



# ***EVENT FORMATS***

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***DEBUTING IN THE 2025-26 SEASON***



# NEW SEASONAL YEAR TIMELINE





# ***NEW WINTER EVENTS FORMAT***



## ***NEW WINTER EVENTS FORMAT***

- **New, simplified winter events with an elevated level of play**
- **Open application based on the team's history**
- **Chance to earn a place in the summer's USYS National Championships**
- **Chance to earn a place in the *NEW* National League Cup**
- **Two total events per gender -- each team plays in one event**



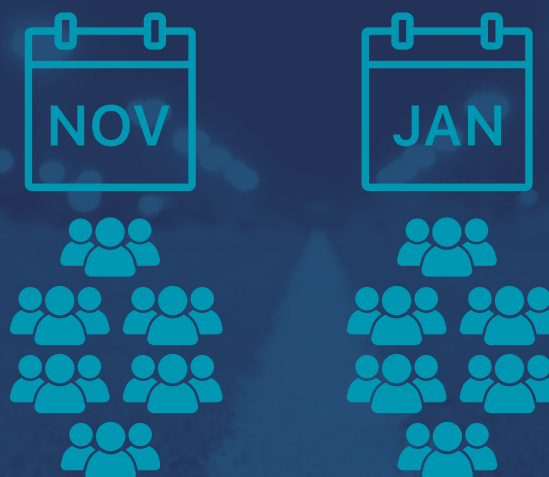
# NEW WINTER EVENTS FORMAT

## THE BASICS

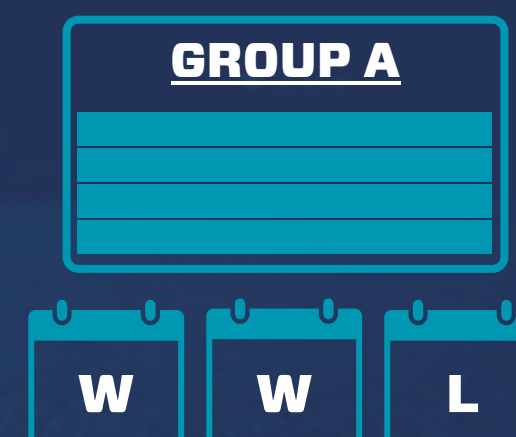
*For each gender, winter events will feature 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U & 19U age groups. In each age group...*



**40 TEAMS ARE SELECTED  
BY MERIT VIA AN  
APPLICATION PROCESS**



**EACH TEAM PLAYS ONE EVENT.  
20 PLAY IN NOVEMBER.  
20 PLAY IN JANUARY.**



**EACH TEAM PLAYS 3 GAMES  
OVER 3 DAYS (GROUP  
PLAY FORMAT) AT EVENTS**



## ***NEW WINTER EVENTS FORMAT***

### ***APPLICATION PROCESS***

- National League teams only
- Tier 1 division winners -- both club-based (Elite 64) and team-based (Premier 1) -- are guaranteed acceptance & choice of event
- Remaining open spots are awarded based on the team's history of performance (all NL teams considered)

### ***EVENT STRUCTURE AND GAMEPLAY***

- Group play format -- each team plays three total games over three days
- Teams from team-based and club-based divisions are combined and play each other
- Teams earn 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw, and 0 points for a loss
- Final standings in each four-team group determine which teams advance to the USYS National Championships or the ***NEW*** NL Cup

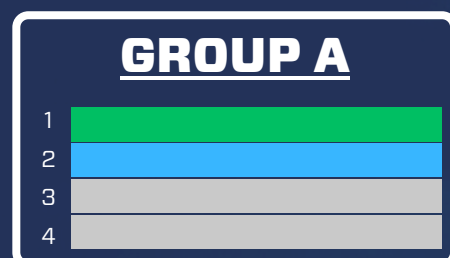


# NEW WINTER EVENTS FORMAT

## ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

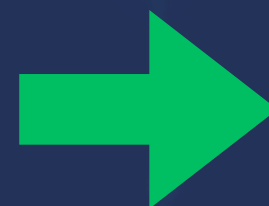
### NOVEMBER EVENT

Five groups of 4 teams.  
Three games over 3 days.



### JANUARY EVENT

Five groups of 4 teams.  
Three games over 3 days.



### 1st-place teams advance to the USYS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1ST PLACE - GROUP A

1ST PLACE - GROUP F

1ST PLACE - GROUP B

1ST PLACE - GROUP G

1ST PLACE - GROUP C

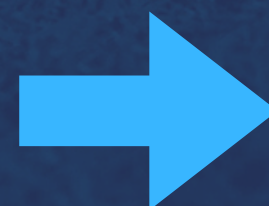
1ST PLACE - GROUP H

1ST PLACE - GROUP D

1ST PLACE - GROUP I

1ST PLACE - GROUP E

1ST PLACE - GROUP J



### 2nd-place teams advance to the **NEW NL CUP**

2ND PLACE - GROUP A

2ND PLACE - GROUP F

2ND PLACE - GROUP B

2ND PLACE - GROUP G

2ND PLACE - GROUP C

2ND PLACE - GROUP H

2ND PLACE - GROUP D

2ND PLACE - GROUP I

2ND PLACE - GROUP E

2ND PLACE - GROUP J



## ***NEW WINTER EVENTS FORMAT***

### ***ADDITIONAL DETAILS***

- **The anticipated event fee for a National League winter event is \$2,000-\$2,300.**
- **The winter event fee covers the entry fee into the USYS National Championships should a team qualify.**
  - **Second-place teams advancing to The NL Cup Playoffs have a minimal fee that covers referees and admin**
- **Each event weekend includes 100 total teams**
- **The size of events leads to opportunities to collaborate with ODP, possible Tier 2 integration, etc.**
- **Avoids conflicts with over-used December dates and recruiting dead periods**





# ***NEW NATIONAL LEAGUE CUP***



# ***LEAGUE IN-SEASON PATHWAY***

## ***WHY INTRODUCE THE NATIONAL LEAGUE CUP?***

- Survey of club directors indicated 75.5% wanted a National League Cup to be established
- Club directors rated the importance of National League regional events as 4.22 out of 5, and they rated the importance of a postseason league event as 4.06 out of 5.
- Better localized college recruiting opportunities
- Survey of college coaches found that 53% of recruits are found locally (within 3 hours of institution)
- Format is clean and easy to understand for college coaches, club coaches, parents and players



# THE NL CUP FORMAT

## NORTHWEST PLAYOFFS

2 Groups of 4 - Winner of Each Group Advances

### GROUP 1

- 1ST PLACE TEAM
- 2ND PLACE TEAM
- 3RD PLACE TEAM
- 4TH PLACE TEAM

### GROUP 2

- 1ST PLACE TEAM
- 2ND PLACE TEAM
- 3RD PLACE TEAM
- 4TH PLACE TEAM

## NORTHEAST PLAYOFFS

2 Groups of 4 - Winner of Each Group Advances

### GROUP 1

- 1ST PLACE TEAM
- 2ND PLACE TEAM
- 3RD PLACE TEAM
- 4TH PLACE TEAM

### GROUP 2

- 1ST PLACE TEAM
- 2ND PLACE TEAM
- 3RD PLACE TEAM
- 4TH PLACE TEAM

## SOUTHWEST PLAYOFFS

2 Groups of 4 - Winner of Each Group Advances

### GROUP 1

- 1ST PLACE TEAM
- 2ND PLACE TEAM
- 3RD PLACE TEAM
- 4TH PLACE TEAM

### GROUP 2

- 1ST PLACE TEAM
- 2ND PLACE TEAM
- 3RD PLACE TEAM
- 4TH PLACE TEAM

## SOUTHEAST PLAYOFFS

2 Groups of 4 - Winner of Each Group Advances

### GROUP 1

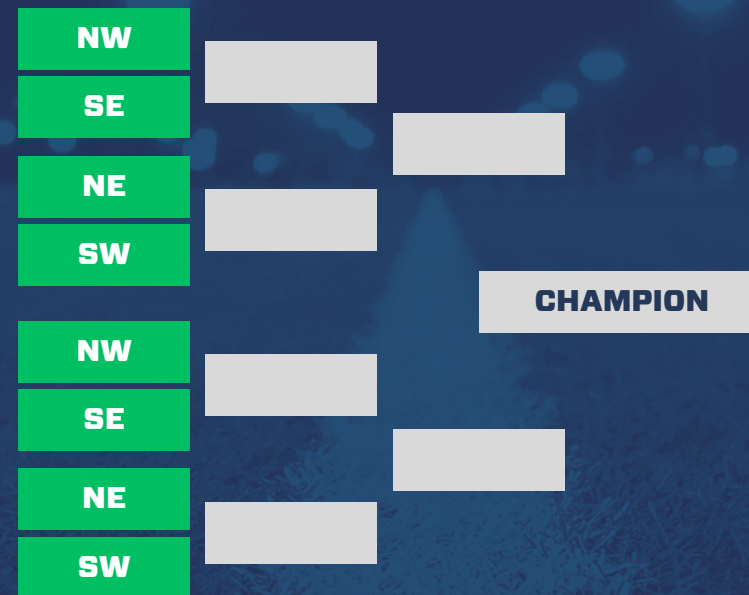
- 1ST PLACE TEAM
- 2ND PLACE TEAM
- 3RD PLACE TEAM
- 4TH PLACE TEAM

### GROUP 2

- 1ST PLACE TEAM
- 2ND PLACE TEAM
- 3RD PLACE TEAM
- 4TH PLACE TEAM

# FINALS

8 Teams - Bracket Format



All events are 48 games per day, played on 12 fields over 4 time slots. Teams play 3 games in 3 days. The 13U age group is AQs only.



# THE NL CUP FORMAT

## NORTHWEST PLAYOFFS

### BOYS

- MIDWEST (CLUB)
- MIDWEST (TEAM)
- NORTHWEST (CLUB)
- NORTHWEST (TEAM)
- NL WILDCARD x4**

### GIRLS

- MIDWEST (CLUB)
- MIDWEST (TEAM)
- NORTHWEST (CLUB)
- NORTHWEST (TEAM)
- NL WILDCARD x4**

## SOUTHWEST PLAYOFFS

### BOYS

- DESERT (TEAM)
- PACIFIC (TEAM)
- PACIFIC A (CLUB)
- PACIFIC B (CLUB)
- NL WILDCARD x4**

### GIRLS

- DESERT (TEAM)
- PACIFIC (TEAM)
- PACIFIC A (CLUB)
- PACIFIC B (CLUB)
- NL WILDCARD x4**

## NORTHEAST PLAYOFFS

### BOYS

- GREAT LAKES (CLUB)
- GREAT LAKES (TEAM)
- MID ATLANTIC (TEAM)
- NEW ENGLAND (TEAM)
- NORTH ATLANTIC (TEAM)
- NORTHEAST (CLUB)
- SOUTH ATLANTIC (TEAM)
- NL WILDCARD x1**

### GIRLS

- GREAT LAKES (CLUB)
- GREAT LAKES (TEAM)
- MID ATLANTIC (TEAM)
- NEW ENGLAND (TEAM)
- NORTH ATLANTIC (TEAM)
- SOUTH ATLANTIC (TEAM)
- NL WILDCARD x2**

## SOUTHEAST PLAYOFFS

### BOYS

- FRONTIER (TEAM)
- MID SOUTH (TEAM)
- PIEDMONT (TEAM)
- SOUTHEAST (CLUB)
- SUNSHINE (TEAM)
- NL WILDCARD x3**

### GIRLS

- FRONTIER (TEAM)
- MID SOUTH (TEAM)
- PIEDMONT (TEAM)
- SOUTHEAST (CLUB)
- SUNSHINE (TEAM)
- NL WILDCARD x3**

*Subject to change. Allows flexibility on a yearly basis to add or remove leagues and adjust wildcards to suit.*



# THE NL CUP FORMAT

## **NORTHWEST PLAYOFFS**

Boys - 8 Teams (4 AQs, 4 WCs)

Girls - 8 Teams (4 AQs, 4 WCs)

*2 Groups of 4 - Winner of Each Group Advances*

## **NORTHEAST PLAYOFFS**

Boys - 8 Teams (7 AQs, 1 WC)

Girls - 8 Teams (6 AQs, 2 WCs)

*2 Groups of 4 - Winner of Each Group Advances*

# **FINALS**

*8 Teams - Bracket Format*

## **SOUTHWEST PLAYOFFS**

Boys - 8 Teams (4 AQs, 4 WCs)

Girls - 8 Teams (4 AQs, 4 WCs)

*2 Groups of 4 - Winner of Each Group Advances*

## **SOUTHEAST PLAYOFFS**

Boys - 8 Teams (5 AQs, 3 WCs)

Girls - 8 Teams (5 AQs, 3 WCs)

*2 Groups of 4 - Winner of Each Group Advances*

*All events are 48 games per day, played on 12 fields over 4 time slots. Teams play 3 games in 3 days. The 13U age group is AQs only.*



## *RECAPPING THE WILDCARD SELECTION PROCESS*

- All wildcard teams come from the National League winter events
  - Top 10 overall teams in each age group from National League winter events qualify to the USYS National Championships
  - **BOYS** - seeds 11-21 (11 teams) are NL Cup wildcards
  - **GIRLS** - seeds 11-22 (12 teams) are NL Cup wildcards
- A geographically-seeded blind draw will determine wildcard team placement for Playoffs
- All teams in 13U age group come from league play (no winter events to pull from)



# ***USEFUL LINKS***



**INFORMATION | WINTER EVENTS**



**INFORMATION | THE NATIONAL LEAGUE CUP**



**WEBSITE | THE NATIONAL LEAGUE**

