



CSA Manchester City FC Pre-ECNL Q&A

1. What is the partnership with Manchester City FC?

CSA has entered into a partnership with Manchester City FC of the English Premier League as their first Youth Development partner in the United States. Manchester City FC is one of the world's leading professional football(soccer) organizations. Through this partnership, Manchester City FC will provide technical guidance, coaching education and curriculum support to help elevate the development environment for our Pre-ECNL players.

2. What does this partnership mean for my child?

This partnership enhances the quality and consistency of player development across our U10-U12 age groups. Players will train within a framework influenced by Manchester City FC's development philosophy, emphasizing:

- Technical excellence
- Intelligent decision-making
- Confidence on the ball
- Love for the game

The day-to-day training and competition environment will remain local, age-appropriate and player-centered.

3. Will Manchester City FC coaches train my child directly?

Two Manchester City FC coaches (one for our girl's program and one for our boy's program) will relocate to Charlotte and work directly within CSA's Pre-ECNL program. These coaches will work with your child during the week at training sessions and engage on game days with CSA staff.

The Manchester City FC staff primary roles will be the following:

- Provide curriculum guidance and session frameworks
- Offer coach education workshops and on-field demonstrations
- Support long-term player development planning

Your child's primary coaches will continue to be CSA's licensed coaches, who understand the local environment and your child's needs. Your current Pre-ECNL Director will still lead the program.

4. Does this mean my child will play for Manchester City FC?

The primary focus of the CSA x Manchester City FC partnership is to enhance player development through education and shared methodology. While there is no guaranteed pathway to Manchester City FC, club staff consistently identify elite talent. If CSA players demonstrate an exceptional level of ability and potential, they may be considered for additional training opportunities within the Manchester City FC Academy environment.

5. Will training sessions change?

Training sessions will continue to be fun, challenging and age-appropriate but through the lens of Manchester City FC's player development pathway:

- Ball mastery and technical skill
- Small-sided games
- Decision-making under pressure
- Creativity and confidence

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6. How does this align with Pre-ECNL goals?

The Pre-ECNL phase (U9–U12) is focused on building the foundation for future success. Winning games is secondary to individual growth and development at these ages. This partnership supports:

- Long-term athletic development
- A consistent playing philosophy
- Preparation for ECNL environments without early specialization pressure
- Developing smart, technical, and resilient players

7. Will there be additional costs for families?

Yes. There are additional club fees specifically tied to the Manchester City FC partnership, but there will also be additional inclusions within this program. These fees and inclusions will be announced at a later date prior to tryouts.

8. Will players travel to England or Manchester City FC facilities?

Yes. As part of our partnership, CSA Man City Pre-ECNL players will have the opportunity to travel annually to Manchester, UK. Additional information on the annual trips will be announced prior to tryouts.

9. How will coaches be supported through this partnership?

Our coaches will benefit from:

- Access to Manchester City training methodology in the foundation phase of the Pre-ECNL Program
- Ongoing education and mentoring
- Clear developmental benchmarks for each age group
- Alignment across teams and age groups

This ensures a consistent, high-quality experience for all players.

10. How will player progress be measured?

The focus is on individual improvement, not early labeling or rankings. Player development will continue to be evaluated through:

- Technical and tactical benchmarks
- Training habits and mindset
- Confidence and decision-making in games
- Coach feedback and ongoing observation

11. Does this change team selection policies?

No. Tryouts and player selection will be the same as it has always been and will include the Manchester City FC staff members who will be present during the tryout process.

12. Why Manchester City?

Their approach closely aligns with our club's values and vision for player development. Manchester City FC is widely recognized for:

- One of the world's best youth development models
- A clear, modern playing philosophy
- Strong emphasis on technical excellence and intelligence
- Commitment to long-term player growth

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CSA and Manchester City FC also share a strong strategic alignment through their apparel partner, PUMA. Manchester City FC is PUMA's largest global soccer partner and CSA is PUMA's largest youth soccer partner in the United States. This shared relationship creates a unique opportunity to deliver world-class development pathways and resources to CSA players and coaches

13. Is this partnership just for Pre-ECNL?

No. The Manchester City FC partnership will also benefit all sections of CSA, primarily the foundation phase, ages 9U-12U, with Manchester City FC staff members working with the Youth Academy and CSA Technical Training nights offered at the Belmont/Gastonia, Charlotte, North/Huntersville, Palisades/York and Uptown/Matthews sections.

14. What's next?

In the coming weeks we will host virtual information meetings with CSA leaders and Manchester City FC. Please continue to check CSA's website and communication channels for more information in the coming weeks.

15. Who should parents contact with questions?

Please contact the Pre-ECNL Girls Director of Coaching for any questions related to:

- Player development
- Training philosophy
- The Manchester City FC partnership

We encourage open communication and are happy to discuss how this partnership supports your child's journey.

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