



**Important information regarding the 2011-2012 season and beyond  
for all U11 through U18 teams**

**Joint teams at U13 and older:** Jackson Futbol Club (JFC) and Chicago Fire Juniors of Mississippi (Fire) will continue to field joint teams, beginning at ages U13 and above. These joint teams will now play under the name "MFC (*Mississippi Futbol Club*) Fire" rather than the "MS/JFC Fire" name used the past two seasons. We will continue to field more than one joint team in each age group if the coaching staff determines that a second or third team has the potential to be truly competitive in that age group.

**Separate teams at U11 and U12:** JFC and Fire will continue to field separate teams in the U11 and U12 age groups. JFC's U11 and U12 teams will now play under the name "MFC Jackson," while Fire's U11 and U12 teams will play under the names "MFC Fire Madison" and/or "MFC Fire Rankin."

**Gulf States Premier League and US Club Soccer affiliation:** JFC and Fire are joining nine other clubs this year as founding members of the new Gulf States Premier League (GSPL), a US Club Soccer National Premier League. Other founding members of the GSPL are Baton Rouge Soccer Club, Cajun Soccer Club, Chicago Fire Juniors of Louisiana, Dallas Texans of Florida (Pensacola), Gulf Coast United Dynamos, Hattiesburg Futbol Club, Mandeville Soccer Club, Mississippi Brilla Juniors, and Mobile Soccer Club.

The Gulf States Premier League is affiliated with US Club Soccer rather than with the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) of which the Mississippi Soccer Association (MSA) is a member. Accordingly, as members of the GSPL, we will now roster our teams through US Club Soccer rather than through MSA or USYSA. US Club Soccer, like USYSA, is a national association member of the US Soccer Federation (USSF). US Club Soccer is a non-profit organization whose mission is to develop competitive club soccer in the United States. US Club Soccer has grown to include member clubs and leagues in 50 states. For additional information on US Club Soccer, see <http://www.usclubsoccer.org>.

Our purposes in forming the *GSPL* are (1) to allow the member clubs and their constituents to have better control over how the league is run; and (2) to better focus on player development and the total soccer experience without the excessive travel and sometimes meaningless games currently associated with *MSA* league play.

**Exclusive Gulf States Premier League Membership:** Note that while other club teams in Mississippi may "dual roster" with both *MSA* and *US Club Soccer*, simply rostering with *US Club Soccer* does NOT entitle that team to membership or participation in the *Gulf States Premier League*. The ONLY members of the *GSPL* are *JFC/Fire*, *Baton Rouge Soccer Club*, *Cajun Soccer Club*, *Chicago Fire Juniors of Louisiana*, *Dallas Texans of Florida (Pensacola)*, *Gulf Coast United Dynamos*, *Hattiesburg Futbol Club*, *Mandeville Soccer Club*, *Mississippi Brilla Juniors*, and *Mobile Soccer Club*. Teams from clubs that are not members of *GSPL* or another recognized *US Club Soccer National Premier League* will NOT participate in *GSPL* games just because they may roster with *US Club Soccer*. For additional information on the *GSPL* and the *US Club Soccer National Premier Leagues* program, see [http://www.usclubsoccer.org/main.aspx?sec\\_id=19&guid=82e7c34e-4444-48f0-a276-9efcfa2fe481](http://www.usclubsoccer.org/main.aspx?sec_id=19&guid=82e7c34e-4444-48f0-a276-9efcfa2fe481) ("*Gulf States Premier League* formed as part of *US Club Soccer's National Premier Leagues*").

***GSPL* play for U13s and older:** The *Gulf States Premier League* is comprised of the top clubs in our region, listed above. As members of the *GSPL*, we will continue to compete against these top clubs in league games and tournaments to be scheduled at predictable and convenient times for all teams involved. Winners of the league in the U13 through U18 age groups will advance to compete against winners from other *US Club Soccer*-affiliated leagues for a national championship.

The *GSPL* will also host a college showcase for its member teams. As part of its efforts to attract top college coaches, *GSPL* will pay for their travel expenses to ensure greater participation. This should be an exciting opportunity for our top players to be seen by coaches from the top Division I men's and women's teams.

***GSPL* play for U11s and U12s:** *JFC* and *Fire* will continue to field separate U11 and U12 teams but, like the joint teams in the older age groups, these younger teams will no longer be *MSA*-rostered and will no longer participate in *MSA* league games or the *MSA State Cup*. Our U11 and U12 teams will continue to play in many of the same tournaments as in the past, but will do so as *US Club Soccer*-rostered teams.

Our U11 and U12 teams will still play a 10-month season this year, starting with games in Clinton on August 27-28 against other GSPL teams, and concluding with a US Club Soccer Mississippi State Cup open to all U11 and U12 GSPL-member teams on May 5-6, 2012 in Hattiesburg. The State Cup will be structured so that all teams play appropriate levels of competition, much like a tournament with gold and silver divisions. No "league" play will be required to qualify for the State Cup.

**Olympic Development Program:** JFC and Fire players rostered through US Club Soccer remain eligible to participate in the ODP program administered by MSA, and several JFC and Fire coaches continue to coach in the ODP program. JFC and Fire players are encouraged to continue to participate in ODP if they believe ODP is right for them.

**Questions:** If you have any questions about JFC, Fire, the Gulf States Premier League, US Club Soccer, or any related programs, please feel free to call Kenny White at 601-624-3766 or Kevin Johns at 601-209-4567.