



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 7th, 2018 /Atlanta, GA

A new youth soccer experience is coming to the Southeast! Through a collaborative effort among 8 clubs, the newly formed Southeastern Clubs Champions League (SCCL) will begin its inaugural season in the Fall of 2018. The Southeastern Clubs Champions League has been formed in response to an overwhelming need for a more manageable environment than is presently available in the gap between localized grassroots soccer and national level play. The SCCL will strive to provide a solution to this need in an affordable, family-friendly way. The SCCL will compete as one of the newest US Club Soccer Leagues in the country. US Club’s Mission to “*foster the growth and development of soccer clubs throughout the United States to create the best possible development environment for players of all ages in every club*” perfectly aligns with the purpose and mission of the SCCL, and we are proud to partner with them on this new endeavor!

The following 8 clubs from throughout the Southeast will be participating in the inaugural season of the Champions League: **Birmingham United SA** (Alabama), **Carolina Elite Soccer Academy** (SC), **Concorde Fire** (GA), **Gwinnett Soccer Academy** (GA), **NASA TopHat** (GA), **Southern Soccer Academy** (GA), **United Futbol Academy** (GA), and **Vestavia Hills SC** (Alabama). The new club-centric league will initially be comprised of one team per gender per age group from 12U-19U in the 2018-19 year. Following a home and away round-robin season format, teams will compete for the opportunity to advance to the U.S. Club Soccer National Cup which includes a Regional event followed by National Finals.

The SCCL leadership has over 100 years of combined experience in managing clubs, leagues, and youth player development, so we are excited for what the future holds! For more information, please contact any of the member clubs. Tryouts will coincide with each club’s typical tryout timeline for all other programs, so look to the nearest SCCL club for more detailed information.



Andrew Brower, Executive Director/Birmingham United Soccer Association: *"BUSU is excited to participate as an inaugural member of the Champions League. We feel this will be an important platform for player development within our organization and cannot wait to get started."*

Andrew Hyslop & Pearse Tormey, Co-Executive Directors/Carolina Elite Soccer Academy: *"The formation of the Southeastern Clubs Champions League will allow our players the opportunity to compete on a weekly basis with clubs that will challenge us to play at a high level. We have been very impressed with the willingness of our fellow SCCL member clubs to work together to provide a much needed platform for all involved."*

Ken Kurilec, Director of Coaching/Concorde Fire: *"Concorde is thrilled to be a part of the inaugural season of the SCCL. To be a part of the SCCL will provide our club with the opportunity to further develop the culture of our club and strengthen our relationship with the best youth organizations in Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina. The league will expose the players to great competition in an environment where the players come first".*

Drew Prentice, Executive Director/Gwinnett Soccer Academy: *"This new club-centric platform is another example of what can happen when competitors work together instead of against one another. We are excited to start a new chapter of competitive youth soccer in our region. GSA is proud to be an inaugural member of the SCCL!"*

Dave Smith, Executive Director/NASA-TopHat: *"NTH is excited to be a part of the inaugural season of the Southeastern Clubs Champions League (SCCL). The SCCL will give NTH players access to high quality competition in a well run league with a chance to compete both regionally and nationally. We look forward to kicking off the league in the fall!"*

Simon Davey, Executive Director/Southern Soccer Academy: *" To be part of the inaugural season of the SCCL(Southeastern Clubs Champions League)with seven of the biggest clubs in the Southeast is exciting. The SCCL will provide our members meaningful quality competition right on our doorstep with the opportunity to also compete regionally and nationally. To us, a league with Concorde Fire, UFA, NasaTophat, CESA, Busa, Vestavia, GSA, and SSA says it all"*

Iggy Moleka, Executive Director of Soccer/United Futbol Academy: *"UFA is proud to be a part of a consortium of clubs forming the new Southeastern Clubs Champions League (SCCL). The SCCL gives our players access to high quality competition and a chance to compete regionally and nationally. We are looking forward to being part of this exciting new league beginning this fall."*

Rocky Harmon, Executive Director/Vestavia Hills Soccer Club: *"This league will fill a huge void for our top players- we will now be guaranteed a steady diet of high level competition in a travel friendly, home and away league format. We are excited to be a part of this."*