



SOCER ORGANIZATION OF CHARLOTTESVILLE-ALBEMARLE
Established 1982



INFORMATIONAL MEETING

February 4, 2010

6:30-8:30pm

**Lane Auditorium, Albemarle County Office Building
Charlottesville, Virginia**



SOCA's STRATEGIC PLAN

MISSION

SOCA provides all youth and adults superior, comprehensive soccer programming emphasizing player development, enjoyment and citizenship. SOCA is dedicated to serving the local, regional and national soccer communities.

VISION

SOCA will be a locally-cherished, regionally-preeminent and nationally-respected soccer community through club building, innovative programming and premier facilities.

VALUES

Enjoyment. SOCA will create an environment fostering a positive and fun experience for all involved, building friendships and resulting in life long advocates of the game of soccer.

Player Development. SOCA will focus its resources to provide an innovative, thorough, and vertically-integrated player development program. SOCA will develop the whole player to achieve his or her highest level of ability and interest.

Inclusiveness. SOCA welcomes all participants and values diversity. SOCA will provide programming suitable for all ages and abilities and will actively seek to remove obstacles to participation, including language and financial barriers.

Citizenship. SOCA expects its staff, coaches, volunteers, players, families and referees to comport themselves respectfully at all SOCA activities. Through healthy competition, participation promotes teamwork, sportsmanship, leadership, and a sense of community.

Service. SOCA is a non-profit community servant that partners with public and private entities to provide healthy recreational opportunities to residents of the region.

Professionalism. SOCA will uphold the highest level of ethical standards and is committed to maintaining an educated, talented staff with expertise in their field. Courtesy, honesty, integrity, and proper conduct shall be cornerstones of all actions.

STRATEGY

Elite Competition. SOCA will devote resources to increase the participation and success of its premier teams and players in the highest appropriate levels of competition. We shall both develop proactive plans and remain flexible to respond to the ever-changing youth soccer environment.





WHAT IS THE USSDA? WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

UNITED STATES SOCCER DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

The U.S. Soccer Development Academy (‘Development Academy’) is a national team training program and competition that will be conducted and administered by the United State Soccer Federation, Inc. (‘USSF’). The Development Academy consists of league and post season competition.

ACADEMY OVERVIEW

Following a comprehensive review of elite player development in the United States and around the world, US Soccer created the Development Academy in 2007 to improve the everyday environment for the elite youth player.

The Development Academy is a partnership between US Soccer and the top youth clubs around the country to provide the best youth players in the US with an every day environment designed to produce the next generation of National Team players. The Academy’s programming philosophy of increased training, less total games and more competitive games is based on US Soccer’s Best Practices utilized by the U17 US National Team Residency program.

The Academy also connects National Team coaches directly with the Academy clubs to develop and identify players and coaches for future Youth National Teams. Each Academy team is evaluated by a National Team coach at least ten times each year and each Academy club receives two formal evaluations in over 100 categories each year from National Team staff.

The Development Academy is also focused on identifying and developing the next generation of elite referees. US Soccer assigns up-and-coming officials to participate in Academy games at the local level and at national events.

BENEFITS OF INCLUSION IN THE ACADEMY

Comprehensive Competitive Environment. Participation in the USSDA will provide regular, highest quality, nine-month competition. Scheduling is known, eliminating the need for additional tournaments and outside competitions. To maintain a proper focus on development, Academy teams do not participate outside the Academy. Academy players are permitted to participate in national team duty, and with their high school.

US Soccer Federation Connection. The USSDA is operated by the USSF, the highest soccer authority in America. The Federation provides player scouting, club support, and constant operational review. Players will be directly connected to all national team programs, including continual evaluation by federation staff.

SOCA Competes at the Top Level of US Soccer. Participation in the Academy will provide the highest level player development environment available. Inclusion will place SOCA in a select group of peer clubs who aspire to the highest goals of player development and the advancement of youth soccer. SOCA will become a further magnet for outstanding players and coaches.





REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION & OPERATIONS

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

National Staff Evaluation. Each applicant club is evaluated and assessed by national staff coaches. The overall on-field success of the club, its player development model, and the club's structure are evaluated.

History of Demonstrated Success. Clubs must demonstrate success in developing players for high-level selection and in developing teams that succeed in elite competitions. SOCA has developed players and successful teams with increasing regularity.

Geography. The location of the club in the over-all "soccer map" is considered, as is the impact on any existing Academy member club. SOCA draws from a unique player pool and does not conflict with existing members, while providing a nearby destination for Southern Conference Clubs. See conference info, page 6.

Quality Facilities. Academy clubs are required to have suitable high quality facilities and the ability to showcase Academy matches with specific staging. SOCA will meet these requirements at SFSP.

Club Structure, Staffing, and Support. Applicants are evaluated on over-all structure, staffing and the ability of the club to support and sustain an Academy effort. SOCA meets these criteria.

OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Academy League Season. All Academy Teams are required to participate in the entire Academy League Season. The Season consists of 30-40 games. The season includes August-December; January-February; May-mid July. Players will be eligible to participate with their High School teams but must prioritize their Academy commitment. There is a "window" for friendly matches in December/January.

Academy Training. All Academy teams are required to train a minimum of three times per week; four are recommended. Training will include SPARQ Fitness & Gatorade Testing.

Academy Roster. There is a minimum of 36 full-time players per Academy Club, and no limit to the number of players on the master roster. Only 18 players from the master roster will be eligible to participate in each game and these players must be placed on the official match report of the game. Academy Clubs may also submit a list of Developmental Players; those players who have been identified but may not be ready for Academy play.

Academy Minimum Start Requirement. Players listed on the master roster must start 25% of all Academy matches. Developmental Players are not subject to the minimum start requirement.

Academy Match Rules. FIFA Rules. There are a maximum of 7 substitutions. **No re-entry.** Substitution are permitted at any stoppage.

Academy Record-Keeping. Clubs must maintain, file and submit extensive team and player management data to the USSDA.





IS SOCA READY? WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS ON THE CLUB?

SOCA's PREPAREDNESS

Unique Player Pool of Over 7,000 Players. Through its core club base and through relationship with the Skyline Club Soccer League members, SOCA draws from a huge player pool. These players are presently not served by the USSDA.

Qualified and Willing Players Across All Age Groups. The SOCA culture and club structure have produced high quality players eager for elite competition. Players and families have recently demonstrated support for this level of play via the SOCA Select Academy and former Virginia United activities.

Club Structure. SOCA's development pyramid and comprehensive structure have received praise from Academy staff members and current Academy club leaders.

Facilities. South Fork Soccer Park will provide an appropriately high level quality match and training setting for the Academy teams. The SOCA Belvedere project will significantly enhance Academy operations.

Elite Competition Success. SOCA has a track record of State Cup successes, tournament championships and consistently high quality league performance against top clubs.

Elite Player Development. SOCA has a growing list of regional and state ODP players, along with graduates competing successfully in college soccer.

Professional Full-Time Coaching Staff. SOCA has a full-time technical staff of six certified, qualified coaches.

Executive and Administrative Staff. SOCA has five additional full-time professionals providing the required support of the Academy program.

UVa Partnership. The UVa coaching staff has agreed in principle to conduct periodic training and provide limited facility access.

IMPACTS ON THE CLUB

Elite Girls. Comparable parallel programming will continue for the girls through the SOCA Select Academy, until such time as USSDA includes females.

Staffing. The Academy will require significant effort by the SOCA staff. Efforts will be primarily managed by two technical staff members, with additional support from coaching staff, administrative and executive staff.

Team Formation. Academy teams will draw top players across two age groups (18/17 and 16/15). We plan to form the requisite VCCL teams with current Lightning and promoted Metro players.

Budget. The new program will have significant budget impacts and must be a sustainable program.

