



P.R.O.

Frequently Asked Questions

(as of March 8, 2021)

Who can participate in National League P.R.O.?

The competition is for boys and girls teams in the 14U through 19U age groups. Teams can qualify for National League P.R.O. through their National League Conference performance in the previous seasonal year.

Do the National League Playoffs still exist?

No. National League P.R.O. takes the place of the National League Playoffs as the top league competition in USYS that qualifies teams directly into the USYS National Championships.

When and where will the National League P.R.O. games take place?

National Events - Dates and locations for the national events will be published prior to the application period ahead of each seasonal year, typically about 10 months prior to the first event. The events will take place at some of the top facilities in the country to ensure optimal field quality and to take into account seasonal temperature and weather patterns.

Local Game - In addition to national events, each team will play in one “local game,” which is a one-off game played against a Conference opponent or cross-Conference opponent from within its regional area of the country.

What is the application process and timeline?

All teams — both automatic qualifiers and open slot applicants — will need to submit a National League P.R.O. application in GotSport ahead of each seasonal year. The application window will open around mid-April and close around mid-June.

The National League management group will accept automatic Conference qualifiers and evaluate applicants for open slots. Teams that fill open slots will be accepted and announced around mid-July.

(Please note: The National League P.R.O. application is separate from National League Conference applications.)

What is the cost to participate in National League P.R.O.?

The cost will be listed in future information and on the application once the application window opens. League fees will be comparable to those from the 2019-20 National League season, which was played in a similar format.

Who automatically qualifies for National League P.R.O.?

For 2021-2022 season, the top teams from each of the top-tier divisions of the National League Conferences earn automatic qualification into National League P.R.O. Teams that automatically qualify must submit an application and are subject to core requirements. A document that outlines specific automatic qualification slots will be published in the coming weeks.

If a team that automatically qualifies for National League P.R.O. turns down its slot, it becomes an open slot.

How are open slots filled?

The National League Management group will review applicants and accept teams based off several factors, including but not limited to: past Conference performance, competitive history and geographic balance.

Will teams that win their National League P.R.O. group automatically qualify for National League P.R.O. for the following season?

No. National League P.R.O. slots are filled by 1) automatic qualifiers from the National League Conferences or 2) Open slots filled through the application process and selected by the National League management group.

Can a team only play in National League P.R.O.?

Teams who compete in National League P.R.O. in a given seasonal year must also register and participate in their respective National League Conference during that same seasonal year.

What team eligibility requirements will be in place?

At all times during National League P.R.O. competition, a team must have on its roster no less than nine (9) players who were on a roster of any US Youth Soccer registered team within such team's club during the previous seasonal year, in which the team earned automatic qualification into National League P.R.O.

How are National League P.R.O. groups/brackets formed?

The goal is to place teams in a National League P.R.O. group schedule filled with unique matchups that supports participation in high school soccer. Each team will have at least one opponent in its P.R.O. group that is from its region to ensure the ability to play its "local game."

Who schedules the local game and when/where will it be played?

The game is scheduled by National League P.R.O., with assistance from the Conference manager(s). The date and location will be chosen in coordination with Conference play dates and high school soccer seasons. All pertinent National League P.R.O. standards and procedures apply to the local games.

What recruitment opportunities will be available?

A primary goal of National League P.R.O. is to provide a platform for players to have maximum exposure to scouts from the college, professional, national team and USYS ODP ranks. Teams earn their place into National League P.R.O., creating an optimal playing environment to recruit top players competing in meaningful games.

What USYS National Championship Series requirements are associated with National League P.R.O.?

National League P.R.O. teams must play in their respective USYS State Cup competition.

How will National League P.R.O. work with the National League Showcase Series?

The National League Showcase Series will continue to take place. Some National League P.R.O. events may stand alone, while others may take place concurrently with National League Showcase Series games.

Does National League P.R.O. participation meet the requirement for National League Showcase Series attendance?

Yes. Playing in the National League P.R.O. qualifies as meeting the Showcase Series requirement. National League P.R.O. teams may participate in additional Showcase Series events if they wish.

Who should I contact regarding questions about National League P.R.O.?

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