



April 15, 2020

Dear Arsenal Families,

First, it has been a great encouragement to me to see our teams putting in hard work during these chaotic times. On behalf of all our coaches, board of directors and myself, know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Be safe and be well.

Arsenal has been around for over 30 years and has seen leagues and clubs come and go. No matter where we are... we remain committed to developing world class players. We've won national championships in various leagues. In fact, we've won back to back to back national championships. We were also a founding member of the US Soccer Developmental Academy.

Today, the US Soccer Federation announced that it is ceasing operations of both the Boys and Girls Developmental Academy. We have appreciated the DA and the opportunities that it has afforded our players. We have been preparing for this league closure and poised our club to ensure that these elite opportunities still happen.

I am excited to announce the next step in the Arsenal journey. Our current boys DA teams will join our girls teams in the Elite Clubs National League (ECNL), Southwest Division. Arsenal, and several other former top DA clubs (San Diego Surf, FC Golden State, Pateadores, Real So Cal and Irvine Strikers FC) will make this transition together to ensure that our level of play remains at the highest level and on a national platform. We will play our ECNL schedule as well as compete in ECNL National Events and the ECNL National Playoffs. Our boys will join our girls in the highest tier of this national league. With promotion and relegation, we look forward to fighting and staying at the top level. Joining the ECNL allows our boys the great growth opportunity of playing for their local high school teams as well. We remain committed to giving opportunities for our casual players as well as our elite athletes.

Year after year, I've seen our girls program succeed in the ECNL. Our ladies play against the best, in front of college scouts and with national exposure. I have watched them earn thousands of dollars in college scholarships through their hard work and their ECNL game play. I look forward to our boys achieving the same successes that our ladies have.

When this time of COVID-19 passes, we will be ready to compete at the highest levels in the 20-21 season. Please keep your eyes out for a press release coming out from our Sporting USA partner sharing more details about the alliance with the Pateadores and several other large dominant clubs from around the U.S. and Europe. Thank you for your hard work, your trust and I look forward to our future in the Elite Clubs National League. Go gunners.

PJ Brown
Vice-President of Soccer Operations

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