



LOUISVILLE CITY FC & RACING LOUISVILLE FC

# ACADEMY PLAYER PACKET



# CONTENTS



Our Club, Our Culture	PG. 3
Pro Facility	PG. 5
Player Pathway	PG. 10
Academy Juniors	PG. 12
The Academy	PG. 14



OUR CLUB OUR CULTURE



# THE PITCH MODEL:



## WE BELIEVE IN **PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

I own my behavior, my results and my development and accept constructive feedback on all. I hold myself – and others – to the same high standard.



## WE BELIEVE IN **INTEGRITY**

Intellectually Engaged – I am continuous learner of the game, of being a good teammate and athlete. I seek out new approaches and help others do the same.



## WE BELIEVE IN **TRUST**

My behavior is predictable. I act in others' best interest. I anticipate the same good intentions from others.



## WE BELIEVE IN **COMMITMENT**

I will do whatever I can to help the club succeed and to support others to do the same, regardless of role.



## WE BELIEVE IN **HUMILITY**

My actions demonstrate appreciation for every role in the club, as well as those that contribute to my participation. I am an ambassador to the community.

## **MISSION**

We provide a clear pathway to professional, collegiate and national teams by maximizing individual potential through best practices, proven process and an aligned culture.

## **VISION**

To develop more professional, collegiate and national team players than any academy in the United States.





 **PRO FACILITY** 





# TRAIN WHERE THE PROS TRAIN

## *WORLD CLASS TRAINING FACILITY*

- ★ \$15 million facility with four turf fields (locker rooms, video rooms, and meeting rooms)
- ★ Train ALL YEAR!
- ★ Minutes from Downtown
- ★ 3 Grass Professional Team Fields
- ★ Full-Service Concession Stand with covered patio







ACADEMY

 **FULLTIME DIRECTORS** 



# ACADEMY STAFF



## Full-Time Directors



**JAMES  
O'CONNOR**

EXECUTIVE VP OF DEVELOPMENT

Prior to coaching Louisville City and Orlando City, the Dublin, Ireland, native played for the Irish Under-21s while beginning his career with Stoke City from 1996-2003. He was part of West Bromwich Albion from 2003-2005, and finally becoming part of Burnley's club from 2005-2008.



**MARIO  
SANCHEZ**

ACADEMY DIRECTOR

A USSF 'A' license coach with 21 years of NCAA Div. I coaching experience. This California native played collegiately at Fresno State and assistant at his alma mater from 1999-2003, Sanchez moved to Akron for three seasons before becoming the head coach at UNLV. An assistant at the University of Louisville from 2010-15, Sanchez was a part of UofL's most-successful seasons before he became the head coach at SIUE in 2015.



**KRISTEN  
WALLACE**

ACADEMY EXEC. DIRECTOR

Working with Mockingbird Valley SC and Kentucky Fire Juniors since 2007 when Louisville City FC founder Wayne Estopinal purchased the club, Wallace has worked full-time in youth soccer since 2011. Wallace helped launch the Louisville Lightning PASL team in 2009 and helped the fledgling Louisville City FC launch before it had full-time staff.



**SIMON  
BIRD**

LOUCITY ACADEMY DIRECTOR

The Lincoln, England, native was a star at the U of L from 2001-04 and had a six-year professional career in England before returning as a U of L Assistant Coach from 2009-12.

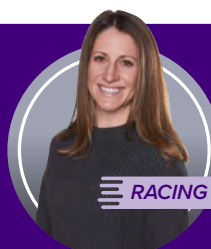
A fixture on the local soccer scene, Bird has worked as Oldham Soccer Club's Director of Coaching and KFJ Boys Director. Bird holds an A License from the U.S. Soccer Federation and is a Qualified Teacher for High School Physical Education and Sports Science.



**TIM  
NOWAK**

RACING LOUISVILLE ACADEMY DIRECTOR

With over 20 years of coaching youth collegiate soccer, this St. Louis native and Western Illinois University alum arrived in Louisville in 2001 as an assistant women's soccer coach at the U of L. Since 2010 he has been part of the girls' youth program at KFJ and Mockingbird where he has been influential in helping to grow the game for local young women in the Louisville area. Nowak holds a USSF C License and a USCA Advanced National Diploma.



**KINCAID  
SCHMIDT**

RACING LOUISVILLE ACADEMY DIRECTOR

The Florida native came up through the IMG Academy program and competed collegiately at Division II Flagler College in her home state. After graduating she coached for qq years in Florida before her move to Colorado. With the Rapids, Schmidt concentrated on the jr. academy before taking a leadership role overseeing ages 5-10 player development. Schmidt holds a National A License, National Youth License and Grassroots Instructor License.





# ACADEMY STAFF



## Full-Time Directors



**CRAIG JONES**

ACADEMY DIR. OF SOCCER OPERATIONS

A successful head coach at Hanover College and a assistant coach at Bellarmine University, Jones has been coaching for two decades. A native of Washington where he played for Western Washington University. Jones has more than a decade of experience coaching at the youth level with United 1996 and KFJ. He holds a USSF A License and a National Youth Coaching License.



**LUKE SPENCER**

ASST. BOYS DIR. & COLLEGE RECRUITMENT

The star of Louisville City's 2018 USL Championship Final win, Spencer is a Louisville City legend. Born in Augsburg, Germany, Spencer played prep and collegiate soccer in the Cincinnati area at Xavier from 2009-12 before being drafted by the New England Revolution of MLS and then playing with FC Cincinnati.



**THABANE SUTU**

ACADEMY GOALKEEPING DIRECTOR

The Maseru, Lesotho native, has coached goalkeepers at the top levels of American Soccer with Orlando City of MLS and Louisville City FC of the USL Championship. Sutu, who played professionally in Lesotho with Arsenal and in Egypt with the club Al Ahly, has been coaching top-level goalkeepers in the Louisville area for nearly two decades first.





# PLAYER PATHWAY TO THE PROS





# PLAYING METHODOLOGY



## LOUISVILLE CITY FOOTBALL CLUB™

### FIRST TEAM

is for the professional player. The fabric of the club is built on this player being humble and hungry with a championship mentality. It's all about the stars on top of the crest!



### USL ACADEMY LEAGUE

provides a clear youth-to-professional path in each of the communities where USL clubs reside, creating more opportunities than ever for young Americans to pursue professional soccer.



### ★ ECNL SUPER CUP ★

is an additive program for U15-U18/19 players to supplement the training and competition provided in ECNL Club Competition, and to create a "First Team" culture and pathway to the next level of development.



AGES U23

AGES 14-18

AGES 7-18

### ELITE TRAINING INITIATIVE

To be your best, you need to be put into competitive environments. That is why LouCity developed the ETI Program. This allows 14-18 year old players selected to experience a professional level of training & coaching while continuing to play for their age group.

## BOYS ACADEMY

### THE MISSION

We provide a clear pathway to professional, collegiate and national teams by maximizing the individual's potential through best practices, and a proven process which is aligned with the culture of the entire club.

### THE VISION

To develop more professional, collegiate and national team players than any other academy in the nation.



## RACING LOUISVILLE FOOTBALL CLUB™

### FIRST TEAM

is for the professional player. The fabric of the club is built on this player being humble and hungry with a championship mentality. It's all about the stars on top of the crest!



### ★ ECNL SUPER CUP ★

is an additive program for U15-U18/19 players to supplement the training and competition provided in ECNL Club Competition, and to create a "First Team" culture and pathway to the next level of development.



AGES 14-18

AGES 7-18

### ELITE TRAINING INITIATIVE

To be your best, you need to be put into competitive environments. That is why Racing Louisville F.C. developed the ETI Program. This allows 14-18 year old players selected to experience a professional level of training & coaching while continuing to play for their age group.

## GIRLS ACADEMY

### THE MISSION

We provide a clear pathway to professional, collegiate and national teams by maximizing the individual's potential through best practices, and a proven process which is aligned with the culture of the entire club.

### THE VISION

To develop more professional, collegiate and national team players than any other academy in the nation.



## DEVELOPMENT CENTER



Build your technical skills in our Academy Development Centers! These sessions are designed to build a strong technical foundation in young players as well as promote quick decision-making through the use of small-sided games. Our professional staff will model various individual skills and techniques used to beat opponents in 1v1 and 2v1 situations, then encourage players to try these skills in 1v1, 2v2 and 3v3 games. This program is great for players looking to develop the skills necessary to be successful in our Academy.

AGES 7-10

AGES 7-10

AGES 5-6

AGES 5-6



## ACADEMY Kids

SOCCER DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE



Professional coaches use fun and imaginative games to teach children ages 4-5 the basics of athletic movement, soccer skills and peer socialization. Sessions include 20-30 minutes of fundamentals and 20-30 minutes of small-sided game play. While all sessions will be led by a paid coach, we invite interested parents to volunteer to assist the professional coach in these sessions as well!

• Six Weeks • 50 minutes session • 20 minute Skill Development  
• 30 Minute Game





**ACADEMY JRs★**  
SOCCER DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE



**PLAYER PROGRAM**



# ACADEMY<sup>★</sup>Kids



AGES 5-6

Our youngest fans can now join us for weekly programming at our new training grounds! Player Ages 5-6 are invited to learn the fundamentals of soccer in our new Spring Academy Juniors series. Our professional coaches will use fun and imaginative games to teach children the basics of athletic movement, soccer skills and peer socialization. Sessions include 20-30 minutes of fundamentals and 20-30 minutes of small-sided game play. While all sessions will be led by a paid coach, we invite interested parents to volunteer to assist the professional coach in these sessions as well!

## DEVELOPMENT CENTER

AGES 7-10

Build your technical skills in our Academy Development Centers! These sessions are designed to build a strong technical foundation in young players 7-10 as well as promote quick decision-making through the use of small-sided games. Our professional staff will model various individual skills and techniques used to beat opponents in 1v1 and 2v1 situations, then encourage players to try these skills in 1v1, 2v2 and 3v3 games. This program is great for players looking to develop the skills necessary to be successful in our Academy.

ACADEMY JUNIORS SESSIONS OFFERED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!  
SPRING, SUMMER, FALL & WINTER!

[www.loucityracingacademy.com/juniors](http://www.loucityracingacademy.com/juniors)





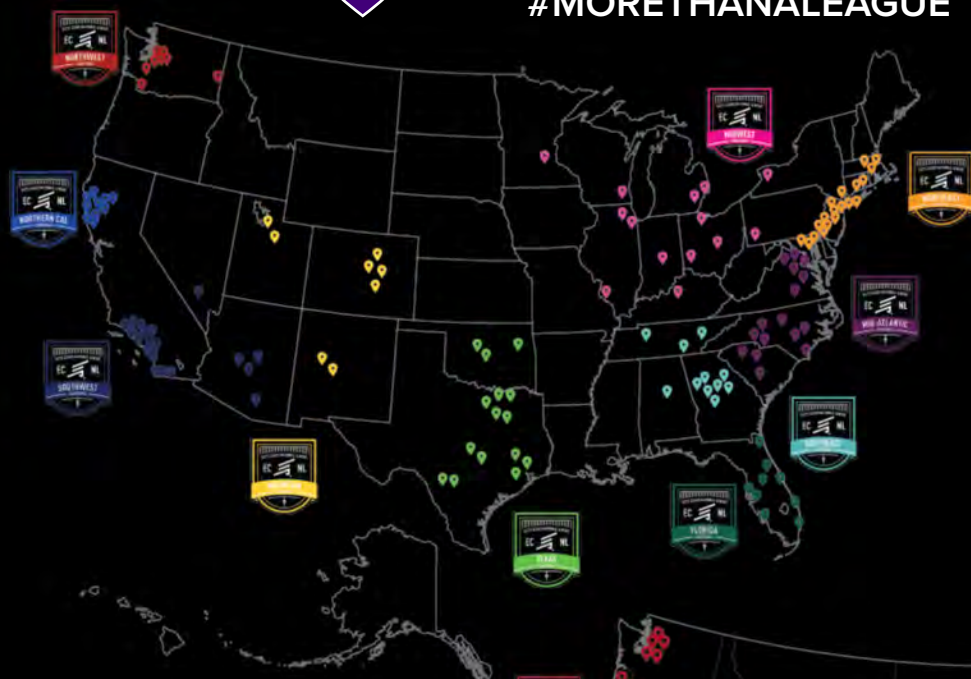
**THE ACADEMY**





# WHO WE PLAY

#MORETHANALEAGUE



**ECNL BOYS**  
[www.ecnlboys.com](http://www.ecnlboys.com)



**ECNL GIRLS**  
[www.ecnlgirls.com](http://www.ecnlgirls.com)



## THE LEAGUE

The season runs from late fall through the spring  
There is a national championship in the summer  
ECNL offers showcase events for all age groups  
U13/U14 national showcase event  
U15-U18/19 national showcase events  
The top league/showcases for college recruiting  
ECNL National Team Training Camp U16-U19  
(FREE for selected kids)

We anticipate that we will participate in the following:  
GLC U13-U18/19

Kentucky Premier League U11-U19

Kentucky Amateur Soccer League U8-U10

For the U8-U10 we will also participate in self-organized play dates against other clubs

## OTHER LEAGUES



GLC U13-U18/19  
KPL U11-U19

KASL U8-U10  
U8-U10 Affiliate Playdates







# PLAYING METHODOLOGY



## *Advantages of Playing in the Academy*

The LouCity and Racing Louisville Academy seeks to be an organization that is synonymous with empowering soccer players in all aspects of their development. This organization will pioneer the pathway for its members to be exposed to, as well as benefit from the professional game at unprecedented levels, all of which are unique to any other soccer organization in the region. This will include:

- ★ Training at the same facility as LouCity USL and Racing Louisville NWSL
- ★ A direct pathway to becoming a professional athlete
- ★ Access to a professional coaching staff throughout your youth development as well as college exposure and preparation that supersedes the current community standard
- ★ Cultivated programming that will unite other NWSL academy programs
- ★ Potential to earn a professional contract or USL Academy Contract
- ★ Participate in the USL League (06-02 age groups)

## *Professional Development Standards*

- ★ Coaching Qualifications – 8 “A” USSF licensed coaches throughout full-time staff and continued coaching education investment
- ★ Use of analytics through Veo and Playmaker technology
- ★ Individual Development Plans (IDP) for both Coaches and Players
- ★ Certified trainers at weekly trainings and games







# ACADEMY FAQ'S



## How Many Players Will be Selected For Each Team?

Age groups will practice at the same time location to give fluidity and collaboration between teams. This will allow us to continue to challenge each player developmentally as well as instilling the “club,” as opposed to “team” concept.

### U8-U9 GROUP

Three teams, 10-12 players per team

### U10-U12 GROUP

Three teams, 12-14 players per team

### U13-U18/19 GROUP

Two-Three teams, 16-20 players per team

## How Often Will We Train?

### U8-U9

Two times per week

### U11-U14

Three times per week

### U10

Three times per week

### U15-U18/19

Three-Four times per week

## Can Academy Players Play Other Sports?

Yes. We believe that participation in other youth sports is an important part of physical and social development for kids.

## Will My Player Be Able to Play High School Soccer?

Yes. We fully support all of our players who participate in high school soccer.

## How does the Academy Handle Trapped Players?

ECNL allows high school age participants who do not want to play high school soccer to participate in the fall trapped season.



# ACADEMY FAQ's

## CONTINUED



### College Preparation Program

FREE access to SportsRecruits (<https://sportsrecruits.com/clubs>) This is a leading college search system (NOT a recruiting service) that streamlines the search and communication process into one simple platform. College Recruiting Seminars led by experienced current and former NCAA DI, DII, DIII, NAIA coaches A coaching staff with collegiate head and assistant coaching experience -NCAA DI, DII, DII - Established relationships with college coaches across the country

### Costs

Player fees include all training, tournament, league and coaching travel/pay. The only fee outside of the player fee is your personal travel and uniform costs. **WE HAVE NO HIDDEN FEES!** Financial assistance will be available to make sure each child gets the opportunity to participate in the club.

**U8-U9**  
**\$1225**

**U10**  
**\$1600**

**U11-12**  
**\$1800**

**U13-U14**  
**\$1895**

**U15-19**  
**\$1845**

**U15-19**  
TRAPPED PLAYERS  
**\$2150**

### Uniform Costs

2 Game Jerseys, 2 Game Shorts, 2 Socks, 1 Training Jersey, 1 Training Short, 1 Training Pullover, 1 Training Pant, 2 Training Pinnies and 1 Backpack (backpack is not required for returning players)





# PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT



Acceptance of membership by LCFC Youth Academy (LCFC-A) is a privilege that carries certain responsibilities. As a LCFC-A player you are representing our club at all times. The following agreement is made between each player and LCFC-A.

LCFC-players are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at ALL times which respectfully represents the values of LCFC-A.

LCFC-A players shall refrain from using profanity and derogatory comments based on race, gender, sexual orientation, or religion at all times.

LCFC-A players will show respect toward teammates, clubmates, referees, opposing players, coaches and parents at all times.

LCFC-A players will not harass, abuse, or berate a match official for any reason at any time.

LCFC-A players should arrive on time and be prepared for all training sessions and games.

LCFC-A players shall not participate in physical violence on or off the field.

LCFC-A players are expected to attend all training sessions, games and team related functions.

LCFC-A players are expected to wear LCFC-A approved attire at all LCFC-A related activities.

LCFC-A players are expected to be respectful of the facilities LCFC-A uses, both at home and away.

Use or possession of any illegal substance including alcohol, drugs including but not limited to (Ecigarettes, Vapor products or E-liquid) or participation in illegal activity of any kind will not be tolerated. Note: It is your responsibility to prevent illicit situations from occurring and to avoid such situations that occur.

When traveling with a LCFC-A team, players are expected to follow all team rules established by the coach (this includes - but is not limited to - curfews, behavior in a hotel, behavior at a restaurant, etc.). LCFC-A players are expected to maintain the highest standard of conduct and good sportsmanship on and off the field.

LCFC-A players are encouraged to use good judgment when using any social media outlet.

Negative and derogatory comments will not be tolerated. This includes the posting of any inappropriate photographs and/or videos. Any use of negative or derogatory comments relating to LCFC-A in any form will not be tolerated and could result in removal from the club per the academy or executive director.

LCFC-A players are expected to honor all commitments to the team and club.

Failure to comply with the LCFC-A Player Code of Conduct Agreement may result in the player's suspension or expulsion from the club, as deemed appropriate by the Executive Director and Academy Director.



# PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT



As an organization committed to the coaching and enjoyment of youth soccer, Louisville City FC Academy (LCFC-A) seeks to promote the highest standards of courtesy, sportsmanship and positive behavior among its parents and families at all times.

LCFC-A will not tolerate behavior which brings the club, team, or game into disrepute. The Club believes that the attitude shown by parents toward the coaches, the referees, fellow parents, the opposing players are of paramount importance. Parents must remember at all times; they are role models.

As a proud LCFC-A Parent I will:

Support my child with positive encouragement at all times.

Respect and adhere to the ideals, policies, and rules determined by LCFC-A, and my child's team.

Maintain self-control at all times.

Respect the facilities, either home or away, in which my child is privileged to play.

Show respect for the decisions, judgment, and authority of the officials.

Show respect for the feelings and accept the capabilities of my child, my child's teammates, and players on the other team.

Exhibit a high degree of sportsmanship, teamwork and positive attitude at all times when representing my child, the team and the club.

Any coaching from the sidelines during training or games is strictly forbidden.

Respect the 24-hour rule when dealing with issues and or concerns I have that I can address with my son/daughter's team coach, program director or staff member.

Refrain from expressing my opinion of the coaches or players in front of my own child or in a public setting.

Refrain from using foul language towards other parents, coaches, officials or opponents.

Anyone threatening referees, any players or coaches will be banned from our club forfeiting all paid fees.

Any use of social media to express any negativity toward any individual associated with LCFC-A or the entire LCFC-A will result in a meeting with the academy director and executive director. The academy director and or executive director have the right to cancel said persons membership and forfeiting all paid fee's if necessary.

Refrain from demonstrating frustration or anger after a loss or poor performance.

Parents agrees to pay club fees in accordance with required schedules.

Accept defeat gracefully at all times.

I will not bring alcohol, drugs or firearms to any LCFC-A, training sessions, team or club functions/activities.

Failure to comply with the Parent Code of Conduct could result in removal from the team, our club, a field, sanctions, and/ or police involvement.





## ***Questions?***



Contact:

Mario Sanchez – Academy Director [msanchez@loucity.com](mailto:msanchez@loucity.com)

Simon Bird – Boys Director [sbird@loucity.com](mailto:sbird@loucity.com)

Tim Nowak – Girls Director [tnowak@loucity.com](mailto:tnowak@loucity.com)

Kincaid Schmidt – Jr. Academy Director [kschmidt@loucity.com](mailto:kschmidt@loucity.com)

***Visit our website:***

[www.loucityracingacademy.com](http://www.loucityracingacademy.com)

