

**DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY PROGRAM**

Player Registration Guide



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**WELCOME AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

Congratulations on being selected to play for Bethesda Soccer Club Development Academy during this upcoming year.

**ACADEMY OVERVIEW**

The Development Academy is a partnership between U.S. Soccer and the top youth clubs around the country to provide the best youth players in the U.S. with an every day environment designed to produce the next generation of National Team players. **The Academy’s programming philosophy is based on increased training, less total games and more competitive games.** The Pre-Academy is structured using the same philosophy and participates in the NEPAL league through US Club Soccer.

**Objective:** The Development Academy's primary focus is player development. Academy players are provided with the best opportunity to achieve their potential as elite soccer players.

“Bethesda serves to provide an optimal environment ensuring the Development Academy's primary focus - player development. Academy players are provided with the best opportunity to achieve their potential as elite soccer players."

The Academy also connects National Team coaches directly with the Academy clubs to develop and identify players and coaches for future Youth National Teams. 

To maintain a focus on training, Academy teams do not play in any other leagues, tournaments, State Cup competitions, ODP or All-Star events without written permission from Academy staff (exception: the Pre-Academy team will participate in state cup competition).

* **Full-time Academy players can only participate on their designated Academy team, with only one exception: National Team duty.**
* **Full-time Academy players for all teams must choose to participate in the Academy full-time and forgo playing for his high school team.**

**BETHESDA PREMIER CUP TOURNAMENT**

Our success in the Bethesda Premier Cup allows us to offer scholarships and subsidize the Development Academy annual players’ fees.   We are able to offer each player within the academy a reduced player fee due to the proceeds of the Premier Cup Tournament. We ask that each player family set aside time to volunteer for the tournament to help ensure its’ success. The event takes place in November and is comprised of over 1,100 teams. It is one of the top tournaments in the country and the major fundraiser of the club throughout the entire year. Families are expected to volunteer possibly 3 to 5 hours during the weekend.   Contributions include telephone calls, organizational responsibilities, registration, and field marshals.  Each age group has a coordinator who ensure completion of all of the responsibilities for that age group.  The assistance from each of our "club families" has been instrumental to the continued success of the tournament.

**DESCRIPTION OF FEES AND FINANCIAL POLICIES**

**COSTS INCLUDED IN ANNUAL PLAYER FEES:**

* US Soccer Registration and/or US Club Registration
* 10 months of Practice Sessions: 4 sessions per week (locations may include the MD Soccerplex, Walter Johnson HS, Richard Montgomery HS, Wootton HS, Bretton Woods and others)
* Goalkeeper Training: Weekly specialized training for Team Goalies
* Strength and agility training
* Game film review
* Access to Soccer Parenting organization and resources
* Game Fields
* Showcase Tournament Registration Fees

The fee does not include player travel related costs or uniforms unless otherwise noted. Travel expenses will be invoiced separately.

**PLAYER DEVELOPMENT ADVANTAGES**

* **More Training**
  + 3-4 mandatory training sessions per week
* **Fewer Total Games**
  + Approximate 30-game season
  + No outside participation for full-time Academy players
  + 25% Minimum Start Requirement
* **More Meaningful Games**
  + Compete against top youth clubs in the country
  + FIFA Rules (i.e. no reentry on substitutions, January 1 birthday cut-off, players participate on older teams if appropriate)
* **Top Instruction**
  + Players receive integrated oversight from Academy club coaches and U.S. Soccer Technical Advisors in their local environment.
* **Connection to U.S. Soccer Resources**
  + Select teams compete against U.S. Youth National Teams
  + Regular Game and Training Evaluations by U.S. Soccer Men's Scouting Network staff
  + Referees assigned by U.S. Soccer (or NEPAL)

**PLAYER IDENTIFICATION ADVANTAGES**

* Direct connection to Men's Scouting Network for identification of potential national team pool players
* Showcases are premier scouting venues:
  + 400-500 college coaches
  + 25 Professional Scouts
  + National Team Staff observe every game
* Online player profile for all Academy players
* Showcase games footage can be purchased

There have been more than 2,000 instances of players being called into Youth or Senior team events since the Fall of 2007 from 72 different Academy clubs.

**Fees:** Fees are determined annually on a per player basis.

**Player Travel:** DA teams often travel as a team and we collect the expense of that travel from the players. If the team is traveling together and collecting for transportation and lodging, DA players must travel with their team.

**Uniforms:** The club updates its uniform kit every two years. 2019/2020 is a non-uniform cycle year and players will be utilizing last year’s uniforms. However, new players will be required to purchase a new uniform kit. The approximate cost of the kit is $96 for U08, $325 for youth sizes and $345 for adult sizes. Once you have accepted a roster spot and been assigned to a team, you will receive a jersey number from your coach or manager. We have posted further instructions on our website under the Information/Uniforms tab.

U15 – U19 Development Academy players will receive a $150 credit towards team travel fees for the year to offset the purchase of the uniform.

Per our contract with our apparel sponsor, **adidas**, all Dev Academy players must purchase and wear their own **adidas** brand cleats.

**Mid-Season Roster Additions:** Fees for Players added/transferred during a season will be adjusted according to a set schedule based on the month the player joins the team. The deposit of $400 will not be included in the pro-rated calculations.

**Scholarships:** The USSF offers a scholarship to help defray full-time players travel expenses. This is only done once per year and the application deadline is typically in August. Applications can be found on their website. You will receive more information from us on this after registering for the team. Please contact our office for assistance.

Bethesda Soccer Club is proud to offer additional financial assistance to those members of our community who have demonstrated need. Please visit the resources section of our website for more information on the financial aid process. The majority of financial aid is given in the form of a partial scholarship. Any remaining fees are the responsibility of the family and will need to be paid on time to avoid penalties.

Please note that COMPLETE applications for assistance are **due within 10 days of acceptance of an offer** to join a Bethesda Team.

**You are required to pay your deposit even though you may be applying for a scholarship. Scholarships WILL NOT be awarded to anyone who has not paid their deposit.**

**Payment Schedule: Payments are by credit card or debit cards only, here are the following options:**

1. Pay in full at time of registration.
2. Automatic Charge Payment Plan: The **non-refundable** deposit of $400 will be charged at check out. The balance is divided into 5 additional monthly payments. Please note that this plan does incur an additional finance charge of 3%. When registering for a team, select **Automatic Payment Plan** as your Payment Method on the checkout screen. The balance of the payments will be automatically charged on a set schedule as listed at check out.

**Players joining after November 1st will be offered a shortened payment plan.**

If you do not have a credit or debit card, please contact the BSC office to discuss registration options.

**It is the responsibility of the player’s family to remain current with the payments and maintain the membership in good standing.**

In the event that payments are not made within 30 days of the payment due date, the club will take the following actions:

31 days late: **Notify Director of Coaching, Coach and Manager** of balance due and that member is not in good standing. Player will receive a warning that if payment is not made within 30 days, the Director of Coaching will be notified and appropriate actions taken by the Executive Director (suspension from games, suspension from practices and games, suspension from club, etc.)

61 days late: **Director of Coaching** will discuss past due balances with the **Executive Director** and appropriate sanctions of player and family will take place until such time as player and family become a member in good standing.

Member Player accounts with balances that are greater than 60 days past due should expect that their participation in team and club activities will be suspended until such time as the balance due is paid in full.

**Refund Policy:** Accepting a position on a Bethesda Soccer Club team is a commitment to the Club and to the other members of the team **to play for the full soccer year,** which includes any commitments after tryouts. You will be offered the opportunity to purchase player fee insurance to protect your fees in the event of injury or job relocation. If you choose to forgo the insurance, you will not be eligible to receive any compensation from the Club for these circumstances. By registering for the team, you accept these conditions. **Players will not be refunded for non-medical reasons including, but not limited to: playing time, coaching, or opportunities to play for other Clubs.**

**Discounts:** As a member of the Bethesda Soccer Club family, you are eligible to receive a 10% discount at PJs Sports! Please identify your Club affiliation upon checking out at the store to receive your discount.

**WELCOME AND STAY IN TOUCH**

**We look forward to great soccer year! Your team manager and coach should be your first stop for information regarding the team. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of help to you during the year.**

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**PLAYER’S CODE OF CONDUCT**

Parent and Player Pledge: I\* recognize that players need to conduct themselves in a manner that is supporting to the development of the player, the team and the positive experience of all person’s they interact with in the context of the BSC soccer program.

Player Code of Conduct: As a Player, I agree that I will abide by the following, and as the Parent of a Player, I\* agree to that my player will abide by the following:

Individual Conduct

1. I will maintain a high level of fitness and nutrition and I fully understand my role in enhancing performance and preventing injuries
2. I will spend time on individual player development, before, after and outside of practice
3. I understand my commitment to BSC is from August-June (even after tryouts)
4. I understand that I am not allowed to guest play with other clubs or teams outside of BSC
5. I will embody the “Values” of BSC

Conduct with Team

1. I will be respectful and professional on and off the field all of the time
2. I will challenge, support, encourage and motivate my teammates
3. I am fully committed to my team’s success and will maintain a high level of competitive spirit
4. I am fully committed to the BSC style of play, which separates us from other clubs
5. I will embody a winning mentality in all activities all the time

Practice Conduct

1. I understand that practice is mandatory and there are no excused absences
2. I understand that punctuality is a requirement: players must arrive 15 minutes before the start of practice or according to coach’s requirements.
3. I understand that I will be ready to play at that time, and when needed support the team in practice setup and takedown, including getting equipment ready: pinnies, balls, cones, etc…
4. I will have 100% focus and commitment in all activities
5. I understand that practice performance impacts playing time in games
6. I will wear the correct BSC practice gear

Game Conduct

1. I will wear the correct uniform for game and travel
2. I will arrive early for games according to my coach’s instruction.
3. I will behave professionally during games and on trips

\*“I” shall include any relatives and/or friends of Parent attending any BSC function.

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**PARENT’S CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Parent’s Pledge:**

*“Soccer is a players’ game. The paramount concern of the adults involved is the holistic development, welfare, enjoyment and safety of their players.” - Code of Ethics NSCAA*

I\* recognize that parents are the most important role models for their children and that amateur athletics help develop a sense of teamwork, self-worth and sportsmanship. I will encourage my child to play by the rules and respect the rights of others. I understand it is important to enforce rules of play and conduct standards as necessary components in athletics and life. I will at all times encourage my child to respect the game officials’ decisions and not criticize a game official’s ruling during or after a game.

**Parent’s Code of Conduct**:

As a parent, I\* agree to abide by the following:

I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game, practice, or other youth sports event.

I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.

I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, and abusive language, and I will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.

I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child and other players ahead of a personal desire to win.

I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of their race, sex, creed or ability.

I will do my best to make youth sports fun for my child.

I will remember that the game is for the children, not adults.

I understand that the coach has the right to remove parents/spectators from the sideline.

Additionally, I\* abide by the following BSC policies:

I will demonstrate positive sideline behavior and never “coach” from the sideline.

I will ensure my players are available for all activities

I understand my players are committed to the entire 10 month season (August-June)

I understand that U13-u18 Parents are not allowed around the fields during practices

I will abide by the “24 Hour Rule” – Which requires that I not contact a coach within 24 hours after a game to discuss issues

\*“I” shall include any relatives and/or friends of Parent attending any BSC function.