



LEAGUES
NATIONAL LEAGUE

US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE

2019-2020 SEASONAL YEAR INFORMATION

as of May 13, 2019

1. INTRODUCTION

The US Youth Soccer National League (NL) will conduct its 13th seasonal year of competition in the 2019-2020 seasonal year (September 1, 2019-August 31, 2020). Information can be found here: <https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/national-league/>

This competition is for the National Tier of play. Information on the Multi-State Tier comprised of leagues known as Conferences is available here: <https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/leagues/>

We will have National League play in Boys and Girls age groups as follows:

- 14U (2006's) – for players born on January 1, 2006 or later -- each gender will have up to a maximum of 32 teams
- 15U (2005's) – for players born on January 1, 2005 or later -- each gender will have up to a maximum of 32 teams
- 16U (2004's) – for players born on January 1, 2004 or later -- each gender will have up to a maximum of 32 teams
- 17U (2003's) – for players born on January 1, 2003 or later -- each gender will have up to a maximum of 32 teams
- 18U (2002's) – for players born on January 1, 2002 or later -- each gender will have up to a maximum of 32 teams
- 19U (2001's) – for players born on January 1, 2001 or later -- each gender will have up to a maximum of 16 teams

The National League provides an avenue for teams to play in meaningful matches against top competition from across the country for continued development. National League teams compete for the National League division titles within their gender age groups and 4 slots in each gender age group of the annual US Youth Soccer National Championships Finals, the oldest and most prestigious youth soccer national championships.

Teams that earn their spots in the National League have a proven track record of success in US Youth Soccer regional and national competitions, and are among the nation's best. Hundreds of college scouts usually attend each National League weekend, creating another significant opportunity for the nation's collegiate and National Team coaches to see National League players in an environment of meaningful play, citing the competitive level of each game as every team has to earn their spot in the competition, regardless of club affiliation or location.

Teams either qualify for National League spots, or are selected by the NL Team Selection Committee for remaining open slots. Qualification and selection spots may vary based on a specific gender age group (specific information is provided on each gender age group on pages 2-13).

Note: when using the term "National Championships" or "National Championships competitions" we are referring to the US Youth Soccer competition sometimes listed as the "National Championship Series." This competition includes State Cup competitions, the four Regionals, and the National Championships Finals.

2. ELIGIBILITY, QUALIFICATION AND SELECTION OF TEAMS

Boys 14U (2006's) – for players born on January 1, 2006 or later

WHO MAY APPLY

In order to be eligible to compete in this Boys age group and be considered for a NL slot, a team must meet one of the following criteria:

- The team must have played in the **2018-2019 seasonal year** as a **13U Boys team** in one of the US Youth Soccer recognized Conferences, and participated in the 2018-2019 National Championships competitions; or
- The team reached the semifinals of its respective 2019 Regional Cup competition in the 13U Boys age group.

In addition, the team must commit to and compete in US Youth Soccer Conference play in 2019-2020.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2019-2020 seasonal year, the participating teams in this Boys age group are determined through a combination of qualifiers and selected teams. Qualifiers are the following:

- Regional Cup Champions:** The Regional Cup Champions (representative teams participating at the 2019 Nationals) in the 13U Boys age group from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.
- **Conference Champions/Representatives:** As outlined on the NL's 2019-2020 Qualifiers webpage*, the Conference champions and top finishers (where applicable) as 13U Boys teams from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL slot, after moving clubs from the 2018-2019 seasonal year to the 2019-2020 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective USYS Leagues Conference for the 2019-2020 seasonal year. Such team must be a properly registered US Youth Soccer team with its state association at the time of team registration for the 2019-2020 National League season.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

The NL Team Selection Committee shall select teams from the eligible Boys team applicants' pool to fill any open slots*. Since Conference and Regional Cup play determines if a team is eligible to participate, the NL Team Selection Committee shall only use the results from 2018-2019 Conference play, and results from 2018-2019 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional competitions) in the selection process. The list of teams accepted into the NL for the 2019-2020 seasonal year will be announced on or around August 1, 2019.

PLACEMENT OF TEAMS INTO DIVISIONS

The 32 teams in this Boys age group will be divided into 4 divisions of 8 teams each. The Regional Cup Champions/Representatives playing in the 2019 National Championships Finals competitions (up to 4) will be split by the NL among the 4 divisions. Remaining teams will be placed into the divisions by the NL. Teams will be scheduled to play all teams within their division in order to fulfill their NL 2019-2020 seasonal year game requirement (7 games; see paragraph 8). In situations where less than 32 teams are accepted into the NL in this Boys age group, the NL shall determine the final number of teams selected and the placement of teams into divisions, if applicable. The 4 division champions qualify for this Boys age group of the 2020 National Championships Finals.

If there are less than 4 divisions, the championship team for each of the divisions qualifies for this Boys age group of the 2020 National Championships Finals, and the NL will determine the other team or teams that so qualify.

*-The specific list of slots for this age group can be found here:

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/2019-20-national-league-qualifiers/>

Boys 15U (2005's) – for players born on January 1, 2005 or later

WHO MAY APPLY

In order to be eligible to compete in this Boys age group and be considered for a NL slot, a team must meet one of the following criteria:

- The team must have played in the **2018-2019 seasonal year** as a **14U Boys team** in one of the US Youth Soccer recognized Conferences Premier I tier, and participated in the 2018-2019 National Championships competitions; or
- The team must have participated in the NL during the 2018-2019 seasonal year in the 14U Boys age group, and played in 2018-19 Conference play, and participated in the 2018-2019 National Championships competitions; or
- The team reached the semifinals of its respective 2019 Regional Cup competition in the 14U Boys age group.

In addition, the team must commit to and compete in US Youth Soccer Conference play in 2019-2020.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2019-2020 seasonal year, the participating teams in this Boys age group are determined through a combination of qualifiers and selected teams. Qualifiers are the following:

- Returning National League teams:** The 1st and 2nd place teams in the Red, White, Black and Blue Divisions from the 2018-2019 NL seasonal year (8 teams) in the 14U Boys age group, qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.
- Regional Cup Champions/Representatives:** The Regional Cup Champions/Representatives in the 14U Boys age group from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.
- Conference Champions/Representatives:** As outlined on the NL's 2019-2020 Qualifiers webpage*, the Conference champions and top finishers (where applicable) of competitions within the Conferences as 14U Boys teams from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL slot, after moving clubs from the 2018-2019 seasonal year to the 2019-2020 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective USYS Leagues Conference for the 2019-2020 seasonal year. Such team must be a properly registered US Youth Soccer team with its state association at the time of team registration for the 2019-2020 National League season.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

The NL Team Selection Committee shall select teams from the eligible Boys team applicants' pool to fill any open slots*. Since Conference and Regional Cup play determines if a team is eligible to participate, the NL Team Selection Committee shall only use the results from 2018-2019 Conference play, results from 2018-2019 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional Cup competitions), and 2018-2019 NL play in the selection process.

The list of teams accepted into the NL for the 2019-2020 seasonal year will be announced on or around August 1, 2019.

PLACEMENT OF TEAMS INTO DIVISIONS

The 32 teams in this Boys age group will be divided into 4 divisions of 8 teams each. The returning NL teams (up to 8), and Regional Cup Champions/Representatives playing in the 2019 National Championships Finals competitions (up to 4) will be split by the NL among the 4 divisions. Remaining teams will be placed into the divisions by the NL. Teams will be scheduled to play all teams within their division in order to fulfill their NL 2019-2020 seasonal year game requirement (7 games; see paragraph 8). In situations where less than 32 teams are accepted into the NL in this Boys age group, the NL shall determine the final number of teams selected and the placement of teams into divisions, if applicable. The 4 division champions qualify for this Boys age group of the 2020 National Championships Finals.

If there are less than 4 divisions, the championship team for each of the divisions qualifies for this Boys age group of the 2020 National Championships Finals, and the NL will determine the other team or teams that so qualify.

*-The specific list of slots for this age group can be found here:

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/2019-20-national-league-qualifiers/>

Boys 16U (2004's) – for players born on January 1, 2004 or later

WHO MAY APPLY

In order to be eligible to compete in this Boys age group and be considered for a NL slot, a team must meet one of the following criteria:

--The team must have played in the **2018-2019 seasonal year** as a **15U Boys team** in one of the US Youth Soccer recognized Conferences Premier I tier, and participated in the 2018-2019 National Championships competitions; or

--The team must have participated in the NL during the 2018-2019 seasonal year in the 15U Boys age group, and played in 2018-19 Conference play, and participated in the 2018-2019 National Championships competitions; or

--The team reached the semifinals of its respective 2019 Regional Cup competition in the 15U Boys age group.

In addition, the team must commit to and compete in US Youth Soccer Conference play in 2019-2020.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2019-2020 seasonal year, the participating teams in this Boys age group are determined through a combination of qualifiers and selected teams. Qualifiers are the following:

--**Returning National League teams:** The 1st and 2nd place teams in the Red, White, Black and Blue Divisions from the 2018-2019 NL seasonal year (8 teams) in the 15U Boys age group, qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.

--**Regional Cup Champions/Representatives:** The Regional Cup Champions/Representatives in the 15U Boys age group from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.

--**Conference Champions/Representatives:** As outlined on the NL's 2019-2020 Qualifiers webpage*, the Conference champions and top finishers (where applicable) of competitions within the Conferences as 15U Boys teams from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL slot, after moving clubs from the 2018-2019 seasonal year to the 2019-2020 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective USYS Leagues Conference for the 2019-2020 seasonal year. Such team must be a properly registered US Youth Soccer team with its state association at the time of team registration for the 2019-2020 National League season.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

The NL Team Selection Committee shall select teams from the eligible Boys team applicants' pool to fill any open slots*. Since Conference and Regional Cup play determines if a team is eligible to participate, the NL Team Selection Committee shall only use the results from 2018-2019 Conference play, results from 2018-2019 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional Cup competitions), and 2018-2019 NL play in the selection process.

The list of teams accepted into the NL for the 2019-2020 seasonal year will be announced on or around August 1, 2019.

PLACEMENT OF TEAMS INTO DIVISIONS

The 32 teams in this Boys age group will be divided into 4 divisions of 8 teams each. The returning NL teams (up to 8), and Regional Cup Champions/Representatives playing in the 2019 National Championships Finals competitions (up to 4) will be split by the NL among the 4 divisions. Remaining teams will be placed into the divisions by the NL. Teams will be scheduled to play all teams within their division in order to fulfill their NL 2019-2020 seasonal year game requirement (7 games; see paragraph 8). In situations where less than 32 teams are accepted into the NL in this Boys age group, the NL shall determine the final number of teams selected and the placement of teams into divisions, if applicable. The 4 division champions qualify for this Boys age group of the 2020 National Championships Finals.

If there are less than 4 divisions, the championship team for each of the divisions qualifies for this Boys age group of the 2020 National Championships Finals, and the NL will determine the other team or teams that so qualify.

*-The specific list of slots for this age group can be found here:

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/2019-20-national-league-qualifiers/>

Boys 17U (2003's) – for players born on January 1, 2003 or later

WHO MAY APPLY

In order to be eligible to compete in this Boys age group and be considered for a NL slot, a team must meet one of the following criteria:

- The team must have played in the **2018-2019 seasonal year** as a **16U Boys team** in one of the US Youth Soccer recognized Conferences Premier I tier, and participated in the 2018-2019 National Championships competitions; or
- The team must have participated in the NL during the 2018-2019 seasonal year in the 16U Boys age group, and played in 2018-19 Conference play, and participated in the 2018-2019 National Championships competitions; or
- The team reached the semifinals of its respective 2019 Regional Cup competition in the 16U Boys age group.

In addition, the team must commit to and compete in US Youth Soccer Conference play in 2019-2020.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2019-2020 seasonal year, the participating teams in this Boys age group are determined through a combination of qualifiers and selected teams. Qualifiers are the following:

- Returning National League teams:** The 1st and 2nd place teams in the Red, White, Black and Blue Divisions from the 2018-2019 NL seasonal year (8 teams) in the 16U Boys age group, qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.
- Regional Cup Champions/Representatives:** The Regional Cup Champions/Representatives in the 16U Boys age group from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.
- Conference Champions/Representatives:** As outlined on the NL's 2019-2020 Qualifiers webpage*, the Conference champions and top finishers (where applicable) of competitions within the Conferences as 16U Boys teams from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL slot, after moving clubs from the 2018-2019 seasonal year to the 2019-2020 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective USYS Leagues Conference for the 2019-2020 seasonal year. Such team must be a properly registered US Youth Soccer team with its state association at the time of team registration for the 2019-2020 National League season.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

The NL Team Selection Committee shall select teams from the eligible Boys team applicants' pool to fill any open slots*. Since Conference and Regional Cup play determines if a team is eligible to participate, the NL Team Selection Committee shall only use the results from 2018-2019 Conference play, results from 2018-2019 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional Cup competitions), and 2018-2019 NL play in the selection process.

The list of teams accepted into the NL for the 2019-2020 seasonal year will be announced on or around August 1, 2019.

PLACEMENT OF TEAMS INTO DIVISIONS

The 32 teams in this Boys age group will be divided into 4 divisions of 8 teams each. The returning NL teams (up to 8), and Regional Cup Champions/Representatives playing in the 2019 National Championships Finals competitions (up to 4) will be split by the NL among the 4 divisions. Remaining teams will be placed into the divisions by the NL. Teams will be scheduled to play all teams within their division in order to fulfill their NL 2019-2020 seasonal year game requirement (7 games; see paragraph 8). In situations where less than 32 teams are accepted into the NL in this Boys age group, the NL shall determine the final number of teams selected and the placement of teams into divisions, if applicable. The 4 division champions qualify for this Boys age group of the 2020 National Championships Finals.

If there are less than 4 divisions, the championship team for each of the divisions qualifies for this Boys age group of the 2020 National Championships Finals, and the NL will determine the other team or teams that so qualify.

*-The specific list of slots for this age group can be found here:

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/2019-20-national-league-qualifiers/>

Boys 18U (2002's) – for players born on January 1, 2002 or later

WHO MAY APPLY

In order to be eligible to compete in this Boys age group and be considered for a NL slot, a team must meet one of the following criteria:

- The team must have played in the **2018-2019 seasonal year** as a **17U Boys team** in one of the US Youth Soccer recognized Conferences Premier I tier, and participated in the 2018-2019 National Championships competitions; or
- The team must have participated in the NL during the 2018-2019 seasonal year in the 17U Boys age group, and played in 2018-19 Conference play, and participated in the 2018-2019 National Championships competitions; or
- The team reached the semifinals of its respective 2019 Regional Cup competition in the 17U Boys age group.

In addition, the team must commit to and compete in US Youth Soccer Conference play in 2019-2020.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2019-2020 seasonal year, the participating teams in this Boys age group are determined through a combination of qualifiers and selected teams. Qualifiers are the following:

- Returning National League teams:** The 1st and 2nd place teams in the Red, White, Black and Blue Divisions from the 2018-2019 NL seasonal year (8 teams) in the 17U Boys age group, qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.
- Regional Cup Champions/Representatives:** The Regional Cup Champions/Representatives in the 17U Boys age group from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.
- Conference Champions/Representatives:** As outlined on the NL's 2019-2020 Qualifiers webpage*, the Conference champions and top finishers (where applicable) of competitions within the Conferences as 17U Boys teams from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL slot, after moving clubs from the 2018-2019 seasonal year to the 2019-2020 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective USYS Leagues Conference for the 2019-2020 seasonal year. Such team must be a properly registered US Youth Soccer team with its state association at the time of team registration for the 2019-2020 National League season.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

The NL Team Selection Committee shall select teams from the eligible Boys team applicants' pool to fill any open slots*. Since Conference and Regional Cup play determines if a team is eligible to participate, the NL Team Selection Committee shall only use the results from 2018-2019 Conference play, results from 2018-2019 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional Cup competitions), and 2018-2019 NL play in the selection process.

The list of teams accepted into the NL for the 2019-2020 seasonal year will be announced on or around August 1, 2019.

PLACEMENT OF TEAMS INTO DIVISIONS

The 32 teams in this Boys age group will be divided into 4 divisions of 8 teams each. The returning NL teams (up to 8), and Regional Cup Champions/Representatives playing in the 2019 National Championships Finals competitions (up to 4) will be split by the NL among the 4 divisions. Remaining teams will be placed into the divisions by the NL. Teams will be scheduled to play all teams within their division in order to fulfill their NL 2019-2020 seasonal year game requirement (7 games; see paragraph 8). In situations where less than 32 teams are accepted into the NL in this Boys age group, the NL shall determine the final number of teams selected and the placement of teams into divisions, if applicable. The 4 division champions qualify for this Boys age group of the 2020 National Championships Finals.

If there are less than 4 divisions, the championship team for each of the divisions qualifies for this Boys age group of the 2020 National Championships Finals, and the NL will determine the other team or teams that so qualify.

*-The specific list of slots for this age group can be found here:

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/2019-20-national-league-qualifiers/>

Boys 19U (2001's) – for players born on January 1, 2001 or later

WHO MAY APPLY

In order to be eligible to compete in this Boys age group and be considered for a NL slot, a team must meet one of the following criteria:

- The team must have played in the **2018-2019 seasonal year** as a **18U Boys team** in one of the US Youth Soccer recognized Conferences Premier I tier, and participated in the 2018-2019 National Championships competitions; or
- The team must have participated in the NL during the 2018-2019 seasonal year in the 18U Boys age group, and played in 2018-19 Conference play, and participated in the 2018-2019 National Championships competitions; or
- The team reached the semifinals of its respective 2019 Regional Cup competition in the 18U Boys age group.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2019-2020 seasonal year, the participating teams in this Boys age group are determined through a combination of qualifiers and selected teams. Qualifiers are the following:

- Returning National League teams:** The 1st place teams in the Red, White, Black and Blue Divisions from the 2018-2019 NL seasonal year (4 teams) in the 18U Boys age group, qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.
- Regional Cup Champions/Representatives:** The Regional Cup Champions/Representatives in the 18U Boys age group from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.
- Conference Representatives:** As outlined on the NL's 2019-2020 Qualifiers webpage*, Conference representatives as 18U Boys teams from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify/are selected for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL slot, after moving clubs from the 2018-2019 seasonal year to the 2019-2020 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective USYS Leagues Conference for the 2019-2020 seasonal year. Such team must be a properly registered US Youth Soccer team with its state association at the time of team registration for the 2019-2020 National League season.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

The NL Team Selection Committee shall select teams from the eligible Boys team applicants' pool to fill any open slots*. Since Conference and Regional Cup play determines if a team is eligible to participate, the NL Team Selection Committee shall only use the results from 2018-2019 Conference play, results from 2018-2019 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional Cup competitions), and 2018-2019 NL play in the selection process.

The list of teams accepted into the NL for the 2019-2020 seasonal year will be announced on or around August 1, 2019.

PLACEMENT OF TEAMS INTO DIVISIONS

The 16 teams in this Boys age group will be divided into 2 divisions of 8 teams each. The returning NL teams (up to 4), and the Regional Cup Champion/Representative teams (up to 4) from the 2019 Nationals Championships Finals competition will be split by the NL between the 2 divisions. Remaining teams will be placed into the divisions by the NL. Teams will be scheduled to play all teams within their division in order to fulfill their NL 2019-2020 seasonal year game requirement (7 games; see paragraph 8). In situations where less than 16 teams are accepted into the NL in this Boys age group, the NL shall determine the final number of teams selected and the placement of teams into divisions, if applicable. The top 2 teams from the 2 divisions qualify for this Boys age group of the 2020 National Championships Finals.

*-The specific list of slots for this age group can be found here:

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/2019-20-national-league-qualifiers/>

2. ELIGIBILITY, QUALIFICATION AND SELECTION OF TEAMS--continued

Girls 14U (2006's) – for players born on January 1, 2006 or later

WHO MAY APPLY

In order to be eligible to compete in this Girls age group and be considered for a NL slot, a team must meet one of the following criteria:

- The team must have played in the **2018-2019 seasonal year** as a **13U Girls team** in one of the US Youth Soccer recognized Conferences, and participated in the 2018-2019 National Championships competitions; or
- The team reached the semifinals of its respective 2019 Regional Cup competition in the 13U Girls age group.

In addition, the team must commit to and compete in US Youth Soccer Conference play in 2019-2020.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2019-2020 seasonal year, the participating teams in this Girls age group are determined through a combination of qualifiers and selected teams. Qualifiers are the following:

- Regional Cup Champions:** The Regional Cup Champions (representative teams participating at the 2019 Nationals) in the 13U Girls age group from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.
- **Conference Champions/Representatives:** As outlined on the NL's 2019-2020 Qualifiers webpage*, the Conference champions and top finishers (where applicable) as 13U Girls teams from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL slot, after moving clubs from the 2018-2019 seasonal year to the 2019-2020 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective USYS Leagues Conference for the 2019-2020 seasonal year. Such team must be a properly registered US Youth Soccer team with its state association at the time of team registration for the 2019-2020 National League season.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

The NL Team Selection Committee shall select teams from the eligible Girls team applicants' pool to fill any open slots*. Since Conference and Regional Cup play determines if a team is eligible to participate, the NL Team Selection Committee shall only use the results from 2018-2019 Conference play, and results from 2018-2019 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional competitions) in the selection process. The list of teams accepted into the NL for the 2019-2020 seasonal year will be announced on or around August 1, 2019.

PLACEMENT OF TEAMS INTO DIVISIONS

The 32 teams in this Girls age group will be divided into 4 divisions of 8 teams each. The Regional Cup Champions/Representatives playing in the 2019 National Championships Finals competitions (up to 4) will be split by the NL among the 4 divisions. Remaining teams will be placed into the divisions by the NL. Teams will be scheduled to play all teams within their division in order to fulfill their NL 2019-2020 seasonal year game requirement (7 games; see paragraph 8). In situations where less than 32 teams are accepted into the NL in this Girls age group, the NL shall determine the final number of teams selected and the placement of teams into divisions, if applicable. The 4 division champions qualify for this Girls age group of the 2020 National Championships Finals.

If there are less than 4 divisions, the championship team for each of the divisions qualifies for this Girls age group of the 2020 National Championships Finals, and the NL will determine the other team or teams that so qualify.

*-The specific list of slots for this age group can be found here:

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/2019-20-national-league-qualifiers/>

Girls 15U (2005's) – for players born on January 1, 2005 or later

WHO MAY APPLY

In order to be eligible to compete in this Girls age group and be considered for a NL slot, a team must meet one of the following criteria:

- The team must have played in the **2018-2019 seasonal year** as a **14U Girls team** in one of the US Youth Soccer recognized Conferences Premier I tier, and participated in the 2018-2019 National Championships competitions; or
- The team must have participated in the NL during the 2018-2019 seasonal year in the 14U Girls age group, and played in 2018-19 Conference play, and participated in the 2018-2019 National Championships competitions; or
- The team reached the semifinals of its respective 2019 Regional Cup competition in the 14U Girls age group.

In addition, the team must commit to and compete in US Youth Soccer Conference play in 2019-2020.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2019-2020 seasonal year, the participating teams in this Girls age group are determined through a combination of qualifiers and selected teams. Qualifiers are the following:

- Returning National League teams:** The 1st and 2nd place teams in the Red, White, Black and Blue Divisions from the 2018-2019 NL seasonal year (8 teams) in the 14U Girls age group, qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.
- Regional Cup Champions/Representatives:** The Regional Cup Champions/Representatives in the 14U Girls age group from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.
- Conference Champions/Representatives:** As outlined on the NL's 2019-2020 Qualifiers webpage*, the Conference champions and top finishers (where applicable) of competitions within the Conferences as 14U Girls teams from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL slot, after moving clubs from the 2018-2019 seasonal year to the 2019-2020 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective USYS Leagues Conference for the 2019-2020 seasonal year. Such team must be a properly registered US Youth Soccer team with its state association at the time of team registration for the 2019-2020 National League season.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

The NL Team Selection Committee shall select teams from the eligible Girls team applicants' pool to fill any open slots*. Since Conference and Regional Cup play determines if a team is eligible to participate, the NL Team Selection Committee shall only use the results from 2018-2019 Conference play, results from 2018-2019 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional Cup competitions), and 2018-2019 NL play in the selection process.

The list of teams accepted into the NL for the 2019-2020 seasonal year will be announced on or around August 1, 2019.

PLACEMENT OF TEAMS INTO DIVISIONS

The 32 teams in this Girls age group will be divided into 4 divisions of 8 teams each. The returning NL teams (up to 8), and Regional Cup Champions/Representatives playing in the 2019 National Championships Finals competitions (up to 4) will be split by the NL among the 4 divisions. Remaining teams will be placed into the divisions by the NL. Teams will be scheduled to play all teams within their division in order to fulfill their NL 2019-2020 seasonal year game requirement (7 games; see paragraph 8). In situations where less than 32 teams are accepted into the NL in this Girls age group, the NL shall determine the final number of teams selected and the placement of teams into divisions, if applicable. The 4 division champions qualify for this Girls age group of the 2020 National Championships Finals.

If there are less than 4 divisions, the championship team for each of the divisions qualifies for this Girls age group of the 2020 National Championships Finals, and the NL will determine the other team or teams that so qualify.

*-The specific list of slots for this age group can be found here:

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/2019-20-national-league-qualifiers/Team>

Girls 16U (2004's) – for players born on January 1, 2004 or later

WHO MAY APPLY

In order to be eligible to compete in this Girls age group and be considered for a NL slot, a team must meet one of the following criteria:

- The team must have played in the **2018-2019 seasonal year** as a **15U Girls team** in one of the US Youth Soccer recognized Conferences Premier I tier, and participated in the 2018-2019 National Championships competitions; or
- The team must have participated in the NL during the 2018-2019 seasonal year in the 15U Girls age group, and played in 2018-19 Conference play, and participated in the 2018-2019 National Championships competitions; or
- The team reached the semifinals of its respective 2019 Regional Cup competition in the 15U Girls age group.

In addition, the team must commit to and compete in US Youth Soccer Conference play in 2019-2020.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2019-2020 seasonal year, the participating teams in this Girls age group are determined through a combination of qualifiers and selected teams. Qualifiers are the following:

- Returning National League teams:** The 1st and 2nd place teams in the Red, White, Black and Blue Divisions from the 2018-2019 NL seasonal year (8 teams) in the 15U Girls age group, qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.
- Regional Cup Champions/Representatives:** The Regional Cup Champions/Representatives in the 15U Girls age group from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.
- Conference Champions/Representatives:** As outlined on the NL's 2019-2020 Qualifiers webpage*, the Conference champions and top finishers (where applicable) of competitions within the Conferences as 15U Girls teams from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL slot, after moving clubs from the 2018-2019 seasonal year to the 2019-2020 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective USYS Leagues Conference for the 2019-2020 seasonal year. Such team must be a properly registered US Youth Soccer team with its state association at the time of team registration for the 2019-2020 National League season.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

The NL Team Selection Committee shall select teams from the eligible Girls team applicants' pool to fill any open slots*. Since Conference and Regional Cup play determines if a team is eligible to participate, the NL Team Selection Committee shall only use the results from 2018-2019 Conference play, results from 2018-2019 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional Cup competitions), and 2018-2019 NL play in the selection process.

The list of teams accepted into the NL for the 2019-2020 seasonal year will be announced on or around August 1, 2019.

PLACEMENT OF TEAMS INTO DIVISIONS

The 32 teams in this Girls age group will be divided into 4 divisions of 8 teams each. The returning NL teams (up to 8), and Regional Cup Champions/Representatives playing in the 2019 National Championships Finals competitions (up to 4) will be split by the NL among the 4 divisions. Remaining teams will be placed into the divisions by the NL. Teams will be scheduled to play all teams within their division in order to fulfill their NL 2019-2020 seasonal year game requirement (7 games; see paragraph 8). In situations where less than 32 teams are accepted into the NL in this Girls age group, the NL shall determine the final number of teams selected and the placement of teams into divisions, if applicable. The 4 division champions qualify for this Girls age group of the 2020 National Championships Finals.

If there are less than 4 divisions, the championship team for each of the divisions qualifies for this Girls age group of the 2020 National Championships Finals, and the NL will determine the other team or teams that so qualify.

*-The specific list of slots for this age group can be found here:

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/2019-20-national-league-qualifiers/>

Girls 17U (2003's) – for players born on January 1, 2003 or later

WHO MAY APPLY

In order to be eligible to compete in this Girls age group and be considered for a NL slot, a team must meet one of the following criteria:

- The team must have played in the **2018-2019 seasonal year** as a **16U Girls team** in one of the US Youth Soccer recognized Conferences Premier I tier, and participated in the 2018-2019 National Championships competitions; or
- The team must have participated in the NL during the 2018-2019 seasonal year in the 16U Girls age group, and played in 2018-19 Conference play, and participated in the 2018-2019 National Championships competitions; or
- The team reached the semifinals of its respective 2019 Regional Cup competition in the 16U Girls age group.

In addition, the team must commit to and compete in US Youth Soccer Conference play in 2019-2020.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2019-2020 seasonal year, the participating teams in this Girls age group are determined through a combination of qualifiers and selected teams. Qualifiers are the following:

- Returning National League teams:** The 1st and 2nd place teams in the Red, White, Black and Blue Divisions from the 2018-2019 NL seasonal year (8 teams) in the 16U Girls age group, qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.
- Regional Cup Champions/Representatives:** The Regional Cup Champions/Representatives in the 16U Girls age group from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.
- Conference Champions/Representatives:** As outlined on the NL's 2019-2020 Qualifiers webpage*, the Conference champions and top finishers (where applicable) of competitions within the Conferences as 16U Girls teams from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL slot, after moving clubs from the 2018-2019 seasonal year to the 2019-2020 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective USYS Leagues Conference for the 2019-2020 seasonal year. Such team must be a properly registered US Youth Soccer team with its state association at the time of team registration for the 2019-2020 National League season.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

The NL Team Selection Committee shall select teams from the eligible Girls team applicants' pool to fill any open slots*. Since Conference and Regional Cup play determines if a team is eligible to participate, the NL Team Selection Committee shall only use the results from 2018-2019 Conference play, results from 2018-2019 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional Cup competitions), and 2018-2019 NL play in the selection process.

The list of teams accepted into the NL for the 2019-2020 seasonal year will be announced on or around August 1, 2019.

PLACEMENT OF TEAMS INTO DIVISIONS

The 32 teams in this Girls age group will be divided into 4 divisions of 8 teams each. The returning NL teams (up to 8), and Regional Cup Champions/Representatives playing in the 2019 National Championships Finals competitions (up to 4) will be split by the NL among the 4 divisions. Remaining teams will be placed into the divisions by the NL. Teams will be scheduled to play all teams within their division in order to fulfill their NL 2019-2020 seasonal year game requirement (7 games; see paragraph 8). In situations where less than 32 teams are accepted into the NL in this Girls age group, the NL shall determine the final number of teams selected and the placement of teams into divisions, if applicable. The 4 division champions qualify for this Girls age group of the 2020 National Championships Finals.

If there are less than 4 divisions, the championship team for each of the divisions qualifies for this Girls age group of the 2020 National Championships Finals, and the NL will determine the other team or teams that so qualify.

*-The specific list of slots for this age group can be found here:

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/2019-20-national-league-qualifiers/>

Girls 18U (2002's) – for players born on January 1, 2002 or later

WHO MAY APPLY

In order to be eligible to compete in this Girls age group and be considered for a NL slot, a team must meet one of the following criteria:

- The team must have played in the **2018-2019 seasonal year** as a **17U Girls team** in one of the US Youth Soccer recognized Conferences Premier I tier, and participated in the 2018-2019 National Championships competitions; or
- The team must have participated in the NL during the 2018-2019 seasonal year in the 17U Girls age group, and played in 2018-19 Conference play, and participated in the 2018-2019 National Championships competitions; or
- The team reached the semifinals of its respective 2019 Regional Cup competition in the 17U Girls age group.

In addition, the team must commit to and compete in US Youth Soccer Conference play in 2019-2020.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2019-2020 seasonal year, the participating teams in this Girls age group are determined through a combination of qualifiers and selected teams. Qualifiers are the following:

- Returning National League teams:** The 1st and 2nd place teams in the Red, White, Black and Blue Divisions from the 2018-2019 NL seasonal year (8 teams) in the 17U Girls age group, qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.
- Regional Cup Champions/Representatives:** The Regional Cup Champions/Representatives in the 17U Girls age group from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.
- Conference Champions/Representatives:** As outlined on the NL's 2019-2020 Qualifiers webpage*, the Conference champions and top finishers (where applicable) of competitions within the Conferences as 17U Girls teams from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL slot, after moving clubs from the 2018-2019 seasonal year to the 2019-2020 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective USYS Leagues Conference for the 2019-2020 seasonal year. Such team must be a properly registered US Youth Soccer team with its state association at the time of team registration for the 2019-2020 National League season.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

The NL Team Selection Committee shall select teams from the eligible Girls team applicants' pool to fill any open slots*. Since Conference and Regional Cup play determines if a team is eligible to participate, the NL Team Selection Committee shall only use the results from 2018-2019 Conference play, results from 2018-2019 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional Cup competitions), and 2018-2019 NL play in the selection process.

The list of teams accepted into the NL for the 2019-2020 seasonal year will be announced on or around August 1, 2019.

PLACEMENT OF TEAMS INTO DIVISIONS

The 32 teams in this Girls age group will be divided into 4 divisions of 8 teams each. The returning NL teams (up to 8), and Regional Cup Champions/Representatives playing in the 2019 National Championships Finals competitions (up to 4) will be split by the NL among the 4 divisions. Remaining teams will be placed into the divisions by the NL. Teams will be scheduled to play all teams within their division in order to fulfill their NL 2019-2020 seasonal year game requirement (7 games; see paragraph 8). In situations where less than 32 teams are accepted into the NL in this Girls age group, the NL shall determine the final number of teams selected and the placement of teams into divisions, if applicable. The 4 division champions qualify for this Girls age group of the 2020 National Championships Finals.

If there are less than 4 divisions, the championship team for each of the divisions qualifies for this Girls age group of the 2020 National Championships Finals, and the NL will determine the other team or teams that so qualify.

*-The specific list of slots for this age group can be found here:

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/2019-20-national-league-qualifiers/>

Girls 19U (2001's) – for players born on January 1, 2001 or later

WHO MAY APPLY

In order to be eligible to compete in this Girls age group and be considered for a NL slot, a team must meet one of the following criteria:

- The team must have played in the **2018-2019 seasonal year** as a **18U Girls team** in one of the US Youth Soccer recognized Conferences Premier I tier, and participated in the 2018-2019 National Championships competitions; or
- The team must have participated in the NL during the 2018-2019 seasonal year in the 18U Girls age group, and played in 2018-19 Conference play, and participated in the 2018-2019 National Championships competitions; or
- The team reached the semifinals of its respective 2019 Regional Cup competition in the 18U Girls age group.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2019-2020 seasonal year, the participating teams in this Girls age group are determined through a combination of qualifiers and selected teams. Qualifiers are the following:

- Returning National League teams:** The 1st place teams in the Red, White, Black and Blue Divisions from the 2018-2019 NL seasonal year (4 teams) in the 18U Girls age group, qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.
- Regional Cup Champions/Representatives:** The Regional Cup Champions/Representatives in the 18U Girls age group from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.
- Conference Representatives:** As outlined on the NL's 2019-2020 Qualifiers webpage*, Conference representatives as 18U Girls teams from the 2018-2019 seasonal year qualify/are selected for the NL 2019-2020 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL slot, after moving clubs from the 2018-2019 seasonal year to the 2019-2020 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective USYS Leagues Conference for the 2019-2020 seasonal year. Such team must be a properly registered US Youth Soccer team with its state association at the time of team registration for the 2019-2020 National League season.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

The NL Team Selection Committee shall select teams from the eligible Girls team applicants' pool to fill any open slots*. Since Conference and Regional Cup play determines if a team is eligible to participate, the NL Team Selection Committee shall only use the results from 2018-2019 Conference play, results from 2018-2019 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional Cup competitions), and 2018-2019 NL play in the selection process.

The list of teams accepted into the NL for the 2019-2020 seasonal year will be announced on or around August 1, 2019.

PLACEMENT OF TEAMS INTO DIVISIONS

The 16 teams in this Girls age group will be divided into 2 divisions of 8 teams each. The returning NL teams (up to 4), and the Regional Cup Champion/Representative teams (up to 4) from the 2019 Nationals Championships Finals competition will be split by the NL between the 2 divisions. Remaining teams will be placed into the divisions by the NL. Teams will be scheduled to play all teams within their division in order to fulfill their NL 2019-2020 seasonal year game requirement (7 games; see paragraph 8). In situations where less than 16 teams are accepted into the NL in this Girls age group, the NL shall determine the final number of teams selected and the placement of teams into divisions, if applicable. The top 2 teams from the 2 divisions qualify for this Girls age group of the 2020 National Championships Finals.

*-The specific list of slots for this age group can be found here:

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/2019-20-national-league-qualifiers/>

3. TEAM ROSTERS—PLAYER CONTINUITY

Teams that are selected to play in the NL or have qualified to play in the NL for the 2019-2020 seasonal year must show a 9-player continuity from the 2018-2019 seasonal year as follows:

“All teams that are accepted for play in the NL for the 2019-2020 seasonal year must show player continuity from their 2018-2019 seasonal year team/club. At all times during the 2019-2020 seasonal year, a NL team must have on its National League roster, to be eligible to play during the 2019-2020 seasonal year, no less than 9 of the players that were on a roster of any properly registered US Youth Soccer team within such team’s Club during the 2018-2019 seasonal year.”

4. TEAM APPLICATIONS

All eligible (qualifying and selected teams) apply to play in the NL for the 2019-2020 seasonal year through the following link off of the US Youth Soccer website:

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/2019-20-national-league-application/>

The team application entry deadline is Friday, July 5, 2019

5. TEAM FEE

The team fee is as follows:	14U, 15U Teams	\$2,800 per team
	16U, 17U, 18U and 19U Teams	\$3,000 per team

There are no additional fees, such as ref fees at games, due to the NL. The NL shall cover all costs associated with conducting NL matches, including but not limited to field rental costs, referee fees/expenses etc. US Youth Soccer shall not be liable or responsible for transportation, lodging, or injury to persons or property incurred during the course of or travels to and from NL events.

Payment can be made via check, money order or credit card. If paying by credit card the team will be charged a service fee in addition to the team fee. Team fee is not due until a team is formally accepted into the National League (Teams announced around August 1, 2019).

6. COMMITMENT TO PLAY

Teams undertake a high level of commitment necessary to participate in the US Youth Soccer National League. With such commitment comes a respect toward opponents. Any team that fails to appear for NL games is subject to penalties as determined by the NL.

7. QUALIFYING FOR THE 2020 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS

Four representatives from each of the National League 14U (2006’s), 15U (2005’s), 16U (2004’s), 17U (2003’s), 18U (2002’s), and 19U (2001’s) gender age groups shall qualify for the 2020 US Youth Soccer National Championships Finals in July 2020. The 4 2019-2020 seasonal year Regional Cup winners/representatives will also advance to Nationals creating National Championships Finals featuring 8 teams in the 14U (2006’s), 15U (2005’s), 16U (2004’s), 17U (2003’s), 18U (2002’s), and 19U (2001’s) gender age groups.

In accordance with NL rules, in order to be eligible to advance to the US Youth National Championships Finals, teams participating in the NL must also participate in their respective State Cup competition in the 2019-2020 seasonal year (as part of the National Championships competitions for the 2019-2020 seasonal year), and in a Conference competition within the US Youth Soccer Leagues program.

8. NUMBER OF GAMES

Each team will be scheduled play a 7-game schedule playing each team within its division gender age group one time. Teams will play during 2 NL play weekends (4 games during the first weekend of play and 3 games during the second weekend of play). Soccer is an outdoor sport. We play in conditions ranging from sun to clouds to rain to even snow. Advance notice of match delay, postponement or cancellation is not always possible due to changes in weather forecasts or weather conditions days and weeks prior to an event that affect field conditions, or emergency actions by local/state governments. We strive to play all matches that are scheduled but understand that playing of all matches may not be possible due to circumstances beyond our control.

9. BOYS EVENT LOCATIONS

All Boys 14U Boys teams

Will play their first weekend of play (four matches) at the Boys NL Winter Showcase at the Tournament Sportsplex of Tampa Bay in Tampa, Florida on December 27-30, 2019, and their second weekend of play (three matches) at the Players Showcase in Las Vegas, Nevada on March 13-15, 2020. Teams will be scheduled to play one game per day.

All 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U, and 19U Boys teams

Must participate in the first weekend of National League play---there are no exceptions--- at the Boys NL Fall Showcase in Panama City Beach, Florida, taking place December 11-15, 2019 (teams will be scheduled to play four matches--one game per day). 17U, 18U and 19U teams will play their matches on December 11, 12, 13 and 14; while the 15U and 16U teams will play their matches on December 12, 13, 14 and 15.

****NOTE:** The NCAA recently adopted a proposal that affects the permitted recruiting times for men's Division I college soccer. Among the changes is a recruiting dead period that runs from the Friday through Sunday of the NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championships. For 2019, this means no recruiting is allowed Dec. 13-15 by DI coaches, which creates significant overlap with the planned dates of Thursday, Dec. 12 through Sunday, Dec. 15 for the Boys NL Fall Showcase. Because of the new recruiting dead period, and in order to provide as much exposure to college coaches as possible for the players, the National League is starting the 17U, 18U and 19U matches on Wednesday, Dec. 11. This will allow for an additional day of recruiting availability for Division I college coaches and scouts.**

All 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U, and 19U Boys teams

Will be assigned by the NL for their second weekend of play primarily based on minimizing high school play conflicts where possible. Teams will be assigned to play at either Boys NL Winter Showcase event at the Tournament Sportsplex of Tampa Bay in Tampa, Florida on December 28-30, 2019, or the Players Showcase in Las Vegas, Nevada on March 13-15, 2020 (teams will be scheduled to play three matches, one game per day at their 2nd event).

All teams are also required to coordinate hotel stays with the NL's designated hotel provider (Anthony Travel for the NL Fall and NL Winter Showcases; or Las Vegas Sports and Hotels for the Players Showcase) or your team will be subject to a substantial penalty. ****NOTE:** locations are subject to change**

10. GIRLS EVENT LOCATIONS

All Girls 14U Girls teams

Will play their first weekend of play (four matches) in Boca Raton, Florida on November 24-27, 2019, and their second weekend of play (three matches) at the Players Showcase in Las Vegas, Nevada on March 20-22, 2020. Teams will be scheduled to play one game per day.

All 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U, and 19U Girls teams

Must participate in the first weekend of National League play---there are no exceptions--- at the Girls NL Fall Showcase in Wilson and Goldsboro, North Carolina on December 5-8, 2019 (teams will be scheduled to play four matches-one game per day).

All 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U, and 19U Girls teams

Will be assigned by the NL for their second weekend of play (three matches) primarily based on minimizing high school play conflicts where possible. Teams will be assigned to play during either the Girls NL Winter Showcase event at the Premier Sports Campus in Lakewood Ranch, Florida on January 10-12, 2020, or the Players Showcase in Las Vegas, Nevada on March 20-22, 2020 (teams will be scheduled to play one game per day at their 2nd event).

All teams are also required to coordinate hotel stays with the NL's designated hotel provider (Anthony Travel for the Boca event and the NL Fall and NL Winter Showcases; or Las Vegas Sports and Hotels for the Players Showcase) or your team will be subject to a substantial penalty. ****NOTE:** locations are subject to change**

11. ADMINISTRATION

The NL is governed by the US Youth Soccer Leagues Policy that has established a National League Management Group to administer the NL, and a NL Commissioner has been appointed to oversee the day-to-day operations of the NL.

For more information, please email the National League at nationalleague@usyouthsoccer.org