

NPSL team introduced: FC Tacoma 253

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Don Ruiz

[FC Tacoma 253](#) was officially introduced Friday as a member of the [National Premier Soccer League](#), the fourth division of the U.S. Soccer pyramid.

The team will play at [Mount Tahoma High School](#).

An official announcement from the league is expected Friday.

Last season, NPSL teams played from 10- to 12-game schedules running from March to July.

Tacoma 253 will play in the [Northwest Conference](#), which last season consisted of Gorge FC of Hood River, Oregon; Inter United FC of Tukwila; Spartans Futbol Club of Vancouver, Washington, and Seattle Sporting FC, which played in Bothell.

The owner is Giuseppe Pezzano, former owner of Italian Serie D club Fiesole Caldine Firenze.

[Tryouts](#) will be held from 2-4 p.m. Saturday at Truman Middle School in Tacoma.

Here's the news release from the club:

FC Tacoma 253 is proud to announce that it's joined the National Premier Soccer League (NPSL) as an expansion team.

The NPSL is a national league that operates in the 4th Division of the U.S. Soccer pyramid. NPSL teams are eligible to participate in the U.S. Open Cup through their affiliation with the U.S. Soccer Federation (USSF) and the United States Adult Soccer Association (USASA). The NPSL remains one of the largest national leagues in North America.

FC Tacoma 253 home games will be played at Mount Tahoma Athletic Stadium which is conveniently located minutes from downtown Tacoma and will provide the club with a professional environment.

FC Tacoma 253 is led by owner Giuseppe Pezzano, the former owner of Fiesole Caldine Firenze, a historic Italian soccer team from the Tuscany region. He is also the CEO and President of OSA Soccer Group. Recently he served as a soccer consultant for the Montreal Impact of Major League Soccer and was responsible for signing notable Italian footballers Marco Di Vaio and Alessandro Nesta.

"We bring an exclusive and unique method of soccer development, the very first Italian influence in the region," said Pezzano. "With our direct collaboration with Vincenzo Vergine of ACF Fiorentina, we expect to bring something new, innovative and international to the region, and we hope to develop players able to play in college, Europe or for the MLS and someday for the US National team!"

Pezzano is joined by Program Manager Coach Paolo Mottola and Vergine, who will serve as Technical Advisor. A distinguished coach, Mottola holds the USSF "A" License, USSF Goalkeeping License, and the NSCAA Director of Coaching Diploma. Vergine, ACF Fiorentina's youth sector director, is responsible for developing players such as Pelle', Babacar, Bernardeschi and 22 players who are now part of the Italian National Team program. He is in his fifth season with the well-known Serie A club.

"We are thrilled to welcome FC Tacoma 253 to our league," NPSL Chairman Joe Barone stated. "They will bring a strong and powerful presence to one of America's soccer hotbeds. The management of the team brings years of experience at the highest level of international soccer. We are excited to have them working with us as we move forward in growing the game together."