NATIONAL LEAGUE TERMINOLOGY GUIDE

As of July 29, 2020

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As of July 22, 2020.
Terminology Guide is subject to change.

// NATIONAL LEAGUE

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.).

// NATIONAL LEAGUE

DEFINITIONS

DEFINITIONS

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, the National League Showcase Series and the National League Playoffs.

// NATIONAL LEAGUE

DEFINITIONS

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***. The top division for Conferences is the Premier I Division, followed by the Premier II Division and the First Division. Select conferences may include Club vs. Club Divisions, which are equivalent to the Premier I level.

■ Top performing teams in the 13U-18U age groups of each Conference's Premier I (or Club vs. Club) Division have the opportunity to earn qualification into the following season's National League Playoffs.

♦ Top performing teams in the 13U-19U age groups of each Conference's Premier I (or Club vs. Club) Division may earn automatic qualification for the current season's US Youth Soccer Regional Championships (NCS).

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DEFINITIONS

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.

// NATIONAL LEAGUE

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.

// NATIONAL LEAGUE

DEFINITIONS

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

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).

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DEFINITIONS

PLAYOFFS

NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

The USYS National League Playoffs features top teams competing to determine the National League representatives to the annual US Youth Soccer National Championships. For both genders, up to 16 per age group qualify for the National League Playoffs, which take place alongside select National League Showcase Series events.

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DEFINITIONS

NATIONAL LEAGUE PATHWAY

The available progression for teams to move from the state to regional to national levels of competition.

USYS NATIONAL LEAGUE **PATHWAY**

LEAGUES

STATE ASSOCIATION OPERATED LEAGUES & LEAGUES AFFILIATED WITH STATE ASSOCIATIONS

NATIONAL LEAGUE CONFERENCES*

→ NATIONAL LEAGUE SHOWCASE SERIES

⇢ NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

CUPS

STATE CUP

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

*Top divisions (Premier I and Club vs. Club) have pathway to Regional Championships and National League Playoffs.

// NATIONAL LEAGUE

STYLE GUIDE

STYLE GUIDE NATIONAL LEAGUE

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

// **NATIONAL LEAGUE**

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

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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

// NATIONAL LEAGUE

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" the first time referencing the association in a written communication, then use "USYS" in later references.

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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

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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 _or_ 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

// **NATIONAL LEAGUE**

(INDIVIDUAL EVENTS) PROPER USE:

When referring to a specific event in the USYS National League Showcase Series, the event name should be written as either: National League (Location) -or- National League (Location) (Year*/Season)

SAMPLE EVENT NAME: National League Las Vegas
SAMPLE EVENT NAME*:   National League Las Vegas 2021

SAMPLE EVENT NAME :   National League North Carolina
SAMPLE EVENT NAME*:   National League North Carolina 2021

*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)

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STYLE GUIDE NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

PROPER USE:

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

FIRST REFERENCE: US Youth Soccer National League Playoffs _or_ USYS National League Playoffs
SECOND REFERENCE: National League Playoffs
THIRD REFERENCE: Playoffs

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

MISUSES:

USYS National Playoffs
USYS Playoffs
USYSNL Playoffs

// **NATIONAL LEAGUE**

STYLE GUIDE NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

(INDIVIDUAL EVENTS) PROPER USE:

When referring to a specific event for the USYS National League Playoffs, the event name should be written as either: National League (Location) -or- National League (Location) (Year*/Season)

SAMPLE EVENT NAME: National League Las Vegas
SAMPLE EVENT NAME*:   National League Las Vegas 2021

SAMPLE EVENT NAME :   National League North Carolina
SAMPLE EVENT NAME*:   National League North Carolina 2021

*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)

// **NATIONAL LEAGUE**

STYLE GUIDE AGE GROUPS

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

// NATIONAL LEAGUE

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

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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

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THANK YOU

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

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