



US Club Soccer Southeast Pre-Academy League

A National Premier League





National Premier Leagues: Purpose and Goals

- The US Club Soccer National Premier Leagues are created to provide national competitive developmental platforms:
 - (i) focused on long-term player development;
 - (ii) for the country's top boys soccer clubs, allowing consistent, meaningful high-level games appropriately scheduled with higher training-to-game ratios;
 - (iii) that allow players to be scouted and evaluated by U.S. Soccer National Staff and Technical Advisors;
 - (iv) that are designed and structured by the clubs, based on the needs of the clubs;
 - (v) using international rules of competition; and
 - (vi) that provide an avenue for qualification for a **National Premier Leagues Champions Cup**.





National Premier Leagues: Changing the Landscape

- The National Premier Leagues are an important step of US Club's Soccer's 10-year vision for changing the developmental and competitive landscape for youth soccer.
- This vision recognizes that youth clubs are the primary vehicles for player development, and leagues for these clubs should provide:
 - Fewer, but better and more meaningful games
 - Regional based competition with showcase opportunities
 - Linkage to national competitions
 - Scouting programs based on league competition with avenues for top players to participate in the *id*² program
 - League-based *Player Development Programs* for best-vs-best training on a specified basis



National Premier Leagues: Standards



- The National Premier Leagues are independent leagues created throughout the country for the best boys youth soccer clubs, both those in the U.S. Soccer Development Academy and those outside it, from U-13 to U-18. (*Girls' leagues will be added in the future.*)
- National Premier Leagues are club-based to provide a connecting platform from top to bottom within a club.
- Clubs participating in National Premier Leagues are held to minimum standards of coaching licensing and club structure designed to ensure a top developmental environment.





2011-12 National Premier Leagues

- Several National Premier Leagues will be playing in the Fall of 2011:
 - National Premier Leagues - Northeast Pre-Academy League
 - National Premier Leagues – Southeast Pre-Academy League
 - National Premier Leagues – Texas Pre-Academy League
 - National Premier Leagues – Midwest Developmental League
 - National Premier Leagues – Florida Premier League
 - National Premier Leagues – Northeast Independence League
- Additional National Premier Leagues in new regions will be added in the future.





National Premier Leagues - Scouting Showcases

- Each National Premier League provides optional scouting showcases for participating teams, in which cross-division or cross-league friendly games are played.
- NPL Showcases feature scouting by U.S. Soccer national staff.
- US Club Soccer will operate and manage the NPL Showcases.
- US Club Soccer will market the NPL Showcases to local college coaches at appropriate ages.





National Premier Leagues – Player Identification

- The US Club Soccer id² program will be integrally linked with the National Premier Leagues.
- The id² program is a national identification and development program based on scouting of players in their club competition environment.
- An id² program scouting network will be developed in conjunction with each National Premier League.
- The id² Program includes 3-4 Boys Training Camps and an international tour each year where players are trained and observed by U.S. Soccer national staff – at no cost to the player.





National Premier Leagues – Basic Competition Rules

- Players may only play 1 game per day.
- Rosters can change daily to allow flexibility and players to play “up.”
- Rosters will be limited to 26 players.
- No guest players are allowed.
- Age groups are either calendar-year or school-year, at each league’s discretion.
- Coaching education and other minimum standards (licensing, 3 trainings per week, etc.) will apply to all participants.





National Premier Leagues – League Champions Cup

- The champions of each National Premier League qualify for the **National Premier Leagues Champions Cup** against winners of other National Premier Leagues.
- The **National Premier Leagues Champions Cup** will be played in July of each year to crown the National Premier Leagues national champion.





National Premier Leagues – Southeast Pre-Academy League

- The NPL – Southeast Pre-Academy League will begin play in Fall 2011 in the U-14 boys age group.
- The clubs in the Florida Division will also be playing intra-division games at the U-15 boys' age group in 2011-12.
- The Southeast Pre-Academy League includes 14 member clubs:
 - Atlanta Fire
 - Birmingham United
 - CASL
 - Charlotte SC
 - Clearwater Chargers
 - Concorde Fire
 - IMG Soccer Academy
 - Kendall SC
 - North Meck
 - Richmond Kickers
 - Richmond Strikers
 - South Carolina United
 - Virginia Rush
 - Weston FC



National Premier Leagues – Southeast Pre-Academy League



- There are 4 Divisions within the Southeast Pre-Academy League:
 - Carolinas Division: CASL, Charlotte SC, North Meck, South Carolina United
 - Florida Division: Clearwater Chargers, IMG Soccer Academy, Kendall SC, Weston FC
 - Northern Division: Richmond Kickers, Richmond Strikers, VA Rush
 - Western Division: Birmingham United SA, Atlanta Fire, Concorde Fire





Competition Structure

- Each division in the Southeast Pre-Academy League (Western, Carolinas, and Northern) will play a different number of games based on travel demands. Approximate fixtures are below:
 - Carolinas Division: 18 games – home and away intra-division and home and away with Carolinas Division and Northern Division
 - Florida Division: 9-12 games – 3 games against each opponent intra-division, and 3 cross-over games with Western Division at a Showcase
 - Northern Division: 8-10 games – home and away intra-division and with North Carolina clubs
 - Western Division: 12 games – home and away intra-division and home and away with Carolinas Division
- Scheduling will be done in conjunction with U.S. Soccer Development Academy games when possible.



Roster Requirements and Substitution



- Rosters will be limited to 26 players at any given moment, 16 of which must be “full-time” players. The additional 10 roster spots can be changed (adds and drops) at any time.
- The U-14 age group cut-off will be January 1, 1997.
- The U-15 age group cut-off will be January 1, 1996
- There will be no re-entry per half (7 substitutions per half).





Post-Season Competition

- The NPL – Southeast Pre-Academy League champion will be crowned in a postseason Play-Offs / Showcase event:
 - The top 4 teams in the Southeast Pre-Academy League, based on points per game, will automatically qualify for the postseason playoffs of the NPL – Southeast Pre-Academy League Championship.
 - A semifinal and championship will be played between these 4 teams to crown the NPL – Southeast Pre-Academy League champion. A loser's bracket will also be provided.
 - The remaining 10 teams will play friendly matches at the Summer Showcase / playoffs.
 - Champions of the Southeast Pre-Academy League will qualify for the **National Premier Leagues Champions Cup**





Showcase Competition

- There will be 2 optional NPL Showcases over the year – one in the fall and one in the spring.
- Fall Showcase:
 - The Western Division and the Florida Division.
 - The Carolinas Division and the Northern Division will likely compete with Northeast Pre-Academy clubs.
- Spring Showcase:
 - All Southeastern Pre-Academy Clubs will likely compete with Northeast Pre-Academy clubs.
- NPL Showcases will feature scouting by U.S. Soccer national staff.
- US Club Soccer will operate and manage the NPL Showcases.
- Each participating team will play 2-3 games over 3 days at the NPL Showcases.
- Further details on a showcase competition will be released in the coming weeks.

