

Introducing Our Strategic Partnership with NextPlay



Okanagan United Football Club is pleased to share that we have entered into a new three year strategic partnership with NextPlay, an international football pathway and development organization based in Portugal.

This partnership has been carefully structured to provide optional, professionally managed international opportunities for our players, families, and coaches, while staying aligned with the Club's core values, development philosophy, and long term vision. Most importantly, it adds a real international layer connecting the fields of Okanagan United to professional football environments abroad.

Why We're Doing This

As the global game continues to evolve, exposure to different football cultures, training standards, and competitive environments can play a meaningful role in player development when introduced at the right time and in the right way.

NextPlay specializes in organizing international drafts, residential placements, tours, and custom development experiences in Europe. Through this partnership, eligible Okanagan United players will have access to these programs based on readiness, interest, and availability. Participation is never mandatory, and all programs are managed directly by NextPlay.

“Our goal as a club is to provide the right environments at the right time for the right players,” said Lee Tregonning, Executive Director of Football.

“This partnership adds a real international dimension to our pathway while allowing us to stay focused on strong day to day development here at home.”

What This Means for Players and Families

Over the course of the partnership, NextPlay will

- Host local draft events and pathway briefings for players and parents
- Offer short term and long term European development experiences
- Support international tours and tournament participation
- Provide coaching education and international exposure opportunities

All programs are subject to eligibility, operational feasibility, and individual readiness. Pricing, contracts, and travel logistics are handled directly between families and NextPlay.

“We’re not changing how we develop players,” said Jon Basaraba, Technical Director of Okanagan United.

“What this does is connect our local environment to the international game in a practical, responsible way. It gives players perspective without pressure.”

A Professional, Long Term Approach

This agreement reflects a shared commitment to transparency, professionalism, and good faith collaboration. While the Club will help facilitate awareness and access, NextPlay is fully responsible for program delivery, safeguarding, and operational standards.

From NextPlay’s perspective, the partnership is about building something sustainable with a strong Canadian club.

“Okanagan United is doing excellent work on the ground,” said Gonçalo Moura, CEO of NextPlay. “Our role is to add an international layer to that foundation, opening doors abroad while respecting the club’s development philosophy and the realities of each player’s journey.”

Looking Ahead



This partnership does not replace Okanagan United’s domestic development pathway. It enhances it by adding a clear, well managed international option for families who are seeking broader exposure and experience.

Information sessions, local drafts, and program details will be communicated to members in advance as opportunities arise.

As always, Okanagan United remains focused on what matters most, developing players, supporting families, and operating the club with integrity.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is participation in NextPlay programs mandatory?

No. All NextPlay programs are completely optional. Players and families may choose whether or not to participate based on interest, readiness, and personal circumstances.

Does this change Okanagan United’s day to day training or development model?

No. The Club’s training philosophy, coaching structure, and domestic development pathway remain unchanged.

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Who manages the programs, pricing, and travel? All programs are managed directly by NextPlay, including pricing, contracts, payments, travel logistics, and safeguarding. The Club does not collect fees for these programs.

How are players selected for international opportunities?

Selection is based on readiness, eligibility, age, football development stage, and program specific criteria. Participation is never guaranteed and is not a reflection of a player's standing within the Club.

Will every season include international programs?

Not necessarily. Program availability may vary by year based on operational, logistical, and market conditions. The Club will communicate opportunities as they arise.

Does this guarantee professional contracts or placements abroad?

No. The partnership does not guarantee trials, contracts, or professional outcomes. The focus is on experience, development, and exposure.

Will coaches benefit from this partnership as well?

Yes. The partnership includes opportunities for coaching education, international exposure, and development initiatives where appropriate.

Who should families contact with questions?

Initial questions can be directed to Okanagan United. Program specific questions, pricing, and logistics will be handled directly by NextPlay during information sessions or registration.

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