

2019-20 Development Academy Teams Frequently Asked Questions

How are the Rapids Development Academy teams different?

The Rapids possesses the ultimate end product, the MLS professional team. Our Academy teams play in the highest level of youth soccer competition, US Soccer's Development Academy, as well as in MLS specific youth events. Deserving Academy players train with our professionals on a regular basis and participate in reserve games with the team. All training and games take place at Dick's Sporting Goods Park, where players have access to top facilities both on and off the field. Our staff has created an environment that we believe allows each player to reach his potential.

How many players are selected to the program?

For 2018-19 we will form a pool of approximately 118 players that will be assigned to the U12, U13, U14, U15, U17 and U19 Development Academy teams as full-time players. There is no minimum or maximum number of players that will be selected in each birth year.

What ages are eligible to be selected?

The age groups are defined by birth years. Players are eligible for the teams as follows:

- U19 - Born on or after January 1, 2001
- U17 – Born on or after January 1, 2003
- U15 – Born on or after January 1, 2005
- U14 – Born on or after January 1, 2006
- U13 – Born on or after January 1, 2007
- U12 – Born on or after January 1, 2008

Players should plan for tryouts by the **year they were born**, not the label on the age group.

How are players selected for the Rapids Academy teams?

Evaluating players for the teams is a year-long process. Our current players are evaluated and placed on a team appropriate to their development. We also scout league games, host local and regional evaluation sessions, watch high school games and bring players in to train with our current teams in search of the top players for our teams. The process will also include evaluations in conjunction with Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer Club tryouts. These tryouts will be held May 20-22 for players born in 2005 or younger and July 15-17 for players born 2001-2004. Initial rosters for our Development Academy teams will be set by the 1st of August.

When and where do the teams train?

Full-time training for the Development Academy will begin on August 5. Our teams train Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings at Dick's Sporting Goods Park. There will be training and/or games played on Saturdays and Sundays each week.

We have two artificial fields at DSG Park which serve as our winter training home; therefore, we train outside year-round with our U15, U17 and U19 teams. We will have a futsal segment for our U12-U14 teams.

What is the schedule like?

Development Academy players commit to an 11-month schedule. During that period players will train and compete exclusively in Development Academy, MLS and events involving the Colorado Rapids. The training segments will be as follows (subject to adjustment):

U15, U17 and U19 (Tentative)

Fall Segment August 5 – December 15

Winter Break December 16 - January 12

Spring/Summer Segment January 13 - July 12

These teams will compete in a conference with Sporting Kansas City, FC Dallas, the Houston Dynamo and other clubs from the Dallas, Houston and Austin areas. Each age group also will also have a showcase schedule plus one additional event that will involve international competition.

U12, U13 and U14 (Tentative)

Fall Segment August 5 – November 17

Futsal Segment November 18 - December 15

Winter Break December 16 - January 12

Futsal Segment January 13 - February 9

Spring/Summer Segment February 10- June 14

The U12-U14 teams will compete in a regionally based league that will consist of 24 games. In addition, the groups will participate in MLS, Development Academy, and international events as available

*****Please note that per US Soccer Development Academy rules, full-time players may not participate in high school/middle school soccer or other outside soccer activities during the season.**

What costs are associated with the program?

Players do not pay to participate in the Colorado Rapids Development Academy. All coaching, facilities, registration, travel, meals and most equipment is provided for the players who participate in the Rapids Development Academy. Players must provide their own transportation to practice. Players are expected to purchase a season ticket at a discounted rate (TBD).

Do you help with the college search process?

While the mission of our Academy is to produce players for our first team the majority of our players will go on to play college soccer at a school and a level that suits their academic and athletic talents as part of their development pathway.

We feel it is important to start the college search process early and with all the information you need to find the right college fit. The Sport Source provides educational sessions for our players beginning with the U15 teams. These sessions are age group/grade level specific and are made available to all of our high school age groups. In addition, our staff is in constant communication with college coaches.

Our staff is also in constant contact with college coaches. We are in the unique position of not only sending players off to college, but we are also monitoring players for summer training programs and the MLS SuperDraft. The relationships built with college coaches through this process ultimately benefit all of the players in our program.

The Rapids are involved in the Development Academy, how will the Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer Club teams that compete in CSA associate with the Development Academy teams?

We work with the coaches and directors from CRYSC on a daily basis to ensure that we are monitoring the progress of all players in our system. Players from the CRYSC teams will at times train with their DA

counterparts based on merit. CRYSC players will also be able to earn the opportunity to be named as developmental players for the Academy teams while still playing in the state league.

I have an interest in participating, how can I get evaluated for the teams or get more information on the program?

Interested players should complete the information requested on our Tryout Information Form that can be found at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdOU-pGUREB-9YpVQP-NeyHhkY5-3KsVuPtpBUPG1XN2LFPdw/viewform>.

Players who have completed the tryout information form will be send the most up to day evaluation information and will be added to our scouting list.

General information can also be obtained by calling 303-727-3575.

We will also host an information session that will provide an overview of the Colorado Rapids Development Academy programming as well as a chance to ask questions of the staff. Sessions will be held on dates to be announced soon.