

Academy Sports Club Announces Expanded Community Role and Strategic Evolution of Player Development Pathways

Academy Sports Club is proud to announce a new chapter in its commitment to serving the Wilson community and surrounding areas through accessible, club-neutral soccer and futsal programming focused on long-term player development.

As part of this evolution, Academy Sports Club (ASC) will continue operating as a fully club-neutral environment open to athletes from any club, school, or playing background. The organization's mission remains centered around creating meaningful opportunities for players to train, compete, and grow without pressure surrounding club affiliation or transfers.

Moving forward, ASC will focus its efforts on community-centered programming designed to expand access to the game while continuing to emphasize creativity, technical development, and enjoyment of the sport.

This next phase of ASC programming will include:

- Club-neutral Master Class training experiences
- 3v3 and 5v5 small-sided tournaments
- Beach soccer events and competitions
- Year-round futsal training and futsal development opportunities
- Community-based technical events and specialty training environments

The shift reflects ASC's continued belief that development opportunities should exist beyond traditional club structures and that players benefit from supplemental environments that prioritize touches on the ball, creativity, decision-making, and freedom to play.

"At its core, Academy Sports Club has always been about serving players and families first," said Thomas Goines. "This new direction allows ASC to become an even stronger community platform for development, competition, and access to the game while remaining completely open to athletes from all environments."

As ASC expands its role in community programming, year-round technical training and long-term player development pathways will transition to [Academy Football Club](#) (AFC), the organization's player development club built around a science-backed, development-first training model.

AFC will continue focusing on consistent technical training, long-term player growth, and individualized development environments designed to help athletes become more confident and comfortable on the ball over time. The AFC methodology emphasizes high repetitions, detailed coaching, decision-making under pressure, and development over short-term results.

Importantly, AFC's Summer Intensive Training programs will remain fully club neutral and open to players from any club or soccer background who want to elevate their game through the AFC training method.

"Our Summer Intensive Training model was intentionally built to stay open to everyone," added Goines. "We believe players improve most when they have access to high-quality teaching and training environments regardless of where they currently play. That commitment is not changing."

The transition allows both organizations to operate with greater clarity and purpose:

- Academy Sports Club will serve as a neutral community-centered hub for futsal, small-sided tournaments, and specialty events.
- Academy Football Club will lead year-round technical development and long-term competitive player pathways.

Together, the organizations aim to continue expanding opportunities for players and families throughout Wilson, Nash, and Edgecombe Counties while remaining committed to a player-first philosophy rooted in development, accessibility, and genuine love for the game.