



USL PRO is the strongest, best operated and most experienced North American men's professional soccer league below MLS, both on and off the field. USL PRO, was formed from the merger of USL's First and Second Divisions into a single league property prior to the 2011 season, was designed to help ensure the long-term stability of professional soccer in North America.

Focused on franchise stability and longevity, USL PRO features 11 teams in 2012 with two additional teams, Phoenix and Tampa, to join league play in 2013 season. An unprecedented six USL PRO teams have more than a decade of operational experience. The league is focused on aggressive but deliberate growth by adding teams fully capable of meeting USL and USSF standards, which are located in markets that further promote regional league play.

USL PRO was founded in 2011 under United Soccer League (USL). Founded in 1986, the original vision for USL's system of leagues was to provide teams with the opportunity to create a true soccer pyramid. That vision soon became reality and more than a quarter-century later USL clubs are able to field teams starting at the youth level (Super Y League & Super-20 League), the amateur level (PDL & W-League) and the professional level (USL PRO & MISL).

Current USL PRO Franchises

Antigua Barracuda FC, Charleston Battery, Charlotte Eagles, Dayton Dutch Lions, Harrisburg City Islanders, Los Angeles Blues, Orlando City, Pittsburgh Riverhounds, Phoenix (2013), Richmond Kickers, Rochester Royals, Sacramento (2014), Tampa Bay (2013), Wilmington Hammerheads.

Website: uslpro.uslsoccer.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/USLsoccerwww.facebook.com/USLsoccer>

Twitter: [@uslpro](https://twitter.com/uslpro)

Additional Notes

- USL PRO is part of the American Soccer Pyramid and the longest running USSF sanctioned professional soccer league.
- Charleston Battery defeated Orlando City for the 2012 USL PRO Trophy.
- Since 2007, USL PRO has broadcast games online for fans through www.uslive.com. Over 80 live games were broadcast in 2012.
- In addition to league play, USL PRO teams competes in the [Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup](http://www.uslive.com) as well as various domestic and international exhibitions. The Lamar Hunt Cup tournament is the oldest ongoing national soccer competition in the U.S. and is currently open to all [United States Soccer Federation](http://www.uslive.com) affiliated teams. The competition was first held in 1913-1914.
- Of the 8 teams in the 2012 quarterfinals, 3 teams were from USL PRO. The 1999 Lamar Cup Champion was the USL franchise, Rochester Rhinos.
- USL PRO is a national league featuring a predominantly regional competition model to build natural rivalries and reduce travel-related costs.
- 11,220 attended the 2011 USL Championship in Orlando; a league record.
- The last 4 out of 5 MLS expansion teams originated from USL PRO including: Portland Timbers (2011), Montreal Impact (2012), Seattle Sounders (2009), Vancouver Whitecaps FC (2011)
- Harrisburg City Islanders (USL PRO) will host joint tryouts with the Philadelphia Union (MLS) in 2012. The Islanders serve as the official USL affiliate for the MLS team.
- Pittsburgh Riverhounds is currently constructing a purpose-built soccer stadium to serve as a home field for the franchise. Over 600,000 visitors are expected to visit the facility each year.
- Orlando City is currently working with the city of Orlando towards a new stadium that will provide a \$1.2B economic impact for the region. Orlando City Owner & President Phil Rawlins said that the team "has been all but promised a MLS franchise in Orlando – if it gets a stadium of its own." Source: [Orlando Sentinel](http://www.uslive.com)