



ELITE

FAQ & OTHER INFORMATION

What about tryouts? How does my player get selected for this program?

- We will hold tryouts together. Players who would normally compete in the 04G (16U), 03G (17U), and 01/02G (19U) age groups at their respective club will now tryout collectively. Directors and coaches from both clubs will be evaluating all tryouts.

Why is this only available to these age groups?

- Being a new concept for both of our clubs, we want to ensure that this program meets the needs of players, families, and both clubs equally. We have decided to be very intentional in our rollout of this program, and rather than opening it to all high school-age teams, we chose the ages groups with the greatest need to begin.

Will this program be available to more teams in the future?

- Our sincere hope is yes. Both clubs are highly committed to elevating the game of soccer for our area, and we realize that it will take collaborative work in order to achieve this. As with all new things, we also want to make sure that we do it correctly and in the best interest of players. We felt that it was necessary to begin small and appropriately develop the program.

How does my player benefit the most from this new program?

- Collectively pooling our players at these three age groups assures the girls that they will have a complete and competitive team to play with. It allows us the ability to form a minimum of 3 - 6 elite level girls teams.
- This also gives us the ability to form "pure age group" teams in age groups that each club respectively cannot form on its own due to numbers. *Example: Sporting has a combined 03/04 girls' team. Under this model, we will be able to field top talent within their own age group rather than combining them with a second age group.*
- This is a competitive advantage for those players wishing to play at the college level when it comes to recruiting. No longer do college coaches have to try and figure out where to go to see the highest level players.....they will be competing on one elite team surrounded by players and coaches who will push them to perform at the highest level possible.

Will the new sAc Premier teams be a completely separate entity from the Comets & Sporting?

- Yes and no.
- We will register them under the name "sAc Elite" (Sporting Arkansas Comets Elite)
- They will have a different jersey than either respective club. The colors will be Navy (consistent between both clubs) and Gray.
- Jerseys will be co-crested proudly with the crest from each club along with our new sAc Elite crest.

Who is in charge of the “sAc Elite” teams?

- This program will be co-directed by Max Habereeder and Samir Haj
- Oversight will be provided by a collective “advisory board” that consists of two BOD members from each club for a total of four members.

Where will we train?

- The players will train 3x week. This will be on a specific schedule and will take place at both Sugar Creek and Bruner and Lay fields. *Example: Monday – Sporting Fields, Thursday – Comets fields, 1 additional training at respective “home” field for Skill Development Sessions....more to come about this.*

Who will be our coach?

- Your player will work with **sAc Elite** Staff of coaches.
- The **sAc Elite** staff will have 3-4 team coaches plus the directors of coaching. The coaching staff will be a combination of coaches from both clubs, each with specific coaching traits and development specialties.
- Each team will have a team coach that will manage and coach the team in collaboration with the **sAc Elite** Staff. This coaching model will give your player access to 3-4 top level coaches throughout the season as opposed to just one - increasing each players opportunity for development and growth.

What league will “sAc Elite” play in?

- The goal of these elite teams is to play at the highest level possible. Currently, the NPL is the top league in our region. All teams will compete in this league.

How does this impact my younger player?

- We do not intend to roll this program out beyond the high school-age teams.
- Our two clubs enjoy the fierce competition that exists between many of our teams and we do not intend to water that down.
- This should create enthusiasm and excitement for the younger players in knowing that as they get older, should they continue to develop their love for soccer, there will be elite level teams available for them to compete on.

*additional info can be found on our website www.sportingarkansas.com/sacelite

