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FC DELCO

Press Release



Elite Clubs National League

FC DELCO announces its acceptance into the inaugural season of the Elite Clubs National League

DOWNINGTOWN (Monday, April 27, 2009): Today FC DELCO announced its formal acceptance into the newly formed Elite Clubs National League (ECNL) for U15 through U17 girls soccer. The ECNL is building on the success of the Red Bull National League and FC DELCO is one of 37 of the top soccer clubs in the United States that have formally accepted an invitation to the ECNL, with 44 total clubs anticipated to accept their invitations by the May 15th deadline.

The ECNL will provide the highest-level league of girl's youth soccer in the country, following a similar approach to that of the highly successful U.S. Soccer Development Academy on the boys side of youth soccer. The invitation-only league is designed to promote the most effective player development environment available for girls.

Key factors for invitation to the ECNL include i) a club environment that provides players with the opportunity to play to the level of their ability, not necessarily their age, ii) a club coaching structure which provides a staff of experienced coaches that work together across age groups, so that teams and players get the best coaching for their stage of development, and iii) a common belief that playing the highest quality soccer against national competition on a consistent basis is the best way to prepare players for the future and to showcase players to college and national team coaches.

"We are excited and honored to be a founding club in the ECNL", said FC DELCO's Director of Girl's Coaching, Leighton Walters. "Our participation in the ECNL guarantees that our FC DELCO girls

For Immediate Release

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will be playing in the top brackets of the top showcase events in the critical years of college recruitment."

While the ultimate goal is for teams to play exclusively, and nationally, in the ECNL, the ECNL program will allow clubs time to adjust preserving the traditional college recruitment and national team ID opportunities. With the only exception being the US Youth Soccer National League, ECNL clubs have the option to continue to play traditional schedules while participating in the league. This program guarantees member clubs acceptance into the nation's top college showcases via ECNL events in the critical U15-U17 age groups. Each league club will participate in a minimum of three ECNL events culminating in a National Championship in July (see showcase list below).

"I am very closely involved with US Soccer's Development Academy on the boy's side," commented FC DELCO Executive Director Tom O'Malley, adding, "The benefits in player development and identification have been tremendous. It is only natural that we provide the same opportunities of regional and national competition to the elite female youth players from the Mid-Atlantic region."

Current Elite Club Members:

Albertson Fury, New York-East; Arsenal FC, Cal-South; Atlanta Fire, Georgia; Bethesda SC, Maryland; Birmingham United, Alabama; CASL, North Carolina; CESA Premier, South Carolina; Charlotte Soccer Academy, North Carolina; Colorado Rush, Colorado; Concorde Fire, Georgia; Connecticut F C, Connecticut; Crossfire Premier, Washington; Dallas Sting, Texas; Eclipse Select, Illinois; FC Delco, Pennsylvania-East; FC Milwaukee; Wisconsin; FC Stars of Mass, Massachusetts; FC Virginia, Virginia; Freestate United, Maryland; FSA SoccerPlus, Connecticut; Irvine Strikers, Cal-South; Lonestar SC, Texas; Minnesota Thunder, Minnesota; Mustang SC, Cal-North; Neusport FC, Nevada; Ohio Elite Soccer Academy, Ohio-South; Ohio Premier, Ohio-South; PDA, New Jersey; Pleasanton Rage, Cal-North; Real Colorado, Colorado; San Juan SC, Cal-North; SC Del Sol, Arizona; Sereno SC, Arizona; St. Louis SG, Missouri; Texas Challenge SC, Texas-South; Virginia Rush, Virginia; West Coast FC, Cal-South

Showcase Events:

Eclipse Select Challenge Cup

August 14-16, 2009
Libertyville, IL

Final Four Showcase

December 4-6, 2009
College Station, TX

Disney Soccer Showcase

December 31, 2009 - January 3, 2010
Orlando, FL

Las Vegas College Showcase

March 12-14, 2010
Las Vegas, NV

PDA Showcase

May 29-31, 2010
Zarepeth, NJ

ECNL National Championship

July 8-11, 2010
Seattle, WA - Crossfire Premier

About FC DELCO

FC DELCO was founded in 1989 to offer players from Eastern Pennsylvania an opportunity to play a national schedule that gives wide exposure to the highest levels of the youth game. The club was founded for the elite player, and strives to place these players with knowledgeable and motivated coaches.

FC DELCO is a founding member of US Soccer's Development Academy and regularly competes in the Dallas Cup, the Surf Cup, WAGS, the President's Day Tournament in Phoenix, NIKE Friendlies, and college showcases across the country. International travel is encouraged, and teams have trained with FC Barcelona and Arsenal FC.

The club encourages players to go beyond the common goal of college soccer. FC DELCO has alumni that are, or who have played, in the MLS, USL Division 1, USL Division 2, USL Professional Development League (PDL), USL W-League and in Europe.

To date, FC DELCO has produced eight USYSA National Championship teams, and six USYSA runner-ups since 1991. The club has also won national championships in the Super Y-League and US Club Soccer competitions.

**FC DELCO is a not-for-profit organization and enjoys a 501 (c)(3) designation under the IRS Not-For Profit structure. We are dedicated to serving the needs of the more committed soccer player by providing the highest level of instruction available thereby preparing him or her to be a proud representative of the Club at local, state and regional competitions. FC DELCO strives to produce confident players who have not only reached their full athletic potential but are also prepared to become active and productive members of their community.