

Subject: U.S. Soccer Announces 22 Additional Clubs for Inaugural Girls' Development Academy Season

**U.S. SOCCER ANNOUNCES 22 ADDITIONAL CLUBS FOR  
INAUGURAL GIRLS' DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY SEASON**

*Program Will Focus on Impacting Everyday Club Environments to Develop World-Class Players*

CHICAGO (Aug. 17, 2016) – U.S. Soccer has announced 22 additional clubs that will be a part of the Girls' Development Academy, bringing the total number of clubs to 74. The program is designed to accelerate the development of world-class female players and will begin play in the fall of 2017.

The following 22 clubs will join the Girls' Development Academy along with the initial groups of 25 and 28 clubs (San Juan and Davis Legacy have since merged into one Academy club) that were announced on June 30 and July 8, respectively.

- [U.S. Soccer Announces First 25 Clubs for Girls' Development Academy](#)
- [U.S. Soccer Announces 28 Additional Clubs to Be Included in Girls' Development Academy](#)

U.S. Soccer is excited to welcome the following clubs:

Cedar Stars Academy – Monmouth (Tinton Falls, N.J.)	Indiana Fire (Westfield, Ind.)	Real So Cal (Woodland Hills, Calif.)
Empire United (Rochester, N.Y.)	La Roca Futbol Club (Kaysville, Utah)	SC del Sol (Phoenix, Ariz.)
FC Fury New York (Bay Shore, N.Y.)	Burlingame SC – MVLA (Burlingame, Calif.)	Sereno Soccer Club (Phoenix, Ariz.)
FC Kansas City (Prairie Village, Kan.)	Nationals (Royal Oak, Mich.)	Sporting Blue Valley (Overland Park, Kan.)
FC United (Northfield, Ill.)	Oakwood Soccer Club (Glastonbury, Conn.)	Texas Rush Soccer Club (The Woodlands, Texas)
Houston Dash (Houston, Texas)	PA Classics (Manheim, Pa.)	West Coast Futbol Club (Laguna Hills, Calif.)
Houston United (Houston, Texas)	Pateadores (Costa Mesa, Calif.)	Western New York Flash (Elma, N.Y.)
	PSV Union (Palo Alto, Calif.)	

Club applications were evaluated and accepted by U.S. Soccer's technical staff based on the following criteria:

- Leadership of the club and quality of the coaching staff
- Desire to embrace and promote the core values of the program
- U.S. Soccer license levels of coaching staff
- Infrastructure of the club and the resources currently being invested in development (facilities, scholarships, staff to player ratio, etc.)
- History of player production for Youth National Teams, the senior Women's National Team and professional leagues
- Market and depth of the player pool, geographic location and proximity to other elite clubs

The Academy program will focus on positively impacting everyday club environments to maximize elite female youth player development. Increasing the training to game ratio, playing fewer but more

meaningful games and providing assistance for coaching education and development are just some of the standards and best practices the program will promote.

The program will feature three combined age groups: U-14/15, U-16/17 and U-18/19. Clubs will be expected to train a minimum of four times per week. The combined age groups will require clubs to form teams with a balanced roster of players from two distinct birth years and encourage clubs to provide “play up” opportunities. The games will be scouted by U.S. Soccer and the program will serve as the primary pathway to U.S. Soccer’s Youth National Teams.

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