



Oklahoma Premier Clubs (OPC) Official Members



A game changer for Oklahoma

FAQ

What is the OPC?

Several leading clubs in Oklahoma are making a bold move by joining forces to develop innovative player-centric programming for all OPC members focusing on higher quality services, organizational effectiveness and expanded opportunities from a player, coach and referee development perspective. All programming will be sanctioned by [US Club Soccer](#).

MISSION: OPC is a member-based organization founded in 2017 to enhance the developmental experience of the youth soccer players in our region through:

- Improving the competitive environment through creation of a quality competitive leagues with multiple flights;
- Improving the process for identifying talented soccer players for US Club's ID2/ODP and collegiate programs through a systematic scouting and identification program based on league competitions; and,
- Improving the daily training environment of OPC member clubs through developing best practices and training and organizational guidelines for its member clubs.

GOAL: The mission of the OPC is to provide innovative, player-centered programming with a constant focus on raising standards and enhancing the player experience in all aspects of the game.

IMPLEMENTATION: The OPC is led by a Board comprised of Technical Directors of the founding member clubs. Day-to-day operations are managed by the League Commissioner of PrimeTime Sports.

The OPC has four primary platforms:

- The Competition Platform
- The Player Identification Platform
- The Club, Coach and Referee Development Platform
- The Players First Platform (Player Health and Safety as part of US Club)

Why the OPC?

The leaders of these clubs looked at the current and future direction of Oklahoma soccer and determined that for us to be able to *Raise the Game* to a level that is needed for player success, radical change was needed. OPC feels that clubs develop players and therefore should be empowered to shape programs that they feel is best for long-term player development. As leaders in the soccer community, these forward-thinking clubs have decided to combine forces by taking the major step of creating an innovative new platform for the betterment of the game in Oklahoma and the surrounding region. The platform we've created is a well-thought out vision and plan that will allow the game to take a major leap forward for today's and tomorrow's generation of players.

Who will govern the OPC?

OPC will be led by the Technical Directors of the Member Clubs so that strategic decisions regarding everything impacting player, coach and referee development will be made by soccer professionals.

Does this mean the OPC member clubs will no longer be in OSA/USY? Why?

OPC will be the primary competitive platform for their teams, coaches and referees (including their affiliates) so that the programming formats and calendar can be better coordinated from a player development perspective. OPC programming will also bring the clubs more closely in alignment with US Soccer Development Academy and ECNL standards and recommendations.

We understand the majority of leading clubs will be in the OPC but we also notice some missing. Can you explain?

OPC is not meant for everyone. The goal for these leading Oklahoma clubs is to provide a cutting-edge platform that enhances opportunities for players by unifying the soccer community amongst like-minded clubs around common development standards, philosophies and methods. Interested clubs may apply for membership. Clubs will be selected based on the criteria outlined below.

Is this happening only in Oklahoma or in other parts of the country as well?

Around the country and as close as Texas, there is a trend of like-minded clubs coming together to develop programming sanctioned by US Club Soccer. (View www.usctx.org as an example.) These OPC clubs decided now is the time to be forward thinking and take the lead in unifying the soccer community around a common platform. ([View other Premier Leagues.](#))

What will be the costs?

The costs for the league programming will be comparable to what teams currently pay but with enhanced value-added and professional services as well as expanded opportunities.

What will the league format be like?

Teams will be placed by Clubs' Technical Directors in leagues that make the most sense for their development. Multiple divisions for ALL levels offering a variety of competitions and development tools will be utilized such as Club Player Pass and playing up. The schedule will also be professionally managed by PrimeTime Sports and will minimize weeknight matches, manage around travel time and coach conflicts, and employ a coordinated calendar. OPC is also considering Futsal programming to be integrated into the master calendar.

What about a State Cup and Regional Competition for those that earned it?

OPC will offer a year end State Cup for multiple levels with advancement opportunities to US Club's post season competitions including National Cup/Regional Cup (Team Based) and NPL Playoffs (League Based). More details can be found on www.OKPremierClubs.com when it is launched in May 2017.

How will the OPC leagues be managed?

OPC Leagues will be professionally managed by [PrimeTime Sports](#) offering multiple division leagues for ALL LEVELS OF PLAY. PrimeTime Sports is a leading event sports management company with years of successful experience in the highly competitive Texas market.

- Full time office staff offering quality service for league operations managed by PrimeTime Sports 24/7
- Communication through multiple channels – phone, website, social media, email



Will OPC have an “ODP” program?

ODP will be offered as part of US Club’s ID2/PDP ODP programs.

OPC Scouting Network comprised of coaches from all OPC member clubs will be created where a Player ID process will be implemented as part of the everyday natural environment of the player.



Elite players have the opportunity to be selected for inclusion in US Soccer National Training Centers, US Club’s ID2 ODP Regional/National program and the potential for a Pro Development Academy.

What will the league schedules look like?

The schedule will be planned for the year and will utilize the GotSoccer platform that most people are used to using. Schedules, procedures, policies and play dates will all be posted on www.okpremierclubs.com. OPC will operate under a collaborative Master Calendar. OPC also believes for player development reasons there should be 2-3 quality training sessions per every meaningful game therefore weeknight matches will be minimized.

Will there be promotion and relegation in the leagues?

There will be promotion and relegation between divisions that make sense during the seasonal year. Calibration and resetting will be done at the beginning of each seasonal year as we understand the make-up of teams and associated development objectives can change each year.

Will players/teams be allowed to play up?

Players and teams will be allowed to play up with the decisions coming from each respective Club Technical Director.

This sounds awesome! When will OPC tryouts be scheduled?

NPL and OPC tryouts/signing period for 2017 will be 5/30/17-6/4/17. Check each OPC club’s website for specific tryout information.

Will we still play at our home complex?

OPC Leagues will employ a home-and-away model so your home league matches will continue to be at your home complex. OPC member clubs have control and access to the best and largest home club complexes in Oklahoma. In addition, there are multi-million dollar investments planned or underway at the Norman, Indian Springs, South Lakes, MTsc United and Owasso complexes that will provide significant enhancements for OPC members in the future.

How will this affect our participation in tournaments?

OPC Member hosted tournaments will be sanctioned through US Club Soccer and be completely open and fully insured for all US Youth, USSSA or US Club teams to participate. OPC member teams will continue to have the option of participating in any open sanctioned US Club or US Youth tournament. Another added benefit is that there is no travel permission required for any OPC member teams to participate in any sanctioned tournament or out-of-town event.

What coaching development opportunities will OPC offer?

Coaches will continue to have opportunities to enroll in USSF National License courses. An added benefit will be exclusive coach development initiatives through [US Club's La Liga partnership](#) and other OPC planned coaching courses.

Coaches will also attend a planned **OPC Coaching Symposium** for networking, education sessions with guest coaches, recognition and sharing best practices across OPC.



Will referees be able to get certified and have development opportunities?

Referee certification courses will be offered. Referee assignors will work collectively as a team for OPC programming. Referees may participate in a planned OPC Referee Development Academy offering special courses, assessments, etc. for OPC member referees.

Will the players be covered under insurance?

OPC Member Clubs will be certified through [Players First](#) program through US Club Soccer. Extensive Risk Management process through US Club soccer. Supplement Medical Insurance Coverage covers all programming.



What age groups and levels will the new leagues offer?

League programming will be offered for Boys/Girls U11-U19 with multiple divisions that allow for roster flexibility and "playing up" for development. Clubs will operate around a *coordinated calendar* with proper periodization and year round leagues. (Potential to include U9-10 programming).

Can other clubs join OPC?

OPC is a club-based platform where members must meet certain standards. Interested clubs wishing to become a member may apply. Clubs are selected by the OPC Technical Leadership Board using the following criteria:

- 1) OPC must be their primary competitive platform
- 2) Quality of facilities
- 3) Size of club, quality of Competitive teams and Juniors/Academy programs
- 4) Quality of leadership and coaching staff
- 5) Administrative capabilities
- 6) Club structure, vision and development philosophy
- 7) Geographic consideration
- 8) Impact to existing OPC club members

How does a coach/team apply for OPC?

The tremendous excitement of the OPC will undoubtedly generate a lot of interest from coaches and teams wanting to join. To ensure the level of quality remains high, the OPC will only consider clubs that meet the criteria outlined on www.okpremierclubs.com. *Individual teams or coaches wanting to participate would need to join an OPC member club.*

Can we do both OPC and other leagues?

OPC will be the primary platform for member clubs offering enhanced competition and opportunities in a coordinated annual calendar format with post season qualifying opportunities. Therefore, it would not be feasible or beneficial for a team to try and participate in additional leagues.

Are the OPC member clubs merging?

OPC Member Clubs are collaborating to raise the bar in programming and will continue to explore opportunities on how we can partner further for the benefit of soccer in Oklahoma. Having said that, each club will continue to operate independently as they do today.

Can you tell me more about the organization that will manage the OPC leagues?

Please see PrimeTime Sports (www.primetimesportz.com). PrimeTime has been a leading league management company for years and has demonstrated professional experience in handling highly competitive and complex markets. After a careful review of several companies, OPC selected [PrimeTime Sports](http://www.primetimesportz.com) to operate the league programming which will immediately bring a high level of organization and professionalism to the league.



What happens to the teams participating in SRPL?

There has and continues to be considerable change in the competitive league landscape for elite teams across the country. OPC member clubs have carefully researched the current state and future direction of the USY platforms vs the NPL and determined that the NPL offers the best platform for our players now and into the future.



We are excited to announce that each OPC Member Club has been accepted into the Red River National Premier League (NPL). Clubs will field boys & girls teams in the U13,U14,U15,U16,U17 and U18/19 age groups. The NPL is a national league platform sanctioned by US Club that offers some of the highest level competition in the nation with a qualifying post season playoff format. OPC member clubs believe the NPL offers a higher and better quality of competition, better organization and additional exposure opportunities than the current platform.

Does this have any impact on the clubs' recreational programs?

The scope for the OPC is on the competitive platform. Therefore, there would be no impact in affiliations or programming for each of the respective club's recreational programs for the 2017-18 season.

Looking forward

The coalescence of the state's top clubs and leaders under one banner, the creation of a platform that empowers and encourages diverse thought, ideas and vision, and the support of and respect for grass roots leaders reflected in every aspect of the league's structure and governance will create a better environment for change, growth and success. The creation of this platform for ALL levels of competitive soccer makes it even more powerful.

We are excited about the future, and we are thankful for the opportunities that we have before us. Thanks to all the players, parents, coaches, referees, volunteers and supporters for your vision and courage, to stand by us as we work toward taking the steps necessary for the benefit of the next generation of the game!

