

# Tophat Overview and History

The Tophat Soccer Club traces its beginning back to the Spring of 1982, when the original U12 Tophatters were formed at Atlanta's Northside YMCA. The team's name was taken from Coach Cy Strickler's Navy Fighter Squadron, VF-14. The Fighting Fourteen "Tophatters" are the Navy's oldest active squadron and have a history filled with pride and excellence.

Beginning as an all-girl club, Tophat has always had a comprehensive focus on developing the female soccer player. Tophat is renowned nationally for consistent excellence in developing top-class players, having an attractive, possession-based style of play, and always competing for National Championships. In 2016, Tophat joined NASA to form NasaTophat, with the girls playing under the Tophat banner and the boys playing under the NASA banner.

Today, Tophat includes approximately 150 total teams (60 competitive and 90 recreational) for all level players from U-5 to U-18. Generally, we have 12-15 teams per age group for the U12 and younger and 6-8 teams per age group for the U13-U18s.

The club has a long history of team success and boasts significant achievements in developing players who compete at the highest levels, including the US Women's National Team, National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) and professional international leagues.

## US Women's National Team

- Emily Sonnett (NASA) (Univ of Virginia) – Gotham FC, USWNT since 2015, 2x World Cup winner, 2x Olympic Gold Medalist

## NWSL and International Players

## Youth National Team (YNT) Representation

## Historical Club Success

Tophat teams take pride in a history of consistent success:

- Tophat Gold has qualified all six age groups for the playoffs every year in The Girls Academy.
- 2024/25 Tophat Gold teams were the GA Southeast conference champions in all six age groups (U13-U19), the first time this has been done in Girls Academy League history.
- 2023 Girls Academy League Champions Cup Overall Club Champion.
- Ranked as a top 2 girls club in the country by Soccer Wire. Multiple times
- Since 2016 Tophat teams have consistently had successful seasons:
  - 47 National Qualifiers
  - 8 Conference Champions
  - 8 National Quarterfinalist
  - 7 National Semifinalist
  - 4 National Champions
- USYSA Nationals Final Four (1991, U-16 team).
- 4 total USYSA Region III Champions titles, including a major year in 1998 where Three Tophat Teams won the title (U-17, U-18, U-19).
- 2 Regional Finalists
- 3 Regional Third Place teams
- Over 30 State Cup Champion titles:
  - 5 titles in 1998 and 5 titles in 1997.

- o 10+ titles secured between 2012–2014.
- o 3 titles won in 1995, 1993, 1992, 1990, and 1988.
- o The first State Championship was won in 1986.

## National Results by Season

Year	U13s	U14s	U15s	U16s	U17s	U19s
<b>2024-2025</b>	Qualified for GA Nationals	Qualified for GA Nationals	<b>GA National Champions</b>	Qualified for GA Nationals	GA National Semifinalist	Qualified for GA Nationals
<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>GA National Champions</b>	GA National Finalist	GA National Semifinalist	GA National Quarter- finalist	Qualified for GA Nationals	Qualified for GA Nationals
<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>GA National Champions</b>	GA National Finalist	<b>GA National Champions</b>	Qualified for GA Nationals	Qualified for GA Nationals	GA National Semifinalist
<b>2021-2022</b>	GA Southeast Conference Champions	GA National Finalist	GA National Quarter- finalist	GA Southeast Conference Champions	GA National Quarter- finalist	Qualified for GA Nationals
<b>2020-2021</b>	GA National Semifinalist	GA Southeast Conference Champion	Qualified for GA Nationals	GA National Quarter- finalist	GA National Semifinalist	GA National Finalist
<b>2018-2019</b>			DA National Quarterfinalists	DA National Quarterfinalists		
<b>2017-2018</b>			ECNL Champions League Nationals  DA League Nationals	ECNL Champions League Nationals	ECNL Champions League Nationals  DA League Nationals	DA League Nationals
<b>2016-2017</b>			ECNL Southeast Conference Champions  ECNL National Quarterfinalists	ECNL Southeast Conference Champions  ECNL National Semifinalists	ECNL Southeast Conference Champions  ECNL National Quarterfinalists	ECNL National Semifinalists
<b>2015-2016</b>		ECNL Champions League Nationals  ECNL Southeast Conference Champions	ECNL Champions League Nationals	ECNL Champions League Nationals	ECNL Champions League Nationals	ECNL Champions League Nationals  ECNL Southeast Conference Champions