

For Immediate Release

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CLUB DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

The Club Development League Joins US Club Soccer

Des Moines, Iowa — March 29, 2021 — The Club Development League (CDL) and member clubs today announced a new membership affiliation with US Club Soccer beginning in the 2021 Fall season.

With this new affiliation, the CDL will become a fully-sanctioned US Club Soccer league. In addition, ten clubs, more than 300 teams, and over 7,000 players and coaches in the 6U through 19U age groups from CDL member clubs will also benefit from an array of programming and resources offered by US Club Soccer.

"This is an exciting time for the CDL," said Alen Kudumovic, CDL president. "The ability of our member clubs to come together to develop our own programming, standards and calendar allows us to enhance our program offerings and improve the coach education and player development environment across the state."

"The timing is right for CDL member clubs to determine their own pathway," said CDL league administrator, Ian Bradley. "The landscape of youth soccer in Iowa and across the USA continues to change and evolve, and this move puts us at the forefront of that change".

Benefits of this new partnership include:

- **League Play** — The CDL will provide league competition for three levels of competitive teams in the Fall and Spring. League highlights include central game sites, gender specific play dates and competitive match ups.
- **State Cup** — The CDL will run 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. More details on this exciting opportunity will be released in the near future.
- **Coaching Education** — The CDL will host U.S. Soccer coach licensing courses via US Club Soccer. In addition, the CDL will benefit from US Club Soccer's educational and developmental offerings, including the LaLiga coach education programming.

Kevin Payne, Executive Director of US Club Soccer adds, "We are very excited to welcome the Club Development League into the US Club Soccer family. Adding a strong and growing league in Iowa continues our impressive growth in the Midwest and nationally as the country emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic. Our founding principles of soccer people making soccer decisions, local decisions made locally, and professional management is resonating with soccer leaders everywhere. We look forward to a long relationship with the Club Development League and its membership for years to come."

ABOUT THE CLUB DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE (CDL)

The Club Development League (CDL) is a competitive state-wide player development league for 13U – 19U players. The CDL's mission is to improve the player development environment in Iowa through the organization of a standards-based league where member clubs can better manage coaching resources, schedules, budgets and time. The CDL strives to provide an enjoyable and financially conscientious platform for all players at an appropriate competitive level.

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, Vision Soccer Academy.



ABOUT US CLUB SOCCER:

A National Association member of the U.S. Soccer Federation, **US Club Soccer** fosters the growth and development of soccer clubs in order to create the best possible environment for players of all ages.

Anchored by **Players First** and its five pillars of Club Development, Coaching Development, Player Development, Parent Engagement & Education and Player Health & Safety, US Club Soccer offers registration, league- and cup-based competition platforms, player identification and a variety of other programming, resources and services.

US Club Soccer is sponsored by Nike and supported by LaLiga through a technical partnership.