



League Two

# DEFINED & PROVEN PATHWAY

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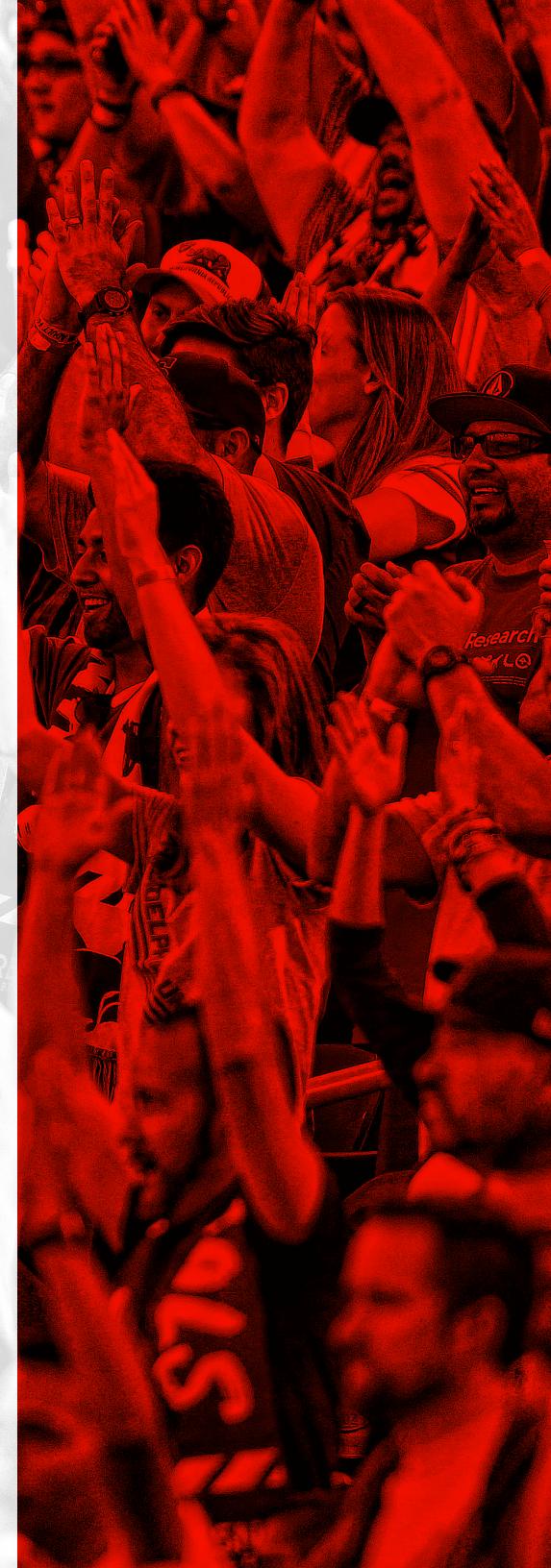
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Whether its communities becoming soccer hotbeds, exciting owners beginning their journeys or our nation's elite U23 players launching their professional careers, USL League Two is here to grow.

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USL League Two is the leader in pre-professional soccer in the U.S. and Canada. The League holds a vital role as it continues to provide the elite platform for those pursuing professional careers domestically and internationally. Throughout the United States and Canada, League Two franchises continue to provide the elite amateur player the opportunity to train and compete at the highest level while maintaining their collegiate eligibility. With ownership of teams coming from the likes of MLS and USL franchises as well as leading business and sports individuals, League Two serves as the leading development platform for the game both on and off the field.

League Two is more than the leading national U23 league...League Two is the defined and proven pathway for players to progress to the professional ranks of soccer while becoming a staple within the community in which the team operates.



# BRAND NARRATIVE

Possibility.

White

Unity.

Two

Elegance, Drama, Strength.

Black

Passion, Strength, Power,  
Legacy of PDL

Red





# THE PROFESSIONAL SOCCER LANDSCAPE



Major League Soccer occupies the highest level of professional soccer in North America (Division I). Major League Soccer and United Soccer Leagues announced a multi-year agreement in 2013 designed to enhance the development of professional players in North America.



The USL Championship is one of the most successful professional soccer leagues in the world, reaching a population of more than 84 million and fueling the growth of the game across North America. Sanctioned by the U.S. Soccer Federation as a Division II professional league, the Championship includes a membership of more than 30 clubs across the United States and Canada.



Launching in 2019, USL League One will bring professional-level soccer to millions of fans across the country, which currently do not have access to the pro game. League One will give fans in new markets a team to call their own, bolstering civic pride and generating a positive economic impact for their community.



The proven developmental leader in North American soccer's evolving tiered structure, USL League Two (formerly the PDL) features 75+ franchises in four conferences throughout the United States and Canada, including numerous clubs that are owned and operated by a professional club, or that hold a partnership with a professional club.

# BY THE NUMBERS

14

Regular Season  
Matches

68%

Domestic players

66%

Division I players

70+

Players capped with  
U.S. Men's National  
Team

10+

Clubs with USL/MLS  
partnerships

75+

Communities positively  
impacted

21.2

Average age

370

Alumni selected in the  
Superdraft since 2010

81%

Of players taken in the  
2018 MLS Super Draft

44%

Owned or directly  
affiliated with a youth club

2,368

Active League Two  
players

# WHAT THEY ARE SAYING



## Mike Vest

Chairman & Co-Founder, Lionsbridge FC

"As a new club starting from scratch, we had the opportunity to go a number of directions and we did a lot of homework. Ultimately, we felt like USL League Two was the best home for Lionsbridge FC because of the professional USL infrastructure and the freedom to operate our club in ways that would best fit our community. League Two staff was terrific throughout the process and once we made the decision to join USL League Two, we never looked back."



## Darren Van Tassel

Owner, South Georgia Tormenta FC, League One

"To be able to offer a minor-league sports experience in the summer for our community says so much about how our area has arrived. We're excited for the opportunity and look forward to being a part of the USL League Two."

"The USL represents one of the top sports organizations in North America, and the USL League Two is a league with a proven record of developing homegrown talent. Ultimately, we'd love to establish ourselves as a premier USL League Two franchise, ascend the USL ranks, and build a soccer facility locally that we can call our own."



## Brendan Burke

Head Coach, Bethlehem Steel

"Reading United and the USL League Two is a key aspect of our organizational structure. Reading United has evolved into a landing spot for academy players that don't make it straight to the professional ranks. League Two players regularly train with the USL squad and understand that there are real opportunities for consistent success. Not only do we bring up players through League Two, but coaches as well. I can't wrap my head around why everyone doesn't have USL League Two."



## Brian Wiese

Head Coach, Georgetown University

"For us, the USL League Two setup is ideal. We encourage [our players], we spend a lot of spring sitting with the players asking 'where are you playing this summer,' and 'how will you get your games?'

"The three-months we don't have them during the summer needs to be filled and the USL League Two has filled that gap well. It leads to a great lead-in to our pre-season cycle. The college model with the USL League Two jigsaws together for as good as calendar as you want."



## Brian White

New York Red Bulls U23, New York Red Bulls II

"I think the USL League Two team and league goes a long way to helping players develop. A lot of teams train 3 or 4 times a week with one or two games a week so it's a lot of soccer, and the great thing about Red Bulls U23 is that the club gives us some opportunities to train with the first and second teams. This gives us the chance to be in the professional environment and learn and adapt at that level. Overall, it's just a great experience."



## Alan Winn

Nashville SC, Tobacco Road FC

"The summer is huge for keeping your form for the upcoming fall season. USL League Two is important and you want to win it all, but the big thing is you don't want to lose form. A lot of kids don't realize if you don't do League Two and keep your form, you'll lose it, and that's a great gateway to moving to the next level. Because everyone is doing League Two now, and if you don't, you're behind. It's a great way of looking ahead and seeing what your season will look like in the fall."

# LEAGUE FOOTPRINT

## Eastern Conference

AC Connecticut  
Black Rock FC  
FC Boston  
GPS Portland Phoenix  
Seacoast United Phantoms  
Westchester Flames  
Western Mass Pioneers  
Evergreen FC  
FA Euro  
Lehigh Valley United  
Long Island Rough Riders  
New York Red Bulls U23  
Ocean City Nor'easters  
Reading United AC  
Carolina Dynamo  
Charlotte Eagles  
Lionsbridge FC  
Myrtle Beach Mutiny  
North Carolina FC U23  
Tobacco Road FC

## Central Conference

Cincinnati Dutch Lions  
Dayton Dutch Lions  
Lansing United  
Michigan Bucks  
West Virginia Chaos  
Chicago FC United  
Des Moines Menace  
Kaw Valley FC  
St. Louis Lions  
Thunder Bay Chill  
WSA Winnipeg

## Southern Conference

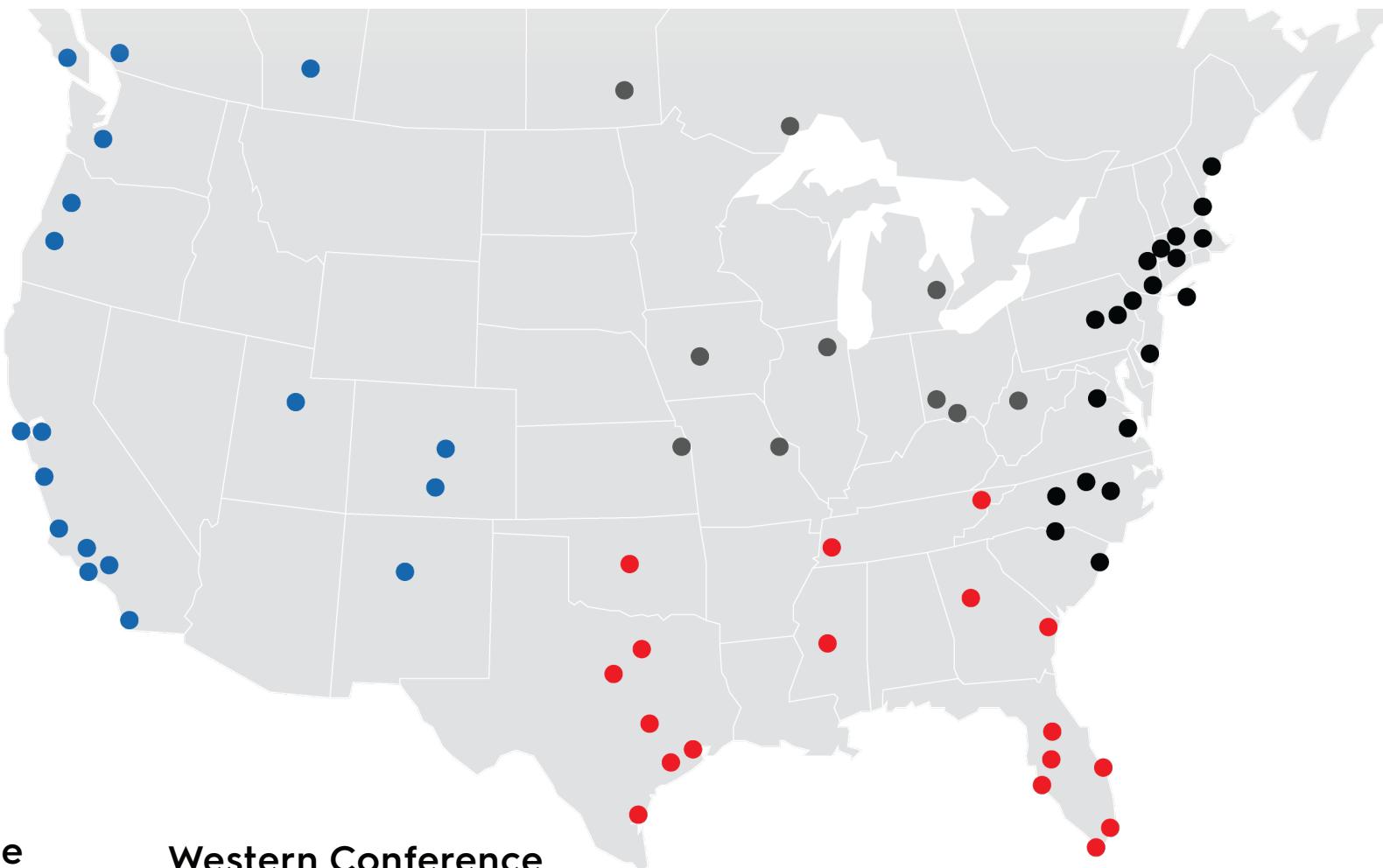
Memphis City FC  
Mississippi Brilla FC  
Peachtree City MOBA  
SC United Bantams  
South Georgia Tormenta FC  
Tri-Cities Otters  
AHFC Royals  
Brazos Valley Cavalry FC  
Corpus Christi FC  
FC Cleburne

Houston FC  
OKC Energy U23  
Texas United  
FC Miami City  
IMG Academy  
Lakeland Tropics  
Next Academy Palm Beach  
North County United  
The Villages SC  
Weston FC

## Western Conference

Calgary Foothills FC  
Lane United FC  
Portland Timbers U23  
Sounders FC U23  
TSS FC Rovers  
Victoria Highlanders FC  
Albuquerque Sol FC  
Colorado Rapids U23  
Ogden City SC

Col. Pride Switchbacks U23  
FC Golden State Force  
Orange County SC U23  
San Diego Zest FC  
San Francisco City FC  
SF Glens SC  
Santa Cruz Breakers  
Southern California Seahorses  
Ventura County Fusion



### Legend



\*Note: Map depicts the 2018 League Footprint

Eric Wynalda Jermaine Jones Geoff Cameron  
Graham Zusi Sacha Kljestan Clarence Goodson  
Brian Ching Gyasi Zardes Roy Lassiter Brad  
Evans Tim Ream Jordan Morris Darlington  
Nagbe Chad Deering Robbie Rogers Charlie  
Davies Eric Lichaj Pat Noonan Steve Birnbaum  
Teal Bunbury Kelyn Rowe Josh Sargent Eric  
Wynalda Jermaine Jones Geoff Cameron Graham  
Zusi Sacha Kljestan Clarence Goodson Brian  
Ching Gyasi Zardes Roy Lassiter Brad Evans  
Tim Ream Jordan Morris Darlington Nagbe  
Chad Deering Robbie Rogers Charlie Davies  
Eric Lichaj Pat Noonan Steve Birnbaum Teal  
Bunbury Kelyn Rowe Josh Sargent Eric  
Jermaine Jones Geoff Cameron Graham  
Sacha Kljestan Clarence Goodson Brian  
Gyasi Zardes Roy Lassiter Brad Evans  
Jordan Morris Darlington Nagbe Chad Deering  
Robbie Rogers Charlie Davies Eric Lichaj  
Noonan Steve Birnbaum Teal Bunbury Kelyn  
Rowe Josh Sargent Eric Wynalda Jermaine  
Jones Geoff Cameron Graham Zusi Sacha  
Kljestan Clarence Goodson Brian Ching Gyasi  
Zardes Roy Lassiter Brad Evans Tim Ream  
Jordan Morris Darlington Nagbe Chad Deering  
Robbie Rogers Charlie Davies Eric Lichaj Pat  
Noonan Steve Birnbaum Teal Bunbury Kelyn  
Rowe Josh Sargent Eric Wynalda Jermaine  
Jones Geoff Cameron Graham Zusi Sacha  
Kljestan Clarence Goodson Brian Ching Gyasi  
Zardes Roy Lassiter Brad Evans Tim Ream  
Jordan Morris Darlington Nagbe Chad Deering  
Robbie Rogers Charlie Davies Eric Lichaj Pat  
Noonan Steve Birnbaum Teal Bunbury Kelyn  
Rowe Josh Sargent Geoff Cameron Roy Lassiter



# PATH2PRO



**Over 1100+ Caps from USL League Two  
(USL League Two) Players**

**Over 100+ Goals scored**

**70+ Members represented on the  
USMNT from the inception of the USL  
League Two**

**Most goals scored by a USL League  
Two Player :  
34 (Eric Wynalda)**

**Youngest Player to Score - Josh  
Sargent goal vs Bolivia May 28th, 2018  
(18 years old)**

DeAndre Yedlin represented League Two  
with the Seattle Sounders U23



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## Gyasi Zardes

**Columbus Crew SC**

Winger/Forward | Hometown: Hawthorne, California

A Homegrown player signed from LA Galaxy's academy system, Zardes also represented USL League Two side Ventura County Fusion in 2011 & 2012. During his two seasons with Ventura County, Zardes tallied 10 goals in 12 matches and helped guide his team to back-to-back USL League Two playoffs appearances.

As a member of the U.S. Men's National Team, Zardes has earned 40 caps and tallied six international goals in his career, including one against Ecuador during the 2016 Copa America Centenario. Zardes starred at Cal State Bakersfield throughout his collegiate career, and was named a MAC Hermann Trophy semifinalist during his redshirt-sophomore season in 2011 after scoring 18 goals.

### Career History & Accomplishments

#### 2010-2011

**Cal State Bakersfield University**

2011 MAC Hermann award semifinalist at Cal State Bakersfield University

#### 2011-2012

**Ventura County Fusion**

2012 Homegrown signing with LA Galaxy

#### 2013-2017

**LA Galaxy**

2014 MLS Cup winner

2015 MLS All-Star

2017 CONCACAF Gold Cup winner

#### 2018

**Columbus Crew**

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



## Brian White

New York Red Bulls II

Defender | Hometown: Flemington, New Jersey

Selected 16th overall in the first round of the 2018 MLS SuperDraft, White joined the Red Bulls after completing his journey through the club's pipeline. White has represented the Red Bulls at the USL League Two (New York Red Bulls Under-23s) and USL (New York Red Bulls II) levels, in addition to being a squad regular with their MLS team.

The former Duke Blue Devils standout scored 21 goals over two seasons with Red Bulls U-23 side in 2015 & 2017, while leading Red Bulls II in 2018 with 10 goals. White was named USL League Two League MVP and Golden Boot winner in 2017, while also guiding Red Bulls U-23s to a regular-sea-

### Career History & Accomplishments

**2014-2018**

 Duke University

**2015-2017**

 New York Red Bulls U23

2017 USL League Two MVP & Golden Boot

**2018**

 New York Red Bulls II

No. 16 MLS SuperDraft Overall pick





# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## Joshua Phelps

South Georgia Tormenta FC

Defender | Hometown: Queensland, Australia

The Australia native joined Tormenta's USL League Two side ahead of the 2017 season, and previously served as team captain for both seasons he has spent with the club. Phelps became the first player signed by Tormenta ahead of its move to USL League One.

The former University of North Carolina at Pembroke player helped guide Tormenta's USL League Two side to an unbeaten regular season record in 2018, and led a defensive unit that allowed just eight goals in 12 games.

### Career History & Accomplishments

#### 2012-2013

 Thomas College Men's Soccer

#### 2014-2015

 University of North Carolina at Pembroke

#### 2017-2018

 South Georgia Tormenta FC (League Two)

First player signing for the League One team

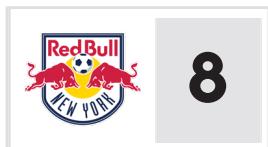


# PATH2PRO

As seen previously, whether a player travels from an MLS or USL affiliate/owned team, or competes for an independent team, League Two provides national exposure for players to reach their pinnacle. Path to Pro becomes reality through these numbers. USL League Two plays a foundational role for all MLS teams, helping serve as a catalyst in a player's journey to the professional game.



29%



39%



80%

# PROFESSIONAL CONNECTION

## MLS & USL TEAMS WITH USL League Two AFFILIATIONS

USL League Two establishes a critical bridge between the amateur player and their professional ambition. A total of 10+ MLS, USL Championship and League One clubs own or are affiliated with League Two franchises. With numerous professional clubs recognizing the importance of fielding an Under-23 development team, League Two continues to be the best platform for development in North America.



# LEAGUE TWO CHAMPIONSHIP

The USL League Two season culminates on its final weekend with the League's prestigious championship event, which pits two of the top clubs for the trophy and ultimate bragging rights. The USL League Two Championship has provided a quality product since its inception, including in 2018, when Calgary Foothills FC earned its first league title by topping hosts Reading United AC.



# U.S. OPEN CUP SUCCESS

The USL League Two continues to display its elite pool of amateur players in the longest-running North American cup competition. In 2018, FC Golden State Force continued the trend of USL League Two clubs reaching the important stages of the tournament with the West Coast side taking on MLS club

June 6, 2018 | U.S. Open Cup Round 4



VS.  
1 - 3



# LEAGUE STRUCTURE

## Season Calendar

The League Two season operates from May - July, culminating with the USL League Two playoffs and championship in August. The league schedule works in concert with NCAA report dates for athletes to return to their universities in order to prepare for the upcoming season.

## Stadium Requirements

Seating Capacity - 1,000 Minimum | Field Dimensions - 110 YDS x 68 YDS

## Governance

League Two owners maintain an active role in governing the league through the League Two executive committee. Each League Two division elects one executive committee member, and the committee is responsible for developing strategy and establishing policies related to the league.

## Travel

League Two is a North American league which features a regional travel model in order to reduce team expenses.

75+ Teams      10 Divisions      4 Conferences



## 2018 CONFERENCE ALIGNMENT

### Western Conference

#### Northwest Division

Alberta (Canada)  
Oregon  
Washington

#### Central Pacific Division

California  
Nevada  
Utah

#### Southwest Division

California  
Arizona



### Southern Conference

#### Mid South Division

Missouri  
Mississippi  
New Mexico  
Oklahoma  
Texas

#### Southeast Division

Florida



### Central Conference

#### Great Lakes Division

Kentucky  
Michigan  
Ohio  
Ontario (Canada)  
Pennsylvania

#### Heartland Division

Illinois  
Indiana  
Iowa  
Manitoba (Canada)  
Missouri  
Ontario (Canada)

### Eastern Conference

#### South Atlantic Division

Georgia  
North Carolina  
South Carolina  
Tennessee  
West Virginia

#### Mid Atlantic Division

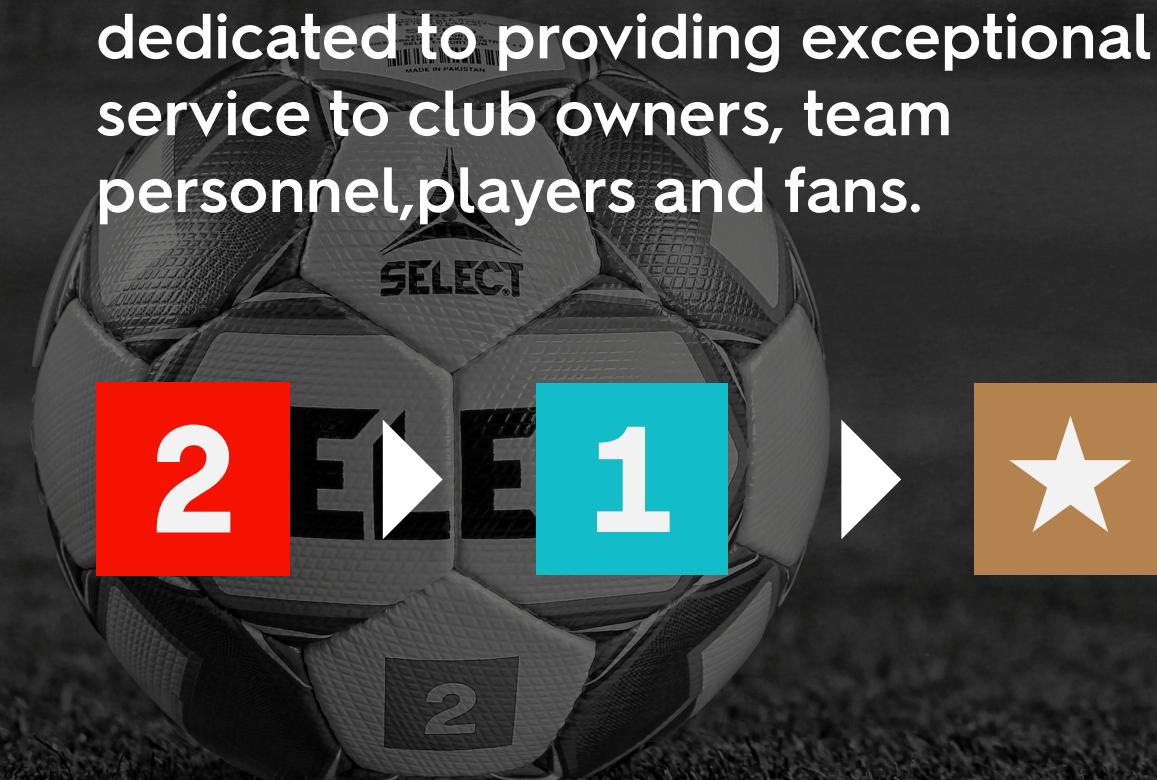
Maryland  
New Jersey  
Pennsylvania  
Virginia

#### Northeast Division

Connecticut  
Maine  
Massachusetts  
New Hampshire  
New York

# LEAGUE SUPPORT

The USL operates an expansive league office comprised of more than 17 departments, featuring more than 55 talented sports industry professionals dedicated to providing exceptional service to club owners, team personnel, players and fans.



## League Departments

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Analytics & Strategy  
Broadcast & Video  
Business Development  
Club Services  
Commercial Ventures  
Competition  
Compliance  
Digital Media  
Finance  
Events  
Governance  
Human Resources  
League Expansion  
Legal  
Marketing  
Player Development

# FAN ENGAGEMENT

## League Website

The primary source for all League Two news, [UslLeagueTwo.com](http://UslLeagueTwo.com) provides viewers with unlimited access to:

- Rosters & Player Profiles
- Player Rankings
- Schedules & Standings
- Scores & Statistics
- Breaking News
- Feature Stories
- Video Clips

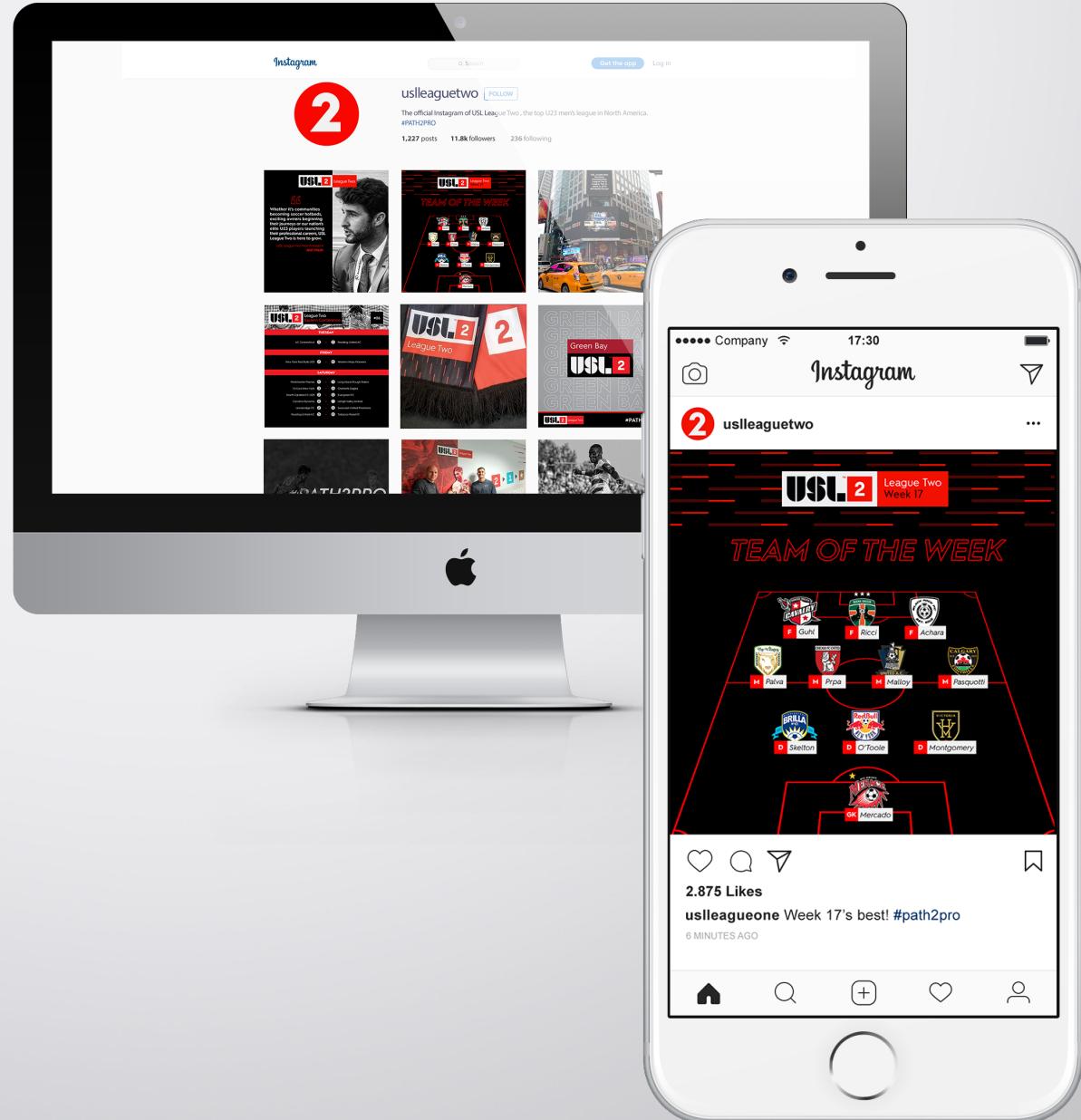
## Social Media

League Two focuses on fan engagement through a plethora of digital platforms including:

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Snapchat
- Instagram

## Video

League Two utilizes YouTube to distribute League Two video content globally. Each League Two team has the opportunity to stream all matches in high-definition for free via the league's YouTube platform.



**As the preeminent pre-professional league in North America, USL League Two provides...**

- Unparalleled premium team services targeted at efficient team operations and revenue generation
- A sustainable financial model through operational cost containment
- A vertically integrated professional structure providing the opportunity for player development at supporting competition levels
- Proactive league management and administration which allows your team to focus on the operational success of the organization on and off the field of play

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