



2018 Spring Season Information

LEAGUE PURPOSE

Ensure the best possible competitive play among the soccer teams in Nebraska and bordering states, to promote opportunities for increased development of youth soccer players and teams, and to provide for an improved administrative structure, the Nebraska State Soccer Association establishes the Nebraska League for youth soccer players in Nebraska and bordering states.

IMPORTANT DATES

1. Registration Open - December 15th
2. Registration Deadline - January 22nd
3. Blackout Dates Deadline - February 4th
4. Schedule Release - 1st week of March (1st - 4th)
5. Spring Play Dates - March 24th – June 10th
6. No play - Memorial Day 25th - 28th and Easter April 1st
7. Spring State Cup - June 2nd - June 10th

AGE GROUPS OF COMPETITION

09(2009) - Boys 09(2009) - Girls
10(2008) - Boys 10(2008) - Girls
11(2007) - Boys 11(2007) - Girls
12(2006) - Boys 12(2006) - Girls
13(2005) - Boys 13(2005) - Girls
14(2004) - Boys 14(2004) - Girls
15(2003) - Boys 15(2003) - Girls

DEPOSIT FEE

Deposit must be made prior to schedules being released. Teams please ensure that your payment is completed either by paying yourself or by ensuring your club has made the deposit before the schedules are released. **We do not invoice teams.** Deposit can be made by check or credit card. If you club is paying the fees, please relay to your club representative that you have entered Nebraska League and payment should be made. We will invoice clubs, but payments can be made in advance of the billing. Deposit is based on a 7-game season, except for the U9/U10 NL leagues which will be billed per game after the schedules are completed. Teams/Clubs will be refunded for playing less games or invoiced for playing more games. Teams will play 6 to 8 games.

Nebraska State Soccer Board of Director's approved a Referee Pay Scale Increase. This increase is for any league or tournament sanctioned by Nebraska State Soccer and went into effect in August of 2017. Nebraska League raised the deposit compared to last year based on the increase in referee fees.

Fall Deposit		Ref Increase
U9/U10	\$75 Per Game	\$24.50
U11/U12	\$680.00	\$52.50
U13/U14	\$800.00	\$63.00
U15/U16	\$890.00	\$84.00

DIVISIONS OF PLAY

During registration you will no longer select a "Preferred Division". You will just register for the age group. Nebraska League will offer the following divisions, but could add or delete divisions if needed:

U9-U10 - Central and Northeast Divisions

U11 – U13 – Premier, First Division, Second Division, Third Division

PLACEMENT IN DIVISIONS

Team Applications to participate in the NL must be completed online at the NL website by the advertised deadline. League staff will evaluate all applications from Club approved teams and determine final acceptance. League staff will draft divisional placement and submit to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for review and recommendations. The League Director will make the final decisions on placement.

LEVEL OF COMMITMENT EXPECTED BY NL TEAMS

Any team looking to participate in Nebraska League (NL) must understand the level of commitment it takes to participate in a League that stretches across the state. All teams understand that this is a travel league and that teams may travel long distances to participate in NL games. The determination of game sites is based in part due to home locations of teams within a division as well as field and referee availability. **Teams understand that they may not play any home games**, although we work hard to reduce travel or make travel similar for both teams.

NL rules allow teams to use Club Pass Players/Sharing of Players (players from the same club) and allows a 22/30 player NL Player Roster to make adding players simple. There should be no reason why a team cannot field a team to play in a scheduled match. **TEAMS MUST BE ORGANISED AND FIND OUT IN ADVANCE IF THEY WILL BE MISSING PLAYERS.** This will give them time to find players to play in the game. There is no greater disservice to your opponents to reschedule a game or participate in games with minimal number of players. Teams expect opponents to field competitive teams.

Please note: Club Pass is only a league function. If you need to add players to your roster for a tournament contact your club registrar. Your other option is to use a Guest Player. Guest Player Forms are not a function of the league and you must fill out the Guest Player Form on thetournamentcenter.com. Here is a link to the Guest Player Form:

<http://www.thetournamentcenter.com/GuestPlayerPlayerLoan.aspx>

Trapped Players: In the spring season, “trapped” U15 and U16 players may play, but the team they play on will have to be rostered on the State Registration to the oldest player on the team. Depending on the number of players from each birth year on the team, teams may be allowed to play in a younger age group division. A “trapped” player means they are an U15/U16 player but not playing high school soccer.

If you plan to enter a team with “Trapped” player you must register with the league and send the number of players in each birth year on the team to Troy Brown, Assistant League Director at nlasst@nebraskastatesoccer.org. We will work hard to place your team in the right division.

BLACKOUT DATES/CONFLICTS/COACHING CONFLICTS

Team will be responsible to submit blackout dates by the advertised deadline. Teams will not be allowed to blackout more than 8 weekend dates (Saturday and Sunday on the same weekend count as 2). Although, we try to play as many games as possible on the weekends, teams need to be prepared to play during on **weekdays** due to lack of fields and referees. They must give us at least two weekdays they can play each week. Play dates will be determined by the league based on blackout dates, field availability and scheduling requirements.

Teams that blackout all Saturdays or all Sundays will be expected to allow a game or two to be played on those days. Due to opponents and field availability we may have to have teams play on a date they have blacked out.

As far as Coaching Conflicts, we will allow conflicts for up to two teams on any day. If coaching more than two teams, you must use blackout dates to make sure you do not have conflicts. Example given, two teams play on Saturday and the other team on Sunday.

All conflicts, coaching or types other than blackout dates, need to be emailed directly to Jeff Hulbert, League Director at league@nebraskastatesoccer.org. Submit anything that will affect scheduling your team.

RESCHEDULES

Teams need to be aware of the rules governing reschedules, which are shown on the website under the “Reschedules” button. They need to have a parent’s meeting prior to the blackout date deadline to make sure when their players will

have a conflict and be available. Teams need to be aware of the fines involved when rescheduling games. Reminder highlights from the Reschedule Procedures and Fines:

1. Teams need to confirm reschedule dates with their team prior to submitting a reschedule request.
2. Teams must have two agreed (opponent agrees) upon play dates and rough times prior to submitting a reschedule request. Teams do not need to find fields or referees the league will be responsible for this information.
3. There is a \$50 fine for the first reschedule made at least 8 days in advance. Fines increase for each additional reschedule.
4. There is a \$100 fine for the first reschedule made 4-7 days in advance. Fines increase for each additional reschedule.
5. **Any request 72 hours prior to game will be considered a forfeit.** Be organized!!!!

Weather Reschedules – **New this year** – Teams will have 5 days to reschedule these games then the league will reschedule based on provided blackout dates. If the league must reschedule a game, and a team cannot play on the date, that team will be assessed a **forfeit**. Get your games rescheduled right away!

REFEREES

Games should be officiated by the three-person FIFA/USSF Referee System for U11 through U15 age groups. Due to the referee shortage, this is not always possible. We are working hard to improve the referee situation, but we can use your help. Please have anyone interested in calling games to contact us directly. We will help them get in touch with the Referee Assignors. In the event an assigned official fails to appear by game time, one of the referees should contact the Referee Assignor for that community. If the Referee does not appear within 5 minutes of the game time the Referee may appoint Club Assistant Referees. Club Assistant Referees shall be limited to decisions only on touchlines and possession as specified by FIFA/USSF Referee Guidelines. **US Soccer does NOT allow for Dual Two-person Crew.** The result of the game will be considered official if there is one Certified Referee on the game.

GAMEDAY RESPONSIBILITIES

Each team is responsible for bringing 2 game rosters (one for referee, one for opposing team) and player cards laminated or mobile digital format. **If a team does not give you one of their rosters at check-in you are responsible to report it to the League Director or Assistant League Director.** Teams need to bring three (3) corner flags and a net to each game. Most complexes have nets, but some do not, and you never know when a net may be missing. You can always leave the net in your car. When there is a conflict in uniform color, the team listed as “Home Team” must change their uniform color, the colors used are subject to the Referee’s approval.

COACHING EDUCATION/REQUIREMENT

NL is committed to coaching education. We are committed to Coaching Education. US Soccer is in the process of changing their courses, so once we know the new course offering, we will notify head coaches of the courses we will pay for once they complete the course.

In the Fall of 2018, we will start enforcing the rule on Head Coach Licensing Requirements. Coaches should load all coaching certificates into their coaching Affinity account. These should include all licenses/certificates from US Youth Soccer and United Soccer Coaches Association. Those requirements are below:

1. At the Premier Division, once we know US Soccer course offerings we will determine the minimum coaching qualification.
2. At all other Divisions, the head coach on a team’s NL roster must hold at the minimum a US Soccer “F” Coaching License as the minimum coaching qualification. Head coaches must request approval for payment for taking the course from Jeff Hulbert, League Director at league@nebraskastatesoccer.org. If approved in advance of taking the course NL will reimburse any head coach that completes the “F” course and submits their certificate. The fee will be charged to the team during the reconciliation of fees at the end of the season.

“HOW TO.....” GUIDES

NL has created many “How to.....” Guides to help you with the team operational functions. You can find these on the website under the “How to.....” Guides button.