



**International
Academy**
Michigan

Hartland Site Announcement - Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Liverpool Football Club and the Liverpool Football Club International Academy?

Liverpool Football Club (LFC) is an English Premier League football club based in Liverpool, England. They are the current Champions of England and recent World and European Champions. The club has won more European and domestic trophies than any other English team. As one of Europe's most successful clubs with huge global appeal, the club and its fans are considered part of the World's Greatest Football Family. LFC is set apart by its unique city, culture, history, and spirit, and has a track record for developing talent from its youth academy to its First Team.

The LFC International Academy offers programs around the world to give young players an opportunity to learn to play "The Liverpool Way." Coaching is delivered by official LFC Accredited coaches to ensure they are operated consistently, to the highest standards, and in the best facilities we can find.

What is "The Liverpool Way"?

"The Liverpool Way" is an ethos that captures the spirit and character of LFC and its worldwide family of players and fans. It is a set of principles and values, namely Ambition, Commitment, Dignity, and Unity, that centers everything we strive for on and off the field. Off the field it prioritizes family and community, while on the field it provides the building blocks necessary to draw out the best of what we want from our players and our teams.

Who is Liverpool Football Club International Academy Michigan?

Liverpool FC International Academy Michigan (LFC Michigan) is a premier player development academy that values each player and their individual development on and off the field. Players benefit from a structured curriculum, the same one used by The Academy of LFC in England. Age-specific phases of development means players develop their technical and tactical skills in an engaging and competitive environment that is appropriate to their abilities and personal goals.

As of the 2020/21 season, the club has nearly 130 teams and approximately 1,500 travel players at its five sites—Central at UWM Sports Complex in Pontiac, Ann Arbor, Clarkston/North Oakland, Ferndale, and Windsor, Ontario.

LFC Michigan is owned by Andy Wagstaff, who has nearly 30 years experience coaching youth to semi-professional soccer in Southeast Michigan. He and his family (wife Lindsey and their two young children, Charlotte and Drew) live in Hartland.

What will happen to Hartland United FC?

Hartland United FC will continue to operate its In-House and Travel Rec programs as “Hartland United FC.” It will remain a separate entity under the direction the Board of Directors, a Recreational Program Director, and volunteer coaches.

Nearly 150 Select Travel players and their coaches will become part of LFC Michigan. To distinguish itself from the other sites, it will be known as the “Hartland site” or “LFC MI Hartland.”

Why become part of LFC Michigan?

Primarily, this change gives travel players and coaches the competitive edge by training under the world-class LFC Academy curriculum and utilizing the many resources of LFC. LFC MI Hartland will expand the current player pathway from house/recreational to travel, allowing players to train and play competitively in their community from U7 through high school.

In addition, there will be opportunities for some Hartland players to play games in leagues and tournaments with competitive State, Regional and National teams from the other five LFC Michigan sites. LFC Michigan is currently affiliated with the following leagues: MYSL, MSDSL, MSYSA Director’s Academy, MSPSP, National League, NPL, USL Academy, and USL Super Y.

What are some additional benefits that LFC Michigan offers?

- Additional programming such as futsal, goalkeeper training, strength and conditioning/performance training, private training, and goalscoring/finishing classes.
- Online video training resources focused on specific drills and skills.
- Video analysis for a number of age groups.
- College Athlete Pathway program helps guide high school players that want to play in college. We have 22 staff members that have coached in some capacity at the college/university level, with 13 still actively affiliated with a college/university program.

Who will operate/coach for the LFC MI Hartland site?

Our Select Travel coaches will transition over to LFC MI Hartland, with some assuming new responsibilities. Director of Coaching will be Jamie Black, the current Assistant Director of Coaching for LFC Michigan’s Ann Arbor site. Jamie has been with the Ann Arbor site for three years, is a valued part of the LFC Michigan staff, and will be responsible for bringing the club’s coaching philosophy and values to Hartland’s staff and families. New coaches will join the staff as well (to be announced this spring).

When will change take effect?

The majority of the teams at the Hartland site will begin competing as LFC Michigan starting in the fall. One exception is the 2006 Boys team who will play this spring season as part of the LFC MI Ann Arbor site (to help with their roster numbers).

To complete the transition by tryouts in June, the coaching staff will need to begin their training and immersion into LFC Michigan's coaching philosophy and the curriculum and begin the process of LFC Coach Accreditation over the next several months. LFC Michigan will begin promoting the Hartland site for tryouts with the announcement of new staff members and coaching assignments for U7-U16 teams in May. LFC Michigan programming for our current players will begin in the spring, including Friday night training sessions.

Will travel player fees increase?

Within each age group there will be a modest increase from the current travel player fees to LFC MI Hartland club fee to account for LFC membership. Also, there is a fee for the LFC Summer Camp scheduled at Central site in Pontiac on August 2-5 and Ann Arbor site on August 6.

What about uniforms?

Nike is Liverpool FC's kit manufacturer and uniforms are sold through Soccer.com. The club is currently in its first year of a two-year uniform cycle. Uniform requirements for the 2021/22 season will be communicated later this spring as we approach tryouts.

Where will LFC MI Hartland practice and play home games?

Practices will still be held in Hartland at Farms Intermediate and home games will be played at Heritage Park.

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