



P.R.O.

Frequently Asked Questions

(as of April 7, 2021)

Who can participate in National League P.R.O.?

The competition is for boys and girls teams in the 14U through 19U age groups. Teams can qualify for National League P.R.O. through their National League Conference performance in the previous seasonal year.

Do the National League Playoffs still exist?

No. National League P.R.O. takes the place of the National League Playoffs as the top league competition in USYS that qualifies teams directly into the USYS National Championships.

When and where will the National League P.R.O. games take place?

National Events - Dates and locations for the national events will be published prior to the application period ahead of each seasonal year, typically about 10 months prior to the first event. Events will be held at some of the top facilities in the country to ensure optimal field quality and to take into account seasonal temperature and weather patterns.

Local Game - In addition to national events, each team will play in one “local game,” which is a one-off game played against a Conference opponent or cross-Conference opponent from within its regional area of the country.

What is the cost to participate in National League P.R.O.?

The cost will be listed in future information and on the application once the application window opens. League fees will be comparable to those from the 2019-20 National League season, which was played in a similar format.

Who automatically qualifies for National League P.R.O.?

For the 2021-2022 season, the automatic qualifying slots — which are secured through National League Conference play — [can be found here](#). Teams that automatically qualify must register for the National League P.R.O. season in GotSport and are subject to core requirements.

If a team that automatically qualifies for National League P.R.O. turns down its slot, it becomes an open slot.

How are open slots filled?

The National League Management group will review applicants and accept teams based off several factors, including but not limited to: past Conference performance, competitive history and geographic balance.

What is the application process and timeline?

Any team interested in filling an open slot will need to submit a National League P.R.O. application ahead of each seasonal year. The application window will open around mid-April and close around mid-June. The National League management group will evaluate applicants for open slots. Teams that fill open slots will be accepted and announced around mid-July.

(Please note: The National League P.R.O. application is separate from National League Conference applications.)

What is National League P.R.O. registration?

All teams — automatic qualifiers and open slot selections — must register for the National League P.R.O. season in GotSport. Information on registration and the link to do so will be communicated to automatic qualifiers on rolling basis beginning in late April. Teams that fill open slots will be provided with registration information when they are selected and notified of their participation in the National League P.R.O. season.

Will teams that win their National League P.R.O. group automatically qualify for National League P.R.O. for the following season?

No. National League P.R.O. slots are filled by 1) automatic qualifiers from the National League Conferences or 2) Open slots filled through the application process and selected by the National League management group.

Can a team only play in National League P.R.O.?

Teams who compete in National League P.R.O. in a given seasonal year must also register and participate in their respective National League Conference during that same seasonal year.

What team eligibility requirements will be in place?

At all times during the National League P.R.O. competition, a team must have on its roster no less than nine (9) players who are also rostered to the team participating in its National League Conference during the same seasonal year as its National League P.R.O. participation.

How are National League P.R.O. groups/brackets formed?

The goal is to place teams in a National League P.R.O. group schedule filled with unique matchups that supports participation in high school soccer. Each team will have at least one opponent in its P.R.O. group that is from its region to ensure the ability to play its "local game."

Who schedules the local game and when/where will it be played?

The game is scheduled by National League P.R.O., with assistance from the Conference manager(s). The date and location will be chosen in coordination with Conference play dates and high school soccer seasons. All pertinent National League P.R.O. standards and procedures apply to the local games.

What recruitment opportunities will be available?

A primary goal of National League P.R.O. is to provide a platform for players to have maximum exposure to scouts from the college, professional, national team and USYS ODP ranks. Teams earn their place into National League P.R.O., creating an optimal playing environment to recruit top players competing in meaningful games.

What USYS National Championship Series requirements are associated with National League P.R.O.?

National League P.R.O. teams must play in their respective USYS State Cup competition.

How will National League P.R.O. work with the National League Showcase Series?

The National League Showcase Series will continue to take place. Some National League P.R.O. events may stand alone, while others may take place concurrently with National League Showcase Series games.

Does National League P.R.O. participation meet the requirement for National League Showcase Series attendance?

Yes. Playing in the National League P.R.O. qualifies as meeting the Showcase Series requirement. National League P.R.O. teams may participate in additional Showcase Series events if they wish.

Who should I contact regarding questions about National League P.R.O.?

Chris Webb, USYS Director of Operations & Event Management, cwebb@usyouthsoccer.org