



## **Villarreal Virginia Academy | The St. James Collaboration Partnership FAQ**

**Current as June 21, 2021**

### **What is the overall goal of this affiliation?**

*The partnership addresses three primary focus areas:*

- a. A shared commitment to long-term athletic development for each player and incorporation of an unparalleled support system;*
- b. To increase competitive opportunities for players and teams through collaborative planning and execution; and*
- c. To provide more dedicated resources and support for families seeking personalized opportunities to help their child develop athletic, personal and social skills through soccer.*

### **How does this relationship help parents further navigate the youth soccer landscape?**

*Both parties share a commitment to parent education, training methods and curricula, and advocacy as it relates to leagues, tournaments, college recruiting, talent identification and placement, and professional club and National Team exposure opportunities across all levels of the sport.*

### **How does this relationship provide value-added benefits for players, families and coaches?**

- a. Educated, credentialed technical staff with professional, college and National Team experience;*
- b. Increased coaching education resources and planning tools for staff at all levels of the game;*



TSJ

- c. Utilization of evidence-based youth development Best Practices known to foster a more successful sport experience for children and families;
- d. Access to Best-in-Class soccer facilities throughout the soccer year for training, competition, special events and educational opportunities;
- e. Dedicated “Player First” training and match day environment;
- f. Expanded use of sports performance tools to monitor player progression and reduce injury occurrence in emerging youth players throughout the soccer year;
- g. Cross-training opportunities with expert coaches and clinicians in strength training, speed, flexibility, injury prevention, vision, nutrition, confidence, focus, leadership development and career advising;
- h. International training opportunities and exposure tours to Villarreal, Spain to work with Villarreal CF’s professional coaches and performance experts;
- i. College, National Team and Professional Club pathway exposure and placement.

#### **How does this relationship benefit my child?**

*From a training methodology focused on individual improvement to regular engagement in a training environment and culture that mirrors collegiate and professional club Academy programs, players will have access to a wide network of resources that ensures they are supported throughout their club career and beyond. It increases opportunities for each child to learn from qualified coaches from both partner organizations on a year-round basis. Players will interface with experts from TSJ and Villarreal Virginia Academy’s technical staff through in-person and other educational platforms to learn and explore opportunities to train and play internationally. Increased access to personalized strength and conditioning programming, Futsal training and leagues, performance nutrition, and college exposure events.*



STJ

**How does this impact training and match play location?**

*There are no anticipated changes to either partner's training and match day operations in Fairfax and Loudoun Counties. Both partners aim to increase the number of cross-training and age-appropriate clinics and team development opportunities to provide pathways for players of all ages and abilities to progress in the sport.*

**Will coaches in both clubs stay the same for the new soccer year ahead?**

*Yes. The coaching staff for both clubs remains intact as planned and posted on each club's website.*

**For all VIVA and TSJ players/families:**

**Will my child still have his/her coach?**

*Yes. There are no coaching changes for the 2021-2022 soccer year.*

**Do we still have the same training field locations?**

*Yes. There are no changes to training field locations for the 2021-2022 soccer year.*

**What leagues will my player have access to?**

*Player placement is based on ability. Players will continue to have access to both ECNL- RL and NCSL leagues. Both clubs will provide opportunities for players to train and participate in matches and other events as determined by the Technical Directors for both partner clubs.*



STJ

### **Who is coordinating the player movement for matches and teams?**

*All technical decisions shall be made by a committee of leadership professionals from both clubs on a daily basis. Committee members will collaborate on training goals and methods as well as planning processes to ensure that the training environment educates, inspires and prepares players for match day experiences.*

### **What are the qualifications of the TSJ coaches who will coach my child?**

- *Christian Cziommer is the club's Technical Director of Elite Player Development. Cziommer holds a Master of Sports Sciences from Germany's Deutsche Sporthochschule Köln, a NSCAA Premier Diploma and UEFA A-License from the German Soccer Federation.*
- *Kurt Gordon is a Senior Staff Coach and directs The St. James Futsal Academy and Recreational Soccer Program. Gordon has over 25 years of coaching experience and is a U.S. Soccer licensed coach.*
- *Bobby Puppione serves as Girls Academy Director and oversees all College Recruitment for players in the club. He has extensive coaching and management experience and has worked with the U.S. Soccer Youth National Team program.*
- *Tom Torres is a Senior Staff Coach and will coach in the Girls Academy and Travel programs. Torres holds the Elite Formation Course Certificate from the French Football Federation, a UEFA B license, and an A license from the U.S. Soccer Federation.*
- *Aiden Teplitzky-Dobens is Age Group Director of the Girls U13-U15 Travel program. He has over 10 years of coaching experience.*
- *Eric Davey is Age Group Director of the Girls U9-U12 Travel program. Davey earned a UEFA-B coaching license and has been a stalwart on the touchlines for years.*
- *Jack Stefanowski is the club's Director of Goalkeeping. Stefanowski has more than 15 years of coaching experience and has worked with players at the youth, college, and professional levels.*

### **What are the qualifications of the VIVA coaches who will coach/train my player?**

*VIVA coaches who work with players and teams have undergone in-person and online coaching education delivered by Julio Salinas, Villarreal CF's Director of Coaching Education. In addition, coaches*



ST·J

*have completed coursework in youth development and possess licensure from UEFA, U.S. Soccer and United Soccer Coaches.*

- *Carlos Aranda, Technical Director, 25+ years of coaching experience in Japan, Paraguay and the United States. Aranda is a UEFA-A licensed coach.*
- *Bo Amato, Executive Director, 30+ years of coaching experience and U.S. Soccer National B license. Current Boys' Varsity Soccer Coach at Langley High School.*
- *Karen Billingslea, Girls' Director of Coaching, U.S. Soccer and United Soccer Coach licensed coach.*
- *Michael Arandia, Boys' Director of Coaching, U.S. Soccer, La Liga Level I and U.S. Club Soccer licensed coach.*
- *Dave Atkinson, Boys' Youth Age Group Director, 20+ years of coaching experience.*
- *Nick Flores, Head Coach, VIVA 2006 and 2007 NPL Virginia State Cup Champions.*
- *Mike Collins, Director of Goalkeeping.*

For further information about the affiliation, please email the parties at [admin@villarrealva.org](mailto:admin@villarrealva.org) and [soccer@thestjames.com](mailto:soccer@thestjames.com).