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## Girls Academy League - Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Girls Academy League (GAL)?

Girls Academy League (GAL) will be a competition platform composed of member clubs primarily from the former US Development Academy as well as clubs admitted by the GAL Board of Directors.

### What is the purpose of Girls Academy League (GAL)?

The GAL has been developed to address the needs from its membership: national competitive platform, staffing, college recruiting and youth national team scouting.

By unifying DA clubs from conferences across the country we have found a way to maintain several of the defining standards of the Development Academy along with additional flexibility in two key areas; Permission for players to participate in High School Soccer and revising the substitution rules to encourage clubs to better utilize their player pools, especially when showcasing their players to college coaches. By giving clubs the autonomy to determine what's best for their membership we can take what worked for the DA and erase the obstacles for our players to have a more enjoyable and diverse experience.

### What age groups are involved with the Girls Academy League (GAL)?

Mandatory Age Groups: U14, U15, U16, U17, U19

Optional Age Group: U13

GAL Mid America will not have U13

### What will the league schedule look like?

League schedules will be organized by the conference representatives. Each club will have the ability to alter their schedule according to club needs. The benefit to club members will be ease of staffing and administration of teams.

League runs from August 1st - July 1st

### How do I join the GAL?

The Girls Academy League invites all players who wish to compete at the highest competitive level to join a GAL team. The GAL consists of many member youth clubs across the country. For a player to join the GAL, they will need to contact the member club they are interested in, and inquire about the club's identification process.

### How much does it cost to join the GAL?

The Girls Development Academy believes ability and drive should determine whether a player is selected to join a DA roster, not the ability to pay. Player fees are determined by each individual club and vary widely. However, scholarships are available to players with financial need. [Click here for more information about scholarships.](#) The Academy strives to ensure no player is denied access by financial barriers.

### Can I compete in other competitions like high school or USYS/GLC in addition to the GAL?

Yes, each individual club will work out their schedule and roster accordingly.

### Will there be regional/crossover games?

Yes. The Girls Academy League will offer crossover games between conferences as part of the overall competition.

### Will there be national college showcases?

Yes. The Girls Academy League will run 3 to 4 college showcase series annually for U15,16,17,18-19.

### Will there be a national championship?

Yes. The Girls Academy League will hold an annual national championship in each age group.

**Will there be national and regional events for U13/14?**

Yes. The Girls Academy League will offer regional and national festivals for U13/14.

**How will college coaches know about the showcases?**

The Girls Academy League will invite all college coaches to the showcases as well as the conference and club coaching staff.

**Will there still be a national scouting presence at games/showcases?**

Yes. US Soccer will continue their nationwide scouting model in all leagues.

**What clubs are in the Mid-America GAL?**

Beadling SC (PAW), Cleveland CSA (OHN), CDA (OHS), FC United (IL), Indy Premier (IN), Michigan Jaguars (MI), Midwest United (MI), Milwaukee Wave (WI), MN Eclipse (MN) Nationals Union (MI), Salvo SC (MN) and Sockers Soccer Club (IL).