



# MEN'S PATH TO PRO

Believe ∞ Achieve ∞ Succeed

# AHFC MEN'S PROGRAM

## YOUTH2PRO



Youth  
Football Club



Men's U23 Amateur  
Pre-Professional



Men's Professional



Men's Professional

# YOUTH2PROS COMPLETE PATHWAY

AHFC offers a complete player development pathway from Youth to College to the Pros.

AHFC's unique pathway offers:

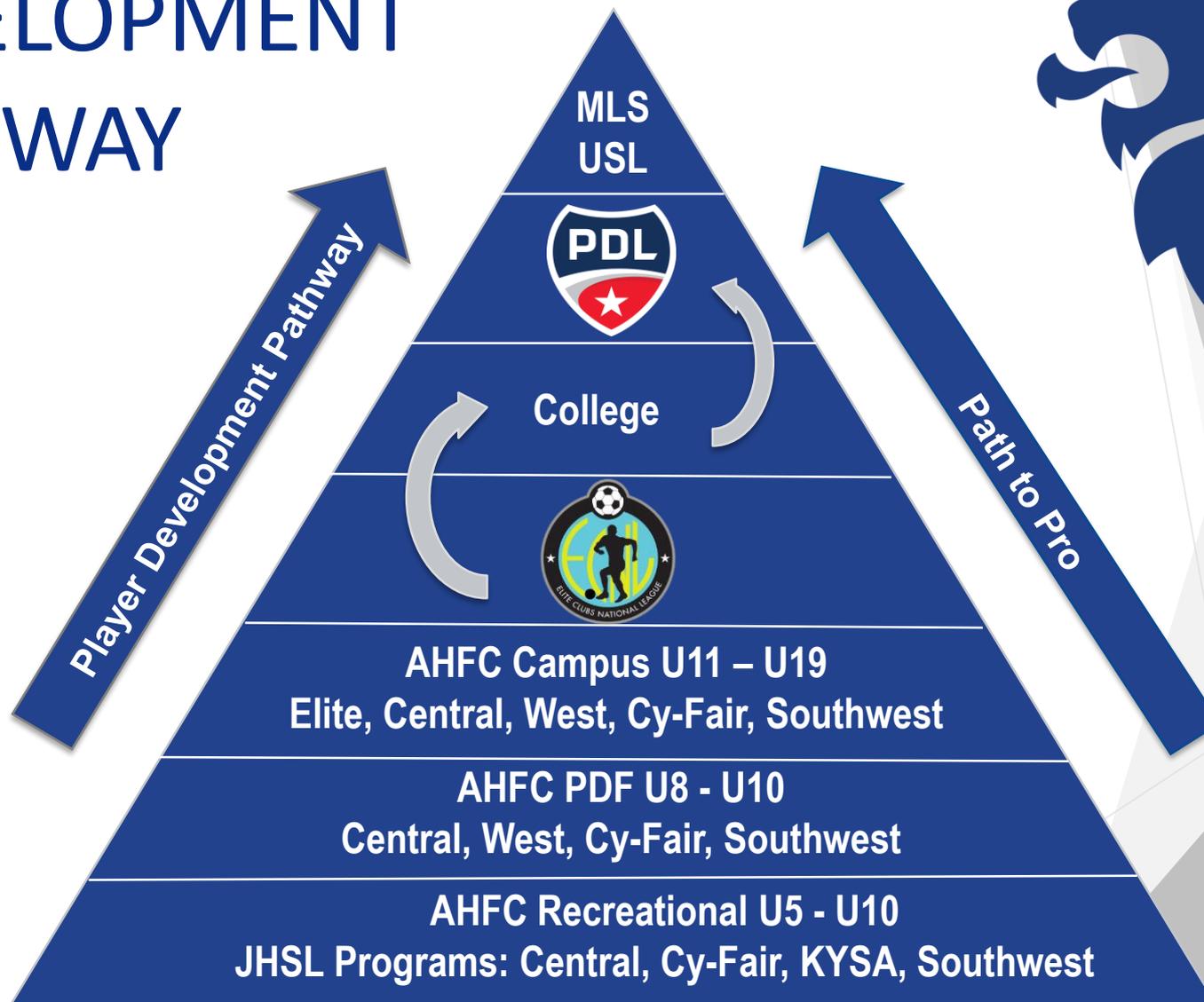
- Improved player development for ECNL Juniors and Senior's
- Improved player pre season prep for club Senior's & Returning College Players
- Improved player exposure platform for Professional soccer opportunities: MLS, USL & overseas markets
- Player opportunities are "real" & tangible
- Real opportunities throughout the pathway
- Less restrictive Home Grown player obstacles

# WELCOME TO THE PDL EXPERIENCE

The PDL is the leader in pre-professional soccer in the U.S. and Canada. The League holds a vital role as it continues to provide the elite platform for those pursuing professional careers domestically and internationally. Throughout the United States and Canada, PDL franchises continue to provide the elite amateur player the opportunity to train and compete at the highest level while maintaining their collegiate eligibility. With ownership of teams coming from the likes of MLS and USL franchises as well as leading business and sports individuals, the PDL serves as the leading development platform for the game both on and off the field.

The PDL is more than the leading national U23 league...the PDL is the defined and proven pathway for players to progress to the professional ranks of soccer while becoming a staple within the community in which the team operates.

# MEN'S DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY



# PDL PATH2PRO DEVELOPMENT MODEL

The PDL serves as the platform for the development of future professionals both domestically and internationally. The league provides the elite collegiate-aged player the opportunity to train and compete in a professional-like environment, simulating that of the professional ranks.



Dubbed the “Path2Pro,” the PDL is the foundation of player development to the professional ranks including the USL and Major League Soccer. Each league utilizes the PDL for player development differently on a club-by-club basis. For instance, a Major League Soccer club will operate or affiliate with a PDL organization in order to provide their players the opportunity to obtain the precious training time needed in order to qualify for homegrown status. Similarly, USL clubs will utilize the PDL for player identification. In addition to player initiatives, the PDL provides both organizations with the opportunity to extend their brands and initiatives further into the market of operation.

# LEAGUE FOOTPRINT



# PDL

## BY THE NUMBERS

**70**

Percentage of all  
MLS draftees who have  
PDL experience

**59**

Players taken in the 2017  
MLS Super Draft  
participated in the PDL

**4 MILLION+**

Total league attendance since  
inaugural 1998 season

**72**

Teams participating in the  
2017 PDL season

**21**

Direct berths into the  
US Open Cup in 2017

**300+**

PDL alumni who have been  
selected over the past 6 years  
in the MLS Super Draft

**13**

Number of PDL players signed  
to homegrown contracts  
between 2015-2016

**2,169**

Total number of players within  
the PDL

**15**

MLS and USL clubs with  
existing PDL team operations  
and affiliations

**44**

Countries represented  
by PDL players

**21**

Average age of the  
PDL player

# PATH2PRO

## **PDL Alumni Playing Professionally in the U.S. and Canada**

The proven path to pro in North American soccer, the PDL is an important stepping-stone for top professionals now playing throughout the world. Nearly 70% of all MLS draftees since 2010 have PDL experience, and nearly 300 former PDL players competed during the 2016 USL season.

### **2016 PDL ALUMNI**

Currently, there are more than 200 PDL alumni from the 2016 season competing at the professional level in the U.S. and Canada.

Click the logos below and select the appropriate tab for a full list of 2016 alumni playing professionally this season in the U.S. and Canada.



# MLS PARTNERSHIP

The USL-MLS partnership continues to extend the depth of the landscape in North America. The 2016 USL season will feature 29 clubs - 11 of which are owned and operated by MLS clubs. Whether the club's home market or in a satellite location, the clubs' focus remains on creating and maintaining a rabid fanbase while preparing players for the first team.

In cast to the MLS ownership of USL clubs, nine MLS clubs have established affiliations with USL clubs for the 2016 season. Additionally, nine USL clubs will enter the 2016 season with MLS affiliates. The affiliate relationship provides the opportunity for a minimum of four (4) MLS players be sent to the USL affiliate on a season-long loan, while also offering and joint commercial initiatives between the two clubs.

## MLS TEAMS WITH PDL AFFILIATIONS



## USL TEAMS WITH PDL AFFILIATIONS



# U.S. OPEN CUP SUCCESS

Granted 21 direct berths into the 2017 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup, the PDL continues to display itself as the proving ground of elite amateur soccer.

Recent success found within the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup featured 75% of the 2013 PDL participants advancing to the second round of competition. Within the second round, four PDL teams defeated professional sides and advanced to the third round which integrates teams from Major League Soccer.



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**MEN'S COMPLETE PATHWAY**  
**#AHFCallin**

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