

PA Dominion FC – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
Version 3.0 03/21/18



The following FAQ's are intended to address initial questions you may have regarding the new PA Dominion organization. We recognize that some readers may need additional information or wish to discuss these answers in greater detail. Please look for announcements via email and the club's websites. There is an upcoming town hall question and answer session planned.

1. Why form a New Travel Organization?

Issues Facing our Region's Community Clubs:

Player pools in community clubs shrink at the older age groups due to:

- Players aging out of soccer - other sports, extracurricular or scholastic focus in middle and high school
- Stronger regional club offerings and academy recruiting for highly competitive players
- Grass is always greener

This results in:

- Difficulty retaining players seeking consistent high levels of training and competition
- Teams disbanding, not training at the best levels for better players, unable to compete at high levels

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 maintaining individual clubs' identities within our local communities. This is achieved through the union of community soccer clubs within an overarching travel soccer organization that provides a development pathway for travel teams at U13 and older, while maintaining community club identity at the intramural, select and U12 and younger travel player.

The core set of founding principles the local community clubs have established for a new overarching organization is 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 facility, 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

All of the participating clubs share philosophical views on youth soccer placing an emphasis on developing the whole person at every age and level of play.

2. Is this a “Merger”?

PA Dominion is first and foremost a collaboration model (not a merger) between clubs that allows them to pool resources (players, trainers, facilities & programs) to benefit all levels of travel at all competitive levels.

Secondly, PA Dominion FC is organizationally, and from a branding perspective, a pathway for players who want to play at the highest level possible in a non-academy setting.

3. What do participating clubs bring to the table?

- Player pools at all levels of travel soccer
- Shared facilities across our geographic area
- Expertise in player and club development
- Experienced leadership group, along with skilled licensed coaches.
- Wide range of programming for players with a range of abilities

4. Will the new club be a not for profit entity?

Yes, the club will be a not for profit legal entity as a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation. It will be registered as PA Dominion FC.

5. Are the clubs merging or is one club in control?

This is neither a merger or takeover. A wholly new club organization called PA Dominion FC is being formed. Affiliate clubs will retain their current identities at the intramural, select and travel U12 and below and work together to develop a top program at the U13 and older age groups. An exploratory committee has been formed with equal representation from both initial affiliate

clubs. We intend to be the model organization for youth soccer and sports in general with an unwavering focus on ensuring that the good of the players and their families come first.

6. How many clubs will be involved?

Local community clubs that follow the same philosophy with player development will be considered and/or approached for discussions. Additional clubs may be involved in the future if they so choose.

7. When will PA Dominion FC teams be formed?

The pathway will begin with a pilot program of teams from each club this tryout season.

8. Why is it occurring so quickly?

Some of the affiliate clubs have been exploring solutions for succeeding within the current travel soccer landscape for over a year. While the PA Dominion concept has come together within the last three to four months, the exploratory board felt that the tryout season made the most sense logistically for all clubs. It allows pilot teams to form and be given the ability to play in state/regional tournaments as well as develop a brand in our soccer community. We do expect to field at team at most age groups in the first year. Launching the organization during tryouts allows us to take key initial steps towards our vision .

9. How do you plan to communicate the membership of the affiliate clubs?

We will communicate through our newly developed PA Dominion FC website, email blasts and Facebook posts to pass on information relating to soccer and our newly formed organization. Specific team information will flow through our coaches and team managers as in the past.

10. How is the combined club going to be managed? What changes? What stays the same?

After a transitional period, the new club will be governed by an equally represented Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will be responsible for the governance of PA Dominion FC and will have monthly meetings. The organization will have its own unique Constitution, set of By-Laws and independent financial accounting. We plan to hire an Executive Director (ED) , Director of Coaching (DOC) and administrative support - all three specific to the new organization.

11. Will there still be a role for volunteers in the new organization?

Absolutely. The new pathway will greatly depend on volunteers for its success and vitality. We will encourage volunteers from all participating clubs.

12. Which facilities will be used and where will my child play?

Facilities will be shared throughout the participating clubs and their scheduling will be decided by the fielding committee. Consideration will be given to where team families live. Practice facilities may also be dictated by where the majority of the players on the team live.

13. Will it cost more for my child to play?

Our goal is to make soccer affordable for every child. We will be working to develop a financial structure comparable to the ones already in place.

14. How do I register my child to play?

Our newly created website will allow you to register for the new organization once player roster invitations are extended.

15. My child is currently on a recreational team. How does the organization affect him/her? Can he/she still play on the same team?

We do not anticipate a change in the existing recreational programs due to the new organization. Your recreational player will retain the advantages he/she currently enjoys while having a structured travel pathway to strive for. The biggest change is that recreational coaches will have greater access to professional coaching resources, including more tools and training. The training will be based on the philosophy that it is more important for players to be placed in the appropriate training environment and to develop and have fun versus a sole goal of winning games. Strong training and instilling a love for the game will naturally progress to success during matches.

16. Will we be merging teams?

Within the specific age groups of PA Dominion FC, players from each affiliate club will be encouraged to tryout for the highest level of play. Teams may remain intact with their existing affiliate club identity if not selected to compete for PA Dominion FC. All clubs will be encouraged to filter remaining players to existing affiliate clubs to allow players to always have a place to continue their love of the game.

17. How might this affect my competitive/premier team and/or coach?

We will form teams with players who have similar abilities and level of play. Tryouts ultimately determine a team's make-up from year to year. There now will be more players and coaches in the combined organization resulting in more options and selection. This could mean, as tryouts always do, some changes from team to team and coach to coach. Coaches will also be evaluated and aligned with teams by our DOC's to best match experience, credentials, and strengths with each team's unique needs.

18. How will tryouts be handled?

The tryout process will not change this year. Each affiliate club will hold their own tryouts. PA Dominion will have tryouts at multiple affiliated clubs after this year. Tryouts will be overseen by the Directors of Coaching with participation from a collective staff.

19. How many PA Dominion FC Teams will be at each age level?

Our goal is to field one team in every age group that is able to compete in the highest levels of state competition. The number and quality of players will drive how many teams are fielded. We will strive for a team at every age (U13 and older) as the organization continues to grow and strengthen. Players who do not make the team will stay with their affiliated clubs and have the ability to work with other affiliated clubs to find homes.

20. What is the status of our uniforms?

We are designing uniforms with the PA Dominion logo and colors. We are currently working with our suppliers to make the cost affordable for each family while maintaining quality.

21. What will happen with GotSoccer points?

Our appointed committee will be working with GotSoccer to come up with the best possible solutions in regards to GotSoccer. We are confident that both organizations can work together.

22. What is the philosophy for "Playing Up"?

This organization is formed as a multiple club pathway to higher level play and is only for older age groups (U13 and above) after they have worked with their respective clubs. That being said, the hope is that kids will be able to play at a very high level in their respective age groups. In the very rare case that a player would be better suited at an older age, that decision would be brought to the Executive Director of PA Dominion and the affiliate club Executive Director..

23. Who will be coaching the teams?

Each participating club may have their own development philosophy on coaching at the U12 and below age groups. All PA Dominion FC teams will have at least one paid professional coach.

24. How will team budgets be managed and fees collected?

Budgets and fees will be prepared and collected in a centralized club structure managed by the Executive Director and board after the first year. During the first transitional year, budgets will be customized and managed at the team level.

25. Will each team have a manager and what will their role be?

Though budgeting will be centralized with oversight by the Executive Director and Board after the transition year, the team manager will be responsible for tournament and league registrations, team communications, as well as being the point of contact with the Executive Director for the team parents.

26. What league will the teams be participating in?

The club Executive Director along with the team's head coach will decide the most appropriate league for the team. Most teams can expect to participate in EDP.

27. Where can I get more information?

After reviewing the FAQ page, those who have additional questions or wish to discuss these answers in more detail are encouraged to attend an upcoming town hall question and answer session – look for a general announcement about upcoming sessions via email and/or on participating club websites.