



LEAGUE HANDBOOK

2026-27



A US CLUB SOCCER SANCTIONED LEAGUE



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Excerpted from the [N1 2026-27 League Handbook](#)

NATIONAL 1 LEAGUE HANDBOOK & RULES OF COMPETITION

National 1 League (N1) is a new competition organized by US Club Soccer and US Youth Soccer as part of the competition pathway as identified by U.S. Soccer, utilizing the existing US Club Soccer National Premier Leagues (NPL) and US Youth Soccer National League (NL) foundation.

The competition is sanctioned and managed by US Club Soccer in alignment with U.S. Soccer's 'Pathway Strategy' and 'In Service to Soccer' initiative.

VISION:

US Club Soccer and US Youth Soccer shall establish a new competition with the following principles:

- consolidated competition structure
- incorporated existing US Youth Soccer and US Club Soccer staffing with a league commissioner
- centralized registration platform
- standards-driven operators prioritizing proven existing operators primarily team-based, meritbased competition with promotion and relegation
- exploration of showcase and experiential opportunities for deserving teams and players
- postseason pathways connected to ECNL and the elite pathway
- postseason pathway inclusive of regionalized to national events



Excerpted from the [N1 2026-27 League Handbook](#)

SECTION 1. Definitions

- 1.1. “National 1 League” is the new unified team-based competition bringing together US Club Soccer’s National Premier Leagues and US Youth Soccer’s National League into a single platform. The competition is sanctioned by US Club Soccer with Operators authorized to operate local districts.
- 1.2. “Authorized National 1 League District(s)” means the district(s) for which Operator shall be authorized to operate, pursuant to the National 1 League Operator License Agreement.
- 1.3. "Club Pass" player is defined as any US Club Soccer registered player within the same club as a team participating in National 1.
- 1.4. "Commissioner" is the individual, or their designee, responsible for the oversight of National 1. The Commissioner is vested with all necessary power and authority to manage, regulate, supervise, administer, and conduct National 1.
- 1.5. “Director” means anyone in a leadership position of a US Club Soccer Member Organization participating in National 1 with authority to represent the organization.
- 1.6. “District” means the National 1 territory as outlined in Appendix 1.
- 1.7. “ECNL” means Elite Clubs National League.
- 1.8. “ECNL Conference League Playoffs” is an integrated postseason managed by ECNL, inclusive of National 1 and Regional League qualifiers.
- 1.9. “Fixture” means all matches scheduled on the same match week.
- 1.10. “Game official” means a representative from the competition with authority over the competition but not a referee.
- 1.11. “National 1 Management Committee” means the Ad-Hoc Committee pursuant to US Club Soccer Bylaw 9.2.3., consisting of representatives of US Club Soccer and US Youth Soccer to provide management and guidance of National 1
- 1.12. “National 1 Competition” means a National 1 game played in all divisions and age groups, including those qualifying for postseason competition(s).

- 1.13. “National 1 Game Roster” is the official competition roster available on the GotSport website and used for National 1 League matches.
- 1.14. “National 1 Rostered Player” means a player registered with US Club Soccer on a National 1 official team roster.
- 1.15. “Operator(s)” is an entity approved by US Club Soccer to operate in an authorized National 1 District(s) for the limited purpose of participating in the applicable National 1 season pursuant to the National 1 Operator License Agreement and the Rules.
- 1.16. “Organization Member” means a U.S. Soccer Organization Member as defined by the U.S. Soccer bylaws
- 1.17. “Passcard” is the physical or digital card demonstrating an eligible US Club Soccer player or staff registration.
- 1.18. “Regional League” means ECNL Regional League.
- 1.19. “Rules” means the then-in-effect bylaws, policies, procedures, rules and directives of US Club Soccer, as well as this National 1 Handbook and other National 1 rules and directives.
- 1.20. “State Association” is the specific U.S. Soccer Organization Member category defined in U.S. Soccer bylaws.



N1 | SOCAL League Staff Contacts

Michelle Chesters	Executive Director	michelle@socalsoccerleague.org
Bob Turner	Executive Director, San Diego	bob@socalsoccerleague.org
Hayley Barker	League Operations Specialist	hayley@socalsoccerleague.org
Blake George	League Competitions Manager, National 1 League Commissioner	blake@socalsoccerleague.org
David Gerson	Director of Referee Development & Programming	gerson@socalsoccerleague.org
Cris Gilmore	Director of Special Programming	cris@socalsoccerleague.org
Melika Pirodan	Social Media, Marketing, and League Support	melika@socalsoccerleague.org
Christine Van Slyke	Sr. Manager of Regional Club Services (Los Angeles, Ventura, and Inland Empire) & Events	christine@socalsoccerleague.org
Shawna Ziemer	Sr. Manager of Regional Club Services (San Diego & Orange Counties), National 1 League Administration , SafeGuarding and Compliance Officer	shawna@socalsoccerleague.org

Connections

Instagram

[@socalsoccerleague](https://www.instagram.com/socalsoccerleague) - Main SOCAL channel for general league and State Cup information, programming, and updates
[@socalnational1](https://www.instagram.com/socalnational1) - N1 | SOCAL specific events, updates, and content
[@socalcoachescorner](https://www.instagram.com/socalcoachescorner) - Coaching Education courses, events, and coach-specific content
[@socalrefs](https://www.instagram.com/socalrefs) - SOCAL Referees channel for referee development, mentoring, and recruitment.

Websites

www.socalsoccerleague.org - Main SOCAL website
Coming soon - - N1 | SOCAL webpage
www.national1league.org - The National 1 League



Club/Team Requirements

Home Field Requirement

Clubs should have National League game quality fields to host N1 games on their scheduled playdates. If clubs are unable to access quality fields for their home games, they should reach out to SOCAL during the scheduling period in order to have their games scheduled at a single site. In the event of a complaint about the quality of a field, the appropriate League staff shall determine if a field is of game quality.

Field Requirements

Fields shall conform to FIFA (Law 1) and be adjusted to an age group. The home Club is responsible for marking and setting up the field. All fields must be properly marked, GOALS MUST be properly anchored down, and have corner flags. The suitability of corner flags, properly anchored goals, and the playability of the field are at the sole and final discretion of the Referee, as per the laws of the game. Be sure to discuss any concerns you may have about the field prior to the start of the game. Once the game begins, it will be considered played.

Scheduling Requirements

Games may only be rescheduled due to field permit issues, up until Tuesday (at 9pm) prior to the play weekend. A game must be within 5 miles of the original venue and be within 1 hour of the original start time. Referees must also be able to accommodate the change in order for the change to be approved. Any changes made after midnight on Tuesday may be considered forfeited. Forfeit and referee fees will be charged for forfeited games. Games will not be rescheduled due to coaching conflicts or convenience.

All fields used for SOCAL games must have Certificates of Insurance from US Club Soccer on file with the Club supplying the home fields for the game. [US Club Soccer Certificate of Insurance Application](#)

Required Club Contacts

Each Club's GotSport account must be kept up to date with the proper contact information. Please note that this is the primary method by which SOCAL communicates with your Club. Failing to provide the correct contact information may result in your Club missing vital League communications. Each Club shall maintain the following Club contacts with a current email address:

1. Club Administrator
2. Coaching/Technical Director/DOC AND/OR Executive Director
3. Registrar
4. President
5. Field Scheduler
6. Treasurer
7. Safety & Compliance Officer
8. Social Media Coordinator

N1|SOCAL League/Club Communication

Communication will come from N1|SOCAL League Staff to club officials and/or team contacts. Please make sure all contact information for the required officials is updated in the GotSport system.

Emails to N1|SOCAL staff from parents, managers, or coaches will not receive a response, and clubs should instruct their members and staff that all communications must be directed to designated club officials for review. If necessary, a club official may contact a N1|SOCAL staff member for assistance.

SOCAL Resource Library

- [SOCAL Code of Conduct](#)
- [Official US Soccer Policy 531-9](#) - Misconduct Toward Game Officials in Amateur Matches
- [One and Done - Zero Tolerance Policy](#)
- [Transfer Policy](#)
- [Tryout Policy](#)
- [Referee Fees](#)

Governing Bodies Code of Conduct:

- US Soccer Federation: <https://www.ussoccer.com/ussf-fan-code-of-conduct>
- US Club Soccer: <https://usclubsoccer.org/safeguarding-compliance/prohibitedconduct/>

Safeguarding & Compliance

- US Center for SafeSport: <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2022-SafeSport-Code.pdf>
- Safe Sport Report a Concern: <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/>
- US Soccer Report a Concern: <https://www.ussoccer.com/safeguarding/report-a-concern>

Insurance & Accident Claims

- US Club Soccer [Accident Insurance Claims](#) - Youth Programming
 - [Submit a Claim Form](#)

Code of Ethics

As a SOCAL Member, your adherence to the Code of Ethics signals your commitment to the organization's basic laws and, by extension, the basic moral standards of the soccer community at large.

For All Members

- Know, respect, and follow the [Laws of the Game](#).
- Treat others with respect and courtesy.
- Adhere to the rules and policies of SOCAL, [US Club Soccer](#), and [US Soccer](#).
- Recognize the rights, dignity, and worth of all – regardless of gender, ability, cultural background, or religion.

For Clubs

- Require sportsmanlike conduct at all times.
- Address issues with other Clubs professionally and in a timely manner.
- Ensure that all Adults and players in your Club are familiar with the rules and expectations of
- Respect the Facilities used by other Clubs.
- Actively uphold the Player Transfer Policy.

For Coaches

- A. Place your Player's physical, mental, and emotional development and well-being ahead of all else.
- B. Continuously seek education on sound Coaching techniques.
- C. Model and teach good sporting behavior.

For Players

- A. Participate for your own enjoyment and development.
- B. Take responsibility for your sportsmanship and conduct.



Excerpted from the [N1 2026-27 League Handbook](#)

SECTION 3. Eligibility

3.1. Expectations. Lack of knowledge of the Rules does not relieve any participant from the responsibilities and possible penalties therein.

3.1.1. All clubs, team officials, parents and players, by participating in National 1, agree that they are bound by these rules.

3.2. Team eligibility. The age groups for participation are U13, U14, U15, U16, U17 and U18/19 as defined by US Club Soccer and US Youth Soccer.

3.2.1. Each participating team must be part of a US Club Soccer member organization.

3.2.2. Participating teams shall also satisfy any eligibility requirements of the Operator.

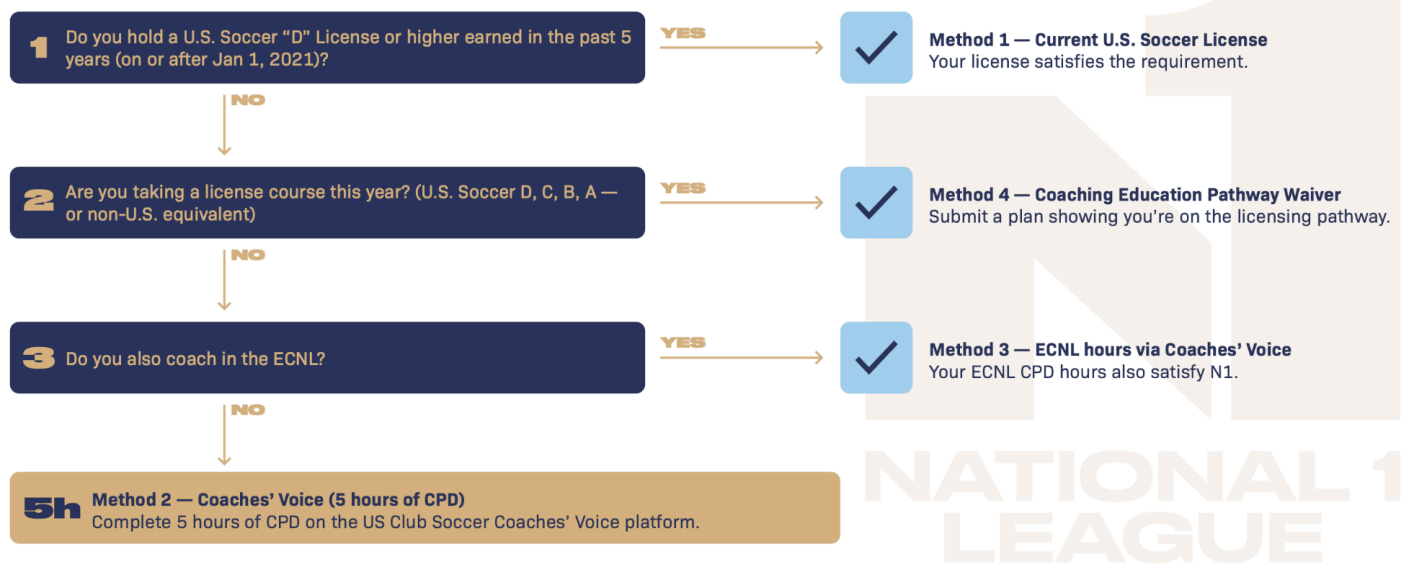
3.2.3. Teams in National 1 shall prioritize National 1 Competition and may not reschedule matches for outside competition.

3.3. Coach eligibility.

3.3.1. Beyond the US Club Soccer staff registration requirements, all coaches are required to complete five (5) hours of annual development through an approved method: completion in the ECNL/US Club Soccer Coaches Voice platform before August 1 of the competition year, any course or clinic that qualified for U.S. Soccer Continuing Education Units (CEU), or a U.S. Soccer Licensing Course at or above the minimum of "D" license or equivalent earned in the past 5 years. (A waiver may be awarded if a coach can show that he/she is on the coaching education pathway. A waiver must be co-signed by the club director and USYS state assn. technical lead, stating the coach's development plan, with timelines. This will be verified by the Operator.)

N1 Coach Eligibility – Which method is right for you?

Answer the questions in order. Stop at the first “Yes” — that’s your method.



	Your Method to Fulfill Coach Requirement	Action Required
	Hold a US Soccer D license or higher earned in the past 5 years (completed on or after Jan 1, 2021).	Complete the N1Coach Eligibility Form and upload license certificate before you submit.
	Planning on taking a D, C, B, A or non US equivalent license course during the 2026-27 season.	Complete the N1 SOCAL Waiver Form and submit for review. Once approved, you will receive instructions for completing the N1Coach Eligibility Form.
	An ECNL coach that has already completed Coaches’ Voice hours.	Complete N1Coach Eligibility Form and upload Coaches’ Voice completion certificate before you submit.
	None of the other methods apply to me, I will be completing 5 Coaches’ Voice hours.	Access CPD on the US Club Soccer Coaches’ Voice platform and complete required hours, complete N1Coach Eligibility Form and upload course certificate before you submit.

3.3.2. Process. Coaches must upload a certificate of completion from any of the approved courses/clinics to their N1 Coach Eligibility Form before submitting.

3.3.3. Registered coaches are not required to complete education requirements prior to participation in other US Club Soccer sanctioned competitions outside of National 1, in which the annual development requirement does not apply.

3.4. Removal. Participation in National 1 is a privilege and not a right. Any team, club or participant may be removed from participation for violation of the Rules, in compliance with any U.S. Soccer due process requirements, if applicable.



Excerpted from the [N1 2026-27 League Handbook](#)

SECTION 4. Registration and Roster Rules

4.1. Player and staff registration. US Club Soccer player and staff registration (whichever may be applicable) via the applicable club/organization is required for all National 1 participants prior to any participation (including without limitation training and team activities), pursuant to the Rules.

4.1.1. A player is considered bound to an organization (club/team) for purposes of participating in National 1 when a player or the player's parent/guardian accepts placement with the organization in writing, electronically, or on-line for the applicable Seasonal Year and pays a deposit required by the organization at the time of acceptance.

4.2. Roster minimum. Teams must register a minimum of 15 primary rostered players by the date designated and published for each district and maintain that minimum number of players throughout the Seasonal Year.

4.3. Roster maximum. A maximum of thirty (30) primary players may be rostered on any National 1 team's roster (in any one age group). Once a player is added to a National 1 team's roster, that player shall be counted against the roster maximum for that team, even if the player is later released, transfers, or is dropped, unless the Commissioner in their sole discretion grants an exception due to unique and exceptional circumstances. (Use of a club-passed player as outlined in Section 5.4 does not count against the 30 primary players.)

4.4. Player drops. Operators may establish regulations related to player releases or transfers, subject to the requirements of Section 4.3.

4.5. Roster freeze date. Operators may establish a roster freeze date.

 	N1 SOCAL does not have a roster freeze date, however the Transfer Policy does apply.
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4.6. Postseason roster tie. The National 1 rules of competition shall govern player movement and rosters, respectively, once a team qualifies for postseason summer competition. ECNL Postseason Roster Tie date will apply to a specific team and age group at check-in of the first ECNL Postseason stage in which they appear.

4.7. Recruiting; Tryouts; Registration. Operators may establish recruitment and/or tryout regulations in addition to the rules seen below. Additional regulations may not contradict the rules below.

4.7.1. Recruiting; No Tampering. National 1 clubs and teams may recruit players for participation on a National 1 team at any time during the year (subject to these Regulations) and subject to the following restrictions.

4.7.2. National 1 clubs and/or teams may not train, invite a player to train, tryout, invite a player to tryout, or have play in any tournament or competition as a guest player any National 1 registered player from another National 1 club prior to the designated tryout date of that season, unless the player has been released (or it has been expressly approved in writing) by their current National 1 club or team to do so.

4.7.3. Clubs/teams may not invite a player to train, invite a player to tryout, or promote their club to players or their parents or guardians during any National 1 competition in which the player is currently participating.

4.7.4. Once a player is registered as a National 1 registered player within the designated National 1 player registration system for the subsequent National 1 Season, the National 1 Registered Player may no longer be contacted or recruited by other National 1 Clubs, per this Rule 4.7. *Note: National 1 coaches and administrators may be subject to the rules of other U.S. Soccer organization members regarding recruitment and tryouts if they compete in other competitions or leagues outside of National 1.*

4.8. Tryouts. Any team may conduct publicly announced, open tryouts to acquire players on or after the date established in each District, which will be published on the National 1 and Operator websites. Any player and/or his/her parents or guardians may initiate direct contact with any coach or team/club official for the purpose of joining that team.

	Tryout Policy
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4.9. Transfers. A player rostered to a National 1 team member club is ineligible to transfer to any other National 1 team within the same seasonal year except when all of the following criteria is satisfied: the player has moved to a different District, the player's new location is beyond a reasonable travel distance from the player's current club, and both Directors agree to the transfer.

	Transfer Policy
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4.9.1. Within a seasonal year, registration with a new team participating in National 1 after release from a previous team participating in National 1 does not make the player eligible for transfer to a subsequent team participating in National 1.

4.9.2. A player's right to choose allows for a player to transfer clubs mid-season provided all obligations are met; however, the player shall not be eligible to participate with the new club in National 1 for the remainder of the seasonal year, unless approved by the Commissioner, in consultation with the operator.

4.9.3. US Club Soccer may provide a waiver of transfer restrictions if in its sole discretion a transfer is in the best interest of the player or of a player's sibling in the same club.

4.10. Violation of recruiting rules. Coaches and/or team/club officials who violate rules related to transfer and release set forth in this Section 4 may be subject to consequences assigned by an Operator-appointed committee.

4.10.1. Allegations of recruitment in violation of this Handbook shall be submitted in writing to the Operator within 30 days of the alleged violation.

	N1 SOCAL Commissioner: Blake George - blake@socalsoccerleague.org
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4.10.2. The complaint shall be reviewed and adjudicated by an Operator-appointed committee.



Excerpted from the [N1 2026-27 League Handbook](#)

SECTION 5. Competition Rules

5.1. General. All National 1 matches will be played in accordance with the FIFA/U.S. Soccer Laws of the Game except as modified in these Competition Rules.

5.2. Game length. National 1 matches shall be played with the following game lengths: U13, 2 x 35 minutes with 10-minute half-time; U14, 2 x 35 minutes with 10-minute half-time; U15, 2 x 40 minutes with 10-minute half-time; U16, 2 x 40 minutes with 10-minute half-time; U17, 2 x 45 minutes with 10-minute half-time; and 18/19U, 2 x 45 minutes with 10-minute half-time.

5.3. Game day roster. A maximum of eighteen (18) players may be rostered on a game day roster.

5.4. Club pass. Subject to Operator policies and the Rules, any US Club Soccer registered player within a club or team participating in National 1 or approved affiliate may participate in a National 1 game, except as outlined below. The team shall follow the procedures published by the Operator for adding a player to the game day roster.

	5.4 A maximum of three N1 players may be added as Club Pass players to a second age eligible N1 team or a SOCAL F1 team. A maximum of five SOCAL F1-4 players may be added as Club Pass players to an N1 team. Once a Club Pass player has been added to an N1 roster they will remain on the roster and count towards the max roster limit of 30 players for the season.
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5.4.1. Any player rostered or having participated in the current year in an official ECNL competition or equivalent is ineligible to participate in any official National 1 matches for the same club. (The player may become eligible to participate if transferring to a new club under the transfer rules outlined in this Handbook.)

5.4.2. A maximum of four players rostered or having participated in the current year in an official ECNL Regional League competition may participate in any National 1 match.

5.5. Player limitations. A primary rostered player may only play for one team in a District Division in which their primary team is participating. In situations where a club has multiple teams participating in the same District Division, at no time may such primary players appear on both District Division rosters. Under no circumstances may a player be listed on multiple team rosters if such teams are from different clubs.

5.5.1. During the National 1 season, a player may play for only one (1) District team per day. During the National 1 season, a Goalkeeper may be listed on up to two (2) National 1 game cards per day from the same club, with the written consent by

the Operator. A Goalkeeper must play as a Goalkeeper in both matches and may not play on more than one team in the same gender age group of a District Division, and is subject to the same standards as club pass players.

	5.5.1 Handwritten consent by the SOCAL is not needed in order for a Goalkeeper to be listed on 2 N1 SOCAL rosters for a single day under the same club.
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5.6. Trapped U15 player. A player registered to a team participating in National 1 who is in 8th grade, but who is age appropriate for the U15 age group, is classified as a "Trapped U15 Player." A Trapped U15 Player is eligible to participate in U14 National 1 Competition that is played during the player's sanctioned high school soccer association's competition season. No more than two (2) Trapped U15 Players may participate in any individual U14 National 1 Competition.

5.7. Substitutions. (Operator Rules may supersede these substitution rules for 2026-27.) Substitutions may be made at any stoppage with the approval of the referee. Any substitution during play is considered a moment regardless of the opponent's substitution.

5.7.1. ~~U13-14. Unlimited over three (3) moments in each half plus halftime.~~

5.7.2. ~~U15-18/19. Unlimited over four (4) moments per match plus halftime.~~

	Substitutions 3 moments, per half, for substitutions. Half-time does not count as a moment. Re-entry is allowed per half. Subbing at the moment of an opposition still counts towards a team's 3 moments. In accordance with the new USSF Head Injury guidelines, a substitution for a suspected head injury will not count against re-entry rules.
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5.7.3. In situations where there are multiple Operators within a National 1 District, the Operators' substitution policies shall align as agreed by both operators and the Commissioner.

5.7.4. Coaches may not agree to changes to the substitution policy.



Competition Matrix

	N1 U13	N1 U14	N1 U15	N1 U16	N1 U17	N1 U18/U19
Field Size (yds)	100/120 L 55/80 W	100/120 L 55/80 W	100/120 L 55/80 W	100/120 L 55/80 W	100/120 L 55/80 W	100/120 L 55/80 W
# of players on field	11v11	11v11	11v11	11v11	11v11	11v11
Minimum # of players rostered	15	15	15	15	15	15
Primary Player Roster Limits	30	30	30	30	30	30
# of players allowed to be rostered each game	18	18	18	18	18	18
N1 SOCAL Club-Passing Limit for N1 Players to a second N1 team or to a F1 team	3	3	3	3	3	3
N1 SOCAL Club-Passing Limit for SOCAL F1-4 players to a N1 team	5	5	5	5	5	5
Max number of N1 games played per player/per day	1	1	1	1	1	1
Playing Time	2x35	2x35	2x40	2x40	2x45	2x45
Half-Time	10 mins	10 mins	10 mins	10 mins	10 mins	10 mins
Ball Size	5	5	5	5	5	5
Goal Size (ft)	8x24	8x24	8x24	8x24	8x24	8x24
Offside	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
N1 SOCAL Substitutions	3 moments per half. Re-entry allowed. Half-time does not count as a moment					
Fouls (free kicks)	Indirect & Direct Free Kicks					
Free Kick clearance (direct)	10 yd	10 yd	10 yd	10 yd	10 yd	10 yd
Throw-in	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
Penalty Kicks	Yes (mark at 12 yds)	Yes (mark at 12 yds)	Yes (mark at 12 yds)	Yes (mark at 12 yds)	Yes (mark at 12 yds)	Yes (mark at 12 yds)
Penalty Area (yards)	18 x 44	18 x 44	18 x 44	18 x 44	18 x 44	18 x 44
Goal Area (yards)	6 x 20	6 x 20	6 x 20	6 x 20	6 x 20	6 x 20
Heading	YES As per the Laws of the Game					

***N1 players may not use Club Pass within the same age group. An N1 player may play in a second eligible age group as a club pass player, as long as they play only one N1 game per day. An N1 player is eligible to club pass to**

an F1 team with a max of 3 players per game. An N1 player club-passing to an F1 team is allowed to play in a second game that same day. N1 field players may only play one N1 game per day; goalkeepers may play two as long as the teams are in different age groups. Goalkeepers can only play in goal for both games. N1 players may not use Club Pass for Flights 2-4.

5.8. League scheduling. The Operator shall determine the dates for competition, along with the corresponding scheduling deadlines, provided all matches are completed by the established date for the respective District.5.8.1. Teams are expected to be available to play at any time on the scheduled game dates.

5.9. Rescheduling. Operator policies shall govern the reschedule process.

	Scheduling Requirements Games may be rescheduled only due to field permit issues, up until Tuesday at midnight before the play weekend. A proposed reschedule must be within 5 miles of the original venue and within 1 hour of the original start time. Referees must also be able to accommodate the change for approval. Any changes made after 5pm on Tuesday may be considered forfeited. For forfeited games, a forfeit fine and referee fees will be charged. Games cannot be rescheduled due to coaching conflicts or convenience.
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5.10. Team communication. Communication between teams is vital for the smooth operation of the league.

5.10.1. Teams must have at least two different contacts (manager and coach) listed on their GotSport page and ensure that both contacts have a current email address and phone number listed.

5.10.2. Once published in GotSport, all team scheduling communication shall take place through the GotSport chat system to have a proper record of the communication. Team contacts are expected to respond to communication within 48 hours. Listing the wrong email or phone number is not a valid excuse for not responding to communication and may result in a fine if a forfeit or no-show occurs.

5.11. Postseason qualification. A team shall only be eligible for one league-based postseason pathway. If a team competes in more than one competition in the pathway (i.e., ECNL RL and National 1), it shall declare the pathway in which it is participating in writing to the Commissioner and Operator prior to the first scheduled match of the season. Failure to proactively declare the pathway may result in ineligibility for any in which it participates.

	5.11 This rule does not apply to the N1 SOCAL League since playing in more than one competition is not allowed for SOCAL.
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5.12. Outside competition. National 1 Competition must be the priority competition for all teams participating in National 1. National 1 matches may not be rescheduled to accommodate outside competition, except as approved by the Operator.

5.13. Athletic trainer. The home team is strongly encouraged to provide a certified athletic trainer at the home club's expense.

5.13.1. If no certified athletic trainer is available, a player suspected of a head injury by the referee is not permitted to return to the match.



Reporting Head Injuries

All suspected head injuries must be reported within 24 hours and at the time the game scoring is entered in through the N1 GotSport.MatchDay App. The SOCAL Soccer League must also be notified within 24 hours of injury by emailing the Match Report to headinjuryreports@socalsoccerleague.org

5.13.2. Any player removed from a match with a suspected concussion is ineligible to return to play without clearance from an appropriate medical professional.



Clearing Head Injuries

For a player to return to match play, the Club shall provide SOCAL Soccer League with the medical clearance from a Licensed Health Care Provider on their letterhead or note stamped with the Licensed Health Care Provider's name, address, and phone number. The Medical Clearance MUST state clearly that the player may return to FULL and Unconditional Return to Play. The report must be sent to headinjuryreports@socalsoccerleague.org in order for the suspension to be cleared in GotSport.

5.14. Failure to appear and forfeits. Failure to appear for a scheduled match will result in a forfeit. A team must be present and ready to play (7-player minimum) within 10 minutes of scheduled match time.

5.14.1. Consequences for failure of a team to appear for a National 1 match, or forfeit of a match, shall be determined by Operator policies. Under penalties imposed pursuant to Section 5.11, any team forfeiting a match may be deemed ineligible for post-season competition and/or automatically relegated by the Commissioner.



No-Show Fines & Fees

1st Club Offense: \$250 plus full referee fees.

2nd Club Offense: \$500 plus full referees' fees.

The club will pay the referee fees for the no-show game. A no-show team may be at risk of being removed from the League.

Forfeit Fines & Fees

1st Club Offense: \$250 plus referee fees if notified after the deadline.

2nd Club Offense: \$500 plus referee fees if notified after the deadline.

Any game schedule change after midnight on Tuesday, during the week of a scheduled game, may be subject to applicable forfeit fines and referee fees.

5.15. Red card (player). Any player sent off or non-player dismissed will be automatically suspended for the remainder of the day and the next National 1 match played by that team.



Red Card Reporting

Referees will report red cards after the game by the Referee in the N1 app. Both teams will need to confirm that any red card given during the game has been reported by the referee. If a red card has not been reported by the end of the game day an email should be sent to redcardreports@socalsoccerleague.org. Please include the following in your email:

- Match Number
- Your Club and Team Name
- Red card Offender's Name

		Red card Offender's Club and Team Name
Player Card Offenses and Suspension		
Cautionable Offenses or Yellow Cards	Send-Off or Red Cards Offenses	# of Games Suspended
- UB – Unsporting Behavior - DT – Dissent - PI – Persistent Infringement of Laws - DR – Delay Restart - FRD – Fails to Respect Distance - E – Enter Field Improperly - L – Leave Field Improperly	- SFP – Serious Foul Play - VC – Violent Conduct - S – Spitting - DGH – Denies Goal Opportunity Handling - DGF – Denies Goal Opportunity Foul - AL – Abusive/Offensive Language 2CT – Second Caution	Minimum 1 game Minimum 3 games Minimum 3 games 1 game 1 game 1 game 1 game
Team Officials Card Offenses and Suspension		
Cautionable Offenses or Yellow Cards	Send-Off or Red Cards Offenses	# of Games Suspended
- UB – Unsporting Behavior - DT – Dissent	- VC – Violent Conduct - S – Spitting - AL – Abusive/Offensive Language towards an official - E – Enter Field to argue with a match official - DR – Delay Restart of opponent 2CT – New 2026-27 Second Caution Coach/Manager	Minimum 3 games Minimum 3 games Minimum 3 games 3 games 1 game 1 game
Spectators: Any spectator sent off is a minimum 3-game suspension.		

5.15.1. Any player sent off from a National 1 match must leave the field of play but may remain in the team bench area under the supervision of a team official, but only if a parent/guardian is not available to supervise the player. If the sent-off player commits further misconduct or further disrupts the match, the referee may require the removal of the player from the entire field area. If such a player is removed from the field area, a team official or parent must supervise the player away from the field area.

5.15.2. Official reports involving racism, spitting, discriminatory incidents, or use of banned words as outlined in 7.2 will be subject to a minimum four (4) match suspension.

5.15.3. For situations involving Referee Abuse or Assault, the U.S. Soccer Referee Abuse Policy (RAP) will be utilized to help determine additional suspensions and sanctioning.



REFeree ABUSE PREVENTION

POLICY 531-9 PENALTY OVERVIEW / YOUTH & AMATEUR

The Penalties Matrix defines consequences associated with physical and non-physical offenses against Referees.

NON-PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

NON-PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES ADULT REFEREE	MIN. GAMES MINOR ON MINOR	MIN. GAMES ADULT ON MINOR	OR MIN TIME
Insulting, Belittling, Insinuating or Taunting Behavior Undermining Referee Authority	1	1	2	
Harassment, Intimidation, Retaliation, Abusive, or Threatening (Non Physical) Language	4	4	8	
Aggression, Attacking, Derogatory, Cyberbullying, Doxing or Threatening (Physical / Violence) Language	6	6	18	3 - 12 Months
Offensive or Discriminatory Act	10	10	30	12 - 24 Months

KEY PENALTY FACTORS

- Single offenses are at **minimum** the prescribed game penalty or time penalty for non red zone offenses
- Penalties can be **both game and time** depending on severity / circumstances
- Second time offenders receive **double punishment**
- Third time offenders receive a **lifetime ban**
- More than one offense at the same time is **at least the punishment for the most serious offense**
- Offenses committed by an adult against a minor are automatically subject to a "minor multiplier" – 2x for Non-Physical Yellow and Orange offenses, and 3x for Non-Physical Red and all Physical offenses.
- The minor multiplier does not apply to offenses committed by minors.
- Game consequences are **inclusive of 1 game penalty for any red cards given**

Please follow your current reporting structure - updated reporting procedure will be a part of Phase 3.

PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES ADULT REFEREE	MIN. GAMES MINOR ON MINOR	MIN. GAMES ADULT ON MINOR	OR MIN TIME
Minor or Slight Deliberate Touching	3	3	9	1 - 6 Months
Pushing, Grabbing, Pulling, Squeezing, Pinching, Lightly Slapping, Use of Object in Non Striking Manner, or Physical Property Damage	10	10	30	6 - 24 Months
Hitting, Punching, Elbowing, Kicking, Biting, Spitting, Choking, Tackling, Throwing or Use of Object or Any Part of Body (Forearm, Knee, Head) in a Striking Manner		12 Months - Lifetime	36 Months - Lifetime	12 Months - Lifetime

Effective March 2025
UPDATED 5.15.26

For more information, visit: USSOCCER.COM/RAP



5.15.4. Send-offs and dismissals shall be reviewed by the Operator, which, in consultation with the Commissioner, may impose an additional suspension, including suspending the player or non-player from participating with other teams participating in National 1 during the suspension period. An additional one (1) match suspension cannot be appealed.

5.15.5. If the red card is issued in the last National 1 match of the season, the sit-out will be taken in the next National 1 match of the following season.

5.15.6. No substitutions may be made for the ejected player during the match in which the red card is issued.

5.15.7. It is the duty of the coach to withhold the red-carded player from the next game, even if the player appears eligible on the game card.

5.15.8. Any organization, club, team, or individual allowing participation of a disqualified or suspended individual in a National 1 match shall forfeit the match in which the suspended individual(s) participates and shall be subject to additional penalties.

5.15.9. Red cards earned in outside competition or tournaments do not carry over to National 1 Competition unless an additional suspension is issued by the Operator, US Club Soccer, or State Association.

5.16. Red card (coach). A coach or team official receiving a red card from the referee must leave the field and the area surrounding the field (out of sight and hearing) for the remainder of the match.

5.16.1. Any team official who is dismissed is prohibited from communicating with his/her team during a match, including but not limited to cell phone use, texting, or other means of communication.

5.16.2. Official reports involving racial, spitting, discriminatory incidents, or use of banned words as outlined in 7.2 will be subject to a minimum four (4) match suspension.

5.16.3. Send-offs and dismissals shall be reviewed by the Operator, which, in consultation with the Commissioner, may impose an additional suspension, including suspending the player or non-player from participating with other teams participating in National 1 during the suspension period. An additional one (1) match suspension cannot be appealed.

5.16.4. For situations involving Referee Abuse or Assault, the U.S. Soccer Referee Abuse Policy (RAP) will be utilized to help determine additional suspensions and sanctioning.

5.16.5. The team official is ineligible to participate with any team for the remainder of the day and is prohibited from participating in the next match, including playoffs, and is not allowed to be present at the field or in the area surrounding the field for the respective team in which the red card was received.

5.16.6. It is the coach's duty to comply with the assigned suspension. If a suspended coach participates, enters the field of play or the area surrounding the field while under suspension, or communicates with the team/team officials via electronic or other means, the team shall forfeit the match and the club sponsoring the team shall be liable for any referee's fees incurred and is subject to additional penalties.

5.16.7. Because of the seriousness of such instances, red cards or sanctions issued after the end of the match, or as a result of physical assault, are subject to review and additional penalties by the Operator and Commissioner.

5.16.8. Red cards earned in outside competition or tournaments do not carry over to National 1 Competition unless an additional suspension is issued by the Operator or US Club Soccer.

5.17. Yellow card accumulation. There shall be no yellow card accumulation policy for National 1 league matches.

5.18. Standings. League standings will be used to determine post-season qualification.

5.18.1. Teams shall be awarded 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and 0 points for a loss.

5.18.2. In a situation where a season/group cannot be completed due to exceptional circumstances and teams have played an unequal number of games, the Operator may use Points Per Game (PPG) or equivalent results to determine final standings.

5.19. Tiebreakers (two teams). The following tiebreakers will be used for resolving ties in the standings, in order:

5.19.1. Points earned in head-to-head competition.

5.19.2. Winner of most matches (all divisional matches played).

5.19.3. Goal difference (all divisional matches played, no limit).

5.19.4. Fewest goals allowed (all divisional matches played, no limit).

5.19.5. Total goals for (all divisional matches played, no limit).

5.19.6. Coin toss.

5.20. Tiebreakers (more than two teams). The following tiebreakers will be used for resolving ties in the standings. The tiebreaking procedure does not revert to the previous criteria if one team is eliminated, in order:

5.21. :

5.21.1 Results earned in head-to-head competition among the tied teams.

5.21.2. Goal difference (matches among the tied teams, no limit).

5.21.3. Goal difference (all divisional matches played, no limit).

5.21.4. Fewest goals allowed (matches among the tied teams, no limit).

5.21.5. Fewest goals allowed (all divisional matches played, no limit).

5.21.6. Total goals for (matches among the tied teams, no limit).

5.21.7. Total goals for (no limit).

5.21.8. Coin toss.

5.22. Facility standards. Operator policies shall govern facility standards.

	Field Rules 1. No animals of any kind are allowed on the sideline at any SOCAL game. Check the venue you are playing at to confirm if pets are allowed at the venue. Regardless, THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE ON THE SIDELINES or BEHIND THE GOALS or in close proximity to the field of play to protect the players safety as well as the spectators safety. 2. No artificial noise makers, such as drums, air horns, or drones, are allowed. 3. No Alcohol. 4. No Illegal Drugs. 5. No Weapons of any type. 6. No Drones. Violation of field rules may result in team or spectator suspensions.
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5.23. Rainouts. Operator policies shall govern rainout procedures.

5.24. Referee decision of unplayable conditions. A referee may suspend or terminate a match due to weather conditions (e.g., lightning, rain, fog) before or during a match. Under these conditions, the referee's decision is final.

5.25. Official game. A game terminated due to weather shall be considered complete if the first half is completed.

5.26. Abandoned game. Any game abandoned at any point due to behavior by coaches, players, and/or spectators shall result in a forfeit against the offending team. If the Operator determines both teams are at fault, the match will be considered a no contest if the game has not reached halftime, or considered complete if the first half has been completed.



Excerpted from the [N1 2026-27 League Handbook](#)

SECTION 6. GAME DAY PROCEDURES

6.1.1. Uniforms. Each team is required to attend each match with two (2) sets of jerseys and socks (kits): a light-colored kit and a dark-colored kit. The home team shall confirm the uniform colors for each team prior to the match.

6.1.2. The team listed first on the schedule (home) is to wear their light kit, and the team listed second on the schedule (away) is to wear their dark kit.

6.1.3. The referee shall define what constitutes light vs. dark color. If, in the opinion of the referee, there is a conflict in uniform color, the offending team causing the conflict should change into their other kit.

6.1.4. All players must have uniforms with individual numbers on the shirt that correspond with the number on the team's game day roster. Emergency uniforms may be used temporarily until a replacement jersey is available. The referee shall indicate the use of a temporary jersey on the game card.

6.1.5. The goalkeeper's shirt must be easily distinguishable from all other players and referees.

6.2. Game ball. ~~The home team shall provide at least two (2) quality game balls.~~

 	Game Ball The home team will furnish three game balls. The home team is the team listed first on the official schedule.
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6.3. Score reporting. The Operator shall establish and publish the process for score reporting and submission of required post-match reports.

 	All Game Scoring Game scores need to be entered by one of the teams in the GotSport Live app immediately following the game. It is the responsibility of both teams to confirm the score is entered after the game.
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6.4. Additional equipment. Players may wear additional equipment if, in the determination of the referee, it meets the standard of safety for all players.

6.4.1. Players who are wearing corrective glasses may be allowed to play at the discretion of the referee.

6.4.2. ~~Casts are permitted if approved by the referee and athletic trainer (if available).~~

	Casts No orthopedic (hard) casts, air splints, or metal splints may be worn. Players will be allowed to play in a soft cast at the discretion of the referee. Braces Elastic-type supports without any metal, carbon fiber, hard plastic, or similar devices are permitted, provided the Referee does not deem the support to be potentially harmful to other players.
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6.5. Pre-game procedures. National 1 intends on utilizing a digital administrative game day experience. Teams are expected to prepare for technical outages.

6.5.1. Referees or an agreed designee shall confirm eligibility of all participants prior to the start of the match.

6.5.2. The home team should print and make available a copy of the game card. (Away teams are encouraged to print a backup.)

	All teams should be using the N1 App for creating the game day roster. The referee will scan the QR code for the match from either the coach or manager's phone and check in the team using their own phone. In the rare case where phone service is not available at the field a printed match report should be used. If unsure of service, be sure to bring a printed match report to use if needed.
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6.5.3. Digital passcards shall be utilized when available. Each team should make available printed and laminated cards for all players and coaches in the technical area, or a downloaded copy of the official roster during the match.

	If unable to use the N1 App for a game, virtual passcards and a printed match report should be used.
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6.5.4. Both teams must have an official National 1 team roster available for review upon request.

	This should be available through the N1 App or printed if needed.
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6.5.5. Unless otherwise approved by the Commissioner or their designee, players and coaches who do not have a passcard will not be permitted to participate in a National 1 match.

6.6. Spectator and technical areas. Home teams shall provide clear direction for spectator areas.

	Spectator Seating ● ALL SPECTATORS FROM A TEAM will sit on the same side of the field as their team. ● Spectators will NOT sit on opposite sides of the field from their team for League play. ● Coaches are responsible for their team's spectators. ● Spectators may not sit behind goals or next to the corner flags. ● Spectators must sit on the sideline with their team OPPOSITE the sideline the Asst Ref is running. Spectators may NOT sit behind Asst Referees. ● Spectators are not to commingle with spectators from the opposing team. Spectators should sit on the opposite side of the half to the Assistant Referee.
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6.6.1. All coaches, players, and spectators will remain eighteen (18) yards from the goal lines.

6.6.2. Where possible, coaches and players are to take opposite sides of the field from the spectators.

6.6.3. No coaching, either from a coach or spectator, may take place within 18 yards from the goal line or from behind the goal lines.

6.6.4. All coaches and spectators shall remain at least two yards from the touchline.

6.7. Official match/referee report. The referee's authority begins when they arrive at the match site and continues until they depart the match site or 30 minutes post-match has elapsed.

6.7.1. Matches should be officiated by the three-person FIFA/U.S. Soccer Referee System, but some may be officiated by less than a three-person system based on unique circumstances. In these cases the referee may appoint "Club" Assistant Referee(s), who will be limited to decisions only on the touchlines and possession.

6.7.2. The Operator shall establish the process by which licensed U.S. Soccer referees are assigned to each match.

6.7.3. The Operator shall establish the process by which all referee/assignor fees are collected and paid.

	<u>2026-27 Referee Fees and Payment Details</u>
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6.7.4. The officials are responsible for conducting the matches in accordance with the FIFA/U.S. Soccer Laws of the Game and/or this National 1 Handbook, which shall take precedence.

6.7.5. Referees' pre-game responsibilities shall be provided to the appropriate referee organization or assignor by the Operator or the club with whom National 1 teams are participating, prior to the beginning of each season.

6.8. Referee failure to appear. A licensed center referee must be present for an official league match.

6.8.1. The Operator shall determine appropriate next steps when a request for referee assignment was made and no referee is available.

6.8.2. A forfeit for the home team shall be recorded when a request for assignment was not made, or was not confirmed by the home team, and no referee is available.

6.8.3. In case of a dispute, Directors are responsible for providing written confirmation from a referee assignor to verify that a request for services was made.



Excerpted from the [N1 2026-27 League Handbook](#)

SECTION 7. Conduct

7.1. Standards of conduct. National 1 exists to provide youth the opportunity to acquire and develop soccer skills through a higher level of competition. These skills, as well as the individual growth of the players, cannot be nurtured in an environment that permits confrontation, poor sportsmanship, and verbal and physical abuse among spectators, game participants, and game officials. While National 1 cannot dictate the internal administrative rules and regulations of the clubs with teams participating in National 1, it must provide a framework for addressing violations of the Rules, including without limitation US Club Soccer's risk management policies, including its Prohibited Conduct Policy. Players are expected to perform in a manner consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship. Coaches and spectators should act in a manner that reinforces the concepts of good sportsmanship.

7.1.1. Allegations of misconduct shall be reported to the Operator and the Commissioner, and participants committing misconduct in violation of US Club Soccer policies are subject to additional penalties beyond those that may be imposed by the Operator.



SOCAL Operator: [Blake George- blake@socalsoccerleague.org](mailto:blake@socalsoccerleague.org)
N1 Commissioner: March Frankland - mfrankland@ussoccer.org

7.1.2. Under no circumstances shall a player, coach, parent, or spectator enter the field of play during the match unless invited by the referee.

7.1.3. The coach is responsible for the actions of parents and spectators on the sidelines. Coaches may be sent off the field or even banned from future games for their misbehavior or inciting spectator behavior in violation of this standard.

7.1.4. Parents and spectators can be asked by the referee to leave the playing site, and if the request is refused, the referee can, at his/her discretion, terminate the match.

7.1.5. Except as outlined in 5.15.1 (player), if any player or coach refuses to leave the playing site immediately after an ejection by the referee, the referee may terminate the match, and the match will be scored as a forfeit with the offending team losing by a score of 3-0, unless the offending team is losing by a margin greater than 3 goals, in which case that score shall be recorded. The referee has the discretionary power to suspend or terminate a match whenever, by reason of the elements, interference by spectators, or other causes, he/she deems such stoppage necessary.

7.1.6. Clubs with teams participating in National 1 shall ensure that this Handbook, including the conduct standards in this section, is distributed and adopted. Repeated occurrences of misconduct may result in prohibition of a team from further participation in National 1.

7.2. Banned words. Any official reports from a referee or league/event official regarding the use of any listed banned word(s) shall be subject to a minimum four (4) match suspension and may be subject to reporting to the U.S. Center for SafeSport if required by the SafeSport Act and the SafeSport Code. Subsequent incidents by the same player, team official, or team will result in additional sanctioning.

7.2.1. The following is not an exhaustive list of prohibited language, words, or phrases, but rather is intended to provide examples of language prohibited in National 1 and under US Club Soccer's Prohibited Conduct Policy. The asterisk (*) is used to prevent the actual word from appearing in print.

7.2.2. Use of a banned word shall be reviewed by the Operator, which, in consultation with the Commissioner, may impose an additional suspension, including suspending the player or non-player from participating with other teams participating in National 1 during the suspension period.

National 1 Banned Words List (non-exhaustive)					
B*tty Boy	Cr*cker	F*ggot	K*ke	P*to	Sl*nt
Be*ner	C*nt	G*y	Mar*con	P*ssy	Sp*c
Black Boy/Girl	D*ck	H*mo	N*gger/N*gga	Ray He*d	Wetb*ck
Ch*nk	F*g	Jewb*y	N*gro	R*tard/R*tarded	White Boy/Girl



Excerpted from the [N1 2026-27 League Handbook](#)

SECTION 8. Protests

8.1. General. A protest is a formal written objection of any violation of established policies, rules, or procedures related to a specific match. Only the teams involved are permitted to protest a match result. Third parties, i.e., coaches from other teams or state administrators, cannot file protests on a specific match. Protests must be based upon a violation of the published rules of National 1 or IFAB Laws of the Game. All decisions of the referees regarding matters of fact, including judgment matters, are final and cannot be protested.

8.2. Submission. Operator policies shall govern protest procedures, subject to appeal to the Commissioner.

The National 1 League logo and the SOCAL logo are displayed side-by-side. The National 1 League logo is a gold shield with a blue 'N1' and the words 'NATIONAL 1 LEAGUE' below it. The SOCAL logo is a blue square with a white soccer ball and the word 'SOCAL' below it.	Protests Protests regarding match conditions (e.g., field conditions) must be submitted before the start of the match and clearly recorded in the official match report of the center referee. Protests regarding the use of illegal players may be made before or after the match and must be clearly recorded in the match report. • Referee decisions cannot be protested. This includes send-offs for players, coaches or spectators. • Videos of games will be reviewed to support protests or objections using Trace video footage only.
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Excerpted from the [N1 2026-27 League Handbook](#)

SECTION 9. GRIEVANCES

9.1. General. Grievances address potential violations of the National 1 Handbook or Operator policies.

9.2. Submission. Any Director who believes an Operator has violated the policies included in this National 1 Handbook may submit a written grievance containing the allegations of policy violation and requesting their desired remedy. The written grievance must be accompanied by a check in the amount of \$250 payable to US Club Soccer. The grievance may be sent electronically to the Commissioner and is not considered received until receipt has been confirmed by the Commissioner or their designee.

9.3. Determination of submission. The Commissioner shall determine whether the grievance has been properly filed and evaluate the nature of the allegations therein. If the Commissioner determines the grievance is validly submitted, the Commissioner shall initiate action to resolve the issue. This may be accomplished by consulting other members of the staff and/or Board of Directors of the parties to the grievance, or by holding a hearing. The Commissioner has sole discretion to determine how the grievance is resolved.

9.4. Grievance Committee. A Grievance Committee, if appointed, shall consist of the Commissioner or Commissioner's designee and two (2) other members appointed by the US Club Soccer CEO. The Grievance Committee shall hear the grievance within 30 days of the date the Grievance Committee was appointed.

9.5. Sustained. If the grievance is sustained, the check shall be returned. If the grievance is denied, the check will be retained by US Club Soccer.

9.6. Final decision. The decision of the Grievance Committee is final and is not appealable.

9.7. Legal costs. If the aggrieved party remains dissatisfied after having exhausted all requirements concerning grievances, or, if not having exhausted all requirements concerning grievances, invokes the aid of the courts of any state or the United States, and the person bringing the action does not prevail in such court action, he shall then be liable for all expenses incurred by National 1 in defending such action, including but not limited to court costs and attorneys' fees.

9.8. Compensation. Reasonable compensation for time spent by US Club Soccer employees in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances, travel expenses, and expenses of any special meeting(s) necessitated by the action.



Excerpted from the [N1 2026-27 League Handbook](#)

SECTION 10. Boards of Inquiry or Hearings

10.1. General. Periodically, it may be necessary for US Club Soccer and/or the Operator to conduct inquiries or hearings on breaches of the Rules.

10.2. Notice. Unless waived by both parties, inquiries and/or hearings may be announced at least seven (7) days in advance. An effort shall be made to schedule such activities at the convenience of the majority of the participants, whether members of the hearing panel or persons to appear before the panel.

10.3. Appearance. When established in accordance with notice pursuant to Section 10.2, persons to appear before a hearing panel shall be so notified. Their personal appearance, or the appearance of an individual(s) acting on their behalf, shall be mandatory.

10.3.1. Once notified, persons requested to appear shall have 48 hours to submit in writing matters in extenuation or mitigation that may preclude their appearance. The convening authority shall have sole authority to rule on such matters.

10.3.2. Failure to appear, unless duly excused, shall be grounds for additional sanctions.

10.4. Report to US Club Soccer. If an inquiry or hearing is conducted by the Operator, they shall provide US Club Soccer information concerning sanctions and suspensions it has levied.

10.5. Recruiting violations. If the hearing panel finds a recruiting violation has occurred, the panel may impose one or more penalties, including but not limited to forfeiture of one or more games, fines, and temporary or permanent suspension from National 1 club activities.

10.6. Appeals. Any aggrieved party may appeal any decision or the imposition of any penalty or fine to the CEO.

10.6.1. A \$250 appeal fee shall accompany the appeal. If the appeal is upheld, the appeal fee shall be returned. If the appeal is denied, the fee shall be retained by National 1.

10.6.2. Upon receipt of an appeal, the CEO, working with the Board Chair, shall convene a board of inquiry.

10.6.3. The decision of the Board of Inquiry is final within National 1.



Excerpted from the [N1 2026-27 League Handbook](#)

SECTION 11. Fines

11.1. General. The implementation of fines is intended to mitigate situations that would negatively impact the participant game day experience, and negative impacts on the competition, opponents, and the league.

11.2. Fee schedule. The fee schedule outlined below is a guideline with maximum amounts collected by the Operator. The fee schedule may be superseded by Operator policies, provided they are publicly available and approved by the Commissioner.

N1 League Fee Schedule can be found in the [N1 2026-27 League Handbook](#)



2026-27 Fines

OFFENSE	FINE AMOUNT
Team Acceptance	
Team drop after registration closes	Registration fee forfeited
Team drop between the close of registration and brackets/flights released	\$500 and registration fee forfeited
Team drop after brackets/flights are released	\$1000 and registration fee forfeited
Team drop after the schedule's release	\$2000 and registration fee forfeited
Team drop after the start of the season	\$2000, registration fee forfeited, and referee fees
Schedules	
A game schedule change after midnight on Tuesday, during the week of a scheduled game	1st Club Offense: \$250, plus referee fees 2nd Club Offense: \$500, plus referee fees
Match Day	
Game forfeited or terminated + Ref Fees	\$500

Team no-show for a scheduled game	1st Club Offense: \$250, plus referee fees 2nd Club Offense: \$500, plus referee fees
Failure to report a red card/double yellow, or send off	\$200 per instance
Parents from opposing teams who cause a game to be terminated will result in a double forfeit, and the next scheduled game for each team will also be forfeited	\$500
Other Violations	
Playing an illegal player or falsifying documents	\$500 per instance
An ineligible coach coaching a game	\$500 per instance

League Fines

- All fines are invoiced to the clubs, including team details.
- All fines and fees due to the SOCAL Soccer League will be invoiced in GotSport, and the credit card on file will be processed net 30 days. [How to Pay Invoice - GotSport](#)
- Fines collected by SOCAL are allocated to additional programming opportunities developed by, or supported by, the League.