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**SWOPE SOCCER VILLAGE IN KANSAS CITY TO HOST 2020 DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY CHAMPIONSHIPS  
PRESENTED BY ALLSTATE**

*Expanded Event Will Determine Six National Champions from July 9-12*

KANSAS CITY, MO (February 25, 2020) – The Swope Soccer Village in Kansas City, Missouri will host the 2020 Development Academy Championships presented by Allstate from July 9-12. National champions will be crowned for boys at the U-15, U-16/17 and U-18/19 age groups as well as girls at the U-15, U-16 and U-17 age groups. The nation's four best teams at each level will compete at the event, which serves as the culmination of the Academy season, to take home a championship.

This year will mark the largest Academy Championships yet with the participation of Boys U-15 and the introduction of distinct Girls U-16 and U-17 age groups. Six age groups will compete at the event, up from four in previous years. The U-18/19 Girls national champion will be crowned at the 2020 Allstate U.S. Soccer Development Academy Summer Showcase in Oceanside, California.

Swope Soccer Village serves as the home of the Sporting Kansas City Academy, as well as the training fields for the USL Championship's Sporting Kansas City II. The facility hosted the 2018 Academy Championships, which served as the finale for the inaugural season of the Girls' Academy.

The complex is home to nine full-sized fields, highlighted by a Championship Field. Over the years, Swope Soccer Village has hosted training for the U.S. Men's and Women's National Teams, some of Europe's biggest club teams as well as collegiate conference and national championship events.

"We're very excited to have the opportunity to host the Development Academy Championships in Kansas City again," said Sporting Kansas City Manager and Sporting Director Peter Vermes. "This will be a great showcase for our city and the wonderful facilities we have built here, and we look forward to welcoming many of the top young players in the country for this event."

In addition to its own MLS academy, Sporting Kansas City is partnered with Girls' Development Academy affiliate clubs SPORTING Blue Valley in nearby Overland Park, Kan. and Sporting Omaha in Omaha, Neb.

The final four teams in the Academy Playoffs from the Boys U-15, U-16/17 and U-18/19 age groups as well as the Girls U-15, U-16 and U-17 age groups will advance to the Academy Championships in Kansas City.

Last season, New York City FC U-18/19 and Solar Soccer Club U-16/17 won national championships on the boys' side, while Solar Soccer Club U-16/17 and San Jose Earthquakes U-15 took home the Girls' Academy titles.

- **DA HISTORY:** [Past Academy Champions](#)

This year's Allstate Boys' Summer Showcase and Playoffs, which will determine the field for the Academy Championships, will be held from June 17-25, while the Girls' event will be held June 20-30. The events will be held concurrently at the SoCal Sports Complex in Oceanside, Calif. Playoff draws for the event will be held in early June, following the conclusion of the Academy regular season. The U-18/19 Girls national champion will be crowned at the Summer Showcase in Oceanside.

Following a comprehensive review of elite player development in the United States and around the world, U.S. Soccer created the Development Academy in 2007, subsequently growing the program year over year. In Fall 2017, the Academy expanded its programming to include the Girls' Development Academy.

The Academy strives to develop elite youth players by setting the highest standards, impacting the everyday club environment. The Academy's philosophy is focused on the individual player, optimizing wholistic development of the player, on and off the field.

In the midst of its 13th season in 2019-20, the Academy is comprised of teams across five age groups in the Boys' program: U-13, U-14, U-15, U-16/17 and U-18/19, and five age groups in the Girls' program: U-14, U-15, U-16, U-17 and U-18/19.

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