

USL ACADEMY CUP

NATIONAL EVENT, PRESENTED BY PUMA



Academy Cup

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
TOURNAMENT SPORTSPLEX
TAMPA, FL**

MAY 28-31, 2021



TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME.....3

ABOUT.....4

COMPLEX MAP5

SPECIAL EXPERIENCES GUIDE7

VENDOR OUTLINES9

USL ACADEMY CUP NATIONAL FOOTPRINT11

USL ACADEMY CUP TEAMS.....14

GAME DAY VIDEO18

GAME SCHEDULE.....19

WELCOME



Welcome to the first-ever USL Academy Cup national tournament! All of us at USL couldn't be more excited for the opportunity to finally host this exclusive event & invite you all to Tampa, Florida for the weekend.

Despite the pandemic & all of the challenges it's brought to our lives over the past year, we are still approaching unprecedented times in the continued growth of American soccer. Expansion is set to keep rolling in communities across the US, with new USL Senior Teams expected to be announced in the Championship, League One and League Two more in the coming months & years. Countless teenage prospects are breaking into the clubs already competing in those leagues, with numerous players from our first USL Academy Cup events just over a year ago already training & playing at the professional level. Even at the highest level of our game, young American footballers are proving they can compete, breaking barriers at legendary clubs in England, Germany, Spain, & Italy, and in some cases, even helping take their team as far as the UEFA Champions League Final. It's only fitting that on the same weekend of our first USL Academy Cup, we will see the first American finally win that illustrious prize as Christian Pulisic & Chelsea take on Zack Steffen & Manchester City.

To that end, we hope that USL Academy and its newly-launched competitions (the USL Academy Cup and USL Academy League) continue to serve as a proven platform for top young talents to showcase their talents. In an effort to make that possible, the USL League Office, Tampa Bay Sports Commission, and Hillsborough County Tournament SportsPlex have worked together to ensure that every match is streamed live via MuscoVision, with on-demand video of each match available through them and our partner VEO. Doing so will help collegiate & professional scouts evaluate talent at our event, and will provide players even more opportunity to promote themselves as they pursue the next step in their playing careers.

Looking at the schedule, we'll have tournament game play each morning, with various special events for select participants hosted each day, as well as time to explore the greater Tampa Bay area. As you plan your trip, we encourage you to take a few moments to browse the following event guide, being sure to share your experience on social media using the hashtag #USLAcademy.

Finally, this year in particular will especially be one to remember as we look to crown the first-ever USL Academy Cup national champions, with (8) divisions of play across U13 Boys, U17 Boys, and U17 Girls age groups. Each participating team has been placed into groups of four within their division, playing out a World-Cup style group stage that will see them play shortened games against one opponent each day on Friday, Saturday, & Sunday. The top two teams from each division's group play will then advance to our USL Academy Cup Finals Monday morning.

We truly can't wait to see you all in Tampa competing for the honor of winning our first-ever USL Academy Cup national titles, and wish all of our teams, players, and coaches the best of luck!

Liam O'Connell
USL Technical Director

ABOUT

USL ACADEMY

The first key initiative launched under USL's newest tier is the USL Academy Cup - a competition designed to bring together top youth prospects from all of our markets with USL clubs, all centered around identifying and developing players with the potential to reach the professional level. The first-ever USL Academy Cup event series was held throughout the 2019/20 youth soccer cycle.

The 2021 USL Academy Cup will feature 76 teams representing 37 clubs from Major League Soccer, USL Championship, USL League One and USL League Two, with each age group split into two to three divisions. The Elite, Premier and Select Divisions will ensure competitive balance and maximize growth opportunities for each participating club. The age groups are U-13 and U-17 boys as well as U-17 girls.

Outside of the actual gameplay at the USL Academy Cup, there will be multiple initiatives set up to make each weekend a more holistic development experience. That begins with the players & parents, who will have the chance to learn about the growing number of opportunities becoming available in the professional game, while introducing other factors they should consider in those players' long-term development. In addition, all coaches & directors will be invited to participate in a series of Player Development Workshops, where best practices will be shared & top clubs in youth development will be examined as case studies. Referees development will also be a key component of each event, as we will work with PRO & the local ref assignors to offer the participating refs in the event an opportunity to continue to improve on their craft.

The 2021 USL Academy Cup will take place from May 28-31 at Hillsborough County Tournament Sportsplex in Tampa, FL.

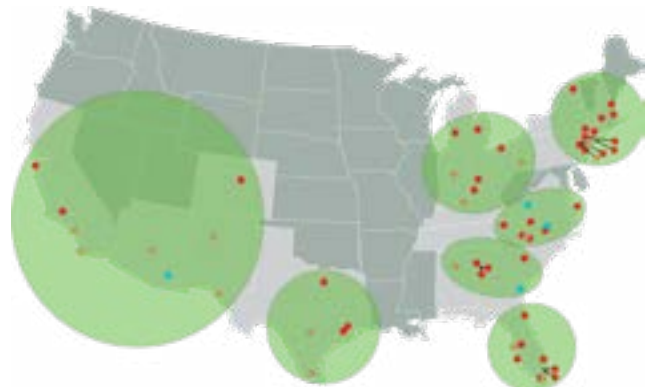
USL ACADEMY PLAYER DEVELOPMENT MODEL: 2021 & BEYOND

With the launch of the new USL Academy player development model, more communities than ever are going to be able to offer a clear path to professional soccer. Traditionally, most academy programs field three or more teams between the U15 and U19 age levels, which often limits exposure for top talents. The launch of the USL Academy platform is aimed at allowing these top prospects to move into a focused, pre-professional development environment with a direct and immediate connection to their local USL senior team.

As teams are formed, clubs will have roster limits on the number of players included across the age ranges to ensure the focus remains on long-term player development. These programs will be driven by elite player development standards across a number of areas, including coaching, facilities, equipment, technology, fitness, nutrition, character development, funding and much more.

All clubs fielding a USL Academy program will also be required to form a youth network. This helps grow the game at the grassroots level, and allows players to move between each environment based on what is best for their long-term development.

As more USL Academy programs begin to take shape, regionalized USL Academy League conferences will form, and as USL continues to expand at the senior team level, travel demands will lessen for each team. The USL Academy League is emphasizing regional play this season to ease travel for teams and players. Throughout that time, all clubs can continue participating in USL Academy Cup events, ensuring that top talent gets to compete at the highest level throughout the year. By providing more communities than ever a chance to build a viable youth to pro pathway, the hope is that USL can cast a wider net than ever, and provide even more players the chance to chase their dream of playing professional soccer.








COMPLEX MAP

MAY 28TH - MAY 31ST, 2021



Key

-  Concessions
-  Medical
-  Parking
-  Player Village
-  Restrooms
-  Tournament HQ





SPECIAL EXPERIENCES GUIDE

Technical Development Workshop

Virtual event held on Friday, May 28 3:30-5:30 PM (subject to change)

The Technical Development Workshop is designed with a focus on driving dialogue around youth development within USL pro pathways, and how best to bridge the gap between youth and professional soccer. USL Technical Director Liam O'Connell will introduce the event by discussing the future player development model for USL Academy and how this model will aim to assist USL clubs in accomplishing their missions. One high-performing USLA program will provide a case study on their full player pathway & developmental model. PlayerMaker will then present its technology, a valuable resource for USL clubs that can be used to enhance youth development by providing in-depth data about player performance. The event will conclude with breakout sessions, where those in attendance will have the chance to discuss relevant trends in youth development and significant shifts in the American youth soccer landscape.

Player Village

The Player Village will be a unique experience for players, fans, and families to spend time between games. The Player Village will be the location of the tournament headquarters and the USL Academy Cup merchandise store presented by PUMA. The Player Village will also include various partner activations and special experiences.

People will have the opportunity to **win prizes through Playermaker or the Social Media Contest driven from Tournament HQ.**

The **Tampa Bay Rowdies** will also be hosting a gaming set-up in the Player Village.

Referee Development Sessions

Sessions held at the conclusion of each match day (friday afternoon, saturday afternoon, sunday afternoon)

An often overlooked area of soccer development, these sessions will help referees gain insight on game management and other aspects of one of the sport's toughest jobs. After an orientation prior to the start of the tournament, the tournament's referees will meet to review the day's action and discuss how to improve moving forward.

"Referee development is an important and integral part of the game," said USL Academy Operations Manager Ryan Spurr. "Field and classroom training, as well as game observation and review, will be part of the conference games. Each referee will receive feedback from national and regional referee coaches."

Hosting these sessions at USL Academy events could pay dividends toward improving the quality of refereeing in American soccer, not just for the youth game in the present but for the professional level in the future.

Senior Team Game Day

The USL Academy Cup is excited to host a USL League Two matchup between Tampa Bay United and Weston FC on the Championship Field at Hillsborough County Tournament SportsPlex. The match will kick off at 6 PM on Saturday, May 29.

This will be a great opportunity for the USL Academy Cup participants to experience pre-professional soccer first-hand. It is important to showcase a physical explanation of the path to the pros for the players.

Social Media Contest

Teams participating in the USL Academy Cup will have the opportunity to compete in a social media contest for a chance to win cool prizes and merchandise.

Throughout the tournament, follow **@USL_Academy** closely on Twitter for announcements of different social media contests throughout the event. There will be multiple contests throughout the weekend for teams to compete in and there will be an overall social media winner announced at the end of the tournament. The team with the best social media during the weekend will receive a shoutout on USL Academy twitter page and a special prize.

To be eligible to win, teams must be following **@USL_Academy** on Twitter and tag **#USLAcademy** on all posts surrounding the competition.

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to all of teams in the inaugural
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VENDOR OUTLINES



Cleer Audio

Cleer is the Official Personal Audio Partner of the USL. One of the world's leading performance audio brands, Cleer Audio's wireless headphones and speakers give users rich sound and innovative technology. Its immersive headphones and speakers mean players and fans can make every moment theirs, whether at the training complex, the stadium, or at home.



CORA Health

CORA Health is a physical and occupational therapy company that promotes exemplary care to all patients. CORA Health will be providing the USL Academy Cup athletic trainers to insure the players receive the best treatment for any injuries at the event.



Marka

Marka Sports is the Official In-Stadium Signage Supplier of United Soccer Leagues, LLC and USL Academy. A leader in stadium signage across North America, Marka Sports' signage has featured in FIFA World Cup Qualifying, the CONCACAF Champions League and Liga MX, in addition to numerous other events and properties.



MuscoVision

MuscoVision is a complete, trouble-free, all-in-one solution that makes it easy for facilities to broadcast the action on their fields to family and friends watching from across town or around the country. MuscoVision will be featured at every field and will record every game.



Playermaker

For this year's USL Academy Cup, Playermaker has developed unique activities for their official wearable technology that attaches to a player's cleat. The wearable soccer tracker will monitor specific data and the players with the best performance data will be featured on Playermaker's leaderboards and social media.



PUMA

PUMA is the presenting sponsor of the USL Academy Cup. PUMA is one of the world's leading Sports Brands, designing, developing, selling and marketing footwear, apparel and accessories. For more than 70 years, PUMA has relentlessly pushed sport and culture forward by creating fast products for the world's fastest athletes.



Select Sports

Select is the Official Match Ball Supplier of United Soccer Leagues, LLC and USL Academy. Founded in 1947, Select has been an innovator on the pitch since its early days. Select enhances each USL club's merchandise offering of licensed and official replica match balls, while supporting its partnership through additional marketing and advertising.



VEO

Vevo will be capturing all games on site to load on the website for players, coaches, parents, scouts, etc. to watch after the event. If anyone cannot watch in person or on the live stream, they can access the game footage indefinitely at a later date.



Wilson Trophies

Wilson is the Official Awards and Trophy Supplier of the USL. Wilson is providing individual awards for the Elite Divisions for each age group including Golden Ball (MVP), Golden Boot (Top Scorer), and Golden Glove (Best Goalkeeper). In addition, Wilson is providing the trophies for the Premier and Select divisions for all age groups.



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Academy Cup

May 28th - May 31st, 2021
Tampa, FL



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TEAMS

U-13 BOYS

Elite Group A



CHARLOTTE INDEPENDENCE (N)



FC GOLDEN STATE FORCE



INDY ELEVEN



NC FUSION

Elite Group B



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NORTH CAROLINA FC



SC UNITED BANTAMS



SOUTHERN SOCCER ACADEMY

Premier Group A



GREENVILLE TRIUMPH SC



REAL CENTRAL NJ



TAMPA BAY UNITED



VENTURA COUNTY FUSION

Premier Group B



AC CONNECTICUT



CHATTANOOGA RED WOLVES SC



FORT LAUDERDALE CF



WESTON FC

Premier Group C



CHARLOTTE INDEPENDENCE (S)



IRONBOUND SC (NYRB)



REAL MONARCHS SLC



SOUTH GEORGIA TORMENTA FC

Select Group A



COLORADO RUSH



LIVERPOOL FC MICHIGAN
(FLINT CITY BUCKS)



MORRIS ELITE SC



PSG ACADEMY FL
(FC MIAMI CITY)

Select Group B



CAPITAL FC TIMBERS



FA EURO NEW YORK



LITTLE ROCK RANGERS



WAKE FC

TEAMS

U-17 BOYS

Elite Group A



CHARLOTTE INDEPENDENCE



ORANGE COUNTY SC



REAL COLORADO



TAMPA BAY UNITED

Elite Group B



INDY ELEVEN



NORTH CAROLINA FC



NC FUSION



WESTON FC

Premier Group A



BOSTON BOLTS



CHATTANOOGA RED WOLVES SC



SOUTH GEORGIA TORMENTA FC



SOUTHERN SOCCER ACADEMY

Premier Group B



IRONBOUND NYRB



REAL CENTRAL NJ



REAL MONARCHS SLC



SC UNITED BANTAMS

Premier Group C



AC CONNECTICUT



LIVERPOOL FC MICHIGAN
(FLINT CITY BUCKS)



MORRIS ELITE SC



PEACHTREE CITY MOBA

Select Group A



CAPITAL FC TIMBERS



PHILADELPHIA LONE STAR



WAKE FC



WEST VIRGINIA UNITED

Select Group B



FC MALAGA CITY



PSG ACADEMY FL (FC MIAMI CITY)



OVF ALLIANCE



VENTURA COUNTY FUSION

Select Group C



COLORADO RUSH



FA EURO NEW YORK



HOUSTON FC



TREASURE COAST TRITONS

TEAMS

U-17 GIRLS

Elite Group A



AC CONNECTICUT



ORANGE COUNTY SC



REAL CENTRAL NJ



SC UNITED BANTAMS

Elite Group B



GREENVILLE TRIUMPH SC



TAMPA BAY UNITED (ELITE)



SOUTH GEORGIA TORMENTA FC



SOUTHERN SOCCER ACADEMY

Premier Group A



TAMPA BAY UNITED (PREMIER)



THE MIAMI FC



VENTURA COUNTY FUSION



WAKE FC

Premier Group B



CAPITAL FC TIMBERS



PEACHTREE CITY MOBA



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(FC MIAMI CITY)



REAL MONARCHS SLC

veo × **USL A**

Veo will be capturing all the games at the USL Academy Cup



Click here to view your game



GAME DAY VIDEO

TUNE IN TO WATCH YOUR FAVORITE USL ACADEMY CUP CLUBS COMPETE!

MAY 28-31, 2021

PLEASE FOLLOW THE LINK BELOW:

<https://www.muscovision.com/facility/42>

MuscoVision

MuscoVision is a complete, trouble-free, all-in-one solution that makes it easy for facilities to broadcast the action on their fields to family and friends watching from across town or around the country.

MuscoVision will be featured at every field and will have every live game available to watch free of charge for those who tune in on the link listed above.

VEO

Vevo will be capturing all games and trainings on site to load on the website for players, coaches, parents, scouts, etc. to watch after the event. If anyone cannot watch in person or on the live stream, they can access the game footage indefinitely at a later date.

All individuals looking to view footage can gain access by completing a typeform at veo.co/game

We will be updating information as we continue to work with our partners.

Elite Final Streams

The elite final for each age group will take place on Monday morning on the championship field. The matchup will be between the top two teams from each elite division for the age groups. The elite finals will be broadcasted on the MuscoVision site. Further info including participating teams and times will be updated throughout the tournament.



GAME SCHEDULE

Please scan the QR code for the corresponding day below to view the USL Academy Cup schedules.

How to Scan a QR Code:

1. Open the Camera app on your phone.

You don't have to fill the entire screen, but make sure that all four corners of the QR code are in view. Once you correctly scan the QR code, a pop-up notification will appear on top of your screen.

2. Point your phone at the QR code to scan it.

This will run the action contained in the QR code.

3. Tap the pop-up notification on your screen.

By tapping the pop-up, a link will take you to the corresponding day's schedule.

MAY 28, 2021



MAY 29, 2021



MAY 30, 2021



MAY 31, 2021



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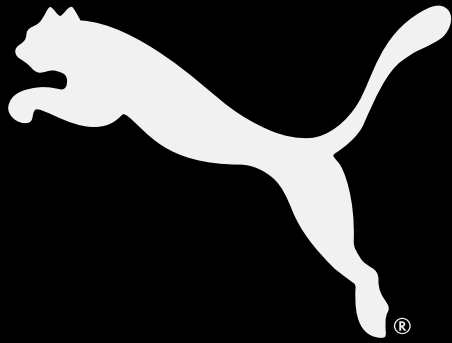
Kevin Hartman, Academy Director, Los Angeles Galaxy

"Great service! Tourney Clean organized our laundry pick up for the weekend while in Dallas for a soccer showcase. That's close to 50 uniforms returned on time and fresh. Reliable, courteous and affordable. Will be using it for our next trips. Thanks guys"

Javier Carillo, Academy Director, Orlando City

"Tourney Clean was what we needed with 40 plus players to take care of away from home. They offer excellent professional on time uniform cleaning service. The convenience of not having to worry about uniforms being clean the next day is absolutely priceless. We will continue to use Tourney Clean wherever we travel".

Teddy Chronopoulos, Academy Director, Pateadores



FOR MORE INFORMATION
on USL Academy & to stay up to date on the
USL Academy Cup, check out USL-Academy.com
or follow [@USL_Academy](https://twitter.com/USL_Academy) on Twitter