

Bend FC Platform League FAQ – Fall 2026

Platform League Questions & Answers

Q: What platform leagues will Bend FC teams be participating in this fall?

Beginning with the Fall 2026 season, every **11v11 Gold team** at Bend FC will compete in a platform league. These leagues provide a higher level of competition, player development, college exposure, and club standards than traditional state leagues.

National 1- The Bend FC Girls Gold Teams (11v11 only) will participate in National 1 or N1

Elite Academy 2- Bend FC Boys Gold Teams will participate in EA2 or Elite Academy 2

Q: Which teams are participating?

Every **11v11 Gold team** will participate in a platform league during the 2026–2027 season.

Q: Is there an additional cost?

Yes. The additional platform league cost is \$3,000 per team.

For the average roster of 18 players, the additional cost works out to approximately \$170 per player.

This fee will be billed on November 1, 2026, to each rostered player.

Q: Why does Bend FC wait until November 1 to bill families?

There are two primary reasons.

First, we want to give each team time to decide how they would like to cover the additional expense. Many teams choose to:

- Organize team fundraisers
- Secure a local business sponsor
- Find a warm-up shirt sponsor
- Split the remaining balance among families

Waiting until November allows teams several months to reduce or even eliminate much of the cost before invoices are issued.

Second, league placements and league fees are not always finalized before the season begins.

For example, during the 2025–2026 placement process, our girls were being considered for GA Aspire, where the additional cost would have been approximately \$6,000–\$7,000 per team. Once placements were finalized in National 1 (N1), those costs were nearly cut in half.

Rather than estimating costs and adjusting invoices later, Bend FC waits until league placements and expenses are confirmed so families are billed accurately.

Q: What does the additional platform league fee pay for?

While league registration fees are higher than traditional state leagues, much of the increased cost comes from meeting league standards and operating requirements.

These expenses include:

- Higher league entry and membership (player card) fees
- Match video recording and filming requirements
- Field and facility standards
- Additional referee expenses
- Hosting requirements for league matches
- Increased travel for league competition
- Administrative requirements and league compliance
- Other operational standards required by each platform league

These requirements are designed to provide a higher-quality competitive environment for players.

Q: What can teams do to help offset the cost?

Many teams successfully reduce or eliminate these expenses through fundraising efforts.

Ideas include:

- Team fundraising events
- Restaurant fundraising nights
- Raffles
- Car washes
- Sponsorships from local businesses
- Warm-up shirt sponsors
- Individual player fundraising campaigns
- Community donations

Several teams in previous seasons have significantly lowered the out-of-pocket cost for families through creative fundraising and sponsorship efforts.

Q: Why is Bend FC investing in platform leagues?

Our mission is to provide players with the highest level of competition available while continuing to develop them both on and off the field.

Platform leagues offer:

- Stronger weekly competition
- Better player development opportunities
- Increased college recruiting exposure
- Higher coaching and club standards
- A more competitive environment that prepares players for the next level

While participation in these leagues carries additional costs, Bend FC believes the investment provides tremendous value and opportunities for our players and families.

Bend FC

*NOTE: Year to year these prices may change depending on the platform league we participate in, the leagues requirements, and other factors. Below represents 2026/27 seasonal year.

Platform League Fee	Cost \$3000
Extra League Membership & Registration	\$480
Video/Camera Requirements	\$420
Additional Referee Costs	\$1240
Hosting Requirements/Scheduling	\$160
Additional Travel	\$400
Field & Facility Standards	\$190
Administrative Compliance/ Coaching Education	\$210
Total Team Cost	\$3,000
Average Cost (18 Players)	~\$170/player

OTHER

- Increased equipment cost
- Platform league bonds or associated charges