



# **The Girls Academy 2024 | Finals Request for Proposals**

**Timelines for Consideration**

**Release Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2023**

**Intent to Bid Form Submission Deadline: December 27, 2023 at 5 PM EST**

**Proposal Submission Deadline: January 19, 2024 at 5 PM EST**

**Proposals should be submitted via email.**



# Confidentiality Statement

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This document is submitted with the understanding that it can be held in strict confidence and cannot be disclosed, duplicated, or used, in whole or in part, for any purpose other than the evaluation of the proposal without prior written consent from Elite Tournaments.

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# Elite Tournaments & The Girls Academy

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## **ELITE TOURNAMENTS ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH GIRLS ACADEMY LEAGUE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2023-2024 EVENT SEASON**

Elite Tournaments has proudly unveiled its partnership with the renowned Girls Academy League, solidifying a collaboration to organize and execute the league's events throughout the remainder of the 2023-2024 season. This partnership marks a significant milestone for both entities, showcasing their commitment to delivering high-quality soccer experiences for participants and spectators alike.

Elite Tournaments, known for its expertise in managing and orchestrating premier youth sporting events, will bring their wealth of experience to the forefront by collaborating with the GA League. Together, they aim to elevate the standards of soccer tournaments and ensure a seamless, top-tier experience for players, coaches, and fans.

The first major event under this new partnership was the much-anticipated GA Winter Showcase and Champions Cup, which took place on November 30<sup>th</sup> through December 4<sup>th</sup> in Norco, CA at the SilverLakes Sports Complex. This showcase was a pinnacle event, attracting top-tier talent, and providing a platform for young athletes to exhibit their skills in a competitive and supportive environment.

Elite Tournaments' Director of Soccer, Andrew Dahir, expressed excitement about this collaboration, stating, "We are thrilled to partner with the Girls Academy League. Our shared vision for providing exceptional, well-organized events aligns perfectly, and we are looking forward to delivering an outstanding experience for all attendees."

Girls Academy commissioner Patricia Hughes of the GA League also shared enthusiasm about the partnership, saying, "This collaboration with Elite Tournaments will ensure our events continue to be of the highest standard. We believe this partnership will be pivotal in offering an outstanding experience for all involved in our Girls Academy League events."

Elite Tournaments and the GA League are dedicated to fostering a competitive yet respectful environment that emphasizes integrity, leadership, and development. Both Elite Tournaments and the Girls Academy League are committed to building fun experiences that create lasting memories.



# The Girls Academy

[The Girls Academy](#) (GA) is the leading youth development platform for the best female soccer players in the United States. They are the only national youth soccer platform that represents the collective vision of member clubs and actively engages the voice of the players to take real ownership of the league. They embrace the desire of club members and players to maintain an unrivaled standard of excellence in coaching, competition, and regional and national showcase events throughout the year.

The GA is committed to cultivating an environment that empowers each player to reach their best potential as an exceptional athlete and human being by celebrating the player's journey with a lifelong love of the game through competition, showcases, and camaraderie.

## GET TO KNOW THE GA

In the 2023-2024 season, there are over 94 member clubs with teams in the U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, and U19 age groups. The member clubs are split into ten (10) conferences that make up a national footprint of 14,000+ players and 1,200+ advisory panel members. League play begins in August and culminates with the playoffs and national finals events in June and July. Additionally, qualifying teams compete in a separate, aspirational platform created to add additional quality competition for the most competitive clubs in the GA.

## THE PLAYERS' VOICE MATTERS

What makes the GA unique and different is the active role the league's players have in shaping the direction of the league. How? Introducing the [Advisory Panel](#), which affords the players the opportunity to nominate and maintain a player-led board that represents the thoughts, opinions, and vision of the players. The Advisory Panel is active in suggesting ways to improve the league, engaging in sponsor opportunities, organizing charitable initiatives, shaping league merchandise offerings, and more.

## CORE BELIEF

Through true collaboration with our players and clubs, we will lead the most dynamic soccer development platform imaginable.

## GOAL

Empower our players' pursuit of excellence as an athlete and a person.



# Open for Bid: GA Finals

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## EVENT DATES

- July 11-14, 2024 | Finals
- July 9-11, 2024 | Talent ID Events

## EVENT SCHEDULE

Day	Event
Monday, July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Elite Tournaments Staff   Arrival and quick check of facility
Tuesday, July 9 <sup>th</sup>	Elite Tournaments Staff   Begin Facility Setup
Tuesday, July 9 <sup>th</sup>	Welcome Meeting & Talent ID Events in late afternoon
Wednesday, July 10 <sup>th</sup>	Elite Tournaments   Continue Facility Setup
Wednesday, July 10 <sup>th</sup>	Talent ID Events & Practice throughout day
Thursday, July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Quarter- Final Games & Talent ID Events
Friday, July 12 <sup>th</sup>	Semi-Final Games
Saturday, July 13 <sup>th</sup>	Practice & Rest Day
Sunday, July 14 <sup>th</sup>	Final & Third Place Games Games conclude mid-day with award ceremonies
Sunday, July 14 <sup>th</sup>	Elite Tournaments Staff   Breakdown and departure post event

## GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

- Priority: Midwest & East Coast
- Second Priority: Pacific Northwest, Rocky Mountain Region, Northwest Region
- Desired location would avoid extreme heat this time of year

## FIELDS & INDOOR SPACE REQUIREMENTS

- Six (6) to eight (8) high quality grass fields, some with lights. Will consider turf fields
- Indoor meeting space for 120 Players with seating
- Locker room or changing area for Players onsite
- Platform / podium for speaking; microphone and smaller sound system if available
- Designated indoor space (2 – 3 rooms) for media and interviews

## TEAMS & ATTENDANCE

- 64 Teams | U14 – U17 teams from across the country
- 120 Players for Talent ID events
- Average team size is 20 players and coaches | Approx. 1,280 – 1,400 Participants
- Average travel party size is 2.5 | Approx. 3,200 Spectators



## **EVENT HISTORY**

This event is the culmination of the 2023-2024 season for advancing GA teams. Teams attending this event will have advanced two-three weeks prior at the GA Summer Playoffs at Silverlakes Sports Complex in Norco, CA. Previously, the GA Finals has been hosted at the following locations:

- 2022 | Lou Fusz Athletic Complex in St. Louis, MO
- 2023 | Lou Fusz Athletic Complex in St. Louis, MO

## **ROOM NIGHT HISTORY**

- 2022 | 250 room nights pr night; utilizing about five (5) properties
- 2023 | 450 room nights per night; utilizing about ten (10) properties

## **HOTEL & TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS**

Teams will travel into the event on Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> and/or Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. Due to the quick turnaround time between advancing to the GA Finals and arriving to the selected event destination, it will be imperative that the chosen destination can support that small window of time to book travel accommodations.



# Proposal Submissions to Include

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## **FACILITIES**

Various components are used to evaluate a facility's suitability for tournament play. This event requires all fields to be located at one (1) facility and should be located near major highways or thoroughfares to facilitate easy access for participants. The facility should be located within a 30-to-45-minute drive from a major airport which services a significant number of airlines. The airport should have rental car facilities accessible. Proposals should include option for exclusivity pre-event and during event to allow for maintenance of field conditions and event setup.

1. Include any Cancellation & Refund Clause language from proposed facility. (i.e. Force Majeure, Weather Cancellation, etc.)
2. Include any Indemnification Clause language from proposed facility.

## **FIELDS & FIELD LINING**

Fields should be of the highest quality of grass and/or turf and necessary irrigation systems depending on geographic location. A facility map should be provided as well as details concerning surface type, lights, dimensions, stadium specs, etc. Details should be provided about field lining protocols and any field restrictions (i.e., tent staking, golf cart usage on fields, etc.).

## **EQUIPMENT**

Elite Tournaments and the GA will provide most event equipment for the event. The GA will ship equipment including tents, signage, game equipment, corner flags, coolers, etc. directly to the facility. Proposals should address onsite equipment at facilities that Elite and the GA will have access to throughout the event(s). Examples include size and type of soccer goals, coolers (brand and inventory), golf carts, directional signage, etc.

## **TOURNAMENT OFFICE**

Tournament staff ideally would have access to an area separated from the public to manage the event with minimal distractions and interruptions. The tournament office should include a work area with tables, chairs, and access to internet. Proposals should indicate if a tournament office space is available at the facility and include amenities.

## **PARKING**

Parking should be in a permanently paved lot adjacent to the playing fields. Adequate parking spaces should include approximately 75 parking spaces per field in use. Proposals should include type of parking surface, number of spaces, indicate whether spaces are marked or whether parking attendants are necessary, and location of designated parking area(s) if available.



## **ICE & WATER ACCESS**

Proposals should also indicate if the facility provides access to water and ice during the event. The proposal should indicate the location of this access as well as any restrictions that may be applicable during the event.

## **RESTROOMS**

The facility should have permanent restrooms available onsite. This event requires a minimum of at least three (3) restroom units per field, spaced appropriately in proximity to fields for participants and referees. Proposals should indicate the type of onsite restrooms, number of stalls for men's and women's rooms, and handicap availability. Proposals should also indicate the cleaning schedule for these restrooms throughout the event.

## **VENDORS, SPONSORS & SUPPLIERS**

Facility should have adequate space for a vendor village to be used by vendors and sponsors of the GA. Proposals should list all facility vendors and sponsors that have exclusive rights. Facilities with onsite food vendor/concessions should include information about requirements/regulations regarding outside food vendors and/or sponsors. Proposals should also include any required or recommended suppliers contracted through the facility (i.e. concessionaires, tent rentals, portable restroom suppliers, etc.) If any suppliers are required, proposals should include pricing structures.

## **INTERNET & POWER**

Tournament operations require constant connectivity to the internet to provide tournament updates, schedule updates, and other communications to staff and participants alike. Proposals should indicate the type (i.e., WIFI or hardline) of internet access available at the facility if applicable. If the connection is a hardline connection, indicate the location of the connection. Proposals should also include all access to power supplies at the facility to include outlets, generators, or other sources. For facilities with access to hardline internet access, proposals should include results from the following speed test: <http://Speedtest.net>

## **STAFFING**

Elite Tournaments and the GA will provide senior level tournament staff to operate and manage the tournament from setup until breakdown. We will require local event staff to support the logistical needs of the event. This event will require between 10-15 local workers per day in order to adequately manage onsite logistics including but not limited to: hospitality for college coaches, managing Recovery Tent and Advisory Panel Tent, assistance with Gatorade coolers, and other general onsite assistance. Proposals should include information regarding availability of locally hired staff including potential sources for hired staff such as a list with contact information of local colleges, groups, and/or sports organizations. Proposals should include resources and contact information the event can use to source workers for event setup, general event support, and post event breakdown.



## **MEDICAL STAFF**

Proposals should include a description of onsite medical care at the facilities. Additionally, proposals should include information regarding medical staffing or preferred service providers used by the facility. Proposals should include costs associated with these services. Proposals should include location of AEDs onsite at facility and if the event operator will have access and/or permission to use AED/s onsite.

# Role of CVB / Sports Commission

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The CVB / Sports Commission (SC) will act as an initial point of contact during the site selection process. The CVB / SC should provide the required information as outlined in the RFP and submit a proposal including the following:

- Background on the CVB / SC including previously hosted events and role in the event
- List of references of rights holders; including one that utilized the proposed facility
- List of complimentary services provided by the CVB / SC
- List of event enhancements that can be accessed by Elite Tournaments and the GA:
  - For example, how can the CVB / SC support logistically with award ceremonies to include: stages, truss systems, photo ops, co-branded banners, etc. to elevate the athlete experience for the event.

## **GRANTS AND REBATES PROGRAM**

The proposal should describe any grant, rebate, or concession program that may provide financial or in-kind services and assistance to the event. The proposal should include a general overview of the programs, program requirements, and the application for the program.

## **HOTEL LIAISON**

This event is stay-to-play and will utilize the GA's third-party housing agency: Anthony Travel. The CVB / SC will act as the initial liaison between the third-party housing agency and the local hotels. Specific hotel contracts will be negotiated by Anthony Travel and the hotels directly. Proposals should include total number of rooms in the area, average room rates for the proposed dates, distance to facility, recommended host hotel for hosting event functions, and examples of hotel properties in the area (name, address, amenities).

## **SITE VISIT AND EVALUATION**

Proposals submitted from serious bidders will be expected to host and provide all expenses for one (1) staff member from Elite Tournaments and one (1) from the GA to make a site evaluation. These staffers will conduct a site visit to determine the adequacy of facilities, meet CVB / SC staff, see any host hotels if needed. Staff members should be lodged in a hotel proposed to be used for event housing and be provided with one (1) standard room for the duration of the stay.

# Proposal Submission Checklist

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Proposals are considered independently and evaluated with no one element taking precedence over another. CVB's and Sports Commissions are recommended to address all items in the proposal including optional items even if it is to say that such an option is not available.

Proposals should address all the required elements as identified in this RFP. We've included quick information for each topic, but please be sure to refer to the specific section within the above information to address all items requested:

## **I. Event Dates & Event Schedule**

- a. Include any event schedule limitations

## **II. Facilities**

- a. Fields – number, type of surface, dimensions, lighting availability, field map(s)
- b. Field Lining – address any restrictions or notable items as it relates to field lining
- c. Equipment – inventory of goals at each facility, quality, and additional equipment available onsite
- d. Tournament Office – availability, location, and amenities if applicable
- e. Parking – parking surface, number of spaces, marked or unmarked, and designated parking areas
- f. Ice & Water Access – availability of each and location onsite
- g. Restrooms – type of restrooms onsite, number of stalls for men's and women's, handicap availability, and plan for portable restrooms if needed
- h. Vendors, Sponsors & Suppliers – designated area(s), exclusivity of onsite vendors and include restrictions for food and requirements to be onsite, and fees associated with vendors. Supplier recommendations and/or requirements including fee structures
  - i. Please note we will not agree to pay additional fees to bring in vendors
- i. Internet & Power – WIFI or hardline, availability, and location onsite for power access

## **III. Staffing**

- a. Event Staff & Volunteers – resources to recruit local workers and volunteers
- b. Medical Staff – availability and resources used to hire medical staff and/or access and permission to use AED/s onsite

## **IV. Role of CVB / Sports Commission**

- a. Grant or Rebate Programs – financial and in-kind services available
- b. Hotel Liaison
- c. Site Visit and Evaluation