



US YOUTH SOCCER  
NATIONAL LEAGUE RULES  
2013-2014

*(Effective November 12, 2013*

*Appendix C Revised for 2014-2015 as of February 6, 2014; Rule 2.02 Revised as of March 1, 2014)*

## **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 adopted on March 17, 2007, and revised on September 1, 2008, March 31, 2010, April 10, 2011, July 10, 2012 and December 14, 2013.

### **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. The NL currently conducts NL play in the following gender age groups: Boys and Girls U-14, U-15, U-16, U-17, and U-18 gender age groups.

### **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 in the U-14, U-15, U-16, U-17 and U-18 gender age groups 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 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 a Regional Director that teams are eligible in accordance with "Appendix A" of these 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 of 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 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 of NL Games**

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

### **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 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**

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 management of a team at a match, including but not limited to the coaches and managers, is 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 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 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 Games**

In the event that the teams in a competitions format do not play the same number of games due to unforeseen circumstances, excluding games that teams refuse to play (i.e. forfeits), 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 games (all games).
- (c) Best Goal spread (goals scored minus goals against) in all games
- (d) Most goals for.
- (e) Coin Toss

##### **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 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—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 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—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 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—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 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 determine any tie-breaking procedures that may need to be applied.

## SECTION 6. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

### 6.01 Qualifying for National Championships

For the National Championships Finals, the top 4 teams in each of the U-14, U-15, U-16, U-17, and U-18 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 NL 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 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 Under-15, Under-16, Under-17 and Under-18 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 Under-14 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>
U-17 and U-18	45 minutes	5
U-15 and U-16	40 minutes	5
U-14	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 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). Coaches may not enter the field without permission from the referee.

### 7.09 Official Match

A match is official after at least 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 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 4 team bench personnel (being only team coaches, team managers, and 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. The Team Bench must at all times be supervised by a US Youth Soccer member-carded adult (coach or manager) with the team/club participating in the match. In a situation where there are send offs of team

bench personnel and no adult who possesses a member pass card from his/her respective State Association is available to supervise the team bench, the game is 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 prior to 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 games. 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 2013-2014 seasonal year must show player continuity from their 2012-2013 seasonal year team. At all times during the 2013-2014 seasonal year, a NL team must have on its National League roster, to be eligible to play during the 2013-2014 seasonal year, no less than 9 of the players that were on the team's roster for the 2012-2013 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.

### **8.04 Player Passes/Rosters/Lineup Game 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 Game Line Up Form; (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 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. Any player on the team roster but not listed as being eligible to play 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 personnel 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 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.

### **8.07 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.

### **8.08 Team Roster Size**

The maximum team roster size shall be 22 players.

### **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 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 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 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, 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 AND SUSPENSIONS**

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

For any send off, the player or coach/manager must leave the field area and retreat to the parking lot of the complex or an area as designated by the NL Commissioner. Any coach that is sent off is prohibited from communicating with his/her team bench during the game, including but not limited to cell phone use, texting, tweeting or other means of communication. The Game Officials and/or NL supervisors on site are authorized to prohibit the use of any communication devices at the team bench area.

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

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

### **10.3 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 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 coach is sent off during the last game of the NL seasonal year, 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 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 Rule 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 game 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 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 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 \$500.00 (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 3 business days after 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 3 business days after 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 3 business days after 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 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).

**12.12 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 2013-2014 seasonal year, the teams eligible to apply for the NL in the U-15, U-16, U-17 and U-18 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 2012-2013 seasonal year, and
- teams that reached the semifinals of their respective 2012-2013 Regional Cup competition.

For the 2013-2014 seasonal year, the teams eligible to apply for the NL in the Under-14 age group are any team that participated in the 2012-2013 National Championships Series (i.e. a team's respective State Cup competition).

Teams are required to pay an entry fee as follows:

U-14 Teams	Entry fee of \$2,250
U-15 through U-18 teams	Entry fee of \$2,750

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

### **APPENDIX B**

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

For the 2013-2014 seasonal year, a maximum of 16 teams may be accepted into the NL in each gender age group.

## US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE RULES

### APPENDIX C

2013-2014

**For the 2013-2014 National League Seasonal Year, the following procedures will be used for filling the 16 National League Slots in each gender age group:**

In the Boys and Girls U-14 age group, the 16 available slots shall be filled as follows:

	<u>Team's Origin</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Competition Result</u>
1	Region I	# CUP	U-13 Regional Cup Representative to 2013 Nationals
2	Region I	# RL	U-13 2013 Premier League Champion
3	Region II	# CUP	U-13 Regional Cup Representative to 2013 Nationals
4	Region II	# CUP	U-13 Regional Cup Finalist at 2013 Regionals
5	Region III	# CUP	U-13 Regional Cup Representative to 2013 Nationals
6	Region III	# CUP	U-13 Regional Cup Finalist at 2013 Regionals
7	Region IV	# CUP	U-13 Regional Cup Representative to 2013 Nationals
8	Region IV	# RL	U-13 2013 FWRL Spring Champion
9	Region I	OPEN	From Open Applications
10	Region I	OPEN	From Open Applications
11	Region II	OPEN	From Open Applications
12	Region II	OPEN	From Open Applications
13	Region III	OPEN	From Open Applications
14	Region III	OPEN	From Open Applications
15	Region IV	OPEN	From Open Applications
16	Region IV	OPEN	From Open Applications

# 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

In the Boys and Girls U-15 age group, the 16 available slots shall be filled as follows:

	<u>Team's Origin</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Competition Result</u>
1	Region I	# RL	2013 Premier League Champion
2	Region I	# RL	2013 Premier League Playoff Runner-up
3	Region II	# RL	2013 Spring MRL Premier Division Red Champion
4	Region II	# RL	2013 Spring MRL Premier Division Blue Champion
5	Region III	# RL	2012-13 RPL Champion
6	Region III	# RL	2012-13 RPL Champion
7	Region IV	# RL	2012 FWRL Fall Champion
8	Region IV	# RL	2013 FWRL Spring Champion
9	Region I	# CUP	Regional Cup Representative to 2013 Nationals
10	Region II	# CUP	Regional Cup Representative to 2013 Nationals
11	Region III	# CUP	Regional Cup Representative to 2013 Nationals
12	Region IV	# CUP	Regional Cup Representative to 2013 Nationals
13	Region I	OPEN	From Regional League or Regional Cup Semifinalist
14	Region II	OPEN	From Regional League or Regional Cup Semifinalist
15	Region III	OPEN	From Regional League or Regional Cup Semifinalist
16	Region IV	OPEN	From Regional League or Regional Cup Semifinalist

# 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

In the Boys and Girls U-16, U-17 and U-18 age groups, the 16 available slots in each gender age group shall be filled as follows:

	<u>Team's Origin</u>		<u>Category</u>	<u>Competition Result</u>
1	National League	#	NL	2012-2013 First Place Team--Blue Division
2	National League	#	NL	2012-2013 Second Place Team--Blue Division
3	National League	#	NL	2012-2013 First Place Team--Red Division
4	National League	#	NL	2012-2013 Second Place Team--Red Division
5	Region I	#	RL	2013 Premier League Champion
6	Region I	#	RL	2013 Premier League Playoff Runner-up
7	Region II	#	RL	2013 MRL Premier Division Red (Boys) or 2012 Fall Champion (Girls)
8	Region II	#	RL	2013 MRL Premier Division Blue (Boys) or 2013 Spring Champion (Girls)
9	Region III	#	RL	Fall 2012 SPL First Place
10	Region III	#	RL	Fall 2012 SPL Second Place
11	Region IV	#	RL	2012 FWRL Fall Champion
12	Region IV	#	RL	2013 FWRL Spring Champion
13	Region I	#	CUP	Regional Cup Representative to 2013 Nationals
14	Region II	#	CUP	Regional Cup Representative to 2013 Nationals
15	Region III	#	CUP	Regional Cup Representative to 2013 Nationals
16	Region IV	#	CUP	Regional Cup Representative to 2013 Nationals
		#		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

For the preceding allocation of slots tables, following is the explanation for situations where a team that earns a slot in the 2013-2014 National League seasonal year, but does not wish to claim its slot for the 2013-2014 seasonal year, as well as the procedure for filling the Open Slots available within the U-14 and U-15 gender age groups:

#### **Category NL (Automatic Qualifiers)**

--Teams that have earned NL slots in this category have until July 9, 2013 to complete the team application form for the 2013-2014 season year.

--Full payment of the team fee for 2013-2014 is due on or before July 12, 2013.

--If a team does not claim its slot, then the slot will become an Open Slot (Category OPEN) to be filled at the Committee's discretion after the July 9, 2013 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 9, 2013 to complete the team application form for the 2013-2014 season year.

--Full payment of the team fee for the 2013-2014 seasonal year is due on or before July 12, 2013.

--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 9, 2013 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 Committee's discretion after the July 9, 2013 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 CUP (Automatic Qualifiers)**

--Teams that have earned NL slots in this category have until July 9, 2013 to complete the team application form for the 2013-2014 season year.

--Full payment of the team fee for the 2013-2014 seasonal year is due on or before July 12, 2013.

--If a team does not claim its slot, then the slot will become an Open Slot (Category OPEN) to be filled at the Committee's discretion after the July 9, 2013 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 Committee)**

--These slots are to be filled at the Committee's discretion after a review of all team applications that are due on July 9, 2013 with full fee payment due on or before July 12, 2013. Regional Directors recommendations are taken into account in filling these and all other Open Slots.

## US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE RULES

### APPENDIX C

**2014-2015**

**For the 2014-2015 National League Seasonal Year, the following procedures will be used for filling the 16 National League Slots in each gender age group:**

In the Boys and Girls U-14 age group, the 16 available slots shall be filled as follows:

	<u>Team's Origin</u>		<u>Category</u>	<u>Competition Result from 2013-2014</u>
1	Region I	#	RL	2014 Premier League Champion (U-13)
2	Region I	#	RL	2014 Premier League Playoff Runner-up (U-13)
3	Region II	#	RL	2014 Spring MRL Premier Division Blue Champion (U-13)
4	Region II	#	RL	2014 Spring MRL Premier Division Red Champion (U-13)
5	Region III	#	CUP	Regional Cup Finalist at 2014 Regionals (U-13)
6	Region III	#	OPEN	From Open Applications
7	Region IV	#	RL	2013-14 FWRL Representative (U-13)
8	Region IV	#	RL	2013-14 FWRL Representative (U-13)
9	Region I	#	CUP	Regional Cup Representative to 2014 Nationals (U-13)
10	Region II	#	CUP	Regional Cup Representative to 2014 Nationals (U-13)
11	Region III	#	CUP	Regional Cup Representative to 2014 Nationals (U-13)
12	Region IV	#	CUP	Regional Cup Representative to 2014 Nationals (U-13)
13	Region I		OPEN	From Open Applications
14	Region II		OPEN	From Open Applications
15	Region III		OPEN	From Open Applications
16	Region IV		OPEN	From Open Applications

# 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

In the Boys and Girls U-15 age group, the 16 available slots shall be filled as follows:

	<u>Team's Origin</u>		<u>Category</u>	<u>Competition Result from 2013-2014</u>
1	National League	#	NL	2013-2014 First Place Team--Blue Division
2	National League	#	NL	2013-2014 Second Place Team--Blue Division
3	National League	#	NL	2013-2014 First Place Team--Red Division
4	National League	#	NL	2013-2014 Second Place Team--Red Division
5	Region I	#	RL	2014 Premier League Champion
6	Region I	#	RL	2014 Premier League Playoff Runner-up
7	Region II	#	RL	2014 Spring MRL Premier Division Blue Champion
8	Region II	#	RL	2014 Spring MRL Premier Division Red Champion
9	Region III	#	RL	2013-14 RPL Representative
10	Region III	#	RL	2013-14 RPL Representative
11	Region IV	#	RL	2013-14 FWRL Representative
12	Region IV	#	RL	2013-14 FWRL Representative
13	Region I	#	CUP	Regional Cup Representative to 2014 Nationals
14	Region II	#	CUP	Regional Cup Representative to 2014 Nationals
15	Region III	#	CUP	Regional Cup Representative to 2014 Nationals
16	Region IV	#	CUP	Regional Cup Representative to 2014 Nationals

# 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



In the Boys and Girls U-16, U-17 and U-18 age groups, the 16 available slots in each gender age group shall be filled as follows:

	<u>Team's Origin</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Competition Result from 2013-2014</u>
1	National League	# NL	2013-2014 First Place Team--Blue Division
2	National League	# NL	2013-2014 Second Place Team--Blue Division
3	National League	# NL	2013-2014 First Place Team--Red Division
4	National League	# NL	2013-2014 Second Place Team--Red Division
5	Region I	# RL	2014 Premier League Champion
6	Region I	# RL	2014 Premier League Playoff Runner-up
7	Region II	# RL	2014 MRL Premier Division Red (Boys) or 2013 Fall Champion (Girls)
8	Region II	# RL	2014 MRL Premier Division Blue (Boys) or 2014 Spring Champion (Girls)
9	Region III	# RL	Fall 2013 SRPL First Place
10	Region III	# RL	Fall 2013 SRPL Second Place
11	Region IV	# RL	2013-14 FWRL Representative
12	Region IV	# RL	2013-14 FWRL Representative
13	Region I	# CUP	Regional Cup Representative to 2014 Nationals
14	Region II	# CUP	Regional Cup Representative to 2014 Nationals
15	Region III	# CUP	Regional Cup Representative to 2014 Nationals
16	Region IV	# CUP	Regional Cup Representative to 2014 Nationals
		#	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

For the preceding allocation of slots tables, following is the explanation for situations where a team that earns a slot in the 2014-2015 National League seasonal year, but does not wish to claim its slot for the 2014-2015 seasonal year, as well as the procedure for filling the Open Slots available within the U-14 and U-15 gender age groups:

#### **Category NL (Automatic Qualifiers)**

--Teams that have earned NL slots in this category have until July 9, 2014 to complete the team application form for the 2014-2015 season year.

--Full payment of the team fee for 2014-2015 is due on or before July 12, 2014.

--If a team does not claim its slot, then the slot will become an Open Slot (Category OPEN) to be filled at the Committee's discretion after the July 9, 2014 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 9, 2014 to complete the team application form for the 2014-2015 season year.

--Full payment of the team fee for the 2014-2015 seasonal year is due on or before July 12, 2014.

--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 9, 2014 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 Committee's discretion after the July 9, 2014 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 CUP (Automatic Qualifiers)**

--Teams that have earned NL slots in this category have until July 9, 2014 to complete the team application form for the 2014-2015 season year.

--Full payment of the team fee for the 2014-2015 seasonal year is due on or before July 12, 2014.

--If a team does not claim its slot, then the slot will become an Open Slot (Category OPEN) to be filled at the Committee's discretion after the July 9, 2014 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 Committee)**

--These slots are to be filled at the Committee's discretion after a review of all team applications that are due on July 9, 2014 with full fee payment due on or before July 12, 2014. Regional Directors recommendations are taken into account in filling these and all other Open Slots.

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

### **APPENDIX D**

#### **Competition Format**

For the 2013-2014 seasonal year, teams in each gender age group shall be placed into one of 2 subdivisions consisting of a total of 8 teams in each subdivision. All teams within a subdivision will play a round-robin against all other teams within their subdivision for a total of 7 games.

For the 2013-2014 seasonal year, the teams finishing in first and second place within the 2 subdivisions of each gender age group will advance to the National Championships Finals.

If a team qualifies for the US Youth Soccer Nationals through the National League, then that team shall attend the Nationals 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. NL games are tied in with Showcase Tournament events whenever possible to provide exposure of NL players for advancement to a higher level.

All teams are required to coordinate hotel stays through the Showcase Tournament hotel coordinator when play is tied in with a Showcase Tournament.

### Specific Information for each Gender Age Group

#### Boys U-14 Age Group

**All Boys teams will play in both of the following NL play weekends:**

\*\*\*\*All teams are required to participate in a 4-game play weekend (one game per day) to be held on November 21-24, 2013 as part of the CASL Showcase. First games on November 21 may begin as early as 10 am with games on Sunday scheduled to be completed by 4 pm.

\*\*\*\*All teams are required to participate in a 3-game play weekend (one game per day) to be held on Friday through Sunday, March 7-9, 14-16, 21-23 or 28-30, 2014 in the West (NL has been in Las Vegas for the past five years in conjunction with the Players Showcase). Games will be scheduled to be played at 8 am, 10 am, Noon, 2 pm and 4 pm each day.

#### Boys U-15, U-16, U-17 and U-18 Age Groups

**All Boys teams will play in the first NL play weekend (North Carolina) and will be assigned to play in one of the two NL play weekends (Disney or West).**

\*\*\*\*All teams are required to participate in a 4-game play weekend (one game per day) to be held on November 21-24, 2013 as part of the CASL Showcase. First games on November 21 may begin as early as 10 am with games on Sunday scheduled to be completed by 4 pm.

\*\*\*\*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 3-game play weekends (one game per day) in order complete their 7-game seasonal year:

--Friday, December 27 through Sunday, December 29, 2013 at Disney's Soccer Showcase in nearby Orlando FL (note teams advancing in Showcase playoffs will be expected to play on Dec. 30). Game times may vary from 8:30 am through 8:30 pm each day.

--Friday through Sunday, March 14-16, 21-23 or 28-30, 2014 in the West (NL has been in Las Vegas for the past 5 years in conjunction with the Players Showcase). Games will be scheduled to be played at 8 am, 10 am, Noon, 2 pm and 4 pm each day.

#### Girls U-14 Age Group

**All Girls teams will play in both of the following NL play weekends.**

\*\*\*\*All teams are required to participate in a 4-game play weekend (one game per day) to be held on November 21-24, 2013 as part of the CASL Showcase. First games on November 21 may begin as early as 10 am with games on Sunday scheduled to be completed by 4 pm.

\*\*\*\*All teams are required to participate in a 3-game play weekend (one game per day) to be held on Friday through Sunday, March 7-9, 14-16, 21-23 or 28-30, 2014 in the West (NL has been in Las Vegas for the past five years in conjunction with the Players Showcase). Games will be scheduled to be played at 8 am, 10 am, Noon, 2 pm and 4 pm each day.

**Girls U-15, U-16, U-17, and U-18 Age Groups**

**All Girls teams will play in the first NL play weekend (North Carolina) and will be assigned to play in one of the two NL play weekends (Disney or Las Vegas).**

\*\*\*\*All teams are required to participate in a 4-game play weekend (one game per day) to be held on December 5-8, 2012 as part of the CASL Showcase. First games on December 5 may begin as early as 10 am with games on Sunday scheduled to be completed by 4 pm

\*\*\*\*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 3-game play weekends (one game per day) in order complete their 7-game seasonal year:

- Tuesday, December 31, 2013 through Thursday, January 2, 2014 at Disney's Soccer Showcase in nearby Orlando FL (note teams advancing in Showcase playoffs will be expected to play on January 3). Game times may vary from 8:30 am through 8:30 pm each day.
- Friday through Sunday, March 14-16, 21-23 or 28-30, 2014 in the West (NL has been in Las Vegas for the past 5 years in conjunction with the Players Showcase). Games will be scheduled to be played at 8 am, 10 am, Noon, 2 pm and 4 pm each day.

## **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 videotaping of games 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 wear light/white color jerseys and socks. When there is a conflict in uniform color, the team listed first on the NL schedule must change its jerseys and socks.
- 4-All players participating in the National League 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 local State Association.

**Teams that are accepted into the NL are to file a Team Roster by September 1, 2013 as follows:**

For the 2013-2014 seasonal year, the NL requires teams to file with the NL an initial team roster by no later than September 1, 2013. 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 (2013), 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-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-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. Under no circumstances may a player be listed on multiple team rosters if such teams are from different clubs.