

Princeton FC Newsletter



MAY 2025

Latest Club News

Welcome New Board Members!

We are pleased to announce that **Yet He** and **Ramesh Dhanaraj** have joined the PFC Board of Directors.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the election and took the time to cast their votes. Your engagement and commitment to Princeton FC's continued growth and success are truly appreciated.

We also want to extend our sincerest gratitude to **Anne Hoppenot** and **Christian Savard**, who are stepping down after many years of faithful service on PFC's board.

We wish our two departing directors the best and look forward to working together with the new board members to continue strengthening our club and providing the best environment for our players.

Princeton FC Board of Directors

Stoyan Pumpalov
President

Yordan Hristov
Director of Coaching

Ben Short

Antoine Hoppenot

Yet He

Ramesh Dhanaraj

"Princeton FC strives to provide the best soccer experience by offering an enjoyable, safe, challenging and player-centered learning environment to all our players"

– Stoyan Pumpalov, PFC President



2025/26 Tryouts

**MISSED THE TRYOUT WEEK?
YOU CAN STILL JOIN.**

**CONTACT US AT
INFO@PRINCETONFC.ORG
AND WE WILL SCHEDULE
A TRYOUT SESSION FOR YOU**

We are proud to offer a top-tier developmental environment and an exceptional youth soccer experience for players of all levels. Our program is designed to nurture and develop every player, whether they are just starting their soccer journey or striving to reach the highest levels of competition.

Through unique partnerships, high-quality training, and meaningful competition, we aim to develop well-rounded players both on and off the field. Our commitment is to prepare players for success in high school, college, and beyond while fostering a lifelong passion for the game.

Join us and become part of a club that values growth, teamwork, and excellence at every level!

Summer Camps 2025

Join us for a week of skill-building, teamwork, and non-stop fun!

Our Youth Soccer Camp is designed to help players develop the individual skills essential for success in the game. Through a dynamic and engaging curriculum, campers will refine their fundamental technical abilities while also learning advanced skills that make soccer exciting and inspire them to practice on their own. We place a strong emphasis on ball mastery, confidence building, and smart decision-making on the field.

The camp structure fosters an ideal learning environment, focusing on technical skills, tactical awareness, positional play, and both individual and team attacking/defending. Training sessions are designed to be fast-paced, fun, and interactive, ensuring that players stay engaged while improving their game.

Each day, campers will work on key skills, including dribbling (moves and turns), shooting, passing and receiving, and more all while enjoying a positive and energetic atmosphere. The week culminates on Friday with our Soccer Olympics, where players compete in exciting challenges. Awards will be given for best team performance at the Olympics.





SUMMER CAMP 2025

WEEK 1 - July 7-11
WEEK 2 - July 14-18
WEEK 3 - July 21-25

9:00AM - 2PM (9:00AM - 1PM FRIDAY)

BARBARA SMOYER PARK PRINCETON NJ

REGISTER AT PRINCETONFC.ORG

Get ready for your High School soccer season with five evenings of high-level training designed to sharpen your game, improve your fitness, and build your confidence heading into preseason.

Our goal is to help local high school players hit the ground running. Thanks to our experienced and passionate coaching staff, participants will leave camp with a solid foundation for success in their upcoming season.





HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

AUGUST 4-8 2025

5PM - 8PM

SMOYER PARK - 625 SNOWDEN LANE, PRINCETON, NJ

REGISTER AT PRINCETONFC.ORG

PFC Team Spotlights

Princeton FC is Princeton's premier soccer club with 37 travel soccer teams competing at a high level both inside and outside New Jersey. We focus on developing youth soccer players in a fun and challenging environment where learning the game's technical elements and tactical principles takes place. Our teams compete in EDP, EDP Futures, JAGS and Mid NJ Leagues, as well as NJYS State Cup, US Club State Cup and other elite tournaments. All of our travel teams have engaging, expert and dedicated, top-level professional training and coaching. Our professional coaching staff consists of UEFA "A", USSF "A", NSCAA Premier and other Nationally Licensed coaches. Several of our professional trainers and coaches have played first division professional soccer and some have coached National or Collegiate level teams.



U18
LIVERPOOL



#THERIGHTWAY

Congratulations to our **U18 (2007) Liverpool Black Boys** and coach Vesco for winning the EDP Winter Classic!

Despite falling behind early in the final game, the team equalized in dramatic fashion with a penalty in the last moments of regular time. The game advanced to penalty kicks, where Liverpool demonstrated nerves of steel to clinch the championship!

We are thrilled for our **U12 (2013) Napoli Girls** to be crowned Fall Champions of Mid New Jersey!

They finished the season undefeated, scoring an impressive 41 goals while only conceding 12. With a total of 28 points, this team has truly shown what it means to succeed the right way.

Great job, ladies! Your hard work, dedication, and teamwork paid off! Keep shining!



2013
GIRLS NAPOLI



#THERIGHTWAY



2011
BOYS INTER



#THERIGHTWAY

We're proud our **U14 (2011) Inter Boys** team and coach Yordan had a fantastic showing at the EDP Fall Classic, finishing as runners-up after an intense weekend of soccer and a thrilling Final that came down to nine rounds of penalty kicks!

This marks the third consecutive year that the 2011 Boys Inter team has reached the EDP Fall Classic Final, having won the tournament the previous two years.

PFC Team Spotlights

Our Princeton FC teams and families have much to be proud of:

- **25+ tournaments** participated in during the current soccer year (local, regional, and national).
- **10 tournament championships** already won across various ages and competitive levels, with more success anticipated in upcoming competitions including **YMS**, **Potomac Memorial**, and major **June events**.
- Our consistent performance and participation in elite events reflect the **strength of our player development model and team culture**.

A job well done to our **U16 (2009) United Boys** and coach Milen for dominating the USYS National League Regional Showcase Tournament.

After winning the Showcase in 2024 with a perfect record of 3-0-0, United repeated their success this year defeating BWP Albany in the final game with a with a score of 3 to 1 to finish the tournament undefeated for a second consecutive year!



We're proud of our **U17 (2008) Porto Boys** team and coach Craig for placing as finalists in the USYS Regional Showcase!

The team played beautiful soccer in ugly weather conditions to win 3 games against high level teams and were only beaten by the smallest of margins in a penalty shootout in the final. Good effort boys!

Our **U13 (2012) Valencia Girls** had the incredible experience of serving as ball girls for the 2024 Ivy League Championship Game, where Princeton University Women's Soccer team claimed the title in front of an enthusiastic crowd!





Youth Player Development

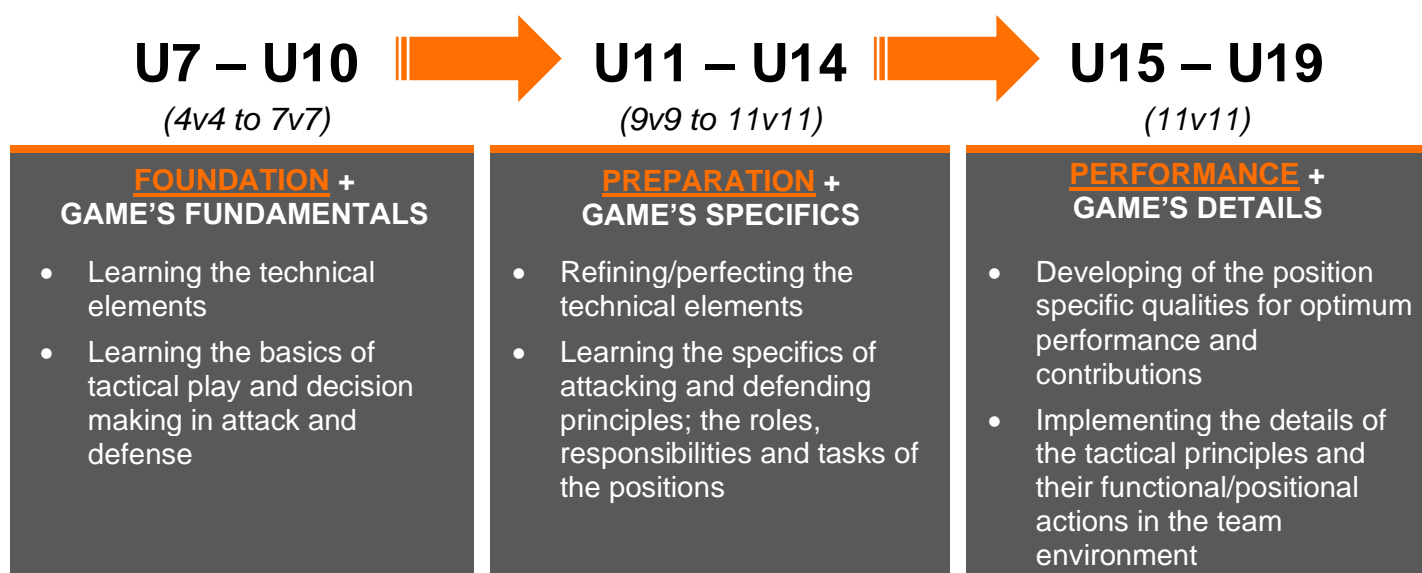
Princeton FC prides itself on teaching players to love the beautiful game of soccer and providing the age appropriate training and coaching necessary for players to reach their highest potential.

Player Development Philosophy

At Princeton FC, our mission is to provide a **player-centered environment** that fosters the development of each individual both on and off the field. We focus on delivering the **best possible experiences** to support long-term growth in soccer and life. Our developmental philosophy includes:

- Encouraging **effort, bravery, and technical skill acquisition**, while building soccer intelligence.
- Taking a **holistic approach** that goes beyond soccer, nurturing the **physical, mental, emotional, and moral** growth of every player.
- Tailoring development to each player's needs, evolving with their **physical, cognitive, and emotional maturity**.
- Fostering **teamwork and cooperation** while empowering players to grow in **confidence, creativity, problem-solving, and communication**.
- Promoting understanding of the game by giving players the opportunity to **experience all positions**, gradually specializing with age, but always rooted in developing a complete understanding of the game.

Player Development Structure



#THE RIGHT WAY

PFC's Approach to Competition

Competitive Philosophy by Age Group

U7 – U12

- Development takes priority over winning.
- Emphasis on **fundamental skill development**, **positional rotation**, and diverse game experiences. Every player receives equitable playing time and an opportunity to start in games.

U13 – U14

- Continued focus on **individual development and style of play** over game outcomes.
- Players begin to **specialize in roles** that match their characteristics while still rotating across positions for broader learning.

U15 – U16

- Players expand **tactical knowledge** by taking on multiple roles in training and games.
- A **balanced approach** between role-specific development and overall soccer growth.
- Winning is seen as a **byproduct of the effective development** and execution of our game model, not the goal.

U17 – U19

- Training and competition challenge players to reach their **physical, technical, and mental peak**.
- While playing to win becomes more central, especially in playoff-qualification and showcase matches, we remain committed to our core principles of playing and coaching **the right way**.

League Participation

- **U7–U10:** Teams play in **EDP Futures** or **Mid-New Jersey** league, depending on level.
- **U11–U12:** Top teams progress to **EDP League** or **NPL**, while others continue in **EDP** or **MNJ**.
- **U13+:** Teams are placed in **EDP**, **NPL**, or **higher competitive platforms** as appropriate for their level.

Tournament Participation

- **U8–U11:** Local and regional tournaments appropriate to team level.
- **U12+:** High-level teams begin overnight tournament travel, ranging from one to multiple nights.
- **Annual participation** in prestigious tournaments such as:
 - Jefferson Cup
 - EDP Tournaments and Showcases
 - USYS National Showcase Series
 - Potomac Memorial Tournament
 - FC Delco
 - PA Classics
 - And more...



PFC Coaching Staff



- Princeton FC is proud to have a **dedicated staff of nearly 20 licensed coaches**, each committed to the development of our players.
- All coaches hold **USSF licenses**, with many also bringing **international certifications** and high-level playing or coaching experience.
- Our staff engages in **ongoing coaching education** to stay current with modern methods and uphold the **highest standards of professionalism and care**.
- As part of our long-term commitment to development, we have created, developed, and continuously updated a **comprehensive age-specific curriculum** for each age group. These include **age-appropriate content, modern training activities, and supporting graphics**, ensuring consistent developmental progress across the club.

FC Bayern Partnership Update

After more than two years of a mutually beneficial partnership, Princeton FC and FC Bayern Munich have decided not to renew the formal partnership contract.

Both clubs have expressed great satisfaction with the success of the collaboration and its positive impact on player and coach development.

While the official partnership has concluded, Princeton FC and FC Bayern will continue to cooperate in the future through alternative forms of collaboration, reinforcing the strong connection established between the two organizations.

Junior Development Program (4-8 Years Old)

Princeton FC's **Junior Development Program (JDP)** is designed for young children who are eager to learn the game of soccer, develop fundamental skills, and, most importantly, have fun playing. When kids enjoy their practices and games, they naturally become more motivated to improve.

Led by Stoyan Pumpalov (PFC President) and Yordan Hristov (PFC Director of Coaching), the JDP is conducted by PFC's professional coaching staff. At this early stage of development, our coaches focus on creating an engaging and supportive environment where players can build a strong foundation of technical skills and body coordination—all while having fun.

Our program emphasizes skill development through age-appropriate professional training and exciting small-sided games. Players will be grouped by age (e.g., 5- and 6-year-olds together, 7- and 8-year-olds together) to ensure an optimal learning experience. Training sessions focus on developing technical abilities while introducing basic concepts of game play. Over time, children will make significant progress in both their soccer skills and their understanding of the game.

