



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FREDERICKSBURG FC PARTNERS WITH RICHMOND UNITED BOYS DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY FOR ANOTHER GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

FREDERICKSBURG, Va. (Thursday, April 25, 2019)—Fredericksburg FC is excited to announce a new partnership with the Richmond United Boys Development Academy that will help provide yet another avenue for the club and its players to continue to grow.



Fredericksburg FC—along with the Tidewater Sharks, based out of Williamsburg, Va.—will be joining Richmond United parent clubs Richmond Kickers and Richmond Strikers to enhance and optimizing the development of all players, coaches and technical staff within their respective soccer communities.

The partnership came to fruition after extensive talks between Richmond United’s leadership, as well as leadership from both new clubs led by Fredericksburg FC Executive Director Grover Gibson and Tidewater Sharks Club Director Martin Vickerton.

“I have been speaking with the Richmond staff at various levels over the past three years and there were a lot of moving pieces at the time, and with a little patience much has finally fell into place,” said Gibson. “It has now been extremely easy to put this all together as everyone that has worked towards this goal is solely focused on providing the best development pathway for players.”

As part of the new partnership, five players from the two affiliated clubs will join Richmond United as developmental or full-time players for the 2019-20 season. In addition, the clubs will collaborate regularly throughout the season to identify high-performing players.

“We are excited to establish this partnership with Fredericksburg FC and Tidewater Sharks,” Richmond United Boys DA Director Sascha Goerres said in a press release. “In my conversations with Grover and Martin, it became clear very quickly that both clubs put the development of the individual player first and are fully committed to providing their most talented players and staff a clear pathway to the Development Academy, the top tier of youth soccer in the United States.”

The focus will be on two main areas, player development and club/staff development. The affiliation will provide the most talented players the opportunity to benefit from

Richmond United's Development Academy environment for training and games as developmental players, while simultaneously continuing to participate in training and games with their home clubs. In the process, each will work together to provide all players with an appropriate level of competition based on the individual players' abilities and goals.

Gibson said FFC provides the most competitive programming in the Fredericksburg and surrounding region by competing in the Club Champions League, however, it is always looking for ways to improve its offerings and provide additional opportunities for players to reach the highest of levels. The added bonus of staff collaborations will only enhance these opportunities for all involved.

"This is a huge milestone for soccer player development in the Fredericksburg area," Gibson said. "I'm confident in saying this is a true working relationship between clubs, staff and players to reach a common goal and Fredericksburg FC is looking to help lead the way in setting the example of how club collaborations will directly benefit everyone involved."

About Fredericksburg Football Club

Based in Fredericksburg, Va., Fredericksburg FC, established in 1986, is one of the largest and oldest youth travel soccer clubs in Central Virginia, serving Spotsylvania, King George, Orange and Caroline counties, and the City of Fredericksburg. FFC U9-U18 travel teams compete in the top leagues in Virginia, Maryland and the Northeast Region, along with collegiate-level programming that competes in CCL Pro23. FFC travel teams compete in the highest level of national showcase events and tournaments offered in the United States. The club offers a professional Academy Program for soccer players ages U4-U8, while also maintaining a Recreation Program for the U8-high school age groups that allows it to provide opportunities to players of all skill levels and abilities. For more information, visit www.fredericksburgfc.org.

About Richmond United

Established in 2014 by the Richmond Kickers and Richmond Strikers, Richmond United's vision is to offer the most comprehensive and successful player development environment for soccer in Virginia. We will inspire our members, strive to achieve excellence and unite our soccer community. The Richmond United Boys program currently has teams in the U12-19 age groups and competes in the US Soccer Development Academy.

About Tidewater Sharks

Established in 2012, the Sharks mission has been to provide quality soccer opportunities at all levels. The club has seen huge growth both in the number and quality of players and coaches. The club's acceptance into the Virginia NPL in 2016 provided the highest level of competition in league play for the elite players. In addition, the club provides the Little Sharks Academy (2-5 year olds), recreational league (4-14 year olds), AP Sharks Program (6-8 year olds) and travel (TASL & VSL leagues). With over 1200+ players in our programs, we are proud to be offering quality opportunities for the Williamsburg and surrounding communities.