What is NextGen?

Next Generation Series (NextGen) is an exciting, new youth soccer initiative undertaken by USL and IMG Academy, established to provide players, coaches and clubs the opportunity to take part in an eight-month, elite-level league. NextGen is more than just another youth soccer league and features a forward-looking, innovative, comprehensive, and unique development program designed to develop the complete elite youth soccer player through a defined regimen of training, competition, testing, and evaluation.

The inspiration for NextGen was the repeated and consistent message received from top youth soccer clubs and coaches that they were seeking a fresh development initiative specifically geared toward younger teams and players. From this feedback, NextGen has been launched to fill the void by providing a comprehensive platform for clubs to best prepare their young players for the challenges which await them at the next level. NextGen will take a developmental approach which engages the player, coach, and parent, and enhances player growth across 7-8 important disciplines conducted by world-renowned experts in their respective disciplines of performance:

- Ignite360 Athletic Assessment
- Physical Conditioning
- Mental Conditioning
- Nutrition & Wellness
- On-Field Communication
- Injury Prevention / Athletic Regeneration
- Leadership & Life Skills
- Vision training for Goalkeepers

While player growth is the primary focus, coaches and parents are fully integrated into the NextGen model. Coaches will be regularly exposed to the most modern coaching education available both in terms of soccer-specific training and overall sports methods by elite experts in their fields via the USL and IMG networks. Additionally, NextGen is committed to the engagement of parents through the provision of regular information, resources, and other pertinent insights regarding the important role they play in the child’s transition to elite player and young adult. All in all, NextGen will usher in an exciting new era in the development of the next generation of complete elite youth players and provide its member clubs with an advantage in the programming it offers to its athletes.

How many NextGen Teams will SA United have?

SA United will have 4 NextGen teams: U11-U12 Girls, U13-U14 Girls, U11-U12 Boys and U13-U14 Boys.
Do I have to play for SA United to be eligible for their NextGen Teams?

No. However, a maximum of 4 non SA United players will be allowed to roster onto the SAU Next Gen Teams. Players will be rostered to two teams, their respective club team (SA United) and the NextGen team if they make the roster at tryouts.

Can I play up an age group?

Yes, there are no restrictions on players competing in age groups above their own age. Selection for the NextGen teams will be based on ability.

How many players will be on each NextGen roster?

The maximum number of players allowed on each roster is 22. However SA United plan to roster a maximum of 16-18 on each of our rosters. This is to ensure that all players in the program receive adequate playing opportunities throughout the season.

Is there an additional cost to play NextGen?

Yes, monthly fees will be $85 per month over 10 months. Fees will include;
- Team registration
- Player registration
- Player insurance
- Game fields
- Training fields
- Referee costs
- Training sessions
- Trainer at all games
- Trainer travel for games
- Trainer accommodation for games
- Trainer expenses for games
- Entry fee into Florida IMG tournament

Does not include
- Player and family travel expenses
- Trainer travel expenses for annual tournament in Florida
What uniforms will I wear as a NextGen player?

SA United will provide game day home and away jerseys to all players on game day. These jerseys will then be collected back in after the game. This will help reduce the financial burden on players/parents. The SA United NextGen jerseys will be different from the regular STYSA SA United Jerseys to avoid jersey number conflicts. Players will be required to wear the black adidas shorts and socks that are assigned to all SA United players. These will need to be purchased individually for players not part of SA United.

Can I apply for financial assistance?

Yes. Scholarships will be available based on financial need. Application stipulations and rules are the same as the regular SA United scholarship guidelines. The deadline to apply for a scholarship is June 30th 2013.

How do I become a NextGen Player?

Tryouts for the SA United NextGen teams will be held on Wednesday June 19th and Thursday June 20th at the GVTC Communications Sportsplex. Tryouts will cost $25 per player and online registration will open on June 4th. To register online please go to saunitedsoccer.com.

How much travel is required for the NextGen Program?

We will be competing in the Midsouth Conference against teams from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas. Other teams from Texas in this conference will be drawn from Austin, Dallas and Houston. Games against teams from out of state will likely be played at a neutral location in Texas to reduce the travel commitments. All four teams from SA United will travel to the same site each week and compete against the NextGen teams from one other club. This will cut down on travel expenses for families who have two or more offspring in the NextGen program as well as Trainer’s travel costs.

There is also an annual tournament held at the IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida. This tournament is mandatory for all teams in each conference and as well as deciding which team wins the national championship at each age level will also include a second round of Ignite360 testing for all players. The dates for the League Championship/Final Evaluation are as follows;

Date: Boys - April 10-13, 2014
Venue: IMG Academy

Date: Girls - April 17-20, 2014
Venue: IMG Academy
Who will be coaching the NextGen teams?

Coaches for our NextGen teams will be announced at tryouts on June 19th & 20th.

How often will I train with my NextGen team?

All NextGen teams will train together once a week. This is in addition to their regular club team training commitments. NextGen sessions will be held on Fridays from 6.00pm – 8.00pm.

What is the IMG Academy and how does it fit into the NextGen Program?

IMG Academy, a division of IMG Worldwide, the global sports, fashion and media company, is the world’s largest and most advanced multi-sport training and education complex. For 35 years, IMG Academy has helped countless youth, adult, collegiate and professional athletes reach their full potential in and out of sport, by providing world-class coaching, tailored programs and professional facilities within an energetic environment across a 450-acre campus, based in Bradenton, Florida.

All SA United NextGen players are invited to participate in annual ignite360 testing with staff from IMG. I360 is the ultimate measure of an athlete’s ability and potential. I360 sets the global measurement standard for comprehensive athletic assessment, improved performance, health and fitness. By measuring and recording sport-specific physical ability, mental aptitude, communicative skill and a variety of other key athletic traits, I360 provides a platform for comparison to other athletes by age, sport and position.

Testing will take place at a central location in Texas (most probably Dallas) to minimize travel costs.

The IMG Academy will also host the annual finals weekend for the NextGen Program where the top teams in each division will be invited to compete for the national title. The dates for the League Championship/Final Evaluation are as follows;

Date: Boys - April 10-13, 2014  
Venue: IMG Academy

Date: Girls - April 17-20, 2014  
Venue: IMG Academy
What opportunities will the NextGen Program offer my Son or Daughter?

NextGen is designed to monitor the progress the kids make both as players on the field and as people off of it. The goal is to educate both the players and the parents about the commitments and demands of soccer players at levels beyond youth soccer, to expose everyone to the sort of education and evaluation the players will encounter at those next levels, and to give everyone an idea of the avenues available to them to pursue the game at whatever level they choose. The games in NextGen are meant to be used as a tool to implement what everyone has learned at IMG and throughout the season, as well as a barometer of how the players are progressing.

**ID Player Tracking Program**

The NextGen ID Player Tracking Program serves as a mechanism to identify and track elite youth players, as well as showcase their talents for ODP and U.S. Soccer National Team programs. The NextGen coaches and regional scouts, under the supervision of the NextGen National Technical Director, will identify a pool of elite players to be invited to attend the NextGen ID Training Camp at IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida. These players will be identified during the NextGen events at IMG Academy, as well as during the NextGen regular season. The selected players will undergo testing in all performance disciplines for tracking purposes. Lectures on mental conditioning, nutrition, life skills and athletic management will be presented. To evaluate their talent, U.S. National staff coaches, American and international academy scouts and college coaches will be invited to attend their games.

**NextGen ID Training Camp**

The NextGen ID Program is designed specifically to scout and track the top elite male and female soccer players between the ages of 11 and 14, a critically formative time in a young player’s development as both a soccer player and an athlete. The NextGen ID Player Tracking Program will be a collaborative effort among the NextGen National Technical Director, the NGS coaches and the NGS regional scouts. The selected players will be invited to attend the NextGen ID Training Camp to be held on January 30 - February 2, 2014, at the IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida. These soccer athletes will be evaluated on and off the field by IMG Academy performance experts in all the sports performance disciplines. Also invited to attend this event are the U.S. National team staff coaches, college coaches and directors of international professional club academies.

This is a unique opportunity for these elite soccer players to showcase their talents and train with IMG experts and NextGen coaches while enjoying the camaraderie of other elite athletes.