



Dear Heat United Families

We are excited to announce some big news that we hope will net a significant benefit for the members our soccer club and have a longer term impact on soccer in the NW Suburbs.

Effective now, Heat United and Liverpool FC International Academy Illinois (based primarily out of the Gilberts/Hampshire/Elgin/Dundee area) have entered into a player development partnership designed to give players from both areas a world-class platform and pathway in youth soccer.

We will have much more to share in the weeks to come, and will host a town-hall meeting in August before the start of the season to get your questions answered, but here are some of the highlights of what we have put together for you.

1. Starting this Fall, Heat and LFC IA players will train together at least one time a week under the direction of Liverpool FC IA accredited coaches (including 2 Heat United Coaches). This will provide Heat players with a 3rd bonus day of training at no additional cost for Fall season. As we kick off this partnership, we want to keep things convenient and familiar for everyone. What this means for your player is additional training opportunities with high-level coaches using the curriculum and methodology from one of the world's most respected professional soccer clubs.
2. Players from the combined Heat/LFC IA player pool will be selected by the coaching staff to play on Heat and/or LFC IA teams. This means your player could be invited to play on 2 teams and get the additional playing and developmental time. You can opt in or out of that additional opportunity if it is offered to you. When you combine the top level training with the opportunity to play more games and get more touches on the ball, it is a fantastic environment for accelerated development.
3. In certain age groups, an academy-level team will be selected by coaching staff. This group will represent the top players from Heat, LFCIA Northwest and LFCIA South. These "higher than division 1" teams will compete in the NISL National Premier League hosted at Olympic Park in Schaumburg on weeknights. They will also travel to regional and national tournaments including Disney this Winter. If your player is selected for this honor, they will still play for their Heat team on the weekend, but get an additional high-level competitive game during the week. There will be additional competition fees associated with being on this team.
4. This partnership also gives us access to the USSSA Regional Alliance league. As early as August 28th, teams will travel to Omaha, NE to play in regional league play against

teams from NE, KS and SD. Those clubs will travel to Chicago in the Spring for round 2 of those games. Games will be played in a tournament format for league standings. More details on this league will be shared in July.

5. LFC IA girls and Heat United girls will merge into cohesive teams for the 2021-22 playing year. This will allow us to deliver full rosters of teams with girls playing in the optimal competition level. Girls teams will train together 2-3 times a week under the Liverpool International Academy curriculum. This provides all our girls a great pathway to develop together and prepare for high school soccer - and more. Teams will carry the names of Heat and LFC IA together.
6. LFC IA and Heat are partnering to join the Super Y league and offer a robust Summer program. Super Y is a regional Summer league that allows teams to advance to national championships each Winter in Florida. More details on Super Y and associated tryouts/costs will be released during the Winter season.
7. Heat United players in the high school age group will now have access to a robust college recruiting platform. LFC IA employs multiple college coaches who have very vast Rolodexes of college coaches in the NAIA, Division 3, Division 2, and Division 1 ranks. From college coach virtual round tables, to individualized recruiting plans for players, we will now have one of the best platforms for college recruiting in the NW suburbs.
8. For families and players interested in futsal, G3X Futsal is the US Youth Futsal Academy (DA) for Chicagoland. The partnership with LFC IA gives all our players the opportunity to tryout for G3X Futsal teams and play in Academy showcases, regional qualifiers and National team ID camps each Winter season.
9. Several Heat teams have participated in Winter league play at Lifezone360 in the past. LFC IA staff organized and ran that league and we will join forces to run a comprehensive Winter league starting this year. This “outside” competition opportunity will give players that additional edge of development. This won’t take away from in-house playing opportunities - which we continue to offer.
10. LFC IA will be opening a new facility advanced skills development center in West Dundee where small group and private training will be available at a subsidized rate for Heat players. The center is due to open December 1, 2021.

Sometimes news like this creates a lot of excitement - and we hope it does. However it can also foster some concern or confusion. We will work hard this Summer to communicate with you to ensure any confusion or concern is taken care of. Below is a quick summary that we hope will put you in the “excited” camp.

What’s Changing

- We’re a much larger group of families going into the Fall. Between Heat and LFC IA, we just doubled the player pool size. This means players can train and play in the developmental environment best suited for them.
- We’re adding more programming such as the optional 3rd day of practice. For Fall season, there is no cost for this. After that, it will be just \$150 per season to add on the additional 12-15 training sessions with elite-level coaches.
- We’re providing more competition opportunities for those who want it.

- We're moving to a standardized curriculum that comes directly from the youth academy of one of the biggest clubs in England. LFC IA accredited coaches in the US have direct access to the international academy staff in Liverpool. All the sessions that are run by LFC IA coaches are approved by - and often created by LFC International Academy staff in England. This allows our players to grow and improve in a world class environment. It's like putting them in the best school district in the country - without having to move residences.
- You'll see new faces this Fall on the field (players and coaches).
- Players no longer have to go searching for high-level training opportunities, additional games, high-level competition, or better facilities.

What's Not Changing

- The board still runs Heat United. Nothing about our governance is changing.
- We're still a volunteer-led organization with an amazing culture. Nothing about that is changing.
- We're not raising base fees for our families this year just to accommodate this expanded programming. The partnership with LFC IA provides lots of new opportunities, but those who want to take advantage of it will pay for it supplementally. (Keep in mind that the Fall 3rd day of training is provided to all players at no additional cost as a trial).
- Our head coaches are still our head coaches. They will still be running the games on the weekend. They will also participate in the LFC IA sessions as pool trainers. Coach Kris and Jay will be going through LFC IA accreditation this year and run the 3rd day/bonus sessions with the LFC IA coaching staff.

We can't anticipate every single question that will come up, but here are answers to a few.

What about uniforms?

If your player is playing on a Heat United team, they'll play in their Heat United uniform. If they are invited to play on an LFC IA team, the training kit that is required to be worn at all training sessions can also be used as a game uniform. The cost of that Nike kit is \$78. LFC IA will purchase and provide a loaner kit to any family that cannot afford the additional expense.

Where will training happen?

Your 2 days of club training will continue at MacKeben Elementary. The 3rd bonus day of training will be at Elgin Sports Complex for the Fall season. As the coaches work through all the logistics of training the teams together this Fall, we will look for ways to integrate more team trainings and locations.

Are teams going to be called something different?

Dedicated Heat United boys teams will still be called what they have been called in the past. Girls teams will carry both the Heat and LFC IA names. Dedicated LFC IA boys teams will still be called LFC IA pre academy teams as they have been called in the past. Elite teams will continue play as LFC IA Academy teams.

What about costs?

Your player dues that you paid at registration do not change. If you wish to, you you can participate in the bonus day of training this Fall at no additional cost. If you want to enroll your player in the bonus day of training in future seasons, a small \$150 per season fee will be charged to cover the additional coaching, facility, and curriculum costs. If you are invited to play in tournaments in addition to what we include in your base fee, those are typically billed at \$150 per tournament. Futsal etc are supplemental programs that you can sign up for separately.