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# NATIONAL LEAGUE TERMINOLOGY GUIDE

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*As of June 1, 2021*

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*As of June 1, 2021.  
Terminology Guide is subject to change.*



# PURPOSE

The US Youth Soccer National League Terminology Guide is established to maintain consistent and professional language and messaging for the program. The contents of the terminology guide are intended for internal use (staff members of USYS, the National League, State Associations) and external use (clubs, teams and partners) when referring to all aspects of the National League in written form (articles, documents, emails, etc.).



# DEFINITIONS

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# DEFINITIONS

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## NATIONAL LEAGUE

The USYS National League encompasses the entire scope of the competitive leagues and league-related competitions managed by US Youth Soccer at the national and multi-state levels. It includes the National League Conferences, National League P.R.O., and the National League Showcase Series.



# DEFINITIONS

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## CONFERENCES

The USYS National League Conferences make up the primary league competition in the National League. Established in the 2018-19 seasonal year as part of the reimagined leagues structure, the network of 13 competitive conferences operate at a multi-state level – providing high-level competition on a consistent basis at a targeted local level.

*(See Pages 7-8 for a breakdown of 13 Conferences)*

Each conference may include multiple levels of competition known as **divisions**. For team-based formats, the top division for conferences is the Premier I Division, followed by the Premier II Division. Select conferences may include Club vs. Club formats, with most club-based divisions equivalent to the Premier I level.

- Top performing teams in the 13U-18U age groups of each conference's Premier I (or equivalent Club vs. Club) Division have the opportunity to earn qualification into the following seasonal year's National League P.R.O.
- ◆ Top performing teams in the 13U-19U age groups of each Conference's Premier I (or equivalent Club vs. Club) Division may earn automatic qualification for the current season's USYS Regional Championships (NCS).

# DEFINITIONS

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**Desert Conference** – Teams primarily from Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah.

**Frontier Conference** – Teams primarily from Oklahoma, North Texas and South Texas.

**Great Lakes Conference** – Teams primarily from Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, New York West, Ohio North, Ohio South, Pennsylvania West and West Virginia.

**Mid Atlantic Conference, Managed by EDP Soccer** – Teams primarily from Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

**Mid South Conference** – Teams primarily from Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

**Midwest Conference** – Teams primarily from Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

# DEFINITIONS

**New England Conference, Managed by EDP Soccer** – Teams primarily from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

**North Atlantic Conference, Managed by EDP Soccer** – Teams primarily from Connecticut and Eastern New York.

**Northwest Conference** – Teams primarily from Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming.

**Pacific Conference** – Teams primarily from California North and California South.

**Piedmont Conference** – Teams primarily from Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

**South Atlantic Conference, Managed by EDP Soccer** – Teams primarily from Delaware, Eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia.

**Sunshine Conference** – Teams primarily from Florida and Georgia.



# DEFINITIONS

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## **NATIONAL LEAGUE P.R.O.**

USYS National League P.R.O. (Player. Recruitment. Opportunity.) serves as the competitive national league format in which teams compete for direct advancement to the annual US Youth Soccer National Championships. Teams earn their place into National League P.R.O. each season through their performance in the conferences. For each gender, National League P.R.O. holds competition for the 14U-19U age groups, and there are up to 48 teams per age group.



# DEFINITIONS

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## NATIONAL LEAGUE SHOWCASE SERIES

The USYS National League Showcase Series provides a national platform for teams to compete in cross-conference matches against similarly-performing opponents. A seeding structure increases the likelihood of evenly-matched games that produce an ideal evaluation environment for scouts from all levels, including college, professional and international, as well as the US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program (ODP).

# **DEFINITIONS**

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## **STATE-OPERATED LEAGUES**

Leagues managed and operated by US Youth Soccer State Associations can be used as criteria to help determine placement into USYS National League Conferences for each seasonal year.



# DEFINITIONS

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## **#EarnYourPlace**

The official hashtag of the USYS National League is #EarnYourPlace. This refers to the opportunity for any team to earn a chance to compete in any level of the National League, as well as the pathways available for National League teams to earn their place in other top-level USYS competitions. For more information on the hashtag, [visit this page](#).



# STYLE GUIDE

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# **STYLE GUIDE** NATIONAL LEAGUE

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## **PROPER USE:**

When referring to the program as a whole in written content:

FIRST REFERENCE\*: US Youth Soccer National League or USYS National League

SECOND REFERENCE: National League

## **MISUSES:**

*US Youth National League*

*USYS NL*

*National Leagues Program*

*National Leagues*

*USYS Leagues*



# STYLE GUIDE NATIONAL LEAGUE CONFERENCES

## PROPER USE:

When referring to the multi-state tier of competition in written content...

FIRST REFERENCE: US Youth Soccer National League Conferences *or* USYS National League Conferences  
SECOND REFERENCE: National League Conferences  
THIRD REFERENCE: Conferences

FIRST REFERENCE: US Youth Soccer (Geographic Area) Conference *or* USYS (Geographic Area) Conference  
SECOND REFERENCE: (Geographic Area) Conference

SAMPLE FIRST REFERENCE: US Youth Soccer Desert Conference *or* USYS Desert Conference  
SAMPLE SECOND REFERENCE: Desert Conference

Geographic Areas:

Desert, Frontier, Great Lakes, Mid Atlantic\*, Mid South, Midwest, New England\*, North Atlantic\*, Northwest, Pacific\*, Piedmont, South Atlantic\*, Sunshine

*\*see next page*



# STYLE GUIDE NATIONAL LEAGUE CONFERENCES

## PROPER USE, continued

**USYS Pacific Conference, Powered by CRL**, is acceptable wording on first reference when referring to the Pacific Conference in written form.

EDP Soccer, which manages four Conferences, should use the following wording if referring to multiple Conferences in its news and publications: **USYS National League Conferences, managed by EDP Soccer**

For references to individual National League Conferences, Managed by EDP Soccer:

### FIRST REFERENCE...

USYS Mid Atlantic Conference, Managed by EDP Soccer  
USYS New England Conference, Managed by EDP Soccer  
USYS North Atlantic Conference, Managed by EDP Soccer  
USYS South Atlantic Conference, Managed by EDP Soccer

### SECOND REFERENCE...

Mid Atlantic Conference  
New England Conference  
North Atlantic Conference  
South Atlantic Conference





# STYLE GUIDE NATIONAL LEAGUE CONFERENCES

## PROPER USE, continued

- When referring to a specific conference in a graphic, the second reference format can be used when the official conference logo appears within the graphic.
- Social media accounts owned and operated by US Youth Soccer can use the second reference format when referring to one or more conferences. All other users on social media should make an attempt to use the first reference (utilizing “USYS” or “@NationalLeague” before the Conference name) when possible. In situations where character limits apply, the second reference format can be used.

*General Rule: Use “US Youth Soccer” when first referencing the association in a written communication, then use “USYS” in later references.*



# **STYLE GUIDE NATIONAL LEAGUE CONFERENCES**

## **MISUSES:**

### **DO NOT USE 'NATIONAL LEAGUE' WHEN REFERRING TO INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCES**

- X** EXAMPLE 1: USYS National League Desert Conference
- X** EXAMPLE 2: National League Desert Conference
- X** EXAMPLE 3: NL Desert Conference

### **DO NOT USE TERMS THAT GROUP MULTIPLE CONFERENCES TOGETHER**

- X** EXAMPLE 1: USYS Southern Region Conferences -or- Southern Region Conferences
- X** EXAMPLE 2: USYS EDP Conferences -or- EDP Conferences\*\*

*\*\* See previous page for exception.*

### **DO NOT USE ACRONYMS IN OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS, WEBPAGES OR ARTICLES**

- X** EXAMPLE 1: USYS GLC -or- GLC
- X** EXAMPLE 2: USYS NLNC -or- NLNC



# STYLE GUIDE NATIONAL LEAGUE P.R.O.

## PROPER USE:

When referring to the competitive national tier of competition in written content:

FIRST REFERENCE:	US Youth Soccer National League P.R.O. <u>or</u> USYS National League P.R.O.
SECOND REFERENCE:	National League P.R.O.
THIRD REFERENCE:	P.R.O.

In situations where character limits apply (such as social media), “NL P.R.O.” can be used as last resort to refer to National League P.R.O.

## MISUSES:

*National League PRO*

*USYS National P.R.O.*

*USYS P.R.O.*

*USYSNL P.R.O.*



# STYLE GUIDE NATIONAL LEAGUE P.R.O.

## **(INDIVIDUAL EVENTS) PROPER USE:**

When referring to a specific event that features USYS National League P.R.O. games ONLY, the event name should be written as either: National League P.R.O. (Location) -or- National League P.R.O. (Location) (Year\*/Season)

SAMPLE EVENT NAME: National League P.R.O. Florida

SAMPLE EVENT NAME\*: National League P.R.O. Florida 2021

SAMPLE EVENT NAME : National League P.R.O. Arizona

SAMPLE EVENT NAME\*: National League P.R.O. Arizona 2022

\*The year may be used when deemed necessary to properly identify the event.

If a location is used twice in the same seasonal year, the season may also be used to differentiate between the two events.  
For example: National League P.R.O. Greensboro (Fall) and National League P.R.O. Greensboro (Spring)

For events that feature both P.R.O. and Showcase Series matches, refer to Page 21.



# **STYLE GUIDE** NATIONAL LEAGUE SHOWCASE SERIES

## **PROPER USE:**

When referring to the overall showcase format of the national tier of competition in written content:

FIRST REFERENCE:	US Youth Soccer National League Showcase Series <i>or</i> USYS National League Showcase Series
SECOND REFERENCE:	National League Showcase Series
THIRD REFERENCE:	Showcase Series

In situations where character limits apply (such as social media), “NL Showcase Series” can be used as last resort to refer to the National League Showcase Series.

## **MISUSES:**

*USYS National Showcase Series*

*USYS Showcase Series*

*National League Showcases*

*USYSNL Showcase Series*

*NLSS*



# STYLE GUIDE NATIONAL LEAGUE SHOWCASE SERIES

## **(INDIVIDUAL EVENTS) PROPER USE:**

When referring to a specific event in the USYS National League Showcase Series -or- an event that includes both National League P.R.O. and Showcase Series matches, the event name should be written as either: National League (Location) -or- National League (Location) (Year\*/Season)

SAMPLE EVENT NAME: National League Florida

SAMPLE EVENT NAME\*: National League Florida 2021

SAMPLE EVENT NAME : National League Arizona

SAMPLE EVENT NAME\*: National League Arizona 2022

\*The year may be used when deemed necessary to identify the event.

If a location is used twice in the same seasonal year, the season may also be used to differentiate between the two events. For example: National League Greensboro (Fall) and National League Greensboro (Spring)



# **STYLE GUIDE** AGE GROUPS

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## **PROPER USE:**

When referring to a specific age group in official documents, webpages or articles, use the below format for the age group, followed by “Boys” or “Girls” if identifying a specific gender age group.

- 14-and-Under
- 14U
- 14-and-Under Boys
- 14U Boys

## **MISUSES:**

- Under-14
- U-14
- Under-14 Boys
- U-14 Boys

# STYLE GUIDE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

## PROPER USE:

When referencing competitions within the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series, use the following:

FIRST REFERENCE: US Youth Soccer National Championships *or* USYS National Championships

SECOND REFERENCE: The National Championships

FIRST REFERENCE: US Youth Soccer Eastern Regional Championships *or* USYS Eastern Regional Championships

SECOND REFERENCE: Eastern Regional Championships

FIRST REFERENCE: US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championships *or* USYS Midwest Regional Championships

SECOND REFERENCE: Midwest Regional Championships

FIRST REFERENCE: US Youth Soccer Southern Regional Championships *or* USYS Southern Regional Championships

SECOND REFERENCE: Southern Regional Championships

FIRST REFERENCE: US Youth Soccer Far West Regional Championships *or* USYS Far West Regional Championships

SECOND REFERENCE: Far West Regional Championships



# **STYLE GUIDE** NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

## **MISUSES:**

### **DO NOT USE ANY OF THE BELOW TERMS**

- X** Region I Championships
- X** Region II Championships
- X** Region III Championships
- X** Region IV Championships
- X** US Youth National Championships
- X** National Cup



# **THANK YOU**

Thank you for your interest in the US Youth Soccer National League  
and for following the terminology established in this style guide.

