



CUP Boys Development Academy

Frequently Asked Questions

Fact #1

Any information gathered regarding the CUP Boys DA program cannot be considered legitimate unless it is coming directly from the CUP website or Scott Bower or Chris O'Neal. Period.

Fact #2

NO other club in the country can provide **ALL** of what is laid out below that we have currently for our membership.

NO other clubs in our market (min 1.5 hours driving) can provide **ANY** of the following programming opportunities for their players:

Individual Team Qualifications based on wins / losses

- 4 teams in National League- Top USYS League in country
- All 6 ages in MRL Premier - Top USYS League in our Region
- 2 boy's teams pre-qualified for 2017 USYS Nationals in July

Club based inclusion based on Directors, Staffing, Club Philosophies

- National Premier League - Top National US Club League (MDL is our conference)
- *4 teams in USSF Development Academy programming
- Club affiliation with Borussia Dortmund of German Bundesliga- annual trip for

**begins 2017/18 season*

Fact #3

The majority of the CUP DA player selection process will occur prior **Friday, May 26th**. There will be some spots purposely held to be filled during the tryouts beginning Tuesday May 30th.



We have CDA- Cincinnati Development Academy (Girls DA) programming and (CUP Boys DA) programming. Same league (DA) so basically the same thing, right?

There are many inherent differences between the leagues, mainly due to this being the first year in existence for the girls and the ages involved: the girls have older ages whereas the boys have the younger ages. The best way to approach your educational journey of the Boys Development Academy program and what you may already know about the girls is to mentally clear your mind and approach the boy's programming from point A. Please don't try to compare the two. Additionally, while the girls side has agreed that the best pathway for them is to officially work in conjunction with KHA and form a new identity, CUP will continue this DA venture officially as *Cincinnati United Premier Development Academy* and abbreviated as 'CUP DA'.

What if my current club has 'Academy' in the team or program name? Is it the same thing as the Development Academy?

The Development Academy is short for United States Soccer Federation Development Academy or 'USSDA.' The term 'Academy' is a very common term that many clubs around the country use sometimes innocently because it is so common and is a term used throughout the world to describe youth training programs. Unfortunately, at times it is a way to lead families to believe that they are participating in the same programming as the DA. There are very clubs that have been included by US Soccer for this elite league in our market area in all of the following states. Ohio (CUP, Columbus Crew SC, Cleveland Internationals), Indiana (3 clubs), and Kentucky (no clubs).

Which age groups are a part of the CUP Boys Development Academy?

For the 2017/18 season, there will be **4 total DA teams** in the U12 (2007/06), U13 (2005) and U14 (2004) age groups. We will field Pre-DA teams in the U10/11-U14 age groups (2008-2004). Pre-DA means that they are the next top team of players that will continue the current



CUP tournament and league development plans with the potential for individual players to be added throughout the year as a DP or full-time DA team member. Players on these teams are also eligible for guest training opportunities within the DA sessions. Typically, they will participate in OSSL / MDL and State Cup as well as their normal events.

Which are expected roster sizes for each Boys Academy team?

U14 = 16-20 full time players (possible addition of DP's)

U13 = 16-20 full time players (possible addition of DP's)

[2] U12 = 24-26 full time players (possible addition of DP's)

1 training pool. 2 teams on game day. 9v9 format

**** we expect players to play/train up within the Academy**

What is a DP?

DP stands for 'Developmental Player.' This means that they are on a Pre-DA team (only within CUP) and that they are training with the DA team consistently with the chance to play in up to 6 DA games. Once they play more than 6 games they must be moved to full-time DA status. This role is typically reserved for younger players or late bloomers, or for those players who continue to work on their own in addition to their Pre-DA team, showing tremendous improvement throughout the season and therefore deserving of an opportunity with a DA team. Similar as to how CUP works today with moving players up. DP spots are unlikely to be offered until the after the season begins and they can be evaluated after the summer break. DP's can also be added at any time during the season.

What is the selection process for a DA team? Will there be tryouts?

The individual player evaluation process will occur throughout the season and will be the most common way to be selected to a DA team. This may happen within our CUP training sessions and by potential players being scouted with current teams or recommended through partner



clubs. A player trying out for the DA may do so at any time as there are no rules stating as to where and when you can be identified and evaluated. Any of our current CUP sessions can be open, you would just need to reach out to us through the DA interest Google form below.

[DA Interest Form Link... Click Here](#)

Players may be identified and scouted throughout the calendar year. Players coming from a partner club will be handled uniquely through processes developed with those clubs to be named at a later date. **Much of the CUP DA teams will have been selected by Friday, May 26th.** To be clear, we will have our non-DA CUP team tryouts at the same times as the other clubs in our market. **There will be some spots purposely held to be filled during the tryouts beginning Tuesday May 30th so there is the possibility that players may be added during this tryout time as well.** For your son to be given the best opportunity to be selected it is encouraged that you do not wait to connect with us. Evaluations are constant within CUP as well as outside. If you have an interest in coming into our training environment or to be scouted it is vital that you fill out the DA Interest form so that we can be alerted to your son's desire to play within the DA programming.

*** Specific details as they relate to tryouts are subject to change but we feel that as of now this will be the best format to protect the integrity of the tryout process for boys of all levels at all clubs. This document as well as website updates will happen as we gather more information. There are no rules specifically that relate to the DA selection processes.*

My son is not a part of CUP, what can we do to signal our interest?

Please fill out the form with the link included here. Once our partner clubs have been announced (Date TBD) we will reach out to you directly around that time if you are not a part of our club network and find a time that works for your family to have your son evaluated prior to the ID sessions. All boys asked to join our CUP DA programming will be required to finish their current club's State Cup or President's Cup runs prior to joining CUP full-time.



What is a Partner Club?

A Partner Club is a club in the Cincinnati, Dayton, SE Indiana, and Kentucky market areas that aspires to do what is in the best interest of their top players. Within these relationships, the club will recommend players and families that fit our profile of an Academy player and an Academy family. From these recommendations, we will find a window of time that is mutually beneficial to both CUP Boys DA and the partner club for the player to be evaluated and potentially join the Academy program either immediately or most commonly for the beginning of the next season. We will conduct all conversations through the Director of the partner club first prior to reaching out to any prospective players. We are continually working on building relationships with this function in mind. We look to announce our partners when the time is appropriate and expect every in-market club possible to have every opportunity of partnering with us. We do understand that each club must function in the way that they feel is best for them and that is their right and their choice.

What if my son is not a part of a Partner Club?

If your son's club is not an official Partner Club, then it is important that you reach out to Scott Bower and Chris O'Neal as soon as possible to initiate your interest in the DA programming. There are not the same rules and obstacles to speaking to players outside of CUP that are a part of the normal leagues that we are all accustomed to. We can speak at any time or your son can tryout or train at any moment of the season. Please fill out the interest form and we will contact you once we have announced the partner clubs publicly. Until then, you may not hear from us out of respect to your club but we will have your information for when it is appropriate to reach out to you.

Pre-DA selection process occurs with the DA trials?

Pre-DA teams will be selected at the same tryout period as the other CUP teams. Most likely to be the week prior to or the week post to Memorial Day Weekend depending on your son's specific age group. This will be updated on all sites and social media once details are finalized.



Please remember that most of the DA Trials process will be based upon ‘partner club’ recommendations and scouting vs the trial process that you are so accustomed to. Current CU & CUP players are of course evaluated daily. For player’s currently outside of CUP programming specifically it’s vital that you reach out to us first (email and/or DA interest Google form) to signal your interest so that we can notify you if the DA program is the right fit for your son at that time.

Who will the coaches be within the DA?

Scott Bower and Chris O’Neal will be a part of the Head Coaching staff. Other highly qualified coaches will be working with the teams and will be named at the appropriate time. Additionally, we are interviewing potential added staff coaches as well for the DA and as always for CUP staff.

Will other age groups be added to the program?

Plans to add U15 or any other older age groups have not been determined at this moment. Any age group adds to the program would take place after the 2017/18 season.

What will the program’s training and game schedule look like?

All U12-U14 DA teams can expect to train a *minimum* of 3 days per week with adequate rest days built into each week for all players. Each age group should plan on 4 to 5 days per week dedicated to DA soccer programming in the core competitive season months. Expect 2 to 3 days per week during futsal season and an off season where there is no DA training or games. Actual competitive season lengths (fall & spring) may vary slightly by each age group. Teams will play approximately 1 game per week over 24-32 weekends throughout the season. This is in addition to 2 possible regional events, one being for futsal. The U14s will have a National Event in June. There are some plans for an International trip (Argentina ’17) as well as adding



1 Regional/National event that is approved by US Soccer for all DA teams. We do expect the U14s to continue with the Elite PUMA SuperGroup event @ Disney in November with BVB and Arsenal Academy teams.

US Soccer is advocating that we improve our country's games to training ratios. This is to improve the developmental environment by playing more meaningful 'higher level' games. For the best possible physical environment, especially for the youngest players it is vital that their bodies have a time to recover from training and games so more emphasis is put on the recovery moments as well as managing the loads 'intensity of training' that the boys are being put through based on the periodization cycles.

Can players on DA teams participate in other soccer related programs, such as ODP?

Players on DA teams do not play in other outside soccer specific competition, including ODP, iD2, and State Cup events. This allows the Academy environment to stay in line with the development philosophy of US Soccer - specifically related to training, more meaningful games, and adequate rest for players. This is mandated by US Soccer, not by CUP nor its Directors. The mandates listed above affect only those players on the DA teams specifically.

Pre-DA and other CUP teams will continue as before in their programming in State Cup and US Club Regionals, and ODP for example.

Can players on DA teams play other sports? Yes, is the answer

Playing for a DA team comes with an expected higher level of priority and commitment to the program, including training and game attendance. For those who want to play another sport, families must take on additional responsibilities to help ensure DA players still attend all DA training sessions, matches, and showcases. Meaning, a larger emphasis on working around the soccer training/game schedule. The typical winter months for basketball, the most popular additional sport, is during a time where the training schedule during the week will be reduced to 2 times per week or less with futsal on Saturdays being the most likely. The DA



Staff will work to provide information on training schedules as soon as possible to help families for planning purposes. We are confident that we will be able to provide this with plenty of time to set up other activities around the soccer schedule. All attendance is required to be tracked and turned in to US Soccer as part of the club's evaluation process.

In conclusion, **yes**, the players will be encouraged to play other sports. **Prior** to accepting a spot on the team, it would be best to have a specific discussion with the Director and family on a game plan as to how it would work as to when the other sports occur and where the conflicts would arise. At that time, we can decide together as to whether this is the correct program for your son. Each sport and specific scenario can be unique so it is difficult to lay out the parameters that will fit every case.

Can my son play High School or Middle School Soccer?

The ages and teams that CUP Boys DA will have participating in the Development Academy will allow for players to compete for their high school teams if they choose to do so later in their careers just as the case is today for our CUP Gold players at U16 and above. Middle school soccer will not be allowed for any DA full-time players unless your son is on a significant soccer specific financial scholarship for his private school. If this is the case the player will only be allowed to play for the school team during their season and then once they have completed their games then at that time, he can return to the DA team. Again, this is US Soccer policy not CUP nor its Directors.

What happens after my son 'graduates' out of Development Academy ages?

Participation in the Development Academy will provide exposure and opportunities to various non-MLS DA clubs and MLS Clubs through League matches, Showcases, potential National Team Camps. As a result, players may be offered full time positions at partner DA clubs in the older age groups. They may still have the option of living at home and commuting to the Columbus (Crew) or Indianapolis (Indy Fire). Alternatively, the player may choose from other residency options that may arise from around the country.



If the player wants to stay in the Development Academy environment and they are ready to continue to compete at the highest levels within the Academy, both the Academy Director (Bower) and Academy DOC (O'Neal) will work with the family to find the right fit for that player. Additionally, there are pathways already in place for our older CUP players to be scouted by various DA clubs for those few boys that have the commitment level, soccer ability, and true desire to continue that path. Driving 4hrs round trip or living in a residency program may only be the right fit for 1 or 2 or less players in a typical year. The actual numbers will be player driven on a yearly basis. For the remaining top players choosing to stay at CUP, our current development model has been proven to work for the top Cincinnati player. 6 players in the MLS Draft and multiple Div. I and Div. II commitments shows that we have figured out a realistic pathway for a player to live at home, play for CUP and reach his dreams.

What if High School Soccer is not an option for my son?

At CUP, it is our goal to provide opportunities for all players whenever possible. There is always the possibility of having specific programming geared towards a group of players when, for whatever reason, their current HS options are not a good fit for them. We have done this each year and will continue to develop the programming on a yearly basis driven by the number of players and the level of players that choose to not play HS soccer. This fall training program is completely player driven as **we as a club 100 percent endorse HS soccer** for those players at the Gold teams U16 and older ages regardless of all the rumors that are out there. This is the right pathway now for many of the current Cincinnati HS Soccer players. If there is a need or desire from our current players to have a different program within in CUP, we feel it is our responsibility to provide the best program possible for that particular group of players.

What is the cost to play on a DA team?

Costs have not been finalized at this current time. We do expect the cost per player to be comparable to what current CUP Gold players pay now or potentially even less over the





duration of the season due to potential DA specific sponsorships. An International trip would be an exception to this and would also likely be *optional* for each DA player.

What happens with the PUMA balls that we currently use now that we receive Nike balls at no cost to the club?

We are very excited to continue our current relationship with PUMA. There will be some differences seen within the CUP program that are TBA. One obvious change will be the soccer balls that you will see within the DA teams only. Nike is a major sponsor of US Soccer and subsequently the USSDA 'DA' league. One of their contributions is that each DA club is provided with Professional level balls for all training and all matches. They will be identical to what you see in the Premier League, although maybe slightly different color schemes. Because these balls are provided to us it is mandatory that we use only this ball. *The size 4 ball for the U12 age group will be a different model to the size 5.* The PUMA balls that our current CUP families have may still be used in their own individual training moments. As of this year Nike did not contribute Futsal balls. We are working on a way to make that purchase as cost effective as possible or free futsal balls may be an option as well.

What if my son does not make a DA team or we feel a DA team is the not the best fit? Will there still be CUP teams in the U11-U14 age groups?

Yes, there will still be CUP opportunities for players who do not play in the Academy. We fully expect that the depth of our player pools will allow us to continue as normal with the CUP teams in DA age groups beyond DA/Pre-DA/Non-Pre-DA CUP in the U12-U14 age groups, meaning there will be CUP programming for players not involved in DA or Pre-DA for ****U11-U19.**

In addition to CUP, the Club will continue to field teams within the other silos – CU Lakota/Monroe, CU Sycamore/Mason, and CU Southeast.

***actual age groups and number of teams may vary year to year based on player pools*



Will players have to go through both DA and CUP or CU tryouts?

Players that are selected to a DA team as a full-time player will be expected to not attend any other trials including CUP, CU, or any other clubs without written permission from a CUP DA director. Players who attend any DA combine opportunities and are not allocated to a DA team will also need to attend tryouts for CUP and/or CU to be considered for Pre-DA teams. More information will be released regarding the tryout process for all groups at a later date.

If you are interested in receiving information regarding upcoming DA events, please be sure to visit the Club website at www.cincinnatiunitedsoccer.com and follow the link to the Boys Development Academy page or click link below to be added to the DA mailing list.