



#### ECNL Member Clubs-

After much consideration the ECNL Board of Directors came to the decision that in 2010-2011 the ECNL will introduce a U18 competition. All clubs will be required to field a U18 team and participate in games required by the ECNL.

All of our clubs have been involved in the conversations about where the ECNL is going in the near future. As we introduce a more comprehensive regional schedule in 2011-2012 it will be very important to provide the U18 age group with a meaningful, but manageable competition. We realize that the players by in large are committed to college and have busy senior year schedules. We also realize that college soccer requires some significant preparation. Having said that, it is our goal to make this a manageable situation for our member clubs. We will make some significant adjustments to the current rostering rules and keep the late spring open to allow for spring breaks, proms, graduations, etc... This decision may require some clubs to change their philosophy on how you deal with your U18 teams currently.

The following are the guidelines for the U18 competition.

---

#### **Season**

9 games

6 games - National Showcase Events. Each club will choose two events to attend from the following events:

***August - ECNL Event - West Coast***

***December - Final Four Showcase - Raleigh, NC***

***December/January - Disney's Soccer Showcase - Orlando, FL***

***February/March - ECNL Event - Texas***

3 games - Regional Competition. Each club will have the same U18 regional games schedule as U15-U17 to be self-scheduled as assigned by the ECNL.

#### **Rule Adjustments for U18 Teams**

Increased roster size for U18 teams

Ability to use a limited number of players from outside your clubs from other non-ECNL clubs

#### **ECNL National Championship**

Top 4 teams in Challenge A will qualify and participate in the ECNL National Championship

If a Top 4 team opts out of the ECNL National Championship the place will be awarded to the 5th place team, etc...

---

It is the goal of the ECNL that member clubs view the ECNL competition as the most important and beneficial competition on their calendar. It is up to each club to plan accordingly and properly communicate to your club members the plans of the ECNL. We feel that the addition of the U18 age group will further aid in the development process of the players involved in the league.  
Thank you.