



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 proud to serve as the exclusive operator of Midwest District 5, encompassing Michigan and Northern Indiana. For a detailed district breakdown, please click [HERE](#).

Teams currently competing in NL, NPL, GLPL, ECNL RL, NAL, GA, and other top competitive leagues are strongly encouraged to apply. We welcome applications from clubs and teams seeking a high-level, team-based competitive environment.

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?

Current National League and NPL teams

Top GLPL teams

Other competitive teams (ECNL RL, NAL, 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 (primary players)

Maximum: 30 players (primary players)

Game-day roster limit: 18 players

**Club-Passed Player / Guest Player (CP/CPP) do NOT count toward the roster minimum (15) or maximum (30). Only PRIMARY rostered players count against these limits.

Can players participate in multiple leagues?

Yes, players may play with teams competing in ECNL RL, GLPL/MSPSP. You MUST follow rostering rules listed below.

GLPL

Both steps must be completed for the player to be eligible. Listing as PRIMARY on the GLPL roster is required. GLPL players rostered as CP National 1 players do NOT count toward the 15–30 player roster limit.

1. Complete MSYSA player registration AND be listed as PRIMARY player on the GLPL team roster.
2. Complete US Club player registration and be rostered to the National 1 team as a Club-Passed Player (CP).

ECNL RL

A maximum of 4 ECNL RL players may appear on the Game Day Roster per match. These 4 spots may be filled by different players each week — coaches may swap ECNL RL players in and out, provided no more than 4 appear in any single match.

ECNL RL players who are not primary players on the N1 roster do NOT count toward the 15–30 player roster limit.

Each ECNL RL player must:

1. Complete US Club player registration.
2. Be rostered to the N1 team as a Club-Passed Player (CP).

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

Yes, National 1 branded passcards can be used in MSYSA events. Players participating in the N1 league will remain eligible to participate in open cups and tournaments across both the USYS and US Club environments, including USYS / State Association competitions like State Cup, Presidents Cup, and US Youth Soccer National Championships Series. Longer term, U.S. Soccer is working toward a universal player pass process to simplify participation across the ecosystem.

Will ECNL RL players who are listed as CP on a N1 roster receive a N1 branded player pass?

No, they will have US Club Soccer, ECNL RL pass cards.

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/Ohio team's MSYSA State Cup fee will be remitted to Indiana Soccer Assoc. (ISA)/Ohio Soccer Assoc. (OSA) 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.

What are the Referee fees?

Matches should be officiated using the three-person FIFA/U.S. Soccer Referee System. However, due to unique circumstances, some matches may be officiated with fewer than three certified officials. In these situations, the Referee may appoint one or two Club Assistant Referees. Club Assistant Referees are limited to signaling ball in and out of play and indicating which team is entitled to possession.

Age Group	Center Referee	Assistant Referee (each)
U13-U14	\$70.00	\$50.00
U15-U16	\$80.00	\$55.00
U17-U19	\$90.00	\$60.00

Referee fees are to be split equally between the home and away teams. Teams should be prepared to pay their share of the referee fees prior to the start of the match in accordance with league procedures.

Is US Club Soccer membership required?

YES - 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 - <https://system.gotsport.com/forms/1C1869970>.**

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](#). There is additional Gotsport training resources available, [here](#).

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 certain team naming format we need to follow?

Yes - [Club] N1 [Gender] [Birth Years] [Team] [(State Abbreviation)]. For example, this would look like: City FC N1 B2009/10 Green (MI).

If you submitted an application under a different team naming format. They will be automatically adjusted in Gotsport for you.

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.

