

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the USSF Development Academy?**

The *United States Soccer Federation*, the organization responsible for the *US National Teams and US Olympic* teams, decided to form a national developmental program. Sixty-four clubs across the nation were chosen to identify top players and form teams. Empire USA is one of these clubs. The teams from these clubs will only compete within the Developmental Academy. Currently there are only BU16 and BU18 teams. Learn more at [www.empireunitedsa.com](http://www.empireunitedsa.com)

### **Will there be a USSF Development Academy for girls?**

At this time, the *United States Soccer Federation* is focusing its Development Academy model on the boys' side. We are looking forward to the future expansion of the USSF program and will keep club members informed as new information becomes available.

### **Will I have to travel to Buffalo and Syracuse for some of my practices?**

No. Only boys who are playing on *USSF Development Academy* teams will be practicing across the upstate geography. Rochester based Empire USA players will continue to practice locally. You will continue to travel to nearby cities for games in the Upstate Premier League just as you are today.

### **Why should I choose to stay with Empire USA?**

Our organization's recognition has national distinction. Our long list of collegiate players and alumni that have played in *MLS*, *WUSA* and the *USSF National* teams highlights our focus on player development. We will continue to offer players quality training, licensed coaching, and a level of competition that sets us apart from other local organizations.

### **My child plays on a Green team now; will there be a place for them in Empire USA?**

Yes. The reason for forming Empire USA was to create the correct environment for every level of player. Truly gifted players may advance to the *USSF Player Development Academy* at the appropriate age. Most will continue to play on Rochester based teams competing in State Cup, WAPS, Region 1 League, Upstate Premier League, US Club Regional and National Championship Series, Great Lakes Alliance Friendlies and RDYSL depending on age and skill level.

### **If I stay with Empire USA will I need to give up my other sports and activities?**

No. Decisions about participation in any and all activities must be made at the individual player level. Those playing on the *USSF Development Academy* teams are focusing on soccer and have committed to a rigorous training and competition schedule that limits their ability to participate in other sports. Others should evaluate their schedules and workload to ensure that players do not become overloaded.

### **Will it cost more to participate in Empire USA than it did in Junior Rhinos?**

Budgets will continue to be comparable and will be determined at the team level. The final cost will ultimately depend on the amount and type of training, league and tournament participation that the team selects.

### **How will the name change from Rochester Junior Rhinos to Empire USA be communicated to college coaches & tournament organizers?**

Our affiliation with the *USSF Development Academy* has already begun to help increase the name recognition for the new organization. In addition, the club has appointed a Director of College Relations who will be communicating with college coaches via mail and email to notify them of the change. We will also be including the RJR name on tournament applications, etc. when appropriate so that people can identify our club's previous performance.

### **Will our Uniforms change?**

Yes. We will continue to use *Adidas®* uniforms and footwear, but colors and styles will change. Our new logo incorporates a signature color from each of the legacy clubs.

### **When are Tryouts?**

The tryout schedule will be posted on [www.empireunitedsa.com](http://www.empireunitedsa.com). Tryouts for regular EUSA/Rochester Academy teams will be held during the last week of July and the first week of August. Four sessions will be scheduled for each age group during that time. It is not necessary to make all the sessions but each player will be advantaged with as much attendance as possible. The *USSF Development Academy* teams will have a separate tryout schedule on July weekends.