



# SHOWCASE SERIES

## Frequently Asked Questions

(As of June 23, 2020)

### **Does the US Youth Soccer National League still exist?**

Yes, but with an all-new structure and format based on insights from leadership, member clubs and outside partner organizations that will elevate the playing environment for all.

### **What's different about the re-imagined USYS National League?**

The National League will no longer be comprised of nationwide brackets and event-specific competitions. It will now consist of regionally aligned Conferences with both team-based and club-based league competitions. The champions of each of these National League Conferences will advance to the Regional Championship level of the USYS National Championship Series. In addition to the new National League format, USYS will be rolling out the all-new USYS National League Showcase Series.

### **What is the USYS National League Showcase Series?**

The National League Showcase Series provides more opportunities for Conference teams to compete within a national platform. At each Showcase, teams are placed in brackets with similarly performing teams across Conferences. Alignments based on Conference performance will create opportunities for more evenly-matched and competitive games. Non-Conference teams can also apply to the National League Showcase Series with applications subject to evaluation, and acceptance dependent on event availability.

### **How can we play in the National League Showcase Series events?**

Pathways for teams to automatically secure a guaranteed spot in the Showcase Series will be forthcoming. National League Showcase Series applications will be available for all interested Conference teams to apply. Non-Conference teams can also apply to the National League Showcase Series with applications subject to evaluation, and acceptance dependent on event availability.

### **What are the rules for the National League Showcase Series?**

The National League had previously hosted showcase events in past seasons alongside regularly scheduled National League games. Those rules will act as a foundation for the new National League Showcase Series. In addition, we will examine areas for enhancement as we continue development and finalization of the complete rules and guidelines.

## **When and where will the National League Showcase Series take place?**

The dates and locations for the 2020-21 National League Showcase Series are now available. View them here: <https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/dates-and-locations-announced-for-2020-21-national-league-showcase-series/>

For future seasons, dates and locations may vary and will be evaluated on an ongoing basis.

## **How many games will be played at each National League Showcase Series?**

The National League Showcase Series will feature three games per team spread over a three-day schedule.

## **What happens to the USYS National Championship slots that previously went to USYS National League teams?**

National League Playoff matches will take place at the same location/time at select Showcase Series events. These playoff matches will determine the teams that will occupy the four National League slots per age group that advance to the USYS National Championships. The National League Playoff format will feature 16 teams in each age group (14U-19U Boys and Girls), with teams placed in groups of four. The winner of each of the four groups will advance to the USYS National Championships.

*For the 2020-21 season, selection criteria for the Playoff teams is still being determined. More information will be announced as it becomes available.*

## **What happens if I win my National League Conference?**

Your team will advance to the USYS National Championship Series Regional Championship based on the geographic location in which your Conference resides. In future seasons, winners of the top tier of each Conference will be eligible to compete in the National League Playoffs.

## **What scouting/recruitment opportunities will there be at the USYS National League Showcase Series?**

Every event will create a great opportunity for scouting. Given the number of competitive teams and geographic diversity, the USYS National League Showcase Series presents an invaluable opportunity for scouts to evaluate a large number of players. US Youth Soccer will work with its partners at the college, professional and international levels, alongside US Youth Soccer ODP, to ensure the competitive standards and event environment are optimized to meet the needs of scouts from for both genders at all levels of play.

## **Are National League Conference teams required to play in the National League Showcase Series events?**

Teams playing in the top tier of competition in each Conference for the 2020-21 seasonal year are required to participate in at least one Showcase (Playoffs included).

**Can a team participate in multiple National League Showcase Series events?**

Yes.

**Can any Team-based Conference team apply to play in the National League Showcase Series?**

Yes. Any team playing in a National League Conference is eligible to play in the National League Showcase Series events. Teams will be evaluated and aligned by technical group.

**Can any Club-based Conference team apply to play in the National League Showcase Series?**

Yes. Any team playing in a National League Conference is eligible to play in the National League Showcase Series events. Teams will be evaluated and aligned by technical group.

**Is there a possibility for teams from Team vs. Team Divisions to be paired with teams from Club vs. Club Divisions?**

Yes. Teams from the differing National League Conference formats may be paired together in the National League Showcase Series.

**How much does each event in the National League Showcase Series cost to participate?**

For the 2020-21 season, the team fee for each showcase will be:

- \$950 per team in the 14U age group
- \$1,200 per team in the 15U-19U age groups

**Is the cost to participate in the National League Showcase Series included in my National League Conference fees?**

No. Each event in the National League Showcase Series will be priced separately.

**What age groups are included in the National League Showcase Series?**

The 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U and 19U age groups are included in the National League Showcase Series. Participation of the 13U and 12U age groups will be evaluated by USYS technical leads.

**What happens to teams that previously qualified for the 2020-21 National League?**

Teams that earned their place in the 2020-21 National League season will continue to have a slot in their National League Conference.

**Does the National League Showcase Series give you the ability to qualify for the USYS National Championship Series?**

No. The National League Showcase Series does not keep standings, but performance at these events is tracked for future competitive alignment.

The opportunities to qualify for the National Championships are limited to the National League Playoffs, which happen alongside select Showcase Series events (same venues), but are separate competitions.

### **How will seeding be set up for the National League Showcase Series?**

A flexible seeding system will be used for the National League Conference standings. This will be based on teams' most recent, or previous, season records and level of competition. Our goal is to match top teams in one Conference against top teams from another Conference. The same goal applies to teams in the middle and lower half of Conference standings. National League Conference Managers will have oversight of the seeding process to ensure that teams are grouped properly.

### **Have college coaches been notified of National League Showcase Series dates?**

Colleges and universities are currently evaluating how and when they can return to play/scouting given the impact of coronavirus and COVID-19. The National League will work with college coaches to incentivize participation and attendance at Showcase Series events. We have many collaboration opportunities with our existing programs and relationships.

### **Will the National League Showcase Series be live-streamed?**

US Youth Soccer has produced live-streaming content in the past, and is evaluating its use for the National League Showcase Series and other USYS events. USYS will broadly notify families if, and when, live-streaming services are available.

Opportunities for games to be filmed (but not live-streamed) will be available through a USYS preferred vendor.