

# **WELCOME TO THE DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY**

The Pateadores are proud to announce our acceptance into the US Soccer Girls Development Academy (USGDA). We have been a part of the Academy Program with our boys since the leagues inception in 2008. The inaugural season for the girls will be fall of 2017. The US Academy Program has become the highest level of youth soccer offered in the United States.

The Pateadores were formed in 1987 as an exclusive boys club. We remained that way until 2007 when the first three girls teams were formed at the younger age groups. The Pats girls program developed and grew year by year into a highly reputable girls side. This announcement is especially rewarding for those that have seen the girls program grow from 3 to over 65 teams within the 8 years. Long time Pateadores girls director Kevin Macare is "honored that our commitment to player development and program growth has been realized. We look forward to continued success and honoring these challenges with the same initiatives and resolve that made us who we are today".

In recent years, efforts have been made to bring the top talent from the club together in various programs such as our Pats Elite and Academy ID Program. Two years ago Neil Powell was brought in to head these programs and assist with our college placement as our inaugural class was now at the high school ages. Our player pool has responded to these opportunities with many results similar to their Man City Cup performance that brought home a championship and second place trophy at the U18 and U17 age groups respectively. These elite teams and programs have helped attract additional players and have provided a platform for them to showcase their talent from within the club. One such player, Zoe Clevely, was fortunate enough to be called into the U17 National Team Camp this past summer. Neil is excited about our new opportunity- "It is a huge privilege for the Pats girls to play in the best environment in the country. We have made great strides with our player pool and this opportunity will now help enhance this experience as we strive to compete at the next level."



Photo on left- Former Pateadores academy player Steven Birnbaum vs Lionel Messi. Steve was apart of our inaugural academy class of 2008. Photo on right- Zoe Clevely with the club's Academy Championship Plate from 2011. The girls are looking forward to someday bringing home a USDA championship plate of their own.

Along with the privilege of participating in a league operated by the US Soccer Federation comes the responsibility of upholding academy standards. Training sessions and seasonal plans will be created with great detail. All academy soccer interaction is monitored by the US Federation. Our academy staff is lead by Teddy Chronopolous. Teddy holds the highest coaching license offered by the US Federation, the Academy Director license. Teddy is also a member of the US Soccer Development Academy Leadership Group. Our current academy staff has over sixty combined years of academy experience. We look forward to bringing this expertise to our girls program.

"We are extremely honored and excited to work closely with the GDA. We look forward to sharing our philosophy and core values on a player and coaching development that has made us one of the most successful boys clubs in the country"- Teddy Chronopoulos, Academy Director

Many opportunities that will be provided are focused towards the education and selection of the pathways that lead to the next phases in life. This could include individual preparation for the national team, college or professional soccer. US Soccer and the Pateadores believe in working towards a more holistic approach to the overall development of todays player. Pats Club Director Jon Szczuka explains "We have always tried to bring the academy experience to our girls by attempting to duplicate the academy environment. Now we can provide the experience first hand." In order to accomplish all of these goals the club has committed to providing an unprecedented amount of support to the girls program. Club President David Barry backs this commitment- "We are pleased that we have been selected to bring the same resources, including focused training and coaching expertise to girls soccer that we have done for our boy's academy program. We look forward to being diligent stewards of this honor." Announcements regarding the Pateadores planned support and girls academy structure will be made in the near future.

For more information you may visit the US Soccer website or click on the following link:

<http://www.ussoccerda.com/final-girls-academy-clubs>

To see a recent clip of Zoe Clevely as she reflects on her national team experience go to:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3E\\_bOU1xZ0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3E_bOU1xZ0)