



DEVELOPING CHAMPIONS FOR LIFE!



**DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY
MEMBER**

Loudoun Soccer Development Academy

Letter of Commitment

2018-2019



Loudoun Soccer Development Academy Commitment Letter 2018-2019

Congratulations! Loudoun Soccer is very excited to welcome you as a player and a family to the Development Academy program for the 2018-2019 seasonal year. We look forward to a great year of your personal development and growth as a player both on and off the field. Please find below a brief overview of the program's plans for, and expectations of, players and families; providing they are acceptable to you, please sign and return the final page to program administration.

Player and Parent Commitment Expectations:

1. Commitment to the Loudoun Soccer Development Academy Program: Recognizing that the U.S. Soccer Development Academy is a world class youth league, requiring commitment and dedication, the Loudoun Soccer Development Academy has an expectation that any player accepting a spot on the team will make soccer his or her priority for the duration of the Development Academy season. Therefore, all other sports would be prioritized by players as secondary to soccer training sessions, games and showcases. As well, **players may not participate with any other soccer team's training, tryouts, ID Sessions, or in competitions without the prior approval of written consent by the Loudoun Soccer Development Academy Director.**
2. Commitment to the Development Academy Schedule: By agreeing to accept an offer to play on the Development Academy team, a player is promising to make his or her best efforts to participate in every event the team schedules. The Development Academy season runs 10 months, training three to four times a week and playing one to two games on the weekend during spring and fall, and then running additional futsal and other skill-building and competitive activities across winter. Depending on the age group and team standings, there may also be travel to festival or showcase events. The number of practices and games, and the associated attendance requirement, necessitates a high level of dedication on the part of all team players and their parents. Our belief—and experience—is that, with this degree of commitment, players have their best chance at achieving highest levels of team performance and individual growth. [US Soccer guarantees each player must start a minimum 25% of regular season games.](#)
3. Commitment to Loudoun Soccer's Vision, Mission and Values: Loudoun Soccer is dedicated to "Building Champions for Life". Our Mission statement "To create soccer players, coaches and teams of strong character, committed to achievement on the field and within the community" sets the foundation for our expectation that Development Academy staff will focus on player development both on and off the field. Further, all players will be expected to understand our core values:
 - Stewardship – of the Game and the Community
 - Teamwork – Stronger Together
 - Integrity – Character and Principled
 - Fairness – Sportsmanship and Inclusiveness
 - Fun! – Its why we play

As part of the teamwork and stewardship values, ALL Development Academy players and families are expected to "give back" by volunteering for Loudoun Soccer events or fundraisers. The players and team families will be asked to select at least one event each year as volunteers to help run the event. Club events include the Loudoun U12 DA Festival, the Loudoun College Showcase tournament and volunteering for our TOPS program. All families are expected to participate; the volunteer requirement

will usually be in the range of 2-4 hours per player each year (but may be more if the team decides to assist at additional events).

- 4. College Showcase Volunteer Commitment: Any Loudoun Soccer Travel Team that is accepted into the Loudoun Soccer College Showcase accepts additional volunteer requirements as a requirement of tournament acceptance – each player family on the team is required to donate a minimum of four (4) volunteer hours towards the tournament (preparation, set up, event management, clean up). The 4 hour hours may be worked by either parent, a grandparent or other adult family member. Loudoun Soccer reserves the right to charge any team that does not live up to this commitment additional fees to cover the hiring of temporary help to work the tournament. Loudoun Soccer is a nonprofit and a few events make up our fundraising efforts; the College Showcase Tournament and the Gala/Casino Night being the primary of these. Thank you to all for understanding and volunteering.**

Development Academy Program Fees Policy:

In addition to players' and parents' commitment in spirit and deed, the Development Academy program also requires certain funding support. In particular, parents should anticipate support in the form of two program fees:

- 1. Club Registration Fees:** Covers player participation in the Development Academy program for the entirety of the 2018-19 season. Should players decide to leave the program for any reason, parents are still responsible for any fees owed to the club to cover expenses for the full year. Please refer to the Loudoun Soccer Development Academy Financial Policy for explanation of exceptions.
- 2. US Soccer Required Administrative Fees:** Individual teams have supplemental financial needs as well including Referees (U12), Bonzi, Athletic Trainers, Videographers, Functional Movement Screening, etc. The Development Academy Program Administrator and Finance Manager will work together to build a modest budget for addressing team needs, and will communicate with parents soon after Club Registration Fees are paid in the fall season, and similarly early in the spring. There are no refunds of team fees for players who leave the club.
- 3. Winter Training/Futsal:** Additionally, teams will incur winter training and Futsal League costs. The Program Administrator and Finance Manager will work together to communicate to parents the fee schedule and cost once the area Futsal Leagues release their information.

2018-2019 Statement of PLAYER Commitment

As a Development Academy player for Loudoun Soccer I agree to:

- Make soccer my number-one priority sport for the full season (including, specifically, not participating in middle- or high school soccer, U.S. Youth Soccer National Championship Series, the U.S. Youth Soccer Olympic Development Academy, or any other team, club or event without the express approval of Loudoun Soccer Development Academy Director)
- Always be on time and attend all training sessions
 - 3-4 training sessions per week for 2007/08s (U12)
 - 4 training sessions per week for 2006s (U13), 2005s (U14), and 2004s (U15)
- Always be on time and attend all league games and team events.
- Notify my coach in a timely manner if I will be tardy or unable to make a practice, game or event
- Attend all team league games (including school break weekends in necessary), all Regional and National showcases and festivals (recognizing they may occur on holiday weekends). Be personally responsible for staying up-to-date on Loudoun Soccer Club and team scheduled activities and updates via TeamSnap and team emails.
- Listen to my coach and communicate directly if I have questions
- Accept my coach's tactical decisions (player positioning, play time, etc.) without complaint or debate

- Focus and work hard during all team events
- Take ownership to be my personal best by practicing soccer skills and conditioning on my own
- Respect and support my teammates at all times, on and off the field
- Abide by the player code of conduct for my club, U.S. Soccer and/or any tournaments or events
- Review and understand the Loudoun Soccer Mission and Values statements
- Never using team practices or events as an excuse for being behind in academic or family obligations
- Participate in annual team fundraiser
- Behave always in a way that honors and demonstrates pride in being a member of a Loudoun Soccer Development Academy team

2018-19 Statement of Parent Commitment

As parent of a Development Academy player, I agree to:

- Abide by the Loudoun Soccer Parent Code of Conduct at all times
- Give my child and his or teammates my support in a positive manner, avoiding criticism and negativity
- Nurture independence in my child and provide them ownership of their actions by:
 - Having them pack their own bag and equipment and maintain their gear in good condition;
 - Having them communicate directly with the coach regarding issues, concerns and conflicts (as appropriate);
 - Allowing them to participate in practice and games without my active presence, pressure and instruction
- Ensure that my child fulfills all required academic responsibilities and understands that soccer is not an excuse for not performing expected academic responsibilities; and, in doing so, also help my child to manage time between school and sports wisely
- Ensure that my child and his or her team mates act in a way that honors both players' families and Loudoun Soccer, specifically refraining from bullying and the use of foul language, alcohol, drugs, nicotine and banned supplements damaging to one's condition as an athlete
- Provide transportation to and from all practices, games and tournaments, ensuring players are safe and prompt not only in arriving, but also departing
- Treat all club members, opponents, officials and coaches with courtesy, respect and good sportsmanship
- Never bring disagreements and criticism with the coach, officials, parents, opponents or club directors into a public place, instead channeling all input and questions directly to the coach and/or Development Academy Director constructively and respectfully, making sure players are not present and observing the "24" rule (wait 24 hours to cool off!)
- Discuss all issues and concerns first with the coach and then, if dissatisfied, bring to the attention of the Development Academy Director
- Communicate scheduling conflicts to team officials and attempt to determine potential conflicts (Homecoming, band concerts, etc.) in a prompt fashion
- Honor all financial commitments associated with being a member of Loudoun Soccer and pay as scheduled, in doing so adhering to the Loudoun Soccer Development Academy Financial Policy
- Inform my coach and/or Development Academy Director of my child's tryout plans for next year prior to those tryouts, in order to facilitate a dialogue of questions, concerns and information about available options
- Remain with Loudoun Soccer, and not transferring to another club, during the season unless extenuating circumstances (ex: relocation), which must be documented, exist
- Notify my coach and Development Academy Director if a member of another soccer organization—whether coach, club official, player or parent—approaches me, my child or another club family for purpose of recruitment
- Have a healthy perspective on youth sports, and help reinforce the lessons learned from losses and difficult and challenging circumstances
- Represent Loudoun Soccer with values, principles and ethics of the highest standards, both on and off the field

2018-2019 Loudoun Development Academy – Final Considerations

Loudoun Soccer and the Development Academy program must reserve the right to make player participation decisions on short notice due to certain opportunities and circumstances – player development, player distribution, and player (or parent) behavior considerations. As a result, we draw your attention to the following guidelines; please initial each on behalf of yourself and your player.

- ___ Loudoun Soccer reserves the right to rescind any offer and/or terminate any player from the Loudoun Soccer Development Academy program at any time during the year. This includes previous to the start of the development academy season.
- ___ All Full-time DA players are subject to being moved to any team in the Loudoun Soccer development pathway at any time of the year. This includes pre-season, in-season, and offseason.
- ___ Poor attendance and/or poor communication between parents and Loudoun Soccer can result in immediate termination from the Loudoun Soccer Development Academy.
- ___ Multi-sport athletes will not be given an additional allotment of excused absences. All players will be held to the same attendance standards.
- ___ Coaches may choose to 'not roster' any full-time (FT) DA player, with goal of rostering a Development Player (DP) due to injury, absence, performance, and/or misconduct.
- ___ Parent behavior and/or misconduct are grounds for a player to be terminated from the Loudoun Soccer Development Academy.



Loudoun Soccer Development Academy Commitment Letter 2018-2019

I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understand the Loudoun Soccer Development Academy commitment requirements, the Loudoun Soccer Development Academy Financial Policy, the Player Commitment, and the Parent Code of Conduct.

Player Name (Print)

Player Signature

Date

Parent Name (Print)

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Name (Print)

Parent Signature

Date