



2021-22 SEASON NORTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

WHAT IS THE US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE?

The US Youth Soccer National League is debuting a new structure for the 2021-22 season. The primary competition takes place at the multi-state level within the network of 13 regionally-aligned conferences across the country. The national platform that ties together the Conferences is National League P.R.O., which qualifies the top teams from each National League Conference to compete for slots into the US Youth Soccer National Championships. The National League Showcase Series, which operates alongside National League P.R.O. events, provides opportunities for more teams to participate in showcases that match up similar teams from varying areas of the country.

The **North Atlantic Conference, Managed by EDP Soccer**, is one of 13 conferences that fall under the scope of the National League and operate at a multi-state level — providing high-level competition on a consistent basis at a targeted local level (Eastern New York and Connecticut).

The **North Atlantic Conference's** top divisions (team-based and/or club-based) offer its teams an opportunity to qualify for the US Youth Soccer Eastern Regional Championships, which are held annually each summer. All teams within the **North Atlantic Conference** also have the opportunity to qualify into National League P.R.O. for the next seasonal year. Conferences teams also can take part in the National League Showcase Series, which provides teams with a chance to play cross-conference matches in a national setting with increased exposure to college, professional and national team scouts.

NATIONAL LEAGUE PATHWAY



COMMITMENT

Any team looking to participate in the North Atlantic Conference must understand the level of commitment it takes to participate in a League that stretches across three different state associations. All teams understand that this is a multi-state league and that teams may have extensive travel to participate in conference games. A limited number of teams are accepted into the North Atlantic Conference, so it is important that each team makes the commitment to travel BEFORE applying to the conference.

BOYS and GIRLS AGE GROUPS OF COMPETITION

The 2021-22 North Atlantic Conference will include the following boys and girls age groups:

- 13 and Under (13U) – for players born on January 1, 2009 or later
- 14 and Under (14U) – for players born on January 1, 2008 or later
- 15 and Under (15U) – for players born on January 1, 2007 or later
- 16 and Under (16U) – for players born on January 1, 2006 or later
- 17 and Under (17U) – for players born on January 1, 2005 or later
- 18 and Under (18U) – for players born on January 1, 2004 or later
- 19 and Under (19U) – for players born on January 1, 2003 or later

ENTRY FEE

The Team Entry Fee to participate in the North Atlantic Conference is \$850 per team for 13U-19U teams and is non-refundable if a team is accepted into the conference and later drops out. **PLEASE NOTE** that the Team Entry Fee must be paid to EDP Soccer at the time of application into the Conference. Payment will not be transacted until the team is accepted into the North Atlantic Conference.

The Team Fee does not include Referee Fees, which will be paid in accordance with the Conference Operating Procedures. Each team is responsible for its own costs incurred in connection with participation including but not limited to travel, housing, meals, and uniforms.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The Team Application deadline is Monday, July 1, 2021 for 13U-14U and December 1, 2021 for 15U-19U. Teams wishing to participate in the North Atlantic Conference should contact the EDP Soccer office for the web link to enter the secure application website for the North Atlantic Conference. Following submission of a team application, EDP Soccer will review team applications and determine if your team will be accepted into the North Atlantic Conference for the 2021-22 Season. In completing the application form, teams are required to submit accurate information on team accomplishments. Misrepresentation of team accomplishments may result in the team being disqualified from North Atlantic Conference participation. To register you will need your GotSport username and password. *Please do not sign up for the league if you cannot meet all the required dates above that apply to your team.*

QUALIFYING TEAMS, SELECTION AND PLACEMENT

The criteria used for acceptance and placement includes but is not limited to the team's performance in 2020-21 North Atlantic Conference play, 2020-21 US Youth Soccer National Championship Series play (State Cup, Regionals and Nationals), and 2020-21 National League events. Accepted teams shall be notified via a website posting or an e-mail regarding their acceptance and placement into the North Atlantic Conference. The list of teams accepted along with tier and division placement for the 2021-22 season is expected to take place on or around July 9, 2021, for 13U-14U, and December 7, 2021, for 15U-19U.

THE 2021-22 SEASON

The start date of the 2021-22 Fall season for the North Atlantic Conference is September 11, 2021. All games for the North Atlantic Conference Fall Season must be completed by November 21, 2021. All games for the North Atlantic Conference Spring Season must be completed by All June 6, 2022.

COMPETITION FORMAT

All competitions in every age group shall be round robin. **Please be aware of the number of games that teams will be required to play.** North Atlantic Conference teams are required to fulfill their commitment by playing out their entire conference schedule of games.

GENERAL SCHEDULING INFORMATION

Conference schedules will be developed by the League Manager, who will have sole discretion of game schedules. A coach of multiple teams within the North Atlantic Conference will be given scheduling considerations so he/she can be present for their games, however coach conflict resolution IS NOT guaranteed. Clubs are strongly encouraged to have a 2nd coach that can step in should a conflict exists.

Any reschedules will be done in accordance with the Conference Operating Procedures and approval of the League Manager.

REFEREES

North Atlantic Conference games will use a 3-man referee system. Each team is responsible for one-half of the total referee fees per game and payment is to be made in cash prior to each game as follows:

13U and 14U:	\$80 per game per team; a total of \$160 (\$80 to Referee and \$40 to each AR)
15U and 16U:	\$90 per game per team; a total of \$160 (\$90 to Referee and \$45 to each AR)
17U, 18U and 19U:	\$100 per game per team; a total of \$200 (\$100 to Referee and \$50 to each AR)

TEAM ROSTERS

Teams may utilize 30 players during a season in accordance with League Rules and Policies. A maximum 22-player Team Roster with additional use of a Club Pass Roster shall be utilized in all age groups. Club Pass players may only come from within a team's club, provided that the player is a US Youth Soccer member.

RULES AND INFORMATION

Rules and additional information may be found on the US Youth Soccer website:

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/leagues/>

COACHING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Coaches of teams within the North Atlantic Conference are encouraged to have the minimum coaching education levels of a US Soccer National D License or the United Soccer Coaches National Diploma.

PERMISSION TO TRAVEL

Teams are not required to complete Permission to Travel permits/forms for games played outside of their State Association as permission is automatically granted by State Association approval of the team for North Atlantic Conference play.

ADVANCEMENT TO REGIONALS

The top team in the Premier I tier of each 13U through 19U age group, that is not a State Cup Champion representative to Regionals, will qualify for 2022 Eastern Regionals that same seasonal year as the North Atlantic Conference representative. A playoff may be applicable based on the number of Premier I divisions within the conference at a given age and gender. To be eligible to compete at Regionals, a team must play in their state association's State Cup.

ADVANCEMENT TO NATIONAL LEAGUE P.R.O.

The top 2 team in the Premier I tier of each 13U through 18U age group will qualify for 2022-2023 National League P.R.O. as the North Atlantic Conference representatives. If there are 2 Premier Divisions, the top team in each division will earn a slot in National League P.R.O. To be eligible to compete in National League P.R.O., a team must play in their state association's State Cup.

2021-22 NATIONAL LEAGUE SHOWCASE SERIES

North Atlantic Conference teams have access to the National League Showcase Series. The National League Showcase Series provides more opportunities for North Atlantic Conference teams to compete within a national platform against other similarly performing teams from other Conferences — maximizing identification opportunities for players and creating efficient recruiting opportunities for the scouting community.

Teams in the 15U-18U age groups that play a top tier division of the North Atlantic Conference are required to participate in one of the National League Showcase Series events. The 18U showcase divisions will allow 19U players/teams, however 19U teams are not required to participate. The 15U showcase divisions will allow 14U players/team, however 14U teams are not required to participate. More information about the National League Showcase Series can be found at usynationalleague.com/showcase-series/.

COMMUNICATION FROM/WITH THE CONFERENCE

Email is the primary means of communication within the North Atlantic Conference. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that accurate contact information is on file with the conference. The North Atlantic Conference compiles team contact information based on each team's application into the conference.

CONTACT

For more information on the North Atlantic Conference please contact the League Manager, Jen Marcella at Jen@edpsoccer.com

Subject to change—as of June 4, 2021