



The Croatian Eagles are proud to announce our acceptance into the Elite Academy League beginning with the 2023-2024 season. This is a high end platform that will provide our players many more opportunities that most other clubs are not exposed to that will enhance their college exposure and college pathways while raising the level of play by competing against the best clubs in the Midwest. With the ever changing youth soccer landscape, the Croatian Eagles are committed to help continue to offer the best available options that continue to set us apart as one of the best clubs in Wisconsin.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

- **What teams will participate in the Elite Academy League?**

Our boys Red teams aged 13u-18/19u will participate in the Elite Academy. We will be a member of the Mid-America conference with other clubs from Illinois, Minnesota, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. Currently only us and EBU are the only ones from Wisconsin to be admitted.

- **Is there an additional cost for players playing in this league?**

Costs for participation in the Elite Academy League will come from team fees (separate from club fees). We do not anticipate a large increase in team fees as this league will take the place of other events/showcases/leagues that we had participated in over past years.

Being that these EA teams will travel more than most and so will MWC teams (many of these are both) the team fee will be higher than others. Your coach (and I) will have an estimate of this team fee BEFORE the season begins at the club team meeting. **EA fees** are not yet determined, but are estimated to be about \$100/player. The rest of the team fee will be to cover the coaches reimbursements as delineated above and will be known (within reason) prior to your season kicking off.

**Team Fee:** Some teams **may** have an additional fee to help cover the costs of coaches travel and expenses as well as additional events. Reimbursement costs for coaches will include a coaches' hotel, food, flight, car rental, mileage (for anything > 90 miles one way)- at current IRS mileage rate.

- **Does this affect participation in Midwest Conference play as well as other tournaments/showcases?**

Our teams participating in the Elite Academy will ALSO play in the Midwest Conference formats that they always have been in (or WYSA State League). The Elite Academy hosts two showcase events. This combined with additional travel for league games will take the place of most additional events. However, there may still be extra additional events decided on a team by team basis (team fee).

U13-u14: Attend One Event (**Mandatory**)  
West Regional: Late September or Early October- Location TBD  
East Regional: December 2-3- Lakewood Ranch, FL

U15-u19: Attend One Event (**Mandatory**)  
Winter National Event: December 1-3- Lakewood Ranch, FL  
Spring National Event: Late March or Early April- Location TBD

National Championship (if qualify)-  
June 13-16?- Dallas, TX?

- **Since Elite Academy is only for boys teams, is there something currently for our girls teams?**

At this team, we are not adding an additional platform on the girls side. We are always actively seeking showcases and new opportunities to add to our offerings. At this time there isn't anything from a club wide perspective that aligns/benefits the entirety of the girls program. We will work tirelessly to find the best TEAM based opportunities on the girls side.

- **Are there any restrictions on players playing with their high school seasons or in other leagues?**

In short, absolutely not. We believe whole heartedly in playing HS Soccer with your classmates, for your school and your community! The Elite Academy League will be scheduled around their high school seasons so there will never be a conflict or asking players to dually play HS and club simultaneously thus avoiding any WIAA concerns as well.

- **Since this platform is only for Red teams, how does this affect White and Blue teams?**

Our white and blue teams will continue to participate at the WYSA State league and SECL levels. President's (or State) cups, tournaments and showcases will still be available for these (and red teams too).