



2019

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# MEDIA GUIDE



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# #BeChampions

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# 2019 ALIGNMENT

The USL Championship today announced its conference alignment for the league's 2019 regular season. The league will feature 36 teams across two conferences in the upcoming season, with the clubs set to embark on a 34-game regular-season schedule that will be conducted over 33 weeks and open on the weekend of March 8-10, 2019. Four of the league's expansion arrivals will join the Eastern Conference, with Birmingham Legion FC, Hartford Athletic, Loudoun United FC and Memphis 901 FC joining the conference led by defending USL Cup champion Louisville City FC.

The Eastern Conference also features two new arrivals in Saint Louis FC and the Swope Park Rangers, who make the move after both reaching the USL Cup Playoffs in the Western Conference a season ago.

The remaining three expansion clubs - Austin Bold FC, El Paso Locomotive FC and New Mexico United - join the Western Conference for their inaugural seasons. The addition of Austin and El Paso to the conference gives the USL Championship four clubs in Texas for the first time, while New Mexico and El Paso are set to engage in a strong regional rivalry with the clubs separated by just over 250 miles.

## 2019 CONFERENCE ALIGNMENT

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

Austin Bold FC  
 Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC  
 El Paso Locomotive FC  
 Fresno FC  
 LA Galaxy II  
 Las Vegas Lights FC  
 New Mexico United  
 OKC Energy FC  
 Orange County SC  
 Phoenix Rising FC  
 Portland Timbers 2  
 Real Monarchs SLC  
 Reno 1868 FC  
 Rio Grande Valley FC  
 Sacramento Republic FC  
 San Antonio FC  
 Tacoma Defiance  
 Tulsa Roughnecks FC

### EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATL UTD 2  
 Bethlehem Steel FC  
 Birmingham Legion FC  
 Charleston Battery  
 Charlotte Independence  
 Hartford Athletic  
 Indy Eleven  
 Loudoun United FC  
 Louisville City FC  
 Memphis 901 FC  
 Nashville SC  
 New York Red Bulls II  
 North Carolina FC  
 Ottawa Fury FC  
 Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC  
 Saint Louis FC  
 Swope Park Rangers  
 Tampa Bay Rowdies

## KEY DATES

Regular Season Begins - March 8  
 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup First Round - May 7/8  
 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup Second Round - May 14/15  
 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup Third Round - May 29  
 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup Fourth Round - June 12  
 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup Round of 16 - June 19  
 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup Quarterfinals - July 10  
 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup Semifinals - August 7

Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup Final - August 27/28  
 USL Championship Roster Freeze - September 20  
 Regular Season Ends - October 20  
 USL Cup Play-In Round - October 23  
 USL Cup Conf. Quarterfinals - October 25-27  
 USL Cup Conf. Semifinals - November 1-3  
 USL Cup Conf. Finals - November 8-10  
 USL Cup - November 14-18

# SEASON STRUCTURE

### Regular Season Structure

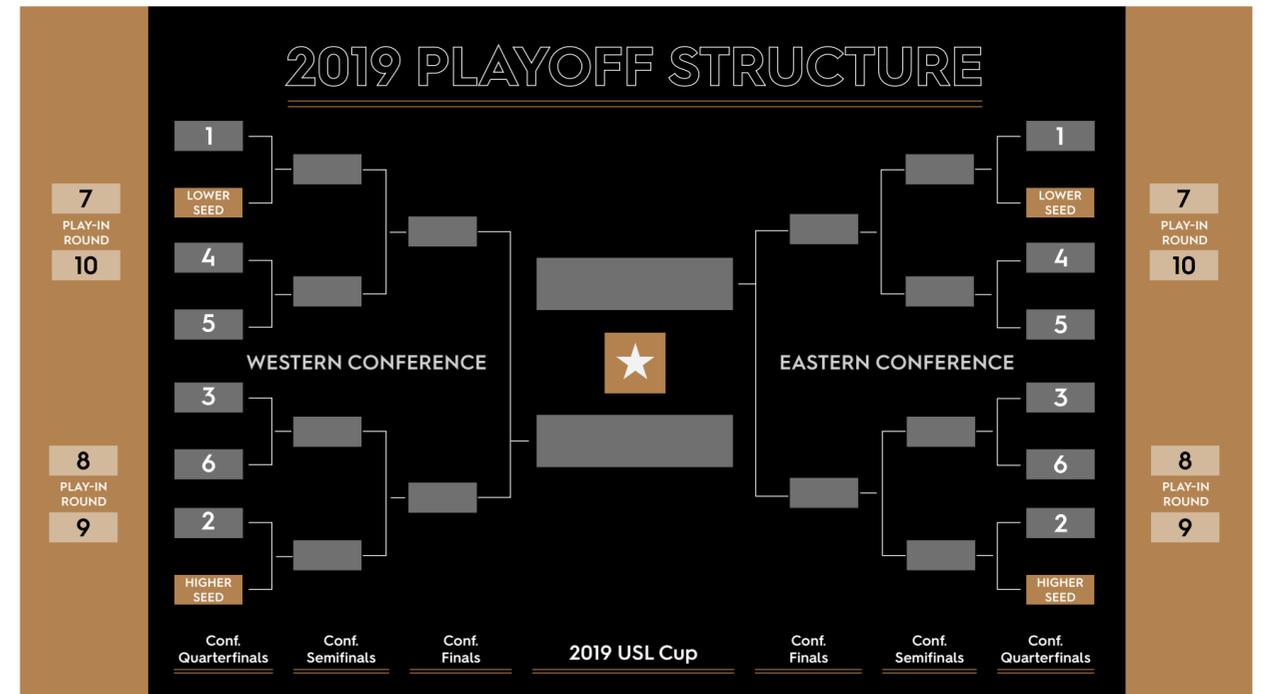
The USL Championship's 2019 regular-season schedule features a 612-game slate kicking off on March 8, with 17 matches set for the opening weekend. The biggest regular season in the USL Championship's history will run for 33 weeks. The league's 36 teams are divided into two conferences - Eastern and Western - with each team playing 34 regular-season games. Teams will play two games (one home, one away) against each conference rival to make up the full regular season schedule.

### Expanded Format For 2019 USL Cup Playoffs

The 2019 USL Cup Playoffs will expand to include 10 teams from each conference, with the lowest four seeds in each conference opening the postseason in the Play-In Round, provisionally slated for Wednesday, October 23 with the No. 7 seed hosting the No. 10 seed and the No. 8 seed hosting the No. 9 seed for a place in the Conference Quarterfinals.

Following the Play-In Round, the two teams to advance will be placed into the main bracket for the Conference Quarterfinals, with the lower remaining seed facing the conference's No. 1 seed and the higher remaining seed facing the No. 2 seed.

The single-elimination format will then continue for the following four weekends in a fixed-bracket format with the higher seed in each matchup serving as host through the Eastern and Western Conference Finals. The 2019 USL Cup will be held between November 14-18, 2019 and be hosted by the conference champion with the better regular-season record.





# ATLANTA UNITED 2

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

ATL UTD 2's inaugural season got off to an auspicious start as it claimed victory in its first official game in the USL Championship, but the 3-1 win against the New York Red Bulls II was one of relatively few highs during the 2018 campaign that saw the side finish 14th in the Eastern Conference as the younger members of its squad learned some important lessons.

There are changes ahead of Year 2, most notably on the sideline and in the club's home venue. Former Aberdeen and Newcastle United player Stephen Glass has taken over as Head Coach after the offseason departure of Scott Donnelly, and the side has moved to Fifth Third Bank Stadium in Kennesaw, Ga., giving it a proper soccer-specific home. Glass' task as he moves up from Atlanta's Academy will be to try and build a sturdier base for the side, which conceded 74 goals in the regular season a year ago.

Glass will get help in that category from returning defenders Jack Metcalf and Tyler Ruthven, with Ruthven's late-season arrival in 2018 providing some important experience in the middle of defense. There are also some very interesting loan arrivals including Panamanian international Guillermo Benitez and Honduran U-20 player Wesly Decas. An influx of high-level prospects to go with the talent coming from Atlanta's own academy could help the side make a move in its second year.



## CONTACTS

Owner - Arthur Blank

President - Darren Eales

Vice President and Technical Director  
Carlos Bocanegra

Head Coach - Stephen Glass

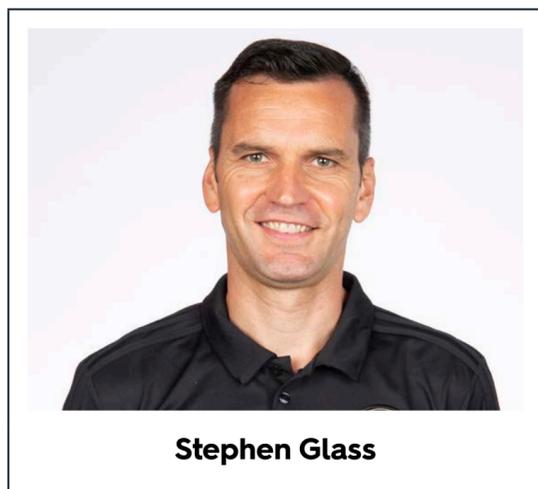
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## HEAD COACH



Stephen Glass

## KEY PLAYERS



**Tyler Ruthven**  
Defender

Having already featured in Major League Soccer, the USL Championship and Europe over the course of his career, Tyler Ruthven returns to ATL UTD 2 after arriving at the club midway through the 2018 campaign. The 30-year-old Georgia native is going to be relied upon to provide experience for the club's young core and will slot into a back line that will also include experience in the form of Jack Metcalf. After a tough inaugural season defensively, Ruthven's influence is going to be key to the club's improvement.



**Dylan Castanheira**  
Goalkeeper

A former standout at Columbia University, Dylan Castanheira broke the Ivy League's single-season record for goals-against average in his senior season (0.513) and was named the conference's Defender of the Year. Castanheira was invited to the MLS Combine this past January and while he was selected by FC Dallas in the Fourth Round of the MLS SuperDraft, the 6-foot-2 goalkeeper elected to join the professional ranks with ATL UTD 2, signing a deal that will likely make him the club's first choice between the sticks this season.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home	Away	Time (ET)
3/9	ATL	V HFD	7:30pm
3/15	ATL	V LOU	7:30pm
3/23	CLT	V ATL	7:00pm
4/6	ATL	V STL	7:30pm
4/10	MEM	V ATL	8:00pm
4/13	ATL	V NC	7:30pm
4/24	ATL	V TBR	7:30pm
4/28	OTT	V ATL	2:00pm
5/4	ATL	V NSH	7:30pm
5/12	BST	V ATL	6:00pm
5/19	SPR	V ATL	5:00pm
5/25	CHS	V ATL	7:30pm
6/7	ATL	V NY	7:30pm
6/15	ATL	V PIT	7:30pm
6/22	IND	V ATL	7:00pm
6/28	LDN	V ATL	7:30pm
7/5	ATL	V CHS	7:30pm
7/13	NY	V ATL	5:00pm
7/20	BHM	V ATL	8:00pm
7/24	ATL	V CLT	7:30pm
7/27	NC	V ATL	7:00pm
8/2	ATL	V LDN	7:30pm
8/11	LOU	V ATL	3:00pm
8/16	ATL	V SPR	7:30pm
8/24	HFD	V ATL	7:00pm
8/28	ATL	V MEM	7:30pm
9/4	ATL	V BHM	7:30pm
9/7	ATL	V OTT	7:30pm
9/14	TBR	V ATL	7:30pm
9/25	ATL	V IND	7:30pm
9/28	STL	V ATL	8:30pm
10/5	PIT	V ATL	7:00pm
10/9	ATL	V BST	7:30pm
10/19	NSH	V ATL	8:00pm

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ig @ATLUTD2



# AUSTIN BOLD FC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

Austin Bold FC brings professional soccer back to Texas' capital this season and does so with a new home stadium at the Circuit of The Americas and a squad that has both a lot of experience outside the United States and some familiar faces for Austin's local fanbase. Utilizing the experience of General Manager Roberto Silva and Head Coach Marcelo Serrano to bring in some high-level talent, Austin wants to be a playoff contender from the off and may have the parts to do it.

At the center of it all may be Xavier Baez, who arrives from Liga MX's Necaxa as one of Silva's splashy overseas imports. He's joined by Brazilians Andre Lima and Kleber and Argentine Dario Conca - formerly of River Plate and Fluminense - among Bold FC's international contingent. They're bolstered by a strong group of players with MLS and USL Championship experience, including former Portland Timbers defender Amobi Okugo, 2017 Championship Goalkeeper of the Year Diego Restrepo, and the local duo of Kris Tyrpak and Sonny Guadarrama.

Led by Serrano, who has experience both in his native Brazil and as a coach within U.S. Soccer's youth national team set-up, there's going to be plenty of intrigue as to how all of this comes together in Bold FC's first season. Whatever happens, it's going to be very interesting to watch.



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## HEAD COACH



Marcelo Serrano

## KEY PLAYERS



**Kris Tyrpak**  
Midfielder

A native of Austin, Kris Tyrpak returns home after spending time with both San Antonio FC and Nashville SC in the 2018 USL Championship season. A former Most Valuable Player in USL League Two in 2013, Tyrpak has recorded 27 goals and 10 assists in 93 appearances in the Championship. The 26-year-old winger became the second local signing for Austin Bold FC and will be hoping to lead the side to a successful inaugural season alongside fellow local standout Sonny Guadarrama.



**Xavier Baez**  
Midfielder

A longtime fixture in Liga MX, Xavier Baez joined Austin as one of the club's marquee signings for its inaugural season. Having played previously for Chivas de Guadalajara and Necaxa, the 31-year-old has made more than 250 appearances in Mexico's top flight and helped Cruz Azul claim the Concacaf Champions League in 2014. A central midfielder, Baez looks set to be a key member of the club's central spine alongside the other experienced veterans brought in by General Manager Roberto Silva and Head Coach Marcelo Serrano.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home	Away	Time (ET)
3/9	LV	v AUS	10:30pm
3/16	RNO	v AUS	5:00pm
3/30	AUS	v SA	10:30pm
4/6	SAC	v AUS	10:30pm
4/17	AUS	v PHX	8:30pm
4/21	AUS	v ELP	4:30pm
4/26	AUS	v SLC	8:30pm
5/4	LA	v AUS	10:00pm
5/10	AUS	v OKC	8:30pm
5/18	OC	v AUS	10:00pm
5/22	FRS	v AUS	10:30pm
5/25	AUS	v NM	8:30pm
6/1	TUL	v AUS	8:00pm
6/8	AUS	v POR	8:30pm
6/15	AUS	v TAC	8:30pm
6/22	RGV	v AUS	8:30pm
6/29	AUS	v COS	8:30pm
7/3	SA	v AUS	8:30pm
7/13	AUS	v OC	8:30pm
7/19	PHX	v AUS	10:30pm
7/27	AUS	v FRS	8:30pm
8/3	NM	v AUS	9:30pm
8/10	AUS	v LA	8:30pm
8/17	AUS	v TUL	8:30pm
8/24	OKC	v AUS	9:00pm
9/1	AUS	v RGV	8:30pm
9/7	COS	v AUS	8:00pm
9/11	AUS	v SAC	8:30pm
9/15	AUS	v RNO	7:00pm
9/22	AUS	v LV	7:00pm
9/29	POR	v AUS	4:00pm
9/5	SLC	v AUS	3:00pm
9/10	ELP	v AUS	9:00pm
9/19	TAC	v AUS	10:00pm

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t @AustinBoldFC

ig @AustinBoldFC



# BETHLEHEM STEEL FC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

Bethlehem Steel FC not only advanced to the USL Cup Playoffs for a second consecutive season but added its first postseason victory to the club's history book after an enthralling clash against Keystone State rival Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC saw the visitors emerge victorious in a penalty shootout. The 2018 campaign may have ended the same way as 2017's - at the hands of eventual USL Cup champion Louisville City FC - but Bethlehem put together an 8-3-2 run down the final third of the season to easily book a playoff place and will draw from that as it enters its fourth season.

Unsurprisingly given his success on the field and in helping turn fresh talent upward to the Philadelphia Union, Head Coach Brendan Burke remains at the helm, and he'll have his on-field general back as well in the form of Irish midfielder James Chambers. New arrivals include former Union Academy standout Ben Ofeimu on a professional contract, and Issa Rayyan, who joins the club as a professional after previously playing as a USL Academy signing before his freshman season at Duke University.

As with previous years, there will be roster turnover for Burke to deal with, but there also may be the chance to see more of young playmaker Brenden Aaronson on loan from the Union after a 2018 season that saw him record five assists in 18 games. Regardless of the team's overall make-up, though, it should be expected that Bethlehem will be in the mix for the postseason again this October.

## HEAD COACH



**Brendan Burke**



## CONTACTS

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## KEY PLAYERS



**James Chambers**  
Midfielder

Bethlehem Steel FC re-signed James Chambers after a successful 2018 USL campaign which saw the 31-year-old continue his role as an on-field leader for the club's young standouts while also producing some outstanding performances individually. Chambers is the only player to remain from the club's inaugural roster in 2016 and has made 84 appearances over the past three years. Serving as captain in the past two seasons, Chambers has scored 13 goals and recorded six assists, and is Bethlehem's all-time leader in appearances, starts, and minutes played.



**Ben Ofeimu**  
Defender

Ben Ofeimu's signing this offseason marked the first time a player that had completed the Union Academy's Residency Program joined the professional ranks with Steel FC. The 18-year-old has prior experience with the club as an Academy signing, having made 12 appearances and nine starts. Throughout his time in the Union Academy, Ofeimu appeared in 63 matches, and scored three goals across four seasons. Now the 6-foot-3 center back will be looking to follow in the footsteps of current Philadelphia Union center back and former United States U-20 international Auston Trusty, who led Steel FC to its first postseason berth in the 2017 season as he established himself as one of the top young defenders in the United States.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home	vs	Away	Time (ET)
3/9	BHM	v	BST	7:00pm
3/16	BST	v	NC	7:30pm
3/24	BST	v	MEM	6:00pm
3/30	BST	v	PIT	7:30pm
4/6	SPR	v	BST	5:00pm
4/13	BST	v	CHS	7:30pm
4/16	CLT	v	BST	7:00pm
4/20	BST	v	IND	7:00pm
5/3	LDN	v	BST	7:30pm
5/12	BST	v	ATL	6:00pm
5/19	BST	v	OTT	7:00pm
5/26	BST	v	LOU	7:00pm
5/31	NY	v	BST	7:00pm
6/9	BST	v	NSH	7:00pm
6/15	BST	v	STL	7:30pm
6/22	BST	v	TBR	7:30pm
6/29	HFD	v	BST	7:00pm
7/4	PIT	v	BST	7:00pm
7/10	BST	v	NY	7:30pm
7/20	LOU	v	BST	7:00pm
7/27	STL	v	BST	8:30pm
7/30	BST	v	HFD	7:00pm
8/10	NSH	v	BST	8:00pm
8/25	BST	v	BHM	7:00pm
9/1	BST	v	SPR	7:00pm
9/7	NC	v	BST	7:00pm
9/14	IND	v	BST	7:00pm
9/18	BST	v	LND	7:30pm
9/21	TBR	v	BST	7:30pm
9/28	MEM	v	BST	8:00pm
10/6	BST	v	CLT	7:00pm
10/9	ATL	v	BST	7:30pm
10/12	OTT	v	BST	2:00pm
10/19	CHS	v	BST	7:30pm

f /BSteelFC

🐦 @BSteelFC

📷 @BSteelFC



# BIRMINGHAM LEGION FC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

Birmingham Legion FC made a splash when it announced hometown standout Chandler Hoffman as its first signing midway through last year, and it only added to that since with the appointment of former Major League Soccer Head Coach Tom Soehn and the arrival of other notable names with USL Championship and MLS pedigree as it builds towards its first season in the league.

Joining Hoffman in the Magic City is former New York City FC and San Antonio FC midfielder Mikey Lopez and former Houston Dynamo midfielder Joe Holland, who could make an effective midfield tandem. There's experience in goal from Matt van Oekel, while Daniel Johnson (Chicago Fire) and Femi Hollinger-Janzen (New England Revolution) join Hoffman in the club's attacking corps.

The biggest question, as it is for all expansion clubs, is how quickly Soehn will be able to turn this squad into a cohesive unit, a challenge made tougher by the loaded field that on paper makes up the Eastern Conference this season. With strong roots in the city after its move up the ranks from its founding as the Birmingham Hammers in 2013, there's going to be a buzz around the team in its first year as professional soccer arrives in Alabama.



## CONTACTS

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## HEAD COACH



Tom Soehn

## KEY PLAYERS



**Chandler Hoffman**  
Forward

The first signing in Legion FC's history and a native of Birmingham, Ala., Chandler Hoffman will be aiming to continue his outstanding career in the USL Championship while leading the expansion club onto the field in its inaugural season. Hoffman sits third in the Championship's history with 59 regular-season goals, eight back of all-time leader Dane Kelly (Indy Eleven), and with another big year could put himself into contention to lead the pack by the 2020 campaign.



**Joe Holland**  
Midfielder

Legion FC also signed 25-year-old attacking midfielder Joe Holland ahead of its inaugural season, with the English native having begun his professional career after being selected with the 10th overall pick in the 2017 MLS SuperDraft by the Houston Dynamo. After making five appearances in his rookie season, Holland spent most of the year on loan with the USL Championship's Rio Grande Valley FC. Last year, Holland joined Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC, where he appeared 15 times and helped the Hounds to a third-place finish in the Eastern Conference and a place in the USL Cup Playoffs.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home		Away	Time (ET)
3/9	BHM	v	BST	7:00pm
3/16	BHM	v	OTT	8:00pm
3/30	LOU	v	BHM	7:00pm
4/6	BHM	v	NY	8:00pm
4/13	STL	v	BHM	8:30pm
4/20	BHM	v	SPR	5:00pm
4/27	BHM	v	LDN	8:00pm
5/1	NY	v	BHM	7:00pm
5/4	MEM	v	BHM	4:00pm
5/11	BHM	v	LOU	8:00pm
5/18	NC	v	BHM	7:00pm
5/22	BHM	v	NSH	8:00pm
6/1	BHM	v	TBR	8:00pm
6/8	CHS	v	BHM	7:30pm
6/15	CLT	v	BHM	7:00pm
6/22	BHM	v	HFD	8:00pm
6/26	IND	v	BHM	7:00pm
6/29	PIT	v	BHM	7:00pm
7/13	BHM	v	NC	8:00pm
7/20	BHM	v	ATL	8:00pm
7/27	BHM	v	CLT	8:00pm
8/2	OTT	v	BHM	7:00pm
8/10	TBR	v	BHM	7:30pm
8/17	BHM	v	MEM	8:00pm
8/24	BST	v	BHM	7:00pm
8/28	LDN	v	BHM	7:30pm
9/4	ATL	v	BHM	7:30pm
9/13	BHM	v	STL	8:00pm
9/17	NHS	v	BHM	8:00pm
9/20	BHM	v	IND	8:00pm
9/30	SPR	v	BHM	8:00pm
10/5	BHM	v	CHS	8:00pm
10/13	HFD	v	BHM	8:00pm
10/20	BHM	v	PIT	4:30pm

f /bhmlegion

🐦 @bhmlegion

📷 @bhmlegion



# CHARLESTON BATTERY

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

The Charleston Battery reached the USL Cup Playoffs for the eighth consecutive season in 2018, continuing their streak as the lone club to reach the postseason in every year of the league's history, but for a second consecutive year they were eliminated at home in the Eastern Conference Quarterfinals by the New York Red Bulls II. That defeat completed a disappointing end of the regular season that saw Charleston win only four times in its final 13 games to finish fourth in the East after a start that looked promising to add a second USL Cup to its trophy case.

Despite that late-season downturn, however, the Battery should be considered a solid playoff contender again this season. The side returns All-League First Team midfielder Tah Anunga - who broke out as one of the best two-way midfielders in the league - Trinidad & Tobago international forward Ataula Guerra and stalwart center back Taylor Mueller. Goalkeeper Joe Kuzminsky also returns after taking the No. 1 spot from Odisnel Cooper a season ago.

Head Coach Mike Anhaeuser - who last year celebrated his 200th victory as the club's leader - has also brought in former New York Red Bulls draft selection Zeiko Lewis, while players like Jay Bolt, Kotaro Higashi and Nico Rittmeyer also return to add to strong seasons in 2018. While the competition continues to get stronger, the Battery have always found a way to keep pace, and this year should be no exception.



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Mike Anhaeuser

## KEY PLAYERS



**Taylor Mueller**  
Defender

The longest-serving member of the Battery, Mueller returns for his eighth season in Charleston approaching some major landmarks in club history. The 30-year-old has made 169 regular-season appearances in the Championship since joining the club and sits third in Battery history with 195 appearances in all competitions after overtaking club legend Paul Conway at the end of last season. Having helped lead the club to another USL Cup Playoffs berth a season ago, Mueller is showing no signs of slowing down at the heart of the Battery's defense.



**Ataula Guerra**  
Forward

A big question for the Battery a season ago was how the club would replace Romario Williams' attacking threat after his loan spell at the club in 2017 from Atlanta United FC. Guerra stepped up in a big way to finish ninth in the Championship with 15 goals to ensure the Battery's attack didn't experience a major drop in production on its way to an eighth consecutive postseason berth. The Trinidad & Tobago international returns for his fourth season in 2019 looking to add to those figures and could feature this summer for the Soca Warriors at the Concacaf Gold Cup as well.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home	Away	Time (ET)
3/9	CHS	v OTT	7:30pm
3/16	CHS	v HFD	7:30pm
3/30	NC	v CHS	8:00pm
4/7	CHS	v CLT	2:00pm
4/13	BST	v CHS	7:30pm
4/20	CHS	v NSH	7:30pm
4/27	MEM	v CHS	8:00pm
5/4	CHS	v PIT	7:30pm
5/11	CHS	v STL	7:30pm
5/18	IND	v CHS	TBC
5/25	CHS	v ATL	7:30pm
6/1	LOU	v CHS	7:00pm
6/8	CHS	v BHM	7:30pm
6/15	TBR	v CHS	7:30pm
6/22	CHS	v SPR	7:30pm
6/26	OTT	v CHS	7:00pm
6/29	CHS	v NY	7:30pm
7/5	ATL	v CHS	7:30pm
7/13	CHS	v MEM	7:30pm
7/20	HFD	v CHS	7:00pm
7/27	SPR	v CHS	8:00pm
8/3	CHS	v TBR	7:30pm
8/10	STL	v CHS	8:30pm
8/14	LDN	v CHS	7:30pm
8/17	CHS	v LOU	7:30pm
8/24	NSH	v CHS	8:00pm
8/30	CLT	v CHS	7:00pm
9/7	CHS	v IND	7:30pm
9/14	PIT	v CHS	7:00pm
9/22	CHS	v NC	2:00pm
9/27	NY	v CHS	7:30pm
10/5	BHM	v CHS	8:00pm
10/13	CHS	v LDN	2:00pm
10/19	CHS	v BST	7:30pm

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# CHARLOTTE INDEPENDENCE

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

The departure of two-time USL Championship Most Valuable Player finalist Enzo Martinez to the Colorado Rapids last season had the unfortunate side-effect of seeing the Independence slide out of the playoff positions for the first time since 2015. Now Martinez is back, and the Independence have added new recruits that would seem set to help Charlotte regain its play-off contender status.

The most interesting offseason arrival for Charlotte, though, may be the club's new Head Coach Jim McGuinness. The Head Coach of the 2012 All-Ireland Gaelic Football championship with Donegal, McGuinness went on to work at legendary Scottish club Celtic FC under both Neil Lennon and Brendan Rodgers, ascending to coach the club's U-20 team. This is his first head coaching position in professional soccer, but the history of success he brings means he shouldn't be underestimated.

McGuinness has new additions on the defensive line in the form of Championship veteran Hugh Roberts and up front with former Montreal Impact and Columbus Crew SC striker Dominic Oduro arriving at the club to join Martinez and returning veteran Jorge Herrera. The Independence will also have 2018 MAC Hermann Trophy winner Andrew Gutman on loan from Celtic FC, adding to a backbone that should see the Independence become a more consistent proposition in 2019.



## HEAD COACH



**Jim McGuinness**

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## KEY PLAYERS



**Enzo Martinez**  
Forward

The Charlotte Independence's talisman during the 2016 and 2017 seasons returns this year, with Enzo Martinez looking to regain the form that made him twice a finalist for the Championship's Most Valuable Player award. Martinez made 87 appearances over three seasons before joining the Colorado Rapids for the 2018 campaign, tallying 31 goals and 14 assists and earning back-to-back All-League First Team honors. Reunited with some familiar faces like Jorge Herrera and brother Alex Martinez, the 28-year-old will be aiming to lead the side back to the postseason this campaign.



**Hugh Roberts**  
Defender

One of the Independence's big offseason arrivals, Hugh Roberts has had a track record of success in the Championship at his previous stops. An All-League selection in 2016 for the Richmond Kickers when he played every minute of the season, Roberts has subsequently helped Bethlehem Steel FC and Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC to the postseason in the past two years. He'll be looking to help improve an Independence defense that conceded 57 goals in the 2018 regular season as the side missed the USL Cup Playoffs for the first time since 2015.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home		Away	Time (ET)
3/15	CLT	v	IND	7:00pm
3/23	CLT	v	ATL	7:00pm
3/30	STL	v	CLT	2:00pm
4/7	CHS	v	CLT	2:00pm
4/13	CLT	v	NY	7:00pm
4/16	CLT	v	BST	7:00pm
4/20	CLT	v	NC	7:00pm
4/27	TBR	v	CLT	7:30pm
5/4	HFD	v	CLT	7:00pm
5/11	CLT	v	LDN	7:00pm
5/18	NSH	v	CLT	8:00pm
5/25	PIT	v	CLT	7:00pm
6/2	OTT	v	CLT	2:00pm
6/8	SPR	v	CLT	5:00pm
6/15	CLT	v	BHM	7:00pm
6/22	LOU	v	CLT	7:00pm
6/29	CLT	v	MEM	7:00pm
7/4	NC	v	CLT	7:00pm
7/13	CLT	v	STL	7:00pm
7/24	ATL	v	CLT	7:30pm
7/27	BHM	v	CLT	8:00pm
8/3	CLT	v	LOU	7:00pm
8/9	LDN	v	CLT	7:30pm
8/17	CLT	v	NSH	7:00pm
8/24	IND	v	CLT	7:00pm
8/30	CLT	v	CHS	7:00pm
9/7	CLT	v	TBR	7:00pm
9/13	NY	v	CLT	7:00pm
9/21	CLT	v	SPR	7:00pm
9/28	CLT	v	HFD	7:00pm
10/6	BST	v	CLT	7:00pm
10/12	MEM	v	CLT	8:00pm
10/19	CLT	v	OTT	7:00pm

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# COLORADO SPRINGS SWITCHBACKS FC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC had its moments in 2018, but they were too few and far between and resulted in a second consecutive absence from the USL Cup Playoffs. Only able to string together back-to-back victories twice, the Switchbacks finished well off the pace with their lowest regular-season points total in the club's four-year history.

There could be room for optimism as the Switchbacks enter 2019, however. Off the field, the club's plans for a new soccer-specific home in downtown Colorado Springs are coming together, and the team has a new partnership with Major League Soccer's Colorado Rapids that should help provide additional talent to Head Coach Steve Trittschuh. The club itself has gone out and added some new pieces like former Nashville SC winger Ish Jome and has welcomed back Rony Argueta (Fresno FC) and Mike Seth (San Antonio FC) after stints away from the club.

There are key figures to be replaced, with Josh Suggs having moved on to expansion side New Mexico United and veteran midfielder Luke Vercollone having announced his retirement after reaching 200 regular-season appearances in his final game for the club. Those absences will be mitigated by the return of defenders Jordan Burt and Jamal Jack, and forwards Shane Malcolm and Saeed Robinson, with Robinson's penchant for the spectacular having provided some of the brightest moments of the past campaign.



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## HEAD COACH



Steve Trittschuh

## KEY PLAYERS



Rony Argueta  
Midfielder

After spending a season with Fresno FC in 2018, Rony Argueta returns to Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC for the 2019 USL Championship season looking to help restore the club to the postseason after a two-year absence. Argueta is no stranger to the Switchbacks having been a central figure in the club's first three seasons while serving as captain in the 2017 campaign. Argueta made 86 appearances for Colorado Springs and logged more than 7,000 minutes in that first stint with the club and will be a key figure for Head Coach Steve Trittschuh again this season.



Jordan Burt  
Defender

With the retirement of Luke Vercollone this offseason, Jordan Burt will become the lone member of the Switchbacks' squad to have played a part in every season in the club's history. The 28-year-old sits at the top of the club's all-time list with 113 appearances and 8,980 minutes of Championship action in Switchbacks' colors, including a single-season high 33 appearances a year ago. Set to be part of a reconfigured back line this year, Burt's experience will once again be valuable to the squad.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home		Away	Time (ET)
3/9	LA	v	COS	10:00pm
3/16	COS	v	SAC	8pm
3/23	COS	v	SA	8pm
3/30	PHX	v	COS	10:30pm
4/6	OC	v	COS	10:00pm
4/13	COS	v	RNO	8:00pm
4/20	POR	v	COS	10:00pm
4/24	TUL	v	COS	8:00pm
5/4	COS	v	ELP	8:00pm
5/11	LV	v	COS	10:30pm
5/18	COS	v	NM	8:00pm
5/25	OKC	v	COS	8:30pm
6/1	COS	v	FRS	8:00pm
6/8	COS	v	TAC	8:00pm
6/15	RGV	v	COS	8:30pm
6/22	COS	v	SLC	9:00pm
6/29	AUS	v	COS	8:30pm
7/4	COS	v	OC	9:00pm
7/13	COS	v	TUL	8:00pm
7/20	COS	v	OKC	8:00pm
7/27	RNO	v	COS	10:30pm
8/3	SLC	v	COS	10:00pm
8/7	COS	v	POR	9:00pm
8/10	COS	v	RGV	8:00pm
8/17	SAC	v	COS	11:00pm
8/24	FRS	v	COS	10:30pm
8/31	COS	v	PHX	8:00pm
9/7	COS	v	AUS	8:00pm
9/14	NM	v	COS	9:30pm
9/21	ELP	v	COS	9:30pm
9/28	COS	v	LV	8:00pm
10/5	COS	v	LA	8:00pm
10/12	TAC	v	COS	10:00pm
10/19	SA	v	COS	8:30pm

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📷 @SwitchbacksFC



# EL PASO LOCOMOTIVE FC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

El Paso Locomotive FC scored a coup in bringing El Paso native Omar Salgado on as the club's first signing, and there are other additions the club has made in the build up to its first year in the USL Championship that would indicate this is a side that could be in the playoff mix in the Western Conference. Head Coach Mark Lowry enters with a sterling reputation from his previous stop at Jacksonville Armada FC, too, which only adds to the belief this side should get out of the blocks well.

Salgado's presence at the top of the club's spine is supplemented by the addition of former Armada FC players Richie Ryan - who showed well when not sidelined for FC Cincinnati a season ago - and former Championship All-League selection Mechack Jerome, whose experience with the Haitian national team will be invaluable along the back line. There's also Championship experience in the form of full back James Kiffe, himself an All-League selection with Sacramento Republic FC in 2017.

As with all expansion clubs, how all the pieces fit together will be the biggest thing to watch for early in the season. Lowry's sides in the past have valued possession and tempo, and as a result could be one of the more attractive sides to watch in the league this season. Whether that results in a postseason berth, though, remains to be seen.



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## HEAD COACH



Mark Lowry

## KEY PLAYERS



Omar Salgado  
Forward

A native of El Paso, former United States U-23 international Omar Salgado was unveiled as the first signing in Locomotive FC's history last June. The first selection in the 2011 MLS SuperDraft by Vancouver Whitecaps FC when he was a member of the United States U-20 National team, the 25-year-old Salgado has since competed in Major League Soccer and Liga MX. He will be hoping to break out in a big way as he returns to his hometown to lead its inaugural season after recording three goals in 14 appearances on loan with Las Vegas Lights FC last year.



Mechack Jérôme  
Defender

A former USL Championship All-League honoree, Mechack Jérôme will bring both extensive experience on the club and international level to Locomotive FC, but also a familiarity with Head Coach Mark Lowry after previously competing for him with Jacksonville Armada FC. A Haitian international, Jérôme was named to the Championship's All-League Second Team in 2015 after a standout season with the Charlotte Independence. With more than 200 games of experience across his professional and international career, the 28-year-old is going to be a key figure for his new club as he also looks to lead Haiti to the Concacaf Gold Cup this summer.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home	Away	Time (ET)
3/9	ELP	v OKC	9:30pm
3/16	SLC	v ELP	3:00pm
3/23	ELP	v RGV	9:30pm
3/30	ELP	v OC	9:30pm
4/13	ELP	v PHX	9:30pm
4/21	AUS	v ELP	4:30pm
4/27	ELP	v RNO	9:30pm
5/4	COS	v ELP	8:00pm
5/12	ELP	v NM	8:00pm
5/18	ELP	v SAC	9:30pm
5/25	POR	v ELP	10:00pm
6/1	TAC	v ELP	10:00pm
6/8	ELP	v LA	9:30pm
6/15	TUL	v ELP	8:30pm
6/22	ELP	v LV	9:30pm
6/26	SA	v ELP	8:30pm
6/29	FRS	v ELP	10:30pm
7/6	OKC	v ELP	9:00pm
7/17	ELP	v SA	9:00pm
7/20	ELP	v SLC	9:30pm
7/31	NM	v ELP	9:00pm
8/3	ELP	v POR	9:30pm
8/10	PHX	v ELP	10:30pm
8/17	ELP	v TAC	9:30pm
8/24	RGV	v ELP	8:30pm
9/4	ELP	v TUL	9:00pm
9/7	LV	v ELP	10:30pm
9/14	OC	v ELP	10:00pm
9/21	ELP	v COS	9:30pm
9/28	SAC	v ELP	10:30pm
10/2	ELP	v FRS	9:00pm
10/5	RNO	v ELP	9:00pm
10/10	ELP	v AUS	9:00pm
10/19	LA	v ELP	10:00pm

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# FRESNO FC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

There was no playoff place waiting for Fresno FC at the end of its inaugural season last year as it claimed only nine victories on its way to an 11th-place finish in the Western Conference, but the Foxes went into the offseason with what looked like a good foundation in place for the coming year with numerous notable returnees set to suit up for Head Coach Adam Smith.

Fresno's win total was the second-lowest among the top 14 teams in the West, and while the side proved difficult to defeat with only 13 losses, its 12 draws were tied for second behind only Rio Grande Valley FC (14). The side's performance away from home, where it claimed only two victories, was the biggest obstacle between the Foxes and the postseason as they posted a relatively respectable 7-4-6 record at Chukchanski Park.

Getting more secondary production in front of goal should help the Foxes' cause, and to that end they've brought in former Miami FC and Tampa Bay Rowdies forward Jaime Chavez to add to the returning trio of Juan Pablo Caffa, Christian Chaney and Jemal Johnson that finished with a combined 25 goals a season ago. Qudus Lawal could also be one to watch, as will former FC Dallas and Montreal Impact forward Jackson. If Fresno's efforts to boost its firepower pay off, it should mean a first visit to the postseason in the club's second year.



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## HEAD COACH



Adam Smith

## KEY PLAYERS



**Juan Pablo Caffa**  
 Forward

Argentine playmaker Juan Pablo Caffa put up positive numbers in Fresno FC's inaugural season as he finished tied for the team-lead in both goals (9) and assists (5), but unlike his first season in the USL Championship at Tulsa Roughnecks FC there was no playoff place waiting for the Foxes at the end of the campaign. Caffa was again among the leading chance creators in the league, however, and sits third in the Championship over the past two seasons with 155 key passes. With new arrivals joining the Foxes' attack in 2019, the 34-year-old will be looking to dish out more opportunities and help Fresno find more consistency in the club's second season. Fresno's attack find more consistency in the club's second season.



**Jemal Johnson**  
 Midfielder

While the Foxes missed out on the postseason in their first year, the club got its fair share of highlight moments. Leading the way was Jemal Johnson, whose ability to strike from long-range twice landed him on ESPN's SportsCenter Top 10 over the course of the campaign. The New Jersey native also notched nine goals a season ago to finish tied with Caffa for the team lead. If he can improve on that figure and get into double digits this season, it would provide a significant boost to Fresno's postseason chances.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home		Away	Time (ET)
3/9	NM	v	FRS	9:30pm
3/16	RGV	v	FRS	8:30pm
3/23	FRS	v	RNO	10:30pm
4/6	PHX	v	FRS	10:30pm
4/13	FRS	v	TUL	10:30pm
4/26	FRS	v	OC	10:30pm
5/4	SLC	v	FRS	3:00pm
5/8	FRS	v	SAC	10:30pm
5/12	LA	v	FRS	10:00pm
5/22	FRS	v	AUS	10:30pm
5/26	TAC	v	FRS	4:30pm
6/1	COS	v	FRS	8:00pm
6/8	FRS	v	OKC	10:30pm
6/16	POR	v	FRS	10:00pm
6/21	FRS	v	SA	10:30pm
6/29	FRS	v	ELP	10:30pm
7/3	SAC	v	FRS	11:00pm
7/13	FRS	v	NM	10:30pm
7/20	FRS	v	POR	10:30pm
7/27	AUS	v	FRS	8:30pm
8/3	FRS	v	LV	10:30pm
8/10	OKC	v	FRS	9:00pm
8/16	FRS	v	SLC	10:30pm
8/24	FRS	v	COS	10:30pm
8/31	TUL	v	FRS	8:30pm
9/7	RNO	v	FRS	10:00pm
9/14	LV	v	FRS	10:30pm
9/18	FRS	v	RGV	10:30pm
9/21	FRS	v	PHX	10:30pm
9/28	SA	v	FRS	8:30pm
10/2	ELP	v	FRS	9:00pm
10/5	FRS	v	TAC	10:30pm
10/12	FRS	v	LA	10:30pm
10/19	OC	v	FRS	10:00pm

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ig @ffcfoxes



# HARTFORD ATHLETIC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

There's a familiar look to Head Coach Jimmy Nielsen's squad at Hartford Athletic, which saw the former OKC Energy FC sideline boss bring a number of his former players in to lead the way for the expansion side as it prepares to enter the league at historic Dillon Stadium. The attacking duo of Jose Angulo - who sits only three goals away from 50 for his USL Championship career - and Alex Dixon is joined by Sebastian Dalgaard, Jonathan Brown, Philip Rasmussen and Wojciech Wojcik in joining Nielsen with the Athletic, a foundation that could mean early success for the side.

What will be a challenge is eight consecutive road games to start the season, including matchups against presumptive playoff contenders the Charleston Battery, Louisville City FC, Indy Eleven, Tampa Bay Rowdies and Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC coming in consecutive games within the span of a month (March 16-April 13). Weathering that stretch will be key as Hartford looks to enter its home opener on May 4 against the Charlotte Independence with some positive vibes.

In a tough Eastern Conference, though, there will be some questions as to how quickly this will come together. Nielsen fell short of the postseason in his first year at Energy FC before the side took a jump forward to the Western Conference Final in Year 2. There could be a similar learning curve here, familiarity or not.



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Jimmy Nielsen

## KEY PLAYERS



Jose Angulo  
Forward

The 2013 USL Championship Most Valuable Player, Angulo endured a frustrating 2018 campaign before departing OKC Energy FC midseason. The 30-year-old will now look to rebound with Hartford Athletic, where his former Energy FC Head Coach Jimmy Nielsen is leading the way. Three goals shy of reaching 50 regular-season goals in the Championship, Angulo has twice reached the 15-goal mark in a single season in the league. If he can reach those heights again, then the Athletic could have a chance at a place in the postseason in its inaugural season.



Sem de Wit  
Defender

After two strong campaigns with Vancouver Whitecaps FC 2, Sem de Wit got lost in the shuffle with FC Cincinnati a season ago as he recorded only 10 appearances for the side after falling behind other defenders in Alan Koch's pecking order. The 23-year-old Dutch center back has shown his quality in the league before, however, having helped lead WFC2 to the Western Conference Final in 2016. A strong bounce-back season in Hartford is definitely a possibility as he looks to get things back on track in 2019.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home	vs	Away	Time (ET)
3/9	ATL	v	HFD	7:30pm
3/16	CHS	v	HFD	7:30pm
3/23	LOU	v	HFD	7:00pm
3/30	IND	v	HFD	7:00pm
4/6	TBR	v	HFD	7:30pm
4/13	PIT	v	HFD	7:00pm
4/17	NY	v	HFD	7:00pm
4/27	NC	v	HFD	7:00pm
5/4	HFD	v	CLT	7:00pm
5/10	HFD	v	MEM	7:00pm
5/19	LDN	v	HFD	7:30pm
5/25	HFD	v	OTT	7:00pm
6/1	HFD	v	NC	7:00pm
6/8	HFD	v	STL	7:00pm
6/16	HFD	v	NSH	3:00pm
6/22	BHM	v	HFD	8:00pm
6/29	HFD	v	BST	7:00pm
7/6	MEM	v	HFD	8:30pm
7/13	HFD	v	IND	7:00pm
7/17	SPR	v	HFD	8:00pm
7/20	HFD	v	CHS	7:00pm
7/27	HFD	v	PIT	7:00pm
7/30	BST	v	HFD	7:00pm
8/7	NSH	v	HFD	8:00pm
8/10	HFD	v	NY	7:00pm
8/24	HFD	v	ATL	7:00pm
9/1	STL	v	HFD	8:30pm
9/7	HFD	v	LDN	7:00pm
9/14	HFD	v	LOU	7:00pm
9/22	OTT	v	HFD	2:00pm
9/28	CLT	v	HFD	7:00pm
10/5	HFD	v	SPR	7:00pm
10/9	HFD	v	BHM	8:00pm
10/19	HFD	v	TBR	7:00pm

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# INDY ELEVEN

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

Indy Eleven did well to reach the USL Cup Playoffs in its first season in the league a year ago all things considered, with Head Coach Martin Rennie assembling a squad in double-quick time that proved competitive, if not elite. Indy's limits were best indicated in its longest winning streak of the season, which ran for only three games, but a nine-game undefeated run that helped cement a place in the postseason showed the positive direction the team was headed before it ran into Louisville City FC in the Eastern Conference Quarterfinals and saw its season come to an end.

This offseason the club has been one of the splashiest in the player market, bringing on board additional talent that projects to make Indy a strong contender to upend the back-to-back USL Cup champion and its rival in the Louisville-Indianapolis Proximity Association Football Contest (LIPAF). The arrival of the Championship's all-time leading scorer in Dane Kelly and 2018 All-League selection Thomas Enevoldsen will bolster the Eleven's attack, while 2018 Championship Golden Glove Evan Newton arrives to take over between the sticks after featuring for FC Cincinnati a season ago.

The club's returning talent is also plentiful with All-League Second Team selection Ayoze Garcia back in defense alongside Karl Ouimette and Tyler Pasher, while midfielder Matt Watson is also back in the fold. But it's the newcomers like Newton's former FCC teammates Tyler Gibson, Kenney Walker and Paddy Barrett that appear set to make a big difference for the Eleven this year as they go in pursuit of silverware.

## HEAD COACH



**Martin Rennie**



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## KEY PLAYERS



**Thomas Enevoldsen**  
Forward

One of the leading newcomers to the USL Championship in 2018 with Orange County SC, Thomas Enevoldsen helped a turnaround that saw OCSC finish top of the conference standings and reach the Western Conference Final of the USL Cup Playoffs. While Enevoldsen's 20 goals caught the biggest headlines, his ability to create was also impressive. The 31-year-old was one of three players to record double-digit goals and assists and 70 key passes in the regular season alongside fellow All-League First Team selections Emmanuel Ledesma (FC Cincinnati) and OCSC teammate Aodhan Quinn. Enevoldsen will now look for an encore with Indy Eleven as one of the club's big offseason arrivals that could put the side into the picture for the USL Cup at the end of the season.



**Dane Kelly**  
Forward

Dane Kelly returns to the league with the Eleven after spending the 2018 campaign at D.C. United, and the USL Championship's all-time leading scorer will be looking to regain the form that saw him claim the league's Golden Boot with 18 goals for Reno 1868 FC two seasons ago. With 67 regular-season goals since his league debut in 2011 and another five in the USL Cup Playoffs, the 27-year-old parlayed his performances in Reno into a first call-up to the Jamaican national team. With Enevoldsen and former Louisville City FC forward Ilija Lic joining him in the Eleven's attack, there should be plenty of chances for Kelly to add to his tally.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home		Away	Time (ET)
3/9	STL	v	IND	2:00pm
3/15	CLT	v	IND	7:00pm
3/30	IND	v	HFD	7:00pm
4/15	SPR	v	IND	8:00pm
4/20	BST	v	IND	7:00pm
4/28	NY	v	IND	1:00pm
5/1	IND	v	TBR	7:00pm
5/4	IND	v	NC	7:00pm
5/18	IND	v	CHS	TBC
5/25	IND	v	NSH	TBC
6/1	IND	v	PIT	7:00pm
6/8	MEM	v	IND	8:30pm
6/15	LDN	v	IND	7:30pm
6/22	IND	v	ATL	7:00pm
6/26	IND	v	BHM	7:00pm
6/29	IND	v	LOU	7:00pm
7/13	HFD	v	IND	7:00pm
7/20	IND	v	LDN	7:00pm
7/27	NSH	v	IND	8:00pm
8/3	NC	v	IND	7:00pm
8/17	IND	v	STL	7:00pm
8/24	IND	v	CLT	7:00pm
8/30	LOU	v	IND	7:00pm
9/4	IND	v	NY	7:00pm
9/7	CHS	v	IND	7:30pm
9/11	IND	v	OTT	7:00pm
9/14	IND	v	BST	7:00pm
9/20	BHM	v	IND	8:00pm
9/25	ATL	v	IND	7:30pm
9/28	PIT	v	IND	7:00pm
10/2	OTT	v	IND	7:00pm
10/5	IND	v	MEM	7:00pm
10/12	TBR	v	IND	7:30pm
10/19	IND	v	SPR	7:00pm

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# LA GALAXY II

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

For neutrals, there might have been no better team to tune into for entertainment in 2018 than the LA Galaxy II, whose games averaged 3.7 goals per game. The Galaxy II scored the third-most goals in the Western Conference as one of four teams to have at least three double-digit goalscorers in the regular season with Frankie Lopez, Ethan Zubak and 2018 USL Championship 20 Under 20 No. 1 selection Efrain Alvarez leading a potent attack.

Where it fell apart for Los Dos was defensively, as the side also conceded the fourth-most goals in the Western Conference to end with a -7 goal differential as it ended the year in 14th place in the standings. The side was able to string together back-to-back victories on four different occasions throughout the year, but too often slid backwards each time to leave it 16 points out of the playoff positions.

Finding a way to maintain the side's prodigious attack while solidifying the defense is going to be the biggest challenge facing Head Coach Mike Munoz as he looks to break a two-year absence from the playoffs, and the side has made some interesting additions this offseason with that in mind. At the top of the list is goalkeeper Abraham Romero, a former Galaxy Academy player who turned professional with Xolos in 2016 before joining the Galaxy II this offseason. Experienced defender Michael Gallagher should also add to the side after success with Real Monarchs SLC.



## CONTACTS

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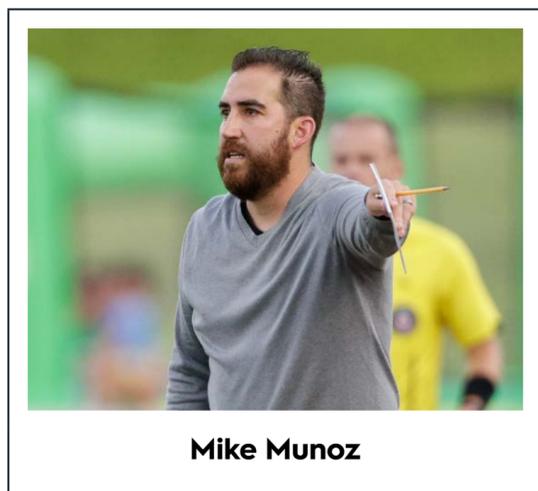
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## HEAD COACH



Mike Munoz

## KEY PLAYERS



Ethan Zubak  
Forward

Reaching double-digit goals for the first time in his young career in 2018, Ethan Zubak took a big step forward for the Galaxy II and helped the side become one of the most entertaining sides in the Championship a season ago. Zubak has been a mainstay for Los Dos since making his debut for the club in 2015, and currently sits with the second-most appearances in the club's history with 83. After his 11-goal campaign a season ago - and being selected as the No. 2 player in the 2018 USL Championship 20 Under 20 - finding a way to get among the league's leading scorers this season would continue his promising trajectory.



Abraham Romero  
Goalkeeper

There's a feeling of the story of the prodigal son in Romero's signing with the Galaxy II, with the goalkeeper having left the Galaxy's Academy in 2016 to join Liga MX's Pachuca before joining the professional ranks with the same side the following year. Romero isn't guaranteed of the starting place with fellow young standout Eric Lopez returning, making that one of the more interesting positional competitions in the league. Romero's experience with the Mexico U-20 National Team is a plus, though, and after his return to the Galaxy fold, he'll be one to watch this year.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home		Away	Time (ET)
3/9	LA	v	COS	10:00pm
3/16	TAC	v	LA	10:00pm
3/23	SLC	v	LA	3:00pm
3/30	LA	v	POR	10:00pm
4/6	LA	v	TUL	10:00pm
4/13	SA	v	LA	8:30pm
4/24	LA	v	RGV	10:30pm
4/29	LA	v	LV	10:30pm
5/4	LA	v	AUS	10:00pm
5/12	LA	v	FRS	10:00pm
5/18	RGV	v	LA	8:30pm
5/25	LA	v	OC	10:00pm
5/29	LA	v	TAC	10:30pm
6/1	OKC	v	LA	9:00pm
6/8	ELP	v	LA	9:30pm
6/15	RNO	v	LA	10:30pm
6/22	LA	v	NM	10:00pm
6/29	OC	v	LA	10:00pm
7/4	LV	v	LA	10:30pm
7/20	LA	v	RNO	10:00pm
7/24	TUL	v	LA	8:30pm
7/28	POR	v	LA	10:30pm
8/3	LA	v	PHX	10:00pm
8/10	AUS	v	LA	8:30pm
8/17	NM	v	LA	9:30pm
8/31	LA	v	SAC	10:00pm
9/7	LA	v	SLC	10:00pm
9/14	PHX	v	LA	10:30pm
9/20	LA	v	SAC	10:00pm
9/28	LA	v	OKC	10:00pm
10/2	SAC	v	LA	10:30pm
10/5	COS	v	LA	7:00pm
10/12	FRS	v	LA	10:30pm
10/19	LA	v	ELP	10:00pm

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# LAS VEGAS LIGHTS FC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

They promised it wouldn't be boring, and it rarely was, but Las Vegas Lights FC's first season in the USL Championship ended up with the side losing more games than it won and drew combined, which led to a rapid regime change before the end of the offseason. The appointment of former United States international Eric Wynalda as Head Coach, though, means there should be no shortage of entertainment this year as Cashman Field becomes a fully soccer-specific venue after the departure of the Las Vegas Aviators to its new venue in Summerlin, Nev.

While the appointment of Wynalda might look to be from the same playbook as when Lights FC launched, there's reason to believe this is going to be an improved Vegas side. Wynalda has been looking for an opportunity like this to lead a side his way for a while, and he's bringing in some names that have had success in the Championship before. Among them is Cristian Hernandez, who helped Penn FC reach USL Cup in 2014 on loan from the Philadelphia Union, while Irvin Parra was the first player to register double-digit goals and assists in the same season in 2017.

There are also some intriguing prospects in the side, led by former U.S. youth internationals Bryan de la Fuente and Javan Torre, while returning goalkeepers Thomas Olsen and Angel Alvarez will battle for the starting position. Lights FC should rarely be boring again, but this time there's a chance it's going to end up with a playoff place waiting for them at the end.

## HEAD COACH



**Eric Wynalda**



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## KEY PLAYERS



**Irvin Parra**  
Midfielder

In 2017, Irvin Parra became the first player in the USL Championship's history to record double-digit goals and assists in the same season by scoring 11 goals and recording 10 assists in 30 matches between his time with Seattle and Orange County SC. After spending a season overseas, Parra returns as part of Las Vegas Lights FC's roster overhaul under new Head Coach Eric Wynalda, where his ability to create as well as finish chances will be critical if Las Vegas is to improve its prospects of reaching the USL Cup Playoffs for the first time.



**Javan Torre**  
Defender

A former United States U-20 international, Javan Torre joins Lights FC looking to return to the spotlight that saw him star for UCLA collegiately and be selected by the Colorado Rapids in the 2016 MLS SuperDraft. The 25-year-old most recently played for FSV Frankfurt in Germany's Regionalliga Südwest, where he made 24 appearances, and will be looked at as one of the keys to Lights FC making the necessary improvements to contend for the postseason after giving up 74 goals in 34 games in its inaugural season.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home		Away	Time (ET)
3/9	LV	v	AUS	10:30pm
3/16	OKC	v	LV	8:30pm
3/23	POR	v	LV	10:00pm
3/30	LV	v	SLC	10:30pm
4/6	SA	v	LV	8:30pm
4/13	LV	v	TAC	10:30pm
4/20	RGV	v	LV	8:30pm
4/29	LA	v	LV	10:30pm
5/4	LV	v	SAC	10:30pm
5/11	LV	v	COS	10:30pm
5/18	PHX	v	LV	10:30pm
5/25	LV	v	TUL	10:30pm
6/1	RNO	v	LV	10:30pm
6/8	LV	v	OC	10:30pm
6/15	LV	v	NM	10:30pm
6/22	ELP	v	LV	9:30pm
6/29	LV	v	OKC	10:30pm
7/4	LV	v	LA	10:30pm
7/24	TAC	v	LV	10:00pm
7/27	LV	v	RGV	10:30pm
8/3	FRS	v	LV	10:30pm
8/7	SAC	v	LV	11:00pm
8/17	OC	v	LV	10:00pm
8/24	LV	v	POR	10:30pm
8/28	TUL	v	LV	8:30pm
9/4	SLC	v	LV	9:00pm
9/7	LV	v	ELP	10:30pm
9/11	LV	v	PHX	10:30pm
9/14	LV	v	FRS	10:30pm
9/22	AUS	v	LV	7:00pm
9/28	COS	v	LV	8:00pm
10/5	LV	v	SA	10:30pm
9/12	LV	v	RNO	10:30pm
9/19	NM	v	LV	9:30pm

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# LOUDOUN UNITED FC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

The quietest of the seven expansion clubs joining the USL Championship in 2019, there is much more unknown about Loudoun United FC than is known as the club moves into its inaugural season. That said, that which is known appears on the face of it to be very positive for the long-term success of the side owned and operated by Major League Soccer's D.C. United. The club is preparing to open a 5,000-seat soccer specific venue in Leesburg, Va. later this year and appointed a well-known name as its first Head Coach.

Former United States Men's National Team assistant Richie Williams will lead Loudoun United into its first season, bringing with him the understanding of D.C.'s history and the potential to pull young talent like Donovan Pines and Antonio Bustamante into his line-up after both signed as Homegrown Players this off-season. There will be experience in goal with former Houston Dynamo shot-stopper Calle Brown returning to his home state, where he previously won a College Cup with the University of Virginia in 2014, and the club has also turned its recruiting eye overseas as it looks to bring in quality young Concacaf talent.

On the other side, the number of questions that are still to be answered mean there's going to be a lot that Loudoun United has to figure out on the fly in its first year. In a loaded Eastern Conference, that means the chances of a playoff place are probably slim, with the hope being the side will fly under the radar before jumping up and surprising some of its more experienced counterparts.

## HEAD COACH



**Richie Williams**



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## KEY PLAYERS



**Donovan Pines**  
Defender

A Homegrown signing by D.C. United this off-season, Pines played three collegiate seasons at the University of Maryland and is expected to be one of the cornerstones for the expansion side this season. The 6-foot-5 center back made 56 appearances for the Terrapins and notched three goals and three assists, while helping lead the Terrapins to the NCAA Division I Championship last fall. He was also named to the United Soccer Coaches All-America Second Team and brings experience as a former member of the United States U-19 National Team.



**Calle Brown**  
Goalkeeper

The first official signing in Loudoun United FC history, Virginia native Calle Brown returns home after featuring in the USL Championship for three different clubs in the past four seasons. Brown's career began with Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC in 2015, where his performances saw him make the move to Major League Soccer's Houston Dynamo the following off-season. After two seasons that saw him feature regularly on loan with Rio Grande Valley FC, Brown headed to Seattle Sounders FC last year and made 21 appearances on loan with the Tacoma Defiance. With almost 5,000 minutes of experience at the Championship level, the 26-year-old former NCAA Division I Championship winner's experience will prove invaluable to Head Coach Richie Williams' squad in its inaugural season.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home		Away	Time (ET)
3/9	NSH	v	LDN	8:00pm
3/16	MEM	v	LDN	8:00pm
3/30	TBR	v	LDN	7:30pm
4/13	OTT	v	LDN	2:00pm
4/20	NY	v	LDN	1:00pm
4/27	BHM	v	LDN	8:00pm
5/3	LDN	v	BST	7:30pm
5/11	CLT	v	LDN	7:00pm
5/19	LDN	v	HFD	7:30pm
6/5	SPR	v	LDN	8:00pm
6/8	LOU	v	LDN	7:00pm
6/15	LDN	v	IND	7:30pm
6/28	LDN	v	ATL	7:30pm
7/6	STL	v	LDN	8:30pm
7/17	NC	v	LDN	7:00pm
7/20	IND	v	LDN	7:00pm
7/28	LDN	v	LOU	7:30pm
8/2	ATL	v	LDN	7:30pm
8/9	LDN	v	CLT	7:30pm
8/14	LDN	v	CHS	7:30pm
8/17	LDN	v	OTT	7:30pm
8/23	PIT	v	LDN	7:00pm
8/28	LDN	v	BHM	7:30pm
8/31	LDN	v	NC	7:30pm
9/7	HFD	v	LDN	7:00pm
9/13	LDN	v	MEM	7:30pm
9/18	BST	v	LDN	7:30pm
9/25	LDN	v	SPR	7:30pm
9/28	LDN	v	NSH	7:30pm
10/1	LDN	v	PIT	7:30pm
10/4	LDN	v	TBR	7:30pm
10/13	CHS	v	LDN	2:00pm
10/19	LDN	v	NY	7:30pm

/LoudounUnitedFC  
 @LoudounUnitedFC  
 @LoudounUnitedFC



# LOUISVILLE CITY FC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

As the first back-to-back USL Cup champion in the league's history, Louisville City FC enters unprecedented territory in 2019. After ending 2018 on a 10-game winning streak that covered the final six games of the regular season and the USL Cup Playoffs, LouCity will enter the new season as the team everyone else is looking to take down after a remarkable run of success over its first four seasons.

Head Coach John Hackworth will have some gaps to fill in his starting lineup, however, with goalkeeper Greg Ranjitsingh and defender Kyle Smith both having joined former LouCity Head Coach James O'Connor at Orlando City SC in Major League Soccer. Also departed is forward Ilija Ilic to Indy Eleven after his breakout campaign, and then there's the move of 2018 Championship Golden Boot-winner Cameron Lancaster to Nashville SC, with the English forward signing an MLS contract in the Music City a year before NSC joins the top flight.

That being said, there remains more than enough quality within the squad to think that Louisville will be right there again in the postseason. Defender Paco Craig earned All-League First Team honors for a second consecutive season, while captain Paolo DelPiccolo and Jamaican international Speedy Williams are a formidable tandem in the center of midfield. There are also interesting new additions with Lucky Mkosana and Sunny Jane among the arrivals this offseason, while Luke Spencer will have a chance to regain his 2017 form when he was the club's leading scorer after an injury-hit 2018. LouCity has finished in the top two in the Eastern Conference in every season of its history and there's a strong case it will at least emulate that feat once again.

## HEAD COACH



**John Hackworth**



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## KEY PLAYERS



**Paco Craig**  
 Defender

A second consecutive selection to the USL Championship All-League First Team cemented Paco Craig as one of the league's top defenders. As he returns for his fourth season at the club, that quality will again be key as LouCity looks to add to its unprecedented run of consecutive USL Cup victories. Craig missed only two games across the regular season and playoffs a season ago, while recording 208 clearances and 72 interceptions as his partnership with newcomer Alexis Souahy grew throughout the season. With both players back in 2019, Louisville's defense should remain one of the best in the league.



**Brian Ownby**  
 Midfielder

A standout in each of Louisville City FC's runs to USL Cup victories over the past two years, Brian Ownby will be hoping for better fortune with injuries in the 2019 campaign after making only 11 regular-season starts in 2018. The consistent presence of Ownby's creativity in the attacking third would be a major boost for Louisville after the departures of Cameron Lancaster and Ilija Ilic this offseason, as would his eye for goal. Now tied for the all-time lead in USL Cup Playoffs history with six goals, the 28-year-old is due for a year where it all comes together throughout the season, and this could be the year it arrives.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home		Away	Time (ET)
3/9	NC	v	LOU	3:00pm
3/15	ATL	v	LOU	7:30pm
3/23	LOU	v	HFD	7:00pm
3/30	LOU	v	BHM	7:00pm
4/6	LOU	v	PIT	7:00pm
4/13	TBR	v	LOU	7:30pm
4/20	LOU	v	OTT	7:00pm
4/30	LOU	v	MEM	7:00pm
5/6	SPR	v	LOU	8:00pm
5/11	BHM	v	LOU	8:00pm
5/18	LOU	v	STL	7:00pm
5/26	BST	v	LOU	7:00pm
6/1	LOU	v	CHS	7:00pm
6/8	LOU	v	LDN	7:00pm
6/16	NY	v	LOU	3:00pm
6/22	LOU	v	CLT	7:00pm
6/29	IND	v	LOU	7:00pm
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7/14	OTT	v	LOU	2:00pm
7/20	LOU	v	BST	7:00pm
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8/11	LOU	v	ATL	3:00pm
8/17	CHS	v	LOU	7:30pm
8/24	LOU	v	NC	3:00pm
8/30	LOU	v	IND	7:00pm
9/7	PIT	v	LOU	7:00pm
9/14	HFD	v	LOU	7:00pm
9/21	LOU	v	NY	7:00pm
9/28	LOU	v	TBR	7:00pm
10/5	STL	v	LOU	8:30pm
10/8	NSH	v	LOU	8:00pm
10/12	LOU	v	SPR	7:00pm
10/19	MEM	v	LOU	8:00pm

/louisvillecityfc

@loucityfc

@louisvillecityfc



# MEMPHIS 901 FC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

Memphis 901 FC hasn't made the big splash of a signing that some of its counterparts have, with captain Marc Burch maybe the most recognizable name on the club's roster as it enters its first season in the Championship. What Head Coach Tim Mulqueen does have at his disposal, however, is a side that brings a wealth of experience in the league, which should allow it to turn into a cohesive unit as the year unfolds.

What's certain is that Memphis is ready for 901 FC's arrival. The club's brand launch was a massive success as a sellout crowd of 8,957 packed AutoZone Park last September for an exhibition between Major League Soccer's Colorado Rapids and the Championship's Tulsa Roughnecks FC. The connection to the community that has already been established is going to stand the side in good stead, with the experience of former Charleston Battery executive Andrew Bell providing a steady hand at the helm as 901 FC's Sporting Director.

On the field, players like former USL Cup-winner Dan Metzger and Caribbean internationals like Ewan Grandison (Jamaica) and Duane Muckette (Trinidad & Tobago) are going to be counted on to bring their qualities to the fire, with Bell also bringing aboard former Battery and Richmond Kickers forward Heviel Cordoves to lead the club's attacking line. It may be a challenge to reach the postseason in the club's first season, but there's enough experience here to make life difficult for opponents across the Eastern Conference.



## CONTACTS

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## HEAD COACH



Tim Mulqueen

## KEY PLAYERS



**Marc Burch**  
Defender

Joining a USL Championship club for the first time as Memphis 901 FC's captain for its inaugural season, Burch spent his first 13 seasons as a professional in Major League Soccer as he suited up for six different clubs, including most recently Minnesota United FC. The veteran defender accumulated 234 appearances in the top flight and won both the MLS Supporters Shield and Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup with D.C. United. His experience will be a major plus for Head Coach Tim Mulqueen's side as it looks to find a path to success in its first year.



**Luca Uccello**  
Midfielder

A recent member of the Canada U-20 National Team, Luca Uccello joins 901 FC after spending the past four seasons in the Championship with Toronto FC II. The 21-year-old made 77 appearances for TFC II in that span but was unable to find a breakthrough season as he recorded just 10 goals over those four seasons. Finding a fresh start in Memphis could be the move that helps Uccello regain his footing, and he can certainly look to a former TFC II colleague for inspiration in the form of Mark-Anthony Kaye, who came into his own over two seasons with Louisville City FC before joining Major League Soccer's Los Angeles FC for the 2018 campaign. There's a long way to go for Uccello on that road, but there's still time for the Markham, Ontario native to live up to his potential.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home	Away	Time (ET)
3/9	MEM	v TBR	7:00pm
3/16	MEM	v LDN	8:00pm
3/24	BST	v MEM	6:00pm
3/29	NY	v MEM	7:00pm
4/6	NC	v MEM	7:00pm
4/10	MEM	v ATL	8:00pm
4/13	NSH	v MEM	8:00pm
4/27	MEM	v CHS	8:00pm
4/30	LOU	v MEM	7:00pm
5/4	MEM	v BHM	4:00pm
5/10	HFD	v MEM	7:00pm
5/18	MEM	v PIT	8:00pm
5/22	SPR	v MEM	8:00pm
6/1	STL	v MEM	8:30pm
6/8	MEM	v IND	8:30pm
6/15	OTT	v MEM	7:00pm
6/29	CLT	v MEM	7:00pm
7/6	MEM	v HFD	8:30pm
7/13	CHS	v MEM	7:30pm
7/17	MEM	v NSH	8:30pm
7/20	MEM	v NY	8:30pm
7/27	MEM	v OTT	8:30pm
8/3	PIT	v MEM	7:00pm
8/10	MEM	v NC	8:30pm
8/17	BHM	v MEM	8:00pm
8/24	TBR	v MEM	7:30pm
8/28	ATL	v MEM	7:30pm
9/7	MEM	v SPR	8:00pm
9/13	LDN	v MEM	7:30pm
9/21	MEM	v STL	8:00pm
9/28	MEM	v BST	8:00pm
10/5	IND	v MEM	7:00pm
10/12	MEM	v CTL	8:00pm
10/19	MEM	v LOU	8:00pm

/Memphis901FC

@Memphis901FC

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# NASHVILLE SC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

Nashville SC's inaugural professional season had some major highs and some perplexing lows that resulted in its first USL Cup Playoffs appearance and a remarkable contest against regular-season champion FC Cincinnati, which saw NSC take its hosts to a penalty shootout before falling in sudden death. The performance at Nippert Stadium was in some ways the epitome of Nashville's season, where it competed strongly with the conference's top clubs as it had throughout the year, but also at times played down to lesser opposition to finish in the middle of the pack and face a trip to Cincinnati in the first place.

That inconsistency should be a thing of the past this season, though. Making its first moves on the path to joining Major League Soccer in 2020, NSC added 2018 Championship Golden Boot Cameron Lancaster and fellow All-League First Team selection Daniel Rios as its first MLS signings, and supplemented those arrivals with defenders Ken Tribbett and Darnell King, goalkeeper Connor Sparrow and forward Kharlton Belmar, all of whom bring excellent Championship pedigree.

Add in a lengthy list of returnees that includes goalkeeper Matt Pickens, defenders Liam Doyle and Justin Davis, midfielders Michael Reed, Matt LaGrassa and Bolu Akinyode and forwards Lebo Moloto, Ropapa Mensah and Tucker Hume, and Nashville is one of the clear favorites to end Louisville's reign as USL Cup holder. If it does, it will become the first side to claim a championship in the lower divisions before a move to MLS the following year, a feat that predecessors like Seattle Sounders FC, the Portland Timbers, Orlando City SC and FC Cincinnati were unable to accomplish.

## HEAD COACH



Gary Smith



## CONTACTS

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## KEY PLAYERS



Cameron Lancaster  
Forward

The defending USL Championship Golden Boot-winner signed an MLS deal with Nashville SC this offseason after four seasons with Louisville City FC and will be hoping to mark NSC's last season in the league with a similar level of success as he found in 2018. After scoring a single-season record 25 goals at a rate of a goal every 81 minutes, it could be a lot to ask for a repeat performance from the former Tottenham Hotspur forward, but Lancaster's instinctive finishing and ability to produce from set pieces should put him back in contention for league awards at the end of the year and help Nashville live up to its billing as one of the leading contenders for USL Cup.



Daniel Rios  
Forward

After producing a stellar season on loan with North Carolina FC from Chivas de Guadalajara last season, Daniel Rios became the first MLS signing in Nashville SC's history this offseason. The 24-year-old notched 20 goals for NCFC to finish tied for second in the Golden Boot race behind his new teammate Cameron Lancaster, and while that wasn't enough to propel North Carolina to a playoff berth it certainly caught the attention of all that were watching. Teaming up with Lancaster and fellow new arrival Kharlton Belmar, Rios could have another big year ahead before making the move with Nashville to the top flight, though, it will be worth watching how the club looks to incorporate all three - and returnees Tucker Hume, Ropapa Mensah and Alan Winn - over the course of the season to ensure attacking success.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home		Away	Time (ET)
3/9	NSH	v	LDN	8:00pm
3/16	NSH	v	STL	8:00pm
3/24	NY	v	NSH	1:00pm
4/6	OTT	v	NSH	2:00pm
4/13	NSH	v	MEM	8:00pm
4/20	CHS	v	NSH	7:30pm
4/27	PIT	v	NSH	7:00pm
5/4	ATL	v	NSH	7:30pm
5/8	NSH	v	TBR	8:00pm
5/11	NSH	v	SPR	8:00pm
5/18	NSH	v	CLT	8:00pm
5/22	BHM	v	NSH	8:00pm
5/25	IND	v	NSH	TBC
6/9	BST	v	NSH	7:00pm
6/16	HFD	v	NSH	3:00pm
6/22	NSH	v	OTT	8:00pm
6/26	NSH	v	NY	8:00pm
6/29	NC	v	NSH	7:00pm
7/6	LOU	v	NSH	7:00pm
7/17	MEM	v	NSH	8:30pm
7/27	NSH	v	IND	8:00pm
8/3	SPR	v	NSH	8:00pm
8/7	NSH	v	HFD	8:00pm
8/10	NSH	v	BST	8:00pm
8/17	CLT	v	NSH	7:00pm
8/24	NSH	v	CHS	8:00pm
8/31	TBR	v	NSH	7:30pm
9/7	STL	v	NSH	8:30pm
9/17	NSH	v	BHM	8:00pm
9/21	NSH	v	PIT	8:00pm
9/28	LDN	v	NSH	7:30pm
10/8	NSH	v	LOU	8:00pm
10/12	NSH	v	NC	8:00pm
10/19	NSH	v	ATL	8:00pm

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ig @nashvillesc



# NEW MEXICO UNITED

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

New Mexico United arrives in the USL Championship with innovative branding, what on paper looks like a good squad and a young head coach in Troy Lesesne who is looking to make his mark after serving as an assistant elsewhere in the league. What it adds up to in the end remains to be seen, but there's a feeling that New Mexico has the highest ceiling of any of the seven expansion clubs entering the Championship this year, and that has raised expectations for as successful a launch on the field as the club has experienced in its community.

With more than 2,000 season-ticket holders and counting, New Mexico's mission of becoming a team not just for its home city of Albuquerque is starting to take hold. It grabbed attention thanks to its partnership with art collective Meow Wolf for its home uniforms, and strong visual branding that has resonated with the state's soccer fans.

Now it will be up to Lesesne to make sure the product on the field lives up to expectations. There's a strong New Mexico flavor to the squad with players like Devon Sandoval (ATL UTD 2) and Josh Suggs (Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC) returning to play in their home state, while 2017 Championship Rookie of the Year Chris Wehan - an alum of the University of New Mexico's men's soccer program - is also on board to help lead the side. If everything falls into place, there should be a playoff place waiting for NMU at the end of the season, and potentially more.



## CONTACTS

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## HEAD COACH



Troy Lesesne

## KEY PLAYERS



Cody Mizell  
Goalkeeper

One of the early additions to New Mexico United's first squad, goalkeeper Cody Mizell will look for a bounce-back season after falling out of favor with the Tampa Bay Rowdies in the 2018 campaign. A former standout at Clemson University where he earned ACC All-Freshman Team and ACC All-Conference honors in 2010 and 2011 respectively, Mizell posted a 70.2 save percentage over two seasons with the Charlotte Independence prior to his arrival in Tampa Bay. Reunited with former Independence and new NMU Head Coach Troy Lesesne, the 27-year-old will be key at the back for the expansion side.



Josh Suggs  
Defender

A native New Mexican, Josh Suggs brings more than 150 appearances in the USL Championship to his new club. The veteran defender most recently played for fellow Championship side Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC, where he earned selection to the 2016 All-League Second Team and helped the Switchbacks reach the USL Cup Playoffs that year. Prior to joining the Switchbacks, Suggs played for two seasons with Orange County SC, where he helped the side finish top of the Western Conference in 2015. He has recorded eight goals and 19 assists in his USL Championship career, which has seen him log more than 13,000 minutes of action and sit in the Top 10 in the league in both appearances and minutes played over his career.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home	Away	Time (ET)
3/9	NM	v FRS	9:30pm
3/16	PHX	v NM	10:30pm
3/20	NM	v TUL	9:00pm
3/23	OC	v NM	10:00pm
3/29	TAC	v NM	10:00pm
4/6	RGV	v NM	8:30pm
4/13	NM	v SLC	9:30pm
4/20	RNO	v NM	10:00pm
4/26	NM	v POR	9:30pm
5/5	NM	v SA	7:00pm
5/12	ELP	v NM	8:00pm
5/18	COS	v NM	8:00pm
5/25	AUS	v NM	8:30pm
6/5	NM	v OKC	9:00pm
6/8	NM	v SAC	9:30pm
6/15	LV	v NM	10:30pm
6/22	LA	v NM	10:00pm
7/6	SLC	v NM	10:00pm
7/13	FRS	v NM	10:30pm
7/24	SAC	v NM	11:00pm
7/31	NM	v ELP	9:00pm
8/3	NM	v AUS	9:30pm
8/11	POR	v NM	10:30pm
8/17	NM	v LA	9:30pm
8/24	SA	v NM	8:30pm
9/1	NM	v OC	6:00pm
9/8	OKC	v NM	7:00pm
9/14	NM	v COS	9:30pm
9/20	NM	v RNO	9:30pm
9/28	NM	v PHX	9:30pm
10/5	NM	v RGV	9:30pm
10/12	TUL	v NM	8:00pm
10/16	NM	v TAC	9:00pm
10/19	NM	v LV	9:30pm

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# NEW YORK RED BULLS II

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

As much as things change at the New York Red Bulls II each offseason, so much stays the same. That's in part why the side, led by Head Coach John Wolyniec, has reached the Eastern Conference Final of the USL Cup Playoffs each of the past three seasons. Last year's remarkable late-season run, which included ending FC Cincinnati's hopes of a championship before it departed to Major League Soccer, illustrated this point once again as the side peaked at the right time before falling to eventual USL Cup champions Louisville City FC.

One of the best attacking teams in the league in 2018, as it racked up 71 goals in the regular season, the Red Bulls II put things into place defensively late in the season and finished the campaign on a six-game undefeated streak. Building on that defensive structure in 2019 could see the side get back into the top four this season, with returning defenders Jordan Scarlett and Allan Yanes and new Red Bulls signings Sean Nealis and Kyle Duncan potentially mitigating the departure of Hassan Ndam in the MLS expansion draft.

The Red Bulls II attack figures to be as potent as before, even with the departure of Andrew Tinari to the Tampa Bay Rowdies and Amando Moreno to the Chicago Fire. The duo of Jared Stroud and Tom Barlow are both back to lead the side up front, and they could be joined by Brian White on loan. As much as New York's lineup may differ from its final game of 2018, it would be foolish to believe there will be a drop in performance around the corner.



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John Wolyniec

## KEY PLAYERS



Jared Stroud  
Midfielder

Making the transition from the New York Red Bulls U-23s in USL League Two to the Red Bulls II last season, Jared Stroud showed no drop-off in productivity as he placed himself among the top young players in the league with seven goals and 11 assists to help New York reach the post-season once again. The 22-year-old former Colgate University standout will look to build on the success of his rookie year in 2019 with one eye on leading the Red Bulls II back to the USL Cup Playoffs and another on potentially following the footsteps of the likes of Florian Valot and Vincent Bezecourt to the Red Bulls' MLS squad.



Tom Barlow  
Forward

The former University of Wisconsin forward began his rookie season serving as understudy to Brian White for the New York Red Bulls II, but by the end of the year Tom Barlow had carved out a place as another promising SuperDraft selection by the organization as he notched 10 goals at a rate of a goal every 120 minutes of action. At 6-foot-2, Barlow has both the ability to serve as a central target man while exhibiting a great instinct for being the right place at the right time. With the creativity his teammates bring, another double-digit season of goals could be on the cards for the 23-year-old.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home	Away	Time (ET)
3/9	NY	v SPR	1:00pm
3/24	NY	v NSH	1:00pm
3/29	NY	v MEM	7:00pm
4/6	BHM	v NY	8:00pm
4/13	CLT	v NY	7:00pm
4/17	NY	v HFD	7:00pm
4/20	NY	v LDN	1:00pm
4/28	NY	v IND	1:00pm
5/1	NY	v BHM	7:00pm
5/8	OTT	v NY	10:30am
5/18	TBR	v NY	7:30pm
5/24	NY	v NC	7:00pm
5/31	NY	v BST	7:00pm
6/7	ATL	v NY	7:30pm
6/16	NY	v LOU	3:00pm
6/22	PIT	v NY	7:00pm
6/26	NSH	v NY	8:00pm
6/29	CHS	v NY	7:30pm
7/5	NY	v OTT	7:00pm
7/10	BHM	v NY	7:30pm
7/13	NY	v ATL	5:00pm
7/20	MEM	v NY	8:30pm
7/26	NY	v TBR	7:00pm
8/2	NY	v STL	7:00pm
8/10	HFD	v NY	7:00pm
8/14	NY	v PIT	7:00pm
8/24	SPR	v NY	8:00pm
9/4	IND	v NY	7:00pm
9/13	NY	v CTL	7:00pm
9/18	STL	v NY	8:00pm
9/21	LOU	v NY	7:00pm
9/27	NY	v CTL	7:30pm
10/5	NC	v NY	7:00pm
10/19	LDN	v NY	7:30pm

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📷 @nyrb2



# NORTH CAROLINA FC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

North Carolina FC came up short of a place in the USL Cup Playoffs in its inaugural season, with inconsistency proving the biggest issue as the side fell three times in its final five games to miss out on a postseason spot by two points. That resulted in a change on the club's sideline, and maybe the biggest coaching coup in the league's history, as former United States Men's National Team interim Manager Dave Sarachan takes the reins at Sahlen's Stadium at WakeMed Soccer Park for the 2019 season.

Sarachan has some good returning pieces to work with, including veteran midfielder Austin da Luz, forward Marios Lomis and goalkeeper Alex Tambakis, who regularly produced spectacular saves for the side in his first year at the club. NCFC also made some intriguing additions, with 2014 All-America First Team selection Robbie Kristo returning to the United States after spending the past four years in Europe. The club also picked up Indiana University midfielder Austin Pancho and brought in former Academy product and U.S. U-20 international Manny Perez on loan from Scotland's Celtic FC.

But all eyes will be focused on how Sarachan fares in his first season. Having led the Chicago Fire to an MLS Supporters' Shield earlier in his coaching career before claiming numerous accolades as an assistant coach in the top flight, the 64-year-old will be expected to put NCFC in a position to contend in the Eastern Conference this season.

## HEAD COACH



Dave Sarachan



## CONTACTS

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## KEY PLAYERS



Austin da Luz  
Midfielder

The longest-serving current member of the club, Austin da Luz will enter his eighth season for North Carolina FC looking to play a key role in the middle of the park for new Head Coach Dave Sarachan. Last season, the former Wake Forest standout became the sixth player in club history to reach the 10,000-minute milestone for NCFC. But despite posting five goals and two assists in 31 appearances, he was unable to lead the side into the postseason as North Carolina slid to crucial defeats against Southern Derby rival the Charleston Battery and eventual playoff side the New York Red Bulls II in its final five games. Helping the side find more consistency in 2019 is going to be paramount for the 31-year-old veteran.



Manny Perez  
Defender

United States U-20 international Manny Perez begins his professional career with eyes from either side of the Atlantic Ocean paying close attention, with his loan to North Carolina FC from legendary Scottish club Celtic FC ensuring a close following of his progress this year. Perez should be in an ideal environment to grow, having come through the NCFC Academy and having former United States Men's National Team Manager Dave Sarachan as his Head Coach. Solid production early in the year could also lead to a place in the squad for the FIFA U-20 World Cup in Poland this May and a chance to shine on the international stage.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home	Away	Time (ET)
3/9	NC	v LOU	3:00pm
3/16	BST	v NC	7:00pm
3/30	NC	v CLT	8:00pm
4/6	NC	v MEM	7:00pm
4/13	ATL	v NC	7:30pm
4/20	CLT	v NC	7:00pm
4/27	NC	v HFD	7:00pm
5/4	IND	v NC	7:00pm
5/12	OTT	v NC	2:00pm
5/18	NC	v BHM	7:00pm
5/24	NY	v NC	7:00pm
6/1	HFD	v NC	7:00pm
6/8	TBR	v NC	7:30pm
6/15	NC	v SPR	7:00pm
6/22	STL	v NC	8:30pm
6/29	NC	v NSH	7:00pm
7/4	NC	v CLT	7:00pm
7/13	BHM	v NC	8:00pm
7/17	NC	v LDN	7:00pm
7/20	PIT	v NC	7:00pm
7/27	NC	v ATL	7:00pm
8/3	NC	v IND	7:00pm
8/10	MEM	v NC	8:30pm
8/17	NC	v PIT	7:00pm
8/21	NC	v TBR	7:00pm
8/24	LOU	v NC	3:00pm
8/31	LDN	v NC	7:30pm
9/7	NC	v BST	7:00pm
9/14	SPR	v NC	5:00pm
9/22	CHS	v NC	2:00pm
9/28	NC	v OTT	7:00pm
10/5	NC	v NY	7:00pm
10/12	NSH	v NC	8:00pm
10/19	NC	v STL	7:00pm

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# OKC ENERGY FC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

For a second consecutive year, OKC Energy FC's start to the season was among the slowest in the league, but unlike the 2017 campaign it proved too big a hole to emerge from, ending the club's postseason streak at three seasons. Finding a way to build on a good run of results later in the campaign is going to be imperative for Head Coach Steve Cooke's squad this year, and with numerous changes to the team there will be added pressure to get on track early in the season.

With four players heading to join ex-Energy FC Head Coach Jimmy Nielsen at expansion side Hartford Athletic, though, there has been a bigger chance for Cooke to put his imprint on the squad. Among the new arrivals are the French duo of Nicolas Taravel and Alexy Bosetti, whose Ligue 1 experience makes him one of the most interesting new arrivals to the Championship this season. There are some other bright attacking options on board as well, including Trinidad & Tobago international Cordell Cato and Jamaican international Omar Gordon joining his fellow countryman Deshorn Brown in the attacking corps.

With goalkeeper Cody Laurendi and defender Atiba Harris - both nominated for Concacaf awards this offseason for their national team performances - back defensively alongside Drew Beckie, Christian Ibeagha and Kyle Hyland, there is a measure of consistency that should help as the side moves forward. Energy FC may not enter the regular season as one of the favorites in the Western Conference, but they have the look of a side that can work itself into that conversation by the time the USL Cup Playoffs arrive.

## HEAD COACH



**Steve Cooke**



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## KEY PLAYERS



**Deshorn Brown**  
 Forward

Deshorn Brown joined OKC Energy FC late last season, linking up with the club's Head Coach Steve Cooke for a second time after the two worked together at the Colorado Rapids early in the Jamaican's career. Brown scored 20 goals in 62 appearances for the Rapids across the 2013 and 2014 seasons after starring in USL League Two for the Des Moines Menace and Reading United SC, but since then he has struggled to find consistent form, or a consistent home. After competing for the Tampa Bay Rowdies, D.C. United and Spanish club Lorca since the start of 2017, the hope is Brown can regain his form from the Rapids in Oklahoma City, help lead Energy FC back to the USL Cup Playoffs and maybe even put himself back in the picture for the Jamaica National Team.



**Alexy Bosetti**  
 Forward

The 25-year-old French forward was one of the most intriguing signings of the Championship this offseason, bringing with him to Oklahoma City experience in France's top flight and at the 2013 FIFA U-20 World Cup, where he was part of the tournament-winning squad alongside Paul Pogba and Samuel Umtiti. Joined by fellow countryman Nicolas Taravel in joining Energy FC this offseason, Bosetti will be hoping to have a major impact at his new club and looking to turn the page after an uneven period of his career over the past couple of years.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home		Away	Time (ET)
3/9	ELP	v	OKC	9:30pm
3/16	OKC	v	LV	8:30pm
3/24	SAC	v	OKC	5:00pm
3/30	RNO	v	OKC	9:01pm
4/6	OKC	v	POR	8:30pm
4/13	RGV	v	OKC	8:30pm
4/20	OKC	v	OC	8:30pm
4/27	TUL	v	OKC	8:00pm
5/4	OKC	v	TAC	8:30pm
5/10	AUS	v	OKC	8:30pm
5/18	OKC	v	SLC	8:30pm
5/25	OKC	v	COS	8:30pm
6/1	OKC	v	LA	9:00pm
6/5	NM	v	OKC	9:00pm
6/8	FRS	v	OKC	10:30pm
6/15	OKC	v	SA	9:00pm
6/22	OKC	v	PHX	9:00pm
6/29	LV	v	OKC	10:30pm
7/6	OKC	v	ELP	9:00pm
7/17	OKC	v	RNO	9:00pm
7/20	COS	v	OKC	8:00pm
7/27	TAC	v	OKC	10:00pm
8/3	OKC	v	TUL	9:00pm
8/10	OKC	v	FRS	9:00pm
8/16	POR	v	OKC	10:30pm
8/24	OKC	v	AUS	9:00pm
8/30	SLC	v	OKC	10:00pm
9/8	OKC	v	NM	7:00pm
9/14	SA	v	OKC	8:30pm
9/22	OKC	v	SAC	7:00pm
9/28	LA	v	OKC	10:00pm
10/5	OC	v	OKC	10:00pm
10/13	OKC	v	RGV	7:00pm
10/18	PHX	v	OKC	10:30pm

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@energyfc



# ORANGE COUNTY SC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

Orange County SC produced one of the best turn-arounds in the Championship's history in 2018, going from a 10th-place finish the year before to finishing top of the Western Conference standings under first-year Head Coach Braeden Cloutier. OCSC's USL Cup Playoffs run may have come to an end at the hands of Phoenix Rising FC in the Western Conference Final, but the season overall was a resounding success that helped reset expectations for the club moving forward.

The club got to work before the conclusion of its playoff run to make sure some key figures would be back for the 2019 campaign, with Championship MVP finalist Aodhan Quinn and forward Michael Seaton both signed to new contracts. The club did see the departure of leading scorer Thomas Enevoldsen to Indy Eleven, but went out and signed former Rangers FC forward Harry Forrester as his presumptive replacement while also bringing Jerry van Ewijk back to the club after his 2018 season with Reno 1868 FC.

Another new arrival is Charlie Adams, who makes the move from Real Monarchs SLC to add another creative piece to the midfield, but the best indicator of Orange County's new direction is the number of key players that will be back. Experienced players like midfielder Christian Duke - who is approaching 150 regular-season appearances in the Championship - and defender Kevin Alston will help the side remain a strong playoff contender with hopes of going one step further than a season ago.



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Braeden Cloutier

## KEY PLAYERS



**Aodhan Quinn**  
Midfielder

One of Orange County SC's big offseason arrivals prior to the 2018 season, Aodhan Quinn more than lived up to expectations in his return to California as he put up career-best numbers to earn nomination as a finalist for the USL Championship's Most Valuable Player award. The San Diego native played in every minute of the regular season and notched 12 goals and 15 assists to help Orange County top the Western Conference before reaching the Western Conference Final of the USL Cup Playoffs for the first time. Maintaining that level in the new season alongside returning forward Michael Seaton and new midfield arrival Charlie Adams - who was teammates with Quinn in Louisville City FC's inaugural season - could help OCSC go one step further and claim the first silverware in club history.



**Harry Forrester**  
Forward

Orange County struck it big with the signing of Thomas Enevoldsen last offseason and will be hoping for similar returns from former Rangers FC forward Harry Forrester as he joins the club after Enevoldsen's departure to Indy Eleven. Forrester came up through the youth teams of Watford and Aston Villa, but achieved his most notable success in Glasgow with Rangers before leaving the historic Scottish club after disagreements with then Manager Pedro Caixinha. Forrester's arrival at Orange County offers an effective reset for the 28-year-old's career and could pay big dividends for Orange County if he can mesh with his new teammates.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home	Away	Time (ET)
3/9	ATL	V HFD	7:30pm
3/15	ATL	V LOU	7:30pm
3/23	CLT	V ATL	7:00pm
4/6	ATL	V STL	7:30pm
4/10	MEM	V ATL	8:00pm
4/13	ATL	V NC	7:30pm
4/24	ATL	V TBR	7:30pm
4/28	OTT	V ATL	2:00pm
5/4	ATL	V NSH	7:30pm
5/12	BST	V ATL	6:00pm
5/19	SPR	V ATL	5:00pm
5/25	CHS	V ATL	7:30pm
6/7	ATL	V NY	7:30pm
6/15	ATL	V PIT	7:30pm
6/22	IND	V ATL	7:00pm
6/28	LDN	V ATL	7:30pm
7/5	ATL	V CHS	7:30pm
7/13	NY	V ATL	5:00pm
7/20	BHM	V ATL	8:00pm
7/24	ATL	V CLT	7:30pm
7/27	NC	V ATL	7:00pm
8/2	ATL	V LDN	7:30pm
8/11	LOU	V ATL	3:00pm
8/16	ATL	V SPR	7:30pm
8/24	HFD	V ATL	7:00pm
8/28	ATL	V MEM	7:30pm
9/4	ATL	V BHM	7:30pm
9/7	ATL	V OTT	7:30pm
9/14	TBR	V ATL	7:30pm
9/25	ATL	V IND	7:30pm
9/28	STL	V ATL	8:30pm
10/5	PIT	V ATL	7:00pm
10/9	ATL	V BST	7:30pm
10/19	NSH	V ATL	8:00pm

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t @OrangeCountySC

ig @OrangeCountySoccer



# OTTAWA FURY FC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

Ottawa Fury FC saw its first entry written into the USL Championship's record book in 2018, as goalkeeper Maxime Crepeau set a regular-season record with 15 shutouts. Unfortunately for the club from Canada's capital, that defensive work was undone by an attack that scored only 31 goals in 34 games, the second-fewest in the league. That lack of firepower saw the side finish 10th in the Eastern Conference and out of the USL Cup Playoffs for a second consecutive season.

Addressing those attacking issues has been the main focus this offseason, with Fury FC acquiring Christiano Francois from Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC to add the former Maryland standout's speed to its front line. Ottawa has also bolstered its midfield with the acquisition of Charlie Ward (San Antonio FC) and former All-League selection Wal Fall (Saint Louis FC) to shore up the middle of the field. General Manager Julian de Guzman has also continued the club's pursuit of top young Canadians with Luca Ricci and Jordan Tisseur joining the club from the Montreal Impact's Academy and midfielder Chris Manella re-signing with the club.

The biggest challenge for Head Coach Nikola Popovic will be to improve the club's attack, where much more will be expected from returning playmaker Kevin Oliveira. The 22-year-old Cape Verde international had only four goals and two assists a season ago while producing less than one key pass per game. Raising his chance creation level is going to be a big factor in whether Ottawa's third season in the Championship results in its first postseason appearance.

## HEAD COACH



Nikola Popovic



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## KEY PLAYERS



Carl Haworth  
Defender

Part of the club since it was a member of USL League Two at the start of the decade, Carl Haworth opens his sixth professional season with Ottawa Fury FC aiming to lead the side to the USL Cup Playoffs for the first time. The club's captain had an interesting 2018 season, which saw him utilized as a full back for the first time instead of his previous attacking role. Whether that continues into 2019 - with Haworth having provided good attacking support in addition to his defensive duties after the switch was made - will be something to monitor. If the 29-year-old can master his new role, it could open up national team possibilities again.



Kevin Oliveira  
Midfielder

The Cape Verde international had a slightly underwhelming first year in Ottawa after following Head Coach Nikola Popovic north of the border from fellow Championship side the Swope Park Rangers. The 22-year-old had only four goals and two assists despite making a career-high 31 appearances for Fury FC in the regular season. Finding a way to return to the form he showed in two seasons with Swope Park - where he was named the No. 2 player in the 2016 USL Championship 20 Under 20 - would be a massive boon for Ottawa as it looks to improve the second-worst attacking record from a year ago.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home	Away	Time (ET)
3/9	CHS	v OTT	7:30pm
3/16	BHM	v OTT	8:00pm
4/6	OTT	v NSH	2:00pm
4/13	OTT	v LDN	2:00pm
4/20	LOU	v OTT	7:00pm
4/28	OTT	v ATL	2:00pm
5/4	SLT	v OTT	8:30pm
5/8	OTT	v NY	10:30am
5/12	OTT	v NC	2:00pm
5/19	BST	v OTT	7:00pm
5/25	HFD	v OTT	7:00pm
6/2	OTT	v CLT	2:00pm
6/8	PIT	v OTT	7:00pm
6/15	OTT	v MEM	7:00pm
6/22	NSH	v OTT	8:00pm
6/26	OTT	v CLT	7:00pm
6/29	TBR	v OTT	7:30pm
7/5	NY	v OTT	7:00pm
7/14	OTT	v LOU	2:00pm
7/20	OTT	v SPR	7:00pm
7/27	MEM	v OTT	8:30pm
8/2	OTT	v BHM	7:00pm
8/17	LDN	v OTT	7:30pm
8/24	OTT	v STL	2:00pm
8/30	OTT	v PIT	7:00pm
9/7	ATL	v OTT	7:30pm
9/11	IND	v OTT	7:00pm
9/18	OTT	v TBR	7:00pm
9/22	OTT	v HFD	2:00pm
9/28	NC	v OTT	7:00pm
10/2	OTT	v IND	7:00pm
10/8	SPR	v OTT	8:00pm
10/12	OTT	v BST	2:00pm
10/19	CLT	v OTT	7:00pm

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ig @FuryFC



# PHOENIX RISING FC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

The most successful season in Phoenix Rising FC's history saw the club lift its first silverware in the form of the Western Conference Championship, and while the side was unable to wrestle the USL Cup away from Louisville City FC in a tense final, the continued upward trajectory of the club since the arrival of its new ownership group - led by Berke Bakay - has put Rising FC into the league's elite in just two seasons.

After a busy offseason, the goal for Phoenix this year is now to maintain its position at the top of the Western Conference and again put itself in contention for silverware. It will have to do so without now-retired legend Didier Drogba and fellow forward Chris Cortez, whose career season helped carry Rising FC's attack before an offseason move to Chonburi F.C. in Thailand. The arrival of strikers Adam Jahn (Columbus Crew SC) and Ben Spencer (Toronto FC) will certainly help mitigate those departures, though, with Jahn in particular having had success at Sacramento Republic FC and OKC Energy FC in previous loan stints in the Championship.

What's more important, however, is the core of players that will return under Head Coach Rick Schantz, whose leadership over the second half of the 2018 season saw the club remove his interim tag in the offseason. All-League First Team selection Solomon Asante was one of the best newcomers to the Championship in 2018, and the spine of the side that includes goalkeeper Carl Woszczyński, defenders Joe Farrell and Amadou Dia, midfielders Kevon Lambert and James Musa and forward Jason Johnson is likely to put Rising FC among the contenders for both the regular season title and USL Cup.

## HEAD COACH



**Rick Schantz**



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## KEY PLAYERS



**Solomon Asante**  
Midfielder

After signing with Phoenix Rising FC ahead of the 2018 season, Solomon Asante proved one of the league's top newcomers as he led the side to both its first postseason victory and the Western Conference Championship. Asante led Rising FC with 36 appearances and posted the best single-season offensive performance in Rising FC history, having had a hand in 23 combined goals with 14 tallies and nine assists. The Ghanaian earned Championship All-League First Team honors in the process and could be among the players vying for the league's Most Valuable Player award at the end of this season as Phoenix takes aim at the USL Cup.



**Adam Jahn**  
Forward

A former USL Cup-winner while on loan with Sacramento Republic FC, Adam Jahn joined Rising FC this offseason from Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew SC with a good record of success during his prior stints on loan in the Championship. Jahn has scored 12 goals in 41 appearances all time in the league, including three goals in 10 appearances with OKC Energy FC a season ago. Likely the man tasked with replacing the departed Chris Cortez - who led Phoenix with 19 goals a season ago - the 6-foot-3 Jahn should get plenty of opportunity to finish with the creative talent around him in Arizona.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home		Away	Time (ET)
3/9	SA	v	PHX	8:30pm
3/16	PHX	v	NM	10:30pm
3/30	PHX	v	COS	10:30pm
4/6	PHX	v	FRS	10:30pm
4/13	ELP	v	PHX	9:30pm
4/17	AUS	v	PHX	8:30pm
4/20	PHX	v	TAC	10:30pm
4/27	SAC	v	PHX	10:30pm
5/4	OC	v	PHX	10:00pm
5/10	PHX	v	RGV	10:30pm
5/18	PHX	v	LV	10:30pm
5/25	SLC	v	PHX	10:00pm
6/7	PHX	v	TUL	10:30pm
6/15	PHX	v	OC	10:30pm
6/18	RNO	v	PHX	10:30pm
6/22	OKC	v	PHX	9:00pm
6/29	PHX	v	POR	10:30pm
7/13	RGV	v	PHX	8:30pm
7/19	PHX	v	AUS	10:30pm
7/27	TUL	v	PHX	8:30pm
8/3	LA	v	PHX	10:00pm
8/10	PHX	v	ELP	10:30pm
8/16	PHX	v	RNO	10:30pm
8/23	PHX	v	SAC	10:30pm
8/27	TAC	v	PHX	10:00pm
8/31	COS	v	PHX	8:00pm
9/7	PHX	v	SA	10:30pm
9/11	LV	v	PHX	10:30pm
9/14	PHX	v	LA	10:30pm
9/21	FRS	v	PHX	10:30pm
9/28	NM	v	PHX	9:30pm
10/5	POR	v	PHX	10:00pm
10/12	PHX	v	SLC	10:30pm
10/18	PHX	v	OKC	10:30pm

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# PITTSBURGH RIVERHOUNDS SC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

Sporting a new look for the 2018 season after a refresh of the club's logo and official colors, Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC also took a quantum leap forward on the field as the arrival of Bob Lilley as Head Coach turned the side into a serious Eastern Conference contender in just one year. The Hounds made a 10-place improvement in the standings to finish the year in third place, and while the first USL Cup Playoffs game at Highmark Stadium ended in heartbreak in a penalty shootout at the hands of Bethlehem Steel FC, it felt like a new dawn had broken for one of the league's longest-tenured clubs.

The new season marks the 20th for the Hounds organization, and with Lilley and many of the team's key figures back for the new year, there are now expectations the Hounds will look to live up to. Most of the club's key players are back to try and accomplish that, with All-League defender Joe Greenspan and midfielder Kenardo Forbes leading the way alongside mainstay midfielder Kevin Kerr and 2018 leading scorer Neco Brett.

One notable departure to the club's attacking corps saw the side sell winger Christiano Francois to fellow Championship side Ottawa Fury FC, but Lilley has reinforced his attacking options by bringing in two more players from his USL Cup-winning side at the Rochester Rhinos with Steevan Dos Santos and Christian Volesky both arriving in Pittsburgh. Upgraded squads elsewhere in the East may grab the preseason spotlight, but it would be surprising if the Hounds are unable to go toe-to-toe with anyone over the course of this campaign.

## HEAD COACH



Bob Lilley



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## KEY PLAYERS



Joe Greenspan  
Defender

After a good loan stint at Highmark Stadium in 2017, Joe Greenspan's first full year with Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC was a great one for both the big center back and the Hounds, as he led the side to the postseason for the first time since 2015 and garnered Championship All-League First Team honors in the process. Greenspan marshaled the best defense in the Eastern Conference to a third-place finish as he posted 175 clearances in 24 appearances while also registering 59 interceptions and 13 blocked shots. The Hounds are expected to be among the best defensive sides in the Championship again this season, and Greenspan's presence is a big reason why.



Kenardo Forbes  
Midfielder

Heading to Pittsburgh alongside the club's first-year Head Coach Bob Lilley, Kenardo Forbes brought his calm ability on the ball and creativity to the Hounds' midfield and continued to put himself among the better playmakers to have ever played in the league. Forbes notched eight assists for the Hounds in the 2018 campaign, giving him 22 over the past four seasons as he earned a second All-League selection in the past three years. A former USL Cup-winner with Lilley at the Rochester Rhinos, the 30-year-old Jamaican shows no signs of slowing and will continue to be a key figure for Pittsburgh this year.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home		Away	Time (ET)
3/16	TBR	v	PIT	7:30pm
3/23	SPR	v	PIT	5:00pm
3/30	BST	v	PIT	7:30pm
4/6	LOU	v	PIT	7:00pm
4/13	PIT	v	HFD	7:00pm
4/20	PIT	v	STL	7:00pm
4/27	PIT	v	NHS	7:00pm
5/4	CHS	v	PIT	7:30pm
5/18	MEM	v	PIT	8:00pm
5/25	PIT	v	CLT	7:00pm
6/1	IND	v	PIT	7:00pm
6/8	PIT	v	OTT	7:00pm
6/15	ATL	v	PIT	7:30pm
6/22	PIT	v	NY	7:00pm
6/29	PIT	v	BHM	7:00pm
7/4	PIT	v	BTS	7:00pm
7/7	CLT	v	PIT	7:00pm
7/13	PIT	v	TBR	7:00pm
7/20	PIT	v	NC	7:00pm
7/27	HFD	v	PIT	7:00pm
8/3	PIT	v	MEM	7:00pm
8/10	PIT	v	SPR	7:00pm
8/14	NY	v	PIT	7:00pm
8/17	NC	v	PIT	7:00pm
8/23	PIT	v	LDN	7:00pm
8/30	OTT	v	PIT	7:00pm
9/7	PIT	v	LOU	7:00pm
9/14	PIT	v	CLT	7:00pm
9/21	NHS	v	PIT	8:00pm
9/28	PIT	v	IND	7:00pm
10/1	LDN	v	PIT	7:30pm
10/5	PIT	v	ATL	7:00pm
10/12	STL	v	PIT	8:30pm
10/20	BHM	v	PIT	4:30pm

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# PORTLAND TIMBERS 2

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

After being denied on goal differential two years earlier, the Portland Timbers 2 earned their first trip to the USL Cup Playoffs in 2018 after recording a massive turnaround that saw the side more than quintuple its win total and post a club-record 55 points in the regular season. The club's postseason trip came to an early end at the hands of the eventual Western Conference champion Phoenix Rising FC, but there were clear lessons learned from the disappointment of 2017.

Building on that progression in Head Coach Cameron Knowles' second season will be the goal this season, but the side will have to deal with the regular roster turnover the offseason brings. Gone are players like Jack Barmby (San Antonio FC) and Andre Lewis, both of whom logged major minutes in helping the club's success. Both Renzo Zambrano and Marvin Loria could still be available to T2 after moving up to the Timbers' MLS squad, but it could be incumbent on the newcomers to the side to help provide that extra momentum.

One of the positives brought by the new faces in the squad is their prior experience with the Timbers organization. Both former Rio Grande Valley FC midfielder Todd Wharton and New York Red Bulls II defender Niko De Vera played for the Timbers U-23s in USL League Two prior to their professional careers, and both have a solid track record in the Championship. The side has also added two intriguing young talents in Venezuela U-20 international Brayan Hurtado and Argentine U-20 international Cristian Ojeda on loan, both of whom should be worth keeping a close eye on.



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Cameron Knowles

## KEY PLAYERS



Todd Wharton  
Midfielder

After three seasons in the Championship with Rio Grande Valley FC to start his career, Todd Wharton moved to the Portland Timbers 2 for the upcoming campaign with some familiarity with his new surroundings. A former member of the Timbers FC U-23s in USL League Two when he was a collegiate standout at the University of Virginia, Wharton was named to League Two's All-League Team in the 2015 season and will be hopeful of similar success with T2 after performing well for the Toros over the past three years. Wharton's 2018 output of five goals and five assists would be welcome secondary scoring for Portland, but it's the 25-year-old's passing ability in the middle of the field that will make him most valuable for his new club.



Niko De Vera  
Defender

Another player that featured for the Timbers U-23s in League Two during his college career, Niko De Vera arrives back in Portland after a rookie season in the Championship with the New York Red Bulls II that saw him log more than 2,000 minutes of action in 27 appearances for the side. A native of Washington state, De Vera played for three seasons with the Timbers U-23s while attending the University of Akron and earned All-Western Conference honors in the 2016 League Two season. Heading back to the west coast, De Vera should be a good addition to T2's back line for the upcoming campaign.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home		Away	Time (ET)
3/9	TUL	v	POR	8:00pm
3/16	SA	v	POR	8:30pm
3/23	POR	v	LV	10:00pm
3/30	LA	v	POR	10:00pm
4/6	OKC	v	POR	8:30pm
4/13	POR	v	SAC	10:00pm
4/20	POR	v	COS	10:00pm
4/26	NM	v	POR	9:30pm
4/30	POR	v	RGV	10:00pm
5/12	TAC	v	POR	4:30pm
5/25	POR	v	ELP	10:00pm
5/29	POR	v	SLC	10:00pm
6/8	AUS	v	POR	8:30pm
6/16	POR	v	FRS	10:00pm
6/22	OC	v	POR	10:00pm
6/26	POR	v	RNO	10:00pm
6/29	PHX	v	POR	10:30pm
7/6	POR	v	TUL	10:30pm
7/13	SAC	v	POR	11:00pm
7/20	FRS	v	POR	10:30pm
7/28	POR	v	LA	9:00pm
8/3	ELP	v	POR	9:30pm
8/7	COS	v	POR	9:00pm
8/11	POR	v	NM	10:30pm
8/16	POR	v	OKC	10:30pm
8/24	LV	v	POR	10:30pm
8/31	RNO	v	POR	10:00pm
9/8	POR	v	OC	8:00pm
9/14	SLC	v	POR	3:00pm
9/20	POR	v	TAC	10:30pm
9/29	POR	v	AUS	4:00pm
10/5	POR	v	PHX	10:00pm
10/11	POR	v	SA	10:00pm
10/18	RGV	v	POR	8:30pm

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🐦 @TimbersFC2

📷 @timbersfc2



# REAL MONARCHS SLC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

Real Monarchs SLC earned a home contest in the USL Cup Playoffs for a second consecutive season, but for a second straight year the club's successful year ended abruptly when Reno 1868 FC scored a stoppage-time winner to eliminate the Monarchs in the Western Conference Quarterfinals. That loss marked the end of the line at the club for numerous key players that led the way in its upswing over the past two seasons, and how the club deals with those changes will hold the key to how it fares in 2019.

At the top of the departures list was forward Chandler Hoffman, whose return to his native Alabama and expansion club Birmingham Legion FC was known midway through the year. The offseason also saw attacking midfielder Sebastian Velasquez and Charlie Adams (Orange County SC) move on, while the moves of goalkeepers Connor Sparrow (Nashville SC) and Jake Leeker (Portland Timbers 2) left the side without two players who shone well between the sticks over the past two years.

Charged with navigating the new season is a new figure on the sidelines, with former U.S. Men's National Team assistant Martin Vasquez taking the reins after Jamison Olave served as interim Head Coach to conclude 2018. He'll have some good returning pieces to work with led by Cuban playmaker Maikel Chang, defender Kalen Ryden and midfielders Jack Blake and Andrew Brody. How new arrivals to the club's attack like Douglas Martinez and Lionel Etoundi fit in with their new teammates is going to be crucial for Real to remain among the West's leading contenders.

## HEAD COACH



**Martin Vasquez**



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## KEY PLAYERS



**Maikel Chang**  
Midfielder

Cuban playmaker Maikel Chang moved into second place all-time on the league's assists charts with a strong first season in Utah, recording nine helpers as well as four goals to lead Real Monarchs SLC to a second consecutive trip to the postseason. Chang has recorded 31 assists since joining the Charleston Battery before the 2014 Championship season, one behind Charlotte Independence legend Jorge Herrera. With numerous departures from the club this offseason, there will be added burden on Chang to keep the Monarchs among the conference's top clubs, but it's one that he's more than prepared to take on as he looks to put his name at the top of the record book.



**Noah Powder**  
Defender

It seems strange to say about a 20-year-old, but Noah Powder seemed to get back into gear in the 2018 Championship season with Orange County SC as he recorded three goals and two assists in 22 appearances to help the side finish top of the Western Conference. The Trinidad & Tobago youngster, who helped the New York Red Bulls II win the 2016 USL Cup, parlayed his bright performances with OCSC into a move to the Monarchs, where his continued growth will be monitored by both club and country.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home	Away	Time (ET)
3/9	RNO v OC	5:00pm	
3/16	RNO v AUS	5:00pm	
3/23	FRS v RNO	10:30pm	
3/30	RNO v OKC	9:01pm	
4/6	SLC v RNO	3:00pm	
4/13	COS v RNO	8:00pm	
4/20	RNO v NM	10:00pm	
4/27	ELP v RNO	9:30pm	
5/4	RNO v TUL	10:00pm	
5/11	SAC v RNO	10:30pm	
5/18	TAC v RNO	10:00pm	
6/1	RNO v LV	10:30pm	
6/8	SA v RNO	8:30pm	
6/15	RNO v LA	10:30pm	
6/18	RNO v PHX	10:30pm	
6/26	POR v RNO	10:00pm	
6/29	RNO v SAC	10:30pm	
7/3	RNO v RGV	10:30pm	
7/17	OKC v RNO	9:00pm	
7/20	LA v RNO	10:00pm	
7/24	OC v RNO	4:00pm	
7/27	RNO v COS	10:30pm	
8/3	RGV v RNO	8:30pm	
8/10	RNO v SA	10:30pm	
8/16	PHX v RNO	10:30pm	
8/31	RNO v POR	10:00pm	
9/7	RNO v FRS	10:00pm	
9/10	RNO v TAC	10:00pm	
9/15	AUS v RNO	7:00pm	
9/20	NM v RNO	9:30pm	
9/28	RNO v SLC	9:00pm	
10/5	RNO v ELP	9:00pm	
10/12	LV v RNO	10:30pm	
10/19	TUL v RNO	8:00pm	

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📷 @realmonarchs



# RENO 1868 FC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

A second consecutive trip to the USL Cup Playoffs and a first victory in the postseason meant another strong year for Reno 1868 FC, which still matched its point total from 2017 despite finishing two positions lower in the Western Conference standings. 1868 FC's 16-game undefeated streak, which righted the ship after a winless four-game start to the season, put the team in prime position as Head Coach Ian Russell again maximized his players' strengths to earn success.

There will be changes at Greater Nevada Field this season, though, as Antoine Hoppenot found a new home with the Tampa Bay Rowdies. That may be the only major absence that Russell has to deal with, however, as the club returned leading scorer Brian Brown, key defensive pieces in Zach Carroll and Brent Richards and two important midfielders in Seth Casiple and Lindo Mfeka. That core, which will likely be supplemented by San Jose Earthquakes goalkeepers Matt Bersano and JT Marcinkowski for a second season, will place Reno in good standing for another postseason trip.

What could push the side over the top to challenge for a Western Conference title are the newcomers that have come on board this offseason. Corey Hertzog will be highly motivated to rebound from a down season with Saint Louis FC as he closes in on 50 career Championship goals, while Raul Mendiola's arrival from Silver State rivals Las Vegas Lights FC gives Reno a playmaker that could fill Hoppenot's shoes. As 1868 FC enters Year 3, there's little reason to expect a letdown from Russell's well-drilled squad.

## HEAD COACH



Ian Russell



## CONTACTS

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## KEY PLAYERS



Brian Brown  
Forward

Going into the 2018 Championship season, the biggest question for Reno 1868 FC was who would replace Dane Kelly, who had been the previous year's Golden Boot-winner and Most Valuable Player. Fellow Jamaican Brian Brown proved the answer as he posted 17 goals and four assists to lead 1868 FC back to the postseason for a second consecutive year. Some of the names around Brown have changed, most notably the departure of Antoine Hoppenot to the Tampa Bay Rowdies, but the 26-year-old forward should be in a position again to be part of the league's Golden Boot conversation.



Raul Mendiola  
Midfielder

A former Homegrown signing with the LA Galaxy, Mendiola made the move to Reno after starring for 1868 FC's Silver State Cup rival Las Vegas Lights FC a season ago. A USL Championship Western Conference champion with the LA Galaxy II in 2015, Mendiola's 10 goals and three assists were a bright spot for Las Vegas in its inaugural campaign, but it's the playmaking ability the Los Angeles native brings that should have Reno fans excited for his arrival. Mendiola has notched 22 assists in his Championship career and will have some serious weapons in Brian Brown, Danny Musovski and Corey Hertzog to work with this season.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home		Away	Time (ET)
3/9	ATL	v	HFD	7:30pm
3/15	ATL	V	LOU	7:30pm
3/23	CLT	V	ATL	7:00pm
4/6	ATL	V	STL	7:30pm
4/10	MEM	V	ATL	8:00pm
4/13	ATL	V	NC	7:30pm
4/24	ATL	V	TBR	7:30pm
4/28	OTT	V	ATL	2:00pm
5/4	ATL	V	NSH	7:30pm
5/12	BST	V	ATL	6:00pm
5/19	SPR	V	ATL	5:00pm
5/25	CHS	V	ATL	7:30pm
6/7	ATL	V	NY	7:30pm
6/15	ATL	V	PIT	7:30pm
6/22	IND	V	ATL	7:00pm
6/28	LDN	V	ATL	7:30pm
7/5	ATL	V	CHS	7:30pm
7/13	NY	V	ATL	5:00pm
7/20	BHM	V	ATL	8:00pm
7/24	ATL	V	CLT	7:30pm
7/27	NC	V	ATL	7:00pm
8/2	ATL	V	LDN	7:30pm
8/11	LOU	V	ATL	3:00pm
8/16	ATL	V	SPR	7:30pm
8/24	HFD	V	ATL	7:00pm
8/28	ATL	V	MEM	7:30pm
9/4	ATL	V	BHM	7:30pm
9/7	ATL	V	OTT	7:30pm
9/14	TBR	V	ATL	7:30pm
9/25	ATL	V	IND	7:30pm
9/28	STL	V	ATL	8:30pm
10/5	PIT	V	ATL	7:00pm
10/9	ATL	V	BST	7:30pm
10/19	NSH	V	ATL	8:00pm

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ig @reno1868fc



# RIO GRANDE VALLEY FC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

It's been a difficult two seasons for Rio Grande Valley FC since the high of finishing second in the Western Conference as an expansion side in 2016, but the club's first year under Gerson Echeverry showed the side become a tougher proposition – especially on home turf at H-E-B Park – as the 2018 campaign progressed. The Toros lost only three times at home last season, but their inability to string together wins ended up leaving the side in 13th place, well off the playoff pace.

No team in the league played to a draw more often than the Toros, whose 14 single-point outcomes tied the Championship's regular-season record. In Echeverry's second season in charge, turning more of those results into victories – of which RGVFC had only eight – is going to be the biggest key to making a second postseason trip. The player who might be the biggest key in that regard is Panamanian forward Carlos Small, who averaged a goal every other game after arriving midseason on loan. The Toros other two leading scorers from a season ago are also back with Jesus Enriquez and Aldo Quintanilla remaining under contract as they look to find more consistency in front of goal.

There are two major departures the side will need to account for, though, with defender Kai Greene (San Antonio FC) and midfielder Todd Wharton (Portland Timbers 2) both moving on this offseason. The addition of Jamaican Maalique Foster on loan from Costa Rican powerhouse Alajualense could provide a nice boost to the side, as youngsters like Wilmer Cabrera Jr. look to come into their own.

## HEAD COACH



**Gerson Echeverry**



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## KEY PLAYERS



**Conor Donovan**  
Defender

A former United States U-20 international, Conor Donovan's experience earned him a mid-season promotion to the Houston Dynamo's squad in 2018, but the center back returns to the Toros for the 2019 season looking to be the centerpiece for a defense that conceded 42 goals in 34 regular-season contests a year ago. That figure equaled the defensive units of both first-place Orange County SC and third-place Phoenix Rising FC, and if the Toros can make minor improvements to their defensive record it could go a long way to securing a second trip to the USL Cup Playoffs at the end of the regular season.



**Carlos Small**  
Forward

A Panamanian international, Carlos Small provided a nice boost to Rio Grande Valley FC's attack after arriving on loan from Arabe Unido last July as he recorded five goals in 15 appearances for the side. Back with the Toros for a full season in 2019, Small will be maybe the biggest key to RGVFC improving its attack after finishing tied for 29th in the league with only 36 regular-season goals last year. Small averaged a goal every 182 minutes last season, the equivalent of a goal every other game. If he can stay healthy throughout the campaign and maintain the same strike rate, it would provide a major return for the Toros' attack.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home		Away	Time (ET)
3/8	TAC	v	RGV	10:00pm
3/16	RGV	v	FRS	8:30pm
3/23	ELP	v	RGV	9:30pm
3/29	TUL	v	RGV	8:00pm
4/6	RGV	v	NM	8:30pm
4/13	RGV	v	OKC	8:30pm
4/20	RGV	v	LV	8:30pm
4/24	LA	v	RGV	10:30pm
4/30	POR	v	RGV	10:00pm
5/10	PHX	v	RGV	10:30pm
5/18	RGV	v	LA	8:30pm
5/25	RGV	v	SA	8:30pm
6/1	OC	v	RGV	10:00pm
6/8	SLC	v	RGV	10:00pm
6/15	RGV	v	COS	8:30pm
6/22	RGV	v	AUS	8:30pm
7/3	RNO	v	RGV	10:30pm
7/6	RGV	v	TAC	8:30pm
7/13	RGV	v	PHX	8:30pm
7/20	RGV	v	SAC	8:30pm
7/27	LV	v	RGV	10:30pm
8/3	RGV	v	RNO	8:30pm
8/10	COS	v	RGV	8:00pm
8/17	SA	v	RGV	8:30pm
8/24	RGV	v	ELO	8:30pm
9/1	AUS	v	RGV	8:30pm
9/7	RGV	v	TUL	8:30pm
9/15	SAC	v	RGV	5:00pm
9/18	FRS	v	RGV	10:30pm
9/21	RGV	v	SLC	8:30pm
9/28	RGV	v	OC	8:30pm
10/5	NM	v	RGV	9:30pm
10/13	OKC	v	RGV	7:00pm
10/18	RGV	v	POR	8:30pm

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ig @rgvfc



# SACRAMENTO REPUBLIC FC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

The timing of Head Coach Simon Elliott's appointment at the start of preseason might have caught some by surprise, but the former New Zealand international quietly restored Sacramento Republic FC to the ranks of the Western Conference's elite in 2018. The club's defense proved the best in the West and forward Cameron Iwasa came to the fore in his return from a season in Kansas City to lead the side into the top half of the conference.

Now the leading scorer in Republic FC's history, Sacramento native Iwasa earned All-League honors for his strong season, and in 2019 he's going to have added help up front as the club looks to boost its attacking potency. Among the newcomers are former USL Cup champion Stefano Bonomo, who returns to northern California looking to replicate his collegiate exploits at Cal-Berkeley, while Tyler Blackwood starts his second stint with the club after a good campaign with the Swope Park Rangers.

Republic FC also bolstered its defense with Israeli veteran Dekel Keinan making the move from FC Cincinnati and Matt Mahoney from fellow playoff side Bethlehem Steel FC. Mahoney's Steel FC teammate Drew Skundrich also made the move west to add to Sacramento's midfield contingent. The continuity within Elliott's squad from the 2018 season could be its biggest strength, however, with goalkeeper Josh Cohen, defenders Mitchell Taintor and Elliott Hord, midfielders Villyan Bijev and Jaime Villarreal and Iwasa providing a strong foundation for Sacramento's run at a second USL Cup.

## HEAD COACH



**Simon Elliott**



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## KEY PLAYERS



**Josh Cohen**  
Goalkeeper

Making the move to Sacramento Republic FC last offseason, Josh Cohen was one of the busiest goalkeepers in the USL Championship in 2018 as he finished second to only Tulsa Roughnecks FC's Fabian Cerda with 120 saves as he appeared in every minute of the regular season for the side. That shot-stopping ability helped keep Sacramento's defense among the best in the league as it conceded only 32 goals in 34 regular-season contests, and saw Cohen earn Championship All-League Second Team honors. Returning for his second season with the club, Cohen will be key in Sacramento's bid for a second USL Cup.



**Cameron Iwasa**  
Midfielder

Sacramento Republic FC's Cameron Iwasa had a career season with 17 goals in 2018, but his Republic FC teammates were unable to provide much support as the side finished with only 47 goals in the regular season. Enter offseason acquisition Stefano Bonomo, who has scored 27 goals in 72 career appearances for the New York Red Bulls II and Tampa Bay Rowdies and should help take some of the weight of carrying Sacramento's attack off Iwasa's shoulders. Joined by returning Republic FC striker Tyler Blackwood after his season with the Swope Park Rangers, Bonomo should help liven up an attack that posted the fewest goals of any side in the Western Conference playoff field a season ago.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home	Away	Time (ET)
3/9	SAC	v SLC	10:30pm
3/16	COS	v SAC	8:00pm
3/24	SAC	v OKC	5:00pm
4/1	TAC	v SAC	10:00pm
4/6	SAC	v AUS	10:30pm
4/13	POR	v SAC	10:00pm
4/27	SAC	v PHX	10:30pm
5/4	LV	v SAC	10:30pm
5/8	FRS	v SAC	10:30pm
5/11	SAC	v RNO	10:30pm
5/18	ELP	v SAC	9:30pm
6/1	SAC	v SA	11:00pm
6/8	NM	v SAC	9:30pm
6/22	SAC	v TUL	11:00pm
6/29	RNO	v SAC	10:30pm
7/3	SAC	v FRS	11:00pm
7/13	SAC	v POR	11:00pm
7/20	RGV	v SAC	8:30pm
7/24	SAC	v NM	11:00pm
7/27	OC	v SAC	10:00pm
8/3	SA	v SAC	8:30pm
8/7	SAC	v LV	11:00pm
8/17	SAC	v COS	11:00pm
8/23	PHX	v SAC	10:30pm
8/31	LA	v SAC	10:00pm
9/7	SAC	v TAC	10:30pm
9/11	AUS	v SAC	8:30pm
9/15	SAC	v RGV	5:00pm
9/22	OC	v SAC	7:00pm
9/28	SAC	v ELP	10:30pm
10/2	SAC	v LA	10:30pm
10/5	TUL	v SAC	8:00pm
10/12	SAC	v OC	10:30pm
10/19	SLC	v SAC	3:00pm

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# SAINT LOUIS FC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

It's an odd year, 2019, so that means Saint Louis FC is in the Eastern Conference again, but this year it enters having advanced to the USL Cup Playoffs for the first time in its history and seemingly on a positive upward path to contention in its new surroundings. Led by Head Coach Anthony Pulis, STLFC was one of the tougher teams to beat in the Western Conference a season ago, falling just nine times in the regular season as it clinched a playoff spot before the final game of the season.

If Saint Louis is to take the next step and contend in the East this season, though, it will likely need to become more prolific in front of goal. Only one team to reach the postseason – Nashville SC – scored fewer goals than STLFC's 44 tallies, with Kyle Greig carrying the attack for much of the season as he neared 50 regular-season goals for his career. The side has looked to address that with another batch of newcomers that includes former Colorado Rapids forward Caleb Calvert and Tulsa Roughnecks FC attacking midfielder Joaquin Rivas. Should youngster Albert Dikwa take another step forward and Kadeem Dacres produce more consistently, Saint Louis could be far more dangerous in 2019.

On the flipside, the side looks set to be as solid defensively as it was a season ago with goalkeepers Tomas Gomez and Jake Fentason both returning behind a back line that was led effectively by Sam Fink and Sean Reynolds. New arrivals Paris Gee and Bradley Kamdem Fewo should be solid additions, as should defensive midfielder Guy Abend as he joins Lewis Hilton in the middle of the park.

## HEAD COACH



**Anthony Pulis**



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## KEY PLAYERS



**Kyle Greig**  
Forward

The Kansas native provided the boost that Saint Louis FC's attack had been looking for in previous seasons as Kyle Greig equaled his career-high with 13 goals in 2018 to carry STLFC to its first trip to the USL Cup Playoffs. Now three goals away from 50 regular-season goals in the Championship for his career, Greig will be looking to record back-to-back seasons of double-digit goals for the first time as he continues to lead the line for Head Coach Anthony Pulis' side on its return to the Eastern Conference.



**Caleb Calvert**  
Forward

The promise shown by Caleb Calvert while on loan with the Charlotte Independence in the 2016 Championship season saw him land on the inaugural edition of the Championship 20 Under 20 list, but since then the former Chivas USA Homegrown signing hasn't yet taken the next step in his career. The 22-year-old arrives at Saint Louis FC looking to change that after scoring one goal and adding two assists in 18 appearances on loan with the Independence last season. If he can, it would add a second key scorer to Greig for STLFC's front line and put the side in line for a second consecutive postseason berth.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home		Away	Time (ET)
3/9	STL	v	IND	2:00pm
3/16	NSH	v	STL	8:00pm
3/23	STL	v	TBR	2:00pm
3/30	STL	v	CLT	2:00pm
4/6	ATL	v	STL	7:30pm
4/13	STL	v	BHM	8:30pm
4/20	PIT	v	STL	7:00pm
4/27	STL	v	SPR	8:30pm
5/4	STL	v	OTT	8:30pm
5/11	CHS	v	STL	7:30pm
5/18	LOU	v	STL	7:00pm
6/1	STL	v	MEM	8:30pm
6/8	HFD	v	STL	7:00pm
6/15	BST	v	STL	7:30pm
6/22	STL	v	NC	8:30pm
6/30	SPR	v	STL	5:00pm
7/6	STL	v	LDN	8:30pm
7/13	CLT	v	STL	7:00pm
7/20	TBR	v	STL	7:30pm
7/27	STL	v	BTS	8:30pm
8/2	NY	v	STL	7:00pm
8/10	STL	v	CHS	8:30pm
8/17	IND	v	STL	7:00pm
8/24	OTT	v	STL	2:00pm
9/1	STL	v	HFD	8:30pm
9/7	STL	v	NSH	8:30pm
9/13	BHM	v	STL	8:00pm
9/18	STL	v	NY	8:00pm
9/21	MEM	v	STL	8:00pm
9/28	STL	v	ATL	8:30pm
10/5	STL	v	LOU	8:30pm
10/8	LDN	v	STL	7:30pm
10/12	STL	v	PIT	8:30pm
10/19	NC	v	STL	7:00pm

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🐦 @saintlouisfc

📷 @saintlouisfc



# SAN ANTONIO FC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

After standing as the best defensive side in the league in 2017, San Antonio FC slid back to the middle of the pack a season ago in a year that saw a rollercoaster ride end with the side sitting on the wrong side of the postseason line. San Antonio put together winning streaks of four and three games in the second half of the season as it pushed to reach the USL Cup Playoffs for a second consecutive year, but followed each with a losing streak to match that put paid to the club's postseason aspirations.

That inconsistency resulted in a major turnover of SAFC's squad this offseason, with only six players that ended the 2018 campaign back with the side this year. Among those is attacking midfielder Lance Laing, who joined the club on a permanent deal after impressing on loan from FC Cincinnati last year, while goalkeeper Matt Cardone and midfielders Pecka and Rafa Castillo also returned to the club after signing new contracts.

Cardone will have a retooled defensive line in front of him this year, with former All-League selection Amer Didic (Sporting Kansas City) and fellow defenders Joshua Yaro (Philadelphia Union) and Kai Greene (Rio Grande Valley FC) heading to the Alamo City. Other newcomers include midfielders Michael Lahoud (FC Cincinnati) and Jack Barmby (Portland Timbers), while Bradford Jamieson IV arrives on loan from the LA Galaxy. The cherry on top is the return of Billy Forbes after a season with Phoenix Rising FC, with the San Antonio icon aiming to repeat his previous successes at Toyota Field.

## HEAD COACH



Darren Powell



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## KEY PLAYERS



Amer Didic  
Defender

A 2016 Championship All-League First Team selection for the Swope Park Rangers in the club's inaugural season, Amer Didic arrives in San Antonio as an experienced defensive piece that will be charged with improving the club's defensive record from a season ago. The Canadian U-23 international couldn't quite find a breakthrough into Sporting Kansas City's lineup after signing an MLS deal with the club after his standout displays for the Rangers. But the experience Didic brings from two Western Conference championships with Swope Park will bring a lot to SAFC's overhauled squad, as will his ability to distribute out of the back as well as win possession defensively.



Lance Laing  
Midfielder

Struggling for minutes with FC Cincinnati a season ago, Lance Laing found a new lease on life after arriving on loan with San Antonio FC midway through the 2018 campaign as he recorded five goals and six assists to end the season. Now signed to a permanent deal, the Jamaican winger will have a chance to add to those numbers and contribute to a resurgence for San Antonio after it missed out on the postseason a year ago. Joined by SAFC returnee Billy Forbes and new loan arrival Bradford Jamieson IV, Laing could be a serious contributor to an attack that should be far more explosive than a season ago.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home	Away	Time (ET)
3/9	SA	v PHX	8:30pm
3/16	SA	v POR	8:30pm
3/23	COS	v SA	8:00pm
3/30	AUS	v SA	10:30pm
4/6	SA	v LV	8:30pm
4/13	SA	v LA	8:30pm
4/20	SLC	v SA	7:00pm
4/26	SA	v TAC	8:30pm
5/5	NM	v SA	7:00pm
5/11	SA	v OC	8:30pm
5/18	SA	v TUL	8:30pm
5/25	RGV	v SA	8:30pm
6/1	SAC	v SA	11:00pm
6/8	SA	v RNO	8:30pm
6/15	OKC	v SA	9:00pm
6/21	FRS	v SA	10:30pm
6/26	SA	v ELP	8:30pm
7/3	SA	v AUS	8:30pm
7/17	ELP	v SA	9:00pm
7/20	OC	v SA	10:00pm
7/27	SA	v SLC	8:30pm
8/3	SA	v SAC	8:30pm
8/10	RNO	v SA	10:30pm
8/17	SA	v RGV	8:30pm
8/24	SA	v NM	8:30pm
8/30	TAC	v SA	10:00pm
9/7	PHX	v SA	10:30pm
9/14	SA	v OKC	8:30pm
9/20	LA	v SA	10:00pm
9/25	TUL	v SA	8:00pm
9/28	SA	v FRS	8:30pm
10/5	LV	v SA	10:30pm

f /SAFCUSL

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📷 @SanAntonioFC



# SWOPE PARK RANGERS

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

The Swope Park Rangers couldn't pull off a third consecutive Western Conference championship in 2018 as its postseason run ended at the hands of Phoenix Rising FC in the conference semifinals, but Paulo Nagamura's first season in charge of the season was another positive one overall. The big question facing the Rangers now as they move to the Eastern Conference is how they will cope with the loss of a trio of key attacking pieces in the face of some seriously stiff opposition.

Hadji Barry, Tyler Blackwood and Kharlton Belmar accounted for 37 goals a season ago, but all three are now elsewhere, with Blackwood returning to Sacramento Republic FC, Belmar joining Nashville SC and Badji heading overseas. The club's top scorer after that trio was standout young midfielder Wan Kuzain with four tallies, meaning players like Wilson Harris and new arrival Killian Colombie could be under pressure to perform from the off if Swope Park is to maintain its perfect record of reaching the postseason.

While those concerns are real, the depth of Sporting Kansas City's squad should again provide plenty of talent to the Rangers over the course of the season. There are also reliable returnees in both the defensive and midfield corps with defender Justin Bilyeu signing a new contract and midfielders Felipe Hernandez - a 2018 USL Championship 20 Under 20 selection - and Will Little both back for 2019. Nagamura's side will likely be challenged strongly this year, but it would be unwise to underestimate what the Rangers will be capable of.

## HEAD COACH



**Paulo Nagamura**



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## KEY PLAYERS



**Felipe Hernandez**  
Midfielder

One of four Swope Park Rangers selected to the 2018 Championship 20 Under 20, Felipe Hernandez has become one of the central cogs in the Rangers' success over the past two seasons. After making 61 appearances during that span, Hernandez will likely be looked upon for more leadership this season after a number of veteran departures for the club. But the 20-year-old will have his own motivation for success this year after seeing his Swope Park midfield colleague Wan Kuzain move to the Sporting Kansas City roster. Another positive season for Hernandez could result in a similar move sooner rather than later.



**Wilson Harris**  
Forward

One of the Sporting Kansas City's Academy standouts in the past, Wilson Harris should command a far bigger spotlight this season after recording three goals in 15 appearances in the 2018 campaign. With the experienced trio of Kharlton Belmar, Tyler Blackwood and SPR leading scorer Hadji Barry all having moved on this offseason, Harris is likely going to have to perform if Swope Park is to keep its streak of reaching the postseason intact. If this preseason is any indication, the 19-year-old could be bound for a breakout season in the Championship after featuring regularly on the scoresheet for the side over the past month.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home		Away	Time (ET)
3/9	NY	v	SPR	1:00pm
3/23	SPR	v	PIT	5:00pm
4/6	SPR	v	BST	5:00pm
4/15	SPR	v	IND	8:00pm
4/20	BHM	v	SPR	5:00pm
4/27	STL	v	SPR	8:30pm
5/6	SPR	v	LOU	8:00pm
5/11	NSH	v	SPR	8:00pm
5/19	SPR	v	ATL	5:00pm
5/22	SPR	v	MEM	8:00pm
5/25	TBR	v	SPR	7:30pm
6/5	SPR	v	LDN	8:00pm
6/8	SPR	v	CTL	5:00pm
6/15	NC	v	SPR	7:00pm
6/22	CHS	v	SPR	7:30pm
6/30	SPR	v	STL	5:00pm
7/7	SPR	v	TBR	5:00pm
7/17	SPR	v	HFD	8:00pm
7/20	OTT	v	SPR	7:00pm
7/27	SPR	v	CHS	8:00pm
8/3	SPR	v	NSH	8:00pm
8/10	PIT	v	SPR	7:00pm
8/16	ATL	v	SPR	7:30pm
8/24	SPR	v	NY	8:00pm
9/1	BST	v	SPR	7:00pm
9/7	MEM	v	SPR	8:00pm
9/14	SPR	v	NC	5:00pm
9/21	CLT	v	SPR	7:00pm
9/25	LDN	v	SPR	7:30pm
9/30	SPR	v	BHM	8:00pm
10/5	HFD	v	SPR	7:00pm
10/8	SPR	v	OTT	8:00pm
10/12	LOU	v	SPR	7:00pm
10/19	IND	v	SPR	7:00pm

/SwopeParkRangers

@swoperangers

@swoperangers



# TACOMA DEFIANCE

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Tacoma, WA 98405  
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P: (253) 752-7707

## TEAM OUTLOOK

It's unquestionable that Year 1 at Cheney Stadium in Tacoma was a clear success for the club off the field as attendance rose more than 200 percent to average more than 3,300 fans per game in 2018. Now rebranded as the Tacoma Defiance, the hope is the team's performance on the field will match the improved environment in the stands. The goal will be to make a run at a first postseason berth since its inaugural season in 2015 after finishing second-from-bottom in the Western Conference last fall.

Tasked with leading that improvement is new Head Coach Chris Little, who brings with him a record of success in the Seattle Sounders FC Academy to his new position. The Sounders FC U-17s claimed the U.S. Soccer Development Academy national championship last year as Little was named the USSDA U-17 Coach of the Year for the Western Conference. With numerous Sounders Academy graduates within the Defiance's squad, the expertise Little brings should help raise the club's six-win total of a season ago.

The experience gained by the club's young players should also help push the side forward this year as well, with U.S. U-20 international Sam Rogers and fellow 2018 USL Championship 20 Under 20 selection Denso Ulysse among those returning to the squad. But the biggest spotlight of all may fall on Danny Leyva, with the 15-year-old drawing strong reviews in Sounders preseason after making his professional debut late last year in Tacoma. A U.S. U-17 international, Leyva could be on the fast-track to the top if he can perform at a high level for the Defiance this year.



## CONTACTS

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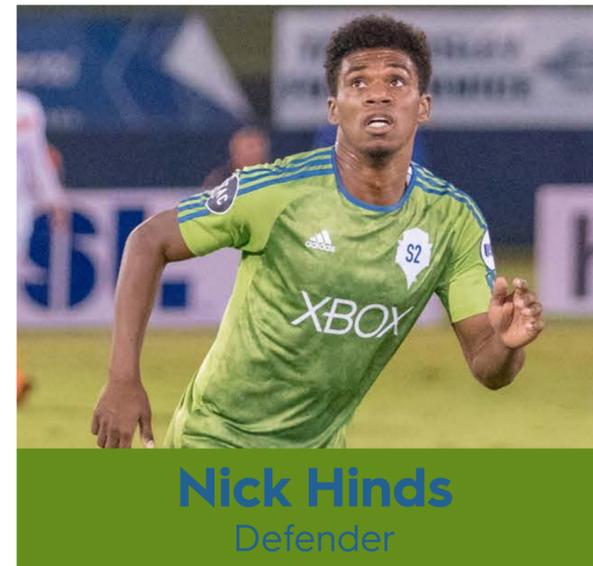
Chris Little

## KEY PLAYERS



Sam Rogers  
Defender

Twice selected for the Championship 20 Under 20 in the past two years, Rogers has a big year ahead for both the Defiance and potentially the United States U-20 National Team after helping the side claim the Concacaf U-20 Championship this past November to qualify for the FIFA U-20 World Cup. A regular for the Defiance over the past two seasons, Rogers has become a highly-regarded center back within the Seattle Sounders FC organization. Another good year in Tacoma could lead to bigger things ahead for the 6-foot-3 Washington native.



Nick Hinds  
Defender

Having previously appeared for the Defiance as an Academy signing before heading to the University of Akron in 2016, Hinds joined the professional ranks in Tacoma last season and showed flashes of the potential he has with a goal and two assists in 26 appearances for the side. A former U.S. U-20 international, Hinds is going to be key alongside Rogers for a young Defiance squad that conceded 71 goals a season ago - sixth-most in the league - as it looks to buckle down at the back and push its way back up the Western Conference this year.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home	Away	Time (ET)
3/8	TAC	v RGV	10:00pm
3/16	TAC	v LA	10:00pm
3/23	TUL	v TAC	4:00pm
3/29	TAC	v NM	10:00pm
4/1	TAC	v SAC	10:00pm
4/10	OC	v TAC	10:00pm
4/13	LV	v TAC	10:30pm
4/20	PHX	v TAC	10:30pm
4/26	SA	v TAC	8:30pm
5/4	OKC	v TAC	8:30pm
5/12	TAC	v POR	4:30pm
5/18	TAC	v RNO	10:00pm
5/26	TAC	v FRS	4:30pm
5/29	LA	v TAC	10:30pm
6/1	TAC	v ELP	10:00pm
6/8	COS	v TAC	8:00pm
6/12	TAC	v SLC	10:00pm
6/15	AUS	v TAC	8:30pm
7/6	RGV	v TAC	8:30pm
7/12	SLC	v TAC	10:00pm
7/24	TAC	v LV	10:00pm
7/27	TAC	v OKC	10:00pm
8/9	TAC	v OC	10:00pm
8/17	ELP	v TAC	9:30pm
8/27	TAC	v PHX	10:00pm
8/30	TAC	v SAC	10:00pm
9/7	SAC	v TAC	10:30pm
9/10	RNO	v TAC	10:00pm
9/20	POR	v TAC	10:30pm
9/28	TAC	v TUL	10:00pm
10/5	FRS	v TAC	10:30pm
10/12	TAC	v COS	10:00pm
10/16	NM	v TAC	9:00pm
10/19	TAC	v AUS	10:00pm

f /TACdefiance

🐦 @TacDefiance

📷 @TacDefiance

## TEAM OUTLOOK

Given the excitement and expectation that surrounded the club's preseason, it's arguable there was no team that fell flatter than the Tampa Bay Rowdies in 2018. After reaching the Eastern Conference Semifinals in its first year in the league, the Rowdies entered the new campaign with additional new recruits and the belief that they would be among the leading candidates to lift the USL Cup. Instead, the side faltered to a 12th-place finish and was eliminated from postseason contention before the final weekend of the regular season.

Tampa Bay's struggles resulted in a coaching change mid-way through the campaign and after being appointed as the club's new Head Coach, former Rowdies center back Neill Collins will lead the side into his first full season in charge. The offseason brought more change, with Major League Baseball's Tampa Bay Rays acquiring the club from local businessman Bill Edwards to become the latest major league ownership group to purchase a USL Championship club. Former England international Joe Cole announced his retirement, setting off another roster overhaul for the side that has brought in 16 new players in search of a bounce-back season at Al Lang Stadium.

Among the new faces in Tampa Bay are goalkeeper John McCarthy, who claimed the Championship's Rookie and Goalkeeper of the Year awards in 2014 before spending the past four seasons with the Philadelphia Union. Also joining the club are attacking midfielders Antoine Hoppenot (Reno 1868 FC), Zach Steinberger (Indy Eleven) and Andrew Tinari (New York Red Bulls II), who proved among the best chance creators in the league last season, and forward Brandon Allen (Nashville SC). With Leo Fernandes, Sebastian Guenzatti and Kwadwo Poku returning to the side, the Rowdies on paper look to be contenders again, but there won't be anything taken for granted this time around.

## HEAD COACH



**Neill Collins**



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## KEY PLAYERS



**John McCarthy**  
 Goalkeeper

After four seasons with the Philadelphia Union, John McCarthy elected to move on with the goal of becoming the full-time starter elsewhere. He'll get that opportunity with the Tampa Bay Rowdies, which went through three different starting goalkeepers a season ago but now potentially have the consistent shot-stopper they had when they reached the postseason two years ago. McCarthy certainly has the pedigree to be among the top goalkeepers in the Championship, as he claimed the 2014 Championship Goalkeeper and Rookie of the Year awards while with the Rochester Rhinos to earn his move to the Union. After the disappointment of missing the playoffs a season ago, McCarthy and his fellow new arrivals will look to lead the turnaround of a side with big aspirations.



**Kwadwo Poku**  
 Midfielder

One of the midseason additions brought in by the Tampa Bay Rowdies to try and turn their season around last June, Kwadwo Poku had some bright moments, but not enough to lead a second-half charge to the postseason at Al Lang Stadium. Now set for his first full year with the Rowdies, a strong season from the former New York City FC cult figure will be essential if Tampa Bay is to put the disappointment of 2018 behind it. Having just turned 27 years old, Poku is still in his prime and is still capable of producing big performances on a consistent basis. If he manages that this season, the Rowdies will make a significant surge back up the Eastern Conference standings.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home		Away	Time (ET)
3/9	MEM	v	TBR	7:00pm
3/16	TBR	v	PIT	7:30pm
3/23	STL	v	TBR	2:00pm
3/30	TBR	v	LDN	7:30pm
4/6	TBR	v	HFD	7:30pm
4/13	TBR	v	LOU	7:30pm
4/24	ATL	v	TBR	7:30pm
4/27	TBR	v	CTL	7:30pm
5/1	IND	v	TBR	7:00pm
5/8	NSH	v	TBR	8:00pm
5/18	TBR	v	NY	7:30pm
5/25	TBR	v	SPR	7:30pm
6/1	BHM	v	TBR	8:00pm
6/8	TBR	v	NC	7:30pm
6/15	TBR	v	CHS	7:30pm
6/22	BST	v	TBR	7:00pm
6/29	TBR	v	OTT	7:30pm
7/7	SPR	v	TBR	5:00pm
7/13	PIT	v	TBR	7:00pm
7/20	TBR	v	STL	7:30pm
7/26	NY	v	TBR	7:00pm
8/3	CHS	v	TBR	7:30pm
8/10	TBR	v	BHM	7:30pm
8/21	NC	v	TBR	7:00pm
8/24	TBR	v	MEM	7:30pm
8/31	TBR	v	NSH	8:30pm
9/7	CLT	v	TBR	7:00pm
9/14	TBR	v	ATL	7:30pm
9/18	OTT	v	TBR	7:00pm
9/21	TBR	v	BST	7:30pm
9/28	LOU	v	TBR	7:00pm
10/4	LDN	v	TBR	7:30pm
10/12	TBR	v	IND	7:30pm
10/19	HFD	v	TBR	7:00pm

/TampaBayRowdies

@TampaBayRowdies

@TampaBayRowdies



# TULSA ROUGHNECKS FC

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## TEAM OUTLOOK

After the euphoria of the club's first trip to the USL Cup Playoffs in 2017, last year provided a hangover that Tulsa Roughnecks FC simply couldn't shake as it finished with the fewest points in the league. A 15-game winless streak to start the season saw the side move on from Head Coach David Vaudreuil and introduce Michael Nsien as its interim manager, but despite a standout year from Joaquin Rivas with 12 goals there was little to celebrate for the Roughnecks in 2018.

Nsien is back to lead the side this season after being appointed as the third Head Coach in the club's modern history. Tulsa also has new leadership in the front office with local businessman Barry Williams joining the ownership group and becoming club President. While the club was unable to retain the services of Rivas, who made the move to Saint Louis FC this offseason, the Roughnecks have been aggressive in looking to rebound from a very disappointing season.

Among those new arrivals are defender Cyprian Hedrick (San Antonio FC) and AJ Ajeakwa (Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC), both of whom bring extensive Championship experience. Nsien has also brought in Canadian defender Mallan Roberts (Richmond Kickers) and another former Switchback in Tobenna Uzo, who shone for USL League Two's Myrtle Beach Mutiny two seasons ago before joining the professional ranks. It's going to be a steep hill to climb for Nsien and his squad, but anything positive to come of this year will be big simply to put 2018 in the rear-view mirror.



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Michael Nsien

## KEY PLAYERS



Cyprian Hedrick  
Defender

Finishing with the worst record and most goals conceded in the Western Conference a season ago, Tulsa Roughnecks FC fans knew plenty of changes were coming this offseason. While the club's new ownership is going to be a big factor for the side moving forward, the Roughnecks are also hoping the retooled squad that includes Championship veterans like Cyprian Hedrick will also help the side be far more competitive on the field in 2019. Hedrick has made 133 regular-season appearances in the Championship, putting him in the Top 30 all-time, and that experience is going to help try and pull the club's back line together for the new season.



AJ Ajeakwa  
Forward

If the defense wasn't good, the Roughnecks' attack wasn't much better as it recorded only 36 goals in 34 regular-season contests in 2018. To try and help turn that around, the Roughnecks went out and added former Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC forward AJ Ajeakwa, whose speed should help Tulsa stretch defenses more than in the past season. Ajeakwa's record in front of goal hasn't always been stellar - he finished with four goals and one assist in 30 appearances for the Switchbacks a season ago - but he could help provide a spark for his attacking colleagues in Head Coach Michael Nsien's new-look squad.

## 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Home		Away	Time (ET)
3/9	TUL	v	POR	8:00pm
3/16	OC	v	TUL	10:00pm
3/20	NM	v	TUL	9:00pm
3/23	TUL	v	TAC	4:00pm
3/29	TUL	v	RGV	8:00pm
4/6	LA	v	TUL	10:00pm
4/13	FRS	v	TUL	10:30pm
4/24	TUL	v	COS	8:00pm
4/27	TUL	v	OC	8:00pm
5/4	RNO	v	TUL	10:00pm
5/18	SA	v	TUL	8:30pm
5/25	LV	v	TUL	10:30pm
6/1	TUL	v	AUS	8:00pm
6/7	PHX	v	TUL	10:30pm
6/15	TUL	v	ELP	8:30pm
6/22	SAC	v	TUL	11:00pm
6/29	TUL	v	SLC	8:30pm
7/6	POR	v	TUL	10:30pm
7/13	COS	v	TUL	8:00pm
7/24	TUL	v	LA	8:30pm
7/27	TUL	v	PHX	8:30pm
8/3	OC	v	TUL	9:00pm
8/10	SLC	v	TUL	10:00pm
8/17	AUS	v	TUL	8:30pm
8/28	TUL	v	LV	8:30pm
8/31	TUL	v	FRS	8:30pm
9/4	ELP	v	TUL	9:00pm
9/7	RGV	v	TUL	8:30pm
9/21	TUL	v	OC	8:00pm
9/25	TUL	v	SA	8:00pm
9/28	TAC	v	TUL	10:00pm
10/5	TUL	v	SAC	8:00pm
10/12	TUL	v	NM	8:00pm
10/19	TUL	v	RNO	8:00pm

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t @roughnecksfc

ig @roughnecksfc



# USL EXECUTIVE STAFF

## Alec Papadakis

*USL Chief Executive Officer*

Papadakis has served as the USL's top executive since 2009, and he is the CEO and Managing Partner of NuRock Soccer Holdings. Papadakis is a franchise attorney with four decades' worth of domestic and international experience.

A former player for the Atlanta Chiefs and Boston Minutemen, Papadakis had a long, successful career in the U.S. at both the professional and collegiate level. He helped Atlanta to a 1971 regular-season championship and Boston to a 1974 regular-season crown. Papadakis was a three-time, First Team All-American at Hartwick College (New York) and he also attended Ibero-American University in Mexico City before receiving his law degree at the University of Akron in 1976.

Papadakis' legal focus has been U.S. and European franchise transactions. He also has practiced in the area of commercial real estate, acquisitions, development, financing and leasing. He was the founder and first president of the Hellenic Franchise Association and holds affiliations with the Board of Advisors of International Quarterly, the International Franchise Association, the State Bar of Georgia, the American Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Directors for the Hellenic American Institute in Washington, D.C.

## Jake Edwards

*USL President*

Edwards has served as USL President since March 2, 2015, when he succeeded Tim Holt in this position. Edwards has played an integral role toward the league's long-term strategic plan, Destination 2020, which focuses on the USL's expansion, the launch of media and commercial properties, partnership with Major League Soccer and the important step for all USL teams to be situated in soccer-specific stadiums. Edwards oversees the 40-plus staff at the league's headquarters in Tampa, Fla., and the daily servicing of its 30-plus clubs.

Edwards joined the USL as the league's Vice President in 2013. The Manchester native is a former professional soccer player whose career spanned 11 years, mostly for England-based clubs as well as with the Charleston Battery, signing with the USL side in July of 2002.

Edwards played collegiately for James Madison in Virginia. After completing his MBA from Warwick Business School in 2009, while also serving as commercial manager for Solihull Moors Football Club, Edwards was hired by Octagon, the global sports sponsorship agency. Based in Octagon's London office, Edwards served as a business strategy consultant in the company's rights holder side of the business.

## Justin Papadakis

*USL Chief Operating Officer*

Papadakis was named the USL President of Commercial Ventures in December of 2014 and in May of 2016 began his role as the league's Chief Operating Officer.

A former goalkeeper, Papadakis represented Duke from 2004-07, with one of his biggest highlights being a two-save effort during a penalty shootout to lift the Blue Devils past North Carolina to win the 2005 ACC Championship. The Roswell, Ga., native also had a strong youth career in the greater Atlanta region as well as abroad with Benfica FC in Portugal during his high school years.

Papadakis earned his juris doctorate in real state after attending the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law from 2011-15.

Robert Hoskins, Chairman  
 Alec Papadakis, Chief Executive Officer  
 Jake Edwards, President  
 Justin Papadakis, Chief Operating Officer  
 Court Jeske, Executive Vice President  
 Karen Gittens, Chief Financial Officer  
 Garrison Mason, Vice President, General Counsel  
 Lauren T. Mehta, Associate General Counsel  
 Brett Luy, Senior Vice President, League Operations  
 Dan Lohrs, Director, USL Championship Operations  
 Justen Braddock, Director, USL Championship Operations  
 Steven Short, Senior Vice President, USL League One  
 Casey Mills, Director, USL League One Operations  
 Lizzie Seedhouse, Senior Vice President, Digital & Content  
 Bradley D. Baker, Vice President, Broadcasting  
 Ryan Madden, Vice President, Communications & Public Relations  
 John Cochol, Vice President, Club Services  
 Josh Keller, Vice President, Business Development  
 Kelly Dohre, Director, Business Development  
 Matt Reda, Director, Business Development  
 Rachel Bukszar, Director, People  
 Matthew Calvo, Director, Creative Services  
 Vincent Wiskowski, Director, Digital Projects and Emerging Technology  
 Nick Papadakis, Director, Merchandising  
 Michael Cohen, Media Consultant

Matthew Fischer, Broadcast Coordinator  
 Kevin Pikus, Director, Finance  
 Dominic Colarusso, Associate, Business Development  
 Shannon Amely, Associate, Club Services  
 Nicholas Murray, Associate Director, Communications  
 Scott Stewart, Senior Manager, Communications & Public Relations  
 Sarah Cardamone, Manager, Communications & Public Relations  
 Matthew Reed, Coordinator, Communications & Social Media  
 John Arlia, National Writer  
 Kelsi Steele, Senior Manager, Social Media  
 A.J. Coleman, Manager, Social Media  
 Nina Cusmano, Coordinator, Social Media  
 Tania Kerr, Administrative Director  
 William Gillette, Manager, Finance & Accounting  
 Brittany Stolzenberg, Manager, Events  
 Jaime Austin, Graphic Artist  
 Sonjai Persaud, Graphic Artist  
 Angela Zangaglio, Graphic Artist  
 Augustus Rachels, Video Editor & Motion Graphic Designer  
 JB Allen, Jr. Video Editor  
 Clay Benjamin, Coordinator, Digital Assets  
 Adam Satz, Manager, Digital Network  
 Mark Hite, Coordinator, Digital Network  
 Wesley Roesch, Coordinator, Digital Network

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# RULES & REGULATIONS

## DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

### Disciplinary Powers

The USL shall have the authority to suspend, fine or disqualify players, team officials or competing clubs for violating league rules, or for any action or conduct not in the best interest of soccer or the USL. The USL hands down any final decision on a breach of rules.

### The USL Disciplinary Committee

The USL Disciplinary Committee is charged with the responsibility to enforce the playing rules and allow for a competitive, but fair, environment for all teams to compete against each other. A panel of at least three USL staff members, consisting of the League Director, Operations Director and Referee Services Coordinator, shall conduct the review of critical disciplinary issues. An alternate League Director may be utilized in the event any of the three members above are unable to participate.

### Disciplinary Process

USL disciplinary issues (including all send-offs) reported by the Referee shall be reviewed by the USL Disciplinary Committee via match videos, official reports, individual accounts and other pertinent information. Depending on the timeliness of the reports and match videos, the Committee will make every effort to rule on all cases from the preceding week and issue these rulings by Monday of each week.

Every disciplinary incident shall be reviewed to ensure that players are not over-penalized, either by the number of matches served or fines. The USL has the authority and reserves the right to levy additional suspensions or fines (above the minimum for that type of infraction), if a review of the incident warrants such action.

The USL Disciplinary Committee may act in contravention of a referee's ruling on the field when a play, or the consequences of a play, are of an egregious or exceptional nature. The USL Disciplinary Committee is the body that deems whether or not an incident undergoes a formal review by the Independent Disciplinary Panel.

### Independent Disciplinary Panel

The Independent Disciplinary Panel is comprised of three outside members, consisting of a former professional coach, a former professional referee and a former professional player. This panel is charged with the responsibility of reviewing any disciplinary matters deemed worthy of increased disciplinary measures (i.e. escalating a yellow card to a red card). Any disciplinary decisions rendered by the Independent Disciplinary Panel will be final and cannot be appealed. A unanimous decision must be reached in order for any discipline to be escalated by the panel.

### Disparaging Comments

Players, coaches and team officials may not disparage referees, referee decisions, league disciplinary decisions or the league in team press releases, press conferences or in quotes provided to the media which includes social media platforms. Fines will be levied accordingly based on the nature, severity and context of the comments made. Suspensions could also be levied for very serious comments.

### Serving Suspensions During the Regular Season

Any player and/or coach sent off/dismissed during a regular-season game will be fined (min. \$100 for player and min. \$500 for coaches) and will be suspended from the next league regular-season game. A person who serves as both player and coach may not return as a player or a coach until the suspension has been served. The USL Disciplinary Committee reserves the right to assess further or limited penalties depending on the severity of the incident.

The penalties set forth shall apply to all cards awarded to a player in any USL match. For the purposes of determining accumulations and game suspensions, any games that count as part of a team's official league schedule shall be utilized.

### Exhibition Game Send-off

Any player and/or coach sent off/dismissed in an exhibition game shall serve a suspension during the team's next exhibition game.

### Final Regular Season Game Send-off

Any player sent off in a final regular season match must serve the suspension in the first playoff match, unless the season is over, in which case the suspension will be served in the team's first league game the following season.

### Coach/Staff Cautions and Ejections

Referees, at their discretion, may warn or dismiss coaches and team staff for unprofessional behavior. Any coach or other team staff member not acting in a professional manner in the opinion of the League, whether or not the incident is reported in the Referee Game Report, shall be subject to a minimum \$500 fine and/or suspension. Referees are instructed not to physically show a red card to non-players, although they may require the removal of coaches and team staff in accordance with Rule 647 for unprofessional behavior at their own discretion.

### Suspension Parameters & Restrictions

Any manager, coach, assistant coach, athletic trainer, player or other official bench personnel is prohibited from assuming any official duty at or near the team bench while serving a suspension. Any athletic trainer sent off during a match should remain in the locker room area through the end of the match and may only return to the pitch at the request of the Referee in the event of an emergency. Any infringement of this rule or the restrictions below may result in the forfeiture of the game and include a fine for each infraction. The following restrictions apply:

### Pre-Game

Suspended personnel are allowed to communicate pre-game information to the team in the locker room prior to the match. However, they are not allowed on the field during warm-ups and may not stand or in any way be in close proximity to the field of play.

### In-Game, Including Halftime

Field Access: At no time during the game are suspended personnel allowed on or around the field of play.

Communication: There is to be no direct or indirect communication whether written, verbal, cellular or electronic to any other coach, player or staff member on the team bench.

Stadium Seating: The suspended personnel must sit in the press box or in some location other than in the stands. The suspended person is not permitted to sit in the stands as a "spectator." If it is not possible to sit in the press box, then they are prohibited from attending the match.

Locker Room Access: The coach/staff member is not allowed to be in the locker room at any time during halftime.

### Post-Game

The coach/staff member may join their team in the locker room, but not on the field of play or its surrounding areas.

### Extending a Suspension

In any case, the USL reserves the right to impose suspensions beyond any of these parameters for offenses deemed to be particularly violent and against the spirit of the game. This can be imposed regardless of whether a send-off occurred.

### League Disciplinary Point System

The USL has the authority to discipline players, coaches, and/or team personnel based upon the USL disciplinary regulations in accordance with FIFA and the respective National Federation.

### Penalty Points

All cautions/yellow cards will account for one point and send-offs/red cards will account for two points. Any player receiving two cautions in one match, which results in a send-off, will receive one point for the first caution and one point for the resulting send-off for a total of two points. Any player receiving one caution and one red card in a match, which results in a send-off, will receive one point for the caution and two points for the send-off for a total of three points. Send-offs/red card suspensions must be served the following game in which the team participates.

### Player Caution Accumulation

Players exceeding the caution accumulation penalty point plateau(s) will begin serving their suspension in their next match. If a player receives two cautions in one match, these cautions will not count toward a player's caution accumulation total. The USL also reserves the right to reevaluate player accumulation plateaus for player eligibility rulings, including playoffs, with the reserved power to postpone suspensions to the following season.

Players accumulating the following number of caution/yellow cards throughout the season will be sanctioned as follows:

Five cautions: one-game suspension and \$200 fine

Eight total cautions: one-game suspension and \$300 fine

11 total cautions: two-game suspension and \$400 fine

14 total cautions: three-game suspension and \$500 fine

Caution accumulation suspensions can only affect regular-season games. For those players who reach a caution accumulation suspension at the end of the season that suspension will not be implemented in any potential playoff games that season. Accumulations will be wiped clean at the end of the season. If a player exceeds 14 cautions in a season, the league reserves the right to fine and suspend the player at its discretion.

### Good Behavior Incentive

A player will automatically reduce his yellow card accumulation total by one yellow card each time he appears in five consecutive league games without a card or supplemental discipline. For clarity, a player cannot have a negative yellow card accumulation total; the Good Behavior Incentive reset can only reset to a zero-card total. This incentive will be automatically applied a maximum of three times through the course of the USL season.

For example, a player on his third caution of the season appearing in five consecutive league matches without receiving a card or supplemental discipline removes one (1) caution from his cumulative total, leaving the player with a total of two. This player now has two remaining Good Behavior Incentive opportunities for the 2018 Season. If that player completes five more consecutive league matches without receiving a card or supplemental discipline, one more caution is removed from his cumulative total leaving the player a total of one caution and one more Good Behavior Incentive opportunity.

### Staff Send-off Accumulation

Any coach accumulating the following number of ejections, will be suspended and fined as the following:

First Send-off: coach will serve a one game suspension and will be fined minimum of \$500

Second Send-off: coach will serve a one game suspension and will be fined minimum of \$1,000

Third Send-off: coach will serve a two game suspension and will be fined minimum of \$1,500

\*Note that the accumulation is an aggregation of all dismissals of the club's staff (i.e. the first individual dismissed is punished under the "First Dismissal" guideline, the second individual dismissed is punished under the "Second Dismissal" guideline, etc., even if the first party dismissed and second party dismissed are different individuals)

### Suspension During USL Cup Playoffs

Any player and/or coach who is sent off during the USL Cup Playoffs will be suspended from the next playoff game, unless the season is over, in which case the suspension will be served in the team's first league game the following season.

# RULES & REGULATIONS

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## Major Game Misconduct

In addition to the penalties set forth above, major fines or suspensions, at the sole and absolute discretion of the USL Disciplinary Committee, shall be levied against players (whether or not they were awarded a card by the referee), coaches or other team staff for conduct including, but not limited to: fighting, provoking a fight, criticizing game officials with words or gestures, entering the game officials' locker room, physical contact with game officials separate from referee assault, using excessive force, deliberate attempts to injure, spitting, provoking crowd disorders, profane language that can be heard by the crowd or broadcast audience, obscene gestures, racist, homophobic, or derogatory comments, improper conduct during the national anthem, taunting, abuse of spectators and others, failure to leave the field when instructed by the Referee to do so, improper conduct following the award of a card, excessive delay tactics, excessive and obvious feigning of injuries, or other unsportsmanlike conduct detrimental to the USL and the sport of soccer in general. The league may levy fines and/or suspensions for such behavior whether or not it is reported in the Referee Game Report.

## Game Official Assault or Abuse

In addition to enforcing the mandatory sanctions from USSF Policy 531-9, the USL may impose additional fines and/or suspensions.

## USSF Fine for Serious Incidents

The U.S. Soccer Federation has the power to impose fines for any incident bringing the game into disrepute within the league.

## Red Card and Second Yellow Card Appeal

Within 24 hours after the completion of a match a team may request a review of a red card or the second yellow card if a player receives two yellow cards in a match to rectify a case where a serious and obvious error has occurred. An independent panel of three people made up of one representative from the USSF, the CSA, and PRO will oversee the appeal. The panel must unanimously agree to overturn a red card or second yellow card for the appeal to be successful.

## Suspension and Fine Appeal

Within 24 hours after the USL distributes its Weekly Discipline Report, a team may appeal a suspension and/or fine that is greater than one game or \$100, unless the established minimum fine and suspension exceeds those amounts. The USL must receive the appeal in writing via email. The appeal must be state why the team feels the punishment is not appropriate, and it must provide supporting evidence to support its position.

Within 48 hours of receiving the appeal the USL shall hold a call to determine the appeal. The USL shall convene the Independent Disciplinary Panel to decide the appeal. The panel will review the video of the incident prior to the appeal. \$500 is due to the USL in order to conduct an appeal, but if the appeal is successful, then the \$500 will not be invoiced.

## Cross League and Competition Suspensions

Players joining the USL (on loan or through transfer) may be subject to any suspension that has been levied by other competitions. The USL shall determine if it will permit a player who receives a red card or other supplemental discipline in another competition for an egregious act to play in USL matches. As per USSF policy, supplemental discipline issued for referee assault/abuse shall preclude the suspended individual from participating in any soccer competition until the suspension has expired.

Players who are suspended in any cup competition such as the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup, Canadian Championship or CONCACAF Champions League are not automatically suspended in the USL. The USL will independently review the action and suspension and have the right to implement supplemental discipline in the USL Disciplinary Committee, if it determines the player's behavior was deemed to be egregious.

## Master Roster

23-Man Game Day Player Pool – All players must be rostered (i.e., registered with the League and Federation) prior to their inclusion in a Team's 23-Man Game Day Player Pool. Suspended players cannot be included in the 23-Man Game Day Player Pool. Should a player be successfully rostered (provided all registration paperwork and ITC cleared before the applicable match registration deadline) and fall within the 48-24 hour window, they may be added to the 23-Man Game Day Player Pool; however, the change will be subject to the opposing team's approval in accordance with Master Roster Guidelines.

The Master Roster consists of up to 30 Active Players and is the official player roster of the team as set by the USL. Inactive Players do not count toward a team's Master Roster.

A maximum of seven players on the Master Roster may be International Players, pending the trade or sale of international roster spots.

A professional team must carry 12 or more professional players on its Master Roster. Players loaned from leagues other than MLS with no right to recall count toward this minimum.

Active Players consist of properly registered players on USL contracts and players in on loan and Academy Players whose the team has indicated are to be active. Players who are signed to a USL Standard Professional Player Contract and are not in on loan can only be active on the roster.

Teams are required to submit their 23-Man Game Day Player Pool of players that are available and active for a match 48 hours prior to each match. Between 48 and 24 hours prior to the match, any change to that Game Day Player Pool must be approved by the opposing team and the league. There will be no changes allowed to 23-Man Game Day Player Pool less than 24 hours prior to a match. Failure to submit the 23-Man Game Day Player Pool 48 hours prior to the match will result in a minimum fine of \$500. If a player not included on the 23-Man Game Day Player Pool appears on the Game Day Lineup, it will result in a minimum fine of \$1,000. All appropriate parties must be included on the correspondence for the standard to be met. All aforementioned times are subject to change in accordance with the best interests of the game and in the spirit of the intent of this rule in the League's absolute discretion. The League reserves the right to override approvals or denials of the opposing team.

No player may be simultaneously active on the Master Roster of two separate teams in two different leagues. The only exception to this rule occurs if a player has been listed as active on a USL team's 23-Man Game Day Player Pool, which is submitted to the League no later than 48 hours prior to the match. In such an instance, a player may remain active in both systems. Any player that does not meet this exception must be listed as inactive in the USL registration system to participate on a separate team in a different league. No player may be listed on the active roster for two separate teams in two different leagues on the same day. Failure to meet this standard will result in a minimum fine of \$500.

Inactive Players can only consist of players out on loan, in on-loan, or Academy Players who the team has indicated are to be inactive. Inactive Players do not count against a team's International Player limit.

## Academy Players

In addition to the 30 Active Players allowed on the Master Roster, a team may have up to five active Academy Players which do not count against the 30 players on the Master Roster and are allowed to participate in all competitions. After the first five Academy Players rostered, Academy Players will count against the Master Roster. To be considered an Academy Player, all of the following must be in place:

Player is under the age of 21 as of the official start date of the current season,

Player cannot compete (or have ever previously have competed) in any NCAA or NAIA university or college soccer program, and

Player has never been signed or registered as a professional soccer player as recognized by FIFA.

The Academy Player must play for a club that conducts its activities (home games and/or training) within the team's franchise territory or play for a club which has a documented affiliation with the team. In the latter scenario, the affiliated club outside the territory of the team must not be in the territory of another USL team and the team must register all documented affiliate clubs with the League Office prior to the season or upon completion of the affiliation agreement. Additionally, teams with MLS affiliations can use the Academy Players of their MLS affiliate. Academy Players do count against a team's maximum of seven foreign players. Academy Players must be registered as an amateur with the USL team or its formally-recognized MLS affiliate. Teams may make Academy Players active or inactive on the Master Roster. Inactive Academy Players do not count towards the roster maximum or the international player maximum. A player cannot sign more than 1 USL Academy Player contract per season. There cannot be more than five Academy Players listed in the Game Day Lineup.

## Master Roster Changes

Whenever a team makes a change to its master roster, notification must be sent via email to the USL. Changes are not approved until the USL confirms via email.

## Master Roster Freeze

No team will be allowed to sign, receive a player on loan, change a player's active/inactive status, and/or replace players after the Roster Freeze date. All trades, transfers and/or loans between teams must be finalized and approved by the USL prior to this time. The USL will not allow "deals in progress" or "extensions" to go beyond the deadline for any reason.

The date of the Roster Freeze is Sept. 14, 2018, at 5 p.m. ET.

Any MLS player legitimately on the final Master Roster of a USL team at the time of the Roster Freeze date will be permitted to compete for the USL team for the rest of the season, regardless of whether or not that player is subsequently traded or transferred to another MLS team. In this instance, it is possible that a newly executed loan agreement would be required by the USL. However, if a player is sold or released from his contract with MLS, this will terminate the player's loan with the USL team.

Any outfield player on loan from another league must play a minimum of five games during the regular season to be eligible to play in the USL Cup Playoffs. One of these games must occur prior to the roster freeze date. This standard does not apply to goalkeepers.

Any player who is sold to an MLS team after the Roster Freeze deadline may rejoin the USL team on loan for the remainder of the season, as long as he assumes the spot on the roster he vacated when he was sold by the USL club. As long as the player played in a minimum of five games during the season, either prior or after being sold, he is eligible to play in the USL Cup Playoffs.

**SPECIAL EXEMPTION (GOALKEEPERS):** In the unlikely event that a team is reduced to a single "available and healthy" goalkeeper due to National Team call-up or medically-verifiable injury, the team may petition the USL in writing to be permitted to add a backup goalkeeper to their Master Roster. This may only be done in the event that at least two eligible and healthy goalkeepers are under contract with the club, participating in regular team activities, not on loan with another team, and listed on the final Master Roster submitted at the time of the Roster Freeze date. This backup goalkeeper will be permitted to remain on the team's roster until such time that one or more of the originally rostered goalkeepers becomes available and is able to compete. The USL will have the power to reject the addition of a goalkeeper in this situation if it feels its primary intent is to create a competitive advantage.