



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** April 18, 2020

**From:** National Leadership Group of the Development Player League

**Subject:** DPL expands to Include Top Tier, "Girls Academy League"

**The DPL format that has served so many of our members well will be restructured and enhanced. With our players at the forefront of our thinking, we will implement a new tier called the "Girls Academy League", consisting primarily of former Girls DA Clubs.**

Since the news breaking of the demise of the DA, we have been inundated with requests from clubs to expand the DPL from all areas of the country. 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 with flexibility in two key areas; permission for all players in the Girls Academy League 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. We feel by giving the autonomy to clubs to determine what's best for their membership we can take what worked for us in the DA and erase the obstacles for our players to have a more enjoyable and diverse experience.

During the upcoming months we are aware of the challenges we face especially when it comes to travel. Each conference will work on a calendar that falls in line with the recommendations from Health Organizations and Government, while maintaining a competitive schedule and showcase opportunities for the teams. The Girls Academy League fully intends to have cross-conference matches, college showcases and a National Championship Series for the 2020/2021 Season and we will release more information on how that is structured in the near future.

We strongly believe that strong leadership from some of the most talented organizations in our country will be able to maneuver these difficult times and unite, providing our players with a league and showcase platform that will exceed the level of the DA through clear communication, honest feedback and loyalty to our membership. As disappointed as we are in the decision from our Federation, we feel we have a unique opportunity to take the reins and introduce a more collaborative approach to player development.

Our organization is poised to take a bold step in the development of talent in this country and we thank you for your continued support and trust of your club and their leadership.