



Dear Sporting California USA membership,

I am writing to provide further details on an important annual club event: **The Sporting California USA Elite Clubs Regional League (ECRL) Challenge.**

Sporting California has a long-standing background to field the highest caliber and most competitive teams possible in regional league play. We view the prestigious ECRL league as an opportunity to test ourselves against top talent and showcase the excellence of our club program.

In keeping with this philosophy, we are proud to host our first **ECRL Challenge** annual event. This intra-club competition puts our top teams against one another, serving as an opportunity for Sporting California squads to challenge for the honor of representing the club in the ECRL next season.

The Challenge enables all our teams ranging in the birth years between—the youngest at 2012 to the oldest age groups of 2006—to demonstrate they meet the speed, physicality, and quality demanded by the ECRL. By focusing inward rather than allowing outside teams to apply, we retain full control and discretion over which squads ultimately earn the privilege of wearing Sporting California colors in regional action.

This event will become a cornerstone of our club culture. It maintains the competitive spirit and high-performance standards we set across every one of our teams from the developmental stages to the college preparatory levels. The ECRL Challenge also incentivizes skill development and gives players more than ever before a chance to test themselves against elite talent within our own club ecosystem.

In summary, we proudly welcome what will be an annual tradition as it allows Sporting California to align intra-club competitiveness with our long-term vision for elite regional league representation. We expect the Challenge to only grow in scale and intensity in years to come.

Please let me know if you have any other questions!

Best regards,
PJ Brown
Sporting California USA



**IS YOUR TEAM READY FOR THE CHALLENGE?
DOES YOUR TEAM HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE THE 2024-2025 SPORTING CA USA
ECRL TEAM?**

Now accepting Applications for The ECRL Challenge!

Sporting California USA is giving all boys and girls current club members the chance to earn the title of Sporting CA USA ECRL representative for the 2024-2025 season. Each year, teams will have the opportunity to represent Sporting California in this prestigious league. Teams will compete in a round robin style challenge and the winner gets the opportunity to "CHALLENGE" the current club ECRL representative in a championship match. The winner will then become the official club representative for the 2024-2025 season. All ECRL spots will be up for "CHALLENGE" each year.

Note: Current ECRL Teams do NOT have to submit an application for the challenge

What is ECRL?

ECRL stands for **Elite Club Regional League**. It's a regional youth soccer league for boys and girls, first piloted in 2018 and then expanded, which is managed and operated by the ECNL. The demand for a training environment for more players in different geographic locations resulted in the creation of the ECRL. The biggest difference between ECNL and ECRL is that ECRL is limited to playing teams in their region, whereas ECNL teams play nationally.

The ECNL Regional League (ECNL Regional League) was founded to improve the daily environment for boy's youth soccer players through a collaborative club-based development program featuring competition, player identification, and coaching and club development platforms. Both leagues are competitive and have intense selection processes, so players can't go wrong with either option. ECNL and ECRL playing structures operate quite similarly with year round seasons and top level tournaments, including the Open Cup where the ECRL has the opportunity to compete against ECNL teams. If you and your child's goal is to eventually play for a team within the ECNL, the ECRL can be a good avenue to get visibility, play competitively, and receive quality training.

Eligibility Requirements

1. All players must currently be registered with Sporting California US OR have completed and uploaded all registration paperwork for the 2024-2025 season and made their first payment installment.
2. Each player must officially be registered through GotSport with the team to participate.



3. Each team must pay a refundable deposit of \$1000 to hold your ECRL spot. **PLEASE NOTE:** Deposit will be kept if the team wins the challenge and decides not to partake for any reasons OR pulls out of a scheduled challenge match. (See below for deposit instructions)
4. Each team must provide proof of state cup roster or ECRL game day roster.
5. Team Brag Sheet: an excel document that includes the team's victories, results, achievements to be considered for eligibility. The team must have notable past year accomplishments to be considered for the challenge. Include any ODP regional and national players on the roster.
6. The Team must agree to and sign the 2024-2025 ECRL Budget. Please reach out to Pjbrown@sportingca.us for the copy of the ECRL budget contract.
7. Each team must agree to and sign the coaches code of conduct. Please see below for agreement.
8. Each team must agree to the ECRL guidelines.

Checklist of Items you need to register for the Challenge

- \$1000 refundable deposit paid to Sporting CA UA through Venmo
- Proof of state cup roster or ECRL game day roster
- Team Brag Sheet
- Agree to ECRL budget, coaches code of conduct and ECRL Guidelines

Deposit Instruction

- Please Venmo the required deposit of \$1000 to @sportingcainc no later than March 15th at 11:59 pm
- No exceptions for late payments.
- Any teams that have not made the deposit by the deadline, will be removed from the challenge.
- Please include team name in the deposit notes

Competition Timeline

March 1-15th; Application window open

March 15th: Application deadline. Window closes at 11:59pm. No exceptions.

Games begin: April 1-April 15th

RL Championship Game: TBD

More info will be emailed to you upon challenge application acceptance.