



Potomac Academy
FAQ:

1. What distinguishes the Potomac Academy program from the other Academies in the area?

The Potomac Academy Program, at first glance, may seem as just another of the Academy programs in the Metro DC area, but it is not. The Potomac Academy staff has created a unique, diverse and comprehensive model to address the myriad of issues that youth soccer players face, today, as they start the college process. The PAP is, specifically, designed to develop each player and place him in the college program that best fits his academic, social, and athletic needs. Day one that a young man enters into this program, he and his family will be walked through our college track process. From the opening presentation to regular meetings with your coach and round tables with local college coaches, you will slowly hone in on the right college environment for you! Coach Hazard (American University), Coach Gill (Georgetown University) and Coach Burke (High School Counselor) know how best to navigate the recruiting process. Their contacts and knowledge are important tools in selecting the college program that fits best.

2. The cost of the Potomac Academy is higher than some other Academies in the area. Will it continue to be? Are “scholarships” available?

We realize this is a big concern for families, today, especially in the recent economic environment. The staff is working hard, with the Potomac soccer board on reducing costs for each player. We have an active and supportive scholarship program that can be accessed for the families who need support. This coupled with the U.S. Soccer scholarships that are available will make it attainable for those in need. Do not allow money issues to prohibit a player from being part of this dynamic program. Our costs are comparable to elite level club teams, when factoring in all hotel and travel costs. Remember, we do not carry the roster size of other clubs in the area, which allows our players to be coached and grow through opportunity.

3. My player is already on a strong club team that will likely play in Region 1/National League and get to the Regional and possibly National Tournaments in the coming year(s). Why should my player make the switch from that successful team to the Potomac Academy Program?

Great question! Elite level club teams have much to offer youth soccer players. We do believe our structure in the PAP is best for players who wish to play at the next level. PAP trains as a college team would train. We work diligently on technical, tactical and functional training as well as the video analysis aspect of the game. We are creating thought provoking players at PAP. It is the best environment for players going on to play in college. The most significant and critical reason to be a part of PAP is the level of completion on a day in and day out basis. Ask any collegiate coach where the highest level of games is on a consistent basis and the answer will be the same-**THE ACADEMY! The Academy is, now, where the best players in youth soccer are playing!**

4. What kind of training should a player expect from the Potomac Academy Program?

We believe in doing the little things right on a daily basis. Each training session is done with a purpose and a belief that you play the way you practice. PAP has developed a training model which addresses all the needs a youth soccer player has in today's game. Technical, tactical, psychological, and physical development of each player is our **focus**. These sessions will be high level, high paced and growing the player in speed of play, in thought and action. The staff speaks on a daily basis in order to cover the needs of a particular training session and is constantly evaluating what the most pressing needs are, not just of the team, but of the individual. We spend significant time on game film throughout the season to provide another way for players to learn and grow. This is a detailed oriented program that will be taught through a variety of means. We are in the belief that this approach is the best way to prepare players for the next level.

5. I've heard that the Academy programs may move to a 10 month season and that Academy players won't be able to play for their high school teams. Is this true?

Here is what we know-there are numerous conferences in the Academy that have already gone to this 10 month model. Our belief is that it is coming to this region of the country in the next couple of years and we will cross that bridge when we get to it. We understand the dynamic of High School loyalty and private schools that might scholarship kids, etc... These will be difficult decisions, but we feel the Academy, and specifically, the Potomac Academy is the way to go in terms of true development. As for now our training cycle will allow the players to compete in high school. We will work around their high school season, but we expect once that is complete that they devote themselves to our program. If that is done, we will all benefit!

6. How will players be selected for the Potomac Academy Program?

We will have specific trial dates in July and would like everyone to come to each and every one of those dates. If communicated with, we will work with extenuating circumstances and situations, in order to accommodate players and their families. We will, also, be having players come out to training sessions when the team is together. Decisions are all up to the coach and the PAP staff and he will select players that best fit his team model. As far as players in the club already, those that have been identified will be notified prior to tryouts, but will be asked to attend, as well as players that we have selected from other team we have watched or played.

7. What is the Academy's philosophy on playing time? If a player makes the team, will he always have an opportunity to travel with the team and play in games?

The mandated Academy policy is that each full time rostered player starts in 25 percent of the games and we will stick to that rule. We don't take, lightly, our role in development, but at this level it is about competition and we will select the travel roster accordingly.

8. How do you evaluate players on the team over the course of the season?

Evaluation for us at PAP is all encompassing as we are trying to develop the entire person, as well as the soccer player. We want to see that the technical, tactical areas are getting better in each player, but also that their behavior on the field and off is respectful. We will get together with the player, periodically to go over a "checklist" and to review the journals that they will keep in order to make sure we are giving them every avenue to develop.

9. What kind of coaches will coach the Academy team?

This is where we excel! Coach Hazard has been a Division 3 Head Coach and now is the assistant at American University. He holds his USSF "A" license and has been involved in clubs all over the country and therefore has numerous contacts in the collegiate arena. Coach Gill is a holder of NSCAA National Diploma and has been an assistant at Lafayette College, Seattle University and now Georgetown University. As can be deemed by his travels, his coaching outreach is extensive. The staff is rounded out by Sean Burke, "B" licensed coach, a very successful High School Coach (Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology) and school counselor and Devin Payton, a "B" licensed coach who has coached in the area at every level.

10. How much travel is involved? Will players travel to all games?

Academy clubs can expect 15-20 away matches in a given season, some of which will require overnight travel. Exact travel distances will vary between clubs depending on their geographic proximity to their conference opponents and Academy events. We will travel with 18 player's.

