

## City FC Accepted into National Premier Leagues

Press Release: Dallas, TX September, 2014



The [South Central Premier League \(SCPL\)](#), part of US Club Soccer's [National Premier Leagues \(NPL\)](#), has announced that DFW based City FC will be added to the league schedules starting the 2014/15 season.

The **South Central Premier League** was the 19<sup>th</sup> Academy league in US Club Soccer's National Premier Leagues (NPL) when it began play in the Fall of 2013. The South Central Premier League started in 2013 with six clubs from Oklahoma and Texas. This season 8 clubs are set to compete in the U-13 through U-18 boys and girl's age groups:

***Blitz United SC (Okla.)***  
***Dynamos SC (Texas)***  
***Eclipse SC (Texas)***  
***City FC (Texas)***

***Houston Express SC (Texas)***  
***Liverpool FC America (Texas)***  
***Space City FC (Texas)***  
***Oklahoma FC (Okla.)***



Teams play each other on a "home and away" basis. Teams ending in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place of each division will qualify for the NPL Champions Cup, where they will compete against teams in a "National Champions league type" competition.

"This will be an amazing opportunity for our elite boys and girls to continue their playing and personal development at higher competition levels!" says City FC's NPL League representative, Paul Gallagher.

City FC is an affiliation of local youth soccer clubs based across the Dallas Fort Worth region, representing different areas of the metroplex. Founding clubs include Kernow Storm FC (represented at City FC by Antony Penna), Mustangs FC (Carl Bussey), Odyssey SC (Paul Gallagher), Texas Spirit & Sporting FC (Quen Willis) & Triumph FC (Richard Smith).

Richard Smith notes "This gives our clubs the catalyst to continue our players long-term development past U13 rather than lose players looking for more competitive development options. Players can now continue their growth in the club that they became emotionally attached to – usually the local club!"

City FC affiliated clubs will still continue to represent well in local leagues including Premier League West, Boys Classic League, Lake Highlands Girls Classic League, Plano Premiere League and Arlington Premier league. Quen Willis states, "Our clubs will continue to support and further grow our relationship with these local leagues. We value our relationship with these leagues and will further strengthen these ties".

"The NPL will provide excellent exposure and future opportunities for our top players, and will continue to develop our players for higher competition in the NPL South Central League. Working together and developing our best talent across our clubs will ensure we can offer something different in all areas of the Metroplex" said Carl Bussey

Players in the South Central Premier League will also enjoy multiple avenues to be scouted for inclusion in U.S. Soccer's national team program, via US Club Soccer's [id<sup>2</sup> Program](#) and [Player Development Programs \(PDPs\)](#), which are regionally, based identification and development programs centered around NPL's.

"The creation of City FC also allows a pathway for other players & teams with limited growth opportunities a chance to compete at a higher level with the option of joining up with City FC for Academy League play!" says Antony Penna.

Contact Paul or Antony for more information - details can be found on our website [www.cityfcacademy.com](http://www.cityfcacademy.com).





What does it mean for our clubs to be an affiliate of City FC?

By gaining the NPL league affiliation, our clubs can now give players a more advanced, long term development plan and route to elite level play and competition, through combining talent across our clubs player pool. Each club will continue to operate under their own identity within the established regular local league play. Players wishing to explore the opportunity of playing on an elite team may do so in addition to their regular team's activities by way of a Talent ID Elite player camp. These elite club teams will be identified as City FC.

The five founding clubs have become affiliated partners of City FC:

- Kernow Storm FC – Antony Penna (Current Office for City FC)
- Mustangs FC – Carl Bussey
- Odyssey SC – Paul Gallagher (NPL League Rep for City FC)
- Texas Spirit & Sporting FC – Quen Willis
- Triumph FC – Richard Smith

Each Owner/Club Director will represent that clubs demographic for City FC, allowing players in their area to be better served.

Some of the advantages of the clubs being affiliated with City FC include;

- Increasing the talent pool for elite level play.
- All coaches would stay with their own clubs allowing City FC to profit from some of the best coaches in North Texas.
- A fairer selection process when forming Elite NPL teams as players will be assessed yearlong at regular NTSSA league play and affiliate team practices.
- Affiliated clubs will continue to operate as independent clubs, affiliate club budgets are set by that affiliate club, in their area, for their club and are not used to cover regional directors, offices, facilities, marketing etc. associated with being one big club.
- Recognizing a players desire to remain connected with local club / teams / friends / etc.

The NPL league games and City FC training sessions will be in addition to a player's regular club team league fixtures. Players are allowed to participate in High school soccer while on a City FC roster.

There will be an additional player fee to play at the elite level to cover costs such as:

- Player registration with US Club Soccer
- Team League Fees
- Referee fees
- Practice field rental
- Uniform fees
- Coaching Costs

This season team costs and expenses are being subsidized by the affiliated City FC clubs. We will over time concentrate efforts on sponsorship and marketing to offset the cost of playing on an elite City FC NPL team even more.

Visit [CITYFCACADEMY.COM](http://CITYFCACADEMY.COM) for more information

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Can I still play for my regular club team?**
  - Absolutely! If you are a playing member of one of our affiliated clubs Storm FC, Odyssey SC, Mustangs FC, TX Spirit or Triumph FC - you will have your regular team practice sessions, play your regular league games and tournaments with them! City FC academy activities run alongside your local team program.
- **Can I be considered for a City FC team if I am not a member of one of their affiliated clubs?**
  - If you are not with any of the affiliated clubs, you will be allowed to attend the Elite iD player camp. If you are not currently on a US Club roster you can play on a City FC roster if chosen by the Coaching staff. Non affiliate member fees will apply.
- **How much will it cost?**
  - There will be an additional cost to play for an NPL elite team, covering league fees, practice facilities and more. Each affiliated club helps subsidize these costs but it can't cover it all. We estimate the cost to be approximately \$325.00 per player for the year, excluding uniforms. For affiliated members attending the selection iD Camp - there will be a \$50.00 fee. Non-affiliated players fees will apply.
- **Time Commitment?**
  - Outside of your regular local team program - players playing on the NPL teams will have weekly training sessions on Sundays. The time on Sundays will be determined by the City FC team coach. The SCPL schedules are currently being finalized. We will have 5 game weekends with 2 being travel weekends (Houston & OK), Saturday night stay. Teams in NPL finishing first or second will represent the club at national level tournament in July.
- **Do I have to buy a new uniform?**
  - There will be a new uniform for the City FC teams. We aim to keep this cost effective while still having an elite look. We will publish the uniform and price once we have these confirmed.
- **How Much travel is there?**
  - There will be two travel weekends, consisting of one game on Saturday and one game on Sunday. The destinations would be Houston (once), Oklahoma (once) with three local DFW based weekends.
- **Practice locations?**
  - The practice location will be as central as possible. If a local club team is selected (in it's entirety) to represent City FC this team would probably choose to utilize their regular practice location and times as their NPL practices. Teams created from multiple clubs will have a more central location for practice and will practice on Sundays. Team iD camps will be at Triumph FC fields. Other locations may also be confirmed.
- **Who will be coaching?**
  - City FC wants to create a fair opportunity for all players to be selected to one of our NPL teams or development reserve squads. To fulfill this, affiliate clubs will nominate coaches of acceptable qualifications and experience to head coach a team. Each team will be appointed a coach and assistant by City FC Directors. City FC benefits from having some of the most highly regarded coaches in Dallas/Fort Worth region working with our players. Final staff decisions will be announced at the "Player iD sessions".
- **Where will our "Home Games" be played?**
  - We will confirm by end of September, but we anticipate the use of Keller Sports Park.
- **What age groups will NPL teams form?**
  - The age groups will be boys and girls U13-U18
  - Players will be qualified for the age bracket by US Youth Soccer Age chart (1 August- 31<sup>st</sup> July)
  - Each squad can select up to 26 players in an age group. The roster size will be left up to the City FC's coaches decision
- **Is there a cap on how many players from each affiliate club could get selected?**
  - No, it will be the coach's decision based on best available players to fill the roster irrelevant of the club they play for. Coaches will look for balance and talent - we cannot have 26 attacking strikers!
- **When do the iD sessions begin?**
  - Player iD sessions begin on Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup>. Sessions will take place at the Triumph FC complex in Lewisville.
- **Does a player just show up on the 14<sup>th</sup>?**
  - All players must register for the iD sessions on the City FC website. Players will select a shirt size at registration.
  - Visit [CITYFCACADEMY.COM](http://CITYFCACADEMY.COM) for more information