



US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE

2013-2014 SEASONAL YEAR INFORMATION

as of June 10, 2013

1. INTRODUCTION

The US Youth Soccer National League (NL) will conduct its seventh seasonal year of competition in 2013-2014. We will have league play in Boys and Girls Under 14, Under 15, Under 16, Under 17 and Under 18 age groups. Each gender age group will have up to a maximum of 16 teams.

The National League is an extension of the highly successful US Youth Soccer Regional Leagues (Region I Premier League, Midwest Regional League, Southern Premier Regional League/Region III 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 spot 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 automatically 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 in paragraph 2 below).

For more information, visit the National League home page at:

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

To view a video about the National League, go to:

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

To read quotes from coaches of teams that previously participated in the National League, go to:

http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/national_league/quotes_from_coaches/

2. QUALIFICATION AND SELECTION OF TEAMS

For the 2013-2014 seasonal year, the 16 teams in each gender age group are determined through a combination of automatic qualifiers (where applicable) and selected teams.

AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

The NL has three means of automatic qualification—

--**Returning National League teams:** In the Under-16, Under-17 and Under-18 gender age groups, the top 4 returning teams from the 2012-2013 National League seasonal year (the NL representatives to the Nationals) automatically qualify for the 2013-2014 seasonal year.

--**Regional Cup Champions/Representatives:** In each gender age group, the Regional Cup Champions/Representatives from the 2012-2013 seasonal year automatically qualify for the 2013-2014 seasonal year.

--**Regional League Champions:** The Regional League champions from the 2012-2013 seasonal year also automatically qualify for the 2013-2014 NL seasonal year.

The specific list of automatic qualifiers for each gender age group can be found here:

http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/national_league/20132014_national_league_qualifiers

ELIGIBLE TEAMS FOR SELECTION BY THE NL COMMITTEE

Any slots not filled by automatic qualifiers will be filled by the NL Committee through a selection process open to eligible teams. Teams that are eligible to apply for selection by the NL Committee are:

--For the 2013-2014 seasonal year in the **Under-15, Under-16, Under-17 and Under-18 gender age groups:** any team that played in the US Youth Soccer recognized Regional Leagues (i.e. Region I Premier/Regional Leagues, Midwest Regional League, Southern Premier Regional League/Region III Premier League, Far West Regional League) or the National League during the 2012-2013 seasonal year, and any teams that reached the semifinals of their respective 2013-2014 seasonal year Regional Cup competition.

--For the 2013-2014 seasonal year in the **Under-14 gender age groups:** any team that participated in the State Cup competition (National Championship Series) during the 2012-2013 seasonal year.

The specific list of open slots for each gender age group can be found here:

http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/national_league/20132014_national_league_qualifiers

The list of teams accepted into the NL for 2013-2014 seasonal year will be announced on or around July 30, 2013.

3. TEAM ROSTERS—PLAYER CONTINUITY

Teams that are selected to play in the NL or have automatically qualified to play in the NL for the 2013-2014 seasonal year must show a 9-player continuity from their 2012-2013 seasonal year team roster as follows:

At all times during the 2013-2014 seasonal year, a NL team must have on its National League roster, to be eligible to play during the 2013-2014 seasonal year, no less than 9 of the players that were on the team's roster for the 2012-2013 seasonal year. Since NL teams must compete in State Cup competitions in order to be eligible to apply, it will be incumbent upon, and the obligation of, State Associations and their respective Regional offices (due to participation in Regional Cup and/or Regional League competitions) to determine that teams have complied with this requirement since they alone have the documentation to verify compliance with minimum of this 9-returning players rule.

4. TEAM APPLICATIONS

All eligible teams (automatic qualifying and selected teams) apply to play in the NL for the 2013-2014 seasonal year through the following link off of the US Youth Soccer website:

http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/national_league/national_league_application/

The team application entry deadline is Tuesday, July 9, 2013.

Required team fees specified in paragraph 5 below are to be paid by check or money order, payable to "US Youth Soccer". **National League team fees must be RECEIVED by the Commissioner by no later than Friday, July 12, 2013. The address to send Team fees is:**

NL Commissioner
6612 Debbie Drive,
North Ridgeville, OH 44039

5. TEAM FEE

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.

The team fee for Under-15, Under-16, Under-17 and Under-18 teams is **\$2,750**.

The team fee for Under-14 teams is **\$2,250**.

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. PLACEMENT OF TEAMS INTO SUBDIVISIONS WITHIN EACH GENDER AGE GROUP

The 16 teams in each gender age group will be divided into 2 subdivisions of 8 teams each. The 4 Regional Cup Champions and 4 returning NL teams (where applicable) will be split between the 2 subdivisions. Remaining teams will be placed into the subdivisions. Teams will play all teams within their subdivision in order to fulfill their NL seasonal year game requirement (7 games; see paragraph 9). In situations where less than 16 teams are accepted into the NL in a gender age group, the NL Committee shall determine the final number of teams selected and the placement of teams into subdivisions, if applicable.

8. QUALIFYING FOR THE 2014 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS

Four representatives from the National League Under-14, Under-15, Under-16, Under-17, and Under-18 gender age groups shall qualify for the US Youth Soccer 2014 National Championships Finals in July 2014. The 4 2013-2014 seasonal year Regional Cup winners will also advance to Nationals creating National Championships Finals featuring 8 teams in the Under-14, Under-15, Under-16, Under-17, and Under-18 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, as well as their respective Regional Cup competition should the team qualify, and the top regional league of each region should the team qualify.

9. NUMBER OF GAMES AND LOCATION OF GAMES

Each team will play a 7-game schedule playing each team within its subdivision 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).

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 Boys Teams is on November 21-24, 2013** (one game per day) as part of the CASL Showcase Tournament based in the Raleigh NC area. The first weekend of play for **all Girls Teams is on December 5-8, 2013** (one game per day) as part of the CASL Showcase Tournament based in the Raleigh NC area.

All Boys and Girls Under-14 teams are required to participate in a 3-game play weekend (one game per day) to be held on Friday through Sunday, March 7-9, 14-16, 21-23 or 28-30, 2014 in the West (NL has been in Las Vegas for the past 5 years in conjunction with the Players Showcase Tournament).

Boys Under-15 through Under-18 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 the Disney Showcase Tournament in Orlando FL held on December 27-30, 2013, or a NL event held on March 14-16, 21-23, or 28-30, 2014, in the West (NL has been in Las Vegas for the past 5 years in conjunction with the Players Showcase Tournament).

Girls Under-15 through Under-18 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 the Disney Showcase Tournament in Orlando FL held on December 31, 2013-January 3, 2014, or a NL event held on March 14-16, 21-23, 28-30, 2014 in the West. (NL has been in Las Vegas for the past 5 years in conjunction with the Players Showcase Tournament.)

Locations and dates are subject to change. NL games are tied in with Showcase Tournaments to provide exposure of NL players for advancement to a higher level. All teams assigned to play during a Showcase Tournament are required to coordinate hotel stays through Showcase Tournament hotel coordinators.

10. 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 pluchowski@plsportsconsulting.com