



2022

MEDIA GUIDE



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2022 ALIGNMENT

The USL Championship's 12th season will see the league's 27 teams divided into two conferences, with the clubs set to embark on a 34-game regular-season schedule that will be conducted over 32 weeks and open on the weekend of March 11-13, 2021.

There is one new arrival in each conference, with Detroit City FC joining the Eastern Conference and Monterey Bay F.C. joining the Western Conference.

2022 CONFERENCE ALIGNMENT

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC
El Paso Locomotive FC
LA Galaxy II
Las Vegas Lights FC
Monterey Bay F.C.
New Mexico United
Oakland Roots SC
Orange County SC
Phoenix Rising FC
Rio Grande Valley FC
Sacramento Republic FC
San Antonio FC
San Diego Loyal SC

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlanta United 2
Birmingham Legion FC
Charleston Battery
Detroit City FC
Hartford Athletic
Indy Eleven
Loudoun United FC
Louisville City FC
Memphis 901 FC
Miami FC
New York Red Bulls II
Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC
Tampa Bay Rowdies
FC Tulsa

KEY DATES

March 12 – 2022 Season Kickoff
April 5-7 – Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup Second Round
April 19-21 – Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup Third Round
May 10-11 – Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup Round of 32
May 24-25 – Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup Round of 16
June 21-22 – Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup Quarterfinals

July 26-27 – Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup Semifinals
Sept 6, 7, 13 or 14 – Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup Final
October 15 – Final Day of Regular Season
November 13 – USL Championship Final
November 21 – 2022 FIFA World Cup Kickoff
December 18 – 2022 FIFA World Cup Final

SEASON STRUCTURE

Regular Season Structure

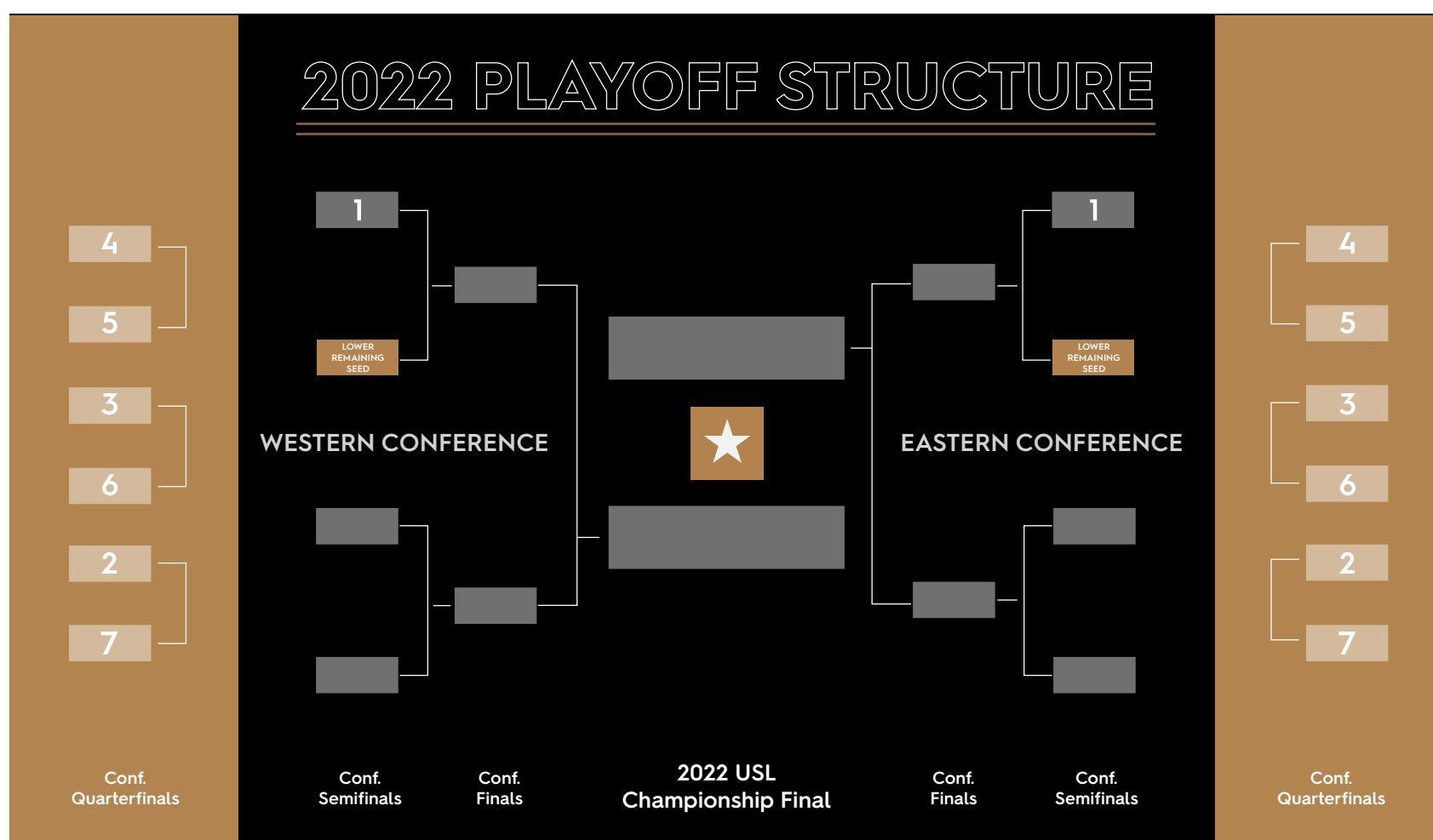
The 2022 USL Championship season will see every team will play each of its conference foes twice – once at home, once away. For Eastern Conference clubs, the remaining eight games will be against interconference opponents – four at home, four away. For Western Conference clubs, the remaining 10 games will be against a combination of interconference and intraconference opponents – five at home, five away.

2022 USL Championship Playoffs

At the conclusion of the regular season, the top seven teams in each conference will qualify for the 2022 USL Championship Playoffs. The first overall seed in each conference will receive a bye to the Conference Semifinals of the playoffs.

The bracket will be reseeded following the Conference Quarterfinals to ensure the first overall seed in each conference plays against the lowest-seeded remaining opponent.

The USL Championship Playoffs will remain a single-elimination format, culminating in the 2022 USL Championship Final on Sunday, November 13.





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TEAM OUTLOOK

For the first two-thirds of the 2021 season it appeared Atlanta United 2 was in with a shot at a playoff berth. Unfortunately for Head Coach Jack Collison and his young squad, the side faded down the stretch with only two wins in its final 12 games as Memphis 901 FC turned on the accelerator to become the Central Division's first-time playoff participant.

That shouldn't diminish what Atlanta accomplished last year, though, with the side taking notable victories, especially on its home turf at Fifth Third Bank Stadium. Among the teams to fall to Atlanta were perennial title contender Louisville City FC and playoff side FC Tulsa, and the squad also took a memorable 6-2 win against Indy Eleven. The group returns some of its key players, led by leading scorer from a season ago Aiden McFadden and leading assist man Robbie Mertz, while the young talent emerging from Atlanta United's Academy will get a chance to take the next step forward. Among those, young Trinidad and Tobago international Ajani Fortune - now signed to his first pro deal - will be one to watch.

The big challenge for Atlanta in what is set to be its final season in the Championship is likely to be the depth of competition across the Eastern Conference. After competing in what ended up as arguably the weakest division last year, this campaign will see the side face a more consistently high level. Collison's squad will have to step up again if it's going to be as competitive as it proved a season ago.

HEAD COACH



Jack Collison

HOME VENUE



Fifth Third Bank Stadium



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KEY PLAYERS



Robbie Mertz
Midfielder

Entering his second season in Atlanta, Robbie Mertz will look to build on a solid third professional campaign that saw him record a single-season best with five assists and 43 chances created after taking on a more attacking role with his new club than at Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC. The 25-year-old will be a veteran head in the young Atlanta squad, having now made 70 regular season appearances in the Championship over his first three campaigns, and will likely want to boost his goal total after scoring just once a season ago.



Aiden McFadden
Defender

Aiden McFadden burst onto the scene in his first professional season after being selected by Atlanta United FC in the 2021 MLS SuperDraft, recording eight goals and two assists despite playing much of the season as an attacking right back. That ability to get into the final third led to an impressive level of productivity with two assists and 33 key passes in 29 appearances. If McFadden can bump his defensive numbers up in Year 2, a chance at the MLS level could arrive sooner rather than later.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/12	LOU	V	ATL
3/16	ATL	V	NY
3/23	ATL	V	TBR
3/27	ATL	V	CHS
4/2	HFD	V	ATL
4/9	ATL	V	DET
4/16	IND	V	ATL
4/23	PIT	V	ATL
5/4	ATL	V	LOU
5/21	DET	V	ATL
5/27	ATL	V	OC
6/1	ATL	V	RGV
6/4	MEM	V	ATL
6/11	ATL	V	LDN
6/18	ATL	V	HFD
6/25	OAK	V	ATL
6/29	CHS	V	ATL
7/2	ATL	V	ELP
7/6	ATL	V	BHM
7/9	TUL	V	ATL
7/16	SA	V	ATL
7/23	TBR	V	ATL
7/30	ATL	V	LV
8/6	BHM	V	ATL
8/9	NY	V	ATL
8/13	ATL	V	MIA
8/20	LDN	V	ATL
8/27	ATL	V	PIT
9/3	ATL	V	TUL
9/7	ATL	V	MEM
9/17	MIA	V	ATL
9/28	ATL	V	IND
10/8	LA	V	ATL
10/15	PHX	V	ATL

 /ATLUTD2

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TEAM OUTLOOK

The progression of Birmingham Legion FC over its first three seasons has seen the side increase its points-per-game average each year. The past campaign saw it serve as a serious rival to Louisville City FC in the race for top spot in the Central Division. The offseason has brought about the first potential challenge to that position, however, particularly in the club's attacking ranks where new faces are going to be asked to step into some big shoes over the new campaign.

Three of Birmingham's top three goalscorers departed this offseason with the club transferring 2020 Championship Golden Boot winner Junior Flemmings to Ligue 2 club Toulouse FC and Neco Brett (New Mexico United) and JJ Williams (FC Tulsa) moving on as free agents. Brett's departure after leading the team with a career-high 18 goals last season was the biggest, and new signings Enzo Martinez, Macky Diop and Marlon will be under pressure to produce early in the season.

If there's reason for optimism that Legion FC will retain its place among the Eastern Conference's contenders, though, it's the players that return in midfield and defense. Goalkeeper Matt VanOekel had a standout season a year ago and will continue to have an experienced group in front of him led by Alex Crognale and Jonny Dean, who's re-signing was a massive plus as one of the Championship's top two-way fullbacks. Add in the presence of Anderson Asiedu, Thomas Vancaeyezeele and Zach Herivaux in midfield and Birmingham will be a difficult side to break down, giving the attack some leeway as they find their feet.

HEAD COACH



Tom Soehn

HOME VENUE



Protective Stadium



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KEY PLAYERS



Jonny Dean
Defender

There have been fewer players more consistent for Birmingham Legion FC over the past two seasons than Jonny Dean, whose return to the squad this offseason was warmly welcomed by the club's supporters. A native of Macon, Ga., the 24-year-old was tied for the club-lead in appearances (47) and led the team in minutes played (4,200) in the past two regular seasons and has provided a dynamic presence at fullback in recording 10 assists and 64 chances created. Maintaining that level of attacking production would be a major asset to a Legion FC side with multiple new pieces in the attacking third this season.



Bruno Lapa
Midfielder

After earning USL Championship All-League honors in the abbreviated 2020 season, Bruno Lapa's second season at Legion FC was hit by injury setbacks, but the Brazilian still recorded five goals and two assists in 21 appearances and regularly showed his quality when at full fitness. Notable was Lapa's uptick in passing accuracy to 86.4 percent and a lack of fortune on his 37 chances created, which saw him notch only two assists on a 3.89xA mark according to Opta. With the departure of Junior Flemmings, Neco Brett and J.J. Williams from the club's attack, Lapa will likely be the central creative piece that leads Legion FC in the final third this campaign.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/13	BHM	V	TBR
3/19	TUL	V	BHM
3/26	BHM	V	COS
4/2	BHM	V	LOU
4/10	BHM	V	HFD
4/15	DET	V	BHM
4/24	LDN	V	BHM
4/27	BHM	V	CHS
5/4	BHM	V	MIA
5/7	PIT	V	BHM
5/18	BHM	V	LV
5/27	NY	V	BHM
6/4	PHX	V	BHM
6/8	BHM	V	MEM
6/25	NM	V	BHM
7/2	LOU	V	BHM
7/6	ATL	V	BHM
7/9	CHS	V	BHM
7/16	SAC	V	BHM
7/23	BHM	V	TUL
7/27	BHM	V	LDN
7/30	HFD	V	BHM
8/6	BHM	V	ATL
8/13	BHM	V	SD
8/17	BHM	V	DET
8/20	MEM	V	BHM
8/28	BHM	V	NY
9/3	MIA	V	BHM
9/10	IND	V	BHM
9/14	BHM	V	PIT
9/23	TBR	V	BHM
10/1	OAK	V	BHM
10/9	BHM	V	SA
10/15	BHM	V	IND

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🐦 @bhmlegion

📷 @bhmlegion



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TEAM OUTLOOK

The Charleston Battery missed out on the postseason for the first time since 2007 last year, breaking the club's streak as the lone club to have reached the USL Championship Playoffs in every season since the league's launch in 2011. The offseason that followed was one of the most active in the club's history as former player, assistant and Head Coach Mike Anhaeuser departed after being part of the club since 1994, and former United States Men's National Team forward Conor Casey was hired as the Battery's new Head Coach.

Casey enters his first full-time head coaching position - he held the interim role at the Colorado Rapids in 2019 - with some holdovers from the 2021 campaign in key areas. Goalkeeper Joe Kuzminsky has been a fan favorite since his arrival but will be looking to rebound from what was a below-par year by his prior standards, while Trinidad and Tobago international Leland Archer should provide an anchor in the center of defense for the Battery to build around.

Where Casey has needed to add has been in the attack. With playmaker Zeiko Lewis heading west to join Sacramento Republic FC in free agency, the Battery have brought in a proven striker at the Championship level in Augustine Williams and some interesting other pieces like Aidan Apodaca - who performed brightly at Reno 1868 FC in the past - as well as League One talent in Shak Adams and Andrew Booth. Casey is looking for fast, direct play, and he should have the pieces to pull that off. If he can, then Charleston could quickly return to playoff contention.

HEAD COACH



Conor Casey

HOME VENUE



Patriots Point



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KEY PLAYERS



Augustine Williams
Forward

Fresh off his selection by Sierra Leone for the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations, Augustine Williams makes a move to the East Coast for the first time in his career after signing with the Battery. A 2020 USL Championship All-League selection for the LA Galaxy II, William has recorded 37 goals in 130 appearances in the league since turning pro aged 18 years old with the Portland Timbers 2 in 2016. Now 24 years old, Williams will be looked at to provide a major attacking boost to a Charleston side that ranked in the middle of the pack offensively in the league last season as he links up with fellow new arrivals Aidan Apodaca and Andrew Booth and the returning Nicque Daley and Romario Piggott.



Leland Archer
Defender

A fixture in the Battery’s back line for the past four seasons, Leland Archer’s play has caught the attention of the Trinidad and Tobago Men’s National Team after setting career highs in clearances (121), recoveries (104) and interceptions (37) a season ago. The challenge for the Battery a season ago, however, was its fallibility as the side conceded 60 goals, the most of any independent club in the Championship a season ago. Finding a way to tighten up at the back is maybe the biggest key to Charleston’s aim of returning to the postseason. Archer should have a major role to play in that.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/12	CHS	V	TUL
3/19	DET	V	CHS
3/27	ATL	V	CHS
4/1	CHS	V	LV
4/9	SD	V	CHS
4/23	CHS	V	LOU
4/27	BHM	V	CHS
5/6	CHS	V	MEM
5/14	CHS	V	NM
5/21	CHS	V	MIA
5/28	LDN	V	CHS
6/4	CHS	V	IND
6/11	CHS	V	PIT
6/18	TBR	V	CHS
6/25	TUL	V	CHS
6/29	CHS	V	ATL
7/2	SA	V	CHS
7/9	CHS	V	BHM
7/13	MIA	V	CHS
7/16	CHS	V	HFD
7/22	COS	V	CHS
7/30	CHS	V	SAC
8/6	LOU	V	CHS
8/12	NY	V	CHS
8/20	LA	V	CHS
8/27	CHS	V	DET
8/31	PIT	V	CHS
9/3	CHS	V	NY
9/10	CHS	V	TBR
9/16	MEM	V	CHS
9/23	CHS	V	RGV
10/1	HFD	V	CHS
10/8	IND	V	CHS
10/15	CHS	V	LDN

 /charlestonbattery

 @Chas_Battery

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COLO. SPRINGS SWITCHBACKS FC

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TEAM OUTLOOK

As Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC moved into its beautiful 8,000-seat downtown home at Weidner Field, the expectation was that a new era had arrived for a club that had landed in the Championship impressively in 2015 but had since tailed downward in the Western Conference. The arrival of Head Coach Brendan Burke and a sparkling attack led by 2021 USL Championship Most Valuable Player Hadji Barry delivered that transformation, sending the Switchbacks to the postseason for the first time since 2016 before regular packed houses at the new venue.

Barry's 25 goals in the regular season equaled the Championship's single-season record, and it would be a big ask for the Guinean forward to match that feat again this year. The good news for the 29-year-old is he will have added support beyond the returning Michee Ngalina. Colorado Springs has added former Rio Grande Valley FC forward Elvis Amoh, and brought in Grenada international Kharlton Belmar, who formed a prolific partnership with Barry at Sporting Kansas City II a few years ago.

For the Switchbacks to take the next step toward contention, however, the side's defensive play is the area that must improve. Colorado Springs conceded the most goals of any side to reach the postseason last year, in part because of average goalkeeping. The side has looked to rectify that with the signing of former Hartford Athletic goalkeeper Jeff Caldwell, while also adding Macauley King via transfer from El Paso Locomotive FC. If the balance of the side is right, the Switchbacks will have a chance to make a postseason run this campaign and establish themselves as one of the league's powers.

HEAD COACH



Brendan Burke

HOME VENUE



Weidner Field



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KEY PLAYERS



Hadji Barry
Forward

After the most disappointing season of his professional career in 2020, Hadji Barry couldn't have bounced back in a bigger way as he proved the marquee signing of the Switchbacks' new era as it moved into its new downtown home at Weidner Field. Tying the Championship's single-season record with 25 goals, Barry earned both the Golden Boot and Most Valuable Player award and signed a new contract that could keep him in Colorado Springs through the 2024 season. Now the aim for the 29-year-old will be to maintain a high level of individual success in combination with a Switchbacks attack that possesses enough weapons to now become a serious contender for its first silverware in club history.





Jeff Caldwell
Goalkeeper


The Switchbacks' attack was potent in 2021, but defensively the side conceded the most goals of any team in the Western Conference Playoff field. Part of that was due to inconsistent goalkeeping, which produced a 67.1 overall save percentage, below league average. To try and address that, Colorado Springs signed Jeff Caldwell, who had a standout 2021 season at Hartford Athletic and could provide a solution. The former United States U-20 international posted a save percentage of 71.3 percent while ranking second in the league with 108 saves, and also set a Championship record with five penalty kick saves on the season. Colorado Springs would certainly take similar numbers as it looks to take the next step forward.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/12	COS	V	OC
3/19	COS	V	MB
3/26	BHM	V	COS
4/2	MIA	V	COS
4/9	LV	V	COS
4/16	COS	V	MEM
4/23	TUL	V	COS
4/30	OAK	V	COS
5/5	COS	V	RGV
5/14	SD	V	COS
5/21	SA	V	COS
5/28	MB	V	COS
6/3	COS	V	LV
6/11	LA	V	COS
6/18	COS	V	IND
6/24	COS	V	SA
6/28	HFD	V	COS
7/1	COS	V	SAC
7/4	COS	V	SD
7/9	ELP	V	COS
7/15	COS	V	LA
7/22	COS	V	CHS
7/30	PHX	V	COS
8/6	OC	V	COS
8/12	COS	V	ELP
8/17	SAC	V	COS
8/20	COS	V	TBR
8/27	COS	V	NM
9/3	COS	V	PHX
9/10	COS	V	DET
9/17	RGV	V	COS
9/24	COS	V	OAK
10/5	ELP	V	COS
10/15	NM	V	COS

 /SwitchbacksFC

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TEAM OUTLOOK

Detroit City FC is one of two new arrivals in the USL Championship for the 2022 season, but the club's past decade since its founding in 2012 in the amateur and professional ranks provides a history that is unique in the North American soccer landscape. As it makes the step up to the second tier, Le Rouge also brings with it one of the most passionate supporters' groups in the country, which will make Keyworth Stadium a major stage for their new rivals to visit in the coming year.

On the field, DCFC has achieved much success under Head Coach Trevor James during its time in the National Independent Soccer Association. The side won each of the past three regular season titles, the Legends Cup, the NISA Championship, and other honors. The core group of players that delivered that success will now get the chance to compete in the Championship with captain Stephen Carroll and most recent Black Arrow award winner Connor Rutz among those who will compete in the league for the first time.

There is Championship experience in Detroit's squad as well, though, with veteran forward Antoine Hoppenot and former Atlanta United 2 midfielder Abdoulaye Diop – a former DCFC player in the club's amateur days – among the new arrivals for 2022. After Oakland Roots SC's success last year making a similar move, DCFC will enter hopeful it can be a playoff contender this season. Whatever happens, though, the new arrivals will certainly make their presence known.

HEAD COACH



Trevor James

HOME VENUE



Keyworth Stadium



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KEY PLAYERS



Antoine Hoppenot
Forward

Detroit City FC has retained some of its key players from its most recent campaign, but one notable addition to Le Rouge is the arrival of USL Championship veteran Antoine Hoppenot, whose experience and recent success in the league should make an impact. The 31-year-old has recorded 31 goals and 33 assists in the Championship’s regular season over his career, including four goals and four assists for Louisville City FC a season ago. It may be too much to expect the peak of Hoppenot’s production at Reno 1868 FC when he recorded 17 goals and 19 assists across the 2017-18 seasons, but there should be plenty to work with here for the veteran as he heads north to Michigan.



Stephen Carroll
Defender

The first player signed for Detroit City FC’s new era in the USL Championship was club captain Stephen Carroll, who has become a fixture at the club since his debut in 2017. The Ireland native earned the NISA Golden Ball award in 2020 and was also the club’s 2018 Black Arrow recipient while anchoring a defense that boasted a +42-goal differential throughout Le Rouge’s tenure in the third tier, surrendering just 20 goals in 36 matches. Carroll led all defenders in NISA last season with four goals on his way to All-League First Team honors and will be hoping to have a strong impact as the club moves up to the second division.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/12	SA	V	DET
3/19	DET	V	CHS
3/26	DET	V	PIT
4/2	DET	V	MEM
4/9	ATL	V	DET
4/15	DET	V	BHM
4/23	HFD	V	DET
4/30	DET	V	NY
5/7	TUL	V	DET
5/14	DET	V	LDN
5/18	MIA	V	DET
5/21	DET	V	ATL
6/4	PIT	V	DET
6/11	DET	V	SAC
6/18	DET	V	ELP
6/25	MEM	V	DET
7/2	LV	V	DET
7/6	DET	V	HFD
7/9	IND	V	DET
7/16	MB	V	DET
7/23	DET	V	NM
8/6	TBR	V	DET
8/13	DET	V	OAK
8/17	BHM	V	DET
8/20	DET	V	LOU
8/27	CHS	V	DET
9/3	DET	V	IND
9/10	COS	V	DET
9/17	DET	V	TBR
9/21	NY	V	DET
9/24	DET	V	TUL
10/1	LDN	V	DET
10/5	LOU	V	DET
10/15	DET	V	MIA

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TEAM OUTLOOK

After reaching the Western Conference Final in the USL Championship Playoffs each of its first two seasons, El Paso Locomotive FC found another level in the 2021 regular season as it vied with Phoenix Rising FC for the best record in the Western Conference and set a club record with 18 victories and an undefeated record at Southwest University Park. Then the postseason arrived, and a shock exit at the first hurdle as Oakland Roots SC recorded the upset to bring the curtain down on the campaign.

The offseason provided another surprise as Head Coach Mark Lowry - who supplied the foundation for El Paso's on-field success - departed to take the vacant position at Indy Eleven. While there could be concern, though, incoming Head Coach John Hutchinson has a fine collection of talent both returning and arriving that should lead to Locomotive FC maintaining its level as it enters its fourth year. At the forefront is 18-year-old Diego Luna, who recorded nine goals and five assists in his first professional season and was called up to the United States U-20 Men's National Team.

There's plenty of experience as well to back up the young starlet, too, with Luis Solignac and Josue Aaron Gomez both returning in attack, the creativity of Dylan Mares in midfield and the defensive presence of Yuma and holding midfielder Richie Ryan. El Paso has also added some notable names, including the Championship's all-time leader in shutouts, Evan Newton, to replace departed goalkeeper Logan Ketterer. It should add up to a side that will once again be a strong contender for silverware at the end of the season.

HEAD COACH



John Hutchinson

HOME VENUE



Southwest University Park



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KEY PLAYERS



Diego Luna
Midfielder

The impact Diego Luna made on El Paso Locomotive FC in his first season at the club could be best summed up by this: among the talent the side has featured in its first three seasons, the 18-year-old phenom became the first Locomotive FC player to earn All-League recognition. Now seeming set to be part of the United States U-20 Men's National Team over the coming year, the spotlight will be firmly on Luna after the moves of Jose Gallegos and Jonathan Gomez to Europe. If Luna delivers another big season, he could very quickly be the next young Championship star getting a shot at a bigger stage.



Luis Solignac
Forward

Luis Solignac was brought in by El Paso to provide additional scoring punch in the final third, and the Argentine delivered with 10 goals to finish tied for the team-high alongside Josue Aaron Gomez while also adding seven assists. In the process, El Paso finished tied for sixth in the league with 56 goals over the campaign, a pace they'll be aiming to emulate under new Head Coach John Hutchinson with many of the key pieces returning for the club's fourth year. If Solignac can provide a similar level of production – or even become more prolific – it will help keep Locomotive FC on track for the first silverware in club history.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/12	SAC	V	ELP
3/19	ELP	V	NM
3/23	ELP	V	LV
4/3	SD	V	ELP
4/9	ELP	V	MB
4/16	SA	V	ELP
4/23	ELP	V	OAK
4/30	LDN	V	ELP
5/4	ELP	V	TUL
5/7	ELP	V	LA
5/14	PIT	V	ELP
5/18	ELP	V	SAC
5/21	OC	V	ELP
5/27	LV	V	ELP
6/4	ELP	V	HFD
6/11	PHX	V	ELP
6/18	DET	V	ELP
6/25	ELP	V	NY
6/29	RGV	V	ELP
7/2	ATL	V	ELP
7/9	ELP	V	COS
7/16	OAK	V	ELP
7/23	ELP	V	SA
7/30	ELP	V	LOU
8/6	MB	V	ELP
8/12	COS	V	ELP
8/20	ELP	V	SD
8/27	ELP	V	PHX
9/2	NM	V	ELP
9/7	ELP	V	RGV
9/18	LA	V	ELP
9/28	TBR	V	ELP
10/5	ELP	V	COS
10/8	ELP	V	OC

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HARTFORD ATHLETIC

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TEAM OUTLOOK

Having reached the USL Championship Playoffs in 2020, Hartford Athletic's failure to do so again last season could be viewed as a step back. That wouldn't necessarily be accurate, however, as new Head Coach Harry Watling's side proved itself capable of competing with most opponents while coming up short on consistency in arguably the most top-heavy division lineup from a season ago.

The Athletic claimed a season series win against Miami FC, but an overall 1-9-2 record against the top three of the Tampa Bay Rowdies, Charlotte Independence and Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC made the decisive difference to Hartford falling out of playoff contention as the season drew to a conclusion. There were plenty of bright spots, however, with evergreen playmaker Danny Barrera earning the Championship's Assists Champion award with 12 assists, while goalkeeper Jeff Caldwell set a league record with five penalty kick saves during the regular season.

Caldwell has headed west to join Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC, with the Athletic having recruited former Independence goalkeeper Austin Pack as his likely replacement, but Barrera returns alongside a collection of other key figures such as forward Juan Carlos Obregon Jr., defenders Tulu and Younes Boudadi. Watling has also looked to add more experience in the middle of the field through Jamaican midfielders Peter-Lee Vassell and Andre Lewis. The aim will be for the new group to find greater consistency, and a route back to the postseason in the process.

HEAD COACH



Harry Watling

HOME VENUE



Dillon Stadium



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KEY PLAYERS



Danny Barrera
Midfielder

For some players, passing the age of 30 might mean slowing down. For Danny Barrera, the past two seasons at Hartford Athletic have shown how the most talented players will find a way to remain creative and competitive. The 2021 Championship Assists Champion with 12 assists, Barrera appears set to duel with Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC's Kenardo Forbes this year for the league's all-time regular season lead. If that duel is coupled with more productivity from the Athletic's forward line off Barrera's supply, then it could mean a chance to return to the playoffs for Hartford.



Rashawn Dally
Forward

A Connecticut native, Rashawn Dally returns home for the 2022 season after helping earn Memphis 901 FC its first postseason berth last campaign. A former MLS SuperDraft pick by FC Cincinnati – for which he made 16 appearances while also going on loan in 2019 to Memphis and 2020 to Las Vegas Lights FC – Dally's speed in attack should prove a useful weapon for Head Coach Harry Watling's style of play. If Dally can find his feet quickly at Dillon Stadium, he will become a hometown favorite in a hurry.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/19	PIT	V	HFD
3/26	TBR	V	HFD
4/2	HFD	V	ATL
4/10	BHM	V	HFD
4/16	MIA	V	HFD
4/23	HFD	V	DET
4/30	IND	V	HFD
5/7	HFD	V	LDN
5/14	HFD	V	NY
5/21	TUL	V	HFD
5/28	HFD	V	PHX
6/4	ELP	V	HFD
6/11	SD	V	HFD
6/15	HFD	V	MEM
6/18	ATL	V	HFD
6/25	HFD	V	LOU
6/28	HFD	V	COS
7/6	DET	V	HFD
7/9	HFD	V	TBR
7/16	CHS	V	HFD
7/23	HFD	V	PIT
7/27	RGV	V	HFD
7/30	HFD	V	BHM
8/6	MEM	V	HFD
8/13	HFD	V	IND
8/20	HFD	V	MIA
8/31	NY	V	HFD
9/5	LA	V	HFD
9/10	HFD	V	TUL
9/17	HFD	V	LV
9/21	LDN	V	HFD
10/1	HFD	V	CHS
10/8	HFD	V	OAK
10/15	LOU	V	HFD

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📷 @hfdathletic



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TEAM OUTLOOK

There was plenty of optimism around Indy Eleven at the start of the 2021 season, and an early victory against Louisville City FC - breaking an extensive winless streak in the LIPAF - felt like a notable moment. Eight games into the season, however, Head Coach Martin Rennie departed with the side 3-4-1 and things never properly got back on track as the Boys in Blue missed out on a postseason berth for a second consecutive season.

Indy went big in filling its head coaching position this offseason, inking former El Paso Locomotive FC Head Coach and 2021 Championship Coach of the Year Finalist Mark Lowry as its new boss. Lowry's success in El Paso and at prior stops has made him one of the brightest young coaches in North America currently, and the expectation will be his arrival helps vault Indy back to the heights it reached in 2019, when the side advanced to the Eastern Conference Final in the postseason.

Lowry has brought some trusted lieutenants with him from El Paso in defender Mechack Jerome and midfielder Bryam Rebellon, and there are some key holdovers from last season led by forward Manuel Arteaga and defenders Karl Ouimette and Neveal Hackshaw. The side has also been aggressive in free agency, acquiring Hackshaw's Trinidad and Tobago teammate and 2019 title-winner Noah Powder and veteran forward Stefano Pinho. How it all comes together is going to be worth watching, with Indy's vocal support eager to back a winner.

HEAD COACH



Mark Lowry

HOME VENUE



Michael A. Carroll Stadium



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KEY PLAYERS



Neveal Hackshaw
Defender

The 2021 season was a disappointing one for Indy Eleven overall, but at the heart of the club's defense, Neveal Hackshaw continued to show why he's become one of the most respected left-sided defenders in the league. The Trinidad and Tobago international was the most consistent performer for the Boys in Blue over the campaign, registering a +0.97 Goals Added Above Average mark for the season, comfortably the highest on the team. Hackshaw's versatility and quality will make him a valuable piece for new Head Coach Mark Lowry as Indy seeks a drive back up the Eastern Conference standings this season.



Manuel Arteaga
Forward

The central issue for Indy in the 2021 season was a lack of finishing in the final third, with the side only recording 32 goals in 32 games in the regular season. The lone bright spot was Manuel Arteaga, who recorded 10 goals and two assists in his first season at the club, effectively matching his Expected Goals and Assists marks over the campaign. With the potential for more creativity in the final third, the Venezuelan forward could find himself higher up in the race for the Golden Boot this season. If he is, then Indy should be back in a major way in the battle for the postseason.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/12	LDN	V	IND
3/19	TBR	V	IND
3/26	LOU	V	IND
4/2	IND	V	LA
4/9	RGV	V	IND
4/16	IND	V	ATL
4/24	IND	V	OC
4/30	IND	V	HFD
5/14	MEM	V	IND
5/21	IND	V	NY
5/28	IND	V	NM
6/4	CHS	V	IND
6/8	MIA	V	IND
6/18	COS	V	IND
6/25	SD	V	IND
7/2	IND	V	MIA
7/6	PIT	V	IND
7/9	IND	V	DET
7/15	NY	V	DET
7/23	IND	V	MEM
7/30	IND	V	TBR
8/6	IND	V	PIT
8/13	HFD	V	IND
8/20	TUL	V	IND
8/27	IND	V	SA
8/31	IND	V	LOU
9/3	DET	V	IND
9/10	IND	V	BHM
9/17	MB	V	IND
9/25	IND	V	LDN
9/28	ATL	V	IND
10/1	IND	V	TUL
10/8	IND	V	CHS
10/15	BHM	V	IND

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TEAM OUTLOOK

The LA Galaxy II were poised for a second consecutive trip to the postseason with three games to go in the campaign, but defeats in all three contests meant Los Dos slipped below the playoff line to spoil what had been a highly entertaining season at Dignity Health Sports Park. Now as the side prepares for its ninth and final season in the USL Championship, the young squad will be hoping to go out on a high note after earning silverware previously in his time in the league.

The side will have new leadership on the sidelines with Yoann Damet taking the reins from Junior Gonzalez. Damet is no stranger to the Championship, however, having served as an assistant coach at FC Cincinnati during the club's time in the league as well as serving as interim Head Coach for FCC in Major League Soccer in 2019 and 2020. The young French coach will have some notable pieces returning to the side, led by leading scorer Preston Judd - who notched 17 goals in his first professional campaign - and goalkeeper Eric Lopez.

The key player Los Dos will have to try and replace, however, is Jorge Hernandez, who departed for Europe after earning Championship All-League First Team honors after recording 12 goals, six assists and a league-high 91 chances created in the regular season. Given the talent in the Galaxy's Academy ranks, it will be intriguing to see who might step up as the next potential star in Los Dos' firmament after the ascendance of current Galaxy players Julian Araujo, Efrain Alvarez and Jalen Neal.

HEAD COACH



Yoann Damet

HOME VENUE



Dignity Health Sports Park



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KEY PLAYERS



Josh Drack
Defender

Selected in the First Round of the 2021 MLS SuperDraft, Josh Drack produced impressively as a two-way fullback with nine assists as well as two goals after signing with the Galaxy II to start his professional career. Drack's assist number could be an outlier – his Expected Assists mark was just 3.06xA – but his defensive numbers elsewhere made him a solid part of Los Dos' back line. A second strong season could provide the opportunity for more success for the Galaxy II on the field, and the chance for bigger things for Drack individually as his career progresses.



Preston Judd
Forward

Another first-year professional in the 2021 season, Preston Judd didn't earn the All-League accolades of now-departed teammate Jorge Hernandez but his prolificacy in front of goal with 17 goals at a strike rate of a goal every 143.1 minutes in his first season certainly brought him worthy attention. The 22-year-old led the Galaxy II with a +8.61 Goals Added mark over the regular season – putting him 11th in the league overall – while also notching three assists and 23 key passes. The big question for the Las Vegas native will be whether he can replicate that performance in his second campaign. If he can, then there could be a big future ahead of him in LA.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/12	SD	V	LA
3/19	LA	V	SA
3/23	LA	V	RGV
4/2	IND	V	LA
4/9	PHX	V	LA
4/16	LA	V	MB
4/23	LV	V	LA
5/1	LA	V	PHX
5/7	ELP	V	LA
5/13	LA	V	LOU
5/18	MEM	V	LA
5/21	OAK	V	LA
5/28	LA	V	SD
6/4	RGV	V	LA
6/11	LA	V	COS
6/15	LA	V	MB
6/18	SAC	V	LA
6/25	MIA	V	LA
7/1	LA	V	OAK
7/9	SD	V	LA
7/15	COS	V	LA
7/23	LA	V	OC
7/30	SA	V	LA
8/6	LDN	V	LA
8/14	LA	V	NM
8/20	LA	V	CHS
8/27	MB	V	LA
9/5	LA	V	HFD
9/10	OC	V	LA
9/18	LA	V	ELP
9/24	NM	V	LA
10/2	LA	V	SAC
10/8	LA	V	ATL
10/15	LA	V	LV

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LAS VEGAS LIGHTS FC

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TEAM OUTLOOK

There were numerous standout individual performances for Las Vegas Lights FC during the 2021 season, but the youth and inexperience of the squad overall meant that on too many occasions the contest turned into a shooting gallery for opposing sides that left Lights FC with the most shots conceded and the second-lowest goal differential in the USL Championship.

That meant a lot of work for goalkeeper Alex Rando, whose 125 saves ranked as the second-most in a Championship regular season all-time, and whose 14-save performance against Phoenix Rising FC early in the season set a new single-game league record. Las Vegas is set to have a new shot-stopper between the sticks this season with Abraham Romero coming over from Orange County SC after seeing action before losing out as the No. 1 to Patrick Rakovsky late in the season. A former Mexico U-21 international, Romero will have two current young El Tri standouts to work alongside with center back Antonio Leone and forward Christian Torres both set to return on loan from Los Angeles FC after competing for the Mexico U-20 side this offseason.

There will also be a new boss on the sideline with Enrique Duran taking over after serving as an assistant to former coach – and new LAFC Head Coach – Steve Cherundolo this year. The big challenge for Duran will be to find a way to get a side that had bright individuals such as midfielder Frank Daroma and winger Danny Trejo become as more cohesive unit overall. The experience of veteran defender Dekel Keinan's presence for a full campaign should help that along, but it's going to be a battle for Lights FC to get close to a first postseason appearance once again.

HEAD COACH



Enrique Duran

HOME VENUE



Cashman Field



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KEY PLAYERS



Danny Trejo
Forward

Taken as a whole, Danny Trejo’s injury-hit first professional season was probably a disappointing one for both the player and Los Angeles FC, which selected him with the 14th pick of the 2021 MLS SuperDraft before signing him to Las Vegas Lights FC. Once the Cal-State Northridge product got to full fitness, however, he showed what he could be capable of over a full season. After making his first start for Lights FC on September 11, the 23-year-old recorded four goals and one assist in his final nine appearances of the season while ending the campaign with an Expected Goals mark of 6.23xG. If Trejo can find his edge in the final third this season, it could be a very productive campaign, and one that gets his professional career well on track.



Tony Leone
Defender

A Mexico U-20 international, Tony Leone won’t turn 18 years old until late April, but the performances he produced on the Lights FC back line on loan from Los Angeles FC for his first minutes in the professional ranks showed why he’s such a highly regarded prospect. The Long Beach, Calif. native made 22 starts in his 23 appearances and made 31 interceptions and 85 clearances while posting an impressive 68 percent duel success rate and a +4.21 Goals Added mark. Leone should be a fixture on Lights FC’s back line again this season and should also be expected to be part of Mexico’s squad for the Concacaf U-20 Championship later this year as he takes another step toward what appears to be a very bright future at the club and international level.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/13	NM	V	LV
3/19	LV	V	PHX
3/23	ELP	V	LV
3/26	LV	V	MEM
4/1	CHS	V	LV
4/9	LV	V	COS
4/16	LV	V	PIT
4/23	LV	V	LA
4/30	SAC	V	LV
5/7	MB	V	LV
5/14	LV	V	OAK
5/18	BHM	V	LV
5/27	LV	V	ELP
6/3	COS	V	LV
6/11	LV	V	OC
6/19	SD	V	LV
6/24	LV	V	PHX
7/2	LV	V	DET
7/17	RGV	V	LV
7/23	OAK	V	LV
7/27	LV	V	SA
7/30	ATL	V	LV
8/6	PHX	V	LV
8/13	SA	V	LV
8/17	OC	V	LV
8/20	LV	V	SAC
8/27	LV	V	RGV
9/3	TBR	V	LV
9/10	LV	V	MB
9/17	HFD	V	LV
9/24	LV	V	SD
9/30	LV	V	NM
10/8	LV	V	MIA
10/15	LA	V	LV

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TEAM OUTLOOK

It was hard to imagine a team being as snake-bit in front of goal as Loudoun United FC was during the 2021 season. Despite ranking eighth in the USL Championship with an Expected Goals mark of 49.63xG, the side finished with only 31 tallies in the regular season, a deficit of -18.63xG. That, combined with a defense that leaked goals consistently over the course of the season, led to a league-fewest four wins and a league-lowest -47 goal differential.

Loudoun's fundamental problem was its finishing. While the side got solid contributions from attacking midfielder Ted Ku-DiPietro - who over the offseason signed as a Homegrown Player with D.C. United - as he notched seven goals and three assists on 45 chances created and a 5.18 Expected Assists mark, the side overall ranked last in the league with a 7.38 shot conversion percentage and a second-lowest 40.78 shooting accuracy rate. There was no question the threat that Loudoun posed - one of its four wins came against Eastern Conference power Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC - but the team struggled to bounce back from a lack of finishing early in the season.

United has added new pieces that will at least try to address the defensive frailties it experienced a season ago. Former Chicago Fire Homegrown signing Grant Lillard will look to revive his career after injury and a lack of playing time since leaving Indiana University as an All-America selection and MAC Hermann Trophy finalist in 2017, while Azaad Liadi arrives after a solid 2021 campaign at South Georgia Tormenta FC in USL League One. It might not be enough for Loudoun to reach the playoffs, but if their fortunes experience a reversal, the side could still be dangerous.

HEAD COACH



Ryan Martin

HOME VENUE



Segra Field



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KEY PLAYERS



Skage Simonsen
Midfielder

Wherever Skage Simonsen competed in the collegiate ranks, individual success seemed to follow. The Norwegian earned All-Big East Freshman Team in his first campaign at St. John's University and All-Big East Second Team honors as a sophomore before transferring to Southern Methodist University, where he twice earned All-American Athletic Conference First Team honors as both a junior and senior. A Third Round selection by D.C. United in the 2022 MLS SuperDraft, Loudoun is hoping that quality will translate to the professional ranks as the 6-foot-3 midfielder arrives for his rookie season having recorded 10 goals and four assists in 27 appearances for the Mustangs over the past two campaign. His size and physicality should be a welcome addition to the side as it looks to compete with the top teams in the Eastern Conference.



Grant Lillard
Defender

When Grant Lillard signed as a Homegrown Player with the Chicago Fire ahead of the 2018 season, the future seemed promising. At Indiana University, he had been an All-America First Team selection and the Big Ten Defender of the Year as well as a three-time All-Big Ten honoree. Since then, nothing has quite gone right for the 6-foot-4 defender, who over his first four professional seasons has made 24 appearances across all competitions. Now 26 years old, Lillard is getting a chance at a fresh start at Loudoun and will be expected to anchor the club's back line defensively, giving him a chance at a full season of action with United. If it comes off positively, it should breathe new life into a career that has not fulfilled the promise it began with.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/12	LDN	V	IND
3/19	NY	V	LDN
3/26	MIA	V	LDN
4/2	PIT	V	LDN
4/10	LDN	V	LOU
4/16	OAK	V	LDN
4/24	LDN	V	BHM
4/30	LDN	V	ELP
5/7	HFD	V	LDN
5/14	DET	V	LDN
5/22	LDN	V	MEM
5/28	LDN	V	CHS
6/8	LDN	V	NY
6/11	ATL	V	LDN
6/18	LDN	V	PHX
6/25	OC	V	LDN
7/3	LDN	V	TUL
7/16	LDN	V	TBR
7/23	LDN	V	MIA
7/27	BHM	V	LDN
7/30	LDN	V	MB
8/6	LDN	V	LA
8/10	SA	V	LDN
8/20	LDN	V	ATL
8/27	TUL	V	LDN
8/31	MEM	V	LDN
9/4	LDN	V	PIT
9/10	SAC	V	LDN
9/17	LOU	V	LDN
9/21	LDN	V	HFD
9/25	IND	V	LDN
10/1	LDN	V	DET
10/8	TBR	V	LDN
10/15	CHS	V	LDN

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TEAM OUTLOOK

One of the keys to the enduring success of Louisville City FC – which reached the Eastern Conference Final of the USL Championship Playoffs for a seventh consecutive season last fall – has been the side's continuity. Seven players have now surpassed 100 regular season appearances with the club, with six of them – including all-time leader Niall McCabe (162) – set to return for the new campaign after the retirement of George Davis IV after his 11-season career.

There's no question the likes of captain Paolo DelPiccolo, forward Cameron Lancaster – who bagged the second 20-goal campaign of his career last season – defenders Sean Totsch and Oscar Jimenez and winger Brian Ownby will remain key parts of the club's lineup this season. The side has also added a notable veteran in goal with two-time Championship Goalkeeper of the Year finalist Kyle Morton making the move after a season at Houston Dynamo FC.

At the same time, to remain a contender LouCity has looked to refresh its squad with some younger additions that could become the core for the club moving forward. Attacking midfielder Jorge Gonzalez has joined on a permanent deal after his loan from Portland Timbers FC saw him earn a consistent starting spot last year, while new arrivals like 22-year-olds Enoch Mushagalusa and 2020 Championship Young Player of the Year Wilson Harris from Sporting Kansas City and ex-U.S. youth international Manny Perez all bring something new to the table. As Head Coach Danny Cruz enters his first full season at the helm, the combination of young talent with the veterans leading the way should result in another successful campaign at Lynn Family Stadium.

HEAD COACH

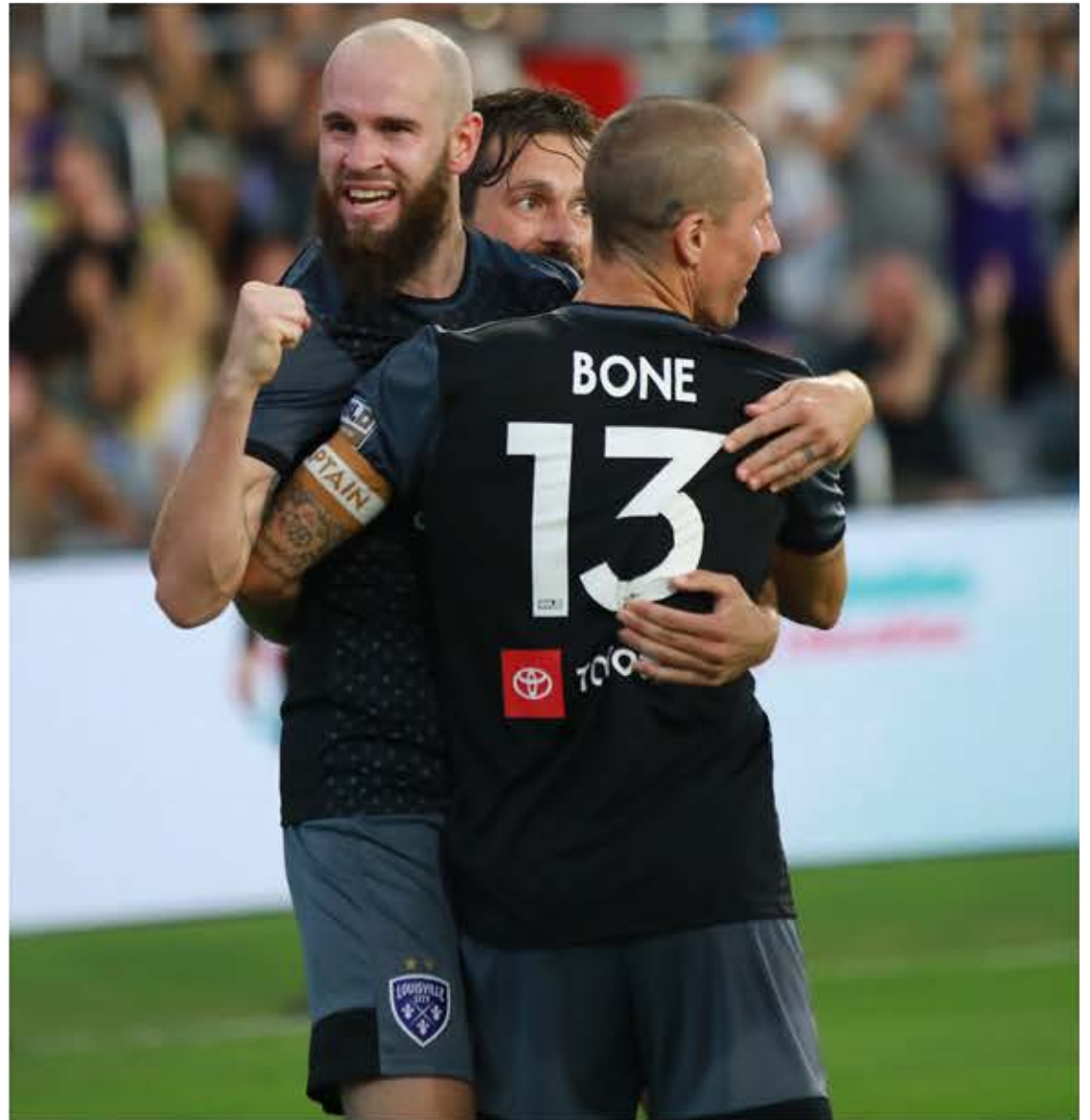


Danny Cruz

HOME VENUE



Lynn Family Stadium



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KEY PLAYERS



Cameron Lancaster
Forward

While Dane Kelly may be the current all-time leading scorer in the USL Championship’s history, Cameron Lancaster has quickly established himself as the heir to that throne. The former Tottenham Hotspur Academy product moved into fourth place in the league’s history with 71 regular-season goals by the end of the past season, and with a scoring rate of a goal every 109.4 minutes in the league’s regular season for his career, it seems unlikely Lancaster’s pace will slow much with LouCity again assembling an impressive attacking group around him. The 29-year-old’s instincts inside the penalty area have made him difficult to handle and should lead Louisville to continued success this campaign.



Kyle Morton
Goalkeeper

If there was an area of underperformance for Louisville in the 2021 season, the analytics said it was between the sticks. The duo of Parker Siegfried and Chris Hubbard both finished in the red in terms of goals conceded vs. expected goals conceded, with LouCity sitting at +5.36 in surplus goals over the campaign. Enter Kyle Morton, a two-time finalist for the Championship’s Goalkeeper of the Year award after a season spent with Major League Soccer’s Houston Dynamo FC, who should provide the solution. Morton has posted a -3.04 differential over the past five seasons in the Championship, and behind what looks like a solid LouCity back line should help plug the leaks the side experienced a season ago.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/12	LOU	V	ATL
3/19	LOU	V	MIA
3/23	NY	V	LOU
3/26	LOU	V	IND
4/2	BHM	V	LOU
4/10	LDN	V	LOU
4/16	SD	V	LOU
4/23	CHS	V	LOU
4/30	LOU	V	PIT
5/4	ATL	V	LOU
5/13	LA	V	LOU
5/21	LOU	V	MB
5/28	LOU	V	TUL
6/4	TBR	V	LOU
6/18	LOU	V	OC
6/25	HFD	V	LOU
7/2	LOU	V	BHM
7/9	LOU	V	NY
7/16	MEM	V	LOU
7/20	LOU	V	PHX
7/30	ELP	V	LOU
8/6	LOU	V	CHS
8/13	LOU	V	TBR
8/20	DET	V	LOU
8/27	MIA	V	LOU
8/31	IND	V	LOU
9/3	LOU	V	SAC
9/7	TUL	V	LOU
9/10	PIT	V	LOU
9/17	LOU	V	LDN
9/23	LOU	V	MEM
10/1	RGV	V	LOU
10/5	LOU	V	DET
10/15	LOU	V	HFD

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MEMPHIS 901 FC

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TEAM OUTLOOK

After a bright ending to the 2020 season with Ben Pirmann as interim Head Coach, 901 FC took a major step forward after the former assistant's permanent appointment to the position in 2021 as it made its first postseason appearance and delivered some breathtaking moments at AutoZone Park. Forward Kyle Murphy became the first 20-goal scorer in club history, while Mark Segbers also earned Championship All-League honors after a stellar season at right back.

The big question now for Memphis will be how it addresses the departure of both players to Miami FC this offseason to remain in contention for a second postseason berth. The good news for 901 FC is there is a good contingent of returning players in the side, led by center backs Zach Carroll and Niall Logue, who joins Memphis on a permanent deal after his loan stint at the club last season from El Paso Locomotive FC. Veteran midfielder Leston Paul and bright attacking midfield Laurent Kissiedou are also back, while the side has added 2021 USL League One Most Valuable Player finalist Aaron Molloy on a transfer from Forward Madison FC.

Where the pressure may come is to find a way to replicate Murphy's attacking prowess, though. 901 FC has brought in Phillip Goodrum, who notched four goals and two assists a season ago for Atlanta United 2, but at a scoring rate of 163.3 minutes a goal, certainly good enough if it can be carried over a full season. Also arriving is David Egbo on loan from Vancouver Whitecaps FC. If it all comes together, Memphis should continue to be one of the more interesting sides to watch in the Eastern Conference.

HEAD COACH



Ben Pirmann

HOME VENUE



AutoZone Park



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KEY PLAYERS



Niall Logue
Defender

Having spent the 2021 season on loan at 901 FC, Niall Logue made the permanent move this offseason from El Paso Locomotive FC for a second season in Memphis that will likely see him renew his partnership with veteran Zach Carroll. The 26-year-old Northern Ireland native was solid in his first season in the Championship after competing for USL League One side FC Tucson in 2020, recording 26 interceptions and 88 clearances in 21 appearances for Memphis while also sitting at a 55.3 percent duel success rate and a 61.9 percent tackle success rate. Raising those last two figures should be the aim for Logue this season as Memphis tries to maintain its upward trajectory after the departure of some key figures this offseason.



Aaron Molloy
Midfielder

Republic of Ireland native Aaron Molloy will be hoping to have a transition to the Championship at least as successful as Niall Logue this year after his acquisition by 901 FC from USL League One's Forward Madison. Certainly, Molloy's on-field pedigree says he has the makings of a successful Championship player – as a defensive midfielder for the Flamingos in 2021, Molloy produced a +6.17 Goals Added Mark, comfortably the best at his position in the league and a key reason for his nomination as an MVP finalist. The passing ability and willingness to disrupt opponents Molloy will bring to Memphis should fit in well with some other notable returning pieces including Laurent Kissiedou and Leston Paul and give 901 FC another good piece to work with in the center of the park.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/12	MEM	V	PIT
3/19	MEM	V	OAK
3/26	LV	V	MEM
4/2	DET	V	MEM
4/13	MEM	V	TUL
4/16	COS	V	MEM
4/27	MEM	V	TBR
4/30	MEM	V	MIA
5/6	CHS	V	MEM
5/14	MEM	V	IND
5/18	MEM	V	LA
5/22	LDN	V	MEM
6/4	MEM	V	ATL
6/8	BHM	V	MEM
6/15	HFD	V	MEM
6/25	MEM	V	DET
7/2	TBR	V	MEM
7/9	MEM	V	PHX
7/16	MEM	V	LOU
7/23	IND	V	MEM
8/3	NY	V	MEM
8/6	MEM	V	HFD
8/13	PIT	V	MEM
8/17	NM	V	MEM
8/20	MEM	V	BHM
8/31	MEM	V	LDN
9/3	OC	V	MEM
9/7	ATL	V	MEM
9/16	MEM	V	CHS
9/23	LOU	V	MEM
10/1	MIA	V	MEM
10/5	MEM	V	RGV
10/9	MEM	V	NY
10/15	TUL	V	MEM

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TEAM OUTLOOK

There has never been a reticence to swing hard in free agency for Miami FC. After last season brought in key new pieces in Championship All-League selection Paco Craig and Jamaican internationals Speedy Williams and Lamar Walker to fuel a first trip to the postseason, the South Florida side went big again over the past offseason in an effort to continue its progression up the Eastern Conference's pecking order.

Among the new arrivals are former Championship title winner Florian Valot – most recently with FC Cincinnati after making the step up to Major League Soccer with the New York Red Bulls – and the Championship All-League duo of forward Kyle Murphy and defender Mark Segbers, both most recently at Memphis 901 FC. Murphy's 20-goal campaign was a single-season best for the New York native, and Miami will be hoping the 29-year-old can produce somewhere close to that again to lead the side's attack.

The final third was arguably where Miami had the most work to do this offseason in terms of upgrades as Anthony Pulis arrived as the club's new Head Coach, with the defense led by Craig and Callum Chapman-Page and goalkeeper Connor Sparrow proving solid a season ago. While 2021 leading scorer Christiano Francois has departed for El Paso Locomotive FC and Ariel Martinez announced his retirement, Murphy will get backing from other new arrivals Christian Sorto and Romeo Parkes as well as returning strikers Pierre da Silva, Adonijah Reid and Josh Perez as Miami pushes for title contention.



HEAD COACH



Anthony Pulis

HOME VENUE



FIU Stadium

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KEY PLAYERS



Kyle Murphy
Forward

After delivering a career year at Memphis 901 FC with 20 regular-season goals and his first Championship All-League selection, Kyle Murphy heads to South Florida this season looking to come close to a second act for a Miami FC that has again looked to load up in attack for the new campaign. Murphy’s scoring output could be reasonably replicable – his Expected Goals mark for the season was 15.2xG, a sign of the positive positions he put himself consistently in for Memphis – and with players such as fellow new arrival Florian Valot and the returning Pierre Da Silva and Lamar Walker set to provide the service, there shouldn’t be any shortage of opportunity. If Murphy can be the main man, Miami could take the next step toward title contention.



Paco Craig
Defender

After a year away in his home country, English center back Paco Craig returned to the USL Championship in Miami a season ago and quickly reestablished his credentials as one of the best central defenders in the league. The two-time Championship Final winner at Louisville City FC earned his fourth All-League selection overall and third to the First Team while posting a team-best +7.62 Goals Added mark as Miami advanced to the postseason for the first time in the Championship. Craig’s continued presence in the back line for Miami should help maintain the solid defensive foundation the side put in place last season with Connor Sparrow and Callum Chapman-Page also set to return and could help Miami vie for its first silverware in the Championship this season.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/12	MIA	V	NY
3/19	LOU	V	MIA
3/26	MIA	V	LDN
4/2	MIA	V	COS
4/9	TBR	V	MIA
4/16	MIA	V	HFD
4/23	PHX	V	MIA
4/30	MEM	V	MIA
5/4	BHM	V	MIA
5/14	MIA	V	SA
5/18	MIA	V	DET
5/21	CHS	V	MIA
5/28	MIA	V	PIT
6/4	TUL	V	MIA
6/8	MIA	V	IND
6/11	MIA	V	TBR
6/25	MIA	V	LA
7/2	IND	V	MIA
7/9	PIT	V	MIA
7/13	MIA	V	CHS
7/16	OC	V	MIA
7/23	LDN	V	MIA
8/6	NM	V	MIA
8/10	MIA	V	TUL
8/13	ATL	V	MIA
8/20	HFD	V	MIA
8/27	MIA	V	LOU
9/3	MIA	V	BHM
9/9	NY	V	MIA
9/17	MIA	V	ATL
9/24	MIA	V	MB
10/1	MIA	V	MEM
10/8	LV	V	MIA
10/15	DET	V	MIA

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TEAM OUTLOOK

One of two new clubs to the USL Championship this season, Monterey Bay F.C. enters as the lone true expansion side as it kicks off its history at Cardinale Stadium on the campus of CSU Monterey Bay this spring. Led by experienced Head Coach and Technical Director Frank Yallop, MBFC has looked to build a squad with Championship experience and promise as it ventures into its inaugural season.

The key for Monterey Bay seems set to be finding a strong spine the club can build around, and with competition in goal between former League One Goalkeeper of the Year Dallas Jaye and Dominican Republic international Rafael Diaz and the experience of Hugh Roberts, Kai Greene and Sam Gleadle in the back line, there appears to be a solid foundation to build around. A combination of experience and local talent can be found in attack, where Christian Volesky brings 45 regular season goals in 154 appearances while the club's first signing in local product Walmer Martinez enjoyed a fruitful first professional season competing for Hartford Athletic and the El Salvador Men's National Team.

The challenge for Yallop's side will be an early-season schedule that sees it head on the road while the renovation of Cardinale Stadium is completed. The opening night at the 6,000-seat venue on May 7 should be a memorable one, however, as the side takes to the field in a region with a strong soccer culture and heritage to build on.

HEAD COACH



Frank Yallop

HOME VENUE



Cardinale Stadium



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KEY PLAYERS



Walmer Martinez
Forward

The past 12 months for Walmer Martinez have been in many ways remarkable. From signing his first professional contract with Hartford Athletic to making not only his debut for El Salvador but competing for the side at the 2021 Concacaf Gold Cup and in FIFA World Cup Qualifying, the 23-year-old has made rapid strides. Now the Santa Cruz native returns home with expansion side Monterey Bay F.C., for which he was the first official signing in club history after a transfer from Hartford. The expectations will be high for Martinez this year, but he'll be eager to live up to them and push the new club to early success as it joins the USL Championship.



Hugh Roberts
Defender

With more than 200 regular season appearances in the USL Championship under his belt, Hugh Roberts will provide some important experience for Monterey Bay as it enters its first season. Roberts has been a mainstay in the Championship as he approaches his ninth season, ranking third in the league all-time in regular season minutes played, and was a key part of the Charlotte Independence's advancement to back-to-back postseason appearances in the past two years. Still only 29 years old, the Maryland native heads west for the first time in his career with the prospect of adding to his sizeable legacy in the league.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/12	PHX	V	MB
3/19	COS	V	MB
3/26	OAK	V	MB
4/2	SAC	V	MB
4/9	ELP	V	MB
4/16	LA	V	MB
4/30	SA	V	MB
5/7	MB	V	LV
5/14	MB	V	RGV
5/21	LOU	V	MB
5/28	MB	V	COS
6/4	MB	V	OAK
6/11	MB	V	SA
6/15	LA	V	MB
6/25	MB	V	SAC
7/2	MB	V	NM
7/9	OC	V	MB
7/16	MB	V	DET
7/23	MB	V	NY
7/30	LDN	V	MB
8/6	MB	V	ELP
8/10	SD	V	MB
8/13	MB	V	SAC
8/20	NM	V	MB
8/27	MB	V	LA
9/3	MB	V	SD
9/7	MB	V	OC
9/10	LV	V	MB
9/17	MB	V	IND
9/21	MB	V	PHX
9/24	MIA	V	MB
10/1	MB	V	TBR
10/8	TUL	V	MB
10/15	RGV	V	MB

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TEAM OUTLOOK

New Mexico United remained in contention for the playoffs until the final day of the regular season in 2021, but the side's defeat in its penultimate contest to Rio Grande Valley FC proved decisive as the Toros held onto their one-point lead and took the final postseason berth in the Mountain Division. For United, it brought the curtain down on a disappointing campaign overall that saw Chris Wehan's outstanding effort after his midseason return just come up short as he tried to pull the side over the finish line.

At the heart of New Mexico's struggles last season was its attacking punch and creativity in the final third. The side recorded the fifth-fewest chances created in the USL Championship's regular season with 254 – an average of only 7.9 per game – and sat with the 10th-fewest shots at 368. That lack of production also resulted in a propensity to let leads slip away, with New Mexico's 22 points dropped from winning positions the second-most in the league behind only Las Vegas Lights FC.

This offseason the side and new Head Coach Zach Prince have looked to rectify those issues with free agent signing Neco Brett maybe the biggest offseason move within the league after a stellar two seasons at Birmingham Legion FC. The Jamaican currently sits on 62 regular season goals in the Championship and can provide the attacking punch to boost the production delivered by Wehan. Other notable moves include a trade for ex-United States international Jerome Kiesewetter with FC Tulsa, while the experience of Justin Portillo and Will Seymore should prove useful in midfield. If things go to plan this year on the field, it could result in a serious challenge for silverware.

HEAD COACH

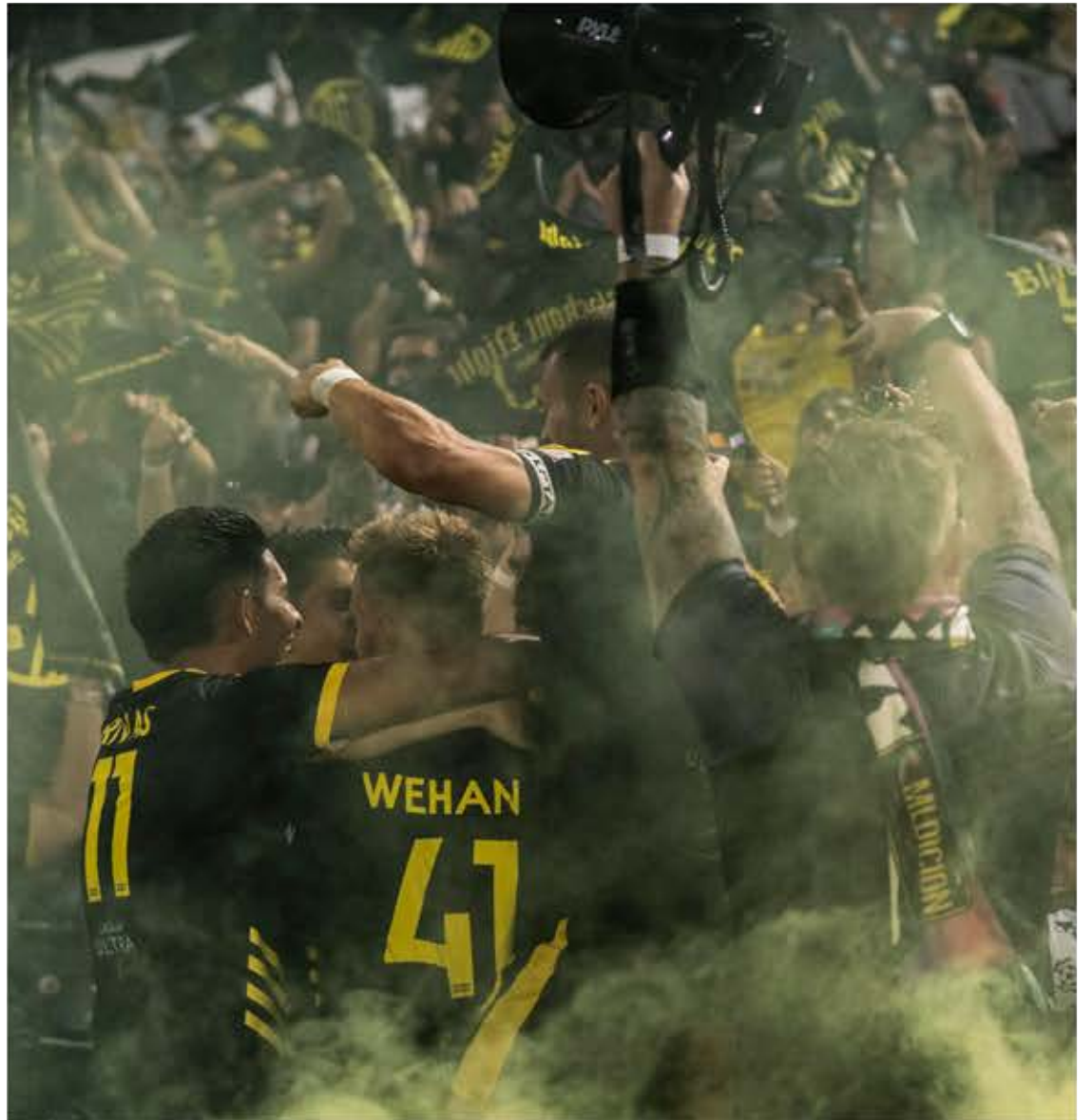


Zach Prince

HOME VENUE



Isotopes Park



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KEY PLAYERS



Chris Wehan
Midfielder

The offseason departure to Orange County SC and midseason return by Chris Wehan provided New Mexico United the boost it needed in the attacking third to remain in the playoff race through to the final weekend of the regular season. Wehan recorded 10 goals in 15 appearances for United after his return to the club, but it wasn't quite enough to pull the side into the postseason. The 28-year-old has now recorded 42 goals and 29 assists in 114 appearances in the Championship's regular season for his career, making him one of the league's most prolific playmakers in the past five years. If that production continues with the new attacking pieces United has added this offseason there should be a far happier ending to this season at Isotopes Park.



Neco Brett
Forward

One of the biggest offseason moves within the USL Championship was the signing by New Mexico United of Jamaican forward Neco Brett, whose resume in the league places him one of the most consistent scoring threats the Championship has in its ranks. Over the past four seasons, Brett has recorded 55 regular season goals in 111 appearances and has averaged at least a goal every other game in every season over that span. Brett's underlying numbers say this is sustainable, too - his cumulative Expected Goals mark for the past four years is 54.22xG, while his shot conversion rate has averaged to 20.86 percent, slightly above average among players with at least 30 goals in the past four seasons, but not excessively so. With the service Brett is likely to get, the chances are good the 29-year-old delivers another impressive season.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/13	NM	V	LV
3/19	ELP	V	NM
3/26	NM	V	OC
3/30	NM	V	OAK
4/16	PHX	V	NM
4/23	NM	V	SA
5/4	SAC	V	NM
5/7	NM	V	SD
5/14	CHS	V	NM
5/21	NM	V	PHX
5/28	IND	V	NM
6/4	OC	V	NM
6/15	OAK	V	NM
6/22	NM	V	RGV
6/25	NM	V	BHM
7/2	MB	V	NM
7/9	NM	V	RGV
7/13	TUL	V	NM
7/16	NM	V	PIT
7/23	DET	V	NM
7/31	NY	V	NM
8/3	NM	V	SAC
8/6	NM	V	MIA
8/14	LA	V	NM
8/17	NM	V	MEM
8/20	NM	V	MB
8/27	COS	V	NM
9/2	NM	V	ELP
9/10	RGV	V	NM
9/17	SA	V	NM
9/24	NM	V	LA
9/30	LV	V	NM
10/9	SD	V	NM
10/15	NM	V	COS

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TEAM OUTLOOK

The New York Red Bulls II will enter their final season in the USL Championship likely with the same up-tempo approach, but without the man who had led the side since its inaugural campaign in 2015. The departure of John Wolyniec as Head Coach after posting 95 victories across the regular season and playoffs over the past seven seasons was the biggest move of the offseason for the side, which has gone from perennial playoff side to back-to-back seasons of young squads missing out on postseason action.

Installed as the new Head Coach is veteran Gary Lewis, who arrives from the Seattle Sounders FC organization with an aim to improve in particular the club's defensive record from a season ago. New York recorded only three shutouts a season ago and conceded 67 goals, an average of more than two per game, while allowing an average of 5.19 shots on target per contest. The young defensive group including returning JC Castillo and newcomer Chris Cragwell has promise, but is going to have to learn fast against the talent some Eastern Conference sides will be able to call on.

The attacking side of the field looks more promising with forward Jeremy Rafanello back for a second season while being joined by Tampa Bay Rowdies loanee Jordan Adebayo-Smith. The Red Bulls II should also be able to call on Omar Sowe and Serge Ngoma – both now signed to Homegrown Player contracts by the Red Bulls – while United States U-20 international Daniel Edelman could also be one to watch. All of that said, it's likely to be another challenging year for New York as its young talent gets tested by the ever-improving level around the league.

HEAD COACH



Gary Lewis

HOME VENUE



MSU Soccer Park



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KEY PLAYERS



Jeremy Rafanello
Forward

The New York Red Bulls II continued to be one of the more enterprising sides in the USL Championship in 2021, and the play of Jeremy Rafanello alongside fellow attacking pieces Omar Sowe and Jake LaCava was a reason why. The 21-year-old contributed to almost one-third of New York's 41 goals in the regular season with seven goals and six assists while also notching 31 chances created. Where the next step for Rafanello will come is from raising his overall shooting accuracy (45.8 percent in 2021) and finding more consistency on the ball overall (66.4 passing accuracy rate), but if he can accomplish that the New Jersey native should be a young player to watch not just for the Red Bulls II but in the USL Championship overall.



Jordan Adebayo-Smith
Forward

In the limited action Jordan Adebayo-Smith saw for the Tampa Bay Rowdies during the 2021 season, there was plenty of potential on display. As the 21-year-old English forward joins the Red Bulls II this season on a season-long loan from Tampa Bay that includes an option for the Red Bulls to acquire Adebayo-Smith at the end of the season via transfer, there will likely be greater opportunity for that potential to be realized. Adebayo-Smith's four goals came at a strike rate of a goal every 170.8 minutes, which over a full season would indicate the potential for a double-digit haul in New York's up-tempo attack this year. If that comes to fruition, so too could the next step in Adebayo-Smith's pathway up the ranks.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/12	MIA	V	NY
3/16	ATL	V	NY
3/19	NY	V	LDN
3/23	NY	V	LOU
4/2	TUL	V	NY
4/15	NY	V	RGV
4/23	NY	V	TBR
4/30	DET	V	NY
5/8	NY	V	SAC
5/14	HFD	V	NY
5/21	IND	V	NY
5/27	NY	V	BHM
6/3	NY	V	SD
6/8	LDN	V	NY
6/15	NY	V	TUL
6/25	ELP	V	NY
7/1	NY	V	PIT
7/9	LOU	V	NY
7/15	NY	V	IND
7/23	MB	V	NY
7/31	NY	V	NM
8/3	NY	V	MEM
8/9	NY	V	ATL
8/12	NY	V	CHS
8/20	PIT	V	NY
8/28	BHM	V	NY
8/31	NY	V	HFD
9/3	CHS	V	NY
9/9	NY	V	MIA
9/17	OAK	V	NY
9/21	NY	V	DET
10/1	PHX	V	NY
10/9	MEM	V	NY
10/15	TBR	V	NY

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TEAM OUTLOOK

In its first season in the USL Championship, Oakland Roots SC upset the midseason odds brought on by a slow start and not only reached the USL Championship Playoffs at their first try, but then advanced to the Western Conference Semifinals by recording one of the most notable upsets in the league's postseason history against El Paso Locomotive FC. Now, with new Head Coach Juan Guerra at the helm as Jordan Ferrell returns to his role as the club's Technical Director, Roots SC will try to build on that success.

On the face of it, the biggest challenge Roots SC will face is whether the numbers that produced the club's ascent in the Pacific Division a season ago can be improved upon. Oakland was arguably the side that benefited most from the division alignment, with its Expected Points mark sitting below the teams it beat out for fourth place in the Pacific Division – the LA Galaxy II, Tacoma Defiance and Sacramento Republic FC. A main reason for that was the side's overall lack of attacking punch – Roots SC ranked last in the league with only 303 shots while tying for the fewest chances created with 217.

After seeing Jeremy Bokila lead the team with six goals a season ago, Oakland has tried to boost its attack with Dariusz Formella arriving from Sacramento Republic FC, and Icelandic international Ottar Karlsson joining the side on loan from Serie A's Venezia F.C. Add in the return of defensive veterans Emrah Klimenta, Tarek Morad and Akeem Ward and goalkeeper Paul Blanchette, and there's a foundation to build on. The question will be if Oakland can continue to outperform its rivals where it matters most.

HEAD COACH



Juan Guerra

HOME VENUE



Laney Stadium



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KEY PLAYERS



Emrah Klimenta
Defender

There was an element of a homecoming for Emrah Klimenta's signing with Oakland Roots SC, with the city having been the Montenegrin's original home when his family emigrated to the United States when he was a child. The impact the USL Championship veteran had on the side was notable, too, as Klimenta's presence on the back line helped Roots SC first get over the playoff line in the final weeks of the season and then earn a pair of postseason shutouts before falling in a penalty shootout to eventual title winner Orange County SC in the Western Conference Semifinals. The 31-year-old has now made 161 regular-season appearances in the Championship in his career, providing a key level of experience at the back for Roots SC as it moves into its second season in the league.



Dariusz Formella
Forward

One of the more intriguing moves of the offseason saw Dariusz Formella make the move from Sacramento Republic FC to Oakland Roots SC, with the Polish forward adding a new storyline to the emerging rivalry between the two NorCal clubs. Formella recorded 17 goals in 51 regular season appearances for Republic FC, a solid enough return, but he will likely be hoping to up his strike rate from just under a goal every 200 minutes at his new club. If Oakland is to return to the postseason for a second season in the Western Conference, it will likely need Formella to shine in the attacking third.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/12	RGV	V	OAK
3/19	MEM	V	OAK
3/26	OAK	V	MB
3/30	NM	V	OAK
4/2	OAK	V	TBR
4/13	OAK	V	SD
4/16	OAK	V	LDN
4/23	ELP	V	OAK
4/30	OAK	V	COS
5/7	OC	V	OAK
5/14	LV	V	OAK
5/21	OAK	V	LV
5/28	OAK	V	SAC
6/1	OAK	V	OC
6/4	MB	V	OAK
6/11	OAK	V	RGV
6/15	OAK	V	NM
6/18	SA	V	OAK
6/25	OAK	V	ATL
7/1	LA	V	OAK
7/9	SAC	V	OAK
7/16	OAK	V	ELP
7/23	OAK	V	LV
7/27	OAK	V	PHX
8/13	DET	V	OAK
8/24	SD	V	OAK
8/27	SAC	V	OAK
9/3	OAK	V	SA
9/10	PHX	V	OAK
9/17	OAK	V	NY
9/24	COS	V	OAK
10/1	OAK	V	BHM
10/8	HFD	V	OAK
10/15	PIT	V	OAK



/oaklandroots



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TEAM OUTLOOK

When Orange County SC elected to make a coaching change just past the midway point of the 2021 regular season, the prospect it would not only advance to the USL Championship Final for the first time in its 11-season history but lift the title seemed remote. And yet, the confluence of a lockdown defense and a star turn in the postseason by forward Ronaldo Damus provided Head Coach Richard Chaplow's side with a remarkable run that saw OCSC claim the first silverware in its history last November.

Now the defending title holders will get to try and replicate the level of consistency they showed during the regular season over a full campaign as Chaplow takes the reins after having his interim tag removed. There has been regular-season success in the past for the club – the team finished on top of the Western Conference in 2015 and 2018 previously before suffering postseason disappointment – and the returning core including captain Michael Orozco, Championship Final heroes Damus and goalkeeper Patrick Rakovsky, and veterans Brent Richards, Seth Casiple and Brian Iloski make a strong base.

Orange County also added the biggest name of the offseason with 29-year-old Erick "Cubo" Torres joining the club. The former Mexico international should provide Damus with plenty of help in the attacking third. As Torres grabs the headlines, though, he could have to share it with three intriguing prospects aged 18 and under with 17-year-old Kobi Henry coming off his first call-up to the U.S. Men's National Team, 16-year-old midfielder Francis Jacobs looking to take his next steps forward, and 18-year-old forward Oluwakorede Osundina having joined the club from the Barca Residency Academy.

HEAD COACH



Richard Chaplow

HOME VENUE



Championship Soccer Stadium



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KEY PLAYERS



Ronaldo Damus
Forward

If there was any question as to whether Ronaldo Damus would be able to handle the step up from USL League One to the USL Championship, the Haitian international answered them emphatically in his first year at Orange County SC. Last year's Championship Final MVP, Damus could now be close to the point of something big individually after racking up 18 goals across the regular season and playoffs a season ago, including two in the Championship Final. The 22-year-old has now recorded 39 goals in 66 appearances over three seasons in the USL's two professional tiers and could become a target for a European club sooner rather than later.



Erick Torres
Forward

The USL Championship has seen some world-class players compete in the league in the past, and this season you can add Erick "Cubo" Torres to that list. The former Mexico international was Orange County's signature signing of the offseason and is the biggest new name in the league for the 2022 campaign as he heads west looking to add more scoring punch for the defending title holders. Still only 29 years old, Torres most recently played for Atlanta United FC in Major League Soccer and has recorded 37 goals in 126 appearances in the U.S. top flight as well as 19 goals in 94 appearances in Liga MX's regular season. Joining Damus and the other attacking pieces - including Milan Iloski joining elder brother Brian at the club - Torres could be a game-changer for OCSC on and off the field.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/12	COS	V	OC
3/19	OC	V	RGV
3/26	NM	V	OC
4/9	OC	V	SA
4/16	OC	V	SAC
4/24	IND	V	OC
4/30	RGV	V	OC
5/7	OC	V	OAK
5/13	OC	V	TUL
5/21	OC	V	ELP
5/27	ATL	V	OC
6/1	OAK	V	OC
6/4	OC	V	NM
6/11	LV	V	OC
6/18	LOU	V	OC
6/25	OC	V	LDN
6/29	SD	V	OC
7/2	PHX	V	OC
7/9	OC	V	MB
7/16	OC	V	MIA
7/23	LA	V	OC
7/30	OC	V	SD
8/6	OC	V	COS
8/12	OC	V	PHX
8/17	OC	V	LV
8/27	TBR	V	OC
9/3	OC	V	MEM
9/7	MB	V	OC
9/10	OC	V	LA
9/18	SAC	V	OC
9/24	PIT	V	OC
10/1	OC	V	SD
10/8	ELP	V	OC
10/15	SA	V	OC

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TEAM OUTLOOK

Throughout another regular season, Phoenix Rising FC rolled through as the side with the best record in the Western Conference using its irresistible attack to overpower opponents throughout the campaign with a league-leading 68 goals in 32 contests. Then, the postseason brought disappointment in a penalty shootout defeat to Rio Grande Valley FC in the Western Conference Quarterfinals that left Head Coach Rick Schantz's side without the USL Championship title they have been searching for over the past five years.

There's little question that Phoenix will be among the top contenders for the title again this season. While two-time Championship Most Valuable Player Solomon Asante has moved on, the side retains a strong core group led by three 2021 All-League selections in forward Santi Moar (who was also a Championship MVP finalist), midfielder Aodhan Quinn and defender James Musa. Also back is Arturo Rodriguez, the 2019 USL League One MVP who progressively came to the fore in Phoenix with four goals, five assists and 52 chances created in his first season at the club.

There are notable new arrivals too, including 2020 Championship Goalkeeper of the Year Ben Lundt, who spent time on loan at the club a season ago from FC Cincinnati. After the success of Rodriguez, Rising FC has also dipped into the League One talent pool again with forward Greg Hurst, who helped Union Omaha to victory in the League One Final last season, and winger Marcus Epps, whose willingness to run at defenders should help maintain the club's attacking aggressiveness. After the disappointments of postseasons past, Phoenix must be hoping this will be its year to take the crown.

HEAD COACH



Rick Schantz

HOME VENUE



Wild Horse Pass



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KEY PLAYERS



Santi Moar
Forward

With Junior Flemmings departed and Solomon Asante hindered by injury, the spotlight for Rising FC in the attacking third in 2021 fell firmly on Santi Moar, and the Spaniard delivered. Recording a career-high 16 goals while adding four assists, Moar earned the first USL Championship All-League First Team selection of his career and helped maintain Phoenix’s position as one of the teams to beat in the Western Conference. After re-signing with the club this offseason, the 28-year-old will have a new cast around him this season but his ability to take on opposing defenders on either flank could see Moar deliver another big season as he closes in on 50 regular season goals in the Championship for his career.



Aodhan Quinn
Midfielder

Aodhan Quinn’s first season at Phoenix Rising FC proved one of his most productive individually of what has become a stellar career in the USL Championship with six goals and 11 assists helping drive the side to the top of the Pacific Division. It ended, however, in disappointment as the title that has so far eluded the California native in his career once again disappeared in a penalty shootout loss in the Western Conference Quarterfinals. Now one of the league’s all-time leaders in assists with 41 regular-season helpers all-time, Quinn is set to pass 200 regular season appearances this campaign and will be driving hard to earn Rising FC the title it has been seeking for the past five seasons.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/12	PHX	V	MB
3/19	LV	V	PHX
3/26	PHX	V	SD
4/2	SA	V	PHX
4/9	PHX	V	LA
4/16	PHX	V	NM
4/23	PHX	V	MIA
5/1	LA	V	PHX
5/7	PHX	V	SA
5/15	PHX	V	TBR
5/21	NM	V	PHX
5/28	HFD	V	PHX
6/4	PHX	V	BHM
6/11	PHX	V	ELP
6/18	LDN	V	PHX
6/24	LV	V	PHX
7/2	PHX	V	OC
7/9	MEM	V	PHX
7/20	LOU	V	PHX
7/23	PHX	V	SAC
7/27	OAK	V	PHX
7/30	PHX	V	COS
8/6	PHX	V	LV
8/12	OC	V	PHX
8/27	ELP	V	PHX
8/31	PHX	V	RGV
9/3	COS	V	PHX
9/10	PHX	V	OAK
9/17	SD	V	PHX
9/21	MB	V	PHX
9/28	SAC	V	PHX
10/1	PHX	V	NY
10/8	RGV	V	PHX
10/15	PHX	V	ATL

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TEAM OUTLOOK

It should come as no surprise to longtime USL Championship observers that the tenure of Head Coach Bob Lilley over the past four seasons has turned Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC into a perennial contender in the Eastern Conference. What the Hounds have this season, however, is a level of continuity that it hasn't always had in the past, and as a result the potential to break through for its first silverware in the Championship era.

The Hounds return their top five minutes leaders from the 2021 season, including goalscoring leader Russell Cicerone, who bagged a career-best 16 goals as well as eight assists, assists leader Alex Dixon, and the Championship's all-time assists leader Kenardo Forbes, who earned his fifth Championship All-League selection last year. It also has seven players that recorded at least 1,900 minutes, with Trinidad and Tobago international Mekeil Williams and Shane Weidt back to lead the defense and minutes leader Danny Griffin re-signed in midfield.

The big question for the Hounds going into training camp was who will end up between the sticks. The departure of goalkeeper Danny Vitiello for Sacramento Republic FC left a key position unfilled, but the new arrivals the club has made elsewhere has meant a serious buzz for Pittsburgh as a contender. Among those new faces is the Championship's all-time leading scorer in Dane Kelly, who enters his 12th season only one regular season goal shy of the century mark and young Trinidad and Tobago defender Jesse Williams. There should be plenty to look forward to at Highmark Stadium this season.



HEAD COACH



Bob Lilley

HOME VENUE



Highmark Stadium

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KEY PLAYERS



Dane Kelly
Forward

As one of the handful of players still competing in the USL Championship that saw action in its first season, Dane Kelly has achieved almost everything he could. The league’s all-time leader with 99 regular season goals has been voted Most Valuable Player and has won the title – 10 years ago with the Charleston Battery – but as he arrives in Pittsburgh the aim will be to try and help a side that has been close to its first silverware in the Championship era under Head Coach Bob Lilley to the goal it has sought over the past four seasons. Kelly will join an attack that returns 2021 standouts Russell Cicerone and Alex Dixon among others and will not only expect to become the first player to 100 regular season goals in the league, but potentially add another title to his remarkable resume.



Kenardo Forbes
Midfielder

As influential as Head Coach Bob Lilley has been since taking the helm at Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC in 2018, Kenardo Forbes has served as his on-field general. The veteran Jamaican is still the Championship’s all-time leader with 45 regular-season assists but his ability to set the tempo for the side in midfield has set him apart as one of the league’s top players, as recognized by his fourth consecutive selection to the Championship All-League Team in 2021. Since the start of the 2018 season, Forbes ranks fifth in the Championship in Goals Added at +29.56 percent with a margin of more than +10 separating him from his nearest competition at the central midfield position in Tampa Bay’s Lewis Hilton. Forbes will turn 34 this season, but his mind and vision seem set to continue to keep him one step ahead of the game.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/12	MEM	V	PIT
3/19	PIT	V	HFD
3/26	DET	V	PIT
4/2	PIT	V	LDN
4/9	TUL	V	PIT
4/16	LV	V	PIT
4/23	PIT	V	ATL
4/30	LOU	V	PIT
5/7	PIT	V	BHM
5/14	PIT	V	ELP
5/21	TBR	V	PIT
5/28	MIA	V	PIT
6/4	PIT	V	DET
6/11	CHS	V	PIT
6/18	RGV	V	PIT
6/25	PIT	V	TBR
7/1	NY	V	PIT
7/6	PIT	V	IND
7/9	PIT	V	MIA
7/16	NM	V	PIT
7/23	HFD	V	PIT
7/30	PIT	V	TUL
8/6	IND	V	PIT
8/13	PIT	V	MEM
8/20	PIT	V	NY
8/27	ATL	V	PIT
8/31	PIT	V	CHS
9/4	LDN	V	PIT
9/10	PIT	V	LOU
9/14	BHM	V	PIT
9/24	PIT	V	OC
10/1	PIT	V	SA
10/9	SAC	V	PIT
10/15	PIT	V	OAK

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 @riverhoundssc



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TEAM OUTLOOK

The first season following the restructuring of the partnership between Rio Grande Valley FC and Houston Dynamo FC, giving overall technical direction to the Toros coaching staff for the first time, proved a major success for the club. Head Coach Wilmer Cabrera, back for his second stint at the helm after leading the Toros in their inaugural campaign, put together a balanced squad of youth and experience that advanced to the USL Championship Playoffs and then sprang a penalty shootout surprise against Phoenix Rising FC in the Western Conference Quarterfinals before their campaign ended.

Now the task for Cabrera and the Toros is to try and repeat that success without a collection of key players that departed this offseason including veteran midfielder Rodrigo Lopez, transferred back to Sacramento Republic FC, and leading scorer Elvis Amoh, now at Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC. To try and address those departures, Cabrera has looked to find similar profile players the gaps, with former United States international Jose Francisco Torres arriving to replace the veteran gap left by Lopez and last season's USL League One Assists Champion Ricky Ruiz looking to provide the creativity.

There are key veterans returning, too, with goalkeeper Tyler Deric having re-signed over the offseason to join returning defender Erik Pimental. Some familiar faces also return, with defender Robert Coronado and midfielder Isidro Martinez set for their second stints at the club. There will be the temptation to think the Toros won't be able to catch the same energy they had a season ago this time around. As we found out last year that could be a mistake as the Toros held their nerve late in the season while others faltered.

HEAD COACH



Wilmer Cabrera

HOME VENUE



H-E-B Park



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KEY PLAYERS



Isidro Martinez
Midfielder

A hometown product, both as Texas' USA Today Gatorade Boys Soccer Player of the Year in 2015 at Brownsville's Simon Rivera High School and at UT Rio Grande Valley collegiately, Isidro Martinez headed to New Mexico United for the 2021 season after two seasons with Rio Grande Valley FC to start his professional career. Now he's back in the valley and will be hoping to return to the form that saw him log eight assists for the Toros in his rookie season in 2019 while maintaining the side's course from a season ago under Head Coach Wilmer Cabrera. Where Martinez could improve is in his finishing – over three seasons, he's recorded only two goals on 5.17xG according to Opta – and if he can add that to his game it could lead to a breakout season in front of his hometown support.



Jose Francisco Torres
Midfielder

Jose Francisco Torres joined Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC a season ago and played a veteran's role in the club's return to the postseason with 26 appearances as well as one goal and three assists from his holding midfield role. As the Texas native and former United States international moves to the Toros this offseason, something similar in terms of minutes and influence will likely be the aim for Torres this season as he looks the likely successor in central midfield after the departure of Rodrigo Lopez to Sacramento Republic FC. At 34 years old, Torres might not be at the top of his game, but his quality should provide a center point for RGVFC to build around as it looks to maintain its positive gains of a season ago.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/12	RGV	V	OAK
3/19	OC	V	RGV
3/23	LA	V	RGV
3/27	RGV	V	SA
4/9	RGV	V	IND
4/15	NY	V	RGV
4/23	RGV	V	SAC
4/30	RGV	V	OC
5/5	COS	V	RGV
5/14	MB	V	RGV
5/21	RGV	V	SD
5/28	RGV	V	SA
6/1	ATL	V	RGV
6/4	RGV	V	LA
6/11	OAK	V	RGV
6/18	RGV	V	PIT
6/22	NM	V	RGV
6/29	RGV	V	ELP
7/9	NM	V	RGV
7/17	RGV	V	LV
7/23	SD	V	RGV
7/27	RGV	V	HFD
8/6	SAC	V	RGV
8/20	SA	V	RGV
8/27	LV	V	RGV
8/31	PHX	V	RGV
9/7	ELP	V	RGV
9/10	RGV	V	NM
9/17	RGV	V	COS
9/23	CHS	V	RGV
10/1	RGV	V	LOU
10/5	MEM	V	RGV
10/8	RGV	V	PHX
10/15	RGV	V	MB

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📷 @RGVFC



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TEAM OUTLOOK

For the first time in Sacramento Republic FC's history, it failed to advance to the USL Championship Playoffs as the attacking struggles the side had experienced in prior seasons finally came to a head as new NorCal rival Oakland Roots SC took the final berth in the Pacific Division. That disappointment has led to a major overhaul for the 2014 title winners this offseason that – if it all comes together – will push the side back to the top of the Western Conference in double-quick time.

With only seven players previously under contract set to return the focus has been trying to upgrade at every position for President and GM Todd Dunivant and Head Coach Mark Briggs. Defensively, the side added 2020 Championship Golden Glove winner Danny Vitiello in goal and acquired 2021 League One Defender of the Year and League One Final MVP Damia Viader via transfer from Union Omaha, but it's in the midfield where Republic FC might have its biggest strength. Joining returning central midfielder Luis Felipe Fernandes is Republic FC legend Rodrigo Lopez, reacquired from Rio Grande Valley FC, and local product Matt LaGrassa, who spent the past two seasons in Major League Soccer with Nashville SC.

The side has also looked to upgrade in attack. Bermuda international and former Charleston Battery standout Zeiko Lewis arrives after recording 10 assists a season ago, and Honduran international Douglas Martinez joins the side from Real Salt Lake having previously claimed the Championship title with Real Monarchs SLC in 2019. On paper, Republic FC looks formidable. If it works in practice, it could be a very entertaining and successful season.

HEAD COACH



Mark Briggs

HOME VENUE



Heart Health Park



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KEY PLAYERS



Zeiko Lewis
Forward

If there has been a major problem for Sacramento Republic FC in recent seasons, it has been inconsistency in front of goal. Last year it finally proved fatal to the club's playoff chances with Republic FC's 36 goals the lowest in full season in club history. The club also registered only 40.64xG, too, placing it in the bottom third of the league in chance creation, which is where the arrival of Zeiko Lewis comes in. The former Charleston Battery playmaker and Bermuda international was one of the early additions in Sacramento's offseason overhaul and brings with him a track record of creativity and the ability to finish that Republic FC has lacked over the past four campaigns. Lewis has recorded 18 goals and 17 assists over the past three regular seasons and could provide the attacking spark that Republic FC is aiming for.



Luis Felipe Fernandes
Midfielder

For all the new faces at Republic FC this offseason, one of the most important players in the side this season is likely to be returning midfielder Luis Felipe Fernandes, whose return to the USL Championship after competing for three seasons with the San Jose Earthquakes in Major League Soccer gave Republic FC a midfielder it could rely on game-in and game-out. The 26-year-old rated as one of the best defensive midfielders in the Championship a season ago with a +5.61 Goals Added mark – second only to offseason LA Galaxy signing Daniel Aguirre – and his ability to break up play and quickly move a side into attack shone regularly at Heart Health Park. Fernandes will have more help around him this season with the return of Rodrigo Lopez from Rio Grande Valley FC and Matt LaGrassa – who began his career in Sacramento in 2015 – after two seasons in Major League Soccer with Nashville SC, and that could make Republic FC a serious contender once again.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/12	SAC	V	ELP
3/19	SD	V	SAC
3/27	SAC	V	TUL
4/2	SAC	V	MB
4/16	OC	V	SAC
4/23	RGV	V	SAC
4/30	SAC	V	LV
5/4	SAC	V	NM
5/8	NY	V	SAC
5/18	ELP	V	SAC
5/28	OAK	V	SAC
6/4	SAC	V	SA
6/11	DET	V	SAC
6/18	SAC	V	LA
6/25	MB	V	SAC
7/1	COS	V	SAC
7/9	SAC	V	OAK
7/16	SAC	V	BHM
7/23	PHX	V	SAC
7/30	CHS	V	SAC
8/3	NM	V	SAC
8/6	SAC	V	RGV
8/13	MB	V	SAC
8/17	SAC	V	COS
8/20	LV	V	SAC
8/27	SAC	V	OAK
9/3	LOU	V	SAC
9/10	SAC	V	LDN
9/18	SAC	V	OC
9/24	SA	V	SAC
9/28	SAC	V	PHX
10/2	LA	V	SAC
10/9	SAC	V	PIT
10/15	SAC	V	SD

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SAN ANTONIO FC

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TEAM OUTLOOK

It might not have matched the regular season success of the club's 2017 campaign, but San Antonio FC's run to the Western Conference Final of the USL Championship Playoffs marked the best campaign in the club's history before falling in a penalty shootout to eventual title winner Orange County SC. The question now will be what Head Coach Alen Marcina's side can accomplish as a follow-up after the departure of some key attacking pieces over the past offseason.

At the top of that list was the transfer of homegrown winger Jose Gallegos, who was nominated for the Championship's Young Player of the Year award for a second consecutive year and earned All-League Second Team honors after recording seven goals and four assists while leading the league in completed dribbles. Also departed is leading scorer Nathan Fogaca following the conclusion of his loan from Brazil's Coritiba FC, and winger Marcus Epps, now at Phoenix Rising FC.

SAFC has looked to replicate that wide productivity with one of the high-profile signings of the offseason, bringing in Kekuta Manneh from Major League Soccer's Austin FC, who could provide returning forward Santiago Patino – who notched eight goals in 14 games after a long-term injury suffered early in the campaign – plenty of service. With a bolstered back line that should include Mitchell Taintor after his transfer from Sacramento Republic FC and new arrivals Carter Manley and Fabien Garcia and a competitive goalkeeping stable that includes the incoming Cristian Bonilla, a former Colombia U-23 international, San Antonio should be a contender again.

HEAD COACH



Alen Marcina

HOME VENUE



Toyota Field



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KEY PLAYERS



Kekuta Manneh
Forward

The 2022 season will mark Kekuta Manneh’s 10th in the professional ranks after being selected in the 2013 MLS SuperDraft after shining in USL League Two for the Austin Aztex before turning 18 years of age. That gave an idea of the precocity of Manneh’s talent, and while recent seasons have brought challenges – including a disappointing season with Austin FC last year that saw him record only 344 minutes of action – the ability he possesses to take on opposing defenses with his technique and speed is one that could be an ideal fit for San Antonio FC. With Jose Gallegos now in Denmark’s Superliga after his offseason transfer, Manneh could fit in well on the left flank of SAFC’s attack. The 27-year-old completed 47 of 75 dribbles in the past three seasons – a 62.7 percent success rate – which could lead to chances for his new club.



PC
Midfielder

It can be hard to pin down a side’s performance to one individual, but the numbers for San Antonio FC when PC was in the lineup during the 2021 regular season and those when he wasn’t offered a glimpse of what SAFC missed when the influential Brazilian wasn’t on the field. In PC’s 18 appearances, San Antonio went 11-3-4 and posted an Expected Goals Against mark of 15.45xGA. In the 14 games he was unavailable for, the side went 3-5-6 and had an Expected Goals Against mark of 24.97xG. That’s a big difference, and a major reason why the club was happy to secure the 27-year-old for a third season. If PC can avoid injury over the course of the 2022 campaign, he should be a driving force for continued success in SAFC’s ranks.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/12	SA	V	DET
3/19	LA	V	SA
3/27	RGV	V	SA
4/2	SA	V	PHX
4/9	OC	V	SA
4/16	SA	V	ELP
4/23	NM	V	SA
4/30	SA	V	MB
5/7	PHX	V	SA
5/14	MIA	V	SA
5/21	SA	V	COS
5/28	RGV	V	SA
6/4	SAC	V	SA
6/11	MB	V	SA
6/18	SA	V	OAK
6/24	COS	V	SA
6/28	SA	V	TUL
7/2	SA	V	CHS
7/16	SA	V	ATL
7/23	ELP	V	SA
7/27	LV	V	SA
7/30	SA	V	LA
8/6	SD	V	SA
8/10	SA	V	LDN
8/13	SA	V	LV
8/20	SA	V	RGV
8/27	IND	V	SA
9/3	OAK	V	SA
9/10	SA	V	SD
9/17	SA	V	NM
9/24	SA	V	SAC
10/1	PIT	V	SA
10/9	BHM	V	SA
10/15	SA	V	OC

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📷 @sanantoniofc



SAN DIEGO LOYAL SC

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TEAM OUTLOOK

The ups and downs of San Diego Loyal SC's second season in the USL Championship showed the side capable of competing with the best clubs in the Western Conference – see victories against Phoenix Rising FC and Orange County SC – while also capable of coming up short against sides that it should have been expected to take victory against – see the side's loss to Real Monarchs SLC and three defeats to Tacoma Defiance out of four meetings. That inconsistency ended up costing SD Loyal a second-place finish and resulted in an early playoff exit on the road to San Antonio FC.

The conundrum for Head Coach Landon Donovan this offseason was that by the numbers, SD Loyal's attack outperformed its Expected Goals output, but only saw Tumi Moshobane reach double-digit goals. The hope for San Diego this season is veteran English forward Kyle Vassell can provide that consistency while the side also looks for increased output from Alejandro Guido and a positive impact from newcomer Evan Conway, who arrives having claimed the USL League One title last season after recording 13 goals.

SD Loyal will also be looking to try and tighten up defensively, too, with New Zealand international Nikko Boxall and fellow Kiwi Kyle Adams among the new arrivals that will try to make up for the departure of Championship All-League Second Team selection Josh Yaro. In goal, Austin Guerrero returns, but Spanish goalkeeper Vegas Koke may be the No. 1 choice following his experience in the top two tiers in his home country. There's promise here once again, but if the side can't match the consistency of their Western rivals, SD Loyal will be a playoff contender, but maybe not more.

HEAD COACH



Landon Donovan

HOME VENUE



Torero Stadium



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KEY PLAYERS



Grant Stoneman
Defender

Over San Diego Loyal SC's first two seasons, arguably the side's most consistent player in the back line has been Grant Stoneman, who has made 38 appearances after making the step up from USL League One after the 2019 season. After seeing center back partner Josh Yaro depart following his Championship All-League selection a season ago, this should be the year where Stoneman steps into the spotlight for SD Loyal. Over those 38 appearances, SD Loyal has conceded only 37 times in the regular season, but if he's to reach another level, the 26-year-old will need to become more dominant in the battles for possession. His duel success rate of 53.3 percent and aerial duel success rate of 60.2 percent are both solid, but if Stoneman can become above average as his tackle success mark (80.6 percent) has been, it could help SD Loyal become stingier at the back.



Alejandro Guido
Forward

A San Diego native, there was a lot of fanfare on Alejandro Guido signing a permanent deal with SD Loyal for the 2021 season after his successful loan stint during the 2020 campaign, but it didn't quite pay off in terms of final-third productivity for the No. 10. Guido recorded six goals and four assists in 1,856 minutes but ended up below water with a 7.62xG mark. Finding a way to step up his production in the attacking third – and being willing to get into the penalty area more consistently after scoring three goals from beyond the penalty area – could send Guido into the ranks of the top playmakers in the Championship and provide a major payoff for the club's boisterous hometown support.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/12	SD	V	LA
3/19	SD	V	SAC
3/23	TUL	V	SD
3/26	PHX	V	SD
4/3	SD	V	ELP
4/9	SD	V	CHS
4/13	OAK	V	SD
4/16	SD	V	LOU
4/30	TBR	V	SD
5/7	NM	V	SD
5/14	SD	V	COS
5/21	RGV	V	SD
5/28	LA	V	SD
6/2	NY	V	SD
6/11	SD	V	HFD
6/19	SD	V	LV
6/25	SD	V	IND
6/29	SD	V	OC
7/4	COS	V	SD
7/9	SD	V	LA
7/23	SD	V	RGV
7/30	OC	V	SD
8/6	SD	V	SA
8/10	SD	V	MB
8/13	BHM	V	SD
8/20	ELP	V	SD
8/24	SD	V	OAK
9/3	MB	V	SD
9/10	SA	V	SD
9/17	SD	V	PHX
9/24	LV	V	SD
10/1	OC	V	SD
10/9	SD	V	NM
10/15	SAC	V	SD

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📷 @sandiegoloyal



TAMPA BAY ROWDIES

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TEAM OUTLOOK

There might have been no better example of the highs and lows of a postseason than the Tampa Bay Rowdies last fall, with their comeback victory against Louisville City FC in the Eastern Conference Final one of the greatest games in league history, and the defeat to Orange County SC after an early penalty kick by Sebastian Guenzatti was denied before a packed house at Al Lang Stadium leaving the hosts without the title they coveted.

After setting club records for victories and points to earn the best record in the USL Championship last campaign, though, the Rowdies will be back to defend their Eastern Conference crown with almost all their key players back. The two significant departures are that of 2021 Championship Goalkeeper of the Year Evan Louro and Defender of the Year Forrest Lasso, but much of the squad that played a key role in the club's success return. Leading the way is Guenzatti, whose 22 goals across the regular season and playoffs set a career high. He's joined by three other forwards who have also recorded 50 goals in the Championship in returning forwards Steevan Dos Santos and Lucky Mkosana and newcomer Kyle Greig.

Elsewhere, Raiko Arozarena and veteran CJ Cochran will battle for the starting position in net, while new arrival Timmy Mehl could slot in centrally alongside the returning center back duo of Aaron Guillen and Jordan Scarlett. In midfield, the duo of Lewis Hilton and Laurence Wyke are both back while Leo Fernandes will likely add to his legacy as one of the Rowdies' top modern-era players. After back-to-back Eastern Conference titles, the Rowdies should certainly be among the top contenders for the title again this year.

HEAD COACH



Neill Collins

HOME VENUE



Al Lang Stadium



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KEY PLAYERS



Sebastian Guenzatti
Forward

No striker in the USL Championship has been more prolific over the past three seasons than Sebastian Guenzatti, whose 51 goals across the regular season and playoffs are seven more than nearest competitor Neco Brett. That's put Guenzatti within range of passing Georgi Hristov for the most goals all-time in Rowdies history, with his 58 goals across all competitions putting him two back of the Bulgarian club legend. What's remarkable is the underlying numbers say that Guenzatti could actually have expected more goals than he's tallied in that span - his Expected Goals mark sits at 57.78xG - but after recording his first 20-goal campaign in the Championship and earning All-League First Team honors a season ago the Rowdies' captain is likely more concerned with helping the side lift the second league title of its modern era after last year's disappointment in the Championship Final.



Leo Fernandes
Midfielder

While Guenzatti has been in the spotlight for his scoring accomplishments for the Rowdies, Leo Fernandes might have taken on the mantle of one of the most underrated players in the Championship. The former Philadelphia Union player will enter his sixth season with Tampa Bay in 2022 having passed 100 appearances for the club in the past campaign while having racked up a +24.25 Goals Added mark over the past five seasons. That's second only to Guenzatti on the team in that span, with Fernandes ability to play as a wingback in the Rowdies' 3-5-2 system but also have the versatility to slip inside as one of the attacking midfielders making him a major asset to the club. Fernandes has yet to earn All-League honors in his career, but his influence on the field and in the locker room should arguably be drawing more attention.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/13	BHM	V	TBR
3/19	TBR	V	IND
3/23	ATL	V	TBR
3/26	TBR	V	HFD
4/2	OAK	V	TBR
4/9	TBR	V	MIA
4/16	TBR	V	TUL
4/23	NY	V	TBR
4/27	MEM	V	TBR
4/30	TBR	V	SD
5/15	PHX	V	TBR
5/21	TBR	V	PIT
6/1	TUL	V	TBR
6/4	TBR	V	LOU
6/11	MIA	V	TBR
6/18	TBR	V	CHS
6/25	PIT	V	TBR
7/2	TBR	V	MEM
7/9	HFD	V	TBR
7/16	LDN	V	TBR
7/23	TBR	V	ATL
7/30	IND	V	TBR
8/6	TBR	V	DET
8/13	LOU	V	TBR
8/20	COS	V	TBR
8/27	TBR	V	OC
9/3	TBR	V	LV
9/10	CHS	V	TBR
9/17	DET	V	TBR
9/23	TBR	V	BHM
9/28	TBR	V	ELP
10/1	MB	V	TBR
10/8	TBR	V	LDN
10/15	TBR	V	NY

 /TampaBayRowdies

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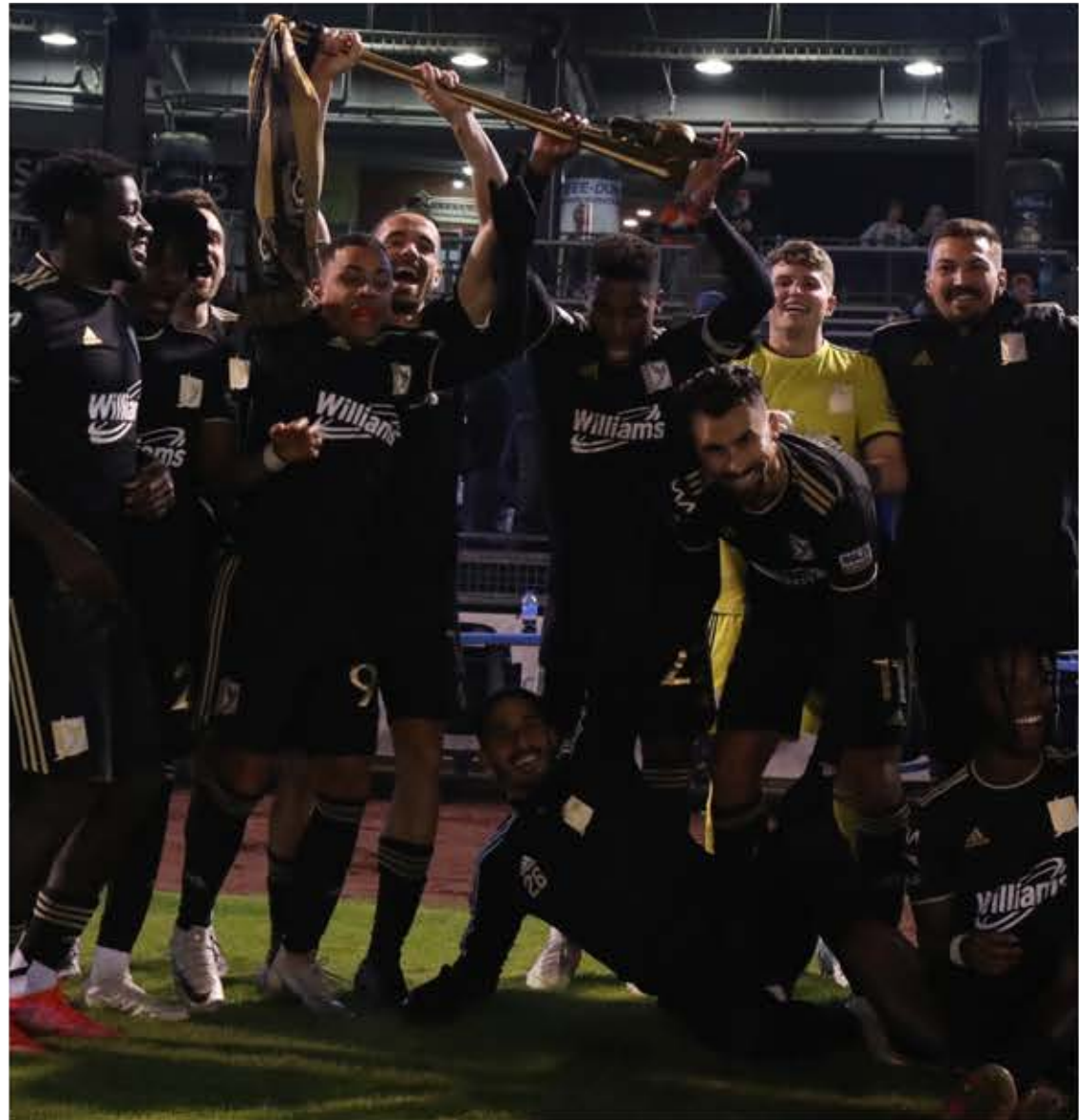
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TEAM OUTLOOK

A second consecutive postseason berth saw FC Tulsa deliver some notable results during the regular season – including splitting a four-game series with Louisville City FC – but never rise to the consistency required to become a serious contender for silverware. The 6-2 defeat at the hands of the Tampa Bay Rowdies in the Eastern Conference Quarterfinals was maybe the epitome for what could happen if things went south for the side defensively and may be the biggest area in need of improvement this campaign.

Tulsa's defense leaked goals throughout the year, allowing 48 tallies in the regular season on an Expected Goals Against mark of 41.3xGA, which sat better than league average. It shouldn't come as a surprise, then, that among regular starters Tulsa goalkeeper Sean Lewis posted the highest differential between Goals Conceded and Expected Goals Conceded in the league at a +4.25 mark. The side has looked to add help defensively this season with veteran Arturo Diz Pe and El Salvador international Ronald Rodriguez coming aboard to join returning veterans Bradley Bourgeois, Jorge Corrales and others, but the side is likely to need better goalkeeping overall if it can't limit the chances it gives up over the course of the campaign.

If Tulsa can manage that, its attacking pieces will have a chance to put together a strong unit. Returning standouts Rodrigo Da Costa, Dario Suarez and Joaquin Rivas have been joined by two notable additions in Jamaican international Brian Brown and JJ Williams, with the former having recorded a combined 60 regular season goals and assists in the Championship. That should make for an enterprising attack, and playoff contention.



Michael Nsien

HOME VENUE



ONEOK Field

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KEY PLAYERS



Rodrigo da Costa
Midfielder

While he arrived a season before the club's rebrand, there is maybe no-one that has signaled the ambition of FC Tulsa than Rodrigo da Costa. Now the lone player in the club's history to have reached both 20 goals and 20 assists in the regular season, the Brazilian has been the centerpiece for an evolving attack that has added some more new pieces this offseason while sitting tied on 24 goals with teammate and El Salvador international Joaquin Rivas for the most in club history overall. The 28-year-old has been the key piece in the final third with 137 Chances Created and 26 Big Chances in Tulsa colors - comfortably the most for the side over the past three years - and he'll once again be the player who will be the bell weather for whether Tulsa can take the next step and claim not only a third consecutive postseason berth, but a first playoff win.



Brian Brown
Forward

FC Tulsa swung big last offseason with the acquisition of Jerome Kiesewetter to add to its forward line. Unfortunately, the plan didn't come to fruition and the former United States international ended the season on loan at Sacramento Republic FC. That hasn't deterred Tulsa from thinking big, however, and this offseason has seen the club have another go with a trade of Kiesewetter to New Mexico United for Jamaican forward Brian Brown, who arrives with a strong resume in the Championship. Brown has recorded 38 goals and 22 assists in 109 appearances in the Championship, averaging a goal every-other-game over his career. If the 29-year-old can match his 16-goal output for Reno 1868 FC in the 2018 campaign it would not only set a Tulsa single-season record but could carry the side into a strong position in the Eastern Conference standings.

2022 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY
3/12	CHS	V	TUL
3/19	TUL	V	BHM
3/23	TUL	V	SD
3/27	SAC	V	TUL
4/2	TUL	V	NY
4/9	TUL	V	PIT
4/13	MEM	V	TUL
4/16	TBR	V	TUL
4/23	TUL	V	COS
5/4	ELP	V	TUL
5/7	TUL	V	DET
5/13	OC	V	TUL
5/21	TUL	V	HFD
5/28	LOU	V	TUL
6/1	TUL	V	TBR
6/4	TUL	V	MIA
6/15	NY	V	TUL
6/25	TUL	V	CHS
6/28	SA	V	TUL
7/3	LDN	V	TUL
7/9	TUL	V	ATL
7/13	TUL	V	NM
7/23	BHM	V	TUL
7/30	PIT	V	TUL
8/10	MIA	V	TUL
8/20	TUL	V	IND
8/27	TUL	V	LDN
9/3	ATL	V	TUL
9/7	TUL	V	LOU
9/10	HFD	V	TUL
9/24	DET	V	TUL
10/1	IND	V	TUL
10/8	TUL	V	MB
10/15	TUL	V	MEM

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Since 1947 SELECT has been one of the world's leading manufacturers of professional match balls. From the creation of the first laceless ball to the modern 32 panel design SELECT is dedicated to quality and committed to innovation. The legendary Brilliant Super is the product of SELECT's commitment and dedication. Currently used as the official match ball in the top leagues of Denmark, Belgium, Sweden, Finland, Norway and Germany.

2022 begins the fifth year of SELECT as the Official Ball Supplier of the USL. With the new season comes a new ball which showcases the branding specific to the USL Championship.



The Official Ball Supplier of the USL Championship

www.select-sport.com/us

USL EXECUTIVE STAFF

Alec Papadakis

USL Chief Executive Officer

Papadakis has served as the USL's top executive since 2009. A former franchise attorney with four decades' worth of domestic and international experience, Papadakis is the CEO and Managing Partner of NuRock Soccer Holdings and a Pro Council representative on the U.S. Soccer Board of Directors.

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. In 2019, through Papadakis' leadership, the USL teamed with the Economist to host the Sports Business Summit for Southeast Europe in Athens, Greece. During Papadakis' tenure as the USL's CEO, the organization has expanded its professional membership by almost 400 percent and produced growth in league attendance over the past decade of 1,125 percent as the USL Championship and League One welcomed more than 3,000,000 fans during the 2019 campaign before last year's pandemic-affected season.

Jake Edwards

USL President

Edwards has served as USL President since March 2, 2015. Since his arrival at the USL, he has played an integral role in creating and implementing the league's long-term strategic plan, Destination 2020, which focused on expansion, the launch of media and commercial properties, the league's partnership with Major League Soccer and stadium development. Edwards oversees a significant portion of the 60-plus staff at the USL HQ in Tampa, Fla., as well as the daily servicing of its 40-plus professional clubs.

Edwards, who joined the USL as the league's Vice President in 2013, is a Manchester native and former professional soccer player whose career spanned 11 years, mostly for England-based clubs as well as USL Championship side the Charleston Battery. Edwards played collegiately for James Madison University 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 COO & USL Chief Real Estate Officer

Papadakis joined the USL in 2014 when he was named President of Commercial Ventures in December of 2014. In May of 2016, he began his role as the league's Chief Operating Officer before in the past year adding the title of Chief Real Estate Officer as he oversees one of the key areas of the league's growth in future years.

Arriving by way of DDR Corp, now called SITE Centers, Papadakis served as the real estate company's leasing director for three years before advancing as the company's business development director. Papadakis holds a Juris Doctorate from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and earned a dual degree in Public Policy and Economics at Duke University, where he also played four seasons for the Blue Devils' Men's Soccer program. Papadakis is also a member of YPO, New York Metro Chapter.

Since joining the organization, Papadakis has led USL's expansion efforts across the USL Championship and League One. Over the past four years he has facilitated an unprecedented surge in soccer-specific and mixed-use stadium developments anchoring economic live, work and play projects across the country, extending far beyond the pitch while amplifying the fan experience for current and future USL communities.

Court Jeske

USL Executive Vice President

Jeske joined the USL as Executive Vice President in January of 2019, bringing his extensive experience in the North American soccer industry to the organization's senior management team.

Jeske previously served as both the Vice President of International Business for Major League Soccer & Soccer United Marketing, where for eight years he was a key figure in the organization's strategic orchestration of international events for CONCACAF, the Mexican National Team, the United States Men's and Women's National Teams and elite clubs throughout Europe.

Jeske then served as the founding Chief Executive Officer and a minority owner of Nashville SC as it launched its professional era in the USL Championship, during which time the club set Championship records for season ticket sales in an inaugural season and corporate partnership revenue.

Since joining the USL, Jeske has played a key role in positioning the organization for the new decade, including leading the completion of a new United States media rights agreement with ESPN and new agreements with Premier Partners to lead the organization's commercial representation.

Selected to the Sports Business Journal's prestigious Forty Under 40 list of leading young sports executives in 2018, Jeske is also currently a member of the Soccerex USA Advisory Board. He graduated with a degree in Business Management from the University of Oklahoma before earning the FIFA Master-M.A. in International Sports Business from the International Center for Sports Studies.

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Chairman – Robert Hoskins, Chairman
Chief Executive Officer – Alec Papadakis
President – Jake Edwards
Chief Operating Officer & Chief Real Estate Officer – Justin Papadakis
Chief Financial Officer – Karen Gittens, CPA
President, Super League – Amanda Vandervort
SVP & General Counsel – Garrison Mason
Executive Vice President – Court Jeske
Executive Vice President – Brett Luy
SVP, Corporate Development & Partnerships – Josh Keller
SVP, Communications and Public Relations – Will Kuhns
SVP, Strategy & Engagement – Lizzie Seedhouse
SVP, Expansion Club Strategy – Steven Short
VP, People – Rachel Bukszar, PHR, SHRM-CP
VP, Club Services – John Cochol
VP, Club Expansion & Real Estate – Dan Holman
VP, League Operations – Dan Lohrs
VP, Women's Soccer – Missy Price
VP, Youth & Pre-Professional – Joel Nash
VP, Consumer Products – Domenic Notarfrancesco
VP, Corporate Development – Matt Reda
VP, Club Expansion & Real Estate – Mark Richard
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Technical Director – Liam O'Connell
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Director, Competition & Development, USL League Two – Chris Madden

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Jr. Video Producer/Editor – Natalie Longroy
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CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

DISCIPLINE & CONDUCT

League Disciplinary Power

The League shall have the authority to suspend, fine, disqualify, or otherwise discipline players, team officials, or competing Teams for On-Field Misconduct and for off-field misconduct deemed by the League to be detrimental to the League, any Team, or the sport of soccer (“Detrimental Off-Field Misconduct”). “On-Field Misconduct” shall include misconduct that occurs in any stadium or playing facility, in and/or around the stadium or playing facility (involving any person(s) or property in or around the stadium or playing facility), including, but not limited to: the playing field, locker rooms, parking lots, spectator stands or other spectator facilities, and other back-of-house and underground areas, including those used by television production and other media), and which occurs at, during or in connection with any match or tournament in which the player competes.

The League Disciplinary Committee

The League Disciplinary Committee is a panel of League Directors covering the competition, operations, and compliance departments. As delegates of the President, this committee makes decisions about discipline for Detrimental Off-Field Misconduct and On-Field Misconduct, subject to the review of the President. The League Disciplinary Committee makes decisions with a view towards allowing for a competitive, but fair, environment for all Teams to compete against each other.

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.

Disciplinary Process

The League Disciplinary Committee reviews disciplinary issues (including all send-offs) reported by the Referee, in addition to other incidents of On-Field

Misconduct or Detrimental Off-Field Misconduct. The Disciplinary Committee conducts this review using match videos, official reports, individual accounts, and other pertinent information. Depending on the timeliness of the reports and match videos, the Disciplinary Committee will make every effort to issue rulings on cases in advance of the Team's next League Game.

Player Caution Accumulation

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

- Five total cautions - Fine
- Eight total cautions - one game suspension and fine
- 11 total cautions - two game suspension and fine
- 14 total cautions - three game suspension and 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.

Serving Suspensions During the Regular Season

Any player and/or coach sent off/dismissed during a regular season game will be fined 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. 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.

Final Regular Season Game Send-off

Any player or coach 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.

Suspension during the Playoffs

Any player and/or coach that is sent off or dismissed during the playoffs will be suspended from, at minimum, the next playoff game, unless the season is over, in which case the suspension will be served, at minimum, in the team's first League game the following season.

Major Game Misconduct

The League Disciplinary Committee, in its sole and absolute discretion, may impose discipline (including fines and suspensions) against players, coaches or other team staff for Major Game Misconduct, regardless of whether the misconduct in question resulted in a card being awarded by the Match Official or was included in the Referee Game Report. "Major Game Misconduct" is defined by the League and may include, without limitation, fighting, provoking a fight, criticizing Match Officials with words or gestures, entering the Match Officials' locker room, physical contact with Match 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 Match Official 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 League and the sport of soccer in general.

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 or staff member receives two yellow cards in a match, to rectify a case where a serious and obvious error has occurred.

Suspension and Fine Appeal

Within 24 hours after the USL Championship distributes its Weekly Discipline Report, a team may appeal a suspension and/or fine that is greater than the established minimum fine and suspension amounts. The USL Championship must receive the appeal in writing via email.

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.

CHAMPIONSHIP ROSTER REGULATIONS

Player Classifications

A. Professional Player

A professional player is a player who signs a professional registration form with the team's applicable Federation, a professional player contract with the USL Championship and receives, or has received, payment beyond actual and necessary expenses for playing soccer. Players on loan are not deemed professional players unless there is not a right to recall. A professional player may only be registered with one team and may play only for the team to which he is registered, except in the following two instances:

CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

1. Team has filed a completed loan agreement and supplement with the League Office.
2. Player competes for another team in an exhibition, all-star, benefit or some other non-League game with the consent of the team holding his contract

B. Academy Players

In addition to the 30 Active Players allowed on the Master Roster, a team may register up to five (5) 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: a) player is under the age of 21 as of the official start date of the current season, b) player cannot compete (or have ever previously have competed) in any NCAA or NAIA university or college soccer program, and c) player has never been signed or registered as a professional soccer player as recognized by FIFA. The Academy Player must play for a club which 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 Championship 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.

No Academy Player may register or participate as an Academy Player with more than one Championship club during a season. Academy players may not be loaned.

Academy Players that are classified as international count against a team's maximum of seven international players. Academy Players must be registered as an amateur with the USL Championship 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. There cannot be more than five (5) Academy Players listed on the Game Day Lineup.

Master Roster

Master Roster Guidelines

Master Roster Regulations: Each Team's Master Roster may consist of up to 30 Active Players, as further set forth below. Inactive Players do not count towards a Team's Master Roster.

- (1) A maximum of 7 players on the Master Roster may be International Players, pending the trade or sale of international roster spots. Academy Players count towards this 7-player maximum.
- (2) Beginning two (2) weeks prior to the start of the Regular Season, each Team must have a total of 14 or more Professional Players on its Master Roster. In general, these players must be signed to the Standard Player Agreement. A total of 11 of these players must be signed to Guaranteed Contracts. However, up to 2 players season-long loan from another team, may count towards a Club's Professional Player count, provided that the players' parent club has no right to recall the player during the Season.
 - a. If a Club falls below the requisite Professional Player count at any point during the Season, and for any reason, the Club must remedy the situation within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the League.
- (3) Players signed to a Standard Player Agreement and not out on loan must be Active Players. Teams may designate players who are out on loan, in on loan, or Academy Players as Inactive Players.
- (4) Teams may include up to 5 Academy Players on its Master Roster without these players counting against the 30 player limit (although they do count toward the International Player limits). After the first 5 Academy Players rostered, Academy Players will count against the 30 player limit to the Master Roster.
- (5) Per FIFA, players may be registered to 3 teams during a given season. However, players are only eligible to compete for 2 teams during that time. As an exception, a player moving between 2 teams with overlapping seasons (i.e. team 1 begins its season in the fall, and team 2 begins its season in the spring/summer) may participate for all three teams. Per USSF, if a player competes for 2 teams under the same ownership umbrella (i.e., Atlanta United and Atlanta United FC 2) his participation on both clubs only counts as 1 registration as far as this particular rule is concerned.
- (6) Under no circumstance may a Team add a player (academy, on loan, or professional) to its roster if it released that same player earlier that season.

Master Roster Freeze

After the Roster Freeze Deadline, no Team may add a player to its Master Roster. Additionally, after the Roster Freeze Deadline, a Team may not change a player's active or inactive status. The League will not allow "deals in progress" or "extensions" to go beyond the deadline for any reason; player movement must be finalized and approved prior to the Roster Freeze Deadline. For purposes of visas and other pending documentation for incoming players, all documents must be approved by the League, and if warranted, by MLS and USSF, prior to the Roster Freeze Deadline. For the remainder of the Season, only players who are Active Players as of the Roster Freeze Deadline may participate in the competition.

For avoidance of doubt, however, the League will allow player movement out of the League, even after the Roster Freeze Deadline.

The Roster Freeze Deadline is Friday, September 23, 2022 at 1 PM Eastern Time.

Playoff Eligibility

Any field player on loan from another team (including intra-League loans) must play a minimum of 5 regular-season Games to be eligible to play in the playoffs. One of these Games must occur prior to the Roster Freeze Date. This rule does not apply to Academy Players. However, Players signed to 25-Day Contracts are not eligible for the Playoffs.

Loan Guidelines

- a. **Championship > Championship:** Each Championship Team is permitted to receive or loan a maximum of 2 players from/to each Championship Team in any given Season. An individual player may not be intra-league loaned more than once per season.
- b. **Championship > MLS:** There is no restriction on the number of players a Team may loan to MLS Teams. Players a Team loans to an MLS Team will remain on the Team's Master Roster. For players to move freely between the Championship Team and the MLS Team throughout the season, the teams must have a documented affiliation with one another.
- c. **MLS > Championship:** There is no maximum number of players a Team may receive on loan from MLS Teams, except that the Team must have space on its Master Roster to add any player on loan. Additionally, there is no maximum number of MLS players which may compete on a given Team during the season. For players to move freely between the MLS Team and the Championship Team throughout the season, the teams must have a documented affiliation with one another.
- d. **Championship > League One:** There is no maximum number of players a Team may loan to a League One team. All loaned players shall remain on the Championship Team's Master Roster. For players to move freely between the Championship Team and the League One Team throughout the season, the teams must have a documented affiliation with one another.
- e. **League One > Championship:** There is no maximum number of players a Team may receive on loan from League One team, except that the Team must have space on its Master Roster to add any player on loan. Additionally, there is no maximum number of League One players which may compete on a given Championship Team during the season. For players to move freely between the League One team and the Championship Team throughout the season, the teams must have a documented affiliation with one another.

Loan Players in the Playoffs

A loaned player must compete (play in a match, not just be rostered or appear on the Game-Day Lineup) in at least five regular-season Games for a specific Team to be eligible for the playoffs with that Team, one of which must occur prior to the Roster Freeze Date.

23-Man Game Day Player Pool

All players must be rostered (i.e. registered with the League and Federation) and active 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.

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 the 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. Failure to submit the 23-Man Game Day Player Pool in alphabetical order will result in a minimum fine of \$50. All appropriate parties must be included on the correspondence for the standard to be met. All 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 Championship 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 Championship 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.

If a player not included on the 23-Man Game Day Player Pool participates in the match in any capacity, including being available on the bench for selection, it will result in a minimum fine of \$1,000. On the day of the game, during the roster exchange, game day lineups must be cross-referenced with the 23-Man Game Day Player Pools from each club to ensure all players included on the lineup have also been included on the 23-Man Game Day Player Pool. In the event that any of the parties involved with the exchange identify that a player included on the lineup was not previously listed on the 23-Man Game Day Player Pool, the designated League contact listed on the match preview must be notified and the player will not be able to compete in the match. If this occurs, the team is permitted to replace the lineup spot with a player who has been included on the 23-Man Game Day Player Pool provided the opposing team has the same opportunity based on the number of available players at the match (i.e. the opposing team has 19 or more players available for selection). The home team and visiting team must also submit a copy of their Official Game Day Lineup to the League 60 minutes prior to the start of the match via the Teamworks platform to meet the standard.