



Monday, April 26, 2021

United States Youth Soccer
ATTN: State Association Leadership

Dear Soccer Colleagues,

Over the last month, we, the Girls Academy (GA) have made changes to ensure the current pathway to the GA is **inclusive** to all our members' second teams as well as prospective member clubs. In doing so, we have dissolved designating the Development Player League (DPL) as the GA's official second tier. However, we still maintain a professional and respectful relationship with the DPL as there are GA members that do and will participate in the DPL for this season and the next.

The GA values our partnership with USYS and want every girl in the USYS family to feel they are a part of the pathway. The GA currently recognizes all potential pathways to the GA, because we are committed to creating the best development opportunities for our players and aspiring GA players. The GA will continue to operate with full-autonomy, while collaborating with like-minded, player-centric developers to make sure the players are put first.

We appreciate your understanding and professionalism in this matter. By committing to remembering that as adults we make tough decisions that affect thousands of incredible players (the athlete and person), and many times represent them publicly without their voice being heard, we owe it to them to be better for them.

If any further clarification is needed on the pathways to the GA and our autonomy, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

For the Players,

Leslie Gallimore
GA Commissioner

