



Sporting Columbia SC Academy

2026-2027 Program Information

OUR PURPOSE

The Sporting Columbia Academy is the highest level of player development within our club, designed for committed players who have a passion for the game and a desire to improve.

We provide a structured, player-centered environment that prioritizes **long-term development over short-term results**, helping players reach their full potential both on and off the field.

OUR IDENTITY

At Sporting Columbia, we develop:

- **Technically proficient players**
- **Tactically intelligent decision-makers**
- **Confident, competitive individuals**

All teams operate within a shared game model built around:

- **Organized playing structure**
- **Purposeful possession**
- **Intelligent movement**
- **High pressing when defending**

This alignment ensures consistency across all teams and provides players with a clear pathway as they progress through the club.

OUR METHODOLOGY

Our training environment is:

- **Game-based and player-centered**
- Focused on **decision-making and problem solving**
- Built through **guided discovery, not constant instruction**

Our licensed coaches are committed to continuous education and create sessions that challenge players to:

- Think
- Compete
- Take ownership of their development

ACADEMY PHASES

Youth Academy (U9–U14) – Foundation Phase

- Build strong technical skills
- Develop confidence on the ball
- Encourage creativity and love for the game
- Introduce decision-making in real game situations

Senior Academy (U15–U18) – Performance Phase

- Develop tactical understanding and positional roles
- Increase speed of play and consistency
- Prepare players for high school, college, and beyond
- Support individual pathways and goals

THE PLAYER EXPERIENCE: TRAINING AND COMPETITION

Academy players train in a competitive, supportive environment that includes:

- Minimum **2 training sessions per week**
- League play and **1–3 tournaments per season**
- Additional development opportunities throughout the year

We challenge players to compete with intensity while demonstrating:

- **Respect**
- **Teamwork**
- **Growth Mindset**
- **Passion**
- **Community**

Sporting Columbia Academy is a Fall & Spring season commitment for U9-U14 teams. High school players participate for one season opposite of their HS season. (Boys: HS Soccer in Fall/Club Soccer in Spring. Girls: HS Soccer in Spring/Club Soccer in Fall). Extra/optional training opportunities may be offered during the winter off-season.

Once rosters are formed, training will begin in August for most teams. Training days may be Monday-Friday. Specific days/times will be determined & communicated as soon as possible by coaches. Trainings sessions are 60-90 minutes and are typically at one of the following locations:

- **Sporting Columbia Training Facility** 5023 Roger Wilson Memorial Drive Columbia MO 65202
- **Cosmo Park** 1615 Business Loop 70 West Columbia MO 65202

Every weekend during the season (Fall: August-November, Spring: February-May) is a playing opportunity for Academy teams. Coaches and the professional staff will work with their teams to outline an event calendar to ensure an outstanding experience and maximize player development. Typically, leagues are in Kansas City or St. Louis. Tournaments may also be in other locations around the state of Missouri.

Playing time is not automatic in the advanced program. Players benefit from coaching staff, year-round training, and the opportunity to be a part of a group to develop friendships, social skills, values, and lifelong memories. Playing time is earned based on performance and attendance. Playing time is fair but not equal.

TRYOUTS

Teams are formed after a formal evaluation date at which time new and returning players are evaluated in an open tryout process. Tryouts are held each June for the upcoming year.

AGE GROUPS

The club abides by the age matrix set by the United States Soccer Federation. Opportunities to “play up” will be considered and approved on a case-by-case basis by the Director of Soccer. Players must file a petition to play up directly to the Director of Soccer and must try out in their age group in normal circumstances.

[Age Matrix](#)

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

Please see the [2026/27 Academy Player Fees](#) document for the current fee structure and details.

Once a player is offered a spot on a Sporting Columbia Academy team, registration payment will be required before joining the roster & participating. The registration fee covers club fees and a down payment on game fees.

Club Fees support our licensed and highly experienced coaching and technical staff, our private training facility and other field rentals, and the day-to-day expenses of operating Mid-Missouri’s premier competitive soccer program.

Game fees cover the costs of the league and tournaments selected by each team. These costs vary by age group, league type, and the number and type of tournaments selected. The down payment on game fees helps to cover a portion of the tournament/league costs when registering our teams. The balance of game fees is determined by total cost of the league/tournaments selected by each team for each season, less the game fee down payment. The fees are divided among all players on the team roster, regardless of the rate of participation by each player. Game fees are invoiced separately for the fall and spring seasons.

In addition to Game Fees, the Club Fee does not cover:

- Uniform Fees: All players must purchase a current Sporting Columbia uniform.
- Extra Programming: Summer camps, futsal, 3v3, indoor games and training sessions, and other club offerings.

All fees are nonrefundable.

FINANCIAL AID

The purpose of the Sporting Columbia financial aid program is to allow youth players to participate regardless of their financial situation. Please see the [2026/27 Academy Player Financial Aid Application](#) for details and deadline to apply.

OUR COMMITMENT

At Sporting Columbia, we are committed to developing not only better players, but better people.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Please contact Executive Director, Dave Golan, via email at dgolan@sportingcolumbia.net.