



Charlotte Soccer Academy Boys ECNL FAQ

What is Boys ECNL?

Mission

Boys Elite Clubs National League, Inc. ("ECNL") is a 501(c)(3) non-profit member-based organization founded in 2017 to improve the daily environment for male youth soccer players through a collaborative club-based development program featuring competition, player identification, and coaching and club development platforms.

Goal

The goal of the Boys Elite Clubs National League (ECNL) is to change the landscape for elite male soccer players in the United States through innovative, player-centered programming and to enhance the overall experience by creating a better, more enjoyable, and more successful player, coach, and club development model.

A Board of Directors elected by the member clubs leads the Boys ECNL. The Boys ECNL Commissioner manages day-to-day operations. The Boys ECNL has three primary platforms:

1. The Competition Platform;
2. The Player Identification Platform;
3. The Club and Coach Development Platform

What are the benefits of the ECNL?

Joining the league benefits the top-tier male athlete with:

1. Increased level of competition;
2. More meaningful matches;
3. Quality coaching; and
4. Greater exposure to college coaches.

What CSA age groups are participating?

CSA Soccer will field a Boys ECNL team in each of the following age groups for Fall 2019-Spring 2020 - 13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U and 18U/19U combined team.

Who are the Boys ECNL coaches?

Coaching assignments for CSA Soccer ECNL teams will be announced ASAP. They will be highly qualified, committed, full time staff within CSA or senior game coaches and/or licensed with USSF A or B licenses. Additional support will be provided by assistant coaches, speed/agility trainers, Video Analysis Sessions, and goalkeeper coaches.

Can ECNL players participate in Middle School & High school soccer teams?

Yes, there is no rule prohibiting players from enjoying their middle school / high school soccer experience.

How many players will be selected for each team?

Anticipated roster sizes for ECNL teams are:

U13-U14: 16-18

U15: 18-20

U16-U18/U19: 18-22

Larger player pools may be carried U15-U18/19 to account for increased commitment, injuries, and high school play; this is similar to most top-tier Travel teams that currently roster more than 18.

Only 18 may dress per game. Players selected to ECNL are expected to receive opportunities in ECNL matches. The maximum roster size per ECNL team is 30.

Will there be Tryouts for Boys ECNL?

ECNL teams will be formed via Identification (ID) sessions, which will take place before the traditional tryout period in May. These ID sessions are open to all players interested in the ECNL. CSA recommends current players communicate with their respective coach and DOC prior to attending the ID sessions and get a recommendation to attend the sessions. If a CSA player is currently not on an Elite/King level team, it is recommended the player advance to the highest USYS team within CSA's structure before being considered for an ECNL or a DA team.

Families of players interested in ECNL must be patient during this process, as it is different than the traditional USYS team tryouts we run in May. Along with the ECNL ID sessions, there are current US Soccer Development Academy (USSDA) sessions also ongoing through March and April. CSA staff are in constant communication on the player identification process at all of the ID sessions to ensure those players that may not be able to make the ECNL sessions are also being evaluated at the USSDA sessions. Those players not selected to make the USSDA teams will be considered for the ECNL teams. Players not ready for the ECNL teams will be encouraged to attend the USYS tryouts in May for CSA's Elite, King, Liga etc. teams.

Players currently playing with another organization are welcome to attend the ECNL ID sessions, but if a player is registered with another organization's ECNL team, they cannot attend an ID session until May 1, 2019 per the ECNL league rules. Our goal will be to get the rosters complete before the May USYS tryouts but offers will be extended throughout May if additional players are identified to strengthen the rosters.

How much travel is involved in participating the ECNL?

CSA ECNL teams will compete in the Mid-Atlantic division, which includes clubs from Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Travel/trips over 4 hours will be done on buses. For games within the 4-hour travel window, players will be responsible for travel accommodations. Saturday-Sunday matches are often coordinated for longer road trips (e.g. two games in Virginia on one weekend) to better manage the schedule.

CSA will play in the Mid Atlantic Conference, which consists of 11 clubs:

- o NC: CSA, NC Fusion, NCFC, Wilmington Hammerheads, Carolina Rapids
- o SC: Discoveries, SC United, CESA
- o VA: McLean, Loudoun, Braddock Road

What is the cost to participate in the ECNL?

CSA will be releasing this info as quickly as possible. All details regarding fees will be ready upon the first ID Session.

What is the game and event schedule?

ECNL competition includes a combination of league schedules and event (tournament) play. Certain age groups include post-season competition in June and possibly July if they advance. Please review the chart below to read the expected competition formats for each age group.

U13 Boys Conf Schedule (Sept - Nov & March - May) 1 ECNL showcase & 1-2 outside events

U14 Boys Conf Schedule (Sept - Nov & March - May) 1 ECNL showcase & 1-2 outside events, potential playoffs if qualified

U15 Boys Conf Schedule (Sept - Nov & March - May) 2 ECNL showcase & 1-2 outside events, potential playoffs if qualified. Mostly spring schedule with optional training during the Fall.

U16 Boys Conf Schedule (Sept - Nov & March - May) 3 ECNL showcase & 1-2 outside events, potential playoffs if qualified. Mostly spring schedule with optional training during the Fall.

U17 Boys Conf Schedule (Sept - Nov & March - May) 3 ECNL showcase & 1-2 outside events, potential playoffs if qualified. Mostly spring schedule with optional training during the Fall.

U18/19 Boys Conf Schedule (Sept - Nov & March - May) 1 ECNL showcase & 1-2 outside events, potential playoffs if qualified. Mostly spring schedule with optional training during the Fall.

Will the ECNL participate in any other tournaments?

Yes, ECNL teams may participate in high profile outside events at the discretion of the club. U15-U18/19 teams will focus on attending College Showcases.

Is this a year long commitment, or are breaks scheduled in the calendar?

The ECNL commitment is 10-months but the league is designed and set up to accommodate the high school soccer calendar in the fall. U15-U19 ECNL teams will have limited activity in the fall. Additional breaks will be scheduled around the competition schedule to permit appropriate rest and recovery for all players.

What is the expected training and game schedule?

CSA ECNL teams will train three times per week during their competitive seasons. Some training sessions may include sports performance sessions, classroom sessions, and video analysis.

Training location will be in accordance with make-up of the roster geographically. Our goal is to have all sessions at one of the club's major training locations (Matthews Sportsplex, Frank Liske Park, Harrisburg Park and OrthoCarolina Sportsplex). All home games will be played at the OrthoCarolina Sportsplex in Pineville.

When the selection process begins, staff will be transparent with players/families on the location for practice prior to any required commitment so a family can make an informed decision whether the locations work for them logistically. Unless a team is all made of a section of the club (e.g. All South players, All North players) sessions will be split between a south location and a north location. E.g., If 75% of an age group comes from a south section, 25% from the north, then practices will be twice a week in the south and once in the north for the season.