



NEW JERSEY COPA FC

FC COPA ACADEMY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FC Copa Academy & Rated Sports Group Agree to a Strategic Partnership

Ventura, Calif., U.S.A. – April 27 – Rated Sports Group has announced the formation of a new strategic partnership with FC Copa Academy based out of New Jersey.

Rated Sports Group is one of the most influential and recognized youth sporting event organizers in North America and is the recognized brand behind the Worldwide Soccer Showcase series. Through world-class events that attract more than 700 college coaches from across the nation, RSG has helped countless youth athletes achieve their dreams of playing college soccer at an elite level.

FC Copa Academy shares RSG's dedication and vision in providing youth soccer players with access to superior coaching, progressive player development and state of the art training facilities at Rutgers University and Rowan University. Since its foundation in 2005, FC Copa Academy has helped more than 280 players gain entrance to college programs, three players registering caps for their national teams, two players earning places on the U.S. National Team's U17 residency program. And three FC Copa Academy players have gone on to sign contracts with professional clubs.

Having experienced tremendous growth since its founding, FC Copa Academy is currently home to over 40 premier teams from U8 to U23 which includes 1000 players in its development system. Additionally FC Copa Academy offers a number of year round programs for academy and non-academy players who strive to better themselves in the technical aspect of their game. Most recently FC Copa Academy launched its newest endeavor, New Jersey Copa FC, which is now the owner of the NPSL and UWS franchises in New Jersey. This step completes the development pyramid for FC Copa Academy as it now offers a complete progression from youth, to college and beyond.

“FC Copa Academy fits our model in collaborating with a premier soccer club in North America. Roberto Aguas, Founder, President and Executive Director of Coaching of FC Copa Academy and his team have standards in place that continue to raise the bar,”

says Michael Rocca, Managing Director of Rated Sports Group.

“The technical staff and management team at FC Copa Academy are delighted about this strategic partnership. We believe Rated Sports Group’s model is directly aligned with our player development model,” stated Robert Aguas. *“It is our goal to continue to expand the academy offering to include additional positive and professional ways to assist in the college commitment process.”*

RSG has a proven track record of success when it comes to staging impactful youth soccer tournament events. RSG’s events draw elite youth players from across North America and give them the chance to play in front of college and professional scouts. In addition to providing top youth soccer talent with a platform, RSG’s events also provide a significant economic boost to the local economies of communities that host them.

Rated Sports’ expertise at staging and promoting such events will help FC Copa Academy expand upon its mission to identify, develop and educate youth soccer players and coaches in a positive, structured and challenging atmosphere.

“The platform and presence that Rated Sports Group has developed will bring to our youth athletes additional avenues in the exposure to college programs during the recruiting process,” said Lori Berman, Vice President and Director of Academic Guidance of FC Copa Academy.

FC Copa Academy maintains a highly focused curriculum for player development that emphasizes technical proficiency and a possession-based style of play that encourages creativity. The organization’s players train year-round in state of the art facilities at Rutgers University and Rowan University. Players from FC Copa Academy compete at the highest level in NPL and EDP competitions, as well as domestic and international tournaments and showcases.

“I’ve personally worked with FC Copa Academy over the years, expectations are high from both groups with an aligned vision for great things to come,” said Jorden Scott, Director of Rated Sports Group.

RSG is best known for its ongoing Worldwide Soccer Showcase Series, which includes the NYC Cup, Phoenix Desert Cup and Canadian affiliate the Umbro Top Rated Showcase. The events draw elite teams from around the globe who compete at top venues in cities across the U.S. and Canada. Events in the series draw upwards of 110,000 people each year. Overall economic impact generated by RSG’s events exceeds \$110M. Additionally, RSG supports numerous youth programs and charity groups across the nation.

“RSG has developed a great reputation and we look forward to building an even stronger relationship as we get started with these first steps” says Roberto Aguas.

While no announcements have yet been made pertaining to the strategic partnership between both groups; the alliance in itself is of huge benefit to both groups, as they seek to advance their mutual dedication to advancing youth soccer development at the highest level.

“If you look at FC Copa Academy’s history of successful teams and the number of athletes going on to play collegiate soccer, RSG couldn’t be working with a more focused group, just great professionalism and transparency all around,” says Michael Rocca.



About FC Copa Academy:

Based in New Jersey, the FC Copa Academy provides youth soccer players with a superior coaching staff, a well defined and progressive player development curriculum and state of the art training facilities at Rutgers University and Rowan University. With over 280 players in 124 collegiate institutions, FC Copa Academy's mission is to identify, develop and educate youth soccer players and coaches in a positive, structured and challenging environment. More importantly, FC Copa Academy strives to develop young men and women of character and prepare them for college and life.

<http://fccopa.com/>
<http://njcopafc.com/>



About Rated Sports Group:

Rated Sports Group is one of the most influential and recognized your sporting event organizers in North America. Originally formed by running small sided camps and tournaments for local teams in California and Toronto, Rated Sports Group is a recognized brand behind the NYC Cup, Phoenix Desert Cup and Canadian affiliate the Umbro Top Rated Showcase which draw the elite teams from around the globe to compete at great venues and cities across the nation.

<http://ratedsports.com/>
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