



## **Club Development League (CDL) / US Club Soccer Affiliation Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Who is the Club Development League (CDL)?**

The Club Development League (CDL) is a competitive state-wide player development league for 13U through 19U players. The CDL is comprised of the following clubs: Ames Soccer Club, Cedar River Soccer Association, Cedar Valley Soccer Club, FC United, Iowa Rush, Iowa Soccer Club, Pearl City Soccer Club, Sporting Iowa Central, Sporting Iowa East, and Vision Soccer Academy.

### **Why is the CDL joining US Club Soccer?**

US Club Soccer's mission, vision and goals are closely aligned with the CDL's goal of creating a standards-based league. The CDL and its members are pleased to be able to offer a league in which member clubs can control their own pathway and better manage coaching resources, budgets, and time.

### **What is US Club Soccer?**

A national association member of the U.S Soccer Federation (USSF), US Club Soccer is a non-profit organization committed to the development and support of soccer clubs across the United States.

US Club Soccer's guiding principles include:

- Clubs are the vehicle through which players are developed, and US Club Soccer should help facilitate club development throughout the country.
- Clubs and their leadership should be the primary decision-makers in the structure and organization of soccer.
- US Club Soccer should provide leadership and a vehicle for clubs and technical leaders to work together to elevate the game and player development environment.

### **Where is US Club Soccer based?**

US Club Soccer members span all 50 states. The organization's headquarters are split between two locations in South Carolina, and its membership is organized into four geographic regions — each of which holds two seats on the organization's Board of Directors.

### **What are the costs associated with the move to US Club Soccer?**

Member/player fees assessed by individual clubs as it relates to league play will not be affected. There is a slight fee increase per member in registering with US Club Soccer as compared to Iowa Soccer Association. These fee increases are offset by lower team and club registration fees, resulting in no additional fee assessment to parents.

Each CDL member club sets their own fee structure, and questions regarding fees should be directed to club directors.

### **Can my child still participate in the Olympic Development Program (ODP)?**

US Youth Soccer (ISA) offers an Iowa Olympic Development Program that you may currently be participating in, and you can continue to do so. US Club Soccer offers Olympic Development Programming, titled ID2 and PDP. The CDL will gradually implement ODP programming in Iowa over the next 1-3 years.

Olympic Development Programs operate under the jurisdiction of the US Olympic Committee and are open to any resident of a state where the program is offered. Players may register for an ODP offered by any national association. An additional registration, or tryout fee, may be assessed for non-members of the hosting national association.

### **Will the CDL offer a US Club Soccer State Cup?**

The CDL will offer a US Club Soccer two-flight State Cup in the 13U through 19U age groups, from which teams will advance directly to the Regional or National Cup Finals — US Club Soccer's national cup-based championship events.

The Iowa US Club Soccer State Cup will be an open competition, with entry available to any age-appropriate team in Iowa. Teams entering must register their team/players with US Club Soccer for the event. More details on this exciting opportunity will be released in the near future.

### **Will CDL member clubs continue to offer financial assistance programs?**

CDL member clubs are committed to equity and inclusiveness, and this is clearly portrayed in the individual memberships of our organizations. In the last year alone, member clubs have provided over \$240,000 in scholarships and financial assistance. The CDL membership represents a wide group of cultures, ethnicities, genders and financial diversity and we are committed to ensuring that cost is not an obstacle to participation.

### **Will the structure of the Club Development League (CDL) change?**

CDL players, parents and coaches will not notice any major changes to the format of the CDL league under the new affiliation. The number of games, length of the season, amount of travel, and level of competition will be very similar to the Fall 2020 CDL season.