



US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL SHOWCASE SERIES FAQs

Does the US Youth Soccer National League still exist?

Yes, but with an all-new structure and format based on insights from leadership, member clubs and outside partner organizations that will elevate the playing environment for all.

What's different about the re-imagined USYS National League?

The National League will no longer be comprised of traditional nationwide brackets and event specific competitions. It will now consist of regionally aligned Conferences with both team-based and club-based league competitions. The champions of each of these National League Conferences will advance to the Regional Championship level of the USYS National Championship Series. In addition to the new National League format, USYS will be rolling out the USYS National Showcases Series.

What is the USYS National Showcase Series?

The National Showcase Series events provide more opportunities for Conference teams to compete within a national platform. At each Showcase Series event, teams are placed in brackets with similarly performing teams across Conferences. Alignments based on Conference performance will create opportunities for more evenly-matched competitive games. Non-Conference teams can also apply to the National Showcase Series with applications subject to evaluation and approval.

How can we play in the National Showcase Series events?

Pathways for teams to automatically secure a guaranteed spot at Showcase Series events will be forthcoming. National Showcase Series event applications will be available for all interested Conference teams to apply. Non-Conference teams can also apply to the National Showcase Series with applications subject to evaluation and approval.

What are the rules for the National Showcase Series?

The National League had previously hosted showcase events in past seasons alongside regularly scheduled National League games. Those rules will act as a foundation for the new National Showcase Series. In addition, we will examine areas for enhancement as we continue development and finalization of the complete rules and guidelines.

When and where will the National Showcase Series take place?

The National Showcase Series will take place throughout the youth soccer seasonal year. Dates and locations of previously scheduled National League events are being considered for the new National Showcase Series events. Additional dates and locations are also being considered while taking into account high school calendars, college recruiting timelines, geographic proximity to clubs and teams, etc. Exact dates and locations will be announced soon.

How many games will be played at each National Showcase Series?

The National Showcase Series will feature three games per team spread over a Friday through Sunday schedule.

What scouting/recruitment opportunities will there be at the National Showcase Series?

Every event will create a great opportunity for scouting. Given the number of competitive teams and geographic diversity, the National Showcase Series presents an invaluable opportunity for scouts to evaluate a large number of players. US Youth Soccer will work with its partners at the college, professional and international levels, alongside US Youth Soccer ODP, to ensure the competitive standards and event environment are optimized to meet the needs of scouts from all levels of play for both genders.

Are Conference teams required to play in the National Showcase Series events?

All Conference teams are eligible to play in the National Showcase Series events. A requirement to attend a minimum number of events has not yet been determined. Look for more details in a future announcement.

Can a team participate in multiple National Showcase Series events?

Yes.

Is this National Showcase Series for Premier I, Premier II or First Division teams?

Any team playing in a National League Conference Premier or First Division is eligible to play in the National Showcase Series. Non-Premier and non-First Division teams can submit applications for evaluation. Slots will be allocated if space is available and teams will be aligned based on category.

Can a team-based Conference get a slot into the National Showcase Series?

Yes. Any team playing in a National League Conference is eligible to play in the National Showcase Series events. Teams will be evaluated and aligned by technical group.

Can a Club-based conference get a slot into the showcase?

Yes. Any team playing in a National League Conference is eligible to play in the National Showcase Series events. Teams will be evaluated and aligned by the technical group.

Is there a possibility for teams from Team vs. Team Divisions to be paired with teams from Club vs. Club Divisions?

Yes. Teams from the differing National League Conference formats may be paired together in the National Showcase Series.

How much does each event in the National Showcase Series cost to participate?

Each event in the National Showcase Series will be priced individually. Final prices will be determined and announced soon.

Is the cost to participate in the National Showcase Series included in my National League Conference fees?

No. Each event in the National Showcase Series will be priced individually. Final prices will be determined and announced soon.

What age groups are included in the National Showcase Series?

The 13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U and 19U age groups are included in the National Showcase Series. The 12U age group will be evaluated by USYS technical leads, and more information for this age group will be announced.

Why should teams play in the USYS National Showcase Series vs. other showcases?

The USYS National Showcase series is the best presentation of national soccer talent across all US geographies. As a result, it will also have the best aligned competition in the country. The National Showcase Series is designed to maximize opportunities for players and for the scouting community. It delivers an efficient opportunity for these four major scouting groups:

1. US National Team
2. Professional Leagues
3. Collegiate Coaches
4. Olympic Development Program

What happens to teams that previously qualified for the 2020-21 National League?

Teams that earned their place in the 2020-21 National League season now have a slot in their National League Conference and priority when applying to National Showcase Series events for the 2020-21 season.

What happens to the USYS National Championships Series slots that previously went to National League teams?

All qualification spots for the USYS National Championships will come from the winners of the USYS National Championship Series Regional Championships. Any team can qualify for Regional Championships through achievement in their National League Conference play.

What happens if I win my National League Conference?

Your team will advance to the USYS National Championship Series Regional Championship based on the geographic location in which your Conference resides.

Does the National Showcase Series give you the ability to qualify for the USYS National Championship Series?

No. The National Showcase Series does not keep standings.

How will you set up seeding for the National Showcase Series?

A flexible seeding system will be used for the National League Conference standings. This will be based on teams' most recent or previous season records and level of competition. Our goal is to match top teams in one Conference against top teams from Conferences in other areas of the country. The same goal applies to teams in the middle and lower half of Conference standings. National League Conference Managers will have oversight of the seeding process to ensure that teams are grouped properly.

Have college coaches been notified of National Showcase Series dates?

Colleges and universities are currently evaluating how and when they can return to play given the impact of coronavirus and COVID-19. US Youth Soccer will monitor this status and then establish National Showcase Series calendar dates and locations that maximize scouting opportunities. National Showcase Series dates and locations will be widely communicated to all interested parties in order to ensure they are added to recruiting calendars.

Will the National Soccer Showcase Series be live-streamed?

US Youth Soccer has produced live-streaming content in the past, and is evaluating its use for the National Showcase Series and other USYS events. Given the likelihood of ongoing concerns related to coronavirus and travel, USYS is considering this service to add value for those families who want to see their kids play, but who also want to protect vulnerable members of their family (i.e. grandparents). USYS will broadly notify families if and when live-streaming services are available.