

## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release, Apr. 5, 2011

For more information:

Adam Augustine, Media Specialist

US Club Soccer

[aaugustine@usclubsoccer.org](mailto:aaugustine@usclubsoccer.org)



## US Club Soccer announces formation of Midwest Developmental League as part of newly-created National Premier Leagues

[US Club Soccer website](http://www.usclubsoccer.org)

**CHARLESTON, S.C. (Apr. 5, 2011)** – US Club Soccer is pleased to announce the formation of the **Midwest Developmental League**, which includes U-13, U-14, U-15, U-16 and U-18 boys' age groups for the 2011-12 season.

The Midwest Developmental League is the newest of US Club Soccer's recently-formed **National Premier Leagues (NPL)**, which are leagues throughout the country with the highest level of competition in a given area.

The 23 clubs competing in the Midwest Developmental League include all of the U.S. Soccer Development Academy clubs and the top clubs outside the Academy in the Midwest:

### Great Lakes Division:

- Bavarian SC (WI)
- Chicago Fire Academy (IL)
- Chicago Magic (IL)
- FC Milwaukee Nationals (WI)
- FC United (IL)
- Blue Valley SC (KS)
- Madison 56ers (WI)
- MN Thunder Academy (MN)
- Rockford Raptors (IL)
- St. Louis Scott Gallagher-Metro (IL)
- St. Louis Scott Gallagher-Missouri (MO)
- Sockers FC Chicago (IL)
- Sporting KC Juniors (KS)

### Erie Division:

- Carmel United (IN)
- Cincinnati United SC (OH)
- Crew Juniors (OH)
- Fort Wayne Fever (IN)
- Grand Rapids Crew Juniors (MI)
- Internationals SC (OH)
- Michigan Jaguars FC (MI)
- Michigan Wolves SC (MI)
- Vardar (MI)
- WAZA F.C. (MI)

Midwest Developmental League competition will kick off in September 2011 in the U-13 and U-14 age groups, in which teams will play up to 14 total regular-season games over the fall and spring season. The U-15, U-16 and U-18 teams will begin play in spring 2012 with up to 11 regular-season games. Cross-divisional games will be played at optional showcase events throughout the year.

Champions will be crowned in a postseason tournament in which eight qualifying teams in each age group at U-14 and above will compete. From there, Midwest Developmental League champions will compete at the inaugural **National Premier Leagues Champions Cup in July 2012**.

“It is really exciting to have Developmental Academy clubs and clubs from outside the Academy working together to create a better playing environment for all of their players from age 13 to 18,” said David Richardson, **Sockers FC Chicago**’s Technical Director. “This league will make a big difference for our younger players and teams, and a huge difference for all our players over their entire youth career. On top of that, by being able to travel and compete as a club, with all our boys’ teams in the same location together and not disconnected in multiple different cities and states on the same weekend, we will have a real club connection from top to bottom for our players.”

“We are very excited to have our top boys participate in the Midwest Developmental League,” said Brian Doyle, **Michigan Wolves**’ Director of Coaching. “This league is a platform that will allow the clubs to provide a consistent competitive calendar and training program for all of their players at U-13 and above. This stability is a great tool for player development.”

### **About the National Premier Leagues (NPL):**

The NPL offers a platform for long-term player development by providing consistent and meaningful games between the region’s top players and also provides opportunities for players to be scouted by U.S. Soccer national staff. Winners of each league within the NPL will qualify for US Club Soccer’s National Premier Leagues Champions Cup.

Leagues within the NPL currently include the Midwest Developmental League, NorCal Premier League, Northeast Pre-Academy League, Northern Illinois Soccer League and Oregon Premier League. Several other National Premier Leagues across the country will be announced shortly.

The NPL is an important component of US Club Soccer’s 10-year vision to refine the landscape for competitive youth soccer. The vision recognizes that:

- Properly-structured youth soccer clubs are the vehicle through which player development does and must occur in the United States.
- Clubs should play in leagues that provide meaningful games, allow establishment of the proper training-to-game ratio, and eliminate calendar congestion.
- National Premier Leagues, as well as the best clubs, should be integrated in US Club Soccer’s *id*<sup>2</sup> national identification and development program, include Player Development Programs in select local markets, and work closely with U.S. Soccer staff regarding player identification, and player and coach development.

The Midwest Development League and NPL websites are currently under construction and will be launched in the coming weeks.

### **About US Club Soccer:**

US Club Soccer is a non-profit organization whose mission is to develop competitive club soccer in the United States. A member of the United States Soccer Federation since July 2001, US Club Soccer has grown to include member clubs and leagues in all 50 states. In addition to sanctioning and administering tournaments, leagues and other competitions as well as offering a range of programs for its members, US Club Soccer annually conducts the *National Cup*. US Club Soccer also directs its own player identification and development program – *id*<sup>2</sup>.

<http://www.usclubsoccer.org>

# # #