



## **Indiana Fire Academy North Affiliation Q & A Document**

**Q: What is the affiliation?**

**A:** The affiliation is a partnership agreement between the two clubs to work closely together to provide additional opportunities to players. Both clubs are non-profits with a similar focus on player development for players of all levels. The clubs will remain independent and continue to be managed locally.

**Q: What does this do for my child?**

**A:** The affiliation means the clubs will share coaching, programming, and organizational resources with each other, providing an improved experience for players at both clubs. Our players will not only benefit locally from an improved training environment, but they will also have increased access to the more elite training and playing opportunities through Indiana Fire's Pro Academy.

**Q: Will player tuition increase?**

**A:** No. We had already planned a slight increase in player tuition for ages 11U and up. But the affiliation does not require increased fees.

**Q: Will players have to buy new uniforms?**

**A:** Uniforms operate on two year cycles. Our last uniform cycle ended this spring. As a result, all players were expected to purchase new uniforms this summer regardless of whether we affiliated with Indiana Fire or not. We have worked closely with Indiana Fire to ensure our new uniforms match the price points our families have been accustomed to in the past.

**Q: Where will training take place?**

**A:** The location of all training and games will remain the same. Our main facility is Bontrager Fields in Middlebury.

**Q: What additional playing opportunities will there be?**

**A:** Indiana Fire is a pro academy with a direct pathway to Indy Eleven (USL Championship), and women's Indy Eleven (USL W League). Indiana Fire teams compete in MLS Next Pro Academy. MLS Next is a special league managed by Major League Soccer to develop the next generation of professional players. Those players with top end talent will be given the opportunity to participate in this league through Indiana Fire. The Elite Clubs National League is a similar platform for girls.

Indiana Fire has two other affiliates besides us--IFA South and SCSA Fire. There will also be additional training and playing opportunities through their affiliate talent program, which brings together some of the best players from all four of the Indiana Fire clubs. These events will also put our players in front of Pro Academy staff on a more

consistent basis.

- Q: I still have more questions. Who can I talk to?**  
**A:** Please contact the Executive Director, Vincent Baltazar.  
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