



## FC STARS OPEN HOUSE COMPETITIVE PLATFORMS FOR GIRLS 2017-18

2/24/2017

NASHOBA REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION with FC Stars Director of Coaching, Jason Dewhurst:

**1. Q. Will players be permitted to dual roster between FC Stars ECNL and DA teams?**

A. No.

**2. Q. How do families determine which team is best?**

A. FC Stars will not dictate where players should play. The choice should be made by an individual family that is the best fit for their own situation.

**3. Q. Will showcase schedule for Girls DA mirror the current Boys DA?**

A. Winter showcase will be middle of Dec in Bradenton, FL, Spring showcase will be in early spring at a location TBD. There will also be additional showcasing at June Playoffs.

**4. Q. How will tryouts work?**

A. ECNL/DA tryouts will run around the same time, after May 1<sup>st</sup>. DA recommends not using the traditional 'tryouts' but the use of regular ID clinics and rolling recruiting from local clubs instead. Tryouts NEP and NPL teams will run as they do now, in early June.

**5. Q. Will lower teams suffer from dilution of resources to the upper teams?**

A. No. FC Stars is very competitive across all our platforms and we do not expect that to change at all. We have a very strong player pool and coaching staff at present and have confidence that FC Stars will not suffer any dilution problem in the future. We will be adding players and coaching staff for next season

**6. Q. Where will DA teams train?**

A. At the FC Stars Soccer complex in Lancaster.





**7. Q. Will older players who don't play in DA and who are not playing HS still have the opportunity to train in the fall?**

A. Yes. FC Stars runs training programs for such HS-aged players .

**8. Q. Will the '03s have a fall game schedule (non-league) for those '03 players not in HS?**

A. Yes. Similar to this year's 2002s that were still in middle school we will provide full training and game opportunities for these players.

**9. Q. What will be the difference in cost between DA and ECNL?**

A. As far as team fees is concerned, probably none and very similar to current ECNL price. As far as travel goes there could be differences depending on league schedules. If the DA sticks to their preference of having single game weekends there could be an increased travel cost for DA compared to ECNL and NPL where double-header weekends are typical. To mitigate these costs the club is considering bussing players to away weekends at some distance for DA, ECNL and NPL. Most of the top clubs in the country are doing this and saving families considerably on travel costs.

**10. Q. For families with young players, what's the best way to think about appropriate competitive level for their daughters?**

A. First, speak with your coach. They will direct you to the appropriate level of team within the club. As far as levels of play goes at FC Stars, I believe the difference between NPL and ECNL levels is not great and we are very competitive at both levels. The competitive level of the girls DA is obviously unknown at this point, and we won't know how it will look until teams are formed and playing , but we can say for sure that it will be competitive. My advice, as always is to try out for the highest team you are considering and rely on feedback from coach.

**11. Q. How will goalkeeper training sessions fit in with required team training sessions?**

A. This is always handled by communication between team coach, player, and GK coaches to determine when and how often to train.





**12. Q. When will teams travel over the weekends?**

- A. Usually ECNL/NPL has two games on a weekend so road trips to NY, NJ or PA will involve a Saturday night stay-over. The decision on whether the team also stays over on Friday night is dependent on the kick off time on the Saturday. The Girls DA prefers single-game weekends but that will be difficult to accomplish in practical terms given the limited number of weekends available to fit the games in. There could be additional travel for the DA teams.

**13. Q. Which age groups will travel on the bus?**

- A. Only the older teams (2002 and older) will travel together on the bus and share hotel rooms. Perhaps the 03's but certainly no younger. Teams will be accompanied by chaperones and buses are expected to be only for the longest trips not CT for example, just the longest ones. There would be significant cost saving in travel and hotel room costs for families by doing this.

**14. Q. At the older ages, will college coaches choose to watch one platform over another?**

- A. No. Don't believe rumors/hype about consequences of choosing one platform over another. It's the club's job to put teams in front of coaches. The ECNL has been very successful in this regard but it is not the only way to get recruited. Many of our NPL and regional players have also been recruited in this environment. It's the club's job to make sure our teams and players are good enough to have college coaches want to come and see players. College coaches come to watch Stars players train, play in league games, tournaments and showcases. There are many avenues for exposure within our club. DA is going to work. ECNL is going to work. NPL is going to work. NEP is going to work.

**15. Q. Can Private school kids play in the Girls DA?**

- A. Players CANNOT play HS Soccer and DA in the same season. For example if a players wanted to play HS in the fall of 2017 then they could not play in any DA games. DA also does not allow players to participation outside the DA environment. At the beginning of the Boys DA one could apply for a private school waiver. We do not think waivers are appropriate. How can you make distinctions and exceptions within a team? It would be unfair fair to permit some to have an exception and not allow others. It will be difficult for private school kids to play in DA; not impossible but tough. Same situation is really no different for public school players either.





**16. Will the federation force players to choose DA?**

A. No. I do not think the Federation will dictate where players play. I regards to question whether the federation will be just selecting players from DA for the National Teams. It would be a little short sighted because there are many excellent players who do not play ECNL, GDA, NPL etc. If you are good enough I feel you will seen and get selected.

**17. Q. Will the addition of a new league just dilute the club's player pool?**

A. No. We have very strong player pools at present across the club, including our regions. In addition we are seeing a huge amount of activity from players and parents in other clubs contacting us already for next year. We have no doubt that the player pool will be significantly enhanced for next year.

**18. Q. Will there be a regional structure in the ECNL?**

A. Not beyond the current set-up of the Northeast Conference. The Northeast NPL may possibly become more regionalized in the future.

**19. Q. Is the club planning to add additional fields to accommodate additional teams?**

A. Yes. Phase I of our facility plan was construction of two fields with lights. Phases 2 and 3 are additional fields and construction of a clubhouse and we have development plans already for both phases for the near future. Then club has 10 acres of undeveloped land to work with and we are in final permitting stages. We expect to commence construction this Spring/Summer.

**20. Q. Will there be a difference in style of play between DA and other leagues?**

A. No. It is not about style per se, but more about education. For instance, the no re-entry substitution rule in the DA will force players to manage the game better and also force coaches to manage the game better. Players will need to be ready to play a 70-90 minute game rather than a 20-30 minute shift. DA technical staff and scouts may have the ability to suggest club coaches to change things during a game including players positional play, which is not technically the case in other leagues.





**21. Q. Is the Girls DA going to mandate training schedule?**

A. The DA can stipulate the frequency of training but not necessarily the content. Coaches will be able to evaluate when to do sessions like regeneration or recovery sessions, set-piece sessions etc. The club will have discretion to manage each session.

**22. Q. Will ECNL roster size drop with introduction of DA?**

A. They could possibly drop but it depends on what happens next year. The DA roster size will probably be smaller roster with the no re-entry substitution rules in place. You can't ask players to travel extensively and not play significant minutes. That would be totally wrong and not be of any benefit to those players.

**23. Q. Will there be staff changes for next year from what was discussed?**

A. Only additions. We are currently in negotiations with a number of coaches for next year in will announce new staff when appropriate at the end of the season.

**24. Q. Will there be a difference between DA and other teams in terms of emphasis on player development vs team development?**

A. No. This is all done through our club coaching curriculum and communication among staff such as weekly staff meetings, coaching education days, player clinics etc. This won't change. We feel we do a very good job of developing players and teams that are competitive at every level.

**25. Q. How does the club determine the appropriate pathway for individual players?**

A. Basically this comes down to trust and communication among our coaching staff. If a player is doing really well the coaches will communicate and agree that the player should be moved up a level. Likewise it may be best for a player to drop down a level to be successful. What is best for the individual player is always the determining factor in our discussions.

