



## National Premier Leagues (NPL) TUSC Boys Top U13-U19 Teams

### 2021-2022 Recap

Tennessee United Soccer Club has successfully completed the 2021-2022 NPL first year of play. Thank you to all of our families and players for embracing the NPL league and making it a positive experience from many vantage points. After some normal unknowns as a first year program, families found out that the travel amount was appropriate within the expectations for our top teams and not as intense as many thought. We found and managed the proper balance for our teams as best as we could. We also found out that the higher competition was valuable and important for our player's developmental growth. Playing NPL validated the value of regional league competition as an internal motivator to our players. Furthermore, 5 out of 6 teams qualified for the post season playoffs event in Atlanta. As we conclude the season, congratulations to our 2007 Boys NPL for qualifying to the US Club Soccer NPL Regional tournament in NC this upcoming June and to our 2003 Boys NPL team for qualifying directly to US Club NPL Finals in Colorado this July enhancing exposure and showcase opportunities for these players. As a club we look forward to an even more successful upcoming second season.

### What does the NPL 2022-2023 schedule look like?

Tennessee United will remain as a member in the 11 year old NPL South Atlantic Premier League (SAPL) with two conferences (east/west) with clubs from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama. We play in the West Conference (GA, AL, TN). For this next season, the West Conference will have a total of 6 clubs reducing travel by one weekend. Our top NPL U13, U14, U15, U16, U17 and U19 teams will begin the season with the North Carolina showcase with 2 cross conference games. The event is scheduled for August 6-7. Then teams will play a total of 10 league games; where we will host 5 home games and play 5 away games. These dates are TBD and are based on league scheduling spread between the months of August thru November. During the entire fall season, we do take in consideration player periodization where we will be off Thanksgiving week and Christmas break through New Year's. The league will culminate with the playoff event in Atlanta on January 14-16, 2023 over the Martin Luther King weekend playing 3 games (just like this season). The playoff gives the qualifying teams the opportunity to earn a bid to the US Club NPL postseason regional / national events.

Note: Our U13 and U14 teams will have a conference only play reduced NPL season in the spring.

### What is the training schedule?

NPL teams expectations are to train up to (3) times per week during the season. Also, given how the season starts the first weekend in August, we will evaluate the possibility of beginning with training session's mid-July and use our 4 day team camp on July 25-28 as supplementary training all leading into the August 6-7 event in North Carolina. The potential early start will be managed at each team level based on fields, players and coach availability.

*Additional NPL FAQ if you are new to this level or new player looking to tryouts:*

### Why play in a regional league?

There have been and will continue to be considerable changes in the competitive league landscape for teams across the country. At TUSC we have been assessing long term player development platforms and opportunities for our players to be in more meaningful and challenging playing environments. Our intent is to find ways to have a bigger impact across every player in our club. The goal is to continue to create different pathways for success and additional exposure.

### What is the National Premier Leagues (NPL)?

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. NPL's are independent leagues, unified under one national competition platform, and based on a common technical framework designed to improve long-term player development.



### Does NPL offer postseason competition opportunities?

Yes, since the NPL is a national league platform that offers some of the highest level competition in the nation, teams will have an opportunity to qualify for the NPL post season playoffs based on their league standings.

### What will the travel schedule be like?

Given the nature of regional leagues the travel requirements will slightly increase. However, over the period of an entire season, we are essentially replacing the high registration fee/expense and the number of games when attending out of town tournaments that we often struggle with appropriate competition both ways. The league also is a fantastic complement to state league or USYS Mid-South league competition, not having the struggle of finding "friendly" games which are all too often canceled at the last minute to fill up your schedule.

### Will this have an impact on cost?

We anticipate the participation in the league will be cost effective for each team due to the fact that these competitions will replace several tournaments throughout the year which are more expensive than the league cost. There will be additional costs for coaching travel and customary travel out of town expenses.

### What are the benefits to teams?

The goal of the league is to schedule all TUSC teams to attend events at the same location. We also anticipate the leagues will provide more meaningful competition on a regular basis.

### What are the benefits to players?

Increased and consistent competition on a regular basis. Better player development. More exposure to college coaches. Larger player pool within age group. 18 person game day roster with the ability to pull from a designated 26 player pool roster.

### Will these TUSC NPL teams continue to participate in our Tennessee state league or the MidSouth regional league?

Yes if they choose. Each team and age group may be different given their unique on field success at state cup or other leagues. Our DOC in conjunction with each coach will evaluate each team's competition pathway to ensure the proper balance. We want to allow the flexibility for teams to participate in the State League as well as any Regional or National league.

### What options do TUSC teams who are not participating in these and other regional leagues have with regards to state league, friendlies and tournaments?

TUSC teams will have the same flexibility as before to choose our State League, proper divisions, local and out of town tournaments, friendly games, etc. this to best meet the needs of each specific team. Team's ability to have choices will remain the same.

### If a player continues with another sport during league season how will their place be affected?

The larger player pools allow TUSC to take the best available players when absences, conflicts, or injuries occur.