



ELITE CLUBS NATIONAL LEAGUE GIRLS

New Membership Application

ECNL GIRLS NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICATION PROCEDURES.

Any soccer club applying for membership in the Elite Clubs National League Girls ("ECNL Girls") or the Elite Clubs National League Girls Regional League ("ECNL Girls Regional League") must complete this entire membership application within all required deadlines. Each club applying for membership should carefully review the "Requirements for Membership" to ensure that the club is willing and able to adhere to all of the requirements for membership.

One completed application is to be submitted electronically to ECNL Girls Commissioner Ralph Richards at ralph@theecnlgirls.com and Senior Member Services Manager, Kristin Brunner at kristin@theecnlgirls.com.

APPLICATION FEES.

If your club is applying for membership in the ECNL Girls for the first time, you must submit a non-refundable application processing fee of \$100.00 made payable to the **Girls Elite Clubs National League, Inc.** with your completed application. Your application will not be considered without this fee.

Application fee must be submitted to ECNL Girls Commissioner Ralph Richards:

Elite Clubs National League, Inc. - Girls
Attention: Ralph Richards
9830 Mayland Dr, Suite J
Henrico, VA 23233

If your club previously submitted an application and non-refundable application fee, there is no need to submit an additional application fee.

APPLICATION TIMELINE.

The ECNL Girls New Membership application and notification process is on a rolling basis. The ECNL will review the application and inform the applicant of its decision following an internal review process.

If your club has previously applied, please submit an updated application along with any additional materials to best describe the current state of your club. All updates should be emailed to the ECNL Girls Commissioner, Ralph Richards and Senior Member Services Manager, Kristin Brunner (contact information noted above).

Upon acceptance into the ECNL Girls, your Primary Club Contact will receive an email containing the ECNL Girls Membership Agreement as well as ECNL Girls Rules and Regulations. The Club must sign and return the ECNL Girls Membership Agreement, along with the one-time \$500 new member fee to the ECNL by the specified date or your club may lose its invitation to join the ECNL Girls for the specified ECNL season.

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS.

Completed applications will be reviewed by the ECNL Executive Committee based on the following criteria:

1. Club's Player Development Guidelines.
2. Club's History of Youth Player Development.
3. Club's History of Success in Elite Competitions, Tournaments and Leagues.
4. Club's Philosophy.
5. Club's Technical Staff (including licensing level of each staff member).
6. Overall Club Infrastructure.

For questions regarding the application or the application process, please email Ralph Richards at ralph@theecnlgirls.com.



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PLEASE INDICATE THE LEAGUE(S) YOU ARE APPLYING FOR:

(check all that apply)



ECNL Girls



ECNL Girls Regional League

SECTION I. CLUB INFORMATION

A. Basic Club Information.

Name of Club: Steel City FC

Official Club Website: steelcityfc.com

Year Club Founded: 2016

B. Club Contact Information.

Please provide the contact information for the club's point of contact (President, Exec Director, etc.).

Primary Club Contact.

Name: Thomas Ovenden

Title within the Club: Director of Coaching/Majority Owner/Founder

Office /Work
Telephone: 412-874-0377

Cell Phone: 412-874-0377

Email: tommo@steelcityfc.com

Mailing Address: 5272 Carnegie Street

City, State, Zip: Pittsburgh, PA, 15201

Fax Number: N/A

Administrative Club Contact.

Name: Garret Watson

Title within the Club: Administrative Coordinator/U15/16 Phase Leader

Office
/Work
Telephone: 570-380-0632

Cell Phone: 570-380-0632



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Email: garret.watson@steelcityfc.com

Mailing Address: 206 Short Canal Street

City, State, Zip: Pittsburgh, PA, 15215

Fax Number: N/A

Technical Club Contact.

Name: Tom Campbell

Title within the Club: Technical Director

Office
/Work
Telephone: 412-320-1416

Cell Phone: 412-320-1416

Email: tom.campbell@steelcityfc.com

Mailing Address: 1938 Lowrie Street

City, State, Zip: Pittsburgh, PA, 15212

Fax Number: N/A

Please provide a brief description of the responsibilities:

Tom is responsible for developing our Game Model. This is an intricate document that all teams within our club reference when it comes to curriculum, player development, play style, and measured success metrics. He is also responsible for disseminating the information within this model and educating our staff on said information. Tom is constantly updating and developing this document to fit the modern game and ensure every team in our club has a distinct style that any and all can watch and recognize as Steel City FC.



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C. Club Background Information.

Total Number of Girls Competitive Teams (in all age groups): 30

Number of Girls Rec. Teams (in all age groups): N/A

Total Number of Girls Players (in all age groups): 543

Total Number of Full-Time Coaches: 11

Total Number of Part-Time Coaches: 8

D. Club Facility Information.

Number of Fields Owned by the Club: 0

Number of Fields Rented by the Club: 8

Number of Match Quality Fields*: 8

Indicate Surface of Match Quality Fields: Grass: ☒ Yes No If yes, how many: 2

Turf: ☒ Yes No If yes, how many: 6

If your primary match fields are grass, will your club have access to turf fields in the event of inclement weather: ☒ Yes No If yes, how many: 6

Does your club have access to lighted fields: ☒ Yes No If yes, how many: 8

Does your club have access to a full-sized indoor facility to host matches: Yes ☒ No If yes: field dimensions: _____

*Review the 2023-24 ECNL Game Day Minimum Standards available in the Resource Center of www.ecnlgirls.com.

E. Season Information.

What is your primary competitive season (Please provide start and end dates):

Start of Season: November 1st End of Season: July 31st
Month/Day Month/Day

Will your players participate on their high school teams? Yes No

Start of HS Season: August 1st End of HS Season: October 31st
Month/Day Month/Day

*Is it permitted for your players to participate in club soccer (training and matches) during their high school soccer seasons? ☒ Yes No



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G. Club’s Internal Structure. Describe your club’s internal structure. Include the decision makers, soccer decision makers, decision-making process, etc.

Our club works using what we call a Phase Model. Our three phases are Foundation (U9-U12), Youth Development (U13-U14), and College Prep/Performance (U15-U19). Each phase has a ‘Phase Leader’ who is a full time staff member that oversees all coaches and players in his or her phase. Above the Phase Leaders are our Directors of Coaching. For the girls, this is Thomas Ovenden, who is also a majority owner and founder of the club. All final decisions are made by Thomas, however, weekly or biweekly all of the phase leaders meet with him and discuss all processes and procedures both soccer related and otherwise. At the end of the day, we want all of our decisions to be based around our game model and core values which are Dominant, Assertive, and Connected.

SECTION II. COMPETITIVE TEAMS.

A. Coaching and Contact Information.

Director of Coaching (Girls).

Name: Thomas Ovenden

Title within the Club: Director of Coaching/Majority Owner/Founder

Office /Work Telephone: 412-874-0377

Cell Phone: 412-874-0377

Email: tommo@steelcityfc.com

Mailing Address: 5272 Carnegie Street

City, State, Zip: Pittsburgh, PA, 15201

License (List All): UEFA B

Years with Club: 7

Please provide a brief description of the responsibilities:

Thomas works with our Technical Director to develop the curriculum and focus of our training year in order to best accentuate player development. He is also the head coach of our U16 and U19 age groups. Behind the scenes, he works diligently to grow our brand and constantly and consistently increase the level at which our club operates on and off the field.



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B. Current Teams within your Club eligible to join ECNL Girls for 2024-2025.

In order to be considered for acceptance, a club must have existing teams in every ECNL Girls age group. Please list your **current structure**.

U12 (Current)/Future U13 ECNL Applicant

Team Name:	Steel City FC 2012G
Current League(s):	PA West Classic Division 1
• Record (currently)	N/A
• Record and Placement (last full season completed)	2-3-2 (4th)
• Website URL for League	https://www.pawest-soccer.org/about/classicdivision/
Coach:	Peter Mulhern
Current License:	USSF C

Notable Information (such as Tournament Championships, notable matches won, etc):

- 2023 PA West President's Cup Champions
- 2023 WAGs Champions
- 2023 Blue Chip Jrs Champions

U13 (Current)/Future U14 ECNL Applicant

Team Name:	Steel City FC U13G Elite 64
Current League(s):	Elite 64
• Record (currently)	2-1
• Record and Placement (last full season completed)	N/A
• Website URL for League	https://www.usysnationalleague.com/elite-64/
Coach:	Blair Gantz
Current License:	NSCAA Premier

Notable Information (such as Tournament Championships, notable matches won, etc):

- 2023 FC Delco Spirit Kickoff Champions



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U14 (Current)/Future U15 ECNL Applicant

Team Name: Steel City FC U14G Elite 64

Current League(s): Elite 64

- Record (currently) 0-2-1
- Record and Placement (last full season completed) 3-8-2 (7th)
- Website URL for League <https://www.usysnationalleague.com/elite-64/>

Coach: Scott Arnold

Current License: USSF C

Notable Information (such as Tournament Championships, notable matches won, etc): - 2022 WAGs Finalist

U15 (Current)/Future U16 ECNL Applicant

Team Name: Steel City FC 2009G Academy

Current League(s): Elite 64

- Record (currently) N/A
- Record and Placement (last full season completed) 9-2-2 (2nd)
- Website URL for League <https://www.usysnationalleague.com/elite-64/>

Coach: Chris Moraga

Current License: USSF C / National Youth & United Soccer Coaches Premier

Notable Information (such as Tournament Championships, notable matches won, etc): - 2020 WAGs Champion (U12 Black)
- 2021 Jeff Cup Champion (U12 Classic Orange)
- 2021 Pittsburgh Riverhounds Classic Champions
- 2022 PA West State Cup Champions



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U16 (Current)/Future U17 ECNL Applicant

Team Name: Steel City FC 2008G Academy

Current League(s): Elite 64

- Record (currently) N/A
- Record and Placement (last full season completed) 4-4-3 (4th)
- Website URL for League <https://www.usysnationalleague.com/elite-64/>

Coach: Thomas Ovenden

Current License: UEFA B

Notable Information (such as Tournament Championships, notable matches won, etc):

- 1-1 Result vs Pittsburgh Riverhounds ECNL
- 2023 E64 National Quarterfinalist
- 2023 Penn Fusion Bracket Winners
- 2022 Three Rivers Showcase Champions
- 2023 Jeff Cup Finalist

U17 (Current)/Future U18/U19 ECNL Applicant

Team Name: Steel City FC 2007G Academy

Current League(s): Elite 64

- Record (currently) N/A
- Record and Placement (last full season completed) 9-0-5 (1st)
- Website URL for League <https://www.usysnationalleague.com/elite-64/>

Coach: Yon Struble

Current License: USSF A / NSCAA Premier

Notable Information (such as Tournament Championships, notable matches won, etc):

- 2022/23 E64 Great Lakes Conference Champions
- 2022 USYS Eastern Regional Finalist
- 2022 PA West State Cup Champions
- 2023 E64 National Quarterfinalist
- 3-0 Win over Pittsburgh Riverhounds ECNL-RL



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U18/U19 (Current)

Team Name: Steel City FC 2005/06G Academy

Current League(s): Elite 64

- Record (currently) N/A
- Record and Placement (last full season completed) 2-5-5 (6th)
- Website URL for League <https://www.usysnationalleague.com/elite-64/>

Coach: Thomas Ovenden

Current License: UEFA B

Notable Information (such as Tournament Championships, notable matches won, etc):

- 1-1 Result vs Pittsburgh Riverhounds ECNL
- 1-0 Win over Baltimore Celtic GA

In the space below, list any additional information regarding your current teams you feel may be relevant to the application. If you need additional paper, please attach it to the application.

At the U12 age group we still have our players separated by location. The top players from each site come together at the U13 age group. U12 results listed are based on top achievements from all of the different site teams. It is realistic to assume that when all of the top players come together this team will become much higher level.

In the 2022 Elite 64 standings we will be listed as Pittsburgh Hotspurs as we just rebranded to Steel City FC this year.

The majority of the girls in our U19 age group are 2005s. This leads to the data being a bit skewed as they competed on our U19 team last year as well. That team went 11-1-2 finishing as Great Lakes Conference champions. Along with this, they were the National runner-up at the E64 National Finals.



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SECTION III. PLAYER DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

A. National Team Players

Please list any female Youth and Full National Team Players (United States or other countries) that have played at your club, including the years they participated on your club’s teams:

Last Name	First Name	National Team	Years

* Please include any additional players on a separate sheet of paper.

B. Other Notable Players

Please list other notable female players to have played for your club. Please list the years in which they played for your club’s teams and the highest level they played upon leaving your club (College, National Team, Professional etc.)

Last Name	First Name	Highest Level	Years
Veltri	Dixon	GREI KVINNER ELITE (Greece)	2
Killinger	Kaitlyn	University of Pittsburgh	Freshman
Simqu	Kaley	University of Pittsburgh	Freshman
Cooper	Emily	University of Pittsburgh	Sophomore
DeCerb	Sofia	James Madison University	Freshman
Folino	Gabi	Northern Kentucky University	Freshman
Pritts	McKenzie	Robert Morris University	Freshman
Jesih	Madi	Robert Morris University	Freshman
Collins	Cameron	St. Francis University (PA)	Freshman
Ulizzi	Saveria	Carnegie Mellon University	Freshman
Bianco	Audrey	Carnegie Mellon University	Freshman
Price	Lindsey	Slippery Rock University	Freshman
Burns	Allison	Slippery Rock University	Freshman
Kost	Morgan	West Liberty University	Junior
Lagerquist	Britta	Grove City College	Junior

* Please include any additional players on a separate sheet of paper.

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SECTION IV. OTHER NOTABLE CLUB INFORMATION

Please provide any additional information regarding your club that you feel is relevant to the application process (You may use additional paper if need be and include images, attachments, etc).

We will be attaching a web page to our application that you can reference in regards to this prompt. We appreciate your consideration and are excited for the potential opportunity to participate.

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SECTION V. BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following criteria are the minimum requirements expected of all members of the Elite Clubs National League Girls. The ECNL recommends all applicants review all current ECNL Girls rules and regulations, which are available in the ECNL Girls “Resource” tab (online).

A. Teams. Each ECNL Girls Member Club is required to enter the club’s top team at each of the U13, U14, U15, U16, U17 and U18/U19 age groups in all mandated ECNL Girls competitions. The precise competition structure is subject to change by the ECNL Executive Committee prior to each season.

B. Competitions.

- i. Each U13 ECNL Girls team must participate in all scheduled ECNL Conference Competition, and the ECNL National Championship Series (Playoffs and Final). It is optional to participate in a U13 Showcase Event.
- ii. Each U14 ECNL Girls team must participate in all scheduled ECNL Conference Competition, and the ECNL National Championship Series (Playoffs and Final). It is optional to participate in a U14 Showcase Event.
- iii. Each U15 ECNL Girls team must participate in one (1) ECNL Girls National Event, all scheduled ECNL Girls Conference Competition, and the ECNL Girls National Championship Series (Playoffs and Final).
- iv. Each U16 and U17 ECNL Girls team must participate in two (3) ECNL Girls National Events all scheduled ECNL Girls Conference Competition, and the ECNL Girls National Championship Series (Playoffs and Final).
- v. Each U18/U19 ECNL Girls team must participate in one (1) ECNL Girls National Event, all scheduled ECNL Girls Conference Competition, and a single-stage ECNL Postseason.

C. Standards and Guidelines. Each ECNL Girls Member Club must follow the Member Club Standards and Guidelines set forth by the ECNL and all ECNL Girls policies, rules, and regulations.



Check here only if you intend to register your club’s top players and teams for ECNL, if accepted.



Check here if, based upon acceptance into ECNL, your club would have interest in registering ‘second teams’ into ECNL Regional League

D. Fees.

- i. **One-time Acceptance Fee:** If accepted, each new ECNL Girls Member Club is required to provide a \$500 one-time initial acceptance fee by the date set forth in your acceptance letter (The application fee for your club will be credited towards this amount).
- ii. **Annual League Fee:** The ECNL Executive Committee establishes an annual fee for membership in the ECNL Girls. The annual league fee covers the cost of administering the ECNL Girls, costs of the ECNL Girls National Event Series, the National Championship Series and costs of the ECNL Girls Player Identification Program. For reference, in the 2023-2024 ECNL Season, the annual membership fee was \$4,500 per ECNL Girls Club.
- iii. **ECNL National Event Fees.** In 2023-2024, the ECNL National Event Fees was \$1,600 per team, per event. There is no additional fee for the National Championship Series, which includes the ECNL Girls National Playoffs and the ECNL Girls Final.

E. Completion of ECNL Season. All ECNL Girls teams are required to participate in the entire ECNL Girls Season. Should any team in the ECNL Girls Member Club fail to complete their schedule, the club may lose its membership in the ECNL.

F. Guidelines, Policies, Rules & Regulations. All ECNL Girls teams must abide by the ECNL Girls rules and regulations.

