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United Soccer Leagues (USL) and Premier Development League (PDL) Information

UNITED SOCCER LEAGUES

As United Soccer Leagues starts its third decade of operation, soccer at all levels continues to grow in the U.S., Canada, and Caribbean. The largest organization of elite-level soccer leagues in North America, United Soccer Leagues is dedicated to growing the sport at the grassroots level in every community. The USL First Division and Second Division (North American men's professional soccer), the USL Premier Development League (U23 North American men's amateur), the USL W-League (North American women's amateur), the USL Super-20 League (U20 North American men's and women's amateur) and the USL Super Y-League (North American boy's and girl's elite youth amateur) have provided a platform for thousands of players to reach their dreams since 1986. This vision and commitment to develop a soccer nation by fans, investors, administrators, coaches, and players has created the foundation for the growth of the sport, while presenting affordable, exciting family entertainment in over 100 cities and towns on the continent.

USL PREMIER DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

The top U23 men's amateur league in North America lives in the USL Premier Development League (PDL), the development ground for elite players. The 2008 campaign features a 67-team format within four conferences, consisting of 16 regular season matches, 8 home and 8 away. The schedule is augmented by participation in the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup, and various exhibitions. Players have the ability to compete in the PDL throughout the summer months in a professionalized setting while maintaining their collegiate eligibility. The league is the proving ground for players that aspire to reach the highest-levels of the game, while providing affordable family entertainment within their city.

Affiliations

USL is directly affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), United States Adult Soccer Association (USASA), the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA), the Puerto Rican Football Federation (PRFF) and the Bermudan Football Association (BFA).

Rosters

USL rosters may consist of a maximum of 26 players, with 18 designated for each game. In the PDL and W-League, at least three (3) players in a full 26-player roster must be under 19, in accordance with guidelines set by the USASA and USSF. In the PDL, a maximum of eight (8) players may be over the age of 23. In USL-1 and USL-2, each team is permitted a maximum of five (5) foreign players on its active game-day roster and a maximum of seven (7) foreign players on its master roster. The PDL is permitted a maximum of six (6) on both rosters and the W-League is permitted a maximum of seven (7) on both rosters.

Amateur Player Definition

An amateur player is defined by the following: A player who does not receive payment for playing soccer and who has signed an amateur registration form with U.S. Soccer or Canadian Soccer Association. Amateur players may be reimbursed for certain expenses as allowed by USSF / CSA / NCAA rules.

Point System

The standard FIFA (3-1-0) system awards three points for a regulation or overtime victory. In the case of a tie, each team will be awarded one point.

Game clock

All games are comprised of 90 minutes (two 45-minute halves). No overtime is utilized.

LAWS OF THE GAME

USL adheres to all the Laws of the Game as dictated by FIFA, soccer's international governing body.

Substitutions

Five (5) substitutions are allowed per league game with no re-entry permitted in the USL professional leagues. Six (6) will be allowed in the PDL and W-League.

SCHEDULES

USL PDL: Each team plays 16 games during the regular season.