



## **FAQ's: Frequently Asked Questions about BRYC Elite Academy & ECNL**

### **1. What does move to ECNL mean for the Club?**

*It affords us the opportunity to continue our club centric model in a more competitive development environment while enabling both genders to compete in the same league.*

### **2. What does move to ECNL mean for our Players?**

*It will offer a stronger competition model for player development while offering a proven college track path.*

### **3. Will the club training program/philosophy change after joining ECNL?**

*No, our training program and philosophy is unchanged.*

### **4. Does the move to ECNL impose greater time commitment, such as more practice sessions per week?**

*No, our development model is unchanged.*

### **5. Will BRYC continue the "play-up" policy or will players be rostered with their age-appropriate team?**

*This depends on each player's development track as well as our competition schedule. We want to offer the best development model possible for each player.*

### **6. When will we officially become an ECNL Club?**

*August 1<sup>st</sup> 2017; it will be business as usual in the spring with our U9-U19 teams competing in CCL and CCL II play, our U12-U14 teams competing in State Cup, and teams competing in the Eastern Regional League.*

### **7. What age groups will participate in the ECNL? Pre-ECNL?**

*ECNL in its current form is U14-U19; U13 is considered Pre-ECNL but it is likely that the U13s will participate in ECNL Conference Play in 2017-2018. The Directors of Coaching will work together to make the decision on the U13s.*

### **8. What is the difference between the ECNL and the Pre-ECNL?**

*ECNL was considered U15-U18 at its inception because those were the age groups where showcasing was prominent. Pre-ECNL, also referred to as ECNL Jr's, was the label reserved for the U13 & U14 age groups.*

*As stated above, ECNL today is U14-U19 with the decision to expand to U13 for the 2017-2018 seasonal year being made in the next month or two.*

### **9. What league will younger teams participate?**

*There is a good chance the U13s will be part of the ECNL Conference schedule. We have progressive plans for our U9-U12 age groups which will be shared at the Town Hall meeting.*

**10. Will the club field non-ECNL teams? If so, does that apply to every age levels? If so, in what league(s) would they compete?**

*We will have 1 team (or player pool) per age group in the ECNL age ranges (U13-U19). We are looking to "grandfather" current BLUE teams. This is still under review and will be announced before the end March.*

**11. What Conference will BRYC be part of in ECNL?**

*The girls will be part of the Mid-Atlantic Division. The boys will be part of the Northeast Division.*

**12. How many boys' clubs have committed to the ECNL for 2017-2018?**

*There are 42 member clubs committed to Boys ECNL for the 2017-2018 seasonal year. The list of clubs can be found @ <http://www.boysecnl.com/member-clubs/>.*

**13. How many games will the regular season/playoffs include?**

*The number of conference matches for the Girls ECNL will be 14. The number of conference matches in the inaugural Boys ECNL season will be between 14-16. Events are over and above this total and the # of event is based on age group. Boys ECNL just recently confirmed its first event, ECNL Florida.*

*More information on events and conference schedules will be discussed at the Town Hall Meeting.*

**14. When will the season start and end (Sept – May)?**

*The ECNL season is a 10-month season. It will start as early as late August and could run through June, early July if an age group makes it to the playoffs and/or national finals. Half of our Conference matches will be home matches.*

**15. How many showcase events/tournaments will the teams play in next year in addition to the league play?**

*The Directors of Coaching will collaborate with the staff to build out the full-year schedule including participation in events outside of required ECNL activities.*

**16. What kind of travel will be required as an ECNL team?**

*There will be travel for league play as well as events. The amount of travel is dependent on the age group. We will share additional information at the Town Hall.*

**17. What happened with the GDA?**

*We could not come to an agreement with the Spirit that we felt was a positive path for the future of the club.*

**18. Will we still play in the CCL in 2017-2018?**

*No, we will not continue with CCL because we are unable to put our top teams into the league. We will be leaving CCL in good-standing.*

**19. What are the primary differences between ECNL and CCL?**

*ECNL is a National League – CCL is a local league.*

**20. Will the club participate in State Cup, or play in the Eastern Regional League?**

*No, conference schedules, showcase events, and playoffs within ECNL conflict with some of the USYS events so our teams will not participate in State Cup or Eastern Region League*

**21. When will the ECNL coaches be named for each age group?**

*Coaching assignments will be announced no later than the end of March.*

**22. When will tryouts take place?**

*We will announce ID Days beginning in March.*

**23. Will tryouts be a traditional 2-3 day event or a rolling tryout through the spring season?**

*We will have rolling ID Days beginning in March. We also will host formal tryout processes for our pre-ECNL age groups (U9-U13).*

**24. Will tryouts occur early enough for players to find another club if they do not make the BRYC ECNL team?**

Yes

**25. What are the anticipated club and team fees?**

*Club fees are still under review. The club was already evaluating a fee increase prior to the decision to join the ECNL. There have been fee increases imposed on the BRYC Elite Academy over the past year by several organizations including but not limited to, the Fairfax County Athletic Council and our Youth Club. There have also been increases in our facility costs.*

*Team fees will be determined once we the full year schedule for 2017-2018 has been completed.*

**26. Can you compare our costs to other local ECNL clubs (McLean, Bethesda, FCV, MD United)?**

*We will share a cost comparison at the Town Hall Meeting. We will not limit the comparison to ECNL clubs. We will include CCL clubs as well.*

**27. Will ECNL fees include a club wide off season training program, or will that remain with each age group?**

*Club fees cover a 10-month program plus a Summer Training Center (STC). The club is revamping the STCs to offer more free-play run over a period of weeks versus a single week.*

**28. Does ECNL allow BRYC to pursue sponsorships to help offset costs?**

*Yes; the club will be forming a Capital Committee to coordinate and govern fundraising efforts. The club will centrally manage these efforts so we don't compromise our leverage with current and potential partners/sponsors.*

*Our vision is to work toward a model where travel costs for ECNL events are covered from money raised or secured by the Capital Committee.*

**29. If so, can individual teams pursue sponsorship or will this be managed by the club?**

*This will be defined and governed by the Capital Committee. The objective is to manage sponsorship and fundraising centrally and not by individual teams.*

**30. Does the move to ECNL affect BRYC's contract with Nike? Or will we retain the uniforms for next year?**

*We will continue with Nike through 2019.*

**31. Will players be allowed to participate in high school soccer, or will the club restrict what games, tournaments, and showcases players who choose to play high school soccer can participate in?**

*The decision to play HS still comes down to a player's goals & objectives.*

*The ECNL has made strides to support HS Soccer by aligning clubs with similar HS seasons in the same conference. There will be less direct conflicts with HS Soccer as a member of ECNL.*

*When there are conflicts our approach will continue to be based on a "Health Conscious" approach to player development. We will continue to protect our players based on the individual's periodization plan and the collective needs of the age group.*