coaches for helping you get to where you are now
- The big 3 rules:
 1. Give your best effort
 2. Be enthusiastic
 3. Treat yourself, teammates, coaches, equipment and opponents with respect
- Love the ball!
 - Keep the ball or share it with your teammates
 - Treat the ball like a friend (or like a kitten — make it purr), not like toxic waste



Players (2 of 2)

- Mistakes are OK! Coaches are there to help you understand and learn from them. “Can you fix it?”
- Other rules:
 - Ball: Always bring your soccer ball
 - Hair: If you have long hair, wear something to keep it out of your face
 - Shoelaces: keep them tied (Lock Laces)
 - Jewelry: leave at home (exception of medical bracelets)
 - Uniforms: On game days, wear one and bring the other in case of unexpected color conflict
- Links: [practice session guidelines](#) / [game day guidelines](#)



Coaches

- Ward Swain, Hailey Johnson, tbd, occasional older guest trainers
- We are teachers, not drill sergeants or dictators
- Goal: create a high energy, educational environment
 - We strive to blend learning with fun
- Focus on individual skill development before team development
- Encourage healthy competition with yourself and others
- Every player belongs
- Keep it fun! (While keeping it focused.)



Parents (1 of 5)

- Arrange to get your daughters to practices and games on time
- Be your daughter's biggest fan, and the other girls' 2nd biggest fan
 - We discourage "pay for play" incentives
- Communication:
 - Stay informed: our Junior Academy Girls web site is our main communication channels, and we update it regularly
 - Keep coaches informed (schedule conflicts, illness or injury)
- When fees are due, please pay them promptly



Parents (2 of 5)

- Schedule conflicts and priorities: Family (1), School (2), Soccer (3)
- Be a fan instead of a coach or critic
- The 5-hour request: I can manage the whole group if each family manages their own responsibilities
- Links:
 - practice session guidelines
 - game day guidelines
 - coaching from the parents' sideline



Parents (3 of 5)

- It's a new soccer environment: we expect questions!
- Potential adjustment period for your daughter:
 - more fish
 - bigger pond
- Mix of ages:
 - 2010 U8s
 - 2011 U7s



Parents (4 of 5)

- Differences between Junior Academy and rec
 - Players tend to be more aggressive (no “force field” defense)
 - Players move as a team (no “stay back” defenders)
 - Everyone has attacking and defending roles
 - We expect players to think as they play. *“Keep the ball, that’s our call. Scan, plan, play, that’s our way.”* “Kick it” isn’t a real plan.
 - Goalies are soccer players, not statues



Parents (5 of 5)

- Playing style:
 - Soccer (thinking) vs. kickball (random)
 - Ball possession vs. field position
- The ball: is it your friend, or is it toxic waste?



Q & A

- How many teams, how many players per team, how much playing time?
- Regular season games
- Tournament play
- Will my daughter play with Susie?
- Link: [frequently asked questions](#)



Communication channels 1 of 2

- Junior Academy Girls
 - Web site: www.nasaacademygirls.org. Check once a week during the off-season, twice a week in-season.
 - Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/nasajracadg> or @nasajracadg. Used for late breaking schedule changes, usually weather-related, and brief event previews or recaps. Takes priority over NASA Tophat channels.
 - Phone hot-line: 1-866-206-9066, ext. 8870. Typically only used for late breaking schedule changes, usually weather-related. Takes priority over NASA Tophat channels.
 - Group e-mails
- NASA Tophat
 - Web site: www.nth-tophat.com
 - Field status hot-line: 770-220-4089
 - [RainedOut system](#)



Communication channels 2 of 2

- Channel priority
 1. Junior Academy Girls Twitter or phone hot-line
 2. NASA Tophat phone hot-line or RainedOut system
- Communicating with coaches
 - Use e-mail for basic info, such as “Susie has a school performance Tuesday.”
 - Meet face to face for anything best suited for a conversation, such as “Susie is worried that she isn’t scoring as many goals as the other girls.”
 - Best time for a conversation with a coach is after a practice session, not before or during practice, and not on game days
- Link: [communication channel details](#)



Volunteers

- Manager:
 - Creates our team binder and player passes
 - Prepares game cards
 - Handles NASA Tophat communication to Junior Academy families
- Social director(s): organizes 1-2 events per season
- Treasurer: collects fees to cover our in-house expenses (an on-line account makes this much easier than collecting checks)
- Photographer / videographer: group photos, game day photos or videos
- Tournament coordinator(s):
 - Makes sure applications are submitted on time
 - Collects signatures on release forms
 - Handles tournament check-in



Junior Academy Rules!