



FAQs

What is National 1 League?

National 1 League is a new national league structure that brings together US Club Soccer's National Premier Leagues (NPL) and US Youth Soccer's National League (NL), totaling approximately 10,000 teams and 150,000 players. National 1 League is a joint effort by US Club Soccer and US Youth Soccer in collaboration with U.S. Soccer.

Where does National 1 league sit in the national pathway?

National 1 will serve as the top level of the team-based competitive segment for US Club Soccer and US Youth Soccer.

Why is National 1 League being created?

National 1 League is intended to reduce fragmentation, simplify competitive pathways, reduce travel, and create a clear merit-based competition structure that connects local leagues to higher levels of play. Integrating these competitions will create more localized play opportunities and reduce participant travel and cost throughout the season.

Who is eligible to apply for Midwest District 5?

Michigan State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) is the exclusive operator for Midwest District 5 which includes Michigan and Northern Indiana. For district breakdown please click [HERE](#).

Is National 1 League team-based or club-based?

National 1 League is primarily team-based, with merit-based promotion and relegation alongside defined competition standards and policies. Transition periods may exist for current club-based competition models.

What age groups are included?

National 1 will include U-13 through U-19 age groups, utilizing August 1-July 31 age Matrix.

When does the National 1 league District 5 application open?

The National 1 League application (Midwest District 5) is now open! MSYSA invites teams to apply for participation in the National 1 League beginning this fall. To apply, please click [HERE](#).

When is the application deadline?

Deadline: June 29, 2026 (12:00 PM / Noon). Scheduling begins immediately after applications close. *Note: Even high school-aged (U15+) spring-only teams should apply by June 29, 2026.

What will be needed for the application?

When completing your application, please answer all questions thoroughly and include relevant league standings/results, as well as major state, regional, or national tournaments (e.g., JRSC, State Cup, Nationals, etc. These details are essential in the evaluation process. A Payment will also be collected at time of application.

When will acceptance decisions be made?

There will be rolling acceptance for teams previously in National League. All other decisions made shortly after the application deadline- June 29, 2026 (12:00 PM / Noon).

What if we apply and do not get accepted?

If your team is not accepted into the league, you will receive a full refund.

Who should apply?

NL and NPL teams

MSPSP/GLPL teams

Other competitive teams (ECNL RL, EA, GA, etc.)

*Note: Even high school-aged (U15+) spring-only teams should apply by June 29, 2026.

What is the season structure?

8–10 games per season. Fall and Spring are treated as separate seasons within the same seasonal year (2026–2027).

Will there be multiple tiers of competition within National 1 League?

Midwest District 5 is anticipating one or two tiers of competition.

Will my team have to travel more?

A key focus of National 1 League is more localized competition with national travel primarily limited to showcases and postseason events.

How many players can be on a roster?

Minimum: 15 players

Maximum: 30 players

Game-day roster limit: 18 players

What are the team fees?

U13–U14 Age Groups:

For One Season: \$1,200* per team (includes State Cup** participation).

For Two Seasons: \$1,600* per team (includes State Cup** participation). \$1,200 is paid at the time of the fall application and \$400 is paid at the time of the spring application.

U15–U19 Age Groups:

\$1,200* per team (includes State Cup** participation)

Does the fee include State Cup?

Yes - State Cup entry is included. Indiana team's MSYSA State Cup fee will be remitted to Indiana Soccer Assoc. (ISA) for teams wanting to participate in their State Cup.

Are there additional costs?

Yes, teams are responsible for player & staff registration fees through US Club Soccer- <https://usclubsoccer.org/fees/>, referee fees, and a GotSport application processing fee.

Is US Club Soccer membership required?

All clubs/organizations participating in N1 must be members of US Club Soccer. If your club/org is already a US Club Soccer member, no action is needed at this time. If your club/org is not already a US Club Soccer member, please apply to join US Club Soccer via the US Club Soccer New Organization Member Application ASAP. Following US Club Soccer membership, club/organization accounts will be provisioned in GotSport and affiliated with US Club Soccer and the corresponding N1 district account(s). US Club Soccer membership and provisioning must be complete before player and staff registration (which opens June 1, 2026), and other administrative items, may begin.

How will players and teams register?

Registration will be done through US Club Soccer, which is a sanctioning entity, and participants will utilize a National 1 branded passcard. Teams are responsible for registering players and coaches independently through US Club Soccer. For more information on US Club Soccer registration, [click here](#).

Can a National 1 branded passcard be used in MSYSA events?

Yes, National 1 branded passcards can be used in MSYSA events.

Is the National 1 League replacing other leagues?

Yes, National 1 consolidates many previous leagues, including: National League (Also known as NL, NLC, E64, E64RL, Club Premier 1, Club Premier 2, Team Premier 1, Team Premier 2) and National Premier League (NPL). It'll be the highest team-based league.

However: **MSPSP and GLPL will still exist**. Clubs can still place teams in those leagues if appropriate

Is there a postseason event for National 1?

The National 1 League's inaugural season will be capped in summer 2027 at the ECNL Conference League Playoffs and Finals, as district qualifiers from this competition and the ECNL Regional League compete for championships.

If I have any additional questions who should I contact?

If you have any questions, please visit the [National 1 page on our website](#) and be sure to follow and monitor our social media channels for updates. You may also contact Cara Hilliard National 1 League Assistant at chilliard@michiganyouthsoccer.org.