



# Sporting Columbia SC Academy

## 2025-2026 Program Information

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### MISSION

Sporting Columbia strives to serve as the premier soccer club for Central Missouri, providing an unparalleled experience that supports the abilities of players and teams to reach their full potential within the sport.

### ACADEMY PROGRAM

Sporting Columbia Academy is the top program in the developmental pyramid at the club and serves U8-U19 players. The program is aimed at providing training and competitive play opportunities for the committed soccer player to develop their skills and abilities to a higher level. Player goals at this level range from reaching their full potential and level of achievement within the sport to playing soccer in college and beyond.

Academy teams will be coached by highly qualified licensed coaches. Sporting Columbia supports their growth through in-house and external coaching education opportunities, knowing that our staff's growth will be passed on to the players and families we serve. The program is overseen and directed by the professional coaching and administrative staff of the organization.

The Academy Program is divided into two phases, the Youth Academy and the Senior Academy:

- **Youth Academy** will provide age group specific coaching standards, player skill benchmarks, and additional training opportunities for the U8-U14 age groups.
- **Senior Academy** will provide age group specific coaching standards, player skill benchmarks, and additional training opportunities for the U15-U19 age groups.

### TRAINING & COMPETITION

Sporting Columbia Academy is a year-round program created to develop technical, confident, and passionate players who have a desire to excel in the sport. The program is an August to June commitment for U8-U14 teams. High school players participate for one season opposite of their HS season. (Boys: HS Soccer in Fall/Club Soccer in Spring. Girls: HS Soccer in Spring/Club Soccer in Fall).

Once rosters are formed, training will begin in August for most teams. Training days may be Monday-Thursday. Specific days/times will be determined & communicated as soon as possible by the Director & coaching staff. Teams will train twice a week (at a minimum) with additional training sessions and opportunities available. Trainings sessions are 60-90 minutes and are typically at one of the following locations:

- **Sporting Columbia Training Facility** 5023 Roger Wilson Memorial Drive Columbia MO 65202
- **Cosmo Park** 1615 Business Loop 70 West Columbia MO 65202

Every weekend during the season (August-June) is a playing opportunity for Academy teams. Coaches and the professional staff will work with their teams to outline a yearlong calendar to ensure an outstanding experience and maximize player development. Teams will compete in a variety of leagues & tournaments available. SLYSA in the St. Louis area and Heartland in the KC area are the two major leagues our teams may play in. Coaches will also select 2-3 tournaments per season. Typically, tournaments are in St. Louis, Kansas City, or other locations around the state of Missouri.

Playing time is not automatic in the advanced program. Players benefit from coaching staff, year-round training, and the opportunity to be a part of a group to develop friendships, social skills, values, and lifelong memories. Playing time is earned based on performance and attendance. Playing time is fair but not equal.

## TRYOUTS

Teams are formed after a formal evaluation date at which time new and returning players are evaluated in an open tryout process. Tryouts are held each June for the upcoming year. We form teams primarily based on ability. Our staff is looking for TIPS!

*Technical- ability with the ball*

*Insightful- insight and understanding of the game and principles of play*

*Players with Personality- player's ability to fill a role and be creative*

*Speed of Thought and Action- physical speed, technical speed, and mental/thought speed*

## AGE GROUPS

The club abides by the age matrix set by the United States Soccer Federation. Opportunities to “play up” will be considered and approved on a case-by-case basis by the Director of Soccer. Players must file a petition to play up directly to the Director of Soccer and must try out in their age group in normal circumstances.

### Birth Year and Season Matrix

NOTE: When determining the age group for a season, the year the season ends should be used for determining the birth year. Also note that the format “U followed by age” really means that age and younger. For example, U8 should be read as 8 and younger.

## FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

Please see the [2025/26 Academy Player Fees](#) document for the current fee structure and details.

Once a player is offered a spot on a Sporting Columbia Academy team, registration payment will be required before joining the roster & participating. The registration fee covers club fees and a down payment on game fees.

Club Fees support our licensed and highly experienced coaching and technical staff, our private training facility and other field rentals, and the day-to-day expenses of operating Mid-Missouri's premier competitive soccer program.

Game fees cover the costs of the league and tournaments selected by each team. These costs vary by age group, league type, and the number and type of tournaments selected. The down payment on game fees helps to cover a portion of the tournament/league costs when registering our teams. The balance of game fees is determined by total cost of the league/tournaments selected by each team for each season, less the game fee down payment. The fees are divided among all players on the team roster, regardless of the rate of participation by each player. Game fees are invoiced separately for the fall and spring seasons.

In addition to Game Fees, the Club Fee does not cover:

- Uniform Fees: All players must purchase a current Sporting Columbia uniform.
- Extra Programming: Summer camps, futsal, 3v3, indoor games and training sessions, and other club offerings.

All fees are nonrefundable.

## **FINANCIAL AID**

The purpose of the Sporting Columbia financial aid program is to allow youth players to participate regardless of their financial situation. Please see the [2025/26 Academy Player Financial Aid Application](#) for details and deadline to apply.

## **BENEFITS OF THE SPORTING COLUMBIA ACADEMY**

Sporting Columbia is the largest, longest serving, and most successful club in the region. Sporting Columbia supports its members with the following benefits:

- Access to professional and licensed coaches who engage in year-round coaching education.
- Access to unique resources only available to us through our partnership with the MLS Club Sporting Kansas City.
- A comprehensive age-appropriate program structure that is supported by year-round individual and team training opportunities.
- Multiple yearly player evaluations
- A developmental training curriculum with age specific standards, topics, and benchmarks that guides all of our individual and team-based programming.
- College Advisory Program for our Senior Academy Players

## **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?**

Please contact Executive Director, Dave Golan, via email at [dgolan@sportingcolumbia.net](mailto:dgolan@sportingcolumbia.net).