



## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## CHARLOTTE SOCCER ACADEMY TO UNVEIL ORTHOCAROLINA SPORTSPLEX

*July 26 celebration to highlight history, significance of youth soccer in Charlotte*

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (July 21, 2015)** – Charlotte Soccer Academy (CSA) will officially unveil its new \$11 million state-of-the-art OrthoCarolina Sportsplex Sunday, July 26 at a ceremony and celebration for players, their families and the media. The opening of the facility imparts the growth and development of the club over the past 10 years to become the largest competitive youth soccer organization in North Carolina. With approximately 5,000 families with active players, CSA is one of only two clubs in North and South Carolina that offers every level of play in youth soccer.

“Our club’s success at such a prodigious rate is undeniably due in part to diversity, with ages and structured levels of play from instructional groups for three year olds all the way to national level programs for under 18,” said Brad Wylde, executive director of Charlotte Soccer Academy. “CSA’s goal is to provide an encouraging environment for every player no matter their ability or age, and partnering with OrthoCarolina puts our playing facilities on par with the strength and depth of our club.”

The OrthoCarolina Sportsplex will house six fields, including five artificial turf fields, with one of the turf fields being a FIFA 2-certified surface. An adjacent 20,000 square foot building will contain the CSA club store, administrative offices, changing facilities and physical therapy space.

CSA’s roots began as a structured organization in 2005 with 17 teams and 250 players. In 2008 South Charlotte Soccer Association (SCSA) and Charlotte Soccer Club (CSC) would merge to form the new Charlotte Soccer Academy, collectively providing greater access to soccer fields, venues, player development and quality training and coaching for Charlotte-area families. Today CSA is one of only 80 clubs in the country to be part of the U.S. Development Academy program for high school boys competing with the MLS professional clubs and one of only 70 clubs to be a member of the Elite Club National League program for high school girls. Its breadth extends as far north as Cabarrus County, with 45 teams, and as far south as Matthews, N.C. with 35 teams.

With 17 full-time directors and 80 paid part-time coaches on staff, all CSA employees must be licensed at a regional level or greater through the U.S. Soccer Federation or the National Coaches Association of America (NSCAA). Charlotte Soccer Academy functions under a business model, noteworthy for a youth soccer organization that has grown to become the largest competitive club in North Carolina. The organization has several community outreach programs including an annual program that provides clinics for Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools special needs programs in middle and high schools. CSA also awards around \$80,000 each year in need-based scholarship funds for players.

One of the biggest expenses for Charlotte Soccer Academy is maintaining soccer fields and providing venues that are up to standards for organized youth soccer. To date CSA has incorporated maintenance into its budget for many soccer fields and venues across the Charlotte region. The addition of the OrthoCarolina Sportsplex will provide a home field for the club that can be utilized for practices, camps, and events throughout the year, saving notable costs.

“Through soccer kids develop critical skills, learn the rules of the game, and find the ability to face challenges head on,” said Dr. Dan Murrey, CEO of OrthoCarolina. “Running on that field and playing with teammates is part of childhood, and we couldn’t be happier to continue our longstanding partnership with CSA and help provide a home for youth soccer in Charlotte.”

The grand opening ceremony will take place Sunday, July 26 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Charlotte Soccer Academy OrthoCarolina Sportsplex at 13333 Dorman Road in Pineville. The day will include a bounce house, carnival games, music, contests, food samples, prizes and more.

### **About Charlotte Soccer Academy**

Charlotte Soccer Academy (CSA) is Charlotte’s premier youth soccer organization and one of only two soccer associations in the Carolinas that offers every level of play in youth soccer. With a mission to provide a positive and constructive environment regardless of age, ability, gender or goals, player divisions range from pre-kindergarten instructional groups all the way to national level programs at the Under 18 level. For more information visit [www.charlottesvillesocceracademy.com](http://www.charlottesocceracademy.com).

### **About OrthoCarolina**

OrthoCarolina is one of the nation’s leading independent academic orthopedics practices serving North Carolina and the Southeast since 1922. OrthoCarolina provides compassionate and comprehensive musculoskeletal care including operative and non-operative care, diagnostic imaging and rehabilitative therapy. Widely known for musculoskeletal research and training, OrthoCarolina physicians have specialized expertise in foot and ankle, hip and knee, shoulder and elbow, spine, sports medicine, hand, pediatric orthopedics, and physical medicine and rehabilitation. Our 130 OrthoCarolina physicians see nearly one million patient visits throughout western North Carolina each year.

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