



**For Immediate Release:**

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### **ECNL LAUNCHES FAR WEST CONFERENCE FOR 2025-26 SEASON**

*– League’s 15th conference reaches new clubs & new markets, highlighting proven pathway –*

**RICHMOND, Va. (February 19, 2024)** - ECNL Boys is thrilled to announce the promotion of the Far West ECNL Boys Regional League into the ECNL Boys for the 2025-26 season, marking the first time in the league’s history that an ECNL Regional League, in its entirety, has been promoted to the ECNL level of competition.

Along with the seven clubs currently in the Far West, United PDX will move from the ECNL Boys Northwest Conference to the new ECNL Boys Far West Conference. Joining the Far West Conference will reduce conference travel for the club while also eliminating the conflicting high school soccer seasons the club has managed around while in the Northwest Conference.

The ECNL Boys’ 15th conference will reach players in previously untapped markets in the country’s Pacific Northwest, including the league’s first clubs in Idaho, as well as significantly increasing the league’s footprint in Oregon. By reaching these new markets and clubs, based on their proven results and professionalism in the ECNL Regional League, the ECNL Boys will better support and showcase elite soccer athletes and teams regardless of geography.

“The creation of the Far West Conference is a huge moment for ECNL Boys,” said ECNL Boys Commissioner Jason Kutney. “Never before have we had an entire Regional League make the jump into ECNL Boys, but it’s a testament to the ECNL’s proven pathway for players and clubs. This process started nearly two years ago as a strategic goal that was clearly communicated with all clubs, supporting their efforts to establish the competition platform in Oregon and Idaho, and ensuring our league pathway was available to power their growth.”

The eight clubs participating in the Far West Conference are below.

#### **United PDX\***

**Location: Tigard, OR**

United PDX has been a strong club within the Northwest Conference in ECNL Boys, battling some of the top teams of the country. This season, United PDX is right in the thick of the playoff

hunt within the U14, U15 and U17 age groups. At showcases during the 2024-25 season, United PDX has earned points in two-thirds of its games, including its U18/19s going undefeated at ECNL Phoenix, its U16s going undefeated at ECNL Florida, and its U15s going undefeated at ECNL Las Vegas.

“United PDX is proud to be a part of the new ECNL Boys Far West Conference,” said Sporting Director Matt Broadhead. “After three years in the ECNL Boys Northwest Conference, competing against the top Washington clubs, we aim to match those standards here in Oregon. We look forward to and have set long term goals to continue the pursuit of up leveling the game in collaboration with the other Oregon ECNL Boys clubs!”

*\* - Realigned from Northwest Conference*

### **Boise Timbers**

**Location: Meridian, ID**

Boise Timbers started the 2024-25 season strong, with its U16 squad currently leading the Far West Regional League and its U13, U14 and U18/19 teams sitting just outside of playoff qualifications. The club is building off its success in 2023-24, where its U13 team was a finalist in the ECNL Boys Regional League Playoffs - West and the club had 11 players highlighted on the ECNL Boys Far West All-Regional League teams, including at least one at each age level.

“Boise Timbers are beyond excited to be a part of the new ECNL Far West Conference,” said ECNL Director Gavin Kempe. “Thank you to Jason Kutney, Chris Leahy and ECNL staff for the opportunity to prove ourselves as a Regional League toward this goal of becoming a part of the ECNL. By unifying clubs from within the conference, the ECNL continues to maintain and define the standards of youth soccer in America. We look forward to being an ECNL 'all-in' club, aligning our boys competitive programming with our ECNL Boise Thorns and ECNL RL Boise Thorns Girls side. We do not take this promotion lightly and look forward to continually meeting and exceeding the standards expected of leaders in today's competitive youth soccer landscape.”

### **Capital FC**

**Location: Salem, OR**

Capital FC is one of the top performing clubs within the Far West Regional League in the 2024-25 season, with its U13 and U15 teams leading their respective age groups and its U18/19 team sitting one spot out of a playoff qualification. Last season, Capital FC's U16 advanced to the ECNL Boys Regional League Finals while its U14 team qualified for the ECNL Boys Regional League Playoffs - West. In addition, the club had five players represented on the 2023-24 ECNL Boys Far West All-Regional League teams. This season, Capital FC participated in multiple ECNL Boys national events where the club earned results against ECNL competition, further showcasing the competitive level of the Far West.

"We are incredibly excited for this next step for Capital FC," said Technical Director Joe Wentworth.

### **Eugene Metro**

**Location: Eugene, OR**

Last season, Eugene Metro sent its U13 team to the ECNL Boys Regional League Playoffs - West and this year currently has its U13 and U14 teams sitting in a playoff position. Eugene Metro had one player on the 2023-24 ECNL Boys Far West All-Regional League teams.

"Eugene Metro FC is honored and excited about this next step for our players, coaches, and staff," said Director of Coaching Jürgen Ruckaberle. "We are thrilled to join the ECNL with all the current clubs in the Far West Regional League."

### **FC Portland**

**Location: Hillsboro, OR**

FC Portland is currently in first place in the U14 age group in the Far West Regional League and is just outside of playoff qualification in the U15 and U17 age groups. FC Portland is excited to bring its club into ECNL Boys and continue to serve the greater Portland community with elite soccer.

"FC Portland is excited to join ECNL Boys," said Executive Director Louis Tanguy. "We're grateful for the chance to bring the ECNL Boys Far West Conference to our players and provide them opportunities for growth and to showcase themselves. We're looking forward to continued partnership with the ECNL and growing the conference with the rest of the clubs in the league."

### **Idaho Rush**

**Location: Boise, ID**

One of the first two Idaho teams joining ECNL Boys, Idaho Rush is off to a strong start in 2024-25 with its U13, U16 and U18/19 teams all prepared to qualify for the Regional League Playoffs - West. Last season, Idaho Rush had six players named to the ECNL Boys Far West All-Regional League teams and are primed to add more names to that list this season.

"Idaho Rush is thrilled to be a founding member of the ECNL Boys Far West Conference," said Technical Director Jens Haustein. "This is a monumental step for our club, our Boys program, and everyone involved. Competing in this elite environment is an incredible opportunity for our players to showcase their talent at the highest level, challenge themselves against top competition, and gain invaluable exposure to college coaches. We are eager to embrace the journey ahead, pushing our standards, growing as a club, and making the most of every moment in this premier league. Let's go Rush!"

### **Oregon Premier FC**

**Location: Lake Oswego, OR**

Oregon Premier began its first season in the Far West Regional League with playoff berths for four of its teams, and is following it up with strong play from its U14, U15, U17 and U18/19 squads, all of which are currently in playoff positions, with the U18/19s at the top of the table. Oregon Premier had a significant showing within the 2023-24 ECNL Boys Far West All-Regional League teams with seven players earning the recognition. Along with its success in league play in both seasons, Oregon Premier has also been a standout club at ECNL showcases with strong efforts at ECNL Florida, where its U18/19 team earned three wins in three days.

“The promotion of the Far West ECNL Boys Regional League into the ECNL Boys Far West Conference is a significant step forward for soccer in the Pacific Northwest,” said Technical Director Alex Hockborn. “This achievement reflects the dedication and quality of the founding member clubs, who have worked alongside ECNL during the past two years to build a strong foundation for elite competition in our region. Oregon Premier FC is proud to be part of this next chapter, and we look forward to continuing to elevate the game, provide top-level opportunities for our players, and strengthen the soccer landscape in our community.”

**Westside Metros FC**

**Location: Beaverton, OR**

Westside Metros had a strong performance during the 2023-24 season, sending its U14, U15 and U16 teams to the ECNL Boys Regional League Playoffs - West, where the U15 squad finished as a finalist. In 2024-25, its U17 team is leading the Far West Regional League and its U15 and U16 teams are also sitting in playoff qualifications. Westside Metros featured seven players on the ECNL Boys Far West All-Regional League teams in 2023-24, including three each at the U15 and U16 age groups.

“Westside Metros FC are beyond excited to be able to participate in the newly formed ECNL Far West Conference,” said Boys Director of Coaching Steven Evans. “This opportunity not only elevates our teams to compete at the highest level, but it also gives our players the chance to showcase their talents on a national platform. We are incredibly grateful for this moment and look forward to the growth, development, and success that lies ahead for our players, coaches, and families.”

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**About the ECNL:**

The ECNL is the nation's leading youth soccer development platform. The ECNL respects and celebrates the unique individuality of every youth soccer player and club, supporting and enabling them to unleash their unfettered passion and fierce tenacity in striving to achieve their potential.

The ECNL mission to Raise the Game is a total commitment to create the best possible environment for players, coaches, referees and administrators, with a determination to constantly question convention and challenge the status quo in youth sports.

The ECNL Commitment:

We will lead, set our eyes on new horizons, and pursue them relentlessly. Born out of the belief in a better way. Continued in the ever-evolving pursuit of excellence.

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