



## NATIONAL LEAGUE RULES

2009-2010

*(Adopted: May 30, 2007; Revised: May 8, 2008, November 20, 2008 and July 22, 2009)  
(Effective August 3, 2009)*

### SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.01 Ownership and Operation

The US Youth Soccer National League (NL) is owned and operated by the US Youth Soccer in accordance with the US Youth Soccer National League Charter adopted on March 17, 2007 and revised on September 1, 2008.

#### 1.02 Rules

Participation in the NL is governed by the rules adopted by US Youth Soccer, the United States Soccer Federation (US Soccer), and the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) except where modified below.

#### 1.03 Matters Not Provided For

The NL Committee shall have final authority in all matters not specifically provided for by the charter, rules or policies of the NL.

### SECTION 2. TEAM APPLICATION

#### 2.01 Team Eligibility

Any team affiliated with a US Youth Soccer State Association may request entry to the NL subject to the specific team eligibility requirements established for each annual season by the NL Committee. Team eligibility requirements shall be outlined in "Appendix A" within these Rules and may be revised on an annual seasonal basis by the NL Committee.

#### 2.02 State Cup and Regional League Requirements

In accordance with the NL Charter, in order to be eligible to advance to the US Youth National Championship finals, all teams participating in the NL must also participate in their respective State Cup competition, as well as their respective Regional Cup competition should the team qualify, and the top regional league of each region should the team qualify.

#### 2.03 Regional Director Confirmation and State Association Good Standing

All teams must be properly registered competitive teams that meet the requirements for participation and are in good standing with their respective member State Association. During the review process of team applications, State Associations must confirm in association with their respective Regional Director that teams competed in each region's respective Regional League Premier Division/League during 2008-2009, the teams have complied with the 51% roster rule, and comply with all NL Rules.

#### 2.04 Application Deadlines

All applications for participation in the NL must be received by the deadline established by the NL Committee.

#### 2.05 Application Process

Team Applications to participate in the NL are to be submitted in a manner and form as determined on an annual basis by the NL Committee.

#### 2.06 Acceptance of NL Rules

Any team applying to play in the NL, agrees to accept, abide by and comply with all rules, policies, and decisions by the NL and further agrees to pay all fees that are due to the NL for participation in the NL.

## **2.07 Final Authority on Team Acceptance**

The NL Committee shall have the final authority to accept teams into the NL.

## **2.08 Fees, Bonds and Other Expenses**

Each team playing in the NL will pay the fees and bonds established by the NL Committee. The NL is not responsible for expenses incurred by teams through travel, housing, coaching, uniforms, and other related team operating costs.

# **SECTION 3. LEAGUE STRUCTURE**

## **3.01 Formation of Gender Age Group Competitions**

The NL Committee, subject to approval by the US Youth Soccer Board of Directors, shall determine the Age Groups of competition for each season.

## **3.02 Number of Teams in Gender Age Groups**

The NL Committee, subject to approval by the US Youth Soccer Board of Directors, shall determine the number of teams in each gender age group for each seasonal year. The determination of teams in each gender age group for each seasonal year shall be outlined in "Appendix B" within these Rules and may be revised in accordance with the NL Charter.

## **3.03 Divisions**

The division structure and competition format for each gender age group shall be outlined in "Appendix D" within these Rules and may be revised on an annual seasonal basis by the NL Committee.

## **3.04 Placement of Teams into Divisions**

The NL Committee shall determine the placement of teams into divisions within each gender age group.

# **SECTION 4. SCHEDULING AND MATCH MANAGEMENT**

## **4.01 Scheduling of NL Games**

NL games will be scheduled in a manner as determined by the NL Committee. Match scheduling procedures shall be outlined in "Appendix E" within these Rules and may be revised on an annual seasonal basis by the NL Committee.

## **4.02 Matches Per Day**

It is the intent to limit teams to one match per day.

## **4.03 Inclement Weather and Unplayable Field Conditions Prior to Match**

The NL Commissioner or designee shall have the sole authority to postpone a match due to inclement weather and/or unplayable field conditions prior to the kick-off of a match.

## **4.04 Referee Jurisdiction**

Once the Referee has jurisdiction of a match, the match may be stopped, suspended or terminated as provided in the "FIFA Laws of the Game."

## **4.05 Emergency Rescheduling**

In the event that multiple NL matches are scheduled at a site during a day or consecutive days and weather and/or field conditions may cause the postponing of matches, the NL Commissioner shall have the emergency authority to reschedule matches on such days. Such rescheduling shall be accepted by NL teams and may include the scheduling of more than one match per day. In extreme cases, the NL Commissioner may also authorize the reduction of match length provided that the notification of the reduction of match length is done prior to the kick-off.

## **4.06 Permission to Travel**

For the purpose of NL competition, Permission to Host or Travel Forms are not required.

## **4.07 Match Management Procedures and Competition Authority**

Match Management Procedures shall be outlined in "Appendix F" within these Rules and may be revised on an annual seasonal basis by the NL Committee. As part of the Match Management Procedures the NL

Commissioner or his/her designee shall be designated as to having the authority to make the final decision on all aspects related to a match outside of the jurisdiction of the Referees.

#### **4.08 Additional Match Procedures**

On an emergency basis, the NL Commissioner may impose additional guidelines in addition to those outlined in the Match Management Procedures. These additional guidelines shall be limited to those items that are necessary, in the sole opinion of the NL Commissioner, in order for a match to be played.

#### **4.09 Responsibility of Teams**

The management of a team at a match including but not limited to the coaches and managers, are responsible for the behavior and conduct of his/her players, support staff and management staff. In addition, upon request by the Match Officials or the NL Match Supervisor as designated by the NL Commissioner in the Match Management Procedures, team management is responsible to assist in the control of parents, fans, and spectators.

### **SECTION 5. STANDINGS**

#### **5.01 Earning Points in Matches**

The standings of teams within divisions will be based upon the number of points earned from each match. Teams earn points as follows: (a) Three (3) points for a win; (b) One (1) point for a tie; and (c) No (0) points for a loss.

#### **5.02 Forfeits**

A team forfeiting any match shall be dropped from the NL. All scores for that team in the season schedule shall be recorded as a 1-0 win for the opponent (forfeit one match and the team forfeits all matches).

#### **5.03 Uneven Number of Games**

In the event that the teams in a Division do not play the same number of games due to unforeseen circumstances but, not including games that teams refuse to play (i.e. forfeits), the NL Committee shall determine the Final Standings utilizing any tie-breaking procedures that may need to be applied.

#### **5.04 Tiebreakers**

**Tiebreakers—Two Teams are Tied**

If two teams are tied on the basis of points earned, the team's placement will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria:

- (a) Winner of head to head competition
- (b) Winner of most games (all games).
- (c) Best Goal spread (goals scored minus goals against) in all games
- (d) Most goals for.
- (e) Coin Toss

**Tiebreakers—Three Teams That Are Tied**

If three teams are tied on the basis of points earned, the final rankings will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria. If a criterion creates a situation where the three-way tie is broken, then the tiebreaker for the teams that are tied resorts to the two team tiebreaker specifically for those teams.

- (a) Points earned in head to head competition among the teams
- (b) Winner of most games (all games).
- (c) Best Goal spread (goals scored minus goals against) in games among the tied teams.
- (d) Best Goal spread (goals scored minus goals against) in all games.
- (e) Most goals for in games among the tied teams
- (f) Most goals for in all games.
- (g) Drawing of lots.

**Tiebreakers—Four Teams That Are Tied**

If four teams are tied on the basis of points earned, the final rankings will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria. If a criterion creates a situation where the four-way tie is broken, then the tiebreaker for the teams that are tied (either two or three teams) resorts to the two or three team tiebreaker specifically for those teams.

- (a) Points earned in head to head competition among the tied teams
- (b) Winner of most games (all games).
- (c) Best Goal spread (goals scored minus goals against) in games among the tied teams.

- (d) Best Goal spread (goals scored minus goals against) in all games.
- (e) Most goals for in games among the tied teams
- (f) Most goals for in all games.
- (g) Drawing of lots.

#### Tiebreakers—Five Teams That Are Tied

If five teams are tied on the basis of points earned, the final rankings will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria. If a criterion creates a situation where the five-way tie is broken, then the tiebreaker for the teams that are tied (two, three or four teams) resorts to the two, three or four team tiebreaker specifically for those teams.

- (a) Points earned in head to head competition among the tied teams
- (b) Winner of most games (all games).
- (c) Best Goal spread (goals scored minus goals against) in games among the tied teams.
- (d) Best Goal spread (goals scored minus goals against) in all games.
- (e) Most goals for in games among the tied teams
- (f) Most goals for in all games.
- (g) Drawing of lots.

#### Tiebreakers—Six Teams That Are Tied

If five teams are tied on the basis of points earned, the final rankings will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria. If a criterion creates a situation where the six-way tie is broken, then the tiebreaker for the teams that are tied (two, three, four or five teams) resorts to the two, three, four or five team tiebreaker specifically for those teams.

- (a) Points earned in head to head competition among the tied teams
- (b) Winner of most games (all games).
- (c) Best Goal spread (goals scored minus goals against) in games among the tied teams.
- (d) Best Goal spread (goals scored minus goals against) in all games.
- (e) Most goals for in games among the tied teams
- (f) Most goals for in all games.
- (g) Drawing of Lots

#### Tiebreakers—Not Covered

For any situation not covered within these rules, the NL Committee will also determine any tie-breaking procedures that may need to be applied.

## **SECTION 6. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **6.01 Qualifying for National Championships**

The top two (2) teams in each gender age group, that are not teams representing their US Youth Soccer Region at the national level, advance to the US Youth Soccer National Championships and automatically qualify as additional teams for the US Youth Soccer National Championships, held annually in July. These teams must be in compliance with NL Rule 2.02 in order to be eligible for the National Championships.

## **SECTION 7. RULES OF PLAY**

### **7.01 Laws of the Game**

Matches will be played under the applicable rules of US Youth Soccer. Teams are responsible for obtaining and being familiar with the U.S. Soccer Official Administrative Handbook and the FIFA Laws as they govern play subject to the modifications noted herein.

### **7.02 Substitutions**

Matches will operate under the FIFA-Seven (7) “per half” substitution system. Once replaced, players cannot re-enter the game during that half of play. Substitutions may be made at any stoppage of play with the approval of the Referee. If a player is removed from the game and no substitute enters the game for the player (team plays short), the original player may reenter the game. Entry shall be at a normal substitution point (with approval of the referee) or at any point during game if the referee signals for the player’s reentry.

### 7.03 Match Length and Ball Size

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Length of Half</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>
U-17	45 min.	5
U-15 and U-16	40 min.	5

### 7.04 Field Size

Fields for all age groups must meet the FIFA requirements for full size fields.

### 7.05 Forfeit Due to Failure to Appear for Match

Failure to appear for a scheduled match will result in a forfeit.

### 7.06 Anchored Goals

The coaches and match referee should inspect the integrity of the goals to ensure they are secure and suitable for play. Matches shall not begin until both goals have been firmly secured.

### 7.07 Team Uniforms

Uniforms for NL matches must conform to the Team Uniform Policy outlined in "Appendix G" within these Rules and may be revised on an annual seasonal basis by the NL Committee.

### 7.08 Coaching from Sidelines

Limited coaching is permitted only from one touch line from the team's respective Technical Area (if marked) or from the center-line to five yards from the end of the team bench closest to the goal line (if no Technical Area is marked). Coaches may not enter the field without permission from the referee.

### 7.09 Official Match

A match shall be considered official after one full half of play is completed. The second half of a match does not have to start provided that the first half was completed for a match to be considered official. If less than one half is completed and the match is abandoned, the entire match must be replayed, subject to review by the NL Commissioner. If a match is terminated in the second half of play due to inclement weather or unplayable field conditions as determined by the Referee in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the game, the final score will be the score at the time the match is terminated.

### 7.10 Team Bench Area

No more than four (4) team personnel that shall only include team coaches, team managers, or team medical staff shall be permitted at the Team Bench Area during a game. Also, those players listed on the match lineup card are permitted at the Team Bench Area during a game. A suspended coach or team official is not permitted at the Team Bench area.

### 7.11 Unforeseen Circumstances

In the event that matches are unable to be played due to unforeseen circumstances due to travel issues (i.e. airline flight cancellation, weather conditions, etc.), the NL Committee may waive Rule 7.05. Such request for waiver must be made in writing with NL Commissioner within five (5) days of scheduled match and include all details in regards to the situation. Full disclosure of information including but not limited to copies of all emails before, during and after the occurrence of a travel issue, logs of telephone calls to travel agencies, airlines, players, coaches etc. must be provided to the NL. The NL Commissioner may also require additional supporting information from affected team. The NL Committee shall review such occurrence and rule on whether the rescheduling of matches shall occur.

## SECTION 8. ROSTERS AND PLAYER PASSES

### 8.01 Filing of Team Rosters

All teams must file with the NL a copy of their team's current official stamped National State Association roster no later than September 1 prior to each season. Failure to file roster may result in the expulsion of the team from the National League. Only those players listed on the team's current official stamped National State Association roster may play in any NL games. During the course of the NL season, a team is required to re-file with the NL any revisions to the team's stamped National State Association roster.

### **8.02 Player Eligibility**

A player may play for only one NL team during the course of any annual season. No guest players are allowed.

### **8.03 Player Passes/Rosters/Lineup Game Cards**

Prior to each match in accordance with Match Management Procedures, a team must make available and present to a NL official, as designated by the NL Commissioner, the following: (a) a copy of the team's current official stamped National State Association roster; (b) a properly completed NL Line Up Form; (c) laminated and pictured US Youth Soccer member passes for each player and team officials that shall be participating in the match; and (d) any other documentation as required by the NL Commissioner. The NL official is authorized to retain all documents for further inspection except for US Youth Soccer member passes that are to be returned to the team for the match.

The Game Line Up Card shall be prepared by the team and submitted to the Referee at the time set by the NL. The Game Line Up Card shall list a maximum of 18 players and a minimum of 7 players that are eligible to play in such game. Every player listed on the game roster must be included on the team roster to be eligible to participate with the team. In the Under-16 and Under-17 age groups, any players not listed as being eligible to play who desire to sit on the team bench (subject to any NL suspension) must also be listed on the Game Line Up Card on the appropriate list. Such players are subject to the authority of the Referees.

All players and Team Bench Personnel including but not limited to coaches, managers, and trainers that appear on the Game Line-Up Card are subject to the authority of the Referees. Any individual that is sent off and/or asked to leave the team bench area by the Referees shall be suspended for the team's next NL game. An additional suspension may be assessed following review by the NL Commissioner.

### **8.04 Member Passes Presented to Referee**

Valid US Youth Soccer Member Passes for the current seasonal year shall be presented to the referee for players upon entering the field of play. Passes will be returned to the team at the end of the half. Players will present passes upon entering the match during the second half. All Passes will be returned to the team at the end of the match.

### **8.05 Playing of Ineligible Player**

A team that plays an ineligible player shall be subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to: (a) forfeiture of the match; (b) suspension of the team's coach from NL competition; (c) expulsion of the team from the NL; and/or (d) any further action(s) as determined by the NL Committee.

### **8.06 Inspection of Team Rosters by Opposing Team**

Upon request of the NL Commissioner, a NL team may request a copy of an opposing team's filed roster subject to the following: (a) the request must be made in writing; (b) the NL Commissioner shall have three (3) days to produce a copy; and (c) the NL Commissioner at his/her discretion may black out any information on the roster that may include but not be limited to player address, phone number of email address.

### **8.07 Questions Regarding Player Eligibility**

A team may request an interpretation on the eligibility of a player to the NL Commissioner subject to the following: (a) the request must be made in writing; and (b) the NL Commissioner shall have up to twenty-four (24) hours after first receiving and reviewing the request to make a ruling.

### **8.08 Team Roster Size**

The maximum team roster size shall be eighteen (18) for the Under 15 and twenty-two (22) for the Under 16 and Under 17 age groups.

### **8.09 Additional Player Information**

The NL at its discretion may require participating teams to provide additional information on players for use in promoting the NL and/or its teams and players. Teams are required to submit information as requested in procedures established by the NL.

## SECTION 9. REFEREES

### 9.01 Officiating System

Matches must be officiated using the three-person FIFA/USSF Referee System, although a four-person system (using a Fourth Official) is preferred. In the event the assigned referee fails to appear (within 10 minutes of the match time); a certified referee must be found to officiate the match. The Referee, in conjunction with the NL Official on site, may appoint replacements for Assistant Referees who fail to show up by the match time. In the event certified USSF officials are not available, the Referee may appoint Club Assistant Referees. Club Assistant Referees shall be limited to decisions only on touchlines and possession as specified by FIFA/USSF Referee Guidelines.

### 9.02 Referee Assignor

Game officials will be assigned under the authority of the NL.

### 9.03 Payment of Referees

Referees and Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials (if used) shall be compensated as provided in the Match Management Procedures. Teams are not responsible for any Referee costs.

### 9.04 Filing of Referee Match Report

The Referee shall file a Match Report with the NL immediately following the match in accordance with the NL Match Management Procedures.

## SECTION 10. SUSPENSIONS

### 10.01 Send Offs – Automatic Suspension

Any player or coach who is sent off (red card) from a match will automatically be suspended for the team's next NL match. For a second send off during a season and any send offs thereafter, the player or coach who is sent off (red card) will automatically be suspended for the team's next two (2) NL matches.

### 10.2 Send Offs – Review by NL Commissioner

All send offs are to be reviewed by the NL Commissioner who may determine at his/her sole discretion of an additional suspension shall be assessed.

### 10.03 Reporting Send Offs to States

The NL will distribute information on all send offs to the respective State Associations. The home State Association has the right to impose additional sanctions with regard to any matters arising from participation in the NL.

### 10.04 Suspensions Incurred at Last Match of Season

If a player or coach is sent off during the last game of the NL season, the suspension shall be served at the team's next State Cup, Regional Cup, National Championships or NL game. The NL Commissioner will distribute information on the send off to the respective host State Association as well as the National Cup Chairperson. The home State Association and National Cup Committee have the right to impose additional sanctions with regard to any matters arising from participation in the NL.

## SECTION 11. DISCIPLINE

### 11.01 Violation of Rules

Any violation of the rules herein will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the NL Committee.

### 11.02 Disciplinary Actions

All disciplinary measures imposed by these rules and/or the NL Committee shall be limited to an individual or team's participation in the NL.

### 11.03 Termination of Matches

Once the Referee has jurisdiction of a match, the match may be stopped, suspended or terminated as provided in the "FIFA Laws of the Game." The Referee will report the termination of any match to the NL Commissioner. The NL Commissioner shall ascertain the facts and recommend any action including appropriate disciplinary action against any individual or team associated with the NL to the NL Committee for review and decision.

#### **11.04 Forfeiture Due to Termination**

If a match is terminated at any time due to one of the teams (by action of players, coaches, team management, administrators, spectators) adjudged to be at fault as determined by the NL Commissioner, it shall be at the discretion of the NL Commissioner as to whether the game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit.

#### **11.05 Forfeits-Loss of NL Eligibility**

Any team that forfeits a match shall automatically become ineligible to participate in the NL for the following season and shall not be permitted to represent the NL at the National Championships as outlined in Rule 6.01.

### **SECTION 12. PROTEST & APPEALS**

#### **12.01 Definition of a Protest**

A *protest* is a formal written objection of any violation of established rules, policies, or procedures. Protests are usually related to a specific game or administrative action and are filed by one of the involved team officials. Only those teams involved are permitted to protest a game result. Third parties, i.e., coaches from other teams, state administrators, cannot file protests on a specific game. Protests must be based upon a violation of the published rules of the organization, competition, or FIFA Laws of the Game.

#### **12.02 Definition of an Appeal**

An *appeal* is a request to transfer the matter from one jurisdiction to another for re-examination of the decision made by the lower body. Appeals arise as the result of an adverse decision from an administrative action or disciplinary action at a lower level. Only those parties to the original action, who are adversely impacted by such decisions, shall be allowed to appeal.

#### **12.03 Appeals Committee**

The NL shall have a NL Appeals Committee. The Committee shall have jurisdiction of appeals as provided in this Section 12. The US Youth Soccer President shall appoint members to the Committee for each appeal that is filed. Members of the Committee shall have no conflict of interest in the matters being appealed and shall not be associated with any of the principals involved. The Committee shall be chaired by one of the members designated by the US Youth Soccer President. The Committee shall be composed of no fewer than three (3) and no more than five (5) members. Decisions of the Committee shall be final.

#### **12.04 Filing Procedures**

A protest or appeal must be filed in writing and must include:

- (a) The nature and specifics of the complaint
- (b) A listing of the rules, policies, and/or procedures that have been violated.
- (c) A statement of the desired resolution
- (d) Copies of all documents relevant to the protest or appeal
- (e) The filing fee for a protest or appeal is \$500.00 (certified check or money order – made payable to US Youth Soccer)

All protests and appeals must be filed with the NL Commissioner. The original document of the protest or appeal, along with all supporting documents, must be sent by Registered or Certified U. S. Mail – Return Receipt Requested, or by a reputable overnight courier service.

#### **12.05 Protests of Games Played**

Notice of intent to protest activity that occurred during a match must be registered with the NL Commissioner within 24 hours of completion of the game. All protests must be submitted in writing with the appropriate fee to the NL Commissioner. The protest must be postmarked no later than three (3) business days from match completion in accordance with the Filing Procedures listed in Section 12.04. The Referee is the final authority on the field of play. All decisions of the referees with the respect to matters of fact, including judgment matters, are final.

#### **12.06 Hearing of Protest**

The NL Committee shall hear all protests.

#### **12.07 Hearing of Appeal**

An appeal of a NL Committee decision shall be heard by the NL Appeals Committee.

### **12.08 Appeal of NL Assessed Fines**

An appeal of NL assessed fines, must be postmarked no later than three (3) business days from notification of an assessed penalty in accordance with the Filing Procedures listed in Section 12.4. Such an appeal will be heard by the NL Appeals Committee.

### **12.09 Notification of Parties**

The NL Commissioner shall notify all parties involved, no later than three (3) business days from receipt of an appeal or protest, that an appeal or protest has been filed.

### **12.10 Disputes, Discipline & Appeals**

The NL Committee is authorized to settle disputes which arise in the course of NL Competition. The NL Committee, in accordance with the disciplinary policies and procedures of US Youth Soccer and US Soccer, will investigate and adjudicate all allegations of misconduct by teams, coaches, players or others involved in NL operations and will impose an appropriate sanction for any violation found. When an appeal of a NL Committee decision is authorized under this Section 12, the appeal will be made to the NL Appeals Committee

### **12.11 Appeals Committee Decisions**

Appeals shall be considered and determined by the NL Appeals Committee in person or by telephone conference call at the Chairman of the Committee's direction. Consideration and determination of an appeal shall be closed to the public and the parties. The Committee will render a decision no later than fourteen (14) business days from receipt of the protest or appeal. Decisions shall be reduced to written form and shall be sent to the principal parties no later than two (2) business days from the conclusion of deliberations (Sundays and holidays excepted).

### **12.12 US Youth Soccer Bylaw 704, Section 1**

In accordance with NL Rule 1.02, USYSA Bylaw 704, section 1 states that: "No member of USYSA, official, league, club team, player, coach, administrative, or referee may invoke the aid of the courts of the United States or of a state without first exhausting all available remedies within the appropriate soccer organizations, as provided within USYSA." Additionally, for violation of USYSA Bylaw 704, the offending party shall be subject to suspension and/or fines, and shall be liable to the NL and USYSA for all expenses incurred by the NL or USYSA and its officers and members of the Board of Directors in defending each court action, including the following: (a) court costs; (b) attorney's fees; (c) reasonable compensation for time spent by the NL or USYSA officials and employees in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances; (d) travel expenses; and (e) expenses for holding special meetings by the NL or USYSA necessitated by court action.

## **US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE RULES**

### **APPENDIX A**

#### **Team Eligibility**

For the 2009-2010 seasonal year, the only teams eligible to apply for the league are those teams that have played in a top US Youth Soccer recognized Regional League (i.e. Region I Premier League, Midwest Regional League, Region III Premier League, Far West Regional League) during the 2008-09 seasonal year.

Teams are required to pay an entry fee of \$1,000.00.

A team must have on its National League roster, to be eligible to play during the 2009-2010 seasonal year, at least 51% of the players that were on the team's roster for the 2008-2009 seasonal year. Since National League teams must compete in State Cup and the premier regional league of each region, it will be incumbent upon, and the obligation of, State Associations and the regions to determine that teams have complied with this requirement since they alone have the documentation to verify compliance with this 51% rule.

## **US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE RULES**

### **APPENDIX B**

#### **Teams in an Age Group**

For the 2009-2010 seasonal year, a total of eight (8) teams will be accepted into the NL in each gender age group.

# US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE RULES

## APPENDIX C

### Selection of Teams

The NL Committee shall select eight (8) teams to participate in the NL in each of the following age groups:

- Girls Under 15 (for teams playing as Girls Under 14 in 2008-09)
- Girls Under 16 (for teams playing as Girls Under 15 in 2008-09)
- Girls Under 17 (for teams playing as Girls Under 16 in 2008-09)
- Boys Under 15 (for teams playing as Boys Under 14 in 2008-09)
- Boys Under 16 (for teams playing as Boys Under 15 in 2008-09)
- Boys Under 17 (for teams playing as Boys Under 16 in 2008-09)

The four teams in the Girls and Boys Under 16 and Under 17 age groups who retained NL slots based on their 2008-09 NL play shall automatically be accepted into the NL provided the team has complied with all requirements for return.

Team Applications from teams of a top US Youth Soccer recognized Regional League will be reviewed by its Regional Director who will make recommendations to the NL concerning those teams. During the review process of team applications, State Associations must confirm in association with their respective Regional Director that teams competed in each region's respective Regional League Premier Division/League during 2008-2009, the teams have complied with the 51% roster rule, and comply with all NL Rules. Each of the respective Regional Directors shall determine their individual criteria in ranking teams for National League participation. A team must have on its National League roster, to be eligible to play during the 2009-2010 seasonal year, at least 51% of the players that were on the team's roster for the 2008-2009 seasonal year. Since National League teams must compete in State Cup and the premier regional league of each region, it will be incumbent upon, and the obligation of, State Associations and the regions to determine that teams have complied with this requirement since they alone have the documentation to verify compliance with this 51% rule.

The NL Committee will select the eight teams in each gender age group. In its initial selection of teams, the NL Committee is expected to accept teams as follows:

- In the Under 15 age groups, two teams from each region shall be selected;
- In the Under 16 and Under 17 age groups, the four returning NL teams shall be joined by one team from each of the four regions. If any eligible returning team does not participate in the 2009-2010 NL season, the NL Committee, at its sole discretion, shall select an additional eligible team to participate in the NL.

## **US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE RULES**

### **APPENDIX D**

#### **Division Structure and Competition Format**

For the 2009-2010 seasonal year, all teams in a gender age group shall be placed in one division of competition. All teams will play a round-robin against all other teams within their gender age group for a total of seven (7) games.

# US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE RULES

## APPENDIX E

### Scheduling Procedures

NL matches and match sites shall be scheduled by the NL Commissioner and approved by the NL Committee.

For the 2009-2010 season, NL matches are expected to be scheduled as follows:

Each team will play a seven-game schedule facing each team within its age group one time. Teams will play during two NL play weekends. Locations and dates are tentative.

\*All teams are required to participate in a four-game play weekend (one game per day) as follows:

Girls Age Groups: December 3-6 in College Station TX

Boys Age Groups: December 10-13 in Raleigh NC

\*The NL Committee shall determine the second play weekend for each NL teams based on minimizing high school soccer conflicts and offering play preference to returning NL teams (when possible).

Teams shall be assigned to play during one of the following two three-game play weekends (one game per day) in order complete their 7-game season:

Boys Age Groups: February 14-16 at a site to be announced  
Mid-Late March at a site to be announced in Region IV

Girls Age Groups: December 31-January 2 in Orlando, FL  
Mid-Late March at a site be announced in Region IV

# **US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE RULES**

## **APPENDIX F**

### **Match Management Procedures**

- 1-Teams should expect the Referees to check Player Passes and collect the Game Line Up Card from the team around 15 minutes prior to the scheduled kick off time.
- 2-Match balls are provided by the NL.
- 3-The NL Commissioner may implement additional Match Management Procedures during the course of the NL season.

## **US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE RULES**

### **APPENDIX G**

#### **Team Uniform Policy**

- 1-Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and be clearly visible. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team. Numbered jerseys on goalkeepers are optional.
- 2-All players participating in the National League shall wear a US Youth Soccer National League patch on their uniforms. The two (2) sets of patches will be provided by the NL to each team. NL advises that patches are sewn onto jerseys and displayed as a shoulder patch (to be located on the outside of the arm of the player) or on the front of the team uniform shorts.
- 3-In the event of a jersey color conflict the first team listed on the schedule shall change the color of their jerseys.
- 4-The NL shall have the option to assign jersey colors to teams for matches, should the NL Commissioner deem that such procedure is appropriate.
- 5-All teams are required to attend each match with two sets of jerseys for all of its players; one set of light colored jerseys and a second set of dark colored jerseys.
- 6-In the event of color conflict with referees, the referees shall change jersey colors.