

FC Pride Soccer Club Joins the NPSL

The National Premier Soccer League (NPSL), the first and only men's league designated by USASA as a Tier 1 national league, is proud to announce that FC Pride Soccer Club has joined the league as an expansion team. The club will begin play in 2025.

"The NPSL is excited to announce FC Pride as the first expansion team for the 2025 season," NPSL Managing Director Cindy Spera said. "FC Pride is a leader in the youth soccer space, and we have high expectations for them both on and off the field. We are looking forward to growing our brand and the beautiful game in Indiana with their help."

FC Pride is committed to providing developmentally appropriate environments for all levels of players. Their experienced and nationally certified professional staff ensures that each club player receives appropriate instruction, quality leadership, and exposure to valuable life lessons.

FC Pride was established in 2001 to provide premier soccer to boys and girls of all ages. Their club teams participate in an intense training program and a rigorous league schedule which is complemented by prestigious tournament play and college showcases. Their travel program ensures a structured, challenging, and fun environment for players who wish to learn the game of soccer while competing at any desired level.

FC Pride is located in Lawrence, Indiana with 21 fields at Lawrence Soccer Complex. Five miles from their grass fields is their indoor facility and state-of-the-art Pride Performance Center.

The club's leadership includes President Dan Kurowski, Vice President/Head of Sponsorship and Marketing Shannon Coleman, and Executive Director of Coaching/Head Coach Jamie Gilbert.

Kurowski has been involved with youth soccer for the last 18 years as a parent, coach, team manager, and administrator. Professionally, he is a principal supervisor for a large financial institution in Indianapolis.

Coleman has sports marketing experience with the Kansas City Blades, Colorado Springs Sky Sox, United States Team Tennis, and the Kansas City Royals.

Gilbert is in his 14th year with FC Pride. He started as a staff coach and within a year became the Senior Girls Director. Two years later, Gilbert was named Girls Director of Coaching, and he became the Executive Director of Coaching for FC Pride in July 2015.

Since joining FC Pride, Gilbert has won multiple ECNL conference championships and took the 2004 ECNL Girls to the ECNL Final Four in 2019. Under his guidance, the WPSL team have secured a second place finish and five top three finishes in their WPSL conference. In addition, Gilbert has earned a reputation for helping players move from FC Pride into college programs. Seven players have even progressed from the WPSL team to play professional women's soccer.

"After doing our due diligence we saw a number of shared values between FC Pride and the NPSL," Gilbert said. "We have been looking for the right league for our men's program to compete in, and we feel that the professionalism and standard of competition fits our objectives."

Fans and supporters can visit <u>www.fcpride.org</u> or follow the team on Facebook (<u>@fcpridesoccerclub</u>), Instagram (<u>@fcpridesoccerclub</u>), and Twitter (<u>@fcpridesoccer</u>).

"FC Pride Soccer Club aims to be a highly competitive club within the NPSL," Gilbert said. "We strive to be a leader within our conference and provide a platform for our players to grow, compete, and develop within the framework of the NPSL."

More information about expansion opportunities in the NPSL can be found at <u>npsl.com/expansion</u>.