



## **The Importance of NPL for GREAT FALLS SOCCER CLUB**

As GREAT FALLS SOCCER progresses as a club and navigates the US Soccer landscape, we are looking to align all player development programs and to provide a pathway to national recognition for all our boys' and girls' programs. It is the opinion of GREAT FALLS SOCCER leadership that NPL is going to play a vital role for the club towards continued growth, and we are committed to making NPL our main pursuit for a National Championship. As per our vision and mission statement and the document on the website about the "GREAT FALLS WAY" the addition of NPL will ensure that we continue to develop our players.

### **NPL landscape and what the league offers our club:**

1. GREAT FALLS NPL teams will have access to National Championships through Virginia NPL.
2. Automatic acceptance into nationally ranked tournaments, NPL Showcase in Florida, Jefferson Cup, Surf Cup (400 college coaches attend Surf Cup annually).
3. Player Identification through US Club ID2 program nationally and through Virginia NPL.
4. US Club Soccer State Cup automatic acceptance.
5. Coaching staff will participate in regular coaching education.
6. NPL consists of top leagues nationwide (NorCal NPL, NISL, USC, EDP, etc).

US Club Soccer and the National Premier Leagues (NPL) welcomed the Virginia NPL as a new member in the 2014-15 season. The Virginia NPL features 11-U through 19-U boys and girls teams.

Member clubs in 2017-18 include:

- Annandale United FC
- Chantilly Youth Association
- FC Virginia
- Great Falls SC
- Gunston SC
- Prince William
- Richmond Strikers
- Richmond Kickers
- Tidewater Sharks
- Vienna Youth Soccer
- Virginia Rush
- Virginia Soccer Association

Like the other 22 member leagues, the Virginia NPL provides an opportunity for its age group winners to advance to the year-end [NPL Finals](#), the targeted destination for all NPL teams, where NPL national champions are determined. Regular-season standings determine each age group's champion.



## **NPL OVERVIEW**

The NPL was 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, by linking competition with player development and identification platforms, and by providing meaningful weekly competition culminating in the NPL Finals.

NPLs are independent leagues, unified under one national competition platform, and based on a common technical framework designed to improve long-term player development. The NPL provides a platform is:

- 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; that allows players to be scouted and evaluated by U.S. Soccer National Staff and Technical Advisors; that is designed and structured by the clubs, based on the needs of the clubs; and that provides an avenue for qualification for the NPL Finals.

## **EXECUTING US CLUB SOCCER'S 10-YEAR VISION:**

The NPL is an important component of US Club Soccer's 10-year vision to refine the landscape for competitive youth soccer. This vision recognizes that:

Properly-structured youth soccer clubs are the vehicle through which player development occurs in the United States.

Clubs should play in leagues that provide meaningful games, allow establishment of the proper training-to-game ratio, and eliminate calendar congestion.

NPLs, as well as the best clubs, should be integrated in US Club Soccer's id2 National Identification and Development Program, include Player Development Programs (PDPs) in select local markets, and work closely with U.S. Soccer staff regarding player identification, and player and coach development.

## **SHOWCASES:**

The NPL held its inaugural NPL Showcase in March 2014, which brought teams from NPLs across the country to one site for intra-league competition and player showcasing. It featured 16-U, 17-U and 18-U boys teams at Heritage Park in suburban Las Vegas, Nev.

Following on the heels of that event, NPL Showcases for 15-U through 17-U elite girls teams were held in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016.

The NPL has also entered partnerships with the Jefferson Cup and Surf Cup to provide slots to top NPL teams at those renowned events, beginning in 2015.

**NPL FINALS:**

The targeted destination for all NPL teams, and the culminating event each season, is the NPL Finals (formerly known as the NPL Champions Cup), where NPL national champions are determined. The NPL Finals feature qualifiers in 13-U through 18-U boys and girls age groups from every NPL across the country in a true "champions league" competition.