



## Player Placements & Soccer Pathways

Family guide | November 2026

OBX Storm is the soccer club. TASL, NPL, and N1 are leagues or competition levels in which OBX Storm teams participate—not separate clubs. Players join OBX Storm and compete with a Storm team in an appropriate league. November 2026 placements are **ONLY** for players seeking an NPL opportunity in the U10–U12 girls’ and boys’ age groups. Club-wide placements are planned for spring 2027, unless registration results in more than one team in a U13-and-older age group, in which case additional placements may be held for that age group during winter 2026–27.

### Understanding OBX Storm’s leagues

| League                                  | Experience and playing time                                  | Travel and commitment                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| TASL — Tidewater Advanced Soccer League | Introduction to travel soccer; equal playing time.           | Weekend games between the Outer Banks and Williamsburg.                                                      |
| NPL — National Premier Leagues          | More competitive play; greater practice and team commitment. | Games between the Outer Banks and Richmond; tournaments may require farther travel.                          |
| N1 — National 1 League                  | Highest competition and commitment level described here.     | Year-long commitment; games between the Outer Banks and Charlottesville; farther tournament travel possible. |

### Understanding 2026–27 soccer age groups

For 2026–27, age groups use an August 1–July 31 birthdate cycle rather than the previous calendar-year cycle. OBX Storm will confirm eligibility and any approved play-up requests.

| Age group | Eligible birthdates (2026–27) |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| U9        | Aug 1, 2017 – Jul 31, 2018    |
| U10       | Aug 1, 2016 – Jul 31, 2017    |
| U11       | Aug 1, 2015 – Jul 31, 2016    |
| U12       | Aug 1, 2014 – Jul 31, 2015    |
| U13       | Aug 1, 2013 – Jul 31, 2014    |
| U14       | Aug 1, 2012 – Jul 31, 2013    |
| U15       | Aug 1, 2011 – Jul 31, 2012    |

Source: US Club Soccer 2026–27 age-group matrix and NC Youth Soccer 2026 age-group guidance.

### Who should attend November NPL placements?

Girls U10, U11 and U12 and boys U10, U11 and U12 who are interested in an NPL opportunity. Current OBX Storm players and players new to the club are welcome. Advance registration is required.

NPL [PLACEMENT REGISTRATION SITE HERE](#)

### Age groups not scheduled for November NPL placements

U9 and younger: OBX Storm teams in these age groups will compete in TASL. However, November NPL placements are open to younger players who wish to try out for the age group above their own (U10–U12), subject to age-group eligibility and club approval for playing up.

U13 and older Girls: We will be holding assessments in early December. Much of this is reliant on registration.

U13 and older Boys: OBX Storm already has teams competing in NPL and N1 at these older age levels. These groups are not part of the November placement sessions. Club-wide placements are planned for spring 2027. However, if registration for Spring 2027 results in more than one team in a U13-and-older age group, additional placements may be held this coming winter (2026–27) for that age group.

### November assessment sessions

| Group         | Date                   | Time         |
|---------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Girls U10–U12 | Monday, November 9     | 6:00–7:30 PM |
| Girls U10–U12 | Wednesday, November 11 | 6:00–7:30 PM |
| Boys U10–U12  | Tuesday, November 10   | 6:00–7:30 PM |
| Boys U10–U12  | Thursday, November 12  | 6:00–7:30 PM |

Assessment location: First Flight Middle School Back Field 109 Veterans Dr, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948. Arrive 15 minutes early for check-in. Wear cleats and shin guards and bring water. Please plan to attend both sessions for your group.

### Key dates and registration

| When                        | What families should know                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| November 9–12               | NPL placements for U10–U12 girls and boys; advance placement registration required.                                                                           |
| Before November 17          | NPL placement decisions communicated to families.                                                                                                             |
| Within 48 hours of an offer | Families must accept the NPL offer and commit to the team.                                                                                                    |
| November 20–December 20     | OBX Storm soccer registration window. Storm teams competing in TASL may be offered where numbers and club capacity allow.                                     |
| Spring 2027                 | Planned club-wide placement process; earlier placements may be held for U13-and-older age groups if registration results in more than one team per age group. |

### NPL season and team commitment

NPL players should expect two local practices per week, weekend league games from late March through mid-May, and two tournaments during that period. League games may require travel as far as Richmond. Tournaments may involve farther travel; families

will receive significant advance notice. Players accepting an NPL place are expected to prioritize their OBX Storm team over other recreational activities and commitments during the season.

### **Who evaluates the players?**

Players will be put through a training session by one of our coaches who is familiar with the age group. Other Storm coaches who are not actively coaching any player in the group being assessed will be the individuals assessing the players.

### **How players are evaluated**

Assessors will observe age-appropriate activities and game play, considering technical skills (passing, receiving and ball control), game awareness and decision-making, effort, teamwork and coachability. Assessments reflect overall NPL readiness, not one drill or mistake. Local soccer coaches and former players will serve as assessors; current OBX Storm coaches will also attend. Assessors will record observations in PlayMetrics on their phones as part of the evaluation process.

### **What happens after placements?**

Families will be notified of NPL decisions before November 17. Any NPL offer must be accepted within 48 hours; instructions will accompany the offer. Participation in placements does not guarantee an NPL offer or that a team can be formed. If an age group is close to a viable roster, the club may reopen placements and will communicate with affected families.

Families not pursuing or accepting NPL may register for OBX Storm soccer November 20–December 20. TASL-level Storm teams depend on interest, sufficient players and the ability to field a team; registration does not guarantee a roster spot.

### **If your player cannot attend**

If the scheduled dates do not work, email [obxstormbod@gmail.com](mailto:obxstormbod@gmail.com) to discuss an alternative assessment.

### **Parent and spectator expectations**

Please remain in designated spectator areas, avoid sideline coaching and do not approach assessors with questions during placements. Direct process or placement questions to [obxstormbod@gmail.com](mailto:obxstormbod@gmail.com).

### **Frequently asked questions**

Does everyone need to attend? No. November placements are only for players seeking an NPL opportunity in U10–U12; club-wide placements are planned for spring 2027, with additional placements possible this coming winter (2026–27) for U13-and-older age groups if registration results in more than one team in an age group.

Is TASL less valuable? No. TASL offers an important developmental, travel-light opportunity with a different level of competition and commitment. Players remain part of OBX Storm.

What if we decline an NPL offer? Families may register for OBX Storm soccer November 20–December 20 and be considered for a TASL-level Storm team if one can be formed.

Are teams guaranteed? No. NPL and TASL team formation depends on player interest, appropriate roster size and club capacity.

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