

Understanding the Difference between U.S. Club Soccer and U.S. Youth Soccer

Many people new to youth soccer and a fair number who have been involved for many years can become hopelessly confounded by the distinction between all of the seemingly countless associations and leagues. It certainly does not help that so many have similar sounding names and that Space Coast United has programming stemming from two different associations. Add in the acronyms and it is a recipe for massive confusion.

Let's see if we can untangle that web all the way from the US Soccer Federations to the U13-18 Competitive Teams at Space Coast United, shall we?

We'll start at the very top with the [United States Soccer Federation](#) (US Soccer), the governing body for soccer in the United States. They have the logo you see on the kits of the national players like Hope Solo and Landon Donovan. Their members include the MLS, United States Adult Soccer Association, US Youth Soccer, US Club Soccer, Armed Forces Sports Council, the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and more.



Space Coast United Soccer fields U13-U18 Competitive Teams under both US Club Soccer (NPL) and US Youth Soccer (Travel – State Cup /Select – Region Cup).

U13-U18 Travel and Select Teams Under U.S. Youth Soccer



Our club has a long history with [US Youth Soccer](#) (USYS).

USYS is the largest member of the United States Soccer Federation. It is nationwide with over 3 million youth players between the ages of five and nineteen. It is comprised of 55 member State Associations. US Youth Soccer is a non-profit and educational organization whose mission is to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of America's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition.

[Florida Youth Soccer Association](#) (FYSA) is one of the larger member organizations of the United States Youth Soccer (USYS). Clubs that are members of FYSA are divided into four regions.



Space Coast United is in Region B (East).



**U13-U18 Travel
and Select Teams**

Compete in FYSA sanctioned leagues and tournaments.

Travel teams compete in the **State Cup** Tournament.

Select teams compete in the **Region Cup B** Tournament.

Our Travel and Select Teams compete in fall and spring leagues that are sanctioned by FYSA. In the spring, Travel teams compete in the FYSA [State Cup](#) tournament and Select teams typically compete in the [Region B Cup](#). Space Coast United boys and girls teams have had success in these tournaments over the years.

The Brevard Youth Soccer League and Greater Central Florida Youth Soccer League are examples of FYSA sanctioned leagues within the state of Florida in which our competitive teams participate in the fall and spring.

The [Brevard Youth Soccer League](#) (BYSL) is comprised of member clubs from Titusville to Sebastian and facilitates inter-club play amongst the fifteen member clubs at both the recreational and competitive levels.

The [Greater Central Florida Youth Soccer League](#) is comprised of over 20 member clubs throughout Central Florida. Play in this league is generally more competitive than in BYSL.

NPL Teams Under U.S. Club Soccer



Space Coast United became affiliated with US Club Soccer in 2011. [US Club Soccer](#), like US Youth Soccer, is a member of the US Soccer Federation. Its mission is “to create, develop and grow the best U.S. Soccer Federation-sanctioned organization to foster the growth and development of club soccer programs throughout the United States. The result of which will be to improve the level of play of the competitive soccer player, and thereby the U.S. National Teams and professional leagues.” The organization does include recreational and adult programming, but Space Coast United’s affiliation is in their competitive youth arena.

The [National Premier Leagues \(NPL\)](#) is a national competition platform created to elevate and change the competitive youth soccer landscape by extending developmental principles espoused by U.S. Soccer into more age groups and clubs, linking competition with player development and identification platforms, providing meaningful weekly competition culminating in the NPL Finals.



- **Because Travel/Select teams compete under US Youth Soccer and NPL teams compete under US Club Soccer, players may participate on a Space Coast United NPL team while representing another club on a Travel/Select team.**



The [Florida Premier League](#) was established in 2011 as part of US Club Soccer’s **National Premier Leagues (NPL)**, the **Florida Premier League** includes 11 clubs in the U-13 through U-18 boys and girls age groups: League champions are determined by total points at the end of the regular season, with the winning teams in each division advancing to the NPL Finals.

Here is where things can get even a bit more confusing. Florida Youth Soccer Association (FYSA) introduced the Florida State Premier League in 2012 and it should not be confused with the Florida Premier League that is part of US Club Soccer’s NPL program.



U13-U18 NPL Teams

Compete in NPL sanctioned league.

NPL Teams compete in the **Florida Cup** if they qualify based on NPL league play.