



US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE P.R.O.

2021-2022 SEASONAL YEAR INFORMATION

as of May 24, 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

US Youth Soccer National League P.R.O. (NL P.R.O.) will conduct its 15th seasonal year of national competition within the National League in the 2021-2022 seasonal year (September 1, 2021-August 31, 2022). Information can be found here: <https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/national-league-pro/>

This competition is for the National Tier of play. Information on the Multi-State Tier comprised of leagues known as Conferences is available here: <https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/leagues/>

We will have NL P.R.O. play in Boys and Girls age groups as follows:

- 14U (2008's) – for players born on January 1, 2008 or later -- each gender will have up to a maximum of 48 teams
- 15U (2007's) – for players born on January 1, 2007 or later -- each gender will have up to a maximum of 48 teams
- 16U (2006's) – for players born on January 1, 2006 or later -- each gender will have up to a maximum of 48 teams
- 17U (2005's) – for players born on January 1, 2005 or later -- each gender will have up to a maximum of 48 teams
- 18U (2004's) – for players born on January 1, 2004 or later -- each gender will have up to a maximum of 48 teams
- 19U (2003's) – for players born on January 1, 2003 or later -- each gender will have up to a maximum of 48 teams

NL P.R.O. provides an avenue for teams to play in meaningful matches against top competition from across the country for continued development. NL P.R.O. teams compete for the division titles within their gender age groups and 12 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 place in NL P.R.O. have a proven track record of success at the National League Conference level and are among the nation's best. Many college scouts attend each NL P.R.O. event, creating another significant opportunity for the nation's collegiate and National Team coaches to see NL P.R.O. 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 qualify for NL P.R.O. spots or are selected by the NL Team Selection 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 on pages 2-3).

Note: when using the term "National Championships" or "National Championships competitions" we are referring to the US Youth Soccer competition sometimes listed as the "National Championship Series." This competition includes State Cup competitions, the four Regionals, and the National Championship Finals.

2. ELIGIBILITY, QUALIFICATION AND SELECTION OF TEAMS

Boys and Girls 14U (2008's) – for players born on January 1, 2008 or later

WHO MAY APPLY

In order to be eligible to compete in this Boys or Girls age group and be considered for a NL P.R.O. slot, a team must meet the following criteria:

- The team must have played in the **2020-2021 seasonal year** as a **13U Boys team or 13U Girls team**.
- The team must commit to and compete in USYS National League Conference play in 2021-2022.

NOTE: If any 13U team was unable to participate in the 2020-2021 seasonal year due to COVID-19, your application will still be considered.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2021-2022 seasonal year, the participating teams in the 14U Boys or 14U Girls age group are determined through a combination of qualifiers and selected teams. Qualifiers are the following:

- **Conference Champions/Representatives:** As outlined on the NL P.R.O. 2021-2022 Qualifiers webpage*, the Conference champions and top finishers (where applicable) as 13U Boys and 13U Girls teams from the 2020-2021 seasonal year qualify for the NL P.R.O. 2021-2022 seasonal year.

Any team that attempts to claim a NL P.R.O. slot, after moving clubs from the 2020-2021 seasonal year to the 2021-2022 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective USYS NL Conference for the 2021-2022 seasonal year. Such team must be a properly registered US Youth Soccer team with its state association at the time of team registration for the 2021-2022 National League P.R.O. season.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

The NL P.R.O. Team Selection Committee shall select teams from the eligible Boys and Girls team applicants' pool to fill any open slots**. The Team Selection Committee shall use the results from 2020-2021 Conference play, and results from 2020-2021 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional competitions) in the selection process. (Additional results may be used to determine selections for the 2021-2022 season due to COVID-19 limitations.)

The list of teams accepted into NL P.R.O. for the 2021-2022 seasonal year will be announced on or around July 14, 2021.

PLACEMENT OF TEAMS INTO DIVISIONS

The 48 teams in each gender of the 14U age group will be divided into 6 divisions of 8 teams each. Teams will be placed into the divisions by NL management in an effort to best maintain competitive and geographic balance. Teams will be scheduled to play all teams within their division in order to fulfill their NL P.R.O. 2021-2022 seasonal year game requirement (7 games; see paragraph 9). In situations where less than 48 teams are accepted into NL P.R.O. in this age group for either gender, the NL shall determine the final number of teams selected and the placement of teams into divisions, if applicable. The top 2 teams in each of the 6 divisions (per gender) qualify for this age group at the 2022 National Championships Finals.

If there are less than 6 divisions, the top 2 teams for each of the divisions (per gender) qualifies for this age group of the 2022 National Championships Finals, and the NL will determine the other team or teams that so qualify.

*-The specific list of slots for this age group can be found here:
<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/national-league-pro-2021-22-qualifiers/>

**-Information on open slots is found in Paragraph 4 on Page 4 of this document.

2. ELIGIBILITY, QUALIFICATION AND SELECTION OF TEAMS--continued

Boys and Girls 15U (2007's) – for players born on January 1, 2007 or later
Boys and Girls 16U (2006's) – for players born on January 1, 2006 or later
Boys and Girls 17U (2005's) – for players born on January 1, 2005 or later
Boys and Girls 18U (2004's) – for players born on January 1, 2004 or later
Boys and Girls 19U (2003's) – for players born on January 1, 2003 or later

WHO MAY APPLY

In order to be eligible to compete in the 15U-19U age groups and be considered for a NL P.R.O. slot, a team must meet one of the following criteria:

- The team must have played in the **2020-2021 seasonal year** in the immediate previous age group to which it wishes to apply to compete in NL P.R.O. for the 2021-2022 seasonal year.
- The team must commit to and compete in USYS National League Conference play in 2021-2022.

NOTE: If any 14U-18U team was unable to participate in the 2020-2021 seasonal year due to COVID-19, your application will still be considered.

QUALIFICATION

For the 2021-2022 seasonal year, the participating teams in each gender in the 15U through 19U age groups are determined through a combination of qualifiers and selected teams. Qualifiers are the following:

---**Conference Champions/Representatives:** As outlined on the NL P.R.O. 2021-2022 Qualifiers webpage*, the Conference champions and top finishers (where applicable) for each gender in the immediate previous age group from the 2020-2021 seasonal year qualify for the NL P.R.O. 2021-2022 seasonal year. (Example: Boys teams playing as 15U (2006's) in 2020-2021 qualify as 16U (2006's) for 2021-2022.)

Any team that attempts to claim a NL P.R.O. slot, after moving clubs from the 2020-2021 seasonal year to the 2021-2022 seasonal year, must show that the team is in compliance with all rules regarding Returning Teams in its respective USYS National League Conference for the 2021-2022 seasonal year. Such team must be a properly registered US Youth Soccer team with its state association at the time of team registration for the 2021-2022 NL P.R.O. season.

SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR OPEN SLOTS

The NL P.R.O. Team Selection Committee shall select teams from the eligible team applicants' pool to fill any open slots**. The Team Selection Committee shall use the results from 2020-2021 Conference play and results from 2020-2021 National Championships competitions (State Cup and Regional competitions) in the selection process. (Additional results may be used to determine selections for the 2021-2022 season due to COVID-19 limitations.)

The list of teams accepted into NL P.R.O. for the 2021-2022 seasonal year will be announced on or around July 14, 2021.

PLACEMENT OF TEAMS INTO DIVISIONS

The 48 teams in each 15U through 19U age group (per gender) will be divided into 6 divisions of 8 teams each. Teams will be placed into the divisions by NL management in an effort to best maintain competitive and geographic balance. Teams will be scheduled to play all teams within their division in order to fulfill their NL 2021-2022 seasonal year game requirement (7 games; see paragraph 9). In situations where less than 48 teams are accepted into NL P.R.O. in an age group for either gender, the NL shall determine the final number of teams selected and the placement of teams into divisions, if applicable. The top 2 teams in each of the 6 divisions (per gender) qualify for this age group at the 2022 National Championships Finals.

If there are less than 6 divisions, the top 2 teams for each of the divisions (per gender) qualifies for this age group of the 2022 National Championships Finals, and the NL will determine the other team or teams that so qualify.

*-The specific list of slots for this age group can be found here:

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/national-league-pro-2021-22-qualifiers/>

**-Information on open slots is found in Paragraph 4 on Page 4 of this document.

3. TEAM ROSTERS—PLAYER CONTINUITY

Teams that are selected to play in NL P.R.O. or have qualified to play in NL P.R.O. for the 2021-2022 seasonal year must show a 9-player club continuity from the 2020-2021 seasonal year as follows:

“All teams that are accepted for play in NL P.R.O. for the 2021-2022 seasonal year must show player continuity from their 2020-2021 seasonal year team/club in accordance with National League Rules. At all times during the 2021-22 National League P.R.O. season, a National League P.R.O. team must have on its P.R.O. player pool no less than 9 primary players who also appear on the team's respective 2021-2022 Conference roster.”

4. TEAM APPLICATIONS - OPEN SLOTS

All teams interested in applying for an OPEN SLOT in the NL P.R.O. for the 2021-2022 seasonal year must do so through the following link on the US Youth Soccer website:

[National League P.R.O. - 2021-22 Application | US Youth Soccer](#)
The team application entry deadline is Wednesday, June 16, 2021

NOTE: Teams that have automatically qualified DO NOT need to apply. Automatic qualifiers can proceed directly to team registration.

5. TEAM REGISTRATION

All eligible teams (qualified and selected) are required to register for NL P.R.O. for the 2021-2022 seasonal year through the following link:

https://system.gotsport.com/event_regs/81c11677a6
The team registration entry deadline is Wednesday, July 28, 2021

6. TEAM FEE

The team fee is as follows:

14U Teams	\$3,000 per team
15U, 16U, 17U, 18U and 19U Teams	\$3,500 per team

There are no additional fees, such as ref fees at games, due to the NL. The NL shall cover all costs associated with conducting NL P.R.O. 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 P.R.O. events.

Payment must be made by credit card. Team fee is not due until a team is formally accepted into National League P.R.O. (Teams announced around July 14, 2021). Team fees will not be processed until around July 28, 2021.

7. COMMITMENT TO PLAY

Teams undertake a high level of commitment necessary to participate in US Youth Soccer National League P.R.O. With such commitment comes a respect toward opponents. Any team that fails to appear for NL P.R.O. games is subject to penalties as determined by the NL.

8. QUALIFYING FOR THE 2022 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS

Twelve (12) representatives from each of the NL P.R.O. 14U (2008's), 15U (2007's), 16U (2006's), 17U (2005's), 18U (2004's), and 19U (2003's) gender age groups shall qualify for the 2022 US Youth Soccer National Championships Finals in July 2022. The four (4) 2021-2022 seasonal year Regional Cup winners/representatives will also advance to Nationals creating National Championships Finals featuring 16 teams in the 14U (2008's), 15U (2007's), 16U (2006's), 17U (2005's), 18U (2004's), and 19U (2003's) gender age groups.

In accordance with NL P.R.O. rules, in order to be eligible to advance to the US Youth Soccer National Championships Finals, teams participating in NL P.R.O. must also participate in their respective State Cup competition in the 2021-2022 seasonal year (as part of the National Championships competitions for the 2021-2022 seasonal year), and in a USYS National League Conference competition.

9. NUMBER OF GAMES

Each team will be scheduled play a 7-game schedule, playing each team within its division gender age group one time. Teams will play during 2 NL P.R.O. event weekends (3 games during the first event weekend and 3 games during the second event weekend).

The 7th game will be a “local game” played against a National League Conference opponent or a local cross-Conference opponent. Whenever possible, the local game should be played before the last national event. The League Manager(s) of the teams’ respective Conference(s) will coordinate the scheduling of the “local game.”

NOTE: local game travel distances may vary from region to region.

Soccer is an outdoor sport. We play in conditions ranging from sun to clouds to rain to even snow. Advance notice of match delay, postponement or cancellation is not always possible due to changes in weather forecasts or weather conditions days and weeks prior to an event that affect field conditions, or emergency actions by local/state governments. We strive to play all matches that are scheduled but understand that playing of all matches may not be possible due to circumstances beyond our control.

10. BOYS EVENT LOCATIONS

Boys 14U teams

Will play their first NL P.R.O. event (three matches) in Round Rock, Texas, on November 13-15, 2021 and their second NL P.R.O. event (three matches) in Orlando, Florida, on January 8-10, 2022. Teams will be scheduled to play one game per day at each event.

The 7th game will be a local game played against a National League Conference opponent or a local cross-Conference opponent.

Boys 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U, and 19U teams

All teams must participate in the first weekend of National League P.R.O. play — there are no exceptions — at a location in Florida, taking place Dec. 3-6, 2021. Teams will be scheduled to play three matches — one game per day — at the event. Teams in the 15U, 16U and 17U age groups will play their matches on Dec. 3, 4 and 5; while the 18U and 19U teams will play their matches on Dec. 4, 5 and 6.

Half of the 15U-19U Boys teams will attend their second event Feb. 4-7, at one of two locations in Florida — the Premier Sports Complex in Lakewood Ranch, Fla., or the Tournament SportsPlex of Tampa Bay in Tampa, Fla. The 15U-19U teams that do not play their second event in Florida will instead play their second event at Legacy Sports USA in Mesa, Ariz., with the games taking place March 11-14. Teams will be assigned their second event largely based on the timing of a team’s high school soccer season within their state.

The 7th game will be a local game played against a National League Conference opponent or a local cross-Conference opponent.

11. GIRLS EVENT LOCATIONS

Girls 14U teams

Will play their first NL P.R.O. event (three matches) in Round Rock, Texas, on November 12-14, 2021 and their second NL P.R.O. event (three matches) in Orlando, Florida, on January 7-9, 2022. Teams will be scheduled to play one game per day at each event.

The 7th game will be a local game played against a National League Conference opponent or a local cross-Conference opponent.

Girls 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U, and 19U teams

All teams must participate in the first weekend of National League P.R.O. play — there are no exceptions — at a location in Florida, taking place Dec. 10-13, 2021. Teams will be scheduled to play three matches — one game per day — at the event. Teams in the 15U, 16U and 17U age groups will play their matches on Dec. 10, 11 and 12; while the 18U and 19U teams will play their matches on Dec. 11, 12 and 13.

Half of the 15U-19U Girls teams will attend their second event Feb. 4-7, at one of two locations in Florida — the Premier Sports Complex in Lakewood Ranch, Fla., or the Tournament SportsPlex of Tampa Bay in Tampa, Fla. The 15U-19U teams that do not play their second event in Florida will instead play their second event at Legacy Sports USA in Mesa, Ariz., with the games taking place March 18-21. Teams will be assigned their second event largely based on the timing of a team's high school soccer season within their state.

The 7th game will be a local game played against a National League Conference opponent or a local cross-Conference opponent.

12. HOTELS

All teams are also required to coordinate hotel stays with the NL's designated hotel provider — Anthony Travel — or your team will be subject to a substantial penalty.

NOTE: Event locations are subject to change

13. ADMINISTRATION

National League P.R.O. is governed by the US Youth Soccer Leagues Policy that has established a National League Management Group to administer NL P.R.O., and a NL Commissioner has been appointed to oversee the day-to-day operations of NL P.R.O.

For more information, please email the National League at nationalleague@usyouthsoccer.org