

Dover Sherborn Academy – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Who will coach the Academy teams?

Each team will be led by a certified head coach selected by our Director of Coaching, with support from the DSA leadership team. Coaching quality is our top priority, and all staff are held to high standards of player development and communication. The same coach will be at both practices and games.

2. What is the level of competition? Which league and tournaments will the Academy participate in?

We are joining the New England Club Soccer League (NECSL) to provide a competitive environment on par with top clubs. In addition, we are planning for DSA teams to participate in two high-quality tournaments:

- **Winter NE Revs 9v9 at Gillette Stadium**
- **Memorial Day Tournament (Needham/Wellesley)**
These may be updated year to year based on fit and availability.

3. Can dedicated parent coaches serve as assistants?

Yes – we believe that involved parents can play a valuable role, as long as they are aligned with our developmental approach and willing to complete appropriate training. Every team will have a parent volunteer to support communication and logistics.

4. Who is this Academy for?

DSA is ideal for committed players who want to play club-level soccer while staying rooted in the Dover Sherborn community. While some top players may remain with elite regional clubs (e.g., NEFC, Stars), DSA offers a high-quality alternative for families seeking competitive soccer with a local identity.

5. When and how will tryouts happen?

Tryouts are planned for Spring 2026, with dates and times announced in advance. Sessions will be run by our professional staff and evaluated using a structured rubric. Families will receive feedback shortly after tryouts with next steps.

6. Where will the Academy practice and play?

We aim to host all home games on turf fields, and training sessions on the best possible fields available, prioritizing Dover Sherborn High School facilities when available. Additional facilities may be used as needed.

7. What uniforms are included in the price?

Tuition includes:

- **Home kit**
- **Away kit**
- **Practice kit**

Optional apparel like bags, sweatshirts, warm-up jackets, and hats will be available for separate purchase.

8. Is there a pricing option without uniforms for returning players?

Currently, full uniforms are included in tuition for all players. We may explore reduced pricing for returning players if uniforms remain unchanged from season to season.

9. What is the training and game commitment per week?

In Season (Fall & Spring):

- 1 Dover Sherborn Town Practice

- 1 DOC-led Practice
- 1 DSA Team Practice
- 1 DSSC Game
- 1 DSA Game

Out of Season (Winter):

- 1 DSA Practice
- Optional Futsal & Skill Clinics

10. Is there an additional cost for the two tournaments?

No – both tournaments are included in the \$1,850 tuition.

11. When does the season run?

The DSA program runs a traditional schedule from August through June, aligning with most club seasons.

12. What happens if a team doesn't form after I've opted in?

We understand concerns about committing before a team is guaranteed. Families will not be locked into payment or roster commitment until final rosters are confirmed. Our pre-registration form is simply an expression of interest, allowing us to assess viable teams before tryouts begin.

13. How do I register my interest or get more information?

Fill out the Pre-Registration Google Form linked in our outreach email or contact us directly at rmcgehee@next-step-training.com. We will follow up with updates, tryout info, and next steps.