



2026–27 League Rules & Match-Day Guidelines

The following is a parent-friendly overview of important rules and match-day guidelines for each of our participating platforms. Families should familiarize themselves with the rules specific to their player's league.

Development Player League (DPL)

Summary of Important Rules

1. **Player Registration:** All registration and eligibility requirements must be completed before a player can participate in an official DPL match.
2. **Game-Day Selection:** Being rostered to a DPL team does not guarantee participation in every match. Game-day roster decisions may vary based on team needs and player development.
3. **Playing Up:** Eligible players may receive opportunities with other appropriate teams within the club through applicable roster and Club Pass procedures.
4. **2026–27 Age Groups:** DPL follows an **August 1–July 31 seasonal-year age-group structure** for 2026–27.
5. **Travel Commitment:** Families should expect league matches along with potential regional events, showcases, and national competition depending on the team's schedule.
6. **Parent & Spectator Conduct:** Families represent the club and are expected to demonstrate positive sportsmanship and respectful behavior toward referees, opponents, coaches, players, and other families.
7. **Player Development:** DPL emphasizes competitive development, player progression, exposure, and opportunities to advance within the girls' soccer pathway.
8. **Player Safety:** Player health and safety take priority. DPL's alignment with Girls Academy includes standards surrounding health, safety, registration, and player welfare.
9. **Official Communication:** Families should rely on coaches, team managers, and official club communication for confirmed schedules, roster information, travel details, and league updates.
10. **Girls Academy Pathway:** Beginning in 2026–27, DPL is sanctioned under the Girls Academy structure and serves as a developmental pathway toward GA Aspire and Girls Academy opportunities.

Uniform Requirements

	Saturday	Sunday
Home	Light Kit	Dark Kit
Away	Dark Kit	Light Kit

IMPORTANT: Players must bring BOTH complete uniform kits (jerseys, shorts, and socks) to every match. Uniform changes may be required to avoid conflicts with the opposing team.

Substitution Rules

1. **Substitutions During the Match:** Coaches may make substitutions during approved stoppages in play and with the referee's permission.
2. **Re-Entry:** Players who have been substituted out may re-enter the match.
3. **Multiple Players:** More than one player may be substituted during the same stoppage.
4. **Halftime:** Player changes may be made during halftime before the second half begins.
5. **Referee Permission:** Substitutes must wait for the referee's permission before entering the field.
6. **Head Injury/Concussion Situations:** Player safety takes priority when a suspected head injury occurs. Exceptions to the normal substitution process may apply when a player needs to be removed and evaluated.

Ball Size

Size 5

Match Participation Restrictions

A DPL-registered player may participate in **only one DPL match fixture per day**.

Once a player participates in a scheduled club fixture, that player **may not participate in a rescheduled fixture for another age group on the same day**.

This document is intended as a simplified parent and player reference. Official league rules, technical standards, competition policies, and club directives take precedence if there is any discrepancy or league rule change.