



## US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE 2009-2010 SEASON INFORMATION as of June 8, 2009

### Introduction

The US Youth Soccer National League (NL) will conduct its third season of competition in 2009-2010 (September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2010). Competition will be held for the Under 15, Under 16 and Under 17 age groups, boys and girls. Each gender age group will have eight teams.

### Teams Eligible to Apply

For the 2009-2010 seasonal year, the only teams eligible to apply for the NL 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 2008-2009 seasonal year.

### Team Rosters

Teams will be using players listed on their official stamped State Association roster for NL play. No guest players will be allowed. On May 30, 2009, the US Youth Soccer Board adopted the following rule concerning teams playing in the National League: 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.

### Team Applications

Teams must complete the National League Team application form found on the US Youth Soccer website and file an application on line with the NL Commissioner by no later than Friday, July 10, 2009, 5:00 pm ET. Team fees are to be paid by check or money order, payable to "US Youth Soccer". Team fees are to be mailed to the NL Commissioner as follows:

NL Commissioner  
6612 Debbie Drive,  
North Ridgeville, OH 44039

### Fee Requirement of NL Teams

NL teams will be required to pay a team fee of \$1,000.00. The team fee must be RECEIVED by the NL Commissioner no later than Friday, July 10, 2009, 5:00 pm ET. The NL shall cover all costs associated with the conducting of matches including but not limited to field rental costs, referee fees/expenses etc. US Youth Soccer shall not be liable for transportation, lodging, or injury to persons or property sustained during the course of NL events.

### Selection of Teams

The four teams in the Girls and Boys Under 16 and Under 17 age groups who retained NL slots based on their 2008-2009 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. 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 each of the Under 15 gender age groups, two teams from each region;
- In each of the Under 16 and Under 17 gender age groups, the four eligible returning NL teams 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.

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Announcement of Teams

Teams will be notified by email of their acceptance or non-acceptance into the NL on or around August 1, 2009.

Playing Schedule

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

Qualifying for the 2010 Nationals

The first and second place teams from each gender age group shall qualify for the 2010 Championship finals to be held in Overland Park, KS, July 20-25, 2010.

Commitment to Play

Teams understand the level of commitment necessary to participate in the US Youth Soccer National League. With such commitment comes a respect towards opponents. Any team that fails to appear for NL games may be subject to a fine as determined by the NL Committee. Further, the team's club shall also be sanctioned in that every team from such club that participates in the NL will be required to post a \$2,500 performance bond prior to the start of the NL season.

Administration

The NL is governed by the National League Charter that has established a National League Committee to administer the NL. A Commissioner has been appointed to oversee the day-to-day operations of the NL.

For more information, please email National League Commissioner Paul Luchowski at [pluchowski@plsportsconsulting.com](mailto:pluchowski@plsportsconsulting.com)