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CHICAGO FIRE JUNIORS



Eleven United Affiliation with Chicago Fire Juniors (CFJ)

Why partner with CFJ?

The opportunity to align with a professional organization like Chicago Fire has many benefits. There are many travel soccer options available, but by affiliating with CFJ we can offer more to our players in terms of development, supplemental programs and a path, for a select few, to even higher-level soccer with the Chicago Fire Development Academy. This also helps us thrive as a competitive, community-based club, leveraging the resources of a much larger soccer organization, without having to put a substantial portion of our time and effort into building club name recognition.

Who made this decision?

This was a unanimous decision made by the Evanston Soccer Association Board of Directors, which oversees Eleven United and Team Evanston. After many meetings and due diligence with CFJ and conversations with youth clubs that have partnered with CFJ, the Board was confident that this would be a valuable relationship.

Are we still Eleven United?

Effective July 2018, we will be renamed Chicago Fire Juniors North Shore.

Does this partnership change Team Evanston?

No, Team Evanston will remain as Team Evanston, and the current structure and programs of the club will remain separate from CFJ. Team Evanston coaches and Directors, however, will be able to benefit from Chicago Fire / CFJ coach training and development programs. When players complete U12 with Team Evanston, their next step will be to try out for and transition to CFJ North Shore in the same way they used to transition to Eleven United.

What does this mean for my child?

As CFJ North Shore, the club will have access to more resources and programming and be in a better position to offer appropriate playing opportunities for all players.

Will my child lose his or her place on their current team?

There will be no changes to this year's rosters. We will hold tryouts in May/June for the 2018-19 year that starts in August, as we have each spring. Teams will be rostered with the appropriate number of players, and team placements will continue to be based on each player's ability, fit and commitment level.

Where will we train and play games?

Teams will continue to train at Evanston parks and the Quad and compete in the same leagues. There may be opportunities for some players to play in additional leagues and/or tournaments. Teams may also play in the CFJ Indoor League next winter, but that decision has not yet been made.



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What is going to happen with my current coach?

Our coaches are an integral part of our club and every team. Our hope and expectation is that most of our current coaches will return to the club next year, as they do every year. As always, coaching placements will be determined by the directors of coaching in a way that aligns with the number and needs of registered players and teams.

Will player fees Increase for the 2018-2019 season?

Every year, fees are determined based on the structure and cost of our program. We are in the process of finalizing programs and fees for next year, and the decision to become CFJ North Shore will not directly influence fees.

What does this mean for uniforms?

The current Eleven United uniform contract has been in place for three seasons and expires this summer, prompting the need to reorder uniforms for every player regardless of the club name. We will be working closely with CFJ to establish the new uniform kit for orders to begin this June, upon completion of tryouts. As always, uniform fees are separate from the annual player registration fee.

Will there be a new leadership structure?

The Evanston Soccer Association Board of Directors and directors of coaching will remain intact, with one Chicago Fire representative added to the Board.

What are the supplemental programs for top/elite players?

There are multiple supplemental programs for players that qualify, including the following:

Collaboration between CFJ North Shore and CFJ City

CFJ North Shore and CFJ City will collaborate on supplemental programming for both male and female elite players that will include participation in the midweek NISL league (in addition to their weekend league play) and/or national college showcase opportunities. Additional guest playing opportunities will also be offered to players when available throughout the season.

Emerging Talent Program (Boys and Girls)

Select players will be recommended for this program for players U13 and up, with placements made by the Chicago Fire Youth Development Staff. The program includes initiatives designed to meet the attitudes, desires, and aspirations of top talent in the Chicago Fire youth development programs. It is supplemental to existing practices and games. For example, top players in the U13 and U14 age groups will be invited to participate in the Chicago Fire ID Camp held each summer in Lake Forest, IL. Top players in the older age groups may be invited to participate on elite teams for showcase tournaments.

USDA Academy (Boys)

Chicago Fire has a boys' USDA Academy program. CFJ North Shore players may be invited to train with and potentially play on a boys Fire Academy team. This is a very select program for elite players. There is hope to add a girls' Academy program in the future.



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Who is the Chicago Fire Soccer Club?

Founded on the 126th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire on October 8, 1997, the Chicago Fire Soccer Club enters its 20th Major League Soccer season. The Fire won the MLS Cup in its inaugural campaign in 1998 and was crowned champion of US Soccer's national tournament, the Lamar Hunt US Open Cup, in 1998, 2000, 2003 and 2006. For more information on the Chicago Fire Soccer Club, please visit its official website at www.Chicago-Fire.com.

What is the Mission and Vision of the Chicago Fire Juniors?

Mission Statement: To lead the evolution of youth soccer in the United States.

Vision Statement: To foster a culture of excellence, both on and off the field of play. To create an environment that develops players from grassroots through to college, MLS, and National Teams.

What if I have more questions?

We will be hosting a parent meeting on Tuesday, April 10, at 7:00pm at the Levy Center. If you have questions in advance of the meeting, please email us at boardpresident@elevenunited.org.



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