



ESC NL Premier 2023

Introduction to Piedmont Premier Conference

The Piedmont Conference is one of thirteen (13) conferences that fall under the scope of the US Youth Soccer National League and operate at a multi-state level — providing high-level competition on a consistent basis at a targeted local level (North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and parts of east Tennessee).

The Piedmont Conference's top divisions (both team-based and club-based) offer its teams an opportunity to qualify for the 2023 US Youth Soccer Southern Regional Championships, which are held annually each summer. All teams within the Piedmont Conference also have the opportunity to qualify into National League P.R.O. for the next seasonal year and compete in a national setting with increased exposure to college, professional and national team scouts.

Any team looking to participate in the Piedmont Conference must understand the level of commitment it takes to participate in a league that stretches across three (3) different state associations. All teams understand that this is a multi-state league and that teams may travel hundreds of miles to participate in conference games. Teams understand that they may not play any true "home" games. A limited number of teams are accepted into the Piedmont Conference, so it is important that each team makes the commitment to travel BEFORE applying to the conference.



NATIONAL LEAGUE PATHWAY



Commitments

Upon accepting the position offered on an ESC NL Premier team, the parents are responsible for the following:

- Financial Commitment
- Training Commitment
- Parent Code of Conduct



ESC Select Financial Commitments

- Fees for the Premier Program are higher than the Select soccer programs but reflect the higher league fees, higher referee fees, coach's expenses, and professional coaching provided to our promising players.
- *ESC Premier fees include Piedmont registration fees, insurance, SCYSA fees, coaching fees, training fees, league fees, supplemental training, operational costs, field usage, referee fees, team fees, one tournament fee and travel reimbursements for the coach. Please note that a lot of the area clubs do not combine the all fees into one cost. There are no other hidden fees. Fees do not include the uniform fee or personal tournament travel expenses.
- Payments can be made in full or paid monthly during the season. Please note it is not ESC's intention to exclude any player from participating on a Select team because of money. We offer scholarships to those families/players that qualify.



ESC Select Financial Commitments

- A player's club dues are determined by their team assignment. Club dues do include team fees, which include but are not limited to: SCYSA fees, referee fees, tournament entry fees, training fees, coach's tournament expenses, field fees and league fees.
- All dues and payments are to be made in accordance with the terms on the payment sheet.
- All payments are due on the 15th of the month. If a player's dues are not paid by the 1st of the following month the responsible party will have one week to bring the account current. If the account is not current after that time the player will not be allowed to practice and will result of the surrender of the player's membership card until the delinquent balance due is paid. Players will not be allowed to play until the membership card is reinstated. In addition to any outstanding fees due, a \$25.00 reinstatement charge shall be required to reinstate the player's card.



ESC Select Financial Commitments

- ESC 2023-2025 Uniform Fee is \$165.00* (Excludes shipping and taxes).
- Other optional ESC player items will be available.
- Women sizes are available in jerseys and shorts.
- The ESC uniform will be available for ordering through the Lloyd's Soccer online order system.

Required Uniforms:

- Due to manufacturer availability and production, uniform styles now cycle out every two years. Fall 2023 marked the start of a new two-year term. The new Elite kit is provided by Adidas.
- All Players need to order a new uniform and training jerseys.
- Players will need to wait for numbers to be assigned before ordering. A link for ordering will be sent to each player.
- Jersey numbers must be coordinated with team managers or ESC admin.
- **Order DEADLINE is June 18th**





ESC EST. 2006 **2023-2025 TEAM KITS** **Lloyd's SOCCER EST. 1983**

Match Day **Training**

The advertisement displays two sets of soccer kits. The "Match Day" kit includes a green jersey with the number 8, a white jersey with the number 8, and a blue jersey. The "Training" kit includes a black long-sleeved jacket. Both kits include black shorts and white socks. The Adidas logo is visible on the kits. The background features a soccer goal and a crowd of spectators.

ESC Select Training Commitments

Training: Technical and tactical training is provided 2 times per week in 1.5-hour sessions by our professional coaches (2 mandatory team practices with coaches). In addition, players are encouraged to work at home on basic technical skills such as juggling, receiving, passing, etc.

It is important that the player understands that a commitment to practice will help the player to reach their goals.

- Arrive on time for practice.
- Attend practice and make-up practice.
- Dress in soccer gear (appropriate training shirt, shorts, soccer socks, shin guards, and cleats)
- Bring your soccer ball to practice
- Bring water
- Attend tournaments and games.
- Attend skills sessions and goalie training (if applicable).
- Practice at home on basic technical skills.



Parent Commitment

- Parents are asked to support their coach and the Select Program by ensuring their child attends training as listed above.
- Parents are asked to represent ESC in a positive manner with correct sideline behavior and to set a good example for their player.
- Select parents will be asked to volunteer for team duties. Your support is needed at all ESC functions throughout the year.



Parent Commitment

Parent Conduct:

- Please keep ALL comments from the sidelines positive ones.
- Never address (or confront) the Referee or AR. That will be handled by the coach.
- Never address an opposing player or comment out loud about an opposing player.
- Please try not to address (or confront) opposing fans, even if they are being idiots. We can't control their stupidity, but we can control our own actions. If you feel something needs to be addressed, then let your coach know after the game.
- Please do not approach an opposing team coach to discuss wrongs of his parents or wrongs perceived in the game. If you have an issue that needs to be addressed, let your coach know and he/she will address with the other coach.
- Blatant disregard of these guidelines will result in parent suspension from their kid's games and continued bad behavior from the parent will result in the player being suspended.



The Season, Games, Tournaments, and Travel

- The start date of the 2022-2023 season for the Piedmont Conference will be August 19, 2023
- The Piedmont Conference follows a round robin competition in an event-based format. There will be 8-11 league games.
- The anticipated event dates of play for the 2023-24 season are posted below. "Teams must be prepared to compete in each event, however, based on the final slate of teams, attending all events may not be necessary."

14U-19U Boys/Girls Premier I Hosting Dates (Fall 2023):

- **August 19 – August 20: Canton, GA** (Badger Creek Park & Augusta, GA (Patriots Park)
- **September 2 – 4: Greenville, SC** (MESA Soccer Complex)
- **September 16 – 17: Wilson, NC** (J Burt Gillette Athletic Complex)
- September 23 – 24: RAIN DATE
- **Sep 30 – Oct 1: Marietta, GA & Acworth, GA** (Hubert Park, Tramore Park, Franklin Gateway)
- **October 14 – 15 Irmo, SC** (SCUFC West Soccer Complex) & Columbia, SC (SE Freight Lines Soccer Center)
- October 22 – 23: RAIN DATE
- October 29 – 30: RAIN DATE



The Season, Games, Travel, and Tournaments

- Conference schedules will be developed by the League Manager, who will have sole discretion of match schedules. The anticipated release of schedules will be in Mid-Late July for the 14U-19U age groups.
- The Piedmont Conference has partnered with Traveling Teams, Inc (TTI) for the 2023-24 seasonal year to provide hotel accommodation support for teams at Piedmont Conference scheduled events. Through this partnership, teams can reserve and manage their hotel needs for these events. Additionally, this partnership protects teams when it comes to hotel refunds should a Piedmont Conference event be postponed or cancelled (due to weather or other). Use of Traveling Teams is required for all teams participating in Piedmont Conference events who need hotel accommodations.
- The team will still try to participate in 1 non-league tournament this season depending on the schedule, the tournament may be local or out of town within 3 hours. If the team participates in a second tournament there will be an additional tournament fee.
- Players and their families are responsible for their own travel costs to tournaments and games.



Celtic FC Partnership

- ESC is a Celtic Soccer Academy International Partner
- Coach mentoring.
- Additional monthly online training and coaching sessions for ESC coaches
- Summer Celtic Camp at ESC run by Celtic FC Academy Coaches
- Players have an opportunity to attend Celtic FC Elite Camp at the IMG Academy. Players chosen from the Elite Camp will attend the Celtic Academy in Glasgow, Scotland.



CELTIC SOCCER ACADEMY
INTERNATIONAL PARTNER



Coaching Philosophy

ESC Philosophy

- ESC's focus is on developing players from a recreational to a competitive level while fostering a love and passion for soccer in a structured environment. Younger players will spend large amounts of time on the ball developing skill and composure under pressure while older players in our program will be exposed to top coaches during their training sessions, where the main emphasis will be to develop technical skill and tactical awareness.

Player centric

- The player must be placed at the central point of learning! Our focus must always remain on the technical, tactical, physical and mental development of the individual player. Every child that enters our program is expected to leave our program, not only a better player but more importantly a better person. The player's academic education must work "hand-in-hand" with their learning as a player.

Coaching Methodology



Who can I talk to if I have more questions?

- If you have additional questions that are not covered in this presentation, please feel free to email:
- ESC operations, fees, club culture/history, Academy, or Select questions: Jeff Young at jeffy@easleysoccer.com
- ESC Academy/Select coaching, Academy, or Select questions: Ross Goodacre at ross@easleysoccer.com
- Registration, fee payment, or Affinity questions: Melinda Gravell melinda@easleysoccer.com

