



CANADA FIRST ACADEMY FOR SOCCER EXCELLENCE

≡ LONG TERM PLAYER DEVELOPMENT ≡

CFA PLAYER PATHWAY from Grassroots to National Team

CFA's Player Pathway aligns with Ontario Soccer and Canada Soccer Provincial and National Player Pathway; we promote and encourage movement from grassroots through the provincial program and national program. We support and endorse players to pursue the appropriate level of participation.

CFA Player Pathway begins within our grassroots program, we deliver programming for the ages U5 and up. Players within our pathway, have the opportunity to advance to OPDL via partnerships with local organizations and annual tryouts, TOLD events or remain in the soccer for life pathway within our competitive environment. We have always supported players ambitions to pursue university and college opportunities as well as Semi-Pro and Professional environments.

CFA's programs are focused on the development stage of our members rather than their age group. The criteria followed by the academy to classify our athletes and assign them to a group are maturity, age, physical capability, size, skill level and understanding of the game.

CFA is interested in players that show potential and passion for the game, are competitive in nature and have the persistence to train consistently, with intensity and focus.

Young players can enter the FUNdamentals program (6week, 3 month to 6 month courses) starting at U5 and could stay in this program until U12. CFA strategically does not provide house league soccer (focus on elite player development). CFA does not believe that house league play in large numbers without training and enough ball touches fosters player development thus we combine player training and small sided games (2v2 to 4v4) into one program.

FUNdamentals participants outperforming the FUNdamentals program are offered to upgrade to our competitive teams programs – starting as early as U5. In addition we also hold open try-outs for anyone interested in joining our teams but give preference to players educated in our own FUNdamentals program.

The team program is layered in the following levels:

Bambini: age U5 to U7

Players outperforming the Fundamentals sessions are entered into this pre-team training environment where they train twice weekly and play internal small sided games on a specific additional small sided games day. Players with excellerated development level at U7 will be added to the U8 team as call ups and participate in the U8 festivals.

U8:

This children participate in a pool of teams in district festivals where at each festival the numbers of teams are defined a couple of weeks before. We typically split in as many teams as possible with 2 subs per team to allow a lot of playing time. Game format in the district 5v5 (4+GK)

U9 and U10

Game format 7v7. We typically combine the players playing in 7v7 format to allow for consistent tactical coaching in regards to the 7v7 format.

U11 and U12:

Game format 9v9, similar approach as above.

Competitive Stream:

Teams U13 to U17 at the moment, they play in district and regional leagues. Starting U13 exceptional CFA athletes will be sent to Talent on Day (TOD) events of Ontario Soccer to enter the provincial team screening process. Currently CFA has no OPDL team and cooperates with OPDL teams on the further development of stand out players. As CFA develops the age groups to U21 in the coming years we will evaluate participation in the OPDL for the age groups U13+. CFA will also intends to provide competitive adult soccer at a later stage of its development.

Once players are part of one of our teams, they get profiled and evaluated twice a year; based on this, the respective head coach further plans the development of the athlete.

The best players of the academy get exposed to German pro club training for 1 week a year to assess their skill level alongside elite european players and enter the pro level scouting system. CFA supports its players to secure college, university scholarships or persue semi-pro or professional contracts. Sof ar 2 former CFA players are currently entered in the U14 of Toronto FC, 2 players are playing for Sevilla Academy in Spain. ! Player is playing in a 3rd league team in Portugal.

CFA players have been training in weekly guest trainings at Bayern Muenchen, FC Ingolstadt, SpVgg Unterhaching, 1860 Muenchen, FC Ismaning. We hosted guest coaches for our scouting camps from SpVgg Unterhaching, SV Werder Bremen, Bayerischer Fussball Verband (Bavarian Soccer Association), Berlin Fussball Verband (Berlin Soccer Association)

CFA Player Pathway

