

NEWS RELEASE



COLORADO RUSH ACCEPTED INTO U.S. SOCCER DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

U.S. Soccer's Development Academy Now at 31 Clubs with More to Come;

*New Development Academy Will Provide Improved Soccer Environment
for Thousands of Elite Players, Coaches & Referees from Coast-to-Coast*

Littleton, CO (July 3, 2007) – U.S. Soccer has accepted Colorado Rush into the U.S. Soccer Development Academy, bringing the total number of admissions to 31 youth clubs from across the country. With the launch of the new Development Academy, the U.S. Soccer Federation has taken the initiative in extending its National Team program and putting an emphasis on the development of the player by improving their daily environment.

“After reviewing the Rush’s application, we felt they fulfilled the qualifications of the U.S. Soccer Development Academy and were a good addition to the program,” said U.S. Soccer’s U-17 Men’s National Team Coach John Hackworth. “We have every expectation that Rush’s participation in the Academy will only increase their past successes of developing elite youth players.”

The Development Academy concept is designed to shift the focus of the young elite player from an ‘overburdened, game emphasis’ model to a ‘meaningful training and competition’ model. The concept was unveiled by U.S. Soccer on June 4 and the response has been unprecedented.

- **Player Development Academy Information**

... **link above to:** http://www.ussoccer.com/articles/viewArticle.jsp_557057.html

“The inclusion of Colorado Rush only adds to the encouraging start of this new program,” said U.S. Soccer’s Director of Coaching Education Bob Jenkins. “The key component to the Development Academy is a focus from the clubs on doing what it takes to get their coaches and players focused on long term player development and we felt Rush will provide the right training environment to make this happen.”

Applications continue to come in and are under review with more decisions due in the coming weeks. Created to provide players with the best possible opportunity and environment to develop, the U.S. Soccer Development Academy is being initiated after a comprehensive review of player development systems in the United States and around the world.

“After completing an extensive review and discussion across the country, we feel that it is the right time for U.S. Soccer to lead a change in the sport at the youth level,” said U.S. Soccer President Sunil Gulati. “We need to shift the focus of our young elite players from an ‘overburdened, game emphasis’ model to a ‘meaningful training and competition’ model. This will ultimately lead to more success and will allow players to develop to their full potential.”

U.S. SOCCER DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY – STRUCTURE

Objective:	The focus of the Academy is on player development and providing players with the best possible opportunity to develop to the highest level they are capable of achieving
Standards:	A minimum requirement of three training sessions and one rest day per week
Teams:	The top youth soccer clubs in the U.S.
Selection:	U.S. Soccer coaches will select qualified applicants on a rolling basis until Aug. 1
Age Groups:	U-16 & U-18 teams (minimum roster of 22 players); providing opportunities for more than 2,000 players
Competition Format:	Divided into conferences with each team playing between 30 and 38 home and away matches during an eight-month season. Each conference will be comprised of approximately 15-20 teams based on geographic proximity. The winner of each conference will play in the Academy Finals at The Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif.
Teams:	Below is a complete list of the Development Academy’s 31 current clubs representing 16 states and the District of Columbia.

California

- De Anza Force Soccer Club
- Mustang FC
- Nomads Soccer Club

Colorado

- Colorado Rush
- Real Colorado

Connecticut

- Oakwood Soccer Club

District of Columbia

- DC United

Florida

- Clearwater Chargers Soccer Club
- IMG Soccer Academy
- Kendall Soccer Coalition

Georgia

- Atlanta Fire United Soccer Association

Illinois

- Chicago Fire Soccer Player Development Academy
- Chicago Magic Soccer Club
- Chicago Sockers

Maryland

- Potomac Soccer

Massachusetts

- FC Greater Boston Bolts

Michigan

- Michigan Wolves
- Vardar

New Hampshire

- Seacoast United

New Jersey

- Players Development Academy
- New York Red Bulls

New York

- B/W Gottschee
- FC Westchester

North Carolina

- CASL – Capitol Area Soccer League
- Greensboro Youth Soccer Club

Pennsylvania

- FC DELCO

Virginia

- Richmond Kickers Soccer Club
- Richmond Strikers
- VA Rush Soccer Club

Washington

- Crossfire Premier Soccer Club
- Washington Premier FC

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