



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Historic WPSL club rejoins league for 2021 after two-year absence**

*WPSL officially welcomes back Tampa Bay United for the 2021 season*

**TAMPA BAY, Florida** – The latest expansion news from the **Women's Premier Soccer League** welcomes a familiar face as **Tampa Bay United** rejoins the league ahead of the 2021 season – the club has been on a two-year absence from the league since the completion of the 2018 season.

*"The Tampa Bay United WPSL team raises the bar for local soccer competition and offers our current TBU athletes, as well as our TBU alums playing professionally, a chance to reunite and inspire our local soccer community,"*

**Adrian Bush**, general manager, Tampa Bay United said.

Formerly **Tampa Bay Hellenic**, the club has competed in seven WPSL seasons and holds the highest regular-season winning percentage in the league's history with .994 – an overall regular-season record of 44-3-5. Their record of six conference titles is tied for third-most in league history.

Their inaugural season with the WPSL came in 2011 with a first-place finish in conference and a 10-1-1 record while outscoring their opponents 32-9. In their seven seasons, they have outscored opponents 136-29 and recorded three undefeated seasons (2012, 2015, 2017).

In 2017, the club rebranded into Tampa Bay United and finished the season with a 9-0-0 record, outscoring opponents 27-3, winning a conference title, and making it to the regional finals of the WPSL Playoffs.

*"We are committed to facilitating the development of all players who want to play at the highest domestic or international levels and this capstone league is the platform needed for our high-achieving athletes,"* **Anthony Latronica**, sporting director for Tampa Bay United Soccer Club, said.

After a 5-1-1 finish in the 2018 season and although finishing top of the table in conference, Tampa Bay United would go on a two-year absence with the league – The WPSL did not have a 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

*"Since my arrival in 2019, it has been a goal of ours to resurrect such an important and historic program by rejoining the WPSL and bringing this elite level of play back to the TBU membership and soccer community,"* Latronica said.

For the 2021 season, Tampa Bay United will play their home matches at one of two club facilities, **ED Radice Soccer Complex** or **Waters Complex** (club headquarters). The club plans to offer both season tickets and single-game tickets while allowing current TBU youth players no charge if wearing club jersey.

**Tricia Taliaferro**, current girls technical director, will serve as head coach for the WPSL team. Taliaferro holds an A license from U.S. Soccer and has served as head coach for the U.S. U16 National Team, assistant coach for U.S. U17 National Team, and a scout for the senior U.S. Women's National Team during CONCACAF qualification. Two of her

U17 national teams have played in the FIFA U17 Women's World Cup (2012, 2017). Taliaferro has also served as an NCAA Division I head coach for the University of Illinois and the University of Miami and earned ACC Coach of the Year in 2007.

*"We are thrilled to bring back Tampa Bay United to the WPSL and know they will provide a great opportunity to young women in the greater Tampa area," Sean Jones, president of the WPSL, said. "They have a proven track record of producing great players and their level of consistency, with winning almost 90% of their games, ranks among the best in the league's 22-season history."*

More information about Tampa Bay United can be found at their website [www.tbusc.com](http://www.tbusc.com). For additional information on the WPSL visit [wpslsoccer.com](http://wpslsoccer.com).

*The WPSL is in its 23rd season and is the largest women's soccer league in the world with more than 125 clubs from coast-to-coast in 35 states. WPSL rosters feature elite collegiate, post-collegiate, international, and standout prep student-athletes. Many of the United States' most accomplished women's players have played in the WPSL, including household names such as Alex Morgan, Abby Wambach, Megan Rapinoe, Julie Foudy, and Brandi Chastain.*

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