



# CELEBRATE **HER** DRIVE NATIONALS

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**PRESS RELEASE DRAFT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Virginia Beach to Host 2026 Development Player League (DPL) National Finals at the Hampton Roads Soccer Complex**

*Premier youth girls' soccer event expected to bring nearly 3,000 athletes and 7,000 spectators to Virginia Beach ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup*

**Virginia Beach, VA — October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025** — The City of Virginia Beach, in partnership with the Hampton Roads Soccer Complex, is proud to announce that the **2026 Development Player League (DPL) National Finals** will be hosted in Virginia Beach. This marquee youth girls' soccer event will unite the nation's top athletes, teams, and families for a week of competition and community at one of the East Coast's premier soccer facilities.

The **2026 DPL Finals** will feature:

- **170+ elite teams** competing for national honors
- **2,700+ athletes** from across the country
- **6,000+ spectators** expected throughout the event

As one of the fastest-growing girls' youth soccer leagues in the United States, the DPL is dedicated to developing players and empowering people in a purposeful and memorable environment. Its mission focuses on showcasing talent, fostering collegiate pathways, and creating lasting community around the game.

**Barry Ritson, President of the Development Player League**, highlighted the importance of the event:

*"The Development Player League continues to grow year after year, and our 2026 National Finals in Virginia Beach will be a true celebration of that progress. This season, our campaign is All About HER, and with our pledge to Respect, Support, and Celebrate HER, we could not think of a better place for our players, teams, and families to come together than Virginia Beach. Hosting our National Finals here provides the perfect stage to honor the talent, commitment, and community that make the DPL so special."*

The **Hampton Roads Soccer Complex (HRSC)**, featuring 24 fields and a reputation for hosting high-profile tournaments, will serve as the venue.

**Lauren Bland, Executive Director of HRSC**, added:

*"We are proud to host the DPL Finals at the Hampton Roads Soccer Complex! DPL is known for hosting world-class events and creating memorable championship moments."*

*This is the perfect event to bring excitement to the Virginia Beach soccer community as the USA gears up to host the FIFA World Cup a few weeks later.”*

Local officials echoed the excitement, emphasizing the event’s impact on the region.

**Dani Timm, Director of Virginia Beach Sports Tourism**

*“We are thrilled to welcome the DPL Finals to Virginia Beach. Events like this not only showcase incredible athletic talent but also generate significant economic impact for our hotels, restaurants, and businesses. Virginia Beach continues to shine as a premier sports tourism destination, and we look forward to welcoming players and families from around the country.”*

The DPL Finals are expected to deliver a major boost to Virginia Beach’s local economy, generating thousands of hotel nights and increased tourism spending, while spotlighting the city’s growing reputation as a leading host for national sports events.

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**About the Development Player League (DPL)**

Founded in 2017, the Development Player League (DPL) is a national standards-driven youth girls’ soccer league committed to developing players and empowering people through purposeful and memorable experiences. The DPL provides elite athletes with collegiate pathways and creates community around the game. For more information, visit [www.dpleague.org](http://www.dpleague.org).

**About Hampton Roads Soccer Complex**

The Hampton Roads Soccer Complex (HRSC) is a premier 23-field soccer facility located in Virginia Beach, VA. Dedicated to growing the game and serving as a hub for local, regional, and national tournaments, HRSC provides high-quality fields and amenities for athletes of all ages.

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