



## **BOYS & GIRLS ECNL AGREE TO HOST NATIONAL YOUTH SOCCER EVENTS IN SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA THROUGH 2023**

For Immediate Release

SANFORD, FL (July 31, 2019) – The Greater Orlando Sports Commission, Orlando North Seminole County, Orlando City Youth Soccer, and the Boys and Girls Elite Clubs National League (ECNL) announced today that a new multi-year agreement has been signed for the Boys and Girls ECNL Florida National Events to remain in Seminole County from 2020-2023.

Boys ECNL Florida is returning for the third time from December 28-30, 2019 and Girls ECNL Florida for the tenth time from January 10-12, 2020. Together both events are expected to showcase over 350 youth soccer teams, 7,000 participants, and draw hundreds of college coaches and spectators from across the United States.

“With all the excitement generated by the 2019 MLS All-Star Game here in Greater Orlando this evening, we couldn’t think of a better time to announce the continuation of our longstanding partnership with the Boys and Girls ECNL,” said Jason Siegel, CEO of the Greater Orlando Sports Commission. “Thank you to Seminole County, Orlando City Youth Soccer, the Florida Sports Foundation, and to our local hoteliers and tourism community for their support as we continue to position our region as the preferred destination for premier soccer events.”

“On behalf of the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners, it is our pleasure to welcome the Boys and Girls Elite Clubs National League back to our county for three more years,” said Seminole County Chairman Brenda Carey. “The partnership with the Boys and Girls ECNL, the Greater Orlando Sports Commission, and Orlando City Youth Soccer means a great deal to Seminole, as these two events generate over 5,000 room nights and more than \$4 million in economic impact for local businesses. The eyes of college coaches, fans of youth soccer, and soccer fans in general will once again turn their attention to the ECNL and Seminole County to spot the rising stars in youth soccer.”

ECNL Commissioner Jen Winnagle adds “The ECNL is excited to extend our strong partnership with Seminole County to bring the Boys and Girls ECNL National Events back to Sanford, Florida. Seminole County is a great destination for both playing and traveling for our member clubs and families. Orlando North Seminole County, the Greater Orlando Sports Commission and Orlando City Youth Soccer help to make this a great experience for players, coaches and fans, and with their support we truly look forward to hosting future events.”

For more information, contact Shalisa Griffin at 407-515-6559 or [sgriffin@greaterorlandosports.com](mailto:sgriffin@greaterorlandosports.com).

### **About Greater Orlando Sports Commission:**

GO Sports is a private, non-profit organization established to attract and manage sports-related events, conferences and activities that drive positive economic development in the City of Orlando, Lake County, Orange County, Osceola County, and Seminole County. Founded in 1993, the organization has hosted or co-hosted more than 1,300 events in the Greater Orlando area with a total economic impact exceeding \$1.4 billion in spending within the community. For more information, please visit [www.GreaterOrlandoSports.com](http://www.GreaterOrlandoSports.com).

--more--

**About Orlando North, Seminole County:**

A short drive from all the major attractions of Central Florida and home to Orlando Sanford International Airport, Orlando North, Seminole County offers first-rate accommodations for less, varied meeting & event venues, and diverse dining and shopping in its charming communities. Known as “Orlando’s Natural Oasis,” the destination offers visitors a wide array of thrilling outdoor activities from an aerial adventure course with Zip Lining to paddling alongside manatees in clear freshwater springs and rivers. Long known as an exciting and affordable meetings/groups destination, Orlando North also offers an array of sports and training facilities, including the new 102-acre Seminole County Sports Complex. For destination information call 1-800-800-7832 or 407-665-2900 or visit [www.PlayOrlandoNorth.com](http://www.PlayOrlandoNorth.com).

**About Orlando City Youth Soccer:**

Orlando City Youth Soccer (OCYS) is a Youth affiliate of the MLS Sports Franchise, Orlando City Soccer Club (OCSC). The Youth club is a not-for-profit organization with over 2,000 members and families operating since 2012. OCYS hosts national events and tournaments with over 25,000 annual visitors. In addition, the Club operates leagues and teams and provides soccer programming for ages 4-18 from community to national level. OCYS owns Seminole Soccer Complex, a 40-acre soccer facility with 10 fields and a 1,200-seat stadium. For more information, please visit [www.OCYouthSoccer.com](http://www.OCYouthSoccer.com).

**About Boys Elite Clubs National League:**

Boys Elite Clubs National League (Boys ECNL) was founded to provide a top class, club-based development, training, and competition platform for youth male soccer players in the United States. The mission of the Boys ECNL is to improve the landscape for players in the United States through innovative, player-centered programming that raises standards of quality and improves the player experience in all aspects of the game. The Boys ECNL is sanctioned by US Club Soccer and is sponsored by PUMA North America. For more information, please visit [www.BoysECNL.com](http://www.BoysECNL.com).

**About Girls Elite Clubs National League:**

The Girls Elite Clubs National League (Girls ECNL) was founded in 2009 to enhance the developmental experience of female youth soccer players in the United States through: (i) improving the competitive environment through the creation of a true national competitive league; (ii) improving the process for identifying elite female soccer players through a systematic scouting and identification program based on national competitions; and (iii) improving the daily training environment at top female youth soccer clubs through developing best practices and training and organizational guidelines for its member clubs. The ECNL is sanctioned by US Club Soccer and is sponsored by Nike Soccer. For more information, please visit [www.TheECNL.com](http://www.TheECNL.com).

###