



Information for US Soccer Academy 09-10 Season

This will outline all parameters, requirements and information intended to answer all questions regarding a player's participation in the US Soccer Academy.

US Soccer Academy

This program is not for just any soccer player. This is a full time commitment by players who have the ability to compete at the highest level of youth competition in the United States. Many of these players will have already participated in State, Regional or National level programs. This is for 1993, 1994 (U16) birthdates and 1991, 1992 (U18) birthdates. **All players who make an academy team and participate in those events will be considered to be a part of the US Soccer national pool for their respective age groups. A player who is discovered on one of these teams can be immediately moved into the US Soccer National program whether by participation on a team in their respective age group or advancement directly to IMG residency in Florida.**

There will be open training sessions by invitation only once initial rosters are chosen. Following is a basis of information for the upcoming season.

Roster Selection – We are currently identifying players who will make up the U16 and U18 Academy rosters. These are players that have been evaluated over the past season through participation in Force programs as well as other club teams and competitive environments around the Bay Area. Once the initial roster is set and players have accepted a position on the roster, we will hold a series of training session evaluations to which we will invite additional players in an effort to make sure each team has a minimum of 18 rostered players for the

season.

Team Training and Participation– Any player participating in the Academy teams is required to attend training 3 times a week. There is no exception to this rule unless there is illness, family emergency or another sufficient reason discussed with coaching personnel for a player to miss practice. Consistent failure to meet the practice requirements will result in the immediate removal of a player from the team and the club. **Once the Academy season has started, a full time rostered player on an Academy team will no longer be able to participate in ODP, regular club events, State cup, Super Y league, ID2 or any other soccer program outside of the Academy program. A developmental player is allowed to continue participation in all of the above events and in addition can participate in up to 6 US Soccer Academy games.**

Season – The 09-10 Academy season will begin in September of 09. We will start training August 2, 2009. Training will be every day for the first two weeks of August. Players will participate in up to 30 league games, several of which will be held at various showcases attended by National team coaches, scouts and college coach recruiters.

Tournaments – U16 and U18 Academy teams may participate in Red Bull College Showcase and Surf Cup (July), Disney Showcase (December), as well as the Dallas cup (Spring Easter Break). These will be the only three high profile tournaments that we may attend outside of the academy season.

Developmental players – In addition to the full-time rostered players on each team, there will be up to 10 designated developmental players from within the Force Club. Developmental players must be involved in Force club teams in order to participate as a developmental player in the program. Developmental players will meet all club commitments as a regular club participant. Developmental players will have an opportunity to participate in several US Soccer Academy events as well. 1991 players and 1993 players can be considered as developmental players as well. 1991 players would participate with the U18 Academy team while 1993 players will participate with the U16 Academy team. **Many of the developmental players will also get first consideration for participation in the following year's academy program.**

Cost – The cost for a player to participate on an academy team as a full time player will be approximately \$200 - \$250 per player, per month. This cost includes training fees, field costs, registration costs and administrative costs associated with the academy program. There is limited financial aid to support this for any full time players. **A developmental player will pay \$50 a month for**

one training per week and \$100 a month for full training participation. This is much less since participation in events is also limited for these players.

Travel – There will be several travel events with regard to the regular Academy season. We will look at all options to reduce travel expenses and the most cost effective travel arrangements will be made for both teams.

Coaches – The U16 US Soccer Academy coach will be Chris Dangerfield. The U18 US Soccer Academy Coach will be Shaun Tsakiris

College and National team exposure – All academy games will be attended by national team scouts. Furthermore scouts will also be observing trainings and selected players will participate in showcase trainings / games with national team staff. Additionally, college coaches from across the entire country will be at the three showcase events listed for the year. This will give first hand exposure to all Academy players for the National team program as well as for the top colleges across the country.

Fundraising – Players are encouraged to seek corporate sponsorship for their fees.