



November 24, 2021

Howell United SC is pleased to announce that we have entered into an agreement for an Academy Affiliate Program with Cedar Stars Academy Monmouth Boys. This agreement will now create a pathway for Howell United players from MOSA at U8 to MLS NEXT starting at U13. Both clubs are excited to commence this partnership and work together to provide this great opportunity for our players. Below are the details of how this agreement will work and answer some questions we anticipate our families will ask.

What age groups are eligible?

- U10 to U12 for EDP
- U13+ for EDP, USYS, NEAL, MLS Next

How will the players be identified?

- CSA coaches will attend Howell United games at Soldier Memorial with a HUSC board member. Players that are identified will be contacted via email by CSA with HUSC copied on the communications
- The player will be invited to attend 2-3 practices for CSA staff to further assess
- Player can then be offered one of three opportunities
 - Winter/Summer select training opportunities
 - Academy Affiliate Secondary Permission Player
 - Full time or part time MLS Next Player

How will the Secondary Permission Player program work?

- MOSA U10 and U11 players will be primary carded with Howell United. They will be given secondary permission to play with CSA in EDP. EDP players are not eligible for this.
- MOSA U12 players can choose to be primary carded by either club and be given a secondary permission in the other club

- EDP U13+ can choose to be primary carded by either club and be given a secondary permission in the other club provided they are offered a spot on a team that plays in the Northeast Academy League team
- All players primary to Howell must attend all Howell training and games. CSA will work together with Howell United to try and minimize conflicts.
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- All players primary to Howell must fully pay for all Howell United registration fees and training. CSA will provide discounts on their program to make this possible. In addition, CSA will only require a reduced uniform package for the players.
- All players secondary to Howell must fully pay for all Howell United registration fees. Training fees will be handled on a case by case basis. CSA will provide discounts on their program to make this possible. In addition, CSA will only require a reduced uniform package for the players.

How will the MLS Next Program work?

- Only U13+ are eligible
- Per MLS rules, player must be a fulltime MLS Next Player and cannot secondary card back to Howell United
- If a Howell United player is selected for the MLS Next team, while the club will be sad to see a player move on from Howell, it is an excellent opportunity that we want to be able to provide for our top players.

Why start at U10?

- From a pure soccer development perspective, we actually felt that U11 would be the most appropriate age group to start this. Up until U10 soccer development should focus on learning foot skills and basic concepts of the game. We brought in CTR to help with this development and feel that between the practices and clinics provided, secondary carding may distract from this.

However, in the past 3-4 years we have been seeing players younger and younger leave for academies with most looking to leave between the summer of U9 and U10. We, as does CSA, understand the importance of local clubs and playing sports with the kids you see most often. Therefore, we decided to start this at U10. As a club we do not see a benefit for secondary carding any younger than U10.

Why do this at all?

- Again, in the past 3-4 years players focused solely on soccer feel that they need more than what is provided. We have tried to reduce this by bringing in CTR for full time coaching to accelerate all player growth and develop strong teams in Howell. However, there are

certain players that will need more than what can be provided at Howell United and feel they must leave and cannot stay with their friends.

In the past there has not been a structure to make this work in the club and we have seen two things that drives the players away. Either the coaches feel the players do not want to be there and play them less or the other parents on the team think it's unfair for that players take minutes from their kids even though they are part time.

This now creates a structure where both clubs will work together to make sure players attend practices and games, fees are covered, and everyone involved with the team fully understands how this system will work. We think it is extremely important to create an environment where we keep our kids together for as long as possible while not stunting the development of any one player.

- This agreement is a **non-monetary** agreement. It is being done as both clubs see the benefit and importance of local club development
- CSA will provide secondary permissions if teams have needs for players in a season or tournament
- Howell United teams will receive priority booking for outdoor fields at Capelli Sports Center with discounts up to 12%

How will our teams not fold if they take all our players?

- This agreement is capped at no more than 3 players PER AGE GROUP
- For this to be successful for both clubs, it is critical that the Howell teams continue to be strong, viable teams.
- As stated in the previous section, CSA will be able to also provide CSA players to Howell on a secondary permission basis to teams that are struggling with numbers

Can we still do secondary permissions with another club now?

- Yes, secondary permissions will be approved on a case by case basis

Why does this agreement only apply to the boys side?

- On the boys side the pathway is a much clearer picture than the girls side with MLS Next being the top league for both collegiate and professional players. The girls side currently has three such competing leagues:
 - ECNL [Currently in its 12th year] – Only NJ member clubs are PDA and Match fit Academy
 - GA [Currently in its 2nd year] – Only NJ member clubs are CSA, STA, and South Jersey Elite Barons
 - USYS National League P.R.O. [Currently in its 2nd year] – Any NJYS affiliated team can earn their way into this league by competing in the NJYS National League

- Currently Howell already has one team, Hurricanes, competing in the USYS National League with a possible second team being added next year.
- Given that the GA is only in its second year, we are still gathering more information on it before signing an agreement. However, we are currently in talks with a couple of clubs and if an agreement makes sense we will enter into one.

Please reach out to president.husc@gmail.com if you have any further questions or concerns about this program