

# 12U Academy Competitive League



## Introduction/Purpose

Following the success of the inaugural 12U Spring 9v9 Competitive League in 2019, that served as a qualifier to the Fall 2019 13U Athena A and Classic I pathway, Georgia Soccer is excited to announce the launch of the first **12U Competitive League** this fall season.

The 12U 2019 season will be open to all top teams of the Georgia Soccer member clubs. 12U teams must enter this League in order to be considered for 13U Classic I / Athena A placement for the Fall 2020. The Fall Season will serve to identify the top 16-32 most competitive teams (exact number to be determined based on overall number of participants), that will qualify for the Spring 2020 Season.

Atlanta United will also field a team on the boys' side as well as host all their Georgia Soccer matches at their home field – Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Training Ground. We look forward to having the United Juniors a part of this league that will also feature a Final Four Festival at the end of the 2020 Spring season.

Qualified teams will compete in the Spring 2020 through a mini regular season and a playoff season, in order to earn a spot in 13U Classic I/Athena A, or, Classic II / Athena B for the Fall 2020. Those teams that do not qualify in the Fall, will be placed at a brand new/lower level division to start in the Spring 2020. These teams will compete in order to earn a spot in Classic II / Athena B for the Fall 2020.

In the spirit of maintaining the Academy program the matches will be played with a 9v9 format. The 12U teams declared into this division should be the club's top team, looking to compete in the Fall 2019 season. Clubs interested in entering their 12U team will need to follow the same declaration deadline of July 14 as all Select teams.

## Declaration

- Deadline: **July 14<sup>th</sup>**
- When declaring choose: 12U Boys Competitive and/or 12U Girls Competitive – IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU CHOOSE THE CORRECT PLAY LEVEL FOR THESE TEAMS.
- Roster Size: 9 minimum / 18 maximum

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## Brackets/Schedules

- We will create as many brackets as necessary to accommodate the number of teams that declare for scheduling.
- Clubs should enter their top team(s). Clubs may enter more than one team if they have more top teams in different locations.
- Brackets will be mostly geographical with possible cross-over games.
- Brackets will be designed to determine the seeding for the Spring Season brackets.
- Traveling to South Georgia may be required if South Georgia teams participate.
- Games will be scheduled for Saturdays primarily. Sunday games will be reserved for ODP tryouts, makeups due to blackouts, rainouts, and for teams traveling out of market.
- Black out days: Two (2) black out days per team allowed between **Sep 7 and Nov 24**. Automatic blocked dates: **ODP tryouts Sep 8 (girls) and Sep 22 (boys)**.
- Club Passing: Three (3) per game. All eligible club pass players can come from all 11U players and all 12U players not participating in the competitive league from your club. Clubs that enter more than one team in the competitive league cannot club pass between each other.

## Tentative Fall Matchday Timeline:

- Sep 7-8
- Sep 14-15
- Sep 21-22
- Sep 28-29
- Oct 5-6
- Oct 12-13
- Oct 19-20
- Oct 26-27
- Nov 2-3
- Nov 9-10
- Nov 16-17
- Nov 23-24

## 12U Academy Competitive League



### FAQ

- How many games will each team play during the fall?
  - Approximately ten (10) games.
- Are we allowed to schedule additional Academy games outside the league for my 12U team?
  - Yes, as long as games do not interfere with scheduled league games.
- Can any of 12U players on my top team play with my other 12U Academy teams NOT in the competitive league?
  - Yes, 12U players rostered to the top team may play on other 12U teams in their club.
- If I have 13U players that are age correct for 12U, can they play in the 12U competitive league and still be on the 13U team?
  - No. Play-ups rostered on an older team are considered that age group and cannot play down. Play-ups can be transferred as a permanent rostered player on this 12U team, or, as an academy player and then club pass rules will apply.