



US YOUTH SOCCER  
NATIONAL LEAGUE RULES  
2017-2018 SEASONAL YEAR

**SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION**

**1.01 US Youth Soccer National League Program and Administration**

The US Youth Soccer National League (NL) is a program of, and administered by, US Youth Soccer through its NL Committee in accordance with the US Youth Soccer National League Charter.

**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 by those rules and these NL rules. These NL rules (including the appendices) may be revised by the NL Committee on a seasonal year basis and other times as may be necessary or appropriate.

**1.03. Team Gender Age Groups**

The NL Committee, subject to the US Youth Soccer Board of Directors, shall determine the gender age groups of competition for each seasonal year. See "Appendix A" for the gender age groups participating in the NL for each seasonal year.

**1.04 Matters Not Provided For**

The NL Committee has 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 meeting the requirements of Rule 2.03 may request entry to the NL subject to the specific team eligibility requirements established for each seasonal year by the NL Committee. Team eligibility requirements are provided in "Appendix A" of these rules.

**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, teams participating in the NL must also participate in their respective State Cup competition in the current seasonal year and the top regional league of each region should the team qualify.

**2.03 Primary Regional Administrator Confirmation and State Association Good Standing**

All teams must be properly registered competitive teams that meet the requirements for participation provided by these rules 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 primary regional administrators that teams are eligible in accordance with "Appendix A" of these rules.

**2.04 Applications Deadline**

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 a seasonal year basis by the NL Committee.

## **2.06 Acceptance of NL Rule and Fees**

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

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

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

## **2.08 Payment of Fees and Other Expenses**

Each team playing in the NL will pay the fees and other expenses established by the NL Committee. The team fee for a seasonal year is listed in "Appendix A" of these rules. 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 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 is provided in "Appendix B" and "Appendix C" of these rules.

## **3.02 Competition Format**

The competition format for each gender age group is provided in "Appendix D" of these rules.

## **3.03 Placement of Teams into Divisions**

The NL Committee shall determine the placement of teams according to the competition format within each gender age group.

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

## **4.01 Scheduling NL Matches**

NL matches will be scheduled in a manner as determined by the NL Committee. Match scheduling procedures are provided in "Appendix E" of these rules and this Section 4.

## **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 his/her 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 has 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 match kick-off.

## **4.06 Permission to Host or Travel Not Required**

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 are provided in "Appendix F" of these rules. As part of the Match Management Procedures, the NL Commissioner or his/her designee has 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 of Appendix F. 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 officials of a team at a match (as provided by Rule 7.10), are responsible for the behavior and conduct of team 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 officials are responsible for the control of parents, fans, and spectators.

### **SECTION 5. STANDINGS**

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

The standings of teams within a competition format will be based upon the number of points earned from each match. Teams earn points as follows: 3 points for a win; 1 point for a tie; and no points for a loss.

#### **5.02 Forfeits**

A team forfeiting any match shall be dropped from the NL at the discretion of the NL Committee. All scores for that team in the seasonal year 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 Matches**

In the event that the teams in a competitions format do not play the same number of matches due to unforeseen circumstances, excluding matches that teams forfeit, the NL Committee shall determine the Final Standings utilizing any tie-breaking procedures of Rule 5.04 that may need to be applied.

#### **5.04 Tiebreakers**

The following tiebreaker criteria apply to the competition format as provided by Appendix D:

##### **Tiebreakers—2 Teams are Tied**

If 2 teams are tied on the basis of points earned, the final ranking of the teams will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria.

- (a) Winner of head-to-head competition.
- (b) Winner of most matches (all matches).
- (c) Best Goal spread (goals scored minus goals against) in all matches.
- (d) Most goals for.
- (e) Coin Toss except if the teams that are tied are at the same location on the final match day, kicks from the penalty spot will determine the higher ranked team.

##### **Tiebreakers—3 Teams That Are Tied**

If 3 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 3-way tie is broken leaving 2 teams tied, then the tiebreaker for 2 teams applies to those 2 teams.

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

#### Tiebreakers—4 Teams That Are Tied

If 4 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 4-way tie is broken leaving 2 or 3 teams tied, then the tiebreaker for 2 teams or 3 teams applies, as the case may be.

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

#### Tiebreakers—5 Teams That Are Tied

If 5 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 5-way tie is broken leaving 2, 3, or 4 teams tied, then the tiebreaker for 2 teams, 3 teams, or 4 teams applies, as the case may be.

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

#### Tiebreakers—6 Teams That Are Tied

If 6 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 6-way tie is broken leaving 2 teams, 3 teams, 4 teams, or 5 teams tied, then the tiebreaker for 2 teams, 3 teams, 4 teams, or 5 teams applies, as the case may be.

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

#### Tiebreakers—Not Covered

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

## SECTION 6. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

### 6.01 Qualifying for National Championships Finals

For the National Championships Finals, the top 4 teams in each of the gender age groups represent the National League in the National Championships Finals. If any of those teams is also a Regional Cup championship team, that team will represent the National League in the Finals and not represent its region in the Finals. If any National League team qualifying for the Finals in a gender age group is determined to be ineligible to compete in the Finals, the next eligible National League team in that gender age group will represent the National League in the Finals in place of the ineligible team. These teams must be in compliance with Rule 2.02 in order to be eligible for the National Championships. See Appendix D for additional information for the determination of which National League teams advance to National Championships Finals for the current seasonal year.

## SECTION 7. RULES OF PLAY

### 7.01 Applicable Rules and 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 of the Game as they govern play subject to the modifications noted in these rules.

### 7.02 Substitutions

Matches in the 15U, 16U, 17U and 18U age groups will operate under the FIFA-7 players "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 or reentry shall be at a normal substitution point (with approval of the referee) or at any point during the game if the referee signals for the player's reentry.

To be consistent with the National Championships Policy, matches in the 14U age group will operate with unlimited substitutions. Substitutions may be made at any stoppage of play with the approval of the referee. Entry or reentry shall be at a normal substitution point (with approval of the referee) or at any point during the 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>
17U and 18U	45 minutes	5
15U and 16U	40 minutes	5
14U	35 minutes	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 or failure to timely appear for a scheduled match will result in a forfeit. A team must be present and ready to play within 10 minutes of scheduled match time.

### 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" of these rules.

### 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 5 yards from the end of the team bench closest to the goal line (if no technical area is marked). Team bench persons may not enter the field without permission from the referee.

### 7.09 Official Match

If less than one half is completed and the match is terminated because of weather or other unplayable conditions, the entire match must be replayed, subject to review by the NL Commissioner. If the first full half of a match is played, and the second half of the match is not played because of weather or unplayable field conditions, the match is official and the final score will be the score at the time the match is terminated. If a match is terminated during 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 4 team bench persons (being only team coaches, team administrators, and team medical staff) shall be permitted at the team bench area during a match. Also, those players listed on the match lineup card are permitted at the team bench area during a match. A suspended team bench person is not permitted at the Team

Bench Area. The team bench area must at all times be supervised by a team bench person or a non-team individual designated by the NL Commissioner. If a team does not have a team coach, team administrator, team medical staff or individual designated by the NL Commissioner to supervise the team during a game, then the game shall be forfeited.

### **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 a request for waiver must be made in writing with NL Commissioner within 5 days after the day of the 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 the 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**

Each team must file with the NL a copy of the team's current official stamped State Association roster no later than September 1 of each seasonal year. Failure to file the roster may result in the expulsion of the team from the NL. Only those players listed on the team's current official stamped State Association roster may play in any NL matches. During the course of the NL seasonal year, a team is required to re-file with the NL any revisions to the team's stamped State Association roster. Additional team roster information is provided in "Appendix H" of these rules.

### **8.02 Player Continuity Requirement**

All teams that are accepted for play in the NL for the 2017-2018 seasonal year must show player continuity from their 2016-2017 seasonal year team or club. At all times during the 2017-2018 seasonal year, a NL team must have on its National League roster, to be eligible to play during the 2017-2018 seasonal year, no less than 9 US Youth Soccer players that were on a roster of any team within such team's club during the 2016-2017 seasonal year. Since NL teams must compete in State Cup competitions in order to be eligible to apply, it will be incumbent upon, and the obligation of, State Associations and their respective Regional offices (due to participation in Regional Cup and/or Regional League competitions) to determine that teams have complied with this requirement since they alone have the documentation to verify compliance with minimum of this 9-returning players rule.

### **8.03 Player Eligibility**

A player may play for only one NL team during any single day.

Once a player is on the roster of a team in the NL in a gender age group and such team has played one match in NL competition, such player may not appear on another team's roster in such gender age group during the remainder of the NL season.

### **8.04 Player Passes/Rosters/ Match Line Up Cards**

Prior to each match in accordance with Match Management Procedures of Appendix F, a team must make available and present to a NL official, as designated by the NL Commissioner, the following: (a) a properly completed NL Match Line Up Card; (b) laminated and pictured US Youth Soccer member passes for each player and team officials that shall be participating in the match; and (c) 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 NL Match Line Up Card shall be prepared by the team and submitted to the referee at the time set by the NL. The Match Line Up Card shall list a maximum of 18 players and a minimum of 7 players that are eligible to play in such match. Every player listed on the Match Line Up Card must be included on the team roster to be eligible to participate with the team. Any player on the team roster but not listed as being selected to play in the match, but who desires to sit on the team bench (and is not 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 persons 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 match. An additional suspension may be assessed following review by the NL Commissioner.

### **8.05 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.

### **8.06 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.

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

Upon request to 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 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, or email address.

### **8.08 Questions Regarding Player Eligibility**

A team may request an interpretation on the eligibility of a player on an opposing team 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 24 hours after first receiving and reviewing the request to make a ruling.

### **8.09 Team Roster Size**

The maximum team roster size shall be 22 players.

### **8.10 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 3-person FIFA/USSF Referee System, although a 4-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 by the NL Commissioner or his/her designee 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 in conjunction with the NL Commissioner 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**

Match officials will be assigned under the authority of the NL Committee.

### **9.03 Payment of Referees**

Referees, assistant referees, and fourth officials (if used) shall be compensated as provided by the NL Committee. 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. SEND OFFS, DISMISSALS, AND SUSPENSIONS**

### **10.01 – Protocol for Send Offs and Dismissals**

Any player sent off from a match must leave the field area and retreat to the parking area of the complex or an area designated by the NL Commissioner. Any team bench person dismissed from participating in a match must leave the field area and retreat to the parking area of the complex or an area designated by the NL Commissioner. Any player sent off or dismissed team bench person is prohibited from communicating with his/her team while the team is at the field for its match, including but not limited to cell phone use, texting, tweeting, or other means of communication. Violation of this rule may result in further disciplinary action against the individual and/or team. The match officials and/or NL supervisors on site are authorized to prohibit the use of any communication devices at the team bench areas.

### **10.02 Send Offs and Dismissals – Automatic Suspension**

Any player sent off or non-player dismissed under Rule 10.01 will automatically be suspended for the team's next NL match. For a second send off or dismissal during a seasonal year and any send off or dismissal thereafter, the player or non-player will automatically be suspended for the team's next 2 NL matches. Any player sent off or dismissed non-player must comply with the location and communication provisions of Rule 10.01.

### **10.3 Send Offs and Dismissals – Review by NL Commissioner**

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

### **10.04 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.

### **10.05 Suspensions Incurred at Last Match of Seasonal Year**

If a player or non-player is sent off during the last match of the NL seasonal year, the suspension shall be served at the team's next NL match or National Championships Series match. The NL Committee has the right to impose additional sanctions with regard to any matters arising from participation in the NL as the result of the sending off.

## **SECTION 11. DISCIPLINE**

### **11.01 Violation of Rules**

Any violation of these rules 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 except as outlined in Rules 10.04 and 10.05.

### **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 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 Committee as to whether the match is to be replayed or declared a forfeit.

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

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



## SECTION 12. PROTESTS AND 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 match or administrative action and are filed by one of the involved team officials. Only those teams involved are permitted to protest a match result. Third parties, i.e., coaches from other teams, state administrators, cannot file protests on a specific match. Protests must be based upon a violation of the published rules of the US Youth Soccer, US Soccer, the NL 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. An appeal must be filed in accordance with Section 12.04 within five (5) days after a decision is rendered by the NL.

### 12.03 Appeals Committee

The NL shall have a NL Appeals Committee. The Committee shall have jurisdiction of appeals as provided in the rules of this Section 12. The US Youth Soccer Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in consultation with the US Youth Soccer Chair, 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 CEO in consultation with the US Youth Soccer Chair. The Committee shall be composed of no fewer than 3 and no more than 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 (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 Matches Played

To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest must be orally lodged by a team official listed on the NL Match Lineup Card with the referee and the opposing coach at the game site before entering the field of play or leaving the game site. Notice of intent to protest activity that occurred during a match must also be registered in writing with the NL Commissioner within 2 hours of completion of the match. All protests must be submitted in writing with the appropriate fee to the NL Commissioner. The protest must be postmarked no later than 3 business days after match completion in accordance with the Filing Procedures listed in Rule 12.04. The referee is the final authority on the field of play. All decisions of the referees with 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 Notification of Parties

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

### **12.09 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.

### **12.10 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 14 business days after receipt of the appeal. Decisions shall be reduced to written form and shall be sent to the principal parties no later than 2 business days after the conclusion of deliberations (Saturdays, Sundays and holidays excepted).

### **12.11 US Youth Soccer Bylaw Section 4, Article XVII**

Section 4 of Article XVII of the US Youth Soccer bylaws provides the following:

- A. No member of USYSA, official league, club, team, player, coach, administrator or referee may invoke the aid of the courts of the United States or of a state without first exhausting all available remedies with the appropriate soccer organization, and as provided by USYSA.
- B. For a violation of this bylaw, the offending party shall be subject to suspension and fines, and shall be liable to USYSA for all expenses incurred by USYSA and its officers and members of the board of directors in defending each court action, including the following;
  1. court costs;
  2. attorney's fee;
  3. reasonable compensation for time spent by USYSA officials and employees in responding to and defending allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances;
  4. travel expenses; and
  5. expenses for holding special National Council meetings necessitated by court action.

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

### **APPENDIX A**

#### **Age Groups and Team Eligibility**

For the 2017-2018 seasonal year, the NL will offer the following gender age groups: 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U, and 18U.

For the 2017-2018 seasonal year, the teams eligible to apply for the NL in the 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U, and 18U gender age groups come from the following pools of teams:

- teams that played in the US Youth Soccer recognized Regional Leagues (i.e. Region I Premier/Regional Leagues, Midwest Regional League, Region III Premier League, Far West Regional League) or the National League during the 2016-2017 seasonal year, as well as participating in the 2016-2017 National Championships Series and
- teams that reached the semifinals of their respective 2017 Regional Cup competition.

Teams are required to pay an entry fee of \$2,800 prior to the start of the seasonal year in order to participate.

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

### **APPENDIX B**

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

For the 2017-2018 seasonal year, the maximum number of teams that may be accepted into the NL in each gender age group are as follows:

14U and 15U	a maximum of 16 teams in each gender
16U, 17U and 18U	a maximum of 32 teams in each gender

# US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE RULES

## APPENDIX C

### 2017-2018 National League Qualifiers

For the allocation of slots tables, the following is the explanation for situations where a team that earns a slot in the 2017-2018 National League seasonal year but does not wish to claim its slot for the 2017-2018 seasonal year, as well as the procedure for filling the Open Slots available within the 14U and 15U gender age groups:

#### Category NL (Automatic Qualifiers)

--Teams that have earned NL slots in this category have until July 6, 2017 to complete the team application form for the 2017-2018 season year.

--Full payment of the team fee for 2017-2018 is due on or before September 1, 2017.

--If a team does not claim its slot, then the slot will become an Open Slot (Category OPEN) to be filled at the NL Committee's discretion after the July 6, 2017 deadline from a pool of teams that wish to fill any Open Slots. These slots may be filled by a team from any Region.

#### Category RL (Automatic Qualifiers)

--Teams that have earned NL slots in this category have until July 6, 2017 to complete the team application form for the 2017-2018 season year.

--Full payment of the team fee for the 2017-2018 seasonal year is due on or before September 1, 2017.

--If a team does not claim its slot, then the slot will become an Open Slot (Category OPEN) to be filled at the NL Committee's discretion after the July 6, 2017 deadline from a pool of teams that wish to fill any Open Slots. Open Slots in this category are to be filled by a team from the same Region. If there are no eligible teams available to fill a slot, then the slot may be filled by a team from any Region.

--In a situation where a team that is a Category RL qualifier and is also either a Category NL or Category CUP automatic qualifier, then the slot in Category RL shall become an Open Slot (Category OPEN) to be filled at the NL Committee's discretion after the July 6, 2017 deadline from a pool of teams that wish to fill any Open Slots. Open Slots in this category are to be filled by a team from the same Region. If there are no eligible teams available to fill a slot, then the slot may be filled by a team from any Region.

#### Category RL (Representative)

--These slots are filled at the NL Committee's discretion after a review of the team applications from the respective Regional Leagues that are due on July 6, 2017 with full payment due on or before September 1, 2017.

#### Category CUP (Automatic Qualifiers)

--Teams that have earned NL slots in this category have until July 6, 2017 to complete the team application form for the 2017-2018 season year.

--Full payment of the team fee for the 2017-18 seasonal year is due on or before September 1, 2017.

--If a team does not claim its slot, then the slot will become an Open Slot (Category OPEN) to be filled at the NL Committee's discretion after the July 6, 2017 deadline from a pool of teams that wish to fill any Open Slots. Open Slots in this category are to be filled by a team from the same Region. If there are no eligible teams available to fill a slot, then the slot may be filled by a team from any Region.

#### Category OPEN (Teams Selected by NL Committee)

--These slots are to be filled at the NL Committee's discretion after a review of all team applications that are due on July 6, 2017 with full fee payment due on or before September 1, 2017.

\* if a team opts out of the earned slot, or if a team earns a second guaranteed slot, then the slot becomes an OPEN category slot. OPEN slots will be filled through an application process selected by the National League Committee. The application process will take place approximately June 8 through July 6, 2017.

### 2017-2018 — 14U Boys (2004s)

Category	Competition Results as 13U in 2016-17
RL	2017 ERL Elite Division Champion
RL	2017 ERL Elite Division Playoff Runner-up
OPEN	At-Large Selection from Region II
OPEN	At-Large Selection from Region II
RL	2017 SRPL Representative
RL	2017 SRPL Representative
RL	2016-2017 FWRL Representative
RL	2016-2017 FWRL Representative

CUP Region I Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region II Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region III Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region IV Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 OPEN At-Large Selection from Region I  
 OPEN At-Large Selection from Region II  
 OPEN At-Large Selection from Region III  
 OPEN At-Large Selection from Region IV

2017-2018 — 15U Boys (2003s)

Category Competition Results as 14U in 2016-17  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Champion  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Playoff Runner-up  
 RL 2017 Spring MRL Premier I Division Blue Champion  
 RL 2017 Spring MRL Premier I Division Red Champion  
 RL 2017 SRPL Representative  
 RL 2017 SRPL Representative  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL Representative  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL Representative  
 CUP Region I Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region II Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region III Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region IV Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 OPEN At-Large Selection from Region I  
 OPEN At-Large Selection from Region II  
 OPEN At-Large Selection from Region III  
 OPEN At-Large Selection from Region IV

2017-2018 — 16U Boys (2002s)

Category Competition Results as 15U in 2016-17  
 NL 2016-2017 First Place Team--Blue Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Second Place Team--Blue Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Third Place Team-Blue Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Fourth Place Team-Blue Division  
 NL 2016-2017 First Place Team--Red Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Second Place Team--Red Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Third Place Team--Red Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Fourth Place Team--Red Division  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Champion  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Playoff Runner-up  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Playoff 3rd Place  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Playoff 4th Place  
 RL 2017 MRL Premier I Division Red 1st Place  
 RL 2017 MRL Premier I Division Blue 1st Place  
 RL 2017 MRL Premier I Division Red 2nd Place  
 RL 2017 MRL Premier I Division Blue 2nd Place  
 RL 2016-2017 SRPL East 1st Place  
 RL 2016-2017 SRPL East 2nd Place  
 RL 2016-2017 SRPL West 1st Place  
 RL 2016-2017 SRPL West 2nd Place  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL Northwest Division Champion  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL Desert Division Champion

RL 2016-2017 FWRL CRL-North Champion  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL CRL-South Champion  
 CUP Region I Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region I Cup Finalist  
 CUP Region II Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region II Cup Finalist  
 CUP Region III Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region III Cup Finalist  
 CUP Region IV Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region IV Cup Finalist

2017-2018 — 17U Boys (2001s)

Category Competition Results as 16U in 2016-17  
 NL 2016-2017 First Place Team--Blue Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Second Place Team--Blue Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Third Place Team-Blue Division  
 NL 2016-2017 First Place Team--Red Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Second Place Team--Red Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Third Place Team--Red Division  
 NL 2016-2017 First Place Team-White Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Second Place Team--White Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Third Place Team--White Division  
 NL 2016-2017 First Place Team--Black Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Second Place Team--Black Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Third Place Team--Black Division  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Champion  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Playoff Runner-up  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Playoff 3rd Place  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Playoff 4th Place  
 RL 2017 MRL Premier I Division Red 1st Place  
 RL 2017 MRL Premier I Division Blue 1st Place  
 RL 2017 MRL Premier I Division Red 2nd Place  
 RL 2017 MRL Premier I Division Blue 2nd Place  
 RL 2016-2017 SRPL East 1st Place  
 RL 2016-2017 SRPL East 2nd Place  
 RL 2016-2017 SRPL West 1st Place  
 RL 2016-2017 SRPL West 2nd Place  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL Northwest Division Champion  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL Desert Division Champion  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL CRL-North Champion  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL CRL-South Champion  
 CUP Region I Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region II Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region III Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region IV Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals

2017-2018 — 18U Boys (2000s)

Category Competition Results as 17U in 2016-17  
 NL 2016-2017 First Place Team--Blue Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Second Place Team--Blue Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Third Place Team-Blue Division  
 NL 2016-2017 First Place Team--Red Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Second Place Team--Red Division

NL 2016-2017 Third Place Team--Red Division  
 NL 2016-2017 First Place Team-White Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Second Place Team--White Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Third Place Team--White Division  
 NL 2016-2017 First Place Team--Black Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Second Place Team--Black Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Third Place Team--Black Division  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Champion  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Playoff Runner-up  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Playoff 3rd Place  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Playoff 4th Place  
 RL 2017 MRL Premier I Division Red 1st Place  
 RL 2017 MRL Premier I Division Blue 1st Place  
 RL 2017 MRL Premier I Division Red 2nd Place  
 RL 2017 MRL Premier I Division Blue 2nd Place  
 RL 2016-2017 SRPL East 1st Place  
 RL 2016-2017 SRPL East 2nd Place  
 RL 2016-2017 SRPL West 1st Place  
 RL 2016-2017 SRPL West 2nd Place  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL Northwest Division Champion  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL Desert Division Champion  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL CRL-North Champion  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL CRL-South Champion  
 CUP Region I Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region II Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region III Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region IV Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals

2017-2018 — 14U Girls (2004s)

Category Competition Results as 13U in 2016-17  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Champion  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Playoff Runner-up  
 OPEN At-Large Selection from Region II  
 OPEN At-Large Selection from Region II  
 RL 2017 SRPL Representative  
 RL 2017 SRPL Representative  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL Representative  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL Representative  
 CUP Region I Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region II Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region III Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region IV Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 OPEN At-Large Selection from Region I  
 OPEN At-Large Selection from Region II  
 OPEN At-Large Selection from Region III  
 OPEN At-Large Selection from Region IV

2017-18 — 15U Girls (2003s)

Category Competition Results as 14U in 2016-17  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Champion  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Playoff Runner-up  
 RL 2017 Spring MRL Premier I Division Blue Champion  
 RL 2017 Spring MRL Premier I Division Red Champion  
 RL 2017 SRPL Representative



RL 2017 SRPL Representative  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL Representative  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL Representative  
 CUP Region I Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region II Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region III Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region IV Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 OPEN At-Large Selection from Region I  
 OPEN At-Large Selection from Region II  
 OPEN At-Large Selection from Region III  
 OPEN At-Large Selection from Region IV

2017-18 — 16U Girls (2002s)

Category Competition Results as 15U in 2016-17  
 NL 2016-2017 First Place Team--Blue Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Second Place Team--Blue Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Third Place Team-Blue Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Fourth Place Team-Blue Division  
 NL 2016-2017 First Place Team--Red Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Second Place Team--Red Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Third Place Team--Red Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Fourth Place Team--Red Division  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Champion  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Playoff Runner-up  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Playoff 3rd Place  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Playoff 4th Place  
 RL 2016 MRL Premier I Division Fall Champion  
 RL 2017 MRL Premier I Division Spring Champion  
 RL 2016 MRL Premier I Division Fall 2nd Place  
 RL 2017 MRL Premier I Division Spring 2nd Place  
 RL 2016-2017 SRPL East 1st Place  
 RL 2016-2017 SRPL East 2nd Place  
 RL 2016-2017 SRPL West 1st Place  
 RL 2016-2017 SRPL West 2nd Place  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL Northwest Division Champion  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL Desert Division Champion  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL CRL-North Champion  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL CRL-South Champion  
 CUP Region I Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region I Cup Finalist  
 CUP Region II Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region II Cup Finalist  
 CUP Region III Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region III Cup Finalist  
 CUP Region IV Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region IV Cup Finalist

2017-18 — 17U Girls (2001s)

Category Competition Results as 16U in 2016-17  
 NL 2016-2017 First Place Team--Blue Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Second Place Team--Blue Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Third Place Team-Blue Division  
 NL 2016-2017 First Place Team--Red Division

NL 2016-2017 Second Place Team--Red Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Third Place Team--Red Division  
 NL 2016-2017 First Place Team-White Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Second Place Team--White Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Third Place Team--White Division  
 NL 2016-2017 First Place Team--Black Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Second Place Team--Black Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Third Place Team--Black Division  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Champion  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Playoff Runner-up  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Playoff 3rd Place  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Playoff 4th Place  
 RL 2016 MRL Premier I Division Fall Champion  
 RL 2017 MRL Premier I Division Spring Champion  
 RL 2016 MRL Premier I Division Fall 2nd Place  
 RL 2017 MRL Premier I Division Spring 2nd Place  
 RL 2016-2017 SRPL East 1st Place  
 RL 2016-2017 SRPL East 2nd Place  
 RL 2016-2017 SRPL West 1st Place  
 RL 2016-2017 SRPL West 2nd Place  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL Northwest Division Champion  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL Desert Division Champion  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL CRL-North Champion  
 RL 2016-2017 FWRL CRL-South Champion  
 CUP Region I Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region II Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region III Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
 CUP Region IV Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals

2017-18 — 18U Girls (2000s)

Category Competition Results as 17U in 2016-17  
 NL 2016-2017 First Place Team--Blue Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Second Place Team--Blue Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Third Place Team-Blue Division  
 NL 2016-2017 First Place Team--Red Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Second Place Team--Red Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Third Place Team--Red Division  
 NL 2016-2017 First Place Team-White Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Second Place Team--White Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Third Place Team--White Division  
 NL 2016-2017 First Place Team--Black Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Second Place Team--Black Division  
 NL 2016-2017 Third Place Team--Black Division  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Champion  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Playoff Runner-up  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Playoff 3rd Place  
 RL 2017 ERL Elite Division Playoff 4th Place  
 RL 2016 MRL Premier I Division Fall Champion  
 RL 2017 MRL Premier I Division Spring Champion  
 RL 2016 MRL Premier I Division Fall 2nd Place  
 RL 2017 MRL Premier I Division Spring 2nd Place  
 RL 2016-2017 SRPL East 1st Place

RL 2016-2017 SRPL East 2nd Place  
RL 2016-2017 SRPL West 1st Place  
RL 2016-2017 SRPL West 2nd Place  
RL 2016-2017 FWRL Northwest Division Champion  
RL 2016-2017 FWRL Desert Division Champion  
RL 2016-2017 FWRL CRL-North Champion  
RL 2016-2017 FWRL CRL-South Champion  
CUP Region I Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
CUP Region II Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
CUP Region III Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals  
CUP Region IV Cup Representative to 2017 Nationals

Subject to reconfirmation and change.

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

### **APPENDIX D**

#### **Competition Format**

For the 2017-2018 seasonal year, teams in the 14U and 15U gender age groups shall be placed into one of 2 divisions consisting of a total of 8 teams in each division. All teams within a division will play a round-robin against all other teams within their division for a total of 7 matches.

For the 2017-2018 seasonal year, the teams finishing in first and second places within the 2 divisions of the 14U and 15U gender age groups will advance to the National Championships Finals.

For the 2017-2018 seasonal year, teams in the 16U, 17U and 18U gender age groups shall be placed into one of 4 divisions consisting of 8 teams in each division. All teams within a division will play a round-robin against all other teams within their division for a total of 7 matches.

For the 2017-2018 seasonal year, the teams finishing in first place within the 4 divisions of the 16U, 17U and 18U gender age groups will advance to the National Championships Finals.

If a team qualifies for the US Youth Soccer National Championships Finals through the National League, then that team shall attend the Finals as a National League representative, even if such team wins its respective Regional Championship.

# **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.

Locations and dates are subject to change.

All teams are required to coordinate hotel stays through the designated hotel provider as designated by the NL Committee.

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

### **APPENDIX F**

#### **Match Management Procedures**

1-Teams should expect the referees to check player passes and collect the Match 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 videotaping of matches by team representatives and non-official US Youth Soccer representatives from the team bench side is prohibited unless written permission is granted in writing from the NL Commissioner.

4-The NL Commissioner may implement additional Match Management Procedures during the course of the NL seasonal year.

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

### **APPENDIX G**

#### **Team Uniform Policy**

- 1-Each player (except a goalkeeper) 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 teams are required to attend each match with 2 sets of jerseys and socks for all of its players; one set of light colored jerseys and socks, and a second set of dark colored jerseys and socks.
- 3- It is expected that that the first team listed on the match schedule is to wear light/white color jerseys and socks. When there is a conflict in uniform color, the team listed second on the NL schedule must change its jerseys and socks, except in situations where the team listed first is wearing dark colored jerseys and/or socks, then the team listed first must change to light/white color jerseys and socks. The Referee shall define what constitutes light and dark color jerseys and socks.
- 4-All players participating in the NL shall wear a US Youth Soccer National League patch on their uniforms. The NL will provide 2 sets of patches to each team. The patches are to be 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.
- 5-The NL shall have the option to assign jersey colors to teams for matches, should the NL Commissioner deem that such procedure is appropriate.
- 6-In the event of color conflict with referees, the referees shall change jersey colors.

# US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE RULES

## APPENDIX H

### Team Roster Information

**Definition of a NL Team Roster:** NL will accept either a State Association generated roster or a roster on a NL roster form (available from the NL Commissioner), provided that the form used is stamped and/or signed off by a State Association representative (Executive Director, State President, State Registrar are examples of State Association representatives). Teams are permitted to make changes (i.e. drops, adds) to their rosters during the course of the NL seasonal year provided that such changes are filed with the NL at the time of such change and approved with a revised stamped roster from the team's State Association.

**Teams that are accepted into the NL are to file a Team Roster by September 1, 2017 as follows:**

For the 2017-2018 seasonal year, the NL requires teams to file with the NL an initial team roster by no later than September 1, 2017. Filing is defined as the team providing the NL Commissioner with a copy of the team's roster that is approved by its State Association (the team may file a State Association approved roster form or the team may use the NL roster form). The primary purpose of this early filing is to ensure that teams are in compliance with the NL's "9 returning players" rule. State Associations are notified of this requirement and will need to file a verification of compliance with the 9-returning players rule.

**Revising the Team Roster:** A NL team roster may be changed throughout the NL seasonal year subject to these NL Rules; there is no freeze date of NL team rosters. For example, for teams that are not participating in club soccer this fall (2017), the team may opt to simply provide a team roster with a minimum number of players (i.e. 9) to comply with the September 1 deadline, and then resubmit a team roster with additional players prior to the team's first event (as long as the 9-returning player rule is met). Teams are permitted to update their team roster throughout the seasonal year. Also in situations of injuries, teams may desire to drop a player from its team roster and replace the player (as long as the 9-returning player rule is still met).

**Appearing on Multiple Team Rosters:** In situations where a club may have multiple teams participating in the NL, a player or players may be listed on multiple teams' rosters, subject to these NL rules, but at no time may a player play for more than one team on the same day, and not play on more than one team in the same gender age group. Under no circumstances may a player be listed on multiple team rosters if such teams are from different clubs.