

Everything you want to know about

# THE ALLIANCE



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## **Why was the Northern Virginia Alliance (NVA) formed?**

We recognize that in order to create nationally successful teams, we need to pool our resources together. The goal of the NVA is to expand its reach nationally by establishing the most elite youth soccer Alliance in the Northern Virginia region and to be the destination club for the most talented and dedicated players.

## **What additional benefits does this bring that are outside the scope of the pathways set for the club?**

The NVA member clubs recognize that a strong foundation is fundamental to maximizing player development at every level of performance and will impact our club as a result of the collaboration of ideas, best practices, and resources. How?

- The three member clubs will collaborate with each other and share ideas and resources.
- We will plan community-based activities and programs together during the year.

## **How does this benefit GFR?**

As a club, we want to continue growing and offer more to our players. We understand the Alliance doesn't benefit every player in the club, but not every program at GFR or any other club helps every player. This is why we offer a variety of programs to cater to every player regardless of level and ambitions.

## **Are we just making Loudoun better since we are joining Loudoun ECNL?**

We are not joining Loudoun ECNL. Loudoun has the ECNL National Charter, one of the things they bring to the Alliance.

## **How will the club continue to grow if we are feeding into this new Alliance?**

With this partnership, only a handful of players will be feeding into the Alliance from each club for each age group. This is an opportunity for players instead of a loss to the clubs. We have a plan set in place to ensure all teams will continue to grow and compete competitively in our current leagues.

## **What ages does this impact the most?**

This Alliance starts at the U13 age groups and above. For our current older teams who are within a year or two of graduating, there is very minimal impact.



## **Why did we not join ECNL on our own?**

Currently, ECNL isn't giving new charters in Northern Virginia.

## **Which club manages the NVA Alliance?**

The technical directors of all three member clubs sit on the Board of the NVA and have equal decision-making power.

## **How do we join the team? Will there be tryouts?**

ECNL ID registration will be posted soon. Session information will be communicated to invited players on a rolling basis.

## **Who decides who makes the team?**

The NVA coaching staff will make final decisions on selected players. Making the team will be based on a no-biased ability assessment by the ECNL coaching staff and the technical directors.

## **How do we keep teams competitive when top players go to NVA?**

Players who can play at a high level always seek out the appropriate competition and usually end up moving to other clubs. With this Alliance, we will offer a higher level of competition and be able to guide players to it. At the same time, we can keep an eye out for them with the option of continuing to be a part of our club.

## **What if the goalkeeper leaves the team for NVA?**

The Alliance is set up so that member clubs do not have situations where decisions negatively affect a team or club. Our goal is to ensure that we do the best thing for the player and the team, and we plan to ensure that no team in the club is negatively impacted.

## **Is there dedicated goalkeeper training offered at NVA?**

Yes.

## **What is the cost of playing with this new Alliance?**

Pricing will be available soon.

## **If a player is selected to play for NVA will that be their primary team?**

Yes, that is their primary team if they accept.

## **Can a player be carded in ECNL and ECNL RL?**

Yes, players selected to the NVA roster can play for their club of origin when there are no conflicts.



## **Where are the coaches coming from for the new NVA teams?**

In its inaugural year, the staff will consist mainly of Loudoun ECNL coaches. GFR and Valor coaches will collaborate with the ECNL staff. Coaches will come from all three clubs that are part of the Alliance as well as any qualified outside coach.

## **If it is all Loudoun coaches, then it seems like Loudoun is in charge. Is this correct?**

This program will be run by the technical directors from the three member organizations.

## **Will Loudoun still have their ECNL teams and this is separate from them?**

Starting this Summer, it will no longer be Loudoun ECNL. It will transition to NVA which has three member clubs.

## **How many players will be rostered on each team?**

Those details are still being worked out.

## **Does this guarantee that my child will get recruited for college?**

This will provide another opportunity for players to be exposed to college programs. Playing in college cannot be guaranteed by any platform or club. As a club, we are here to provide and be a conduit if a player is interested in furthering their playing career. The Alliance is another avenue for competition and college pathways.

## **Where will the practices be?**

It will be communicated.

## **Can GFR players continue to play in EDP and NCSL games if they make the NVA roster?**

Yes.

## **Will financial assistance be provided to players?**

Yes, the NVA will offer financial assistance.

## **Will there be a new uniform kit for NVA? What is the expected cost?**

Yes, the NVA will have a different uniform kit and the cost of that will be provided as soon as all of the details are worked out in the next few weeks.

As we go through this transition, we ask that you trust us. We have put a lot of effort and thought into this alliance on how it benefits and affects GFR and we believe this is a value added to the club. We were in the same spot in 2018 in what was an actual merger which is of a higher scale and difficulty than this alliance and it proved to be a good thing. In 2018, we asked for trust and patience, and we are asking for the same for the NVA Alliance.

Please check out more [FAQs](#) on NVA's website.

*Trust Us*

