

2024-2025 OVERVIEW



1. PROGRAMS

Academy Program

This Program is designed for players ages 7 through 11. Our academy program offers competition against other Metro Atlanta Soccer Club academy teams. Typically, teams will have 10 games and play in 2 tournaments per season (Fall and Spring). **Tryouts are required. Players are selected for the pool system/teams based on their overall skill level.**

The U8 through U11 age group utilizes the following team hierarchy:

- Elite pool
- Gold pool
- The U12 age group utilizes the following team hierarchy:
 - Pre-ECNL pool
 - Elite pool

Select Program

This program is designed for players ages 12-18 and offers opportunity to play in state, regional and national league structures. Select teams participate in 4 different leagues - Elite Clubs National League (ECNL), ECNL Regional League (ECNL-R), USYS National League Elite 64 (E64), and Southeastern Clubs Champions League (SCCL). The number of games varies depending on the age group and what league the team is competing in. U13 and U14 teams will have both a Fall and Spring season, where U15 and older teams typically complete most of their regular season games in the Fall season. **Tryouts are required. Players are selected for teams based on their overall skill level.**

This program utilizes the following team hierarchy:

- ECNL
- ECNL-R
- Elite
- Premier
- Gold
- Silver
- Bronze

We offer a Spring Friendly season for all trapped players. A trapped player is an 8th grader who is playing on a U15 team with high school-age players. For Elite and Premier level teams, our aim is to create teams who would compete in a local league. If we are unable to form a team, we will offer training to our trapped players. Trapped ECNL and ECNL-R players will be integrated with U14 ECNL and ECNL-R level teams.

ATLANTA FIRE UNITED SOCCER ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 296
Duluth, Georgia 30096

Mirza Mustafic
Executive Director
Mirza.mustafic@atlantaunitedsoccer.com

Garth Pollonais
Director of Coaching
ECNL Program Director
Garth.pollonais@atlantaunitedsoccer.com

Vince Hayes
Girls Select Program Director (U12-U14)
Vince.hayes@atlantaunitedsoccer.com

Garth Pollonais
Boys Select Program Director (U12-U14)
Garth.pollonais@atlantaunitedsoccer.com

Gregg Tavani
Academy Program Director (U8-U11)
Gregg.tavani@atlantaunitedsoccer.com

Mike Gailey
Academy Program Director (U8-U11)
mike.gailey@atlantaunitedsoccer.com

 atlantaunitedsoccer.com

 [atlantaunitedsoccer](https://www.facebook.com/atlantaunitedsoccer)

 [atlantaunitedsa](https://www.instagram.com/atlantaunitedsa)

 [@atlantaunitedsa](https://twitter.com/atlantaunitedsa)





2. LEAGUES

Elite Clubs National League (ECNL)



The Elite Clubs National League (ECNL) is the top development, identification and competition platform for youth soccer players in the United States. The structure of the Southeast Conference will vary some between boys and girls, but will offer competition against other Metro Atlanta soccer clubs as well as clubs from other states within the region such as Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Teams are anticipated to have between 16 games in addition to participating in tournaments and showcases.

AFU's top level U13 through U19 boys & girls teams will play in the Southeast Conference of ECNL.

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Executive Director

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Director of Coaching

ECNL Program Director

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Vince Hayes

Girls Select Program Director (U12-U14)

Vince.hayes@atlantaunitedsoccer.com

Garth Pollonais

Boys Select Program Director (U12-U14)

Garth.pollonais@atlantaunitedsoccer.com

Gregg Tavani

Academy Program Director (U8-U11)

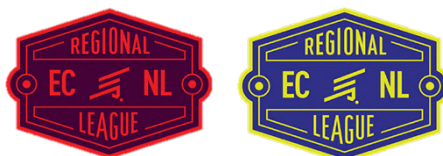
Gregg.tavani@atlantaunitedsoccer.com

Mike Gailey

Academy Program Director (U8-U11)

mike.gailey@atlantaunitedsoccer.com

ECNL Regional League (ECNL – R)



The ECNL is the nation's leading youth soccer development platform. ECNL has decided to expand this development platform to more players by creating the ECNL Regional Leagues. This league is a second tier of competition within the ECNL umbrella and will provide improved coordination and collaboration between teams of different levels within ECNL clubs, and/or opportunity for teams and players in other clubs to develop through regular high-level competition. The structure of the Southeast Conference will vary some between boys and girls, but will offer competition against other Metro Atlanta soccer clubs as well as clubs from other states within the region such as Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. ECNL-R boys are anticipated to have 16 games ECNL-R Girls 21 games in addition to participating in tournaments and showcases.

AFU's second level U13 through U19 boys & girls teams will play in the Southeast Conference of the ECNL – Regional League.

US Youth Soccer National League Elite 64



US Youth Soccer National League's 'Elite Performance Tier' — Elite 64 — is the pinnacle of soccer in the United States, providing a never-before-seen experience that enhances a player's recruitment into the college and professional game. Elite 64 features eight geographically aligned premier leagues, offering a flexible 10-month league season with a National Championship event.

AFU's Elite level U13 through U19 boys & girls teams will play in the Southeast Conference of the USYS Elite 64 League.

Southeastern Clubs Champions League



The Southeastern Clubs Champions League is a topflight league formed by major clubs across the Southeast under the auspices of US Club Soccer with high level competition and exposure.

AFU's Premier (some elite teams) level U13 through U19 boys & girls teams as well as U11 Elite pools and U12 Pre-ECNL and Elite pools will play in the SCCL.

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Academy

Our Academy Program at Atlanta Fire United introduces youth players in the 6–12-year-old age groups to a more competitive soccer environment. Our Academy’s philosophy is one of learning how to play the most popular sport in the world with creativity, fun, and attacking soccer. Challenging training sessions conducted by the Academy staff are the key ingredient in the personal development of the players. Training activities are devised to help each player improve technically, tactically, physically, and psychologically. Games are played against top metro Atlanta clubs to create the necessary ratio and platform for development.

3. TRYOUTS

Tryouts and Evaluation & Team Placement Process

Our tryout registration is open, and we want any player interested in playing Academy, SCCL, ECNL-R or ECNL soccer with AFU for the 2024-2025 soccer year to register as soon as possible if you haven’t already. Please keep in mind that registering does not commit you to anything but does help us plan appropriately.

At AFU our goal is to provide the best possible development platform for every player. Team placement has to align with the overall skill level of the player, where the player can be challenged but also find success within the level of play.

AFU will use ID sessions as well as tryouts to evaluate all players. In addition to tryouts, AFU coaching staff will collaborate through conversations and conferences to ensure each returning player’s seasonal play, previous evaluations, demonstrated skill, demonstrated progress & development, maturity, mentality and overall body of work throughout the 2022-2023 soccer year is factored into their respective team placement for the 2023-2024 season. Current and former coaches as well as program directors are part of the player evaluations.

Tryout Timelines

U8 through U14

- Field Evaluations: May 20 – May 23
- Roster selection and Team Placement offers: May 20 – May 26
- Acceptance Letters: May 20 – May 31
- Team meetings: *****details TBA*****

U15 through U19

- Field Evaluations: May 28 – May 31
- Roster selection and Team Placement offers: May 28 – June 3
- Acceptance Letters: May 28 – June 9
- Team meetings: *****details TBA*****

Players will receive the acceptance letter via email by Monday following tryouts and have 48 hours to accept in order to reserve their spot on the team.

We truly appreciate your support and understanding during the tryout process. As always, if you have any questions, please contact your coach or other AFU staff member and we will gladly assist you in any way we can.

If you have any specific questions, or have not received an invitation by the Monday following tryouts, please contact the Director of the program that your son or daughter will be participating in.

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 [@atlantaunitedsa](https://twitter.com/atlantaunitedsa)





Program	Contact	Email
Boys & Girls Academy (U8-U11)	Gregg Tavani Mike Gailey	Gregg.tavani@atlantaunitedsoccer.com mike.gailey@atlantaunitedsoccer.com
Girls Select (U12-U14)	Vince Hayes	Vince.hayes@atlantaunitedsoccer.com
Boys Select (U12-U14)	Garth Pollonais	Garth.pollonais@atlantaunitedsoccer.com
Boys Select (U15-U19)	Garth Pollonais	Garth.pollonais@atlantaunitedsoccer.com
Girls Select (U15-U19)	Garth Pollonais	Garth.pollonais@atlantaunitedsoccer.com
All	Mirza Mustafic	Mirza.mustafic@atlantaunitedsoccer.com

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