



## 1. What separates CU/CUP staff from the rest?

Our staff is the #1 staff in the area. We are honored to have coaches and trainers throughout our club, from CU to CUP, with extensive playing experience. We have former national team players, professional players, college players, and current college coaches. Having a staff with a vast amount of playing and coaching experience allows our players to draw from their experiences and continue to develop on their own path.

## 2. What are the programs that make-up CU and how are these programs defined?

- Premier Program - The purpose of our 'Premier Program' is to provide an educational and competitive environment that consistently produces the most mentally, physically, technically and tactically accomplished players in Ohio South, USYSA Region II and the nation. The goal is to develop players recognized for their superior quality of play, knowledge and ability to articulate the game, sportsmanship and passion for the sport. The program will be coached and managed by licensed professionals who will provide the elite soccer development experience for talented soccer players and athletes, consistent with age appropriate expectations and commitment levels. Players will be developed to compete at the highest levels of play possible. This program will be referred to as Cincinnati United Premier-- CUP.
- Competitive Program - The purpose of our 'Competitive Program' is to provide higher levels of training and competition in community based locations to those players interested in select soccer. While always striving to be competitive, team sports primarily teach the importance of teamwork. Good programs and coaches teach children, teenagers and young adults the way to compete - with passion, skillful play, teamwork, sportsmanship and respect for themselves and others. Players will be offered opportunities for advancement based on their desires and on performance in tryouts and preceding playing seasons. Coaching will be professionally based, with a professional training environment provided by a club approved trainer or coach. The training sites in this program will be referred to as CU Lakota-Monroe, CU Sycamore-Mason, and CU Southeast.
- Youth Development Academy/Juniors – The CU Youth Development Academy is a youth soccer program that provides instruction to our youngest players (4-9 years old). This program is designed to be the developmental bridge from recreational soccer to competitive soccer. The professional trainers from Cincinnati United will provide age appropriate technical instruction and teach game behaviors to the very youngest players. The CU Youth Development Academy is vital to the foundation of the Cincinnati United Soccer Club. The focus at these critical ages is to enhance and encourage individual skill development while establishing a love and passion for the game. As coaches and educators, we understand the importance of correct and relevant instruction at an early age, which will help foster success at an older age. The learning environment that we create will be positive and safe for these young players. This will aid in building confidence, self-esteem, and the love and passion for the game.
- How do I know what program is best for my child?
  - CU recommends that you try out for the year your child is born.
  - How do I know the juniors program is for me?



- The juniors program is for players 4-9 years old who are looking for an introduction to soccer guided by a professional training staff through a fun, competitive environment.
- How do I know if the CU 11 and under programs are right for me?
  - This program is designed for the player who is looking to play select soccer in a professionally trained, competitive environment. We recommend each player plays in their birth year and in one of our three locally based sites across the city.
- How do I know if the CU ages 12 to 18 are for me?
  - This CU program is for the player that is looking for a competitive, professionally managed soccer experience. This program plays, trains, and competes in our 3 CU sites.
  - This CU program also meets the needs of the player that does not make CUP but wants to be continuously challenged, evaluated, and stay connected to CUP.
- How do I know if the CUP program is for me?
  - The Premier Program is for any player that is very talented, serious about soccer, and wants to maximize the opportunity for the option to play at the highest level. Simply put, this program was developed specifically for the most talented players throughout the Tri-State area.

4. Are youth teams (U12-U14) in the Premier Program going to travel all over the county to play in tournaments?

Premier Program teams at the youth level will probably not travel outside of a four state area for tournaments. Most tournaments will be within a half-day drive if not closer.

5. Is cost going to be an obstacle to compete in the Premier Program?

It should not be for most. From U12-U14 there is very little cost difference between a Competitive Program team with a professional head coach and a Premier Program team. For details, please see our club PowerPoints.

6. Can players in the Premier Program participate in other sports?

Yes! Players can play other sports, although certainly the goal in the Premier Program is to create the best possible training environment for all players so attendance is important.

7. Where are the teams in the Competitive Program going to train?

We are fortunate to have training locations throughout all of Cincinnati. Most Competitive Program teams will continue to train in their sites. See our club PowerPoints.

8. Who is responsible for overseeing and managing the Competitive Program?

Our competitive programs are managed by our Directors of Coaching. See our Directors of Coaching page on our website.

9. Does CU have an established 'Premier' program?

Yes - - the best in Cincinnati - - CUP! We have proven that a u15 and up premier program takes the right people, an understanding of the college recruiting process, established relationships with college coaches, and great players. Over the years CUP and CU have paved the way for hundreds of kids to receive college scholarships. The foundation for this program was established years ago and it has evolved into a program



that offers multiple programs and events that are the benchmark of success in Ohio South. The CUP Indoor Showcase attracts hundreds of college coaches. Our club College Night educates players and parents in the recruiting process. At this night, there is a panel of college coaches from all divisions and genders as well as players who just went through the recruiting process. Developing such a strong 'Premier' program takes time - but we have done it!

10. Does CU support ODP?

Absolutely, with events that do not conflict with CUP events. Permission may be granted from your CUP Directors to allow ODP to be chosen over CUP events in some scenarios. Currently we have numerous members of the CU/CUP staff working within ODP at all levels. Throughout our history and currently scores of players within the CU/CUP program that have represented Ohio South at Region II camp, many of which were selected to participate in the Regional Pool, National Pool, with players making US National Youth teams and the full US National team.

11. Will CU offer a summer camp to prepare all of our youth teams for the fall season?

Yes! The camp are will be in early August. The cost of the camp is free for all CU and CUP players between the ages of U9 and U14. Additional information will be available at tryouts and on our website.

12. Can teams in the 'Competitive Program' have professional head coaches?

Absolutely!

13. Is it important to CU for our coaches to have coaching education?

Yes! We believe that our kids deserve to be educated by licensed educators, and there will be coaching license requirements. Our Directors of Coaching are highly licensed and globally educated. Collectively they hold USSF 'A' licenses, the NSCAA Premier Diploma, a UEFA 'B' license, and USSF National Youth Licenses. We will provide training staff with age-appropriate licensing.

14. Why does CU believe so strongly in the importance of a coaching curriculum?

We chose to look at it this way: we could not imagine sending our own children to a school that does not have a curriculum, and whose curriculum was not written by licensed educators. So why would we let such a thing happen in our own club? Developing players with the guidance of a curriculum designed to make a player the best he or she can be at high school and college is the best way to prepare players to play in multiple systems and positions and win later at the highest levels. In this approach your practice designs and team/player goals start at what a player should look like at age 8 and flow year by year with age appropriate activities and goals designed to make each player the best player he or she can be at age 18.

15. How does CU determine what kind of competition is appropriate for our kids?

We believe that it is our club's responsibility to provide opportunities for competition that are age, ability, and developmentally appropriate for each of our teams, while being cost sensitive (travel expenses). The Site DOC's will recommend tournaments based on competition levels and travel desires of our teams. The Premier Program DOC's will establish a list of state, regional, and national tournaments in the youth ages appropriate for the highest level of competition. Travel commitments will usually be made on a team by team basis. Most U11-U14 teams will generally only travel a half day's drive once or twice per season.

16. What kind of tournament and league events will our kids have an opportunity to experience?

This depends on the level, age, and program that the team is in. With that said, our goal is to provide the most suitable competitive environment for each of our teams. These tournament and league events include:



Showcase Tournaments (Disney, Raleigh, PDA, etc), National League, Midwest Regional League, OSSL, Buckeye Premier, 'THE Premier League', CUSL, NPL, our very own Elite Invitational, CU Cup, and our very own Buckeye Indoor Showcase.

17. What are some examples of success and winning that CU often refers to?

Cincinnati United Soccer Club has won more OSYSA State Cup Championships than any club in Cincinnati and southern Dayton since 1992. We have developed, prepared, and provided college scholarship opportunities for more than 500 hundred players with many going on to play professionally. Countless players are being developed to play on our OSYSA State ODP teams, numerous players have played on the Region II, and multiple US Youth National teams. We are extremely proud that these players and many others have begun and finished their youth careers within our programs from our youth development academy through CU and CUP teams.

18. What are specific examples of cooperation between programs and training sites?

- A shared curriculum
- Tryout and team formation to maximize participation
- Premier program team formation
- Staff integration and cooperation
- Community outreach programming
- Continuing education
- Play dates between sites