



December 20, 2021

Independence Families,

I am writing everyone today to share some information about the recently announced Charlotte Independence W League team. Having just returned from the United Soccer League (USL) annual summit, I can't tell you how excited I am about the development of the W League and the fact that Charlotte Independence is an inaugural member of this league as the sole representative from the Charlotte area. Having been involved in youth soccer in the Charlotte area for 20 years, I personally see this as a huge step forward for girls' and women's sports in the area and the nation.

The W League is a USL pre-professional league that will feature 35 (and counting) teams from around the country. Our team will be highly competitive from day one, featuring top level collegiate and post-collegiate players as well as some very special pre-collegiate athletes. The season will run from May 1 through July 24, 2022. The level of professionalism, competition and attention to detail will go far beyond previous summer collegiate leagues and create a true pathway for players that will ultimately connect our youth players will future professional play.

The W League team will provide former Independence players an opportunity to continue their soccer growth and development and potential soccer career arc. It will also provide a great way for Independence Youth to watch high level soccer live and see what can be achieved in their own futures if they so desire. This a major development for our community.

I am also pleased to announce that Greg Ashton will assume the role of Interim General Manager for the Charlotte Independence W League team, and we will be holding open player combines on January 5, 2022 and January 12, 2022 for any player who is interested in being considered to play on the team this coming summer. These sessions will be held at Richard Barry Park, from 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM, and they are open to any current or former collegiate player as well as graduating seniors who are preparing to play collegiate soccer in the Fall of 2022 at no cost.

Athletes can use the QR code at the bottom to register at no cost for these combines. Athletes in need of more information should reach out directly to Greg Ashton (grega@independencesoccer.club).

Stay tuned for additional W League announcement from the club.

Chad Metzler
Charlotte Independence Chief Operating Officer

