



2023/2024 Coaching Roster

Executive Director and Director of Coaching: Mitch Watson



Mitch Watson has coached youth soccer for over 10 years and has been an assistant coach at the collegiate level for multiple years at MJC and CSU, Stanislaus. He is finishing up his B license and has a passion for growing his knowledge as a coach to help players improve as players and people. As a player, he played at Ajax for 7 years, was on our youth national team for multiple years, received a full-ride scholarship to NC State and also played professionally a few years. Mitch pursues excellence in everything he does and has won a State Cup as both a player and a coach.

Technical Director: Dave de Hart



Dave de Hart brings almost 45 years of coaching and playing experience to the development of soccer players to the Central Valley of California and to our Modesto Youth Soccer Club. In 1993, Dave was awarded his National 'A' Level Coaching Certificate from the United States Soccer Federation. His coaching experience ranges from the youth level, including state, regional and national Olympic Development teams, to the high school level, to the NCAA college level (head coach and college Director of Athletics) and the professional level. His soccer resume includes positions held as the State Director of Coaching in Nevada and Club Director of Coaching in Northern California. He has coached at the competitive level of youth soccer in Northern California for many years where he has garnered four Northern California State Championships for the Ajax United Club. Additionally, as the author of Teaching and Understanding Soccer Goalkeeping and the trainer of many excellent goalkeepers he is a confirmed outstanding and highly respected goalkeeper trainer.

As the current Technical Director for MYSA and the Ajax United Competitive Club, Dave de Hart will direct our MLS Next program and looks to continue provide a positive learning and teaching environment for the young athletes and the club's coaches. Dave has a passion to teach and has had outstanding success at each level of coaching. However, he considers his





greatest accomplishments, not to be the many wins, but the many players that he has helped to develop into quality soccer players and people.

BOYS COACHING LINEUP



05B/06B Academy – NPL, Head Coach: Claudio Alvarez

Claudio has been coaching youth soccer since 2004 both at the High School and Club Level. He currently holds an NSCAA Level 6 Diploma and is working towards his US Soccer Licences. His soccer grassroots started in Gimnasia y Esgrima de la Plata, Argentinian Soccer Club, at the age of 10 where he played until coming to the US at age 19. He then played at Humboldt State University where he graduated with a Philosophy Degree. He went on to become a High School teacher and Soccer Coach. He was named CCAL coach of the year in 2023

05/06B White – Silver, Head Coach: Ramon De La Torre



Ramon played youth soccer at a high school and college level in Cd. Juarez Mexico where he discovered his passion for futbol. For the past year Ramon has been coaching for Ajax; prior to that he coached 10 seasons at MYSA.

Futbol (soccer) has been my passion and more so to be able to break down the concept of the sport and pass it on to my team. Brave+ anticipation+ delivery= Fun futbol (soccer).

07B Green – Premier/NPL, Head Coach: Cuco Duran



Cuco Duran has invested over 20 years honing his craft in the competitive world of soccer. He recently returned to Ajax, the club where he first started his coaching career, to continue his passion for the game. Throughout his career, Cuco has led his teams to three regional championships, showcasing his skills as a tactician and motivator. He is also proud of having coached two number one nationally ranked youth teams simultaneously, a feat that only a few coaches can achieve. Duran's ability to identify and develop potential has been a key factor in his success, as he provides his players with the skills, strategy, and motivation needed to succeed.





08B Academy – NPL, Head Coach: Mitch Watson



Mitch Watson has coached youth soccer for over 10 years and has been an assistant coach at the collegiate level for multiple years at MJC and CSU, Stanislaus. He is finishing up his B license and has a passion for growing his knowledge as a coach to help players improve as players and people. As a player, he played at Ajax for 7 years, was on our youth national team for multiple years, received a full-ride scholarship to NC State and also played professionally a few years. Mitch pursues excellence in everything he does and has won a State Cup as both a player and a coach.

08B White – Silver, Head Coach: Geoff Somers



Geoff started playing youth soccer in the Bay Area and was fortunate to have some very talented and knowledgeable coaches that inspired him to develop his skills and love of the game. After moving to the Modesto area he competed in high school soccer for Beyer and then continued in college at MJC. He began coaching soccer because he wanted to pass along the knowledge and inspiration he was given as a youth. He is now entering his third year as head coach. He is eager to broaden his coaching skills and to promote a positive and competitive learning atmosphere for our gifted youth soccer players.

09B Academy – NPL, Head Coach: Mitch Watson



Mitch Watson has coached youth soccer for over 10 years and has been an assistant coach at the collegiate level for multiple years at MJC and CSU, Stanislaus. He is finishing up his B license and has a passion for growing his knowledge as a coach to help players improve as players and people. As a player, he played at Ajax for 7 years, was on our youth national team for multiple years, received a full-ride scholarship to NC State and also played professionally a few years. Mitch pursues excellence in everything he does and has won a State Cup as both a player and a coach.





09B White – Silver, Head Coach: Jethro Tolentino



Coach Jet started playing soccer at the age of 10 and loved the game since then. He started coaching for MYSA since 2011. After that, he started as an assistant coach for Ajax in 2017. During his time as an assistant coach, he took his grassroots courses. He enjoys coaching players to be better players.

10B Academy – MLS Next, Head Coach: Juan Sierra



Juan has coached youth soccer for the last 10 years and has been the head coach in Mexico at a professional level for more than 15 years leading professional second and third division teams in Mexico. Juan has an A license in Mexico and also is applying for the USSF B license. He's convinced his knowledge needs to keep evolving so that he can offer players the best and the latest in a matter of player development and to help youngsters improve.

10B Green – NPL, Head Coach: Keith Lecain



Keith has been coaching youth soccer for the past 6 years. He currently holds a C license and is pursuing his B license. Keith found his passion for soccer at a young age playing the game and now coaches to pass on that same passion to his players. Keith's favorite quote is "If you want to win, do things better than anyone else does them, day in and day out." Chuck Noll.

10B White – Premier/Gold, Head Coach: Matt Terra



Matt has been a competitive coach for the past few years with Ceres Youth Soccer Organization and really enjoys sharing his passion of the game. He played for Ajax in his youth and is now giving back to the kids in our club!





11B Academy – MLS Next, Head Coach: Juan Sierra



Juan has coached youth soccer for the last 10 years and has been the head coach in Mexico at a professional level for more than 15 years leading professional second and third division teams in Mexico. Juan has an A license in Mexico and also is applying for the USSF B license. He's convinced his knowledge needs to keep evolving so that he can offer players the best and the latest in a matter of player development and to help youngsters improve.

11B Green – Premier, Head Coach: Chris Valdivia



Chris has played soccer since he was 6 years old and grew up playing MYSA. He started coaching at MYSA in 2016 and have been coaching at various levels ever since, including club, high school varsity and futsal. 4 years ago, his mentor and friend Gabe Bolton, the head coach for the women's soccer team at CSU, Stanislaus, took him under his wing and offered him his first competitive coaching position. Since then, he's completed his Foundation and Regional Coaching Certification from United Futsal. Also, he's completed his grassroots and in-person course from US Soccer and is pursuing his D license.

12B Academy – Pre MLS Next, Head Coach: Efrain Aguayo



Efrain has been coaching competitive soccer for the past 6 years. His passion for developing and helping the youth generation grow in soccer and in life is what keeps him learning and teaching. He's demonstrated an ability to develop young players and we look forward to his contributions in our club!

12B Green – Pre NPL, Head Coach: Mike Bocanegra



Mike has coached at AJAX for 9 years and enjoys teaching and developing players. He's coached all levels from 7v7 to 9v9 and also 11v11. Mike Currently holds a USSF D License and is pursuing his C License. As a player Mike started playing at the age of 7 and played competitively from age 9. As a youth he was in the





Olympic Development program for Cal North and Washington State ODP Teams. Mike later went on to play Pro/Semi-Pro in the USL for the Yakima Reds (1996-1999) out of Yakima, WA and the California Jaguars (1999) from his home town of Salinas, CA. Mike brings a lot of experience as a player to the table and is always looking to grow his knowledge as a coach for the benefit of his players.

13B Academy – Pre MLS Next, Head Coach: Dave de Hart



Dave de Hart brings almost 45 years of coaching and playing experience to the development of soccer players to the Central Valley of California and to our Modesto Youth Soccer Club. In 1993, Dave was awarded his National 'A' Level Coaching Certificate from the United States Soccer Federation. His coaching experience ranges from the youth level, including state, regional and national Olympic Development teams, to the high school level, to the NCAA college level (head coach and college Director of Athletics) and the professional level. His soccer resume includes positions held as the State Director of Coaching in Nevada and Club Director of Coaching in Northern California. He has coached at the competitive level of youth soccer in Northern California for many years where he has garnered four Northern California State Championships for the Ajax United Club. Additionally, as the author of Teaching and Understanding Soccer Goalkeeping and the trainer of many excellent goalkeepers he is a confirmed outstanding and highly respected goalkeeper trainer. As the current Technical Director for MYSA and the Ajax United Competitive Club, Dave de Hart will direct our MLS Next program and looks to continue provide a positive learning and teaching environment for the young athletes and the club's coaches. Dave has a passion to teach and has had outstanding success at each level of coaching. However, he considers his greatest accomplishments, not to be the many wins, but the many players that he has helped to develop into quality soccer players and people.

13B White – Silver, Head Coach: Pinder Basi

Bio TBD





14B Green – Premier, Head Coach: Ted Paolella



Ted Paolella has been a head coach for Ajax for the past 12 years and coached at the recreational level prior to his time at Ajax. Ted currently holds his National D license and is working on his C this year. He played soccer in Southern California since he was 5 years old playing in AYSO and club soccer in Thousand Oaks.

14B White – Silver, Head Coach: Darrel Wilkins



Darrel holds a USSF National B license (1998), was the head coach for MJC Men's soccer program for 12 years, was an Olympic Development Program coach for 4 years and was the Director of Coach at Ballistic for 8 years. He has won multiple State Cup championships and is also the founder of Modesto Futsal. He also played for MJC and Sonoma State.

15B Green – Premier, Head Coach: Ted Paolella



Ted Paolella has been a head coach for Ajax for the past 12 years and coached at the recreational level prior to his time at Ajax. Ted currently holds his National D license and is working on his C this year. He played soccer in Southern California since he was 5 years old playing in AYSO and club soccer in Thousand Oaks.

15B White – Silver, Head Coach: Jamie Humrichouse

Jamie is excited to take on the new challenge of coaching competitive soccer for Ajax. She has coached high school soccer for 23 years as well as middle school soccer and recreation soccer. She played her club soccer for Ajax and continued her collegiate career at Stanislaus State where she graduated with a degree in Liberal Studies. Jamie is looking forward to sharing her lifelong passion for soccer and developing players at the start of their soccer career with the hopes of inspiring their love for the game.





16B Green – Premier, Head Coach: Gustavo Claros



Gustavo has been coaching youth soccer for the 15 years both competitively and recreationally with Ceres Youth Soccer and MYSA. He has a strong passion to help develop players and is always looking forward to expanding his knowledge as a coach.

GIRLS COACHING LINEUP

05/06G Green – Premier, Head Coach: Brad Peterson



Brad has coached youth soccer for over 7 years and has been a Head Coach at the competitive level for over three years. He played at MYSA for 8 years and continued by playing at Ajax for 7 years, winning a State CUP championship and playing in three finals during that period. He later played at Modesto Junior College. Brad is pursuing a National D license and has a passion for teaching and developing players while continuing to learn and grow himself.

05/06G White – Silver, Head Coach: Jethro Tolentino



Coach Jet started playing soccer at the age of 10 and loved the game since then. He started coaching for MYSA since 2011. After that, he started as an assistant coach for Ajax in 2017. During his time as an assistant coach, he took his grassroots courses. He enjoys coaching players to be better players.

07G Green – Premier, Head Coach: Rob Robbins



Rob has been coaching for 25 years and is constantly learning how to be a better, more knowledgeable coach. He has coached U9's to semi-pro men's and women's teams and was Co-Head coach at Shasta College for 4 years. As a player Rob began at 9 years of age and has played up to the Semi-professional level and had a couple tours playing in Europe. Rob currently holds a National D





(2003) License and is the Head Coach for the 07G Green team. A life long learner of the game, Rob supports the greatest team in the world...LIVERPOOL! YNWA!

08G White – Silver, Head Coach: Gilbert Ybarra



Gilbert has coached youth soccer for the last 9 years, 7 of which with MYSA. Gilbert is the recipient of the MYSA Coach of the Year for both 2019 & 2022. He is currently licensed at grass roots level and will shortly complete his class D license. Gilbert has found a tremendous amount of success in his transition from mini season to competitive with his 2008 Girls team . He has a passion for coaching and always gives 100%!

09G Academy – Girls Academy, Head Coach TBD

10G Academy – Girls Academy, Head Coach: Ryan Daley



Ryan has been coaching for over 10 years after playing soccer practically his whole life. He's been coaching in Ajax for the past 6 years and has created many opportunities to girls to play at an elite level in the Girls Academy. In his youth he played for Ajax, and then wen to play for University of South Carolina and then played professionally in Europe and Mexico. He enjoys giving back to his community through soccer.

10G Green – NPL, Head Coach: Marcus Raposas



Marcus has 3 children who have played for 9 different Coaches with Ajax United and other local competitive clubs over the last 7 years. He's leveraged all this great knowledge and developed a portfolio of training plans with game like creativity and technical perfection as the goal. He is wrapping up his 4th team and 3rd year as an Ajax United Coach and in that timespan started at Gold Level and now successfully competes at the highest level available for NorCal. Marcus' greatest sense of pride as a Coach comes from his desire to outlearn and out teach all his competitors as a Coach to the benefit of his players.





11G Academy – Girls Academy/NPL, Head Coach: James Olivera

James has been coaching for many years and is the founder and president of Lobos soccer club, was the region 8 PDP director for 9 years, is an ACF Fiorentina staff coach, was a PDP state pool staff coach for 9 years and was the region 8 chair. He's been working in region 8 as top coach for many years and was a previous Director in Ajax. Welcome back!

11G White – Gold, Head Coach: Teo Delgado



Teo started coaching soccer straight out of high school coaching at the recreational level at MYSA. Since then, he has coached at the youth level, high school level, and now at the college level. This is Teo's second year with Ajax. Teo also coaches at Central Catholic High School with girls program and he is the head goalkeeper coach at Folsom Lake College. Teo cares so much about his players, he doesn't only love to develop them in the game of soccer but also helps prepare them for the real world.

12G Academy – Pre Girls Academy, Head Coach: Brian Leigh



Brian has coached youth soccer for over 4 years, played competitively for over 7 years, and has been a NISOA Collegiate Official for over 15 years. His experience around the youth and collegiate game is transferred into his coaching. As a coach, he has been a State Cup Finalist, winner of many tournaments at the Premier level and even playing up in age groups. He is working through his D license and has a passion to grow his knowledge as a coach. He strives for excellence in everything he does and really enjoys developing players' understanding of the game.





12G White – Premier/Gold, Head Coach: Teo Delgado



Teo started coaching soccer straight out of high school coaching at the recreational level at MYSA. Since then, he has coached at the youth level, high school level, and now at the college level. This is Teo's second year with Ajax. Teo also coaches at Central Catholic High School with girls program and his is the head goalkeeper coach at Folsom Lake College. Teo cares so much about his players, he doesn't only love to develop them in the game of soccer but also helps prepare them for the real world.

13G Academy – Pre Girls Academy, Keith Lecain



Keith has been coaching youth soccer for the past 6 years. He currently holds a C license and is pursuing his B license. Keith found his passion for soccer at a young age playing the game and now coaches to pass on that same passion to his players. Keith's favorite quote is "If you want to win, do things better than anyone else does them, day in and day out." Chuck Noll.

13G White – Gold, Head Coach: Steve Komorowski



Steve has been coaching youth soccer for 8 years. He's very passionate about coaching and developing players on and off the field, giving these young athletes tools to mature into successful young adults. Steve is working hard to hopefully have a state cup title under his belt in the near future!

14G Green – Premier, Head Coach: Darrel Wilkins



Darrel holds a USSF National B license (1998), was the head coach for MJC Men's soccer program for 12 years, was an Olympic Development Program coach for 4 years and was the Director of Coach at Ballistic for 8 years. He has won multiple State Cup championships and is also the founder of Modesto Futsal. He also played for MJC and Sonoma State.





15G Green – Premier, Head Coach: Tiffanie LaVelle



Tiffanie has played soccer for over 30 years at the competitive, high school and college levels. She is currently MYSA-Ajax's Adult League coordinator for both our Woman's and Coed Leagues that she still plays in. Most recently she has coached at the high school varsity level and U16 boy's Ajax team. She has 3 children that play competitively with Ajax. She is a licensed referee and holds her 7v7 and 11v11 Grassroots licenses and is currently working on her D License. Her passion for soccer runs deep and is eager grow and develop players to their fullest potential.

16G Green – Premier, Head Coach: Ryan Daley



Ryan has been coaching for over 10 years after playing soccer practically his whole life. He's been coaching in Ajax for the past 6 years and has created many opportunities for girls to play at an elite level in the Girls Academy. In his youth he played for Ajax, and then went to play for University of South Carolina and then played professionally in Europe and Mexico. He enjoys giving back to his community through soccer.

