US Club Soccer
OVERVIEW: What is US Club Soccer?
ABOUT: **US Club Soccer**

- Founded in 2001
- National Association member of U.S. Soccer Federation
- Approximately 500,000 members, including more than 6,000 member clubs/organizations, in all 50 states and growing
- Soccer organization run by professional soccer people

Provides everything necessary to create and run a club, league or event
- Player and staff registration platform
- League and event sanctioning
- Administration and insurance
- Players First

We empower clubs (and therefore leagues) to make decisions in the best interests of player development.
Vision & Mission

Our vision is to become the finest soccer organization in the U.S. and an integral part of U.S. National Team success.

Our mission is to foster the growth and development of soccer clubs throughout the U.S., and to create the best possible development environment for players of all ages.

Market Differentiation: This mission, and more importantly its execution, differentiates US Club Soccer from every other youth soccer organization in:

- Relationships with technical leaders and clubs
- Innovation in programming and opportunities
- Connections to youth soccer consumers
Consistent Growth

Player registration – youth competitive:

2016 – 8% growth
2015 – 11% growth
2014 – 11% growth
2013 – 12% growth

US Club Soccer is the only organization in the U.S. Soccer Federation with increasing registration numbers.

Approximate player demographics:

85% competitive
15% recreational
55% male
45% female

Top states of membership:

1. California  
2. New York  
3. New Jersey  
4. Washington  
5. Ohio  
6. Texas  
7. Illinois  
8. Massachusetts  
9. Maryland  
10. Florida
Programming
• Launched at Nike World Headquarters in August 2015

• **Players First** is a branded, holistic club soccer experience for parents and players, which emphasizes the development of each individual to his or her full potential, and helps parents make better choices about where their children should play.

• To help members adopt Players First, US Club Soccer provides a suite of best-in-class resources to clubs, coaches, parents and players.

• Robust digital presence at usclubsoccer.org/playersfirst
Focus on Player Health & Safety

• US Club Soccer is committed to ensuring the health and safety of youth soccer players.

• A founding pillar of Players First is Player Health & Safety.

• Since this past summer, all registered staff members with US Club Soccer are required to complete an online injury recognition course (through Players First partner Sideline Sports Doc) and undergo rigorous background screening.

• The latest Players First partner is Player’s Health, a HIPAA-compliant mobile app providing tools for injury reporting and essential medical information. Coaches can easily document injuries and maintain real-time communication with parents.

“Player Health & Safety is our first and most important responsibility. To act otherwise would be irresponsible.”

LaLiga Formation Methodology

• LaLiga experts outline philosophy and methods used across LaLiga to train, develop and form some of the world’s top players in Spanish academies.

• Through seven Level 3 (introductory) courses across the country so far, about 900 coaches from 300 clubs/organizations have been educated in LaLiga Formation Methodology.

• Additional Level 3, and Level 2 (advanced; domestic-based) and Level 1 (expert; in Spain) courses to be announced.
The following partners are helping to support the Players First pillars:

- Club Development
- Coaching Development
- Player Development
- Parent Engagement & Education
- Player Health & Safety
The NPL is the pinnacle of US Club Soccer leagues
- 22 regional leagues; ~1,500 teams & 315 clubs

Annual NPL Showcase, Dec. 29-31, for 15-U through 17-U girls teams

Select leagues host postseason tournaments in early summer to determine NPL Finals berths

Year-long league play culminates in annual NPL Finals
- About 150 teams; 13-U – 18-U boys and girls
- 2017 NPL Finals in Westfield, Ind.
NPL Footprint

2016-17
MEMBER LEAGUES
Collaboration between US Club Soccer and ECNL to create new national competition and development platform for 14-U through 18/19-U boys

Begins in August 2017

To include local and regional regular-season competition, national showcase events and postseason playoff competition

Qualifications to ENPL competition: NPL qualification and ECNL qualification

Inaugural ENPL Playoffs will be held June 2018: East venue and West venue

ENPL National Championships to be held in July 2018
Elite National Premier League (ENPL)

2017-18 QUALIFIERS
• US Club Soccer’s cup-based national championship competition

• Regionals: 11-U – 18/19-U boys & girls

• Finals: 13-U – 18/19-U boys & girls

• 16th edition in 2017 concludes with National Cup XVI Finals in Westfield, Ind.
  • About 150 teams
National Cup

• Total annual team participation is about 900 teams
  • **West Regional:** June in Davis, Calif. (~200 teams)
  • **Northwest Regional:** June in Yakima, Wash. (~100)
  • **Southeast Regional:** June in Winston-Salem, N.C. (~100)
  • **Midwest Regional:** June in Chicago, Ill. (~240)
  • **Mid-Atlantic Regional:** June in Somerset, N.J. (~120)
  • **Finals:** July in Westfield, Ind. (~150)
State Cups

• US Club Soccer sanctions about 15 per year in every major market of the country, including the Massachusetts Cup.

• Winners of state cups in 13-U through 18/19-U boys and girls age groups advance directly to the National Cup Finals to compete for national titles.

In 2016, 14 teams from the New England market advanced from a state cup to a national title game during the National Cup XV Finals.
id² Program

• US Club Soccer’s national identification and development program

• 60 boys and 60 girls at each of four id² Training Camps per year

• Targeted age groups are aligned with U.S. Soccer youth national teams
  • Current cycle: 2004 boys & 2003 girls

• On- and off-the-field components led by the country’s top youth coaches, U.S. Soccer scouts and id² directors

• Standouts from id² Training Camps invited to national selection programming
Spring id² Training Camp targeting boys born in 2004, girls born in 2003:

March 23-26 in Westfield, Ind.

Fall id² Training Camps in cycle targeting boys born in 2004, girls born in 2003-04:

December 7-10 in Casa Grande, Ariz.

Anticipated id² National Selection Programming from cycle targeting boys born in 2003, girls born in 2002:

April 6-17, 2017: International Tour (Boys - Spain)
Summer 2017: ECNL/id2 National Training Camp (Girls - Oregon)
• Regionally based identification and development programs conducted within the id² Program and often hosted by NPLs.

• PDPs generally take place over the course of one day and include:
  ▪ One training session
  ▪ One 11 vs. 11 game (9 vs. 9 if younger ages)
  ▪ Nike training gear for participants

• In 2014, PDPs were expanded in multiple geographic locations in frequency (4x per year) and age groups (13-U, 14-U, 16-U, 18-U).
• Various benefits of US Club Soccer membership include:
  • Flexibility (scheduling, roster movement, etc.)
  • Potential for inter-league play with surrounding members, coaching education opportunities, etc.
  • Onboarding with US Club Soccer administrators for registration (Ex. webinars)
  • National programs: state cups, National Cup, id2, PDPs
  • Players First philosophy, partners, exclusive offers, future licensing opportunity, etc.
  • Player Health & Safety initiatives, including enhanced background screening and Sideline Sports Doc online injury recognition course
Northeast Soccer League

• Quick links:
  • Vision, mission & core values
  • Players First
  • Programs
  • Leagues
  • Cups/tournaments
  • Player identification & development
  • Youth club standards
  • Resources
THANK YOU