



NTH-Tophat North Junior Academy Girls

Welcome!



NASA Tophat

Who are we?



Programs

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



The NTH name

- NTH = NASA Tophat
 - NASA = North Atlanta Soccer Association
- 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
- Ted Colburn: Technical Director / Girls Academy Director
- Debi Royer: Business Operations Manager
- Stevie Nuss: League Registrar
- Randy Bowman: Facility Manager



Locations

- [Metro North Park](#)
 - [Terrell Mill Park](#)
 - [Franklin Gateway](#)
- [United Quest Park](#)
 - [Noonday Park](#)
- [J. J. Biello Park](#)
- [Tophat](#)
- [Other NTH locations](#)



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 Stevi Nuss's e-mail
- Payment: pay in full option (\$1175) or installment plan (\$310 due at registration). Link: [fees](#)
- Parents agreement and code of conduct
- Players agreement and code of conduct
- Questions? Contact Registrar [Stevi Nuss](#)



Paperwork

- Copy of player's birth certificate (new players only)
- Notarized [medical consent form](#) (all players)
- How to submit: scan and e-mail as PDF files to coach



Uniforms



- Entering 2nd year of a 2-year cycle, so ***only new players*** will need to order uniforms.
- Order through [soccer.com](https://www.soccer.com). (The ordering system should be ready in late June.)
- Label generic items to minimize lost & found hassles!
- Link: [all about uniforms](#)



Fees (1 of 2)

- [Main fees](#) are paid to NASA Tophat and cover:
 - 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)

- Acclimation Camp: \$150 (optional post-tryout event)
- Uniforms
- [In-house Junior Academy Girls fees](#) (collected once per season)
 - [Tournaments](#): ~\$60-80 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 2019 Schedule

- Break until Junior Academy Team Camp starts August 5
- Optional NTH summer training for girls program ([link](#))
- [Playing at home](#)



Fall 2019 Schedule

- [Academy Team Camp](#) the week of August 5, after-school hours
- [Practices](#) likely start August 12
 - UQP: Past years have been Mon / Wed, 5:30 - 6:45 PM
 - MNP: Past years have been Tue / Thu, 5:00 - 6:15 PM
 - Weekly [goalkeeper training](#)
 - Open door policy between the two locations
- [Game days](#) start the weekend after Labor Day
- Regular weekly games run through the weekend before Thanksgiving
- [Halloween Soccer Shocker](#) costume party (late October)



Winter 2019-2020 Schedule

- Winter break starts the week of Thanksgiving and runs through early February
- We encourage girls to try other activities
- Optional NTH winter training for girls program ([link](#))
- Weather permitting, we usually try to schedule two informal scrimmage days:
 - New Year's Eve or New Year's Day
 - the King Holiday



Spring 2020 Schedule

- Practices likely start February 3 or 10
- Game days start the first weekend in March
- Regular weekly games run through the mid May
 - Limited or no games during the weekends before and after Cobb school spring break
- We finish our year by playing in the NTH Adidas Cup tournament the weekend before Memorial Day weekend



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 (or get [Caterpy laces](#) or [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, Sydney Nelson, 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 4)

- 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 channel, and we update it regularly.
 - Keep coaches informed (schedule conflicts, illness or injury).
- When fees are due, please pay them promptly.



Parents (2 of 4)

- 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 4)

- It's a new soccer environment: we expect questions!
- Potential adjustment period for your daughter:
 - more fish
 - bigger pond
- Mix of ages:
 - 2012 U8s
 - 2013 U7s



Parents (4 of 4)

- 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).
 - Every player (including goalies) 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 good plan.
 - Goalies are soccer players, not statues.



Game Days (1 of 3)

- Main game format: 5v5 (4 field players, 1 goalkeeper)
- Schedule: A mix of intra-Academy games, games against other NTH teams, and games against other Atlanta-area clubs.
- Most game days are on Saturdays. We have an occasional Sunday afternoon game day.
- We divide our player pool into several teams. Each team plays one game.



Game Days (2 of 3)

- Team rosters change from week to week. Link: [levels of play](#)
- We assign and post team rosters on our Junior Academy web site each Monday prior to the weekend games.
- Games are usually scheduled 90 minutes apart.
- If our schedule lists game times as “9:00, 10:30, 12:00,” you’ll know by Monday night whether your daughter is in a 9:00, 10:30 or 12:00 game. Link: [sample game day page](#).
- See [game day link](#) for full details.



Game Days (3 of 3)

Playing style:

- Keep the ball. Dribbling is the foundation skill in soccer, so we teach and encourage creative dribbling! Dribbling to keep possession, speed dribbling to attack space, dribbling for penetration.
- The ball: is it your friend, or is it toxic waste?
- Soccer (thinking) vs. kickball (random)
- Scan, plan, play. Players learn to make their own decisions.
- Ball possession vs. field position: we'd rather possess the ball near our own goal than just randomly kick it toward the other team's goal.
- Goalies are soccer players, not statues.



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 feed: <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. *You don't need your own Twitter account to view our Twitter feed.*
- 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: 1-2 pre-season, maybe 1-2 during the season

• 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.”
 - The 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
 - 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
 - Keeps up with scores and standings



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](#)



Junior Academy Rules!