



EVENT FORMATS

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



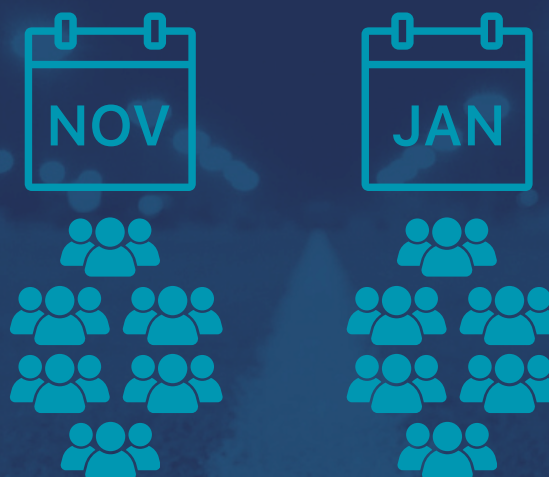
NEW WINTER EVENTS FORMAT

THE BASICS

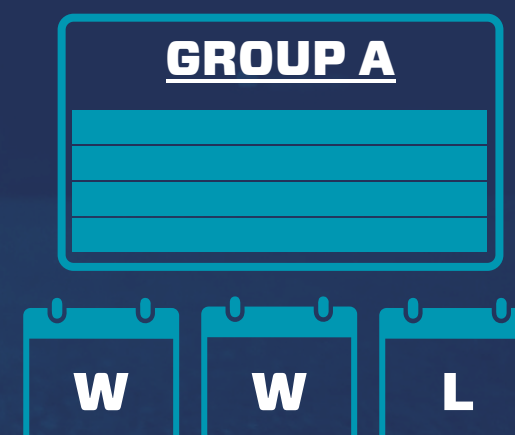
For each gender, winter events will feature 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U & 19U age groups. In each age group...



***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
- Premier 1 division winners -- both club-based and team-based -- 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.

GROUP A

1	
2	
3	
4	

GROUP B

1	
2	
3	
4	

GROUP C

1	
2	
3	
4	

GROUP D

1	
2	
3	
4	

GROUP E

1	
2	
3	
4	

JANUARY EVENT

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

GROUP F

1	
2	
3	
4	

GROUP G

1	
2	
3	
4	

GROUP H

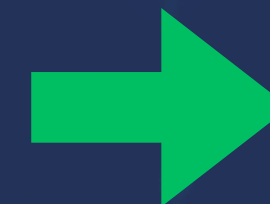
1	
2	
3	
4	

GROUP I

1	
2	
3	
4	

GROUP J

1	
2	
3	
4	



1st-place teams advance to the USYS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1ST PLACE - GROUP A

1ST PLACE - GROUP B

1ST PLACE - GROUP C

1ST PLACE - GROUP D

1ST PLACE - GROUP E

1ST PLACE - GROUP F

1ST PLACE - GROUP G

1ST PLACE - GROUP H

1ST PLACE - GROUP I

1ST PLACE - GROUP J

2nd-place teams advance to the

NEW NL CUP

2ND PLACE - GROUP A

2ND PLACE - GROUP B

2ND PLACE - GROUP C

2ND PLACE - GROUP D

2ND PLACE - GROUP E

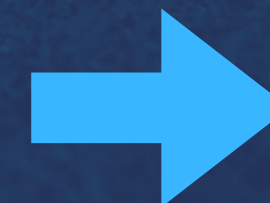
2ND PLACE - GROUP F

2ND PLACE - GROUP G

2ND PLACE - GROUP H

2ND PLACE - GROUP I

2ND PLACE - GROUP J





NEW WINTER EVENTS FORMAT

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- The event fee for a National League winter event is \$2,200.
- 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

FINALS

8 Teams - Bracket Format

NW

SE

NE

SW

NW

SE

NE

SW

CHAMPION

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

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 #1)
MIDWEST (TEAM #2)
PACIFIC (CLUB #2)
DESERT (TEAM)
NL WILDCARD x4

GIRLS

MIDWEST (TEAM #1)
MIDWEST (TEAM #2)
DESERT (TEAM #1)
FRONTIER (TEAM)
PACIFIC (CLUB #2)
NL WILDCARD x3

SOUTHWEST PLAYOFFS

BOYS

PACIFIC (TEAM)
PACIFIC (CLUB #1)
MIDWEST (CLUB #2)
MIDWEST (TEAM #1)
NL WILDCARD x4

GIRLS

DESERT (TEAM #2)
FRONTIER (CLUB)
PACIFIC (TEAM)
PACIFIC (CLUB #1)
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 (CLUB)
FRONTIER (TEAM)
MID SOUTH (TEAM)
PIEDMONT (TEAM)
SUNSHINE (CLUB)
SUNSHINE (TEAM)
NL WILDCARD x2

GIRLS

MID SOUTH (TEAM)
PIEDMONT (CLUB)
PIEDMONT (TEAM)
SUNSHINE (TEAM)
NL WILDCARD x4

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 (5 AQs, 3 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 (5 AQs, 3 WCs)

2 Groups of 4 - Winner of Each Group Advances

SOUTHEAST PLAYOFFS

Boys - 8 Teams (6 AQs, 2 WCs)

Girls - 8 Teams (6 AQs, 2 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

- 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 11-20 (10 teams) are NL Cup wildcards
 - **GIRLS** - seeds 11-21 (11 teams) are NL Cup wildcards
- A geographically-seeded blind draw will determine wildcard team placement for Playoffs
- Wildcard spots not filled by winter events will come from league play or open application
- 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

