



PA Dominion FC - Additional background information:

The travel soccer landscape in our region has shifted dramatically over the last two years, and continues to do so today, due to:

1. The US Youth Soccer mandated shift from school year to birth calendar year for the age grouping of teams
2. The introduction of age-specific development academy programs on top of the existing academy programs at Penn Fusion and Continental, and of course the Union, is causing players and parents to second guess participating in their own community programs.

These two forces have contributed to a decrease in community soccer club travel registrations, which has had negative consequences to community clubs.

At BSC, we offer excellent training that has led to several teams competing at a very high level. And we encourage our travel players to participate in other community activities, sports and school athletics, which sets us apart from the Development Academies. But we have not been immune to the effects of the shifting landscape. Our overall club registrations have dropped each of the last two years. We have travel teams at most age groups, but not all, and even then, we rarely have a second team over U12.

Recognizing the need to adapt to the changing landscape, BSC has been exploring unique and innovative ways to continue offering a great soccer product for all the players in our community. Over the past few months, we have worked with multiple like-minded local community clubs to develop a model that works for each club. Together, we have concluded that by sharing player pools, training resources, facilities and intellectual capital, locally-based community soccer clubs can raise the level of available training and competition to meet the development needs of our stronger players, while also maintaining individual club's identities within our local communities.

The core set of founding principles that we have established with our local community club partners for a new overarching organization are as follows:

- Create a uniquely branded, 11v11 premier youth travel soccer organization from existing community clubs in the region that provides a development pathway for players wanting to train and compete at an elite travel level
- Provide high quality training and appropriate level of competition for all 11v11 travel players, regardless of the competitive level
- Provide training support for the mid-level travel player rostered with an affiliate community club
- Maintain the existing identities of the affiliate community clubs at the travel (7v7, 9v9), intramural, and select levels
- Share facilities, training, coaching and volunteer resources across the affiliate community clubs
- Leverage the travel player pool across the affiliate community clubs to maximize the ability to form and maintain sustainable (7v7/9v9/11v11) travel B teams
- Respect our players' and parents' desire to participate in other youth intramural and school sports