



US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE 2008-09 SEASON INFORMATION as of June 5, 2008

Introduction

The US Youth Soccer National League (NL) will conduct its second season of competition in 2008-09 (September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009). 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 Participate

For the 2008-09 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 3 Premier League, Far West Regional League) during the 2007-08 seasonal year.

Team Applications

Teams must complete the National League Team application form found on the US Youth Soccer website and file application with the NL Commissioner by no later than Tuesday, June 10, 2008 5:00 pm ET.

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 2007-08 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 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 2008-09 NL season, the NL Committee, at its sole discretion, shall select an additional eligible team to participate in the NL.

Announcement of Teams

Teams will be notified by email of their acceptance or non-acceptance into the NL on or around July 11, 2008.

Playing Schedule

Each team will play a seven-game schedule facing each team within its age group one time. Based on information available the following shall apply.

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

Boys Age Groups: December 11-14 in Dallas TX

Girls Age Groups: December 4-7 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 in Florida

March 14-16 at a site to be announced in Region IV

Girls Age Groups: December 31-January 2 in Orlando, FL

March 14-16 at a site be announced in Region IV

US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE
2008-09 SEASON INFORMATION
as of June 5, 2008
page two

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.

Fee Requirement of NL Teams

NL teams will be required to pay a team application fee of \$500.00. Application fee is returned if team is not selected to participate in the NL. Once a team is accepted, the fee is non-refundable. 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.

Team Rosters

Teams will be using players listed on their official stamped State Association roster for NL play. No guest players will be allowed.

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.

Retaining Slots in the National League

The top four finishers in NL play during 2008-09 in the Under 15 and Under 16 age groups shall retain their slots in the NL for the 2009-10 season, provided that such teams meet all eligibility requirements and continue to participate in their respective State Cup Competition and Regional League.

For more information, please email National League Commissioner Paul Luchowski at
NationalLeague@usyouthsoccer.org