



## The Importance of NPL for FC Virginia's Elite Player Tier

As FCV 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 FCV leadership that NPL will play a vital role in both programs, and we are committed to making NPL our main pursuit for a National Championship. This redefined focus of both boys' and girls' programs will ensure that we continue to develop our players 'THE FCV WAY'.

Girls: The implementation of the Development Academy (DA) at FCV means that NPL will now serve as the Elite Tier in FCV. We are making a determined push to make a mark in NPL, which will provide an ideal challenge for our Elite Tier players.

Boys: NPL will provide our growing boys' program the opportunity to progress through the EPNL National Championship process. Opportunities for our players to pursue Pre-Development Academy status through our NEW partnership with Loudoun Youth Soccer Association is still an important aspect of our player development pyramid, but these options are limited to our U12-14 players.

### Training/Player Development:

- NPL girls' and boys' teams will adopt a similar, inclusive US Soccer DA curriculum.
- All NPL players will have access to player education webinars, as well as all game analyzing sessions.
- NPL girls' teams will now take the first FCV spot for tournaments. Previously, ECNL teams attending tournaments like Jefferson Cup or Disney Showcase made it very unlikely for NPL teams to get accepted (top tournaments usually only take one team per club). DA teams will not be part of the regular tournament environment, so all opportunities will go to NPL teams.
- NPL boys' teams will now take an aggressive pathway for high-end tournaments, using the strength of the NPL league and EPNL pathway to bolster acceptance into more prestigious events.
- FCV will set up a college recruiting panel to help players navigate the college process (Christian Cziommer, Cory Hanks, Julie Shackford, Richie Burke).

### High Level Coaching Staff:

Girls: Cory Hanks will coach the U17 and U18/19 age groups. Cory holds a USSF C-license and has worked as Assistant Coach for both George Mason and George Washington universities. He is experienced in successfully helping players with college recruitment. Marvin Johnson will coach the U14 and U15 age groups. Marvin played professional soccer for 15 years in England and worked as Academy Director for Luton Town F.C. He holds a UEFA A-license and has experience in all levels of play. Gus Donolo will serve as our Pre-DA Director and will work with all U13 players (NPL, Pre-DA, NCSL). Gus is very well known as a technical trainer who knows what players need at the highest

level. He has won numerous State Cup tournaments and has coached several teams at the highest level. He will also serve as Futsal Director for FCV.

Boys: FCV Boys Technical Director, Richie Burke, will oversee the development of all college-track teams and will work with individual team head coaches to control the recruitment process for all Competitive Phase teams. FCV's highly qualified coaching staff assigned to work with Competitive Phase teams includes Dave MacMillan, Arturo Jimenez, Willy Montes, and Wilfredo Guevara. Former professional player and UEFA Youth Level 4 License holder, Ricky Burke, will work directly with our U12, U13 and U14 Elite teams in the Formation Phase of development at FCV. Former college standout and Royals PDL player, Abdul Shaban, will assist with the U13 and U14 age groups, and will work directly with our U11 Elite team.

Supplemental Opportunities for NPL Players, both Boys and Girls:

1. Developmental training and player opportunities for DA teams.
2. Opportunity to play on Elite FCV Futsal teams that will be formed for the fall season to participate in tournaments as well as Regional and National Futsal Championships. (FCV's Futsal program will be year-round in compliance with USSDA curriculum expectations, with further details to be announced soon).
3. Opportunity to set up College Track Player Profiles through our new and highly improved FCV website (launching soon).

NPL landscape and what the league offers:

1. FCV 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.)

