



## Why Space Coast United Soccer Competes in the National Premier Leagues

Space Coast United Soccer's participation in the NPL/Florida Premier League enables our players to compete with teams from clubs with similar long term player development philosophies. The league provides consistent high-level competition for U13-U18 boys and girls, making it the best available environment for promoting the most growth for dedicated players. Training and competing at this elite level allows our players to reach their maximum potential over the course of their youth soccer experience.

- **The NPL provides a unified, league-based national developmental platform with the highest level of competition in its geographic areas**
  - Extends developmental principals espoused by the U.S. Soccer Development Academy into younger age groups and to additional clubs
  - Focused on long-term player development
  - For the country's top soccer clubs, allowing consistent, meaningful high-level games appropriately scheduled with higher training-to-game ratios
  - Allows players to be scouted & evaluated by U.S. Soccer National Staff & Technical Advisors
  - Designed and structured by the clubs, based on the needs of the clubs
  - Provides an avenue for qualification for the NPL Champions Cup
- **NPL Player Identification & Development**
  - id2 Program and PDP (Player Development Program) are sanctioned Olympic Development Programs
  - id2 Program provides an opportunity for the country's elite youth soccer players to be identified, developed and scouted for potential inclusion in US Soccer's National Team Programs
  - PDPs are regionally based identification and development programs conducted within the id2 program and centered around the NPL
  - PDPs are an avenue for players to advance to an id2 training camp
  - PDPs have no per player cost for participation
  - Player selection is determined with feedback from NPL club coaches and staff

### 2015-16 Florida Premier League (Florida's National Premier League) Clubs:

- [Boca United](#)
- [IMG Academy](#)
- [Orlando City Youth Soccer](#)
- [West Florida Flames](#)
- [PDA Florida](#)
- [Chargers Soccer Club](#)
- [Jacksonville FC](#)
- [Space Coast United](#)
- [Weston FC](#)
- [FC Florida](#)
- [FC America](#)
- [Kendall SC](#)
- [Tampa Bay United](#)
- [Florida Kraze Krush](#)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How much travel is involved?**

Half the games are at home and half away. It is a state wide league that currently consists of a two clubs in Jacksonville/North Florida, three in Tampa, one in Bradenton/Sarasota, three in Orlando, Space Coast United in East Central Florida and four in South Florida. Schedule is coordinated so that if we travel to Tampa or South Florida for example, in most instances we would play one club on Saturday and another club on Sunday – requiring just one trip and an overnight stay. Your team could travel as far as Miami, Jacksonville, Bradenton, Tampa, Orlando, Boca Raton, or Weston, but does not travel to all of them each year. Half of the teams travel to us for our home games.

### **How many games will we play?**

In 2015-16, there are 14 Clubs participating in the league and each team played each other one time for a total of 13 games – 6/7 home and 6/7 away.

### **Does the NPL season differ from FYSA fall and spring seasons?**

For the U15-U18 (high school aged teams), the season begins in mid-August, takes a break for high school soccer season, and resumes after its conclusion.

For the U13-14 (middle school aged teams), the season begins in mid to late October and concludes in February. Although this schedule is different from what our teams are used to with the fall and spring seasons, this schedule aligns the younger age groups with soccer seasons in other parts of the state.

### **What is the cost involved with playing in the NPL/FPL?**

The added costs associated with playing in the NPL/FPL are primarily travel related – for the regular season; you can expect to have 2-3 overnight hotel stays and travel expenses -gas/tolls/meals/etc. for 50% of the games. Families are expected to contribute to the cost of the coach's travel expenses as well.

League registration/Referee fees are included in the annual registration fee that you pay at the beginning of the season, just as it is for local league play. Teams earning a spot in the NPL Champion's Cup will incur additional travel expenses to attend the tournament the following summer.

### **How does US Club Soccer differ from US Youth Soccer (FYSA)?**

US Youth Soccer and US Club Soccer are both members of the USSF (US Soccer Federation). They each offer a different structure and different opportunities. Space Coast United Soccer Club is a member of both organizations as they each have something unique to offer our membership. The Florida Premier League is run through US Club soccer and is a good example of the types of opportunities that are available to our membership through our association with US Club Soccer.

### **What if the level of competition doesn't seem appropriate (too high/low) for our team.**

There will be some instances where the level of the team you play against may not be an even match for your team. Even teams that find this league challenging find that their players make large developmental

gains (in most cases at a much faster pace than they would have playing in a lower division) and over time, the level of disparity between clubs diminishes.

Even teams currently at the top end of the developmental spectrum for their age group, find the NPL provides the highest level of league competition in the state. Our teams who reach this point are expected to enter highly competitive tournaments (including outside the state of Florida) to further challenge them and provide added growth and development opportunities.

### **Are NPL teams eligible for State Cup?**

Participating in the NPL does not qualify teams for FYSA State Cup Competition as that is a US Youth Soccer tournament. It does qualify your team for participation in the US Club sanctioned Florida Cup, US Club Soccer's State Cup tournament.

Space Coast United also fields a State Cup team that participates in a FYSA sanctioned league providing an avenue for qualification for the FYSA State Cup competition. Because these are programs under two different organizations, players may represent one club in the NPL and another club for State Cup competition.

### **Any special substitution rules in NPL?**

This league has limited substitution rules. Once a player has been taken out of a game in the first half, they cannot return to the game until the second half. This rule applies at all age levels beginning at U13.

### **What is the NPL Champions Cup tournament?**

The culminating event of the National Premier Leagues (NPL) season each year is the NPL Champions Cup where the NPL national champions are crowned. The NPL Champions Cup features qualifiers from every NPL across the country in a true "champions league" competition.

### **Please explain the id2 program.**

US Club Soccer's National Premier Leagues (NPL) are not only designed to provide top-level competition for participating clubs, they are also created to help improve the long-term player development environment for participating players and teams. Each NPL provides multiple avenues for players to be scouted and evaluated by U.S. Soccer National Staff and Technical Advisors and US Club Soccer id<sup>2</sup> Staff. This scouting process is operated through the id<sup>2</sup> National Player Identification and Development Program and Player Development Programs (PDP)

### **Links to Additional Information:**

[National Premier Leagues](#)  
[Florida Premier League](#)  
[Florida Premier League Rules and Forms](#)  
[Id2 Program Overview](#)

[Player Development Program](#)  
[NPL Champions Cup](#)  
[US Club Soccer](#)

## Understanding the Difference between U.S. Club Soccer and U.S. Youth Soccer

Many people new to youth soccer and a fair number who have been involved for many years can become hopelessly confounded by the distinction between all of the seemingly countless associations and leagues. It certainly does not help that so many have similar sounding names and that Space Coast United has programming stemming from two different associations. Add in the acronyms and it is a recipe for massive confusion.

Let's see if we can untangle that web all the way from the US Soccer Federations to the U13-18 Competitive Teams at Space Coast United, shall we?

We'll start at the very top with the [United States Soccer Federation](#) (US Soccer), the governing body for soccer in the United States. They have the logo you see on the kits of the national players like Hope Solo and Landon Donovan. Their members include the MLS, United States Adult Soccer Association, US Youth Soccer, US Club Soccer, Armed Forces Sports Council, the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and more.



Space Coast United Soccer fields U13-U18 Competitive Teams under both US Club Soccer (NPL) and US Youth Soccer (Travel – State Cup /Select – Region Cup).

## U13-U18 Travel and Select Teams Under U.S. Youth Soccer



Our club has a long history with [US Youth Soccer](#) (USYS).

USYS is the largest member of the United States Soccer Federation. It is nationwide with over 3 million youth players between the ages of five and nineteen. It is comprised of 55 member State Associations. US Youth Soccer is a non-profit and educational organization whose mission is to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of America's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition.

[Florida Youth Soccer Association](#) (FYSA) is one of the larger member organizations of the United States Youth Soccer (USYS). Clubs that are members of FYSA are divided into four regions.



Space Coast United is in Region B (East).



Our Travel and Select Teams compete in fall and spring leagues that are sanctioned by FYSA. In the spring, Travel teams compete in the FYSA [State Cup](#) tournament and Select teams typically compete in the [Region B Cup](#). Space Coast United boys and girls teams have had success in these tournaments over the years.

The Brevard Youth Soccer League and Greater Central Florida Youth Soccer League are examples of FYSA sanctioned leagues within the state of Florida in which our competitive teams participate in the fall and spring.

The [Brevard Youth Soccer League](#) (BYSL) is comprised of member clubs from Titusville to Sebastian and facilitates inter-club play amongst the fifteen member clubs at both the recreational and competitive levels.

The [Greater Central Florida Youth Soccer League](#) is comprised of over 20 member clubs throughout Central Florida. Play in this league is generally more competitive than in BYSL.



**U13-U18 Travel  
and Select Teams**

Compete in FYSA sanctioned leagues and tournaments.

Travel teams compete in the **State Cup** Tournament.

Select teams compete in the **Region Cup B** Tournament.

## NPL Teams Under U.S. Club Soccer



Space Coast United became affiliated with US Club Soccer in 2011. [US Club Soccer](#), like US Youth Soccer, is a member of the US Soccer Federation. Its mission is “to create, develop and grow the best U.S. Soccer Federation-sanctioned organization to foster the growth and development of club soccer programs throughout the United States. The result of which will be to improve the level of play of the competitive soccer player, and thereby the U.S. National Teams and professional leagues.” The organization does include recreational and adult programming, but Space Coast United’s affiliation is in their competitive youth arena.

The [National Premier Leagues \(NPL\)](#) is a national competition platform created to elevate and change the competitive youth soccer landscape by extending developmental principles espoused by U.S. Soccer into more age groups and clubs, linking competition with player development and identification platforms, providing meaningful weekly competition culminating in the NPL Finals.



- Because Travel/Select teams compete under US Youth Soccer and NPL teams compete under US Club Soccer, players may participate on a Space Coast United NPL team while representing another club on a Travel/Select team.



The [Florida Premier League](#) was established in 2011 as part of US Club Soccer’s **National Premier Leagues (NPL)**, the **Florida Premier League** includes 14 clubs in the U-13 through U-18 boys and girls age groups: League champions are determined by total points at the end of the regular season, with the winning teams in each division advancing to the NPL Finals.

Here is where things can get even a bit more confusing. Florida Youth Soccer Association (FYSA) introduced the Florida State Premier League in 2012 and it should not be confused with the Florida Premier League that is part of US Club Soccer’s NPL program.



**U13-U18 NPL Teams**

Compete in NPL sanctioned league.

NPL Teams compete in the **Florida Cup** if they qualify based on NPL league play.