



LIAM LACY

COACH, DIRECTOR & EDUCATOR

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MEDIA LINKS

- [MLS Next Showcase](#)
- [UEFA A Licence Assessment](#)
- [MSc Performance Coaching - Applied Coaching Project](#)
- [IMG Academy Soccer Reference](#)

I am a highly motivated coach, director, and educator who is experienced in player development and the management of Academy teams and clubs. I have garnered this experience through a wide range of coaching roles in the United States, including within IMG Academy.

Throughout my professional career, I have established a proven track record in strengthening football organisations through the design of innovative programmes, as well as creative player and coach development strategies.

I have furthered my professional development by completing UEFA, US Soccer, and NSCAA/United Soccer Coaches qualifications. Additionally, I hold a Master's degree in Performance Coaching from the University of Stirling.

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS



- University of Stirling: MSc Performance Coaching
- University of Delaware / NSCAA: Master Coach & Soccer Leader Diploma
- University of Stirling: BA (Hons) Sports Studies

Graduated 2019
Graduated 2017
Graduated 2005

- UEFA A Licence (SFA, 2023)
- UEFA B Licence (SFA, 2021)
- US Soccer A Licence (2014)
- SFA Talent Identification (2020)
- SFA Performance Analysis (2020)
- NSCAA / US Coaches Premier Diploma (2013)
- US Soccer National Youth Licence (2012)
- NSCAA / US Coaches Director of Coaching Diploma (2010)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE



IMG Academy

Head of Player Development

Oct 2020 – Present

- Lead the formation and implementation of a performance analysis programme within the soccer department
- Oversee the evolution of the position to incorporate curriculum and methodology, individual development plans, coach education and development, and athletic and personal development integration
- Combine positions as Head of Player Development with MLS Next Head Coach role and Performance Analyst for U13 to U19 age-group squads
- The Academy secured its first National Championships in both girls' (2022) and boys' (2023) programme history through utilising our methodology and periodization model

Head Coach - MLS Next

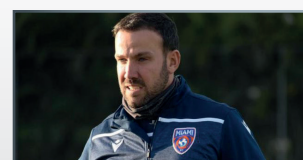
- Oversaw and led age-group squads in various roles, including U15 Elite Boys Lead Coach from 2021 to 2023, U16 Elite Boys Lead Coach from 2020 to 2021, and U17 and U19 Elite Boys Assistant Coach from 2020 to 2022
- Performed an active role in the progression of players who joined MLS clubs, including FC Dallas, Inter Miami, Orlando City, Columbus Crew and St Louis City
- Various players from the 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 age groups were identified for US Soccer Talent ID Centres and for MLS and European trials
- Multiple players within older age groups have progressed to collegiate soccer, including NCAA D1 schools such as Duke, UNC, Kentucky, Clemson and Notre Dame

Performance Analysis

- Led a department of seven Assistant Coaches, who were all promoted to Head Coach roles over an 18-month period
- Designed and delivered a physical data collection process throughout the age-group squads in the Academy
- Implemented performance insights and an injury prevention monitoring system for players and coaches
- Introduced a performance analysis process designed to support player education and engagement for all coaches and teams, including a video library of professional and youth games
- Forged relationships and worked in conjunction with leading sporting partners, including Playermaker, Statsports, Hudl, Spiideo, Kitman Labs, Smartabase, Metrica Sports, Coach Paint, Keyframe and Sport Session Planner



"Liam is a man of high character, integrity and humility. I have been extremely impressed by his level of detail and his initiative to find solutions to challenges within our football environment. Liam is able to connect with people from all walks of life and influence them in a positive way. He is a great human being who cares deeply about players and has a proven track record of development and coaching everywhere he has been." - **Andy Thomson, USL Head Coach & UEFA A Licensed Coach**



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

Curriculum & Methodology

- Instrumental in the development, design and implementation of an evolved IMG Performance Plan (Game Model)
- The IMG Performance Plan incorporated age-specific development plans and key concepts for each age group, with emphasis on age-appropriate activities and individual plans
- The IMG Performance Plan has been adopted by all MLS Next, Girls Academy and USYS teams within the Academy

Individual Development Plans (IDP)

- Perform a key role in the enhancement of IDP processes across Academy operations
- Introduced a strategy which prioritises individual coach-player relationships, with increased time allocated to one-to-one sessions within daily and weekly schedules
- Instrumental in modernising IDP reporting by integrating media platforms and data sources into a template; ensured subjective and objective points were made available to players for reference

Athletic & Personal Development Integration (APD)

- Liaise with and work in conjunction with the interdisciplinary team, which comprises sports scientists, strength and conditioning coaches, mental performance coaches, and nutrition and leadership coaches
- Forge relationships with coaches, players, families, school administrators and youth sport leaders on local, national and international levels to enhance the sporting experience for IMG student-athletes and coaches
- Worked with various departments to formulate a process that ensured player education within each area was aligned with the methodology and age-appropriate framework for all players

Coach Education & Development

- Collaborate with national and international clubs and sporting organisations on projects and coach education
- Work in conjunction with FIFA, US Soccer, MLS, Generation Adidas, Hertha Berlin and Manchester United FC
- Identify and provide educational opportunities for Academy staff to enhance their professional development
- Provide assistance to Academy staff to help them attain US Soccer and UEFA coaching qualifications
- Work in partnership with the Director of Soccer regarding the talent identification and recruitment of coaching staff
- Encourage and support coaches to enable them to provide high-quality practice sessions and game-day coaching



ADDITIONAL COACHING EXPERIENCE



Rush Soccer National Select

Head Coach

Jul 2018 – Oct 2020

- Represented Rush National Soccer at international events in Italy, San Marino and Costa Rica
- Led team in games against sides from England, South Africa, Spain, India and Bangladesh at the 2018 San Marino Cup



Chicago Rush Soccer Club

Director of Player Development

Jul 2017 – Oct 2020

- Oversaw programme which included 250 players selected from six clubs
- 2017 National Championship (Presidents Cup) winners with 2004 boys team



Purdue Northwest University

Men's Soccer Assistant Coach

Jul 2017 – Jun 2020

- Assisted with the programme transition from NAIA to NCAA DII
- Qualified for the 2018 GLIAC playoffs for the first time in the university's history



FC Lake County

Technical Director

Aug 2014 – Jun 2017

- Led the merger of two local youth soccer clubs to enhance development opportunities for players in the area



Judson University

Men's Soccer Assistant Coach

Aug 2013 – May 2016

- Qualified for the 2015 NAIA and NCCAA national playoffs



COACH EDUCATION EXPERIENCE



US Soccer

Coach Education Instructor

Jul 2018 – Present

- Completed US Grassroots Instructor Licence as part of the recruitment process
- Worked in partnership with Technical Directors and coach education staff to deliver US Soccer coach education content for grassroots coaching
- Invited to participate in the updated Coach Educator Licence and the Academy Director Licence courses

CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Participated in numerous coach education events to enhance coaching knowledge and attended elite clubs to observe their coaching and player development methodologies, including:

- **Manchester United FC:** Academy & U21
- **Rangers FC:** B Team & Academy
- **Hertha Berlin:** First Team
- **Barcelona FC:** Residency Academy
- **FIFA Training Centre:** Coach Education Series
- **Tampa Bay Rowdies:** USL Championship
- **Chicago Fire:** First Team & Academy
- **Philadelphia Union:** Academy