

## **CLUB GUIDE**

2023-24 SEASON

(All information is subject to change)

#EVERYMOMENTCOUNTS

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# WELCOME TO **ELITE 64**



### Elite 64 Players, Families, Club Leaders & Club Staff:

We are very excited to welcome everyone to the 2023-24 season of USYS National League Elite 64!

We have a great collection of clubs set to compete in Elite 64, and we cannot wait to continue working with like-minded clubs who are looking to put the focus on the player and ensure each young athlete has all the resources needed to reach their potential. After all, the players are what the game is all about and putting them in the best environment to have fun, challenge themselves and make the most of their experience is what Elite 64 is all about.

We are looking forward to another great season of regular season league play. We're especially excited to provide enhanced national events that will allow all Elite 64 teams to compete in meaningful games while joining all National League teams on a unified pathway toward a common goal -- the USYS National Championship.

Elite 64 is lucky to have some great partnerships in place to help enhance the experience for the players and coaches. Through the collaborative effort of these partners, Elite 64, and the clubs, we can ensure every single game is a recruitable

moment that moves players closer to reaching their aspirations in the

game of soccer.

We look forward to seeing all the talented players take the field to show why their club holds the distinction of being 1 of the Elite 64!

**Simon Collins** 

**USYS National League Commissioner** 



## ELITE 64







### **Elite 64 Northwest**

Idaho Rush Northwest United Oregon Premier FC Utah Celtic Storm Utah Soccer Alliance Valor Soccer

### Elite 64 Pacific

AYSO United CCV Stars CDA Slammers FC East County Surf SC Empire Surf FC Premier

### **Elite 64 Midwest**

Elmbrook United FC 1974 Libertyville Legends FC (MI) Madison 56ers SC Michigan Rangers Michigan Tigers North Shore United

### Elite 64 Pacific (cont.)

Las Vegas Surf SC Legends FC (CA) Los Angeles SC South Valley Surf Strikers FC North

### Elite 64 Great Lakes

Club Ohio Fort Wayne United FC Indiana Fire Academy NWI Lions Ohio Galaxies FC Steel City FC WNY Flash - Rochester

### Elite 64 South

Alliance FC J.B. Marine SC KC Legends Lobos Rush Sporting Oklahoma

### **Elite 64 Northeast**

Coppermine SC
Morris Elite SC\*
Princeton SA Monmouth
PSA North
Union County FC\*
West-Mont United

### **Elite 64 Southeast**

Atlanta Fire United
Azzurri Storm
Charlotte Soccer Academy
East Atlanta Dutch Lions
Team Boca
United Soccer Alliance

\*Affiliate member for the 2023-24 seasonal year



# ELITE 64 **BOYS CLUBS MAP**





### **Elite 64 Northwest**

Northwest United Oregon Premier FC Sparta United SC Utah Celtic Utah Soccer Alliance Valor Soccer

### Elite 64 Pacific

AYSO United CCV Stars CDA Slammers FC East County Surf SC Empire Surf FBSL Tuzos

### **Elite 64 Midwest**

Elmbrook United FC 1974 Libertyville Galaxy SC JB Marine Madison 56ers SC Sporting Blue Valley SC St. Louis DA Toca FC

### Elite 64 Pacific (cont.)

Laguna United FC Legends FC Los Angeles SC SC del Sol Strikers FC North

### **Elite 64 Great Lakes**

Club Ohio Indy Premier Michigan Rangers Michigan Tigers Millennium SA Ohio Galaxies FC SCS United Steel City FC

### Elite 64 South

El Paso Locomotive FC Lobos Rush Renegades SC Sporting Oklahoma Legends FC - Tigres

### Elite 64 Northeast

Boston Bolts West
CSA Newark
Coppermine SC
Future SA
PDA Hibernian
PDA Vistula
Princeton SA Monmouth
STA Mount Olive

### Elite 64 Southeast

Atlanta Fire United
Azzurri Storm
Charlotte Soccer Academy
East Atlanta Dutch Lions
Nona Soccer Academy
North Carolina FC Youth
United Futbol Academy

## REGULAR SEASON LEAGUE FORMAT



### **YOUNGER AGE GROUPS**

For the 13U and 14U age groups, the Elite 64 league season will offer games in a league format that can be scheduled and managed by the clubs over a full 10-month period, as players of this age are generally unaffected by high school soccer.

### **OLDER AGE GROUPS**

For the 15U, 16U, 17U and 18/19U age groups, the Elite 64 league season will offer games in a league format over a 10-month period. The schedule will be created and managed by the clubs to aid players' periodization and involvement in high school soccer.

### **SCHEDULING OPTIONS**

Multiple scheduling options are available to accommodate travel concerns and allow for clubs to complete their league season in the most sensible way possible.

- Home/Away Each club hosts the other clubs in its group one time and travels to each of the opposing clubs in its group one time.
- **Event-based** Multiple clubs come together in a single city and/or venue to compete against two or more other clubs from within their group.
- **Hybrid** Clubs fulfill their matchups with select opposing clubs in a home/away format, while facing other clubs in an event-based format.



## NATIONAL EVENTS FORMAT



Elite 64 teams compete in one of two Elite 64 Playoff events. Placement into pools at the Elite 64 Playoffs is based on each team's performance in league play during the previous seasonal year. Results at the Elite 64 Playoffs determine advancement and seeding for the second national event of the season: National League P.R.O.

SEASON

PREVIOUS SEASON **NATIONAL LEAGUE P.R.O.** 

ELITE 64 PLAYOFFS
WORLD CUP STYLE KNOCKOUT

Champions Pool

Silver Pool

Wildcard Pool

**LEAGUE PLAY**GROUP STANDINGS

- Teams compete to advance to the USYS National Championships
- Champions Pool teams have the highest probability of advancing to National League P.R.O., followed by Silver and then Wildcard.
- Teams play in a win-and-advance, knockout style bracket.
- All teams play at least three games at the Elite 64 Playoffs
- In each age group, nine teams from each Elite 64 Playoff event (18 total) advance to National League P.R.O.

 Previous season's performance in regular season league play (and Elite 64 Playoffs) determines the pool each team advances to for the next season's Elite 64 Playoffs.





# NATIONAL EVENTS GIRLS CALENDAR



### **ELITE 64 PLAYOFFS - GIRLS**

Dates	Location	Age Groups
Nov. 3-6, 2023	<b>Legacy Sports USA</b> Mesa, AZ	13U-19U Girls
Jan. 19-22, 2024	Austin Tindall Sports Complex ChampionsGate Sports Complex Orlando, FL	13U-19U Girls

- Top performing teams in the Elite 64 Playoffs will advance to compete in a second national event (National League P.R.O.)
- Note: 13U teams do not advance to a second event.

### **NATIONAL LEAGUE P.R.O.**

Dates	Location	Age Groups
Feb. 23-27, 2024	<b>Tournament Sportsplex of Tampa Bay</b> Tampa, Fla.	14U-19U Girls & Boys
May 3-7, 2024	SoCal Sports Complex Oceanside, Calif.	14U-19U Girls & Boys

- Advancing teams attend a maximum of ONE National League P.R.O. event
- Teams that advance from the January Playoffs will compete in the February P.R.O. event
- Teams that advance from the November Playoffs will compete in the May P.R.O. event
- Elite 64 teams compete against each other and top NL Conference teams at P.R.O. events
- Top performing teams at P.R.O. events will advance to the USYS National Championships

### **USYS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Dates	Location	Age Groups
July 22-28, 2024	<b>ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex</b> Orlando, Fla.	13U-19U Girls & Boys

• **Note**: Teams must have played in their USYS State Cup to be eligible to play at Nationals.

## NATIONAL EVENTS BOYS CALENDAR



### **ELITE 64 PLAYOFFS - BOYS**

Dates	Location	Age Groups
Nov. 10-14, 2023	<b>Legacy Sports USA</b> Mesa, AZ	13U-19U Boys
Jan. 26-30, 2024	Austin Tindall Sports Complex ChampionsGate Sports Complex Orlando, FL	13U-19U Boys

- Top performing teams in the Elite 64 Playoffs will advance to compete in the second national event (National League P.R.O.)
- Note: 13U teams do not advance to a second event.

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## NATIONAL EVENTS LOGISTICS



**All national events are stay-and-play.** On Location | Anthony Travel is the Exclusive Travel Provider for US Youth Soccer National League and Elite 64 Events. All players, coaches, and team representatives for participating teams, traveling from outside of 100 miles from the tournament location, are required to book their hotel accommodations through the travel provider, into the tournament approved hotels.

### DAYS OF PLAY

- Teams will play **at least** three games over three days at national events (one game per day).
- At the **Elite 64 Playoffs**, the Wildcard Pool may require two teams to play a fourth game to determine the team that advances to the next event.
- At **National League P.R.O.**, teams in the Champion Pool and the Wildcard Pool may have a fourth game to determine the team that advances to the USYS National Championships.
- View the <u>Dates & Locations</u> webpage for info on specific game days per age group.

### **TRAVEL**

• US Youth Soccer has travel deals with select providers (airlines, rental cars). Check out the event homepages and Elite 64 resource webpages during the season for more information.

If you have any question about event logistics or travel, please contact National League Administrator Kelly Jenkins: <u>kjenkins@usyouthsoccer.org</u>.



# WITH ELITE 64 **LEAGUE SCHEDULES...**



# EVERY GAME IS A RECRUITABLE MOMENT



- Elite 64 allows players to effortlessly present their soccer résumés to both college and professional scouts.
- Ability to upload and scout games via the Elite 64 Veo League Exchange.
- Game stats and analysis, plus highlights and achievements from every game via ProScore.
- Collect and present GPS data from games and training, via STATSports.
- Each piece of recruitable data is compiled to be seen by every college scout, via NCSA College Recruiting.
- Work on your individual game while away from the field, with provided benchmark analysis from current professional academy players, via Soccer Profile.
- Support a player's mental development to manage pressures related to competitive sports, via Evolve1.

# ELITE 64 CLUBS & USYS RECRUITING PARTNERSHIP

### **COLLEGE COACH OUTREACH**

The overall success and strength of Elite 64 is contingent upon league **and** club outreach in promoting Elite 64 games and national events to college programs.

In the interest of assisting every player reach their potential goals, Elite 64, the league and the clubs involved are required to participate in active college coach outreach. Elite 64 and its partners provide clubs and players with template messages and additional tools to assist in college coach outreach.

Through a collaborative effort between the USYS National League staff, club staffs and Elite 64 players, Elite 64 competitions will be on the radar of every college coach looking to find future members of their program.

### **COLLEGE COMMITMENTS**

As players at each Elite 64 club commit to play soccer at their future college programs, please provide that information to the USYS National League so that the players' accomplishments can be highlighted.

A submission form will be created to provide clubs with an easy way to submit their latest college commitments to the USYS National League staff.



## ELITE 64

### PARTNER BENEFITS





Mental training program designed to help young athletes develop skills and techniques for improving their mental game.

### **E64 CLUBS RECEIVE:**

Access to the Evolve1 mental training program for the 2023-24 season. Graduated athletes have gained measurable growth in self esteem, focus, imagery, resilience and self talk. <u>Contact Evolve1</u>.



Connects all involved in the recruiting process through player profiles, coach/manager tools, and college coach app for schedules and evaluation.

### **E64 CLUBS RECEIVE:**

Free Team Edition Account for every team; E64 Exclusive College Recruiting Directory for players; Free Recruiting Education Webinars; Exposure to College Coaches through Coach Packet App



Professional-level analysis and highlights platform that aids performance, makes every moment a recruitable one and immortalizes soccer memories.

### **E64 CLUBS RECEIVE:**

Auto-generated, downloadable team & player highlights from every E64 game, at no extra cost. Customizable ProScore Player Profiles accessible to thousands of college coaches and shareable with friends and family.



Empowers soccer players at all levels by supporting individualized development and guiding them to excellence through personalized training, assessments, and data-driven insights.

### **E64 CLUBS RECEIVE:**

Preferred pricing on affordable development plans that assist players, coaches, and clubs in achieving success.



The world's leading provider of athlete tracking GPS technology. Track up to 16 physical metrics across your whole squad to help improve performance and reduce injury risk.

### **E64 CLUBS RECEIVE:**

Discounted pricing on GPS performance trackers for all players in the club; customized Elite 64 leaderboards; dedicated account managers.



A world leader in video technology. Veo cameras provide an easy way to record your games, along with a League Exchange for easy uploads/sharing.

### **E64 CLUBS RECEIVE:**

Preferred Veo pricing; First access to new product launches; Free Veo League Exchange; Access to all footage from National Events in Veo.

(Click on the partner logos to visit their websites for more information)

# OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT **PROGRAM**



US Youth Soccer recognizes the National League and Elite 64 as a talent identification platform for the USYS Olympic Development Program.

National League events are sanctioned and work with US Youth Soccer ODP for the purpose of talent identification.

### WHAT IS THE US YOUTH SOCCER OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM?

### **Purpose**

To identify and provide opportunities for high potential players, facilitate their development, and expose them to the next level of their chosen pathway.

### Goal

To be a nationally recognized youth identification and development pathway for U.S. soccer players.

### How do I participate?

Please contact Aaron Heffernan, Senior Manager of ODP, at <a href="mailto:aheffernan@usyouthsoccer.org">aheffernan@usyouthsoccer.org</a> with any questions.

### What are the benefits of participating in US Youth Soccer ODP?

- 1. Development as a player. Opportunity to train & play with the best players in one's age group.
- 2. Quality instruction from nationally licensed coaches.
- 3. Quality competition. Games against other state association ODP teams.
- 4. Exposure to regional and national team coaches.
- 5. The opportunity to represent one's state, region, or country in competition.
- 6. Exposure to college coaches.

Learn more about US Youth Soccer ODP



# ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PLAYER



 Meaningful regular season games in a safe, high-level environment that impact placement at the Elite 64 Playoffs and the pathway toward advancing to the USYS National Championships.

 National events with guaranteed meaningful games against (club-based) Elite 64 teams or (team-based) top teams from the NL Conferences.

Each time a team travels to a national event, it travels with a purpose. Every game at national events has a winner and/or impacts advancement.

 State of-the-art performance analysis from National League partners that can make every league game, training session or other soccer activity a recruitable moment.

 Standout plays highlighted by on social media by Elite 64 or its technology partners.

Unique opportunities provided by partners, including contests, leaderboards, <u>call outs</u> from professional players, or <u>trips</u> to train at some of the world's best professional clubs.



# ELITE 64 **REGISTRATION**



Elite 64 clubs register via bulk enrollment. This year, clubs have two options to register their players and coaches:

- 1. Direct Registration to USYS Elite 64 This process contains similarly registration processes and requirements as last seasonal year.
- 2. NEW FOR 2023-24 USYS State Passes may be utilized as a form of player/coach registration compliance (i.e. register with your state, those passes are valid and eligible for Elite 64 competition).

During team registration, clubs must designate whether they're registering their players/coaches directly with Elite 64 or choosing to register their players/coaches utilizing their USYS State Association passes.

Player and Team Official Registration (i.e. Roster Building) opened on August 1, and details and instructions were sent out to club leaders.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Elite 64 registration process, please contact Tiffany Graze at <a href="mailto:tgraze@usyouthsoccer.org">tgraze@usyouthsoccer.org</a>.



## NATIONAL LEAGUE STAFF CONTACTS





### **SIMON COLLINS**

National League Commissioner



### MARC FRANKLAND

General Manager (E64 Northeast, E64 Great Lakes, E64 Midwest, E64 Northwest)



### **MIKE LELAND**

General Manager (E64 Southeast, E64 South, E64 Desert, E64 Pacific)



### **MATT DELLARIA**

League Manager (Frontier, Mid South)



### **BRYAN FLANAGAN**

League Manager (Midwest)



### **RAY JOHNSON**

League Manager (Northwest)



### **ELLIOTT SPRUELL**

League Manager (Great Lakes)



### **SARAH SCHNEIDER**

Assistant League Manager (Great Lakes, Midwest)



### **TIFFANY GRAZE**

Registrar



### **KELLY JENKINS**

Administration Manager



### **RYAN LOY**

Senior Manager of Marketing & Communications

# STAY CONNECTED





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