

Over 200 youth soccer players participate at Inaugural Sunshine State Games Academy Soccer Festival

The Florida Youth Soccer Association (FYSA) and Florida Sports Foundation (FSF) presented the 2008 Sunshine State Games Academy Soccer Festival on May 10 in Oviedo, Florida at Shane Kelly Park with 245 soccer players representing seven clubs from around the state.



The Academy Soccer Festival featured competition for boys and girls ages 8 to 10. This pilot program features different formats of play and teams were invited by FYSA for this inaugural Festival. This is the first time the FYSA and FSF have partnered together to bring a soccer event to the State of Florida.

Clubs participating included Central Florida United-Orange/Seminole County, Space Coast United-Melbourne, New Tampa, Palm Beach United-West Palm Beach, Kendall Soccer Coalition-Miami, Clay County United-Orange Park and Plantation Soccer Club.

During the two sessions of play, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon, teams played two 25-minute games (alternating between boys and girls). For the next games, players were shuffled into different teams by coaches, so original teams were no longer playing together. Two more games were played in that format.

Finally, street soccer games were played, where captains were selected from the players and players were picked from different clubs to form a team. Those teams played street soccer, where the players are free to play on their own without adult direction.

In the future, the partnership between the Florida Sports Foundation and Florida Youth Soccer Association hopes to expand this Academy to offer more Festivals in different regions in the state.

Keep checking www.flasports.com for updates about the Sunshine State Games Academy Youth Soccer Festival.

