

**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Red River NPL bolsters strength of National Premier Leagues in central U.S.**

[nationalpremierleagues.com](http://nationalpremierleagues.com)

**CHARLESTON, S.C. (May 2, 2017)** – US Club Soccer’s National Premier Leagues (NPL) continues to grow at an unprecedented rate, and the latest addition to the nationwide landscape is the Red River NPL, featuring 14 clubs from Arkansas, south Kansas, Oklahoma and north Texas.

The Red River NPL features 13-U through 18/19-U boys and girls clubs and officially begins its NPL membership in 2017-18.

Member clubs are:

- Arkansas United (Ark.)
- Arkansas Comets (Ark.)
- Dallas City FC (Texas)
- FC Wichita (Kansas)
- Fever United FC (Texas)
- Liverpool FC America (Texas)
- Mighty Bluebirds (Ark.)
- Oklahoma Celtic (Okla.)
- NEOFC (Okla.)
- NTX Celtic (Texas)
- South Lakes SC (Okla.)
- Sporting Arkansas (Ark.)
- TSC Hurricane (Okla.)
- West Side Alliance (Okla.)

League winners will advance to the 2018 NPL Finals, where they will join the rest of the country’s NPLs in pursuit of national championships.

“We welcome these talented clubs to the NPL with open arms and know the Red River NPL will be a valuable member for years to come,” said Leo Garcia, NPL General Manager.

In the past three months, the NPL has announced the creation of the [Central States NPL](#), [Washington NPL](#) and a [new NPL in Southern California](#). In total, the NPL will include 24 NPLs next season – both a quantitative and qualitative increase from the current 2016-17 season.

US Club Soccer’s mission is to foster the growth and development of soccer clubs throughout the United States to create the best possible development environment for players of all ages in every club.

US Club Soccer fulfills its mission largely through [Players First](#), 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. Players First is anchored by five pillars:

- Club Development
- Coaching Development
- Player Development
- Parent Engagement & Education
- Player Health & Safety

In order to help members adopt the Players First philosophy, US Club Soccer provides a suite of best-in-class resources and content that includes LaLiga, Beast Mode Soccer, FIFA 11+, Fit for 90, Player’s Health, Positive Coaching Alliance, Sideline Sports Doc, SoccerPrep, SportSessionPlanner, TopYa! and World Football Academy.

As with other NPLs, the league will be evaluated for potential [Elite National Premier League \(ENPL\)](#) inclusion as a qualifying competition.

Administratively, the Red River NPL will be aided by league management company PrimeTime Sports. PrimeTime Sports has more than 80 years of event management experience, including select soccer leagues in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

Quote from participating clubs:

- Jim Tindell, **TSC Hurricane** Executive Director: “TSC Hurricane is excited to be joining the Red River NPL, along with so many other highly respected clubs in Oklahoma and across the region. If you look across the country, there is no doubt that US Club Soccer and the NPL have built a leading an innovative competitive platform that’s changed the landscape of soccer for the benefit of the players and clubs. Joining the Red River NPL is aligned with our mission, creates expanded opportunities for our players and fits perfectly into our overall player development pathway. We look forward to an exciting 2017-18 season.”
- Don Rother, **Oklahoma Celtic** Director of Coaching: “Oklahoma Celtic is excited about the opportunity to partner with many premier clubs in the region to join the Red River NPL. As the sport of soccer continues to grow in the United States, it is important that we continue to create opportunities for our players to develop competitively and in a progressive manner. We believe this is an incredible step in creating an environment of player that is competitive, challenging and provides an avenue to showcase their talents. We have enjoyed our time working alongside US Club Soccer and their commitment to helping everyone comet together only solidifies the professionalism and great experience we anticipate in growing the new league.”
- Mark Gibbs, **Arkansas United SC** Technical Director: “I’m delighted to see the Red River NPL become a reality and look forward to the enhancement in player development it will allow for Arkansas United’s boys and girls involved in this competitive environment. Our teams will be exposed to higher levels of play as they advance though the league’s regional and national competition. This fits in directly with Arkansas United’s focus on providing an environment that will challenge both players and coaches.”

## 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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