



THE DPL U-16 AGE GROUP

SAN DIEGO (March 29, 2018) – In order to better develop players, The Developmental Player League U-16 age group will follow standards-based programming for the 2018/19 Season.

The expectation placed on these clubs by the DPL in the 2003 Age Group include:

- The best players in the 2003 age group club will participate in the dual-band 2002/2003 Development Academy Age Group;
- The Season will maintain the standards taken from the current 2003 DA structure including;
 - o Year Round Program;
 - o No High School Soccer;
 - o No Outside Competition;
 - o 4 training session per week;
 - o Game Day minimum standards;
 - § Trainer and Video mandatory;
- Roster management and Match Day Game standards match those of the 2002/03 DA including Number of Substitutes and moments.

As part of the programming for the DPL U16 age group, those teams will participate as guest teams in the U.S. Soccer Development Academy Winter Showcase and Summer Showcases, to compete against U-16 DA Pilot Program teams from the Frontier Division.

“By continuing the programming for our current pool of players in the 2003 Age Group, many of whom are currently playing in the Development Academy, and continuing to mirror the minimum standards and best practices of the DA structure into next season we are excited to announce the opportunity for our players to perform at these fantastic events. From an individual player development and college recruitment perspective this is a win-win for our players.” – *Barry Ritson, LA Premier FC.*

**** About DPL ****

The Development Player League (DPL) is designed to expand the Girls Development Academy (DA) player pool for participating clubs. The league creates a highly professional training environment and competitive model for aspiring DA players, bridging the gap between club soccer and Development Academy soccer. The DPL provides a clear pathway for players who show the potential to make the jump to the DA level of play.

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The DPL teams will offer players who excel to have the opportunity to be called up as a Development Player for their respective DA teams. This structure provides an expanded pool of aspiring DA players with more exposure to the DA training model and level of play, while allowing them the time they need to develop.

Founded on the ideology of the full DA program, the DPL provides a development structure that focuses on playing more meaningful games with highly professional game day environment, more training, high level coaching, development before winning attitude, and great exposure in major college showcases events.

For more information on the DPL visit www.DPLeague.org or email info@dpleague.org.