

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Liverpool Football Club International Academy- Michigan?

Liverpool FC International Academy- Michigan (“LFCIA-MI”) is a premier soccer academy that values each player and their individual development on and off the field. They are unique in that they are backed by the rich, storied tradition of Liverpool FC and the experience and resources of its International Academy in England.

Players benefit from a structured curriculum, the same one used by The Academy of Liverpool FC in England. Age-specific phases of development means its players can develop their technical and tactical skills in an engaging and competitive environment that is appropriate to their abilities and personal goals.

The club currently has nearly 60 teams and over 700 players and operates out of Pontiac at Ultimate Soccer Arenas (“Central/Ultimate”), Ann Arbor, Windsor, and now Clarkston.

Will the name of our club change?

Yes, we will become “Liverpool FC International Academy- Michigan” and will become its fourth site in Michigan, serving boys and girls soccer players in North Oakland County. We will operate out of our current site in Clarkston, and to distinguish ourselves from the other LFCIA-MI sites, we will be referred to as the “North Oakland” or “Clarkston/North Oakland” site.

Is this a merger?

More or less, yes. In a general sense, it’s certainly a bringing together of like-minded entities and an opportunity to collaborate with LFCIA-MI leadership and resources. However, Ian Jones and Damian Huffer will continue as club owners and co-Directors of Coaching for our Clarkston/North Oakland site. All of the familiar faces of our staff will continue to have control of the club’s operations and we will continue to operate out of our current offices, play at our existing fields, and look forward to training at our new complex on North Sashabaw Road in June.

Why make this change?

Our club vision has always been to help teens and kids become the best players possible. We insist on that goal not only for our players, but our club too. Striking a relationship with LFCIA-MI and, through them, with the LFC International Academy system, provides a direct relationship with the Liverpool Football Club in England (LFC) and their world-renowned Academy. This comes with many advantages. Primarily, it gives our coaches and players the competitive edge by training under the curriculum of the LFC Academy in England.

Is this a real relationship with Liverpool in England?

The reason that this is so attractive is because it is more than just a badge on the jersey sleeve -- it is a real and authentic relationship.

- We will have access to and will implement the LFC Academy Curriculum for our players. The implementation of the curriculum occurs within three phases: the Foundational Phase (up to U10), Youth Development Phase (U11-U16) and Professional/College Phase (U17 and older).
- Within the phases of development, our coaches will have access to International Academy (worldwide) training sessions which will enable our coaches to plan, prepare, deliver and evaluate sessions quickly and efficiently.
- Coaches from the LFC International Academy in England will participate in an LFC camp here in Michigan each summer at the Central/Ultimate site.
- Our coaches (senior staff) will be given numerous avenues to interact with LFC Academy coaches in England, including monthly skype calls.
- Select coaches from LFCIA-MI will have the opportunity to go England to further their coaching education and have an all-access exposure to the LFC Academy.
- LFC International Academy coaches will conduct training seminars for our coaches here in Michigan during our summer camp week.

When will change take effect?

The transition will be completed by tryouts in June 2017 and our teams will begin competing under the new name starting with the fall 2017/18 season. As early as this spring season, you will begin to see our coaches wearing the LFC coaching gear.

When is the LFC Summer Camp?

The four-day camp is open to 2017/18 Clarkston/North Oakland players and will be held August 14-17, 2017, at Ultimate Soccer Arenas in Pontiac. This camp is exclusive to LFCIA-MI players.

Will the teams change?

Current teams will remain the same for the remainder of the season and next year's teams will be determined in the normal fashion at our June tryouts.

What will our teams be called?

Our teams will be renamed after Liverpool legends, such as Gerrard, Carragher, McManaman, Melia, and Rush.

Will there be an increase in player fees?

There is no additional cost to become part of LFCIA-MI. There will be a modest increase in the annual player fee in the fall due to added training time.

Will there be new uniforms and, if so, what will they look like?

There will be new uniforms, but this is also the start of a new uniform cycle. The red kit is an official replica Liverpool kit, the same one worn by the LFC players in England and traditionally worn for home games. There is also a white kit for away games and a practice kit.

What will happen to our Instructional Academy and iLeague programs?

These programs for our youngest players will continue, but will be renamed and slightly modified to align with programs currently offered by LFCIA-MI. SuperStars (ages 3-5) will become known as “Mini REDS.” U6/U8 Prospects (U5-U12) and the iLeague will both become “REDS Junior Academy,” which has both instructional and competitive offerings.

Where will the teams train?

We will continue to train and play games at our current facilities and fields this spring — Oakland Yard Athletics, Clintonwood Park, and our new outdoor complex at the North Sashabaw site.

Who is Liverpool Football Club?

LFC is an English Premier League football club based in Liverpool, England. It is one of the world’s most prominent and successful clubs, having won more European and domestic trophies than any other English team.

What is “The Liverpool Way”?

“The Liverpool Way” is an ethos representing the highest standards to which anyone associated with the LFC name aspires. Every coach, player, family, and fan should seek to embody Liverpool’s values of Ambition, Commitment, Dignity, and Unity.

What does the LFC crest mean?

The LFC crest is designed to represent the complete history of the club, from glory to tragedy (and back again). The top of the Crest represents the great Shankly gates at the entrance to Anfield. “You’ll Never Walk Alone” is the club’s motto and song. The Liver bird represents the official mascot of the city of Liverpool. The two flames represent the 96 fans from the Hillsborough disaster. The ribbon shows the heritage of the Club, founded in 1892.

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