

**NEWS RELEASE**

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## US Club Soccer, New England Premiership renew sanctioning agreement

**CHARLESTON, S.C. (Jan. 26, 2021)** – US Club Soccer and **New England Premiership (NEP)** are excited to announce a long-term extension of their sanctioning agreement, reflecting a commitment to continued growth and opportunities in New England. NEP partnered with US Club Soccer as its sanctioning body in 2014, and US Club Soccer is thrilled to provide each of its [22 member clubs](#) support for continued success.

[NEP](#) maintains a club-centric philosophy in all of its decision making, and membership is limited to clubs who have demonstrated a commitment to player development. Coaches of accepted member clubs have minimum license requirements, and minimum standards for facilities must be met by all clubs. Clubs are also required to have a dedicated Director of Coaching with a minimum of a USSF B License.

The aforementioned expectations have solidified NEP as the powerhouse league in the area, with clubs earning a number of US Club Soccer national titles over the years. Most notably, NEFC has earned nine national titles since 2014, while South Shore Select has captured three consecutive titles since 2017.

"NEP is thrilled to be renewing our agreement with US Club Soccer," said Adam Scott, NEP League Director. "Our league has flourished over the years with US Club Soccer's support and guidance, as well as the autonomy they provide the NEP to best support our members clubs, our coaches and, most importantly, our players. Over the next four years we are confident that the NEP will continue to thrive and properly develop as a league while creating the best possible learning and playing environments for our players."

Among the highlights:

- **League play.** NEP will provide league competition for all divisions during the fall and spring seasons. NEP's NPL Division will be part of US Club Soccer's [National Premier Leagues \(NPL\)](#), a collection of 21 leagues unified under one national competition platform and based on a common technical framework. Qualifiers from the NEP's NPL Division will join teams from other NPLs throughout the country in competing for a national championship via the NPL postseason.
- **Regional cup.** Beginning Spring 2021, NEP will run a [New England Regional Cup](#) competition sanctioned by US Club Soccer. This new integration with US Club Soccer's competition series will allow U-13 through U-19 boys and girls from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont to compete for the chance to be named champion of the New England region, and advance to US Club Soccer's National Cup Finals.
- **Coaching education.** NEP will continue to internally host [U.S. Soccer coach licenses courses via US Club Soccer](#), and benefit from US Club Soccer's other educational and developmental offerings, such as its [LaLiga coaching education programming](#). By controlling the calendar of coaching education courses, NEP can ensure that coaches who desire to further their licensing have the opportunity to do so.
- **Olympic Development Program (ODP)-sanctioned player identification and development pathway.** NEP members will benefit from [US Club Soccer's ODP-sanctioned programming](#), which includes PDPs at the local level, id2

Training Camps at the regional and national level, as well as [National Selection programming](#) at the national and international level. This pathway provides opportunities for exposure to National Team staff. A few of the past participants include Tyler Adams, Emily Alvarado, Jonathan Gonzalez, Lindsay Horan, Catarina Macário, Christian Pulisic, and Tim Weah, among others.

- **Players First.** In addition to its currently licensed clubs, NEP is committed to helping more of its clubs achieve Players First-licensed status and take advantage of its various offerings. [Players First](#) is a branded, holistic club soccer experience for parents and players which emphasizes the development of each individual to his or her full potential, and helps parents make better choices about where their children should play.
- **Officiating.** In conjunction with its player development efforts, NEP has also worked to develop the officiating side of the game, acquiring the highest quality referees and providing a referee mentor program.

“We are delighted to be renewing our agreement with New England Premiership, a league committed to each of its players and their parents,” said Kevin Payne, US Club Soccer CEO. “The league’s standards set the bar for competitors across the country, and we look forward to working with NEP over the next four years to make every player’s experience ideal.”

### ABOUT US CLUB SOCCER:

A National Association member of the U.S. Soccer Federation, **US Club Soccer** fosters the growth and development of soccer clubs in order to create the best possible environment for players of all ages.

Anchored by **Players First** and its five pillars of Club Development, Coaching Development, Player Development, Parent Engagement & Education and Player Health & Safety, US Club Soccer offers registration, league- and cup-based competition platforms, player identification and a variety of other programming, resources and services.

US Club Soccer is sponsored by Nike and supported by LaLiga through a technical partnership.

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