



**Is change needed in your community? *Developing club leagues:
How to successfully launch a club league in your area***

**Thurs., Jan. 15, 2009 | 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.
Convention Center Room 274**

Summary:

Developing a youth soccer league can be a daunting task with monumental challenges. However, US Club Soccer has assembled a panel of the best and brightest soccer minds in the country who have organized and managed some of the most successful youth soccer leagues in the United States. By utilizing the experience and talents of this unique group, US Club Soccer hopes to provide the necessary tools and information to help support those people and organizations planning to develop a league in their area.

While some of the obstacles will be unique to individual areas, many issues faced will be common to everyone planning to launch a club soccer league. This panel discussion will help attendees to better understand those challenges, as well as provide a blueprint for budding leagues to emulate. The format is designed to maximize interaction between panelists and audience.

Panel Biographies:

John Borozzi, *US Club Soccer's Director of Member Services* [Moderator]

A former professional player in the NASL and MISL, Borozzi has over 25 years of soccer experience in various positions at both the professional and youth level.

Peter Richardson, *President of the Northern Illinois Soccer League*

Richardson has over 30 years of experience running the NISL, which he founded in 1975. His innovative and progressive strategies have grown the NISL into one of the most competitive leagues in the country.

Mike Sweeney, *President and Director of Cleveland Whitecaps*

Sweeney founded the Cleveland Whitecaps in 1996, two years after retiring from professional play. The FIFA-licensed coach, who is also an id2 scout, has over 100 caps for the Canadian National Team, including appearances in the 1984 Olympics and 1986 World Cup.

Ben Ziemer, *President of the NorCal Premier Leagues*

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Zierner's NorCal Premier Leagues have grown into arguably the most influential soccer force in Northern California. Zierner, who has over 20 years of experience coaching boys and girls of all ages, is an enthusiastic and passionate believer in creating leagues that are open and accessible, in reducing the administrative red tape and in truly focusing on developing young soccer players.