

# NEWS

## Chicago Magic Soccer Club

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### Chicago Magic and Chicago Wind Merge at Academy Ages

01/12/2008 -- Today, we are pleased to announce that the [Chicago Magic Soccer Club](#) and [Chicago Wind Soccer Club](#) have jointly approved working together beginning at Academy level ages. This venture has been conducted by both parties looking to improve soccer in the Chicago area. The clubs believe that combining their organizations is fundamentally the right thing to do for soccer.

The benefits of working together are numerous. They include the opportunities for players to grow within their current club from the youngest ages through their collegiate playing careers and beyond without having to leave their neighborhood teams early on; pooling our coaching professionals; creation of highly competitive teams capable of consistently competing for state, regional and national championships; providing development for players at the US Soccer Development Academy level, and minimize the duplication of resources.

One of the goals of working together is to maintain neighborhood based teams. Teams from U7-U15 will feel little to no impact from the merger and would remain primarily intact. At the U16, U17, and U18 age groups the best players would come together to form two tiers. The first tier will play under the Chicago Magic name in the US Development Academy; the second tier will play under the Chicago Wind name in MWRL and USYS competitions.

The philosophy of competitive soccer, player development, and community will continue for both clubs. "This is an exciting opportunity, especially for all the kids along the north shore and we are proud to be a part of it," said Sole Antonijevic, Chicago Wind Director, "It will allow us to expand the quality of our player pool and enhance the future development of all of our players."

Michael Matkovich, Chicago Magic Director, said; "This is an opportunity for two organizations to join together in order to have a superior presence in Chicagoland." He also stated that "the new combined programs will provide an opportunity for every player at every level of interest and ability." Both clubs look forward to providing all its players a positive, progressive and successful environment.

#### **Frequently Asked Questions: Why are the Clubs merging?**

The leadership from both clubs has met several times over the last few months and has found that there are far more similarities between the clubs than differences. Both clubs are community based and focused on the individual development of each and every player regardless of skill level or gender. In addition, combining our clubs significantly enhances our ability to build high performing teams at all levels. Both clubs have a history of success with numerous championship teams and exceptional coaching staffs. We want to strengthen these teams more and allow all players to compete on an even higher level. Players throughout Chicagoland including northwest Indiana and now as far north as Wisconsin, now have access to an Academy program without having to leave their local club during their early formative years of training.

#### **Are the clubs merging, or is one club in control?**

This is truly a merger of equals that is being carried forward with the highest level of cooperation and support from all involved. We intend to be the model organization for youth soccer, with an unwavering focus on ensuring that the good of the players and their families comes first.

#### **What is the Club name?**

Clubs would remain as is until U16. At that time in the US Development Academy, the sides will play under the Chicago Magic name; in MWRL and USYS competitions the sides will play under the Chicago Wind name.

#### **What will the structure look like?**

Each club will be controlled by their current structures and remain separate organizations. The soccer player selections will be run by a Coaches' Board, made up of equal representation from each club. The Coaches' Board is as follows: Michael Matkovich, Sole Antonijevic, John Dolinsky, and Todd Bailey.

#### **What impact will the merger have on coaching assignments for the club?**

Under the leadership of our Coaches' Board, we believe our clubs will now have one of the most talented coaching staffs in Chicagoland. The Coaches' Board will manage the coaching assignments. Our combined coaching staff will offer players greater variety and opportunity for exposure to highly skilled coaches with diverse backgrounds and outstanding ability.

#### **Will there be any changes to uniforms?**

We will create special patches that will be placed on each club's uniforms.

#### **When will this begin?**

Immediately, as final preparations for the US Soccer Development Academy begin in mid January.

#### **Will tryouts be scheduled?**

Tryouts will take place, as usual, for each club on the first day allowed by Illinois Youth Soccer. Tryouts for the Academy program are held on an as needed basis.