



US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE

2017-2018 SEASONAL YEAR INFORMATION

as of June 27, 2017

1. INTRODUCTION

The US Youth Soccer National League (NL) will conduct its 11th seasonal year of competition in the 2017-2018 seasonal year (September 1, 2017-August 31, 2018). Information can be found here:

<http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/programs/NationalLeague/>

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

- 14U (2004's) – for players born on January 1, 2004 or later -- each gender will have up to a maximum of 16 teams
- 15U (2003's) – for players born on January 1, 2003 or later -- each gender will have up to a maximum of 16 teams
- 16U (2002's) – for players born on January 1, 2002 or later -- each gender will have up to a maximum of 32 teams
- 17U (2001's) – for players born on January 1, 2001 or later -- each gender will have up to a maximum of 32 teams
- 18U (2000's) – for players born on January 1, 2000 or later -- each gender will have up to a maximum of 32 teams

The National League is an extension of the highly successful US Youth Soccer Regional Leagues (Eastern Regional League, Midwest Regional League, Southern Regional Premier League and Far West Regional League). The National League provides an avenue for teams to play in meaningful matches against top competition from across the country for continued development. In addition to recruiting opportunities, National League teams compete for the National League title for 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 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 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 2-11).

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

WHO MAY APPLY

For teams from Regions I, III and IV: 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 **2016-2017 seasonal year** as a **13U boys team** in one of the US Youth Soccer recognized Regional Leagues (i.e. Eastern Regional League, Southern Regional Premier League, Far West Regional League), and participated in the 2016-2017 National Championships competitions; or
- The team reached the semifinals of its respective 2017 Regional Cup competition in the 13U boys age group.

Since Region II did not operate a regional league competition in the 2016-2017 seasonal year at the 13U boys age group, in order for a team from Region II be eligible to compete in this age group and be considered for a NL slot, a team must have played in the **2016-2017 seasonal year** State Cup competition as a **13U boys team** in the 2016-2017 seasonal year of the National Championships competitions.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2017-2018 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 in the 13U boys age group from the 2016-2017 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.
- Regional League Champion/Representative:** As outlined on the NL's 2017-2018 Qualifiers webpage*, the Region I Regional League champions and runners up teams in the 13U boys age group from the 2016-2017 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL slot, after moving clubs from the 2016-2017 seasonal year to the 2017-2018 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective Regional League for the 2017-2018 seasonal year as well as receiving endorsement for NL play from its State Association.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

--Since Region II did not operate a regional league competition in the 2016-2017 seasonal year at the 13U boys age group, there are no automatic qualifiers from Region II to the NL in this boys age group.

--Due to the three-sub region structure with four divisions of the Southern Regional Premier League (East-North, East-South, West, and North/South), there are no automatic qualifiers from Regional League play to the NL from Region III (SRPL) in this boys age group.

--Due to the four-division structure of the Far West Regional League (California-North, California-South, Desert and Northwest), there are no automatic qualifiers from Regional League play to the NL from Region IV (FWRL) in this boys age group.

The NL Committee shall select teams from the eligible boys team applicants pool to fill any open slots.* For teams from Regions I, III and IV, since Regional League and Regional Cup play determines if a team is eligible to participate, the NL Committee shall only use the results from 2016-2017 Regional League play, and results from 2016-2017 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional competitions) in the selection process. For Region II teams, the NL Committee shall only use the results from 2016-2017 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional competitions) and any State League play (competitions operated by the State Association) in the selection process.

The list of teams accepted into the NL for the 2017-2018 seasonal year will be announced on or around August 2, 2017.

PLACEMENT OF TEAMS INTO DIVISIONS

The 16 teams in this boys age group will be divided into 2 divisions of 8 teams each. The Regional Cup Champion teams from the 2017 Nationals Championships Finals competition will be split by the NL Committee between the 2 divisions. Remaining teams will be placed into the divisions by the NL Committee. Teams will play all teams within their division in order to fulfill their NL 2017-2018 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 Committee 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 2018 National Championships Finals. If there is only one division, the top 4 teams of the division qualify for this boys age group of the 2018 National Championships Finals.

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

http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/national_league/201718_national_league_qualifiers/

Boys 15U (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 **2016-2017 seasonal year** as a **14U boys team** in one of the US Youth Soccer recognized Regional Leagues (i.e. Eastern Regional League, Midwest Regional League, Southern Regional Premier League, Far West Regional League), and participated in the 2016-2017 National Championships competitions; or
- The team reached the semifinals of its respective 2017 Regional Cup competition in the 14U boys age group.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2017-2018 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 in the 14U boys age group from the 2016-2017 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.
- Regional League Champions/Representatives:** As outlined on the NL's 2017-2018 Qualifiers webpage*, the Regional League champions/representatives from Regions I and II in the 14U boys age group from the 2016-2017 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL slot, after moving clubs from the 2016-2017 seasonal year to the 2017-2018 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective Regional League for the 2017-2018 seasonal year as well as receiving endorsement for NL play from its State Association.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

--Due to the three-sub region structure with four divisions of the Southern Regional Premier League (East-North, East-South, West, and North/South), there are no automatic qualifiers from Regional League play to the NL from Region III (SRPL) in this boys age group.

-- Due to the four-division structure of the Far West Regional League (California-North, California-South, Desert and Northwest), there are no automatic qualifiers from Regional League play to the NL from Region IV (FWRL) in this boys age group.

The NL Committee shall select teams from the eligible boys team applicants pool to fill any open slots*. For teams from Regions III and IV, since Regional League and Regional Cup play determines if a team is eligible to participate, the NL Committee shall only use the results from 2016-2017 Regional League play, and results from 2016-2017 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional competitions) in the selection process.

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PLACEMENT OF TEAMS INTO DIVISIONS

The 16 teams in this boys age group will be divided into 2 divisions of 8 teams each. The Regional Cup Champions and returning NL teams from the 2017 National Championships Finals competition will be split by the NL Committee between the 2 divisions. Remaining teams will be placed into the divisions by the NL Committee. Teams will play all teams within their division in order to fulfill their NL 2017-2018 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 Committee shall determine the final number of teams selected and the placement of teams into divisions, if applicable. The top 2 teams from each of the 2 divisions qualify for this boys age group of the 2018 National Championships Finals. If there is only one division, the top 4 teams of the division qualify for this boys age group of the 2018 National Championships Finals.

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

http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/national_league/201718_national_league_qualifiers/

Boys 16U (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 **2016-2017 seasonal year** as a **15U boys team** in one of the US Youth Soccer recognized Regional Leagues (i.e. Eastern Regional League, Midwest Regional League, Southern Regional Premier League, Far West Regional League), and participated in the 2016-2017 National Championships competitions; or
- The team must have participated in the NL during the 2016-2017 seasonal year in the 15U boys age group, and participated in the 2016-2017 National Championships competitions; or
- The team reached the semifinals of its respective 2017 Regional Cup competition in the 15U boys age group.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2017-2018 seasonal year, the participating teams in this boys age group are determined through a combination of qualifiers and selected teams as outlined on the NL's 2017-2018 Qualifiers webpage*. Qualifiers are the following:

--**Returning National League teams:** The 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place teams in the Red and Blue Divisions from the 2016-2017 NL seasonal year (8 teams) in the 15U boys age group, qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.

--**Regional Cup Champions/Representatives:** The Regional Cup Champions/Representatives in the 15U boys age group from the 2016-2017 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.

--**Regional League Champions/Representatives:** As outlined on the NL's 2017-2018 Qualifiers webpage*, the Regional League champions and top finishers (where applicable) as 15U boys teams from the 2016-2017 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL slot, after moving clubs from the 2016-2017 seasonal year to the 2017-2018 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective Regional League for 2017-2018 as well as receiving endorsement for NL play from its State Association.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

The NL Committee shall select teams from the eligible boys team applicants pool to fill any open slots*. Since Regional League and Regional Cup play determines if a team is eligible to participate, the NL Committee shall only use the results from 2016-2017 Regional League play, results from 2016-2017 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional competitions), and 2016-2017 NL play in the selection process.

The list of teams accepted into the NL for the 2017-2018 seasonal year will be announced on or around August 2, 2017.

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 and returning NL teams from the 2017 National Championships Finals competitions will be split by the NL Committee among the 4 divisions. Remaining teams will be placed into the divisions by the NL Committee. Teams will play all teams within their division in order to fulfill their NL 2017-2018 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 Committee 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 2018 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 2018 National Championships Finals, and the NL Committee will determine the other team or teams that so qualify.

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

http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/national_league/201718_national_league_qualifiers/

Boys 17U (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 **2016-2017 seasonal year** as a **16U boys team** in one of the US Youth Soccer recognized Regional Leagues (i.e. Eastern Regional League, Midwest Regional League, Southern Regional Premier League, Far West Regional League), and participated in the 2016-2017 National Championships competitions; or
- The team must have participated in the NL during the 2016-2017 seasonal year in the 16U boys age group, and participated in the 2016-2017 National Championships competitions; or
- The team reached the semifinals of its respective 2017 Regional Cup competition in the 16U boys age group.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2017-2018 seasonal year, the participating teams in this boys age group are determined through a combination of qualifiers and selected teams as outlined on the NL's 2017-2018 Qualifiers webpage*. Qualifiers are the following:

--**Returning National League teams:** The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams in the Red, White, Black and Blue Divisions from the 2016-2017 NL seasonal year (12 teams) in the 16U boys age group, qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.

--**Regional Cup Champions/Representatives:** The Regional Cup Champions/Representatives in the 16U boys age group from the 2016-2017 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.

--**Regional League Champions/Representatives:** As outlined on the NL's 2017-2018 Qualifiers webpage*, the Regional League champions and top finishers (where applicable) as 16U boys teams from the 2016-2017 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL slot, after moving clubs from the 2016-2017 seasonal year to the 2017-2018 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective Regional League for 2017-2018 as well as receiving endorsement for NL play from its State Association.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

The NL Committee shall select teams from the eligible boys team applicants pool to fill any open slots*. Since Regional League and Regional Cup play determines if a team is eligible to participate, the NL Committee shall only use the results from 2016-2017 Regional League play, results from 2016-2017 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional competitions), and 2016-2017 NL play in the selection process.

The list of teams accepted into the NL for the 2017-2018 seasonal year will be announced on or around August 2, 2017.

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 and returning NL teams from the 2017 National Championships Finals competition will be split by the NL Committee among the 4 divisions. Remaining teams will be placed into the divisions by the NL Committee. Teams will play all teams within their division in order to fulfill their NL 2017-2018 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 Committee 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 2018 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 2018 National Championships Finals, and the NL Committee will determine the other team or teams that so qualify.

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

http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/national_league/201718_national_league_qualifiers/

Boys 18U (2000's) – for players born on January 1, 2000 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 **2016-2017 seasonal year** as a **17U boys team** in one of the US Youth Soccer recognized Regional Leagues (i.e. Eastern Regional League, Midwest Regional League, Southern Regional Premier League, Far West Regional League), and participated in the 2016-2017 National Championships competitions; or
- The team must have participated in the NL during the 2016-2017 seasonal year in the 17U boys age group, and participated in the 2016-2017 National Championships competitions; or
- The team reached the semifinals of its respective 2017 Regional Cup competition in the 17U boys age group.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2017-2018 seasonal year, the participating teams in this boys age group are determined through a combination of qualifiers and selected teams as outlined on the NL's 2017-2018 Qualifiers webpage*. Qualifiers are the following:

- Returning National League teams:** The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams in the Red, White, Black and Blue Divisions from the 2016-2017 NL seasonal year (12 teams) in the 17U boys age group, qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.
- Regional Cup Champions/Representatives:** The Regional Cup Champions/Representatives in the 17U boys age group from the 2016-2017 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.
- Regional League Champions/Representatives:** As outlined on the NL's 2017-2018 Qualifiers webpage*, the Regional League champions and top finishers (where applicable) as 17U boys teams from the 2016-2017 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL slot, after moving clubs from the 2016-2017 seasonal year to the 2017-2018 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective Regional League for 2017-2018 as well as receiving endorsement for NL play from its State Association.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

The NL Committee shall select teams from the eligible boys team applicants pool to fill any open slots*. Since Regional League and Regional Cup play determines if a team is eligible to participate, the NL Committee shall only use the results from 2016-2017 Regional League play, results from 2016-2017 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional competitions), and 2016-2017 NL play in the selection process.

The list of teams accepted into the NL for the 2017-2018 seasonal year will be announced on or around August 2, 2017.

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 and returning NL teams from the 2017 National Championships Finals competition will be split by the NL Committee among the 4 divisions. Remaining teams will be placed into the divisions by the NL Committee. Teams will play all teams within their division in order to fulfill their NL 2017-2018 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 Committee 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 2018 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 2018 National Championships Finals, and the NL Committee will determine the other team or teams that so qualify.

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

http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/national_league/201718_national_league_qualifiers/

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

Girls 14U (2004's) – for players born on January 1, 2004 or later

WHO MAY APPLY

For teams from Regions I, III and IV: 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 **2016-2017 seasonal year** as a **13U girls team** in one of the US Youth Soccer recognized Regional Leagues (i.e. Eastern Regional League, Southern Regional Premier League, Far West Regional League), and participated in the 2016-2017 National Championships competitions; or
- The team reached the semifinals of its respective 2017 Regional Cup competition in the 13U girls age group.

Since Region II did not operate a regional league competition in 2016-2017 seasonal year at the 13U girls age group, in order for a team from Region II be eligible to compete in this age group and be considered for a NL slot, a team must have played in the **2016-2017 seasonal year** State Cup competition as a **13U girls team** in the 2016-2017 seasonal year of the National Championships competitions.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2017-2018 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 in the 13U girls age group from the 2016-2017 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.
- Regional League Champion/Representative:** As outlined on the NL's 2017-2018 Qualifiers webpage*, the Region I Regional League champions and runners up teams in the 13U girls age group from the 2016-2017 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL slot, after moving clubs from the 2016-2017 seasonal year to the 2017-2018 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective Regional League for the 2017-2018 seasonal year as well as receiving endorsement for NL play from its State Association.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

--Since Region II did not operate a regional league competition in the 2016-2017 seasonal year at the 13U girls age group, there are no automatic qualifiers from Region II to the NL in this girls age group.

--Due to the three-sub region structure with four divisions of the Southern Regional Premier League (East-North, East-South, West, and North/South), there are no automatic qualifiers from Regional League play to the NL from Region III (SRPL) in this girls age group.

--Due to the four-division structure of the Far West Regional League (California-North, California-South, Desert and Northwest), there are no automatic qualifiers from Regional League play to the NL from Region IV (FWRL) in this girls age group.

The NL Committee shall select teams from the eligible girls team applicants pool to fill any open slots.* For teams from Regions I, III and IV, since Regional League and Regional Cup play determines if a team is eligible to participate, the NL Committee shall only use the results from 2016-2017 Regional League play, and results from 2016-2017 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional competitions) in the selection process. For Region II teams, the NL Committee shall only use the results from 2016-2017 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional competitions) and any State League play (competitions operated by the State Association) in the selection process.

The list of teams accepted into the NL for the 2017-2018 seasonal year will be announced on or around August 2, 2017.

PLACEMENT OF TEAMS INTO DIVISIONS

The 16 teams in this girls age group will be divided into 2 divisions of 8 teams each. The Regional Cup Champion teams from the 2017 Nationals Championships Finals competition will be split by the NL Committee between the 2 divisions. Remaining teams will be placed into the divisions by the NL Committee. Teams will play all teams within their division in order to fulfill their NL 2017-2018 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 Committee 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 2018 National Championships Finals. If there is only one division, the top 4 teams of the division qualify for this girls age group of the 2018 National Championships Finals.

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

http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/national_league/201718_national_league_qualifiers/

Girls 15U (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 **2016-2017 seasonal year** as a **14U girls team** in one of the US Youth Soccer recognized Regional Leagues (i.e. Eastern Regional League, Midwest Regional League, Southern Regional Premier League, Far West Regional League), and participated in the 2016-2017 National Championships competitions; or
- The team reached the semifinals of its respective 2017 Regional Cup competition in the 14U girls age group.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2017-2018 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 in the 14U girls age group from the 2016-2017 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.
- Regional League Champions/Representatives:** As outlined on the NL's 2017-2018 Qualifiers webpage*, the Regional League champions/representatives from Regions I and II in the 14U girls age group from the 2016-2017 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL slot, after moving clubs from the 2016-2017 seasonal year to the 2017-2018 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective Regional League for the 2017-2018 seasonal year as well as receiving endorsement for NL play from its State Association.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

--Due to the three-sub region structure with four divisions of the Southern Regional Premier League (East-North, East-South, West, and North/South), there are no automatic qualifiers from Regional League play to the NL from Region III (SRPL) in this girls age group.

-- Due to the four-division structure of the Far West Regional League (California-North, California-South, Desert and Northwest), there are no automatic qualifiers from Regional League play to the NL from Region IV (FWRL) in this girls age group.

The NL Committee shall select teams from the eligible girls team applicants pool to fill any open slots*. For teams from Regions III and IV, since Regional League and Regional Cup play determines if a team is eligible to participate, the NL Committee shall only use the results from 2016-2017 Regional League play, and results from 2016-2017 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional competitions) in the selection process.

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

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Girls 16U (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 **2016-2017 seasonal year** as a **15U girls team** in one of the US Youth Soccer recognized Regional Leagues (i.e. Eastern Regional League, Midwest Regional League, Southern Regional Premier League, Far West Regional League), and participated in the 2016-2017 National Championships competitions; or
- The team must have participated in the NL during the 2016-2017 seasonal year in the 15U girls age group, and participated in the 2016-2017 National Championships competitions; or
- The team reached the semifinals of its respective 2017 Regional Cup competition in the 15U girls age group.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2017-2018 seasonal year, the participating teams in this girls age group are determined through a combination of qualifiers and selected teams as outlined on the NL's 2017-2018 Qualifiers webpage*. Qualifiers are the following:

--**Returning National League teams:** The 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place teams in the Red and Blue Divisions from the 2016-2017 NL seasonal year (8 teams) in the 15U girls age group, qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.

--**Regional Cup Champions/Representatives:** The Regional Cup Champions/Representatives in the 15U girls age group from the 2016-2017 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.

--**Regional League Champions/Representatives:** As outlined on the NL's 2017-2018 Qualifiers webpage*, the Regional League champions and top finishers (where applicable) as 15U girls teams from the 2016-2017 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL slot, after moving clubs from the 2016-2017 seasonal year to the 2017-2018 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective Regional League for 2017-2018 as well as receiving endorsement for NL play from its State Association.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

The NL Committee shall select teams from the eligible girls team applicants pool to fill any open slots*. Since Regional League and Regional Cup play determines if a team is eligible to participate, the NL Committee shall only use the results from 2016-2017 Regional League play, results from 2016-2017 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional competitions), and 2016-2017 NL play in the selection process.

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

http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/national_league/201718_national_league_qualifiers/

Girls 17U (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 **2016-2017 seasonal year** as a **16U girls team** in one of the US Youth Soccer recognized Regional Leagues (i.e. Eastern Regional League, Midwest Regional League, Southern Regional Premier League, Far West Regional League), and participated in the 2016-2017 National Championships competitions; or
- The team must have participated in the NL during the 2016-2017 seasonal year in the 16U girls age group, and participated in the 2016-2017 National Championships competitions; or
- The team reached the semifinals of its respective 2017 Regional Cup competition in the 16U girls age group.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2017-2018 seasonal year, the participating teams in this girls age group are determined through a combination of qualifiers and selected teams as outlined on the NL's 2017-2018 Qualifiers webpage*. Qualifiers are the following:

--**Returning National League teams:** The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams in the Red, White, Black and Blue Divisions from the 2016-2017 NL seasonal year (12 teams) in the 16U girls age group, qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.

--**Regional Cup Champions/Representatives:** The Regional Cup Champions/Representatives in the 16U girls age group from the 2016-2017 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.

--**Regional League Champions/Representatives:** As outlined on the NL's 2017-2018 Qualifiers webpage*, the Regional League champions and top finishers (where applicable) as 16U girls teams from the 2016-2017 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL slot, after moving clubs from the 2016-2017 seasonal year to the 2017-2018 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective Regional League for 2017-2018 as well as receiving endorsement for NL play from its State Association.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

The NL Committee shall select teams from the eligible girls team applicants pool to fill any open slots*. Since Regional League and Regional Cup play determines if a team is eligible to participate, the NL Committee shall only use the results from 2016-2017 Regional League play, results from 2016-2017 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional competitions), and 2016-2017 NL play in the selection process.

The list of teams accepted into the NL for the 2017-2018 seasonal year will be announced on or around August 2, 2017.

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 and returning NL teams from the 2017 National Championships Finals competition will be split by the NL Committee among the 4 divisions. Remaining teams will be placed into the divisions by the NL Committee. Teams will play all teams within their division in order to fulfill their NL 2017-2018 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 Committee 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 2018 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 2018 National Championships Finals, and the NL Committee will determine the other team or teams that so qualify.

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

http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/national_league/201718_national_league_qualifiers/

Girls 18U (2000's) – for players born on January 1, 2000 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 **2016-2017 seasonal year** as a **17U girls team** in one of the US Youth Soccer recognized Regional Leagues (i.e. Eastern Regional League, Midwest Regional League, Southern Regional Premier League, Far West Regional League), and participated in the 2016-2017 National Championships competitions; or
- The team must have participated in the NL during the 2016-2017 seasonal year in the 17U girls age group, and participated in the 2016-2017 National Championships competitions; or
- The team reached the semifinals of its respective 2017 Regional Cup competition in the 17U girls age group.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2017-2018 seasonal year, the participating teams in this girls age group are determined through a combination of qualifiers and selected teams as outlined on the NL's 2017-2018 Qualifiers webpage*. Qualifiers are the following:

- Returning National League teams:** The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams in the Red, White, Black and Blue Divisions from the 2016-2017 NL seasonal year (12 teams) in the 17U girls age group, qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.
- Regional Cup Champions/Representatives:** The Regional Cup Champions/Representatives in the 17U girls age group from the 2016-2017 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.
- Regional League Champions/Representatives:** As outlined on the NL's 2017-2018 Qualifiers webpage*, the Regional League champions and top finishers (where applicable) as 17U girls teams from the 2016-2017 seasonal year qualify for the NL 2017-2018 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL slot, after moving clubs from the 2016-2017 seasonal year to the 2017-2018 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective Regional League for 2017-2018 as well as receiving endorsement for NL play from its State Association.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

The NL Committee shall select teams from the eligible girls team applicants pool to fill any open slots*. Since Regional League and Regional Cup play determines if a team is eligible to participate, the NL Committee shall only use the results from 2016-2017 Regional League play, results from 2016-2017 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional competitions), and 2016-2017 NL play in the selection process.

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

http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/national_league/201718_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 2017-2018 seasonal year must show a 9-player continuity from the 2016-2017 seasonal year as follows:

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

4. TEAM APPLICATIONS

All eligible (qualifying and selected teams) apply to play in the NL for the 2017-2018 seasonal year through the following link off of the US Youth Soccer website:

https://idevforms.americaneagle.com/usys/form407102379/secure_index.html

The team application entry deadline is Thursday, July 6, 2017

5. TEAM FEE

The team fee is \$2,800. 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 (due by September 1, 2017).

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 towards opponents. Any team that fails to appear for NL games are subject to penalties as determined by the NL Committee.

7. QUALIFYING FOR THE 2018 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS

Four representatives from each of the National League 14U (2004's), 15U (2003's), 16U (2002's), 17U (2001's), and 18U (2000's) gender age groups shall qualify for the 2018 US Youth Soccer National Championships Finals in July 2018. The 4 2017-2018 seasonal year Regional Cup winners/representatives will also advance to Nationals creating National Championships Finals featuring 8 teams in the 14U (2004's), 15U (2003's), 16U (2002's), 17U (2001's), and 18U (2000'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 2017-2018 seasonal year (as part of the National Championships competitions for the 2017-2018 seasonal year), and the top regional league of each region should the team qualify.

8. NUMBER OF GAMES AND LOCATION OF GAMES

Each team will 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). The locations and dates below are subject to change.

All teams are also required to coordinate hotel stays at the NL's first events in North Carolina with the NL's designated hotel provider (Anthony Travel) or your team will be subject to a substantial penalty.

All teams assigned to play at a team's second NL event are required to coordinate hotel stays through Event/Showcase Tournament hotel providers (Disney Boys-Anthony Travel; NL Showcase Girls January Event at IMG-Anthony Travel; Players-Las Vegas Sports and Hotels;) or your team will be subject to a substantial penalty.

BOYS TEAMS

All teams (in all boys age groups) will participate in the first weekend of National League play---there are no exceptions. The first weekend of play for **all Boys Teams is December 7-10, 2017** (teams scheduled to play one game per day). Games will primarily be played at the Gillette Soccer Complex in Wilson NC and Rocky Mount NC Sports Complex and other fields in the area. The first events are operated solely by the NL and are not affiliated with any local showcase event.

All Boys 14U teams will play their second weekend of play at the Players Showcase in Nevada on March 9-11, 2018. Teams will be scheduled to play one game per day.

All 15U, 16U, 17U and 18U Boys teams will be assigned by the NL Committee for their second weekend of play primarily based on minimizing high school play conflicts where possible. Teams will be assigned to play at either the Disney Showcase Tournament in Orlando FL (all games at ESPN Wide World of Sports) held on December 28-31, 2017, or the Players Showcase in Nevada on March 9-11, 2018. Teams assigned to Disney will play 3 games in 4 days with matches on December 28, 29 and 31 (December 30 is a rest day). Teams assigned to Las Vegas will play one match per day.

GIRLS TEAMS

All teams (in all age groups) will participate in the first weekend of National League play---there are no exceptions. The first weekend of play for **all Girls Teams is November 30-December 3, 2017** (teams scheduled to play one game per day). Games will primarily be played at the Gillette Soccer Complex in Wilson NC and Rocky Mount Sports Complex in Rocky Mount NC and other fields in the area. The first events are operated solely by the NL and are not affiliated with any local showcase event.

All 14U Girls teams will play their second weekend of play at the Players Showcase in Las Vegas NV on March 16-18, 2018. Teams will be scheduled to play one game per day.

All 15U, 16U, 17U and 18U Girls teams will be assigned by the NL Committee for their second weekend of play primarily based on minimizing high school play conflicts where possible. Teams will be assigned to play during either a NL Showcase event at the IMG Academy in Bradenton FL on January 13-15, 2018, or the Players Showcase in Las Vegas NV on March 16-18, 2018. Teams will be scheduled to play one game per day.

9. ADMINISTRATION

The NL is governed by the US Youth Soccer National League Charter that has established a National League Committee to administer the NL. A Commissioner has been appointed to oversee the day-to-day operations of the NL. The Committee has adopted NL rules to administer the NL.

For more information, please email National League Commissioner Paul Luchowski at nationalleague@usyouthsoccer.org