



North American Soccer League Announces 2014 Spring Season Schedule

Repeat Of NASL Soccer Bowl 2013 Among Opening Weekend Highlights

MIAMI, Fla. (December 19, 2013) – The 2014 North American Soccer League Spring Season will kick off on Saturday, April 12 and among the opening weekend highlights, the reigning-champion New York Cosmos will face the Atlanta Silverbacks opponent they beat 1-0 to win Soccer Bowl 2013.

“Winning the Soccer Bowl was a great experience for our team and a good way to start building our club back up,” said Cosmos head coach Giovanni Savarese. “We are looking forward to building off of that victory and starting next season in front of our great supporters in New York.”

The shortened nine-week spring campaign will run through June 7, to allow for a mid-season break to align with the FIFA World Cup. The winner of the first half of the NASL season will qualify for and earn the right to host NASL Soccer Bowl 2014.

Virginia Cavalry FC’s decision to defer its inaugural season until 2015 means the ten clubs participating in 2014 must each play a nine-game season, with an unavoidable uneven balance between each club’s total number of home and away games. Having considered adding a tenth game and factored in several components including stadium availability, cold weather climate challenges and participation in domestic cup competitions, NASL owners agreed to the nine-week 2014 schedule.

“The owners showed short-term sacrifice in favor of consistency and respect for the global game by sticking to a one-match versus each team Spring Schedule,” said Aaron Davidson, Chairman of the NASL Board of Governors and President of Traffic Sports, ownership group of the Fort Lauderdale Strikers and Carolina RailHawks. “We analyzed and understand the consequential imbalance of home games in the spring, but felt that it was more important to ensure the balance of the competition with everyone playing each other once rather than adding a random tenth match.

“The fact is that our Spring 2014 season will be one of the most intense and competitive competitions in global sport with nine matches determining the spring champion and host of NASL Soccer Bowl 2014. The coaches and players know that they can’t play for draws whether they are playing away or at home because winning the championship will likely come down to one or two points. I’m excited to see our teams leave it all out on the field in this sprint to the Spring Championship ahead of the World Cup break.”

When the campaign kicks off, NASL newcomer Indy Eleven faces a true test at home to a Carolina RailHawks club that earned a league-best 43 points from the combined seasons in 2013. Ottawa Fury FC debuts on the road at the Fort Lauderdale Strikers, the Tampa Bay Rowdies welcome FC Edmonton, while the San Antonio Scorpions host Minnesota United FC.

“The NASL Owners are taking a long view to decisions that we have to make in relation to the 2014 Spring Season,” said NASL Commissioner Bill Peterson. “During the course of building our league we will inevitably face scheduling challenges, but the decision to remain true to the global soccer standard of not playing during the World Cup and each team playing each other an equal number of times during the season demonstrates the vision and conviction of our owners.”

Among the schedule highlights, the long-awaited NASL clash between two Canadian clubs comes on the penultimate weekend of the 2014 Spring Season when FC Edmonton travels to face Ottawa Fury FC on May 31. The clubs are also scheduled to meet in the Amway Canadian Championship in April.

Florida rivals the Rowdies and Strikers will meet at Al Lang Stadium in St Petersburg on May 24, while the two clubs playing their first season in the NASL meet on May 17 when Indy Eleven hosts Ottawa Fury FC. The legendary old NASL rivalries that returned along with the Cosmos last season see New York travel to take on the Rowdies on May 17 and return to Florida to face Fort Lauderdale two weeks later on May 31. All kickoff dates and times are subject to change.

“Of course we would like to play a fifth home game in the spring, but we will play the schedule that is given to us, and the road games are just a challenge that we look forward to,” said Atlanta Silverbacks Technical Director Eric Wynalda. “In the end, the game comes down to the two teams on the field, so we just need to get our team ready whether we’re at home or on the road.”

2014 North American Soccer League Schedule (All dates and kickoff times subject to change)

Date	Home Team		Away Team	Time (ET)
Saturday, April 12	Fort Lauderdale Strikers	Vs.	Ottawa Fury FC	7.30pm
Saturday, April 12	Indy Eleven	Vs.	Carolina RailHawks	7.30pm
Saturday, April 12	San Antonio Scorpions	Vs.	Minnesota United FC	TBC
Saturday, April 12	Tampa Bay Rowdies	Vs.	FC Edmonton	7.30pm
Sunday, April 13	New York Cosmos	Vs.	Atlanta Silverbacks	5pm
Saturday, April 19	Atlanta Silverbacks	Vs.	San Antonio Scorpions	7.30pm
Saturday, April 19	Carolina RailHawks	Vs.	Fort Lauderdale Strikers	TBC
Saturday, April 19	FC Edmonton	Vs.	New York Cosmos	TBC
Saturday, April 19	Indy Eleven	Vs.	Tampa Bay Rowdies	7.30pm
Saturday, April 19	Ottawa Fury FC	Vs.	Minnesota United FC	TBC
Saturday, April 26	New York Cosmos	Vs.	San Antonio Scorpions	7pm
Saturday, April 26	Fort Lauderdale Strikers	Vs.	Indy Eleven	7.30pm
Saturday, April 26	Minnesota United FC	Vs.	FC Edmonton	TBC
Saturday, April 26	Ottawa Fury FC	Vs.	Carolina RailHawks	TBC
Saturday, April 26	Tampa Bay Rowdies	Vs.	Atlanta Silverbacks	7.30pm
Saturday, May 3	Atlanta Silverbacks	Vs.	Ottawa Fury FC	7.30pm
Saturday, May 3	Carolina RailHawks	Vs.	New York Cosmos	TBC
Saturday, May 3	FC Edmonton	Vs.	Fort Lauderdale Strikers	TBC
Saturday, May 3	Minnesota United FC	Vs.	Indy Eleven	TBC
Saturday, May 3	San Antonio Scorpions	Vs.	Tampa Bay Rowdies	TBC
Saturday, May 10	Fort Lauderdale Strikers	Vs.	Atlanta Silverbacks	7.30pm

Saturday, May 10	Indy Eleven	Vs.	FC Edmonton	7.30pm
Saturday, May 10	Ottawa Fury FC	Vs.	Tampa Bay Rowdies	TBC
Saturday, May 10	San Antonio Scorpions	Vs.	Carolina RailHawks	TBC
Monday, May 12	New York Cosmos	Vs.	Minnesota United FC	7.30pm
Saturday, May 17	Carolina RailHawks	Vs.	Atlanta Silverbacks	TBC
Saturday, May 17	Indy Eleven	Vs.	Ottawa Fury FC	7.30pm
Saturday, May 17	Minnesota United FC	Vs.	Fort Lauderdale Strikers	TBC
Saturday, May 17	San Antonio Scorpions	Vs.	FC Edmonton	TBC
Saturday, May 17	Tampa Bay Rowdies	Vs.	New York Cosmos	7.30pm
Saturday, May 24	FC Edmonton	Vs.	Atlanta Silverbacks	TBC
Saturday, May 24	Minnesota United FC	Vs.	Carolina RailHawks	TBC
Saturday, May 24	New York Cosmos	Vs.	Indy Eleven	7pm
Saturday, May 24	Ottawa Fury	Vs.	San Antonio Scorpions	TBC
Saturday, May 24	Tampa Bay Rowdies	Vs.	Fort Lauderdale Strikers	7.30pm
Saturday, May 31	Atlanta Silverbacks	Vs.	Minnesota United FC	7.30pm
Saturday, May 31	Carolina RailHawks	Vs.	Tampa Bay Rowdies	TBC
Saturday, May 31	Fort Lauderdale Strikers	Vs.	New York Cosmos	7.30pm
Saturday, May 31	Indy Eleven	Vs.	San Antonio Scorpions	7.30pm
Saturday, May 31	Ottawa Fury FC	Vs.	FC Edmonton	TBC
Saturday, June 7	Atlanta Silverbacks	Vs.	Indy Eleven	7.30pm
Saturday, June 7	San Antonio Scorpions	Vs.	Fort Lauderdale Strikers	TBC
Saturday, June 7	Tampa Bay Rowdies	Vs.	Minnesota United FC	7.30pm
Sunday, June 8	FC Edmonton	Vs.	Carolina RailHawks	4pm
Sunday, June 8	New York Cosmos	Vs.	Ottawa Fury FC	5pm

About the NASL

The North American Soccer League is a professional soccer league established in the United States and Canada. The NASL member teams are: Atlanta Silverbacks, Carolina RailHawks, FC Edmonton, Fort Lauderdale Strikers, Indy Eleven, Minnesota United FC, New York Cosmos, Ottawa Fury FC, San Antonio Scorpions FC and Tampa Bay Rowdies. Virginia Cavalry FC and clubs in Jacksonville and Oklahoma City will commence play in 2015. For more information about the NASL, visit www.NASL.com. Follow the NASL on Twitter [@NASLOfficial](https://twitter.com/NASLOfficial) and Facebook at <http://www.Facebook.com/NASL.fans>.