

A group of seven young women, members of the FAW Girls National Academy, are standing in a line on a grassy football pitch. They are all wearing matching black and red tracksuits with the FAW crest on the chest. Their names are visible on their jerseys: OJ, AW, SJ, DC, ST, JB, and FD. They are also wearing red socks and black shorts. The background shows a blurred stadium setting.

FAW GIRLS NATIONAL ACADEMY



WOMENS INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

Youth age groups and Women's Senior team

FAW GIRLS ACADEMY NORTH AND SOUTH

Embedded within FAW Boys Academi fixture schedule

ADRAN LEAGUES

Tier 1 & 2 Senior and U19 Development League

FAW GIRLS NATIONAL ACADEMI

U13 for the 2025/26 season

PRE – ACADEMI GIRLS PROVISION

Skill acquisition for ages U9-U11 delivered by Girls academi clubs

GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL

Area Association youth and senior football leagues



OUR MISSION



‘UNEARTHING TALENT & CONNECTING FOOTBALL’



STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES



STRONG REPUTATION FOR HIGH QUALITY PROVISION

**SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THRIVING DOMESTIC CLUBS &
FOOTBALL ECOSYSTEM**

**DRIVING PARTICIPATION LOCALLY THOROUGH BETTER USER EXPERIENCES
AND ACCESS**

**PROVIDE MORE PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & REMOVE BARRIERS TO
PROGRESSION**

FAW GIRLS NATIONAL ACADEMI

INITIAL AGE GROUP: UNDER 13S

For the first season, we propose to introduce an U13s Academi League for players (double age band)

12 NATIONAL ACADEMIS

There will be a maximum of 12 Academis nationally; 6 North and 6 South.

FLEXIBLE MATCHDAY

Standard matchday will be a Saturday, however there will be no mandated kick off time to allow clubs the most flexibility to arrange their pitch schedule in the best way that works for them.

FAW ORGANISED FIXTURES AND FESTIVALS

The FAW will create a regional fixture programme and arrange national festivals.

GRANT FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

UEFA Hattrick Funding has been secured for the next 4 years, a set amount will be split evenly and distributed to all Licenced FAW Girls Academis.



FAW GIRLS NATIONAL ACADEMI

In the provisory that the implementation of the U13s league is successful the intention is to establish a full Girls Academi Structure:

FUTURE AGE GROUPS

The intention is to implement an U15s league in the 2026/27 season and an U17s league in the 2027/28 season.

DOUBLE AGE BANDS

It is the intention to remain double age band until we the numbers of registered players increase again and a data review suggests that single age band would be attainable.

12 NATIONAL GIRLS ACADEMIS

It is the intention to remain 12 National Girls Academis for the foreseeable again until numbers of players suggest that we should consider an increase.



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

CLUBS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A GIRLS ACADEMI LICENCE ARE:

- Current Adran Premier clubs
- Clubs currently licensed to operate an FAW Girls Development Centre
- FAW Boys National Academi clubs - CAT A
- EFL Category 3+ Academies

2.2 Other Clubs may be accepted into the programme, subject to adhering to all Regulations.

2.4 Clubs, based in Wales, whose first team is playing in the English Pyramid system, may be considered to hold Academy Status under the National Academy Structure, subject to the Application for Approval





TIMELINE

- Expressions of interest: 28th February
- Non - binding approvals in March (exact date TBC)
- Formal assessment in May from external assessor
- Season to begin August/September 2025

ACADEMI CRITERIA

MAPPING STANDARDS AGAINST PRE EXISTING CRITERIA (FAW BOYS ACADEMI - C CRITERIA)

Business: Strategy, Facilities, Operations, Administration, Finance & Commercial

Sporting: Recruitment, Coaching, Staffing, Sport Science, Medical, Welfare

Engagement: Community, Player Pathways, Media & Marketing

AMENDMENTS FOR FLEXIBILITY:

Increased travel distance (same as FAW Boys Academi Category A) to ensure all players from across Wales can access a Licenced FAW Girls Academi Club.



FAQS





WHAT IS HAPPENING TO DEVELOPMENT CENTRES IN THE 2025/26 SEASON AND CAN FAW LICENSED GIRLS ACADEMIS RUN DEVELOPMENT CENTRE SESSIONS?

As of the 2025/26 season, FAW Development Centre licenses will be revoked and the previous model will become redundant. Therefore, from the 2025/26 season, no Development Centres will be permitted to run.

From U12's and upwards (concerning the U13's team and any future provision) any clubs with a Girls Licensed Academi will be required to register any additional squads they have involved within their club and enter them into a regulated competition.

Because the 1 player 1 club rule only exists for U12's and older, players playing in the pre-academi provision, which runs from U9 to U11, are able to remain registered for their grassroots club as well as train with FAW Girls Licensed Academi clubs. They can also play in FAW ran festivals and any approved fixtures.



HOW ARE THE ACADEMI LICENSES ASSESSED AND WHAT HAPPENS IF ALL CRITERIA CAN'T BE MET BY THE INITIAL SEASON?

All FAW Girls Academi Licenses will be assessed by the same external company who currently audits the FAW Boys Academis. This is completed by May.

In preparation for this first season, all clubs who apply for an FAW Girls Academi License, will be provided with non-binding decisions in March (date TBC) so that clubs are able to prepare and the FAW can inform grassroots leagues of the Licensed Academis moving forwards.

For any clubs that have concerns regarding meeting the Criteria by May 2025, we will be allowing dispensation for the first 2 years of delivery, pending an action plan has been created that details the steps the club will take in order to fully comply to all the licensing criteria. This can be discussed further in 1-2-1 meetings following the submission of your expression of interest.



WHAT GRANT MONEY IS AVAILABLE FOR THE FAW LICENSED GIRLS ACADEMI CLUBS?

The FAW has secured the FIFA Hattrick fund for seasons 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28.

A proportion of this grant money will be split equally between all FAW Girls Licensed Academis each season.

As a rough guidance, clubs may receive between £5,000 and £7,000 to support them with the delivery of the Girls Academi teams.

The FAW will explore further funding streams to support with this moving forwards, however there are other grants that clubs are able to access if they wish to invest further into the delivery of FAW Girls Academi teams. For example all Cymru Premier clubs are able to apply for a women's and girls funding via the UEFA Solidarity money.



WHAT WILL THE FIXTURE PROGRAMME LOOK LIKE FOR THE GIRLS ACADEMI CLUBS?

It is the priority of the FAW to be innovative when creating the fixture programme to ensure that the fixture calendar is competitive but not repetitive.

There will be standard provisions such as running regional leagues and FAW organised national festivals. We will also look to explore alternative opportunities with futsal and cross border partnerships with RTC's.

Once we have confirmed the successful Girls Academi clubs, we will look to liaise moving forwards to ensure that the clubs are able to provide an insight into their preferences.



Currently, there is an advert out to employ an FAW Girls National Academi manager who will look to manage the implementation of the Academis. They will work closely with the Academis within the first two years to support the changes required in order to meet the criteria as well as providing additional support in creating a sound technical programme.

We are aiming to have someone in the position for when we provide the initial FAW approval in March.

All fixtures will be managed by the FAW Domestic Football department.