

## 2025-26 Season Highlights & 2026-27 Program Updates



As we continue to grow, our commitment remains the same, to provide a positive, professional, and development-focused environment that allows every player to maximize their potential both on and off the field. We are incredibly proud of the progress our players, coaches, and families have made together and are excited about the future of Atlanta Fire United.

### Technical Leadership & Development Structure

In our continued effort to strengthen player development, we are implementing an updated technical structure designed to better support players at every stage of their journey within the club.

Our developmental model will be organized into three key stages:

- Foundation Stage (U6–U8): Focused on building fundamental skills, enjoyment of the game, and early development habits
- Intermediate Stage (U9–U12): Emphasizing technical growth, decision-making, and increased game understanding
- Competitive Stage (U13–U19): Preparing players for high-level competition and, where applicable, college pathways

To support this structure, we are aligning our leadership team to provide more focused oversight and guidance within each stage:

- Gregg Tavani will oversee the U6 - U8 Recreational Program and U8 Academy (Boys & Girls)
- Mike Gailey will oversee the U9 - U12 Boys age groups
- Vince Hayes will oversee the U9 - U12 Girls age groups
- Stephen George will support the U13 - U19 Boys and Girls programs
- Garth Pollonais will serve as the overall Director of Coaching for U8 - U19 and ECNL Program Director

### ATLANTA FIRE UNITED SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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## College Recruiting

- Concluding the 2025–2026 season, we are extremely excited to announce that several of our players have committed to competing at the collegiate level. In total, 26 female players and 8 male players will begin their college soccer careers this fall.
- We are also pleased to announce the addition of Sal Martelli as our new College Recruiting Director for both the boys and girls programs.

Here is a quick snapshot of our college recruiting numbers.



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## National & Postseason Qualification

- Based on their outstanding performances during the 2025-26 season, we are proud to share that seven teams have qualified for postseason competition, including:
  - ECNL Playoffs
  - ECNL-R Playoffs
  - National League Playoffs
  - Regional and National competitions

We would like to congratulate all of the players and coaches on this tremendous accomplishment.



## Coaching Staff Additions

We are honored to welcome the following coaches as new additions to our staff:

- Leo Zamora
- Brad Mitchum
- Rex Bowman
- Dre Walker
- John Bernard
- Joel Jeune
- Tristen Thakar
- Hartley Gilbert
- Landry McHargue
- Jonathan Mendoza
- Dre Przybyla
- Jamal Yeldel

We are very excited about the knowledge, experience, and leadership these coaches bring to the club and the positive impact they will have on our players and overall development environment.

## Continued Focus on Futsal Programming

- We will continue to utilize futsal as a key component in the technical development of our younger players.
- During the 2026-27 season, our U10 through U12 Academy teams will incorporate futsal training through an additional third training session each week.
- We will also continue to offer futsal leagues during both the summer and winter months.
- Members will continue to experience enhancements to our programming and facilities.

## Strength, Conditioning & Injury Prevention

- Our ECNL teams will continue participating in a comprehensive strength, conditioning, and injury-prevention/ACL-prevention program as part of their training curriculum.
- The program will be led by two certified strength and conditioning specialists and will consist of a 16-week training cycle beginning in August.
- Beginning in the 2026-27 season, our U13 and U14 ECNL teams will also participate in a 16-week (per season) strength and conditioning program starting in August 2026.
- Our long-term goal is to continue expanding these services and provide additional optional training opportunities for all players in the future.

## Game Film & Video Analysis

- During the 2026-27 season, we will continue utilizing our game-sharing platform and fleet of cameras to record home matches across all programs.
- This initiative will continue to support player development, video analysis, recruiting opportunities, and coaching education.



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## Athletic Trainers

- Certified athletic trainers will continue to be present during home matches to assist with minor medical treatment and player care before, during, and after games.



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