



BOYS ECNL



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# Boys ECNL F.A.Q.'S



# WHAT IS ALABAMA FC?

Alabama FC is a collaboration of leading youth soccer clubs within the region, managed by Birmingham United, who aims to provide elite competition opportunities through the ECNL platform.





## WHAT IS THE BOYS ECNL?

The Boys Elite Clubs National League (Boys ECNL) was founded to improve the daily environment for boys youth soccer players through a collaborative club-based development program featuring competition, player identification, and coaching and club development platforms. The Boys ECNL will include both regular season conference games and cross-conference events, and qualifying teams from the Boys ECNL will advance to the post-season Elite National Premier League (ENPL) Playoffs.

The Boys ECNL is based on the values of grass-roots collaboration and innovation, and supports the independence and freedom of coaches and clubs to fully manage the development path for their players, including the system and style of play, the competitive calendar, and all aspects of the development path. The Boys ECNL will raise standards in training, competition, club organization, and coaching in a holistic development program.

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Boys ECNL begins at the 14 and Under age groups and continues through the 19 and Under age groups. The 13 and Under age group will play a Pre-ECNL Schedule and Pre-ECNL events.



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# WHO WILL BE A PART OF THE ALABAMA FC ECNL BOYS COACHING STAFF?

All teams are coached and trained by the highest credentialed coaching staff in the southeast:

- Andrew Brower - USSF "A" License, National Youth
- Ben Parks - NSCAA Premier, National Youth
- Tommy Cochran - USSF "A" License, National Youth
- Manny Sanchez - USSF "A" License, National Youth
- Valentine Odongo - USSF "A" License
- Henry Mpagi - NSCAA Premier
- Kevin Laux - USSF "A" License, National Youth
- Nathan Archard - NSCAA Premier

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# WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PLAYING BOYS ECNL?

- Highest level coaching offered in Alabama with excellent training opportunities.
- Maximum college exposure through showcase series only for the ECNL Boys Program - 50 plus BUSA players will be going on to play college soccer in the 2017 signing class. College coaches regularly attend training sessions in addition to games
- Quality and meaningful games within the league and showcase formats
- Opportunity to play with and against the best players in the United States.
- Dedicated home games. 8 to 10 games at home in Birmingham each year, drastically minimizing travel.
- Full-time Goalkeeping Director to maximize goalkeeping training.
- Access to ID-2, PDP, and other ECNL specific elite player identification platforms.

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# WHAT TEAMS ARE IN OUR BOYS ECNL CONFERENCE?

## The Southeastern conference:

Alabama FC (AL)

Orlando City (FL)

CESA (SC)

Jacksonville FC (FL)

Atlanta Fire (GA)

Tampa Bay United (FL)

Concorde Fire (GA)

Florida Krush (FL)

GSA (GA)

Florida Elite (FL)

Tophat/NASA (GA)

Tennessee Soccer Club (TN)

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# WILL THE ECNL LEAGUE AND SHOWCASE SCHEDULE MIRROR THE GIRLS ECNL?

- Yes, the schedules will be very similar. Each team will host everyone in the league home and away. The schedule will begin in late August and continue into December.
- There will be no games during Alabama high school season.
- Each team will attend 2-3 showcases annually at the U-15 to U-17 age groups. The U-14 and U-18/U-19 age group will attend 1-2 showcases. Each showcase will be a tremendous event for each team and offer excellent visibility for the team and player.

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# WILL MY SON BE ALLOWED TO PLAY ECNL & HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER?

## ***YES!***

- ECNL players can play high school soccer! All league games are in the fall season and thus do not conflict with high school soccer rules and regulations.

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# WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ECNL & USYS? CAN A PLAYER PLAY BOTH?

- Boys ECNL is run and governed by US Club Soccer
- State Soccer Associations like ASA are run and governed by USYS
- Both US Club Soccer and USYS serve as registration bodies for teams to be formed and housed in local, regional and national formats.
- A USYS Player can play on a US Club Team in addition to their USYS team
- A US Club player can also play on USYS team in addition to their US Club Team
- A US Club Player may only play on one US Club team at a time
- A USYS Player may only play on one USYS team at a time

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# WHAT IS NPL? IS IT THE SAME AS BOYS ECNL, AND DO THEY PLAY IN THE SAME LEAGUE?

## NPL stands for National Premier League

- NPL teams only play other NPL teams in league formats, they do not play ECNL teams.
- NPL Teams and ECNL Boys are two different leagues, Their only similarity is that they are both governed by US Club Soccer.
- ECNL BOYS have their own stand alone showcase event series.

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# WHAT IS ENPL?

ENPL stands for Elite National Premier League

- US Club Soccer and the Elite Clubs National League are collaborating to create a new national competition and development platform for 14-U through 18/19-U boys beginning in August 2017. The **Elite National Premier League (ENPL)** will provide local and national regular-season competition, national showcase events and postseason playoff competition for top teams across the country.
- ENPL competition will include 14-U, 15-U, 16-U, 17-U and 19-U boys age groups, and will include participating teams from two independent qualification paths: (i) qualifying teams from designated National Premier Leagues across the country; and (ii) qualifying teams from ECNL
- These teams will come together to compete for the ENPL National Championship in a two-stage postseason event in 2018.

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# ARE THERE OTHER ECNL FRANCHISES IN ALABAMA?

- No. BUSA/Alabama FC is the only ECNL franchise between Atlanta and Dallas.
- The ECNL is club based, not team based. An entire club has to be accepted to participate in the ECNL.
- The Boys ECNL should expand to upwards of 78 teams prior to the start of the 2017-2018 season when league play begins.
- Currently 5 conferences have been announced with another to be released in the next few days.

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# DOES ALABAMA FC BOYS ECNL HELP WITH THE COLLEGE RECRUITING PROCESS?

- Alabama FC offers the most comprehensive college recruiting help and guidance in the southeast.
- Our coaching staff has a vast network of recruiting contacts to best serve players and families.
- BUSA/AFC hosts the largest College ID Camp in Alabama with over 80 coaches each season with our Men's and Women's Nike ID Camp each May
- See the next slide for the 2006-2016 College Placement Map

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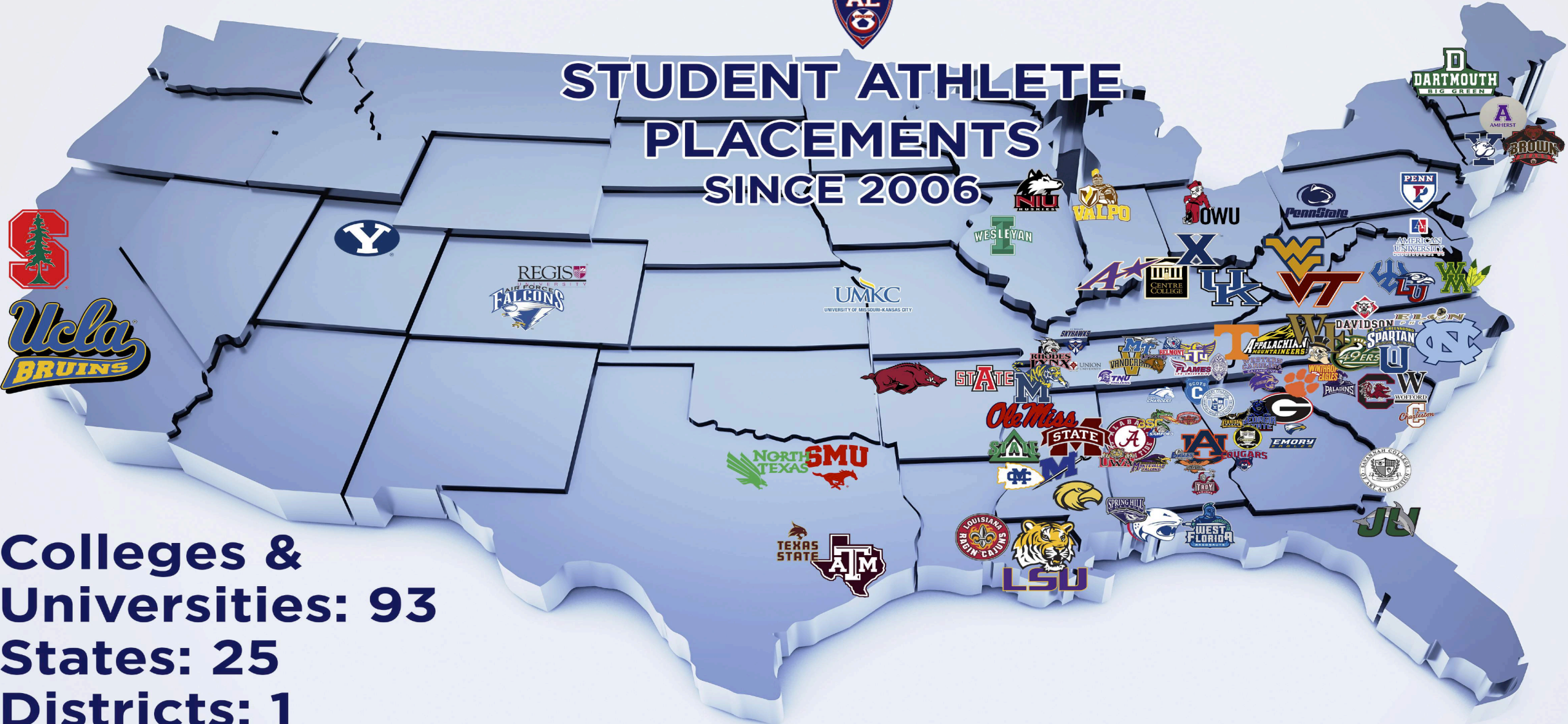


# BUSA

BIRMINGHAM UNITED SOCCER ASSOCIATION



## STUDENT ATHLETE PLACEMENTS SINCE 2006



**Colleges &  
Universities: 93  
States: 25  
Districts: 1**



# BOYS ECNL TRYOUT INFORMATION

- 2004s - Monday and Tuesday, May 15-16<sup>th</sup> @ 4:45-6:15
- 2003s - Monday and Tuesday, May 15-16<sup>th</sup> @ 4:45-6:15
- 2002s – Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00-3:30 and Monday and Tuesday, May 15-16<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00-8:30
- 2001s – Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00-3:30 and Monday and Tuesday, May 15-16<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00-8:30
- 2000s/1999s – Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00-5:30, and Monday and Tuesday, 15-16<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00-8:30
- Composite – Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00-5:30 and Monday and Tuesday, 15-16<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00-8:30
- All Tryout information can be found at [www.birminghamunited.com](http://www.birminghamunited.com)

## All tryouts take place at:

Rathmell Sports Park  
3576 East Street  
Birmingham, AL 35243  
Office Phone 205-977-9038



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# QUESTIONS?

- BUSA Office 205-977-9038
- Director of Coaching, Ben Parks - [Ben@birminghamunited.com](mailto:Ben@birminghamunited.com)
- Asst. Director of Coaching, Tommy Cochran - [Tommy@birminghamunited.com](mailto:Tommy@birminghamunited.com)
- Executive Director, Andrew Brower - [Andrew@birminghamunited.com](mailto:Andrew@birminghamunited.com)

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