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## SoccerPlus CT and South Central Premier form Strategic Alliance

Hartford and New Haven, Connecticut – June 4, 2010

SoccerPlus CT and South Central Premier today announced they have committed to a Strategic Alliance built on the commonalities of mission and philosophy in order to offer additional opportunities to the boys and girls within both premier soccer clubs. While remaining independent organizations, the Alliance will allow the players, and coaches of each club to benefit from the collective advantages and development avenues of both clubs.

South Central is one of only two clubs in Connecticut to participate as a member of the U.S. Soccer Development Academy, which includes 79 of the best and most competitive boys clubs nationwide as chosen by the U.S. Soccer Federation. SoccerPlus is one of only two clubs in Connecticut to participate as a member of the Elite Clubs National League (ECNL) which is comprised of 52 elite girls clubs nationwide. In addition to the ECNL, SoccerPlus is also a Premier Club Partner of the Boston Breakers of Women's Professional Soccer. Through this alliance, boys and girls in both clubs now have access to the highest levels of national competition, the Academy and the ECNL, and the corresponding exposure to college and Youth National Team coaches.

"South Central Premier and SoccerPlus offer a shared vision for player development," said Tony DiCicco, CEO and founder of SoccerPlus. "Through this alignment, we have taken a significant step forward in our ability to provide the boys and girls in both clubs a pathway to the best competitions in the country."

"South Central Premier is excited to align ourselves with another club that shares our coaching philosophy and player development goals," said Andrea Duffy, President and founder of South Central Premier. "We will both gain from sharing each others strengths. It's a win-win situation for both clubs and especially for the players."

During the first year of the Alliance, the clubs plan to integrate at the U17 and U18 age groups. In addition, there will be a sharing of information between the club's technical staffs that will serve to further enhance the opportunities both clubs can provide to its players, allowing both boys and girls to develop efficiently and to their full potential.

**About South Central Premier** - [www.southcentralpremier.com](http://www.southcentralpremier.com)

South Central Premier, a member of the U.S. Soccer Development Academy, is a non-profit, centrally located in Connecticut, community of families whose student-athletes are serious about developing their soccer skills. Our ultimate goal is to foster a "love of soccer" and to help each player develop the life skills and character traits necessary to succeed.

Started in 1989 - 33 State Cup Champions - 4 Regional Semi-Finalists - 1 National Finalist

**About SoccerPlus CT** - [www.soccerplusct.com](http://www.soccerplusct.com)

SoccerPlus CT, a member of the Elite Clubs National League provides a year-round soccer training program that strives to develop players to their greatest potential by focusing on top-quality instruction and exposure to the highest levels of competition. SoccerPlus creates a positive environment for character development on and off the field by seeking to achieve a total teaching, coaching and educational experience.

Started in 2003 – 4 State Cup Champions – 1 National Championship

**About US Soccer Developmental Academy:** [www.academy.demosphere.com](http://www.academy.demosphere.com)

**About Elite Clubs National League:** [www.eliteclubsnationalleague.com](http://www.eliteclubsnationalleague.com)



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## SoccerPlus CT and South Central Premier Strategic Alliance Fact Sheet

In May of 2009, representatives from South Central Premier and SoccerPlus Connecticut first met to discuss the current landscape of youth soccer in Connecticut. During that meeting and subsequent meetings, it became clear that there were many commonalities between the two clubs with regards to the underlying themes that governed the clubs: player development philosophy, professionalism and perhaps the most significant, a commitment by both clubs to seek to provide the players in the respective clubs the best opportunities to play at the level most appropriate and to develop a pathway for the best players to compete at the highest possible level.

In the state of Connecticut there are two clubs that compete in the top national competitions (the Academy and the Elite Clubs National League) on the boys and girls side respectively. South Central and Oakwood both compete in the US Soccer Development Academy and SoccerPlus Connecticut and Connecticut Football Club compete in the ECNL. Furthermore, there are strong indications that no additional clubs from the state of Connecticut will be brought in to either the Academy or the ECNL. The goal of this alliance is to provide players in SCP and SPCT a pathway from development to elite competition.

Approval by each of the respective club's leadership, the Strategic Alliance between the two clubs begins during the 2010-2011 season. Both clubs remain independent during this time and the alliance will initially be focused at the U17 & U18 age groups as ongoing planning to expand the alliance to the High School ages for future seasons. The emphasis is to provide the boys and girls from both clubs the opportunity to compete at the highest possible levels.

### **Girls:**

U18 ECNL – One team will be jointly formed from the current player pool of the two clubs.

Club Registration: SoccerPlus CT

U17 – This age group will continue to field two teams, one will compete at a Regional/National level, while the other will compete on a State/Regional level. The ECNL allows for roster sizes of 26, meaning that players from the State Team can be utilized for the ECNL team minimizing the demands on families who may not wish to travel or cannot afford to travel to 4 National Events.

U17 ECNL / Club Registration: SoccerPlus CT / Coach: Sam Lopes

U17 State Team / Club Registration: South Central Premier / Coach: Adam Cohen

Tryouts, All three teams will train out of Meriden. Tryouts for U17 and U18 Girls will take place jointly:

June 21 and 24, 7:00-8:30pm – Falcon Field, Meriden

June 30, 5:30-7:00pm – Yale University, New Haven

### **Boys:**

18 Academy (92/93s) – Positions on the Academy team will be extended to the players deemed most appropriate by the Coaches and Technical Staff. Club Registration: South Central Premier / Coach: Brian Quinn

U18 State Team – SoccerPlus CT players and non-Academy players will form a U18 State Team with a maximum roster of 22 to be registered and compete in the CJSA league and Cup. Club Registration: SoccerPlus CT  
Coach: Janusz Michallik

U17 State Team – Similarly to the U18 State Team, this team will be formed from SoccerPlus CT players and non-Academy players to provide them a competitive training environment that will allow them the opportunity to continue to develop. Club Registration: SoccerPlus CT / Coach: Mike Pilger

### Boys Tryouts

The South Central Development Academy Teams will train out of the University of Bridgeport.

June 8 and 14, 5:30-7:30pm – University of Bridgeport

June 10, 5:30-7:30pm – Falcon Field, Meriden

The SoccerPlus CT Teams will train out of Meriden.

U17 June 21 and 24, 7:00-8:30pm – CCSU, New Britain

U18 June 21, 8:15-9:30pm – CCSU, New Britain