



WELCOME

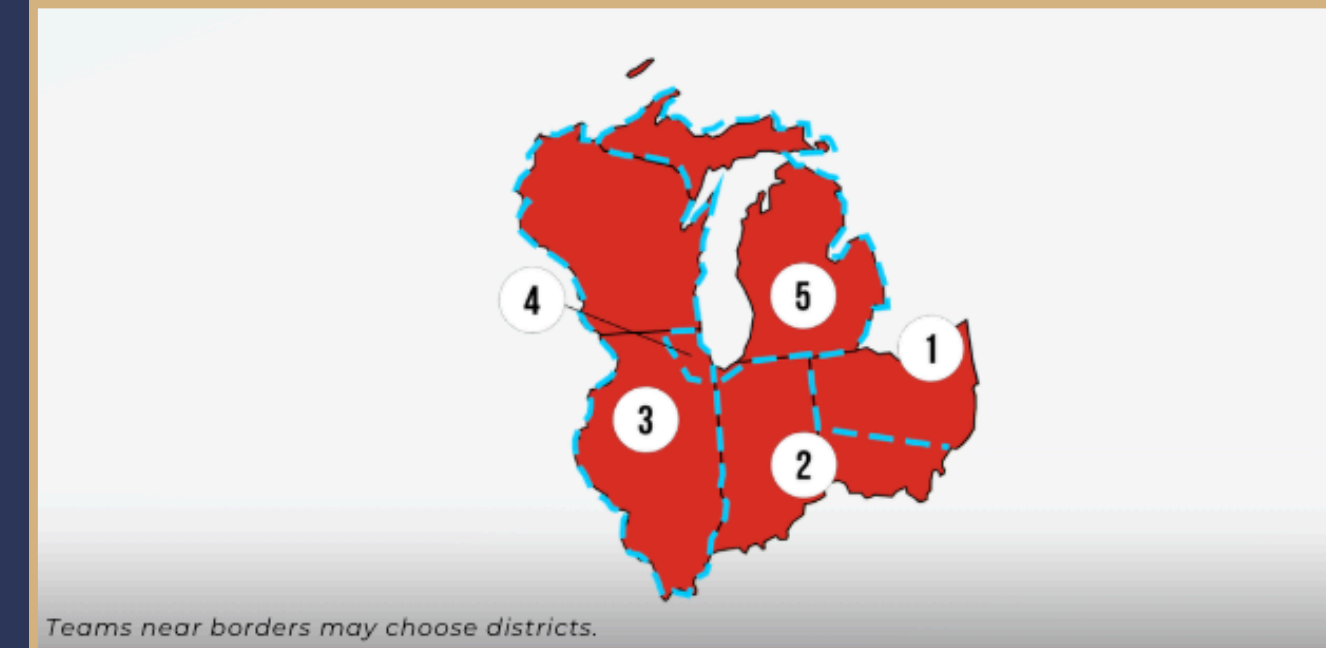
NATIONAL 1 MIDWEST DISTRICT 5

N1 - MIDWEST DISTRICT 5

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

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. **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.

There will be rolling acceptance for teams previously in National League and teams who place in the top 3 of GLPL. All other decisions made shortly after the application deadline- June 29, 2026 (12:00 PM / Noon).



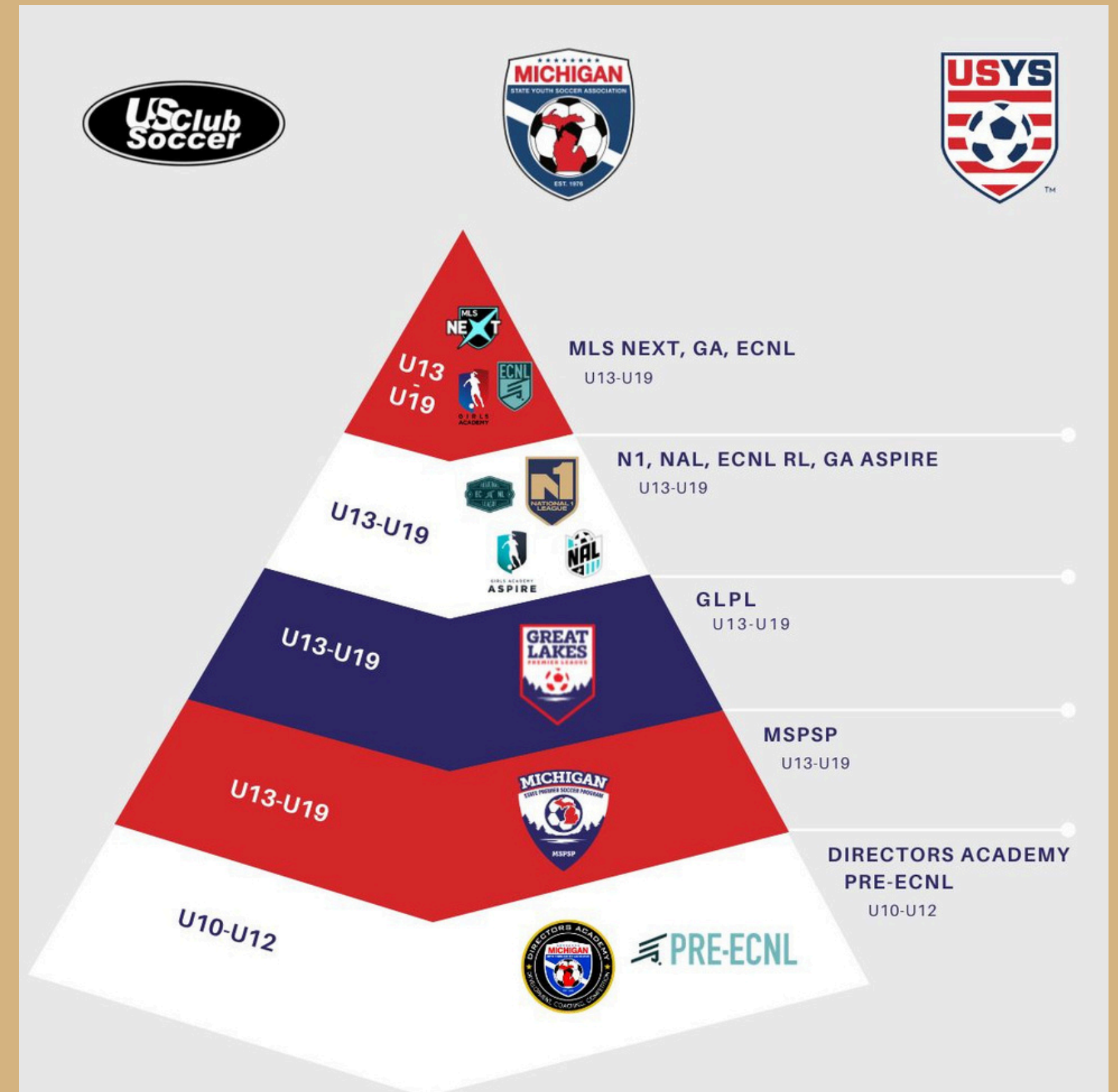
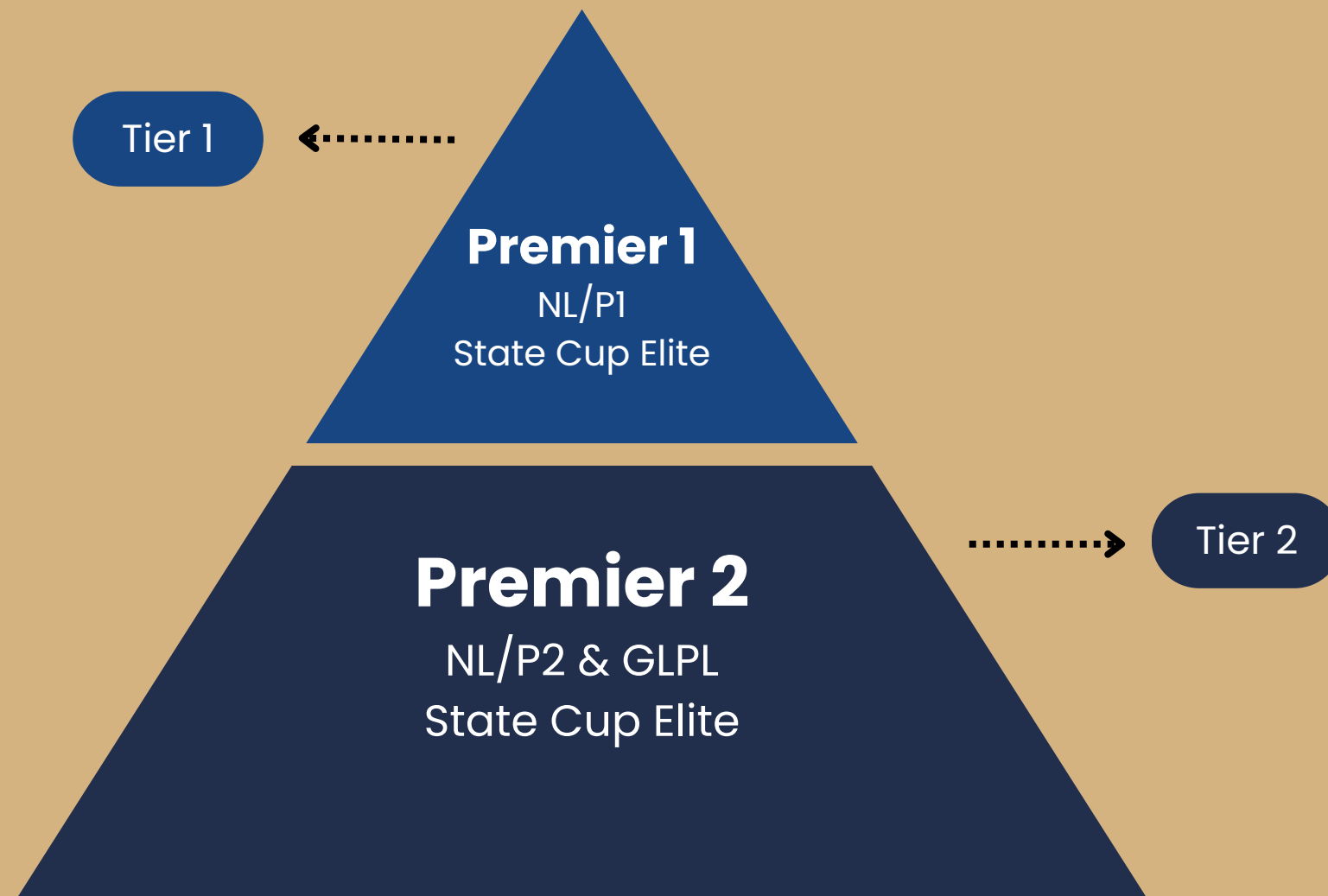
Teams near borders may choose districts.

- 1** Northern Ohio, Western NY, Western PA & West Virginia
Operator: Great Lakes Alliance
- 2** Indiana, Kentucky & Southern Ohio
Operators: Ohio River League & Indiana Soccer / Ohio Soccer Assn. / Kentucky Youth Soccer Assn.
- 3** Illinois & Wisconsin
Operator: Northern Illinois Soccer League
- 4** Illinois (Chicago)
Operator: Northern Illinois Soccer League
- 5** Michigan & Northern Indiana
Operator: Michigan State Youth Soccer Assn.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

U13-U19 teams who are currently in **NL**, **NPL**, top 3 of **GLPL** and other competitive teams (**ECNL RL**, **NAL**, **GA**, etc.) are encouraged to apply.

Promotion and relegation will be in place between the National 1 league and GLPL, allowing teams to move between leagues based on season performance.



All National 1 (N1) teams are strongly encouraged to participate in the Elite Division of State Cup. When you submit your State Cup application, you should select the "N1" payment plan.

HOW TO JOIN THE NATIONAL 1 LEAGUE



Submit the MSYSA N1 Application

Complete the Midwest District 5 National 1 Application online to begin the process.



Join US Club Soccer (if needed)

Not a current US Club Soccer member? Submit a New Organization Member Application.

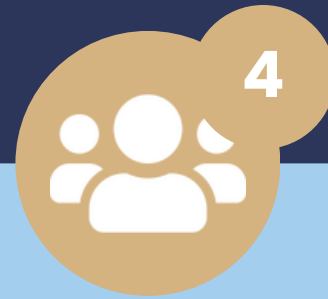
Turnaround: 1–2 weeks



Await League Acceptance

Rolling acceptance for teams previously in National League and the top 3 GLPL finishers. All other decisions follow shortly after the deadline.

**Deadline: June 29, 2026
12:00 PM (Noon)**



Register Players & Staff

Teams independently register all players and coaches with US Club Soccer.

<https://training.gotsportsites.com/national-league-1/>

<https://usclubsoccer.org/resources/registration/>

Team Naming Format

[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, team Names will be automatically adjusted in Gotsport for you.



MIDWEST DISTRICT 5

ROSTERING RULES

MINIMUM ROSTER

15

Primary players

MAXIMUM ROSTER

30

Primary players

GAME DAY MAXIMUM

18

All rostered players

NATIONAL 1 + GLPL

Players competing in both National 1 and GLPL must complete a two-step registration process:

STEP 1 — MSYSA REGISTRATION

Complete MSYSA player registration AND be listed as a PRIMARY player on the GLPL team roster.

STEP 2 — US CLUB REGISTRATION

Complete US Club player registration and be rostered to the National 1 team as a Club-Passed Player (CP).

AGE PLAY-UP RULE

A player may play up in a age group in GLPL while competing at their age-appropriate level in National 1. Example: a U14 player may be rostered on a U16 GLPL team AND a U14 National 1 team simultaneously.

NATIONAL 1 + ECNL RL

Rules for ECNL RL players rostering with a National 1 team:

ROSTER STATUS

ECNL RL players who are not primary players on the N1 roster do not count against the 30-player roster limit.

GAME DAY LIMIT

A maximum of 4 ECNL RL players may appear on the Game Day Roster per match. Coaches may swap players weekly, provided no more than 4 appear in any single match.

REGISTRATION

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

PASSCARDS & TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY

- **Open Cup & Tournament Eligibility** — Players participating in National 1 remain eligible for open cups and tournaments across both the USYS and US Club environments, including USYS / State Association competitions such as State Cup, Presidents Cup, and the USYS National Championships Series.
- **Passcard Use at MSYSA Events** — Participants will utilize a National 1 branded passcard. National 1 branded passcards can be used in MSYSA events.
- **Looking Ahead: Universal Player Pass** — Longer term, U.S. Soccer is working toward a universal player pass process to simplify participation across the ecosystem.
- **FAQ** — Will ECNL RL players who are listed as CP on a N1 roster receive a National 1 branded player pass? No — they will have US Club Soccer / ECNL RL passcards.

Next Steps

FALL 2026 SEASON



SPRING 2027 SEASON



LOOKING AHEAD — SUMMER 2027

District qualifiers from National 1 and the ECNL Regional League advance to the ECNL Conference League Playoffs and Finals to compete for championships. The 2026–27 Playoffs will be held in Dallas, TX; Davis, CA; Greensboro, NC; and St. Louis, MO — the Conference Finals location will be announced at a later date. **All districts will have one postseason regional playoff slot guaranteed.**

[Learn more about the ECNL Conference League Playoffs](#)



QUESTIONS

[MSYSA N1 WEBSITE](#)

[MICHIGAN FAQ PAGE](#)

[NATIONAL 1 HANDBOOK](#)

[NATIONAL 1 WEBSITE](#)