



## 2017-18 BOYS' DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY AGREEMENT

This agreement ("Agreement") is by and between the U.S. Soccer Development Academy (hereafter "Academy") and the United States Soccer Federation, Inc. ("USSF"), on the one hand, and the Participant listed above and their Parent/Guardian identified below.

In consideration of the Academy accepting the enrollment of Participant in an Academy program and the instruction, competition and other services and benefits to be provided by the Academy to Participant, the undersigned Participant and Parent/Guardian, on behalf of Participant, acknowledge and agree as follows:

**1. Acknowledgment of Rules and Standards of Conduct:**

A. The undersigned Participant and Parent/Guardian understand that Academy has rules and standards of conduct that are set forth in the Academy Regulations and Disciplinary Code, as may be amended from time to time (the "Code"). Participant and Parent/Guardian agree that they have(a) been given access to the Code, (b) have read and understand the Code and (c) agree to be bound and abide by the then-current rules and standards in the Code at all times.

B. The undersigned Participant and Parent/Guardian understand and acknowledge receipt of U.S. Soccer's Prohibited Conduct Policy and other regulations that apply to all covered individuals and acknowledge that the U.S. Center for SafeSport holds exclusive jurisdiction over investigation and resolution of alleged sexual misconduct. U.S Soccer will retain the authority to investigate and resolve alleged SafeSport Code violations that are non-sexual in nature.

**2. Publicity Consent:** Participant and Parent/Guardian (a) understand and agree that the Participant may be filmed, televised, photographed, identified and may have their name, image, picture, likeness, voice, performance and biographical information (collectively the "Image") otherwise captured, depicted or recorded and (b) consent to the use of the Participant's Image by the Academy or the USSF and their assignees and licensees (including, for the avoidance of doubt, broadcasters and commercial sponsors) at any time, for any purpose and in any manner without payment to, or the additional consent of, Participant or Parent/Guardian.

**3. Assumption of Risks:**

A. Physical activity, by its very nature, carries with it certain dangers and risks that cannot be eliminated regardless of the care taken to prevent or minimize the risk of harm. The Academy program is for the sport of soccer and related activities such as strength training, running and other aerobic activities. Some of these activities involve strenuous exertions of strength using various muscle groups, some involve quick movements involving speed and change of direction, some involve potential contact with equipment, fixed objects (e.g. goals), other participants (including participants that are older or younger and who may be larger or smaller in terms of weight and height) and various surface types, and others involve sustained physical activity that places stress on the cardiovascular and nervous systems. The specific risks vary from one activity to another, but in each activity the risks range from (1) minor injuries such as cuts, bruises, muscle strains and sprains, to (2) major injuries such as broken or fractured bones, concussion or lost teeth, to (3) catastrophic injuries, such as heart attacks or fractured skull or those that cause disfigurement, loss of mental capacity, loss of sight, speech or hearing, paralysis or death.

B. The undersigned Participant and Parent/Guardian acknowledge that risk of injury from the activities involved in the Academy program is significant, including the potential for concussions, other brain or head injuries and death. THE UNDERSIGNED PARTICIPANT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN, FOR THEMSELVES AND ON PARTICIPANT'S BEHALF, KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL RISKS IN ANY WAY RELATING TO, ARISING FROM OR ASSOCIATED WITH THE PARTICIPANT'S PARTICIPATION IN ANY ACADEMY-RELATED ACTIVITIES, BOTH KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, even if arising from the negligence of the "Releasees" (as defined below) or others, and assume full responsibility for Participant's participation in the Academy program.

C. Without limiting the foregoing, the undersigned Participant and Parent/Guardian assume the risk of all conditions and consequences, dangerous or otherwise, arising from Participant's participation in the Academy program in any way relating to or associated with concussions, subconcussive blows, or brain or head injuries, including but not limited to possible acute and long term neurocognitive and neurophysiological consequences as a result of Participant's continued play.

D. In addition, the undersigned Participant and Parent/Guardian understand that by participating in the Academy program, Participant may be exposed, or expose others, to contagious and potentially harmful or deadly disease such as influenza, common cold, chicken pox, meningitis or measles. Participant may also be exposed to risks while traveling (such as in vans when traveling to and from competitions, social

events or the airport), exposure to large crowds (such as at a competition) and exposure to risks related to receipt of treatment for any physical or mental conditions. The undersigned Participant and Parent/Guardian assume all of these and other associated risks.

E. The undersigned Participant and Parent/Guardian acknowledge that Participant's participation in the Academy program is without assumption of responsibility or risk of any kind by the Releasees, and the Releasees make no representations or warranties of any kind with respect to Participant's participation.

F. The undersigned Participant and Parent/Guardian have read the paragraphs 3.A. through 3.E. and (1) understand the nature of the activities in the Academy program, (2) understand the demands of those activities relative to the physical condition and skill level of Participant and (3) appreciate the types of injuries, illnesses and risks related to the Participant's participation in the Academy and the treatment for any physical or medical condition which may occur as a result of participation in the Academy. Participant and Parent/Guardian hereby assert that participation in the Academy and use of related facilities and services is voluntary and that Participant and Parent/Guardian knowingly assume all related risks.

G. **THE UNDERSIGNED PARTICIPANT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGE THAT BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT THEY ARE RELINQUISHING SUBSTANTIAL LEGAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO PURSUE CLAIMS OR FINANCIAL RECOVERY FOR, AMONG OTHER THINGS, INJURIES OR ILLNESS INCURRED BY PARTICIPANT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THE ACADEMY INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO BRAIN OR HEAD INJURIES SUCH AS THOSE WHICH MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH CONCUSSIONS AND SUBCONCUSSIVE BLOWS, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH INJURY OR ILLNESS RESULTS FROM THE INHERENT RISKS OF THE ACTIVITY OR FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES.**

4. **Waiver and Release of Claims:**

A. The undersigned Participant and Parent/Guardian, for themselves and on behalf of Participant, and the Participant's heirs, next of kin, personal representatives, successors and/or assigns, do hereby release and forever discharge the Academy, the United States Soccer Federation, Inc., and each of their affiliated clubs, teams and companies, and any of their members, directors, officers, employees, volunteers, sponsors, independent contractors or agents (collectively, the "Releasees"), of and from any and all manner of action or actions, cause or causes of action, in law or in equity for indemnity or otherwise, liabilities, claims, demands, damages, losses, costs, or expenses, of any nature whatsoever, known or unknown, in any way relating to or arising from Participant's enrollment in or participation with the Academy. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing this waiver and release includes, but is not limited to, claims relating to personal injury, illness or death; damage to, or loss or theft of, property (including personal items, cars and money); the receipt of medical care or treatment for any physical or mental condition; use of facilities, services, premises and equipment; exposure to inclement weather; and involvement in accidents.

B. The undersigned Participant and Parent/Guardian, for themselves and on behalf of Participant, further covenant, promise and agree not to sue or bring any action against the Releasees for any claims which are covered by the waiver and release set forth in paragraph 4.A., above.

5. **Indemnification:** The undersigned Participant and Parent/Guardian agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from any liability, claims, demands, costs, expenses and attorneys' fees incurred by the Releasees, or any of them, as a result of (a) their, or any person on their behalf, asserting any claims for which they have acknowledged and assumed risk under paragraphs 3.A. through 3.G. above and/or covered by the waiver and release set forth in paragraphs 4.A. and 4.B. above; and (b) all claims and amounts related to legal and other actions brought against the Releasees, or any one of them, to the extent such claims are attributable to the gross negligence or willful misconduct of Participant or a violation or breach of this Agreement.

6. **Choice of Law and Severability and Venue:** The undersigned Participant and Parent/Guardian further expressly agree that (a) the laws of the State of Florida shall apply to any interpretation of this Agreement, without regard to its conflicts of laws principles and (b) the provisions of this Agreement are severable and that if any provision is held to be invalid or unenforceable, it shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision in this Agreement.

7. **Arbitration as the Exclusive Remedy:**

A. The parties agree that all disputes relating to or arising out of this Agreement and/or the Participant's participation in the Academy shall be presented to the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") in accordance with the rules of the AAA before a retired state or federal court judge for arbitration pursuant to the commercial rules of that association as the sole and exclusive remedy for resolving such disputes. The parties agree that (a) they shall be entitled to conduct such reasonable discovery as the arbitrator may allow; (b) the arbitrator shall be entitled to award the full range of relief as would be available to the prevailing party in a court of law; and (c) the decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on each of the parties. The prevailing party in any arbitration under this Agreement shall be entitled to recover its attorneys' fees and costs from the other party. The parties agree that any such arbitration shall take place in Chicago, Illinois.

B. If any party to this Agreement brings a civil action rather than an arbitration proceeding as required by paragraph 7.A. above, such action shall be barred as a result of the exclusive remedy provided in that paragraph, and the prevailing party in any such action shall be entitled to recover its costs and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred in connection with such lawsuit.

C. THE PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT EACH ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE THAT BY SELECTING ARBITRATION AS THE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE REMEDY FOR RESOLVING ALL DISPUTES AMONG THEM, THEY ARE WAIVING THEIR RIGHT TO A JURY TRIAL TO WHICH THEY MAY OTHERWISE BE ENTITLED.



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8. **Acknowledgment of Understanding:** The undersigned Participant and Parent/Guardian acknowledge and agree that they have read this Agreement, fully understand its terms and agree that they are freely and voluntarily signing this Agreement. Participant and Parent/Guardian further understand and agree that Participant and Parent/Guardian for themselves and on behalf of the Participant: (a) are consenting to Participant's participation in the Academy; (b) understand that all risks in any way relating to the Participant's participation in the Academy are expressly assumed; (c) are giving up rights, including the right to compensation for injury resulting from the Participant's participation in the Academy; and (d) are providing a complete and unconditional advance waiver and release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law.

Club Name: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Age Group (choose one): **U-12 U-13 U-14 U-15 U-16/17 U-18/19**  
Participant's Name: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Player Status (choose one): **Full-Time Developmental Player**  
Staff Status (choose one): **Coach Admin Other**

State/Province of Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Participant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_