



First round of league operators of top team-based competition announced New competition brings together NPL & National League

CHARLESTON, S.C. (Feb. 27, 2026) – US Club Soccer and US Youth Soccer are proud to announce the first round of league operators of a new competition, beginning with the 2026-27 season, that serves as the top team-based league of both organizations. This new league, temporarily referred to as “NewComp,” will bring together the National Premier Leagues (NPL) and National League, ushering in a new era of collaboration in the youth soccer ecosystem and serving 10,000 teams and more than 150,000 players.

The competition’s inaugural season will be capped in summer 2027, as part of a postseason structure operated by the Elite Clubs National League (ECNL). Qualification will include the top-performing teams from this competition, along with selected ECNL Regional League (ECNL RL) teams, creating a highly competitive and meaningful postseason event. The existing postseason structures within the ECNL and ECNL RL will remain, and this new additional postseason pathway will further strengthen and integrate the competitive pyramid while adding opportunity. The combination of postseason pathways will offer best-in-class college scouting opportunities and event experience for families. More information about the playoff structure will be announced next week.

The new competition will consist of [eight conferences](#) – Northwest, West, Central, South, Midwest, Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Southeast – with multiple districts in each conference and those districts advancing teams to the postseason. The first round of operators is as follows in alphabetical order, and the remaining operators will be announced in the coming weeks:

- **Arizona Youth Soccer** (West Districts 2, 3)
- **Carolina Premier Soccer League** (Mid-Atlantic District 3)
- **Colorado Soccer Association** (West District 1)
- **El Paso Premier League** (South District 4)
- **Elite Development Program** (Northeast Districts 1, 2, 3, 4)
- **Florida Club Leagues** (Southeast District 2)
- **Great Lakes Alliance** (Midwest District 1)
- **Michigan State Youth Soccer Association** (Midwest District 5)
- **Mid-Atlantic Premier League** (Northeast District 3)
- **NorCal Premier Soccer** (West District 4)
- **Northern Illinois Soccer League** (Midwest District 4)
- **SOCAL Soccer League** (West District 3)
- **Southeastern Clubs Champions League** (Southeast District 1)
- **Texas Club Soccer League** (South District 2)
- **Twin Cities Soccer Leagues** (Central District 1)
- **Virginia Premier Soccer League & National Capital Soccer League** (co-operated; Mid-Atlantic District 2)
- **Washington Premier League** (Northwest District 3)

A breakdown of the conferences, league operators and districts is [available here](#). Additional operators will contribute to the eight conferences on a to-be-announced district-by-district approach. By layering districts into each conference, the new competition reaches more players and reduces travel burdens for families. Leagues that wish to apply for open districts may do so via [this application](#). League operators will meet next month in Atlanta with team registration opening early April.

A committee comprised of US Club Soccer and US Youth Soccer representatives will consider all applications based on demonstrated success, operational plans, staffing structure, league management experience and market knowledge. Operators were selected based on their commitment to access and inclusivity, quality competition, and player-first decision-making across all districts. Additional approvals will be announced as applications are finalized, and all designations remain subject to ongoing compliance. This committee was approved by both organizations' board of directors and will support the new league in its inaugural season.

"Having been involved in the oversight of national youth leagues for almost a decade, this competition is exactly what youth soccer needs," said Marc Frankland, commissioner of the new competition. "I'm proud to work with US Club Soccer and US Youth Soccer to develop a league that focuses more on local travel and aligns with the U.S. Soccer Pathways Strategy to create a unified, team-based competition that is player-focused and merit-based."

These efforts coincide with U.S. Soccer's [Pathways Strategy](#), an initiative committed to making the game easier to navigate, more accessible and more supportive. The NewComp pathway is inclusive of ECNL, ECNL RL and localized/state competitions, providing opportunities for promotion of top clubs within this new competition into the ECNL RL, as well as localized competitions and state leagues into NewComp.

"An extraordinary amount of diligence and care are being put into the creation of this new competition," said Alexandra Rieben, US Club Soccer Senior Vice President of Programs & Partnerships. "US Club Soccer, US Youth Soccer and the ECNL are all working to provide a league platform that welcomes more players, minimizes travel, connects above and below in the current pathways structure, and elevates the best teams in the country. Because of our collective commitment to collaboration, the next chapter of American youth soccer is one that the entire ecosystem will be proud of and model after for years to come."

Tom Condone, US Youth Soccer CEO, added: "We are committed to a competitive structure defined by clear standards, consistent accountability and expanded opportunity for players."

ABOUT US CLUB SOCCER:

A National Association member of the U.S. Soccer Federation, [US Club Soccer](#) fosters the growth and development of soccer clubs in order to create the best possible environment for players of all ages.

Anchored by Players First and its pillars of Club Development, Coaching Development, Player Development, Referee Development, Parent Engagement & Education and Player Health & Safety, US Club Soccer offers registration, league- and cup-based competition platforms, player identification and a variety of other programming, resources and services. US Club Soccer is sponsored by Nike, DICK'S Sporting Goods and Gatorade.

ABOUT ECNL:

The [ECNL](#) is the nation's leading youth soccer development platform for America's top soccer players. The ECNL mission to provide the best youth sports experience in the world drives constant innovations in competitions and experiences for players, parents, families, coaches, referees, and partners. The ECNL has questioned convention and challenged the status quo of youth sport since 2009, pushing boundaries and striving for unmatched excellence. Together with its clubs and club leaders, the ECNL creates unforgettable memories and supports the development of youth players into college stars, professionals, world champions, and leaders.

ABOUT US YOUTH SOCCER:

[US Youth Soccer](#), the largest youth sport organization in the country, is on a mission to provide world-class support, resources, and leadership, helping every member fulfill their goals on and off the field of play. US Youth Soccer registers 2.68 million players annually. Through its programming, resources and leadership, US Youth Soccer is advancing the game for its 54 Member State Associations, 10,000 clubs and leagues and one million administrators, coaches, and volunteers. US Youth Soccer connects families and communities to the power of sports and its shared love of soccer. US Youth Soccer provides a path for every player, coach and referee offering programs that provide a fun, safe and healthy environment at every level of the game.