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### **CLUB MERGER REQUIREMENTS:**

A merger is the formal unification of two or more clubs into one entity and structure. In order to constitute a formal merger between two or more clubs, the following items must be satisfied:

1. An executed written agreement between the clubs that outlines in detail:
  - a. The legal entity, leadership, and governance structure.
  - b. The financial contribution or responsibility of each club; and
  - c. Dissolution, exit or termination provisions.
2. The same name, logo and uniforms must be used on all teams in the entity.
3. All staff and teams must ultimately report to one Director of Coaching or Executive Director.
4. All Florida Club Leagues teams must use the same complex for home competition.
5. Florida Club Leagues receives a copy of the:
  - a. Executed merger agreement, or
  - b. Merger documents filed with the state.
6. Upon receipt of the above information, FCL will determine whether to accept or reject the merger with respect to Florida Club Leagues membership, participation, and rostering.

### **CLUB AFFILIATION REQUIREMENTS:**

An “affiliation” between two or more clubs is a cooperative relationship between clubs in the interests of long-term player development through establishment of a “feeder club” or other joint relationship. In order to constitute an affiliation between two or more clubs, the following items must be satisfied:

- 1) An executed written agreement between the clubs that outlines in detail:
  - a) The age groups and genders that are involved and impacted;
  - b) The effect on the player pool in all age groups;
  - c) The staffing plan and how coaches will be selected for the age groups, including merging and overlapping of staff from different entities;
  - d) The player selection, scouting or feedback process for players from each club in the age groups, playing in FCL leagues;
  - e) Training schedule, including the location, frequency, and staffing of the age groups;
  - f) Plans for how training curriculum, philosophy, and ratios will be managed across the affiliates to ensure consistency; and
  - g) The entity to which all FCL player dues and registration fees are paid, and the entity responsible for all financial matters related to ECNL-RL and NPL players and teams.
- 2) A common branding protocol (name, logo, patch, and uniform) must be outlined in detail to visually illustrate the affiliation on the field and to the public. This protocol may include use of the same logos and names on all teams, use of patches on jerseys when different club names are involved, or any other protocol that FCL in its sole discretion finds to be accurate and transparent as to the nature of the affiliation.
  - a) NOTE: It is not permissible to create an affiliation with another independent club in order to license or outsource operation of an ECNL-RL or NPL program to that club. An affiliation is intended to provide improved player pool quality or depth through connecting multiple clubs that each ultimately provide players into the FCL program(s) (Club Competition or Regional League) that are directly operated by the club and approved to participate in the FCL by FCL at its sole discretion.
- 3) The term of the agreement, and any termination date or clauses must be provided.



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- 4) All staff and teams at each level (Club Competition and Regional League) must ultimately report to one Director of Coaching or Executive Director. For clarification, teams in an ECNL Regional League program may report to a different director than teams in the NPL or FCL Club Competition program, provided that all teams in the ECNL RL ultimately report to one Director with total technical authority over all teams.
    - a) Note: Different reporting relationships for each program (Club Competition or Regional League) shall not be construed as allowing or approving a club to “license” or “outsource” the operations of any ECNL RL program to a different club – which is expressly prohibited.
  - 5) All FCL teams in the club must use the same complex for home competition. The complex must be the same for FCL teams at each level (Regional League and Club Competition) unless the FCL in its sole discretion approves use of different complexes for teams at different levels.
  - 6) Authorized leadership of each club in the affiliation must execute the agreement.
  - 7) FCL receives a copy of the executed affiliation agreement.

Upon receipt of the above information, the FCL will determine to accept or reject the affiliation.