



ECNL Girls Q&A

Q: What is Richmond United Girls?

A: Richmond United is a new organization established by the Richmond Strikers and Richmond Kickers when the two clubs united their respective U.S. Soccer Development Academy programs. The model was replicated to accommodate a national level girls program that will participate in the ECNL. With over 50 years of combined operational experience and unassailable reputations for success on and off the field, the Richmond Kickers and Richmond Strikers will build upon the tradition of player development that is respected both regionally and nationally.

Q: What is Richmond United's Vision?

A: The vision of the newly formed Richmond United is to provide a program offering the most comprehensive player and team developmental environment in Virginia that will unite the Richmond community, inspire our players, and achieve excellence.

Q: What is Richmond United's Mission?

A: To serve the Richmond soccer community by providing the most comprehensive player and team development environment in Virginia by uniting talented players, coaching expertise, club resources and state of the art facilities.

Q: What are Richmond United's Objectives?

A: Richmond United has three main goals:

1. To attract the best players from a 75-mile radius of Richmond
2. To graduate 75% of players to Division I College programs
3. To produce nationally respected players, coaches and teams.

Q: Who will oversee the Richmond United Girls Program?

A: Richmond United Girls will be managed by one of the highest caliber, licensed technical staffs in the country, including Jay Howell, Aaron Brunner, Celia Mosier, Ihor Dotsenko, Andy McIntosh, and Rob Ukrop. This staff will be responsible for setting and maintaining the Richmond United Girls mission and vision. Jay Howell will serve as the ECNL Director for the Richmond United Girls Program.

Q: What is the Elite Clubs National League?

A: The Elite Clubs National League, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit member-based organization founded in 2009 to enhance the developmental experience of the female youth soccer players in the United States. The goal of the ECNL is to change the landscape for elite female soccer players in the United States through innovative, player-centered programming and to enhance the overall experience by creating a better, more enjoyable, and more successful player, coach, and club development model.

Q: How much does it cost to play on a Richmond United Girls team?

A: The fees will be approximately \$2,400 plus a uniform package. Travel is not included in the fee.

Q: Which age groups compete for Richmond United Girls?

A: Richmond United will field girls teams identified as U13 Pre-ECNL, U14 ECNL, U15 ECNL, U16 ECNL, U17 ECNL, U18 ECNL, and U23 ECNL that compete in the Elite Clubs National League.

Q: Who will coach the teams for 2014-2015?

A: The Richmond United ECNL Teams will be coached by:

- Rob Ukrop and Jay Howell will be the Head Coaches of the Richmond United U18 ECNL Team
- Andy McIntosh will be the Head Coach of the Richmond United U17 ECNL Team.
- Andy McIntosh will be the Head Coach of the Richmond United U16 ECNL Team.
- Aaron Brunner will be the Head Coach of the Richmond United U15 ECNL Team.
- Aaron Brunner will be the Head Coach of the Richmond United U14 ECNL Team.
- Peter Nash and Rob Ukrop will be the Head Coaches of the Richmond United U13 Pre-ECNL Team.
- Celia Moser will be a goalkeeper coach designated for the girls.

Each team and goalkeepers will have additional technical support from both the Richmond Kickers and Richmond Strikers.

Q: How many players will be selected for a Richmond United ECNL Team?

A: 16-22 full time players will be selected for each team. Discovery Players will also be selected on an ongoing basis.

Q: What is an ECNL Discovery Player?

A: A "Discovery Player" is a player that is not a member of the ECNL Club, and is not otherwise currently registered to another US Club Soccer team. Discovery Players are allowed to participate in ECNL Competition in order to provide opportunity for additional players to participate in ECNL programming. In order to be considered a Discovery Player, a player must be explicitly designated as such on the ECNL Roster before such player participates in any ECNL Competition. Discovery Players are eligible to participate in the ECNL National Championship. At the Under-14, Under-15, Under-16, and Under-17 age groups, each ECNL Team may have two (2) Discovery Players on their ECNL Roster at each age group. At the Under-18 age group, each ECNL Team may have four (4) Discovery Players on their ECNL Roster. The cost to play for an ECNL Discovery Player is approximately \$400 plus the cost of uniforms.

Q: Where will Richmond United Girls teams train and play home games?

A: The Richmond United teams will train three to four times per week, rotating between Striker Park, Ukrop Park, Capital Park, and River City Sports



Complex. Richmond United home games will also rotate between Striker Park, Ukrop Park, West Creek, and River City Sportsplex.

Q: How often do Richmond United Girls teams travel?

A: Playing on a Richmond United team requires significant commitment. Teams travel approximately 10-12 times per year with mostly regional travel and some national travel.

Q: Can I play for a Richmond United Girls team AND my high school soccer team?

A: Yes, Richmond United Girls players can play on their high school teams. ECNL games and showcase events will take precedence over other activities when there is a scheduling conflict.

Q: Can I play for a Richmond United Girls team AND a middle school team?

A: No, Richmond United Girls players may not participate on a middle school team due to the significant commitment to training, games, and showcase events.

Q: Can I play for Richmond United Girls team and participate in other sports?

A: A U13 through U17 Richmond United Girls players may not participate in other sports due to the required commitment to training, games, and ECNL showcases. U18 Richmond United Girls players will be grandfathered in to participate in other sporting activities for 2014-2015. This U18 ECNL rule is subject for approval by the Richmond United technical staff.

Q: How will players be selected and when are tryouts?

A: Talent ID weekends will be held at the end of March and the beginning of April at Ukrop Park, Striker Park, and Capitals Park.

U16/17/18 Girls:

- March 23 at Ukrop Park
 - o U18 Girls @ 4:30pm
 - o U17 Girls @ 6:30pm
 - o U16 Girls @ 4:30pm
- March 30 at Capital Park
 - o U18 Girls @ 4:30pm
 - o U17 Girls @ 6:30pm
 - o U16 Girls @ 4:30pm
- April 6 at Ukrop Park
 - o U18 Girls @ 4:30pm
 - o U17 Girls @ 6:30pm
 - o U16 Girls @ 4:30pm

U13/14/15 Girls:

- April 23 at Ukrop Park
 - o U13 Girls @ 5:15pm
 - o U14 Girls @ 5:15pm
 - o U15 Girls @ 7:00pm
- April 30 at Capital Park
 - o U13 Girls @ 5:15pm
 - o U14 Girls @ 5:15pm
 - o U15 Girls @ 7:00pm

Players interested in joining the Richmond United Girls program can find sign up information on the Kickers and Strikers websites in the next ten days for the Talent ID weekends. Current Elite and ECNL players on the Richmond Kickers and Richmond Strikers teams will also be evaluated on an ongoing basis in training, games and friendly matches.

Q: Are players required to live in Richmond to play for Richmond United Girls?

A: No, players are not required to live in Richmond. In fact, Richmond United Girls is looking to attract the best players from a 75-mile radius of Richmond. However, all players must realize the significant commitment required to play for a Richmond United Girls Team with three to four training sessions per week in addition to games and travel.

Q: What is the Richmond United U23 Women's team?

A: The Richmond United U23s is a summer development team that will compete against other ECNL Clubs from around the region in the ECNL U23 League. The team will be comprised of local college standouts and the top Richmond United ECNL players. The team will train throughout the summer playing 6-10 official ECNL matches including the opportunity to qualify for the ECNL National Championships held in July.

