N1 MAPL HANDBOOK

2026-2027 Season

Mid-Atlantic Premier League (MAPL)

National 1 League (N1) — Club Information Guide

Overview

This document outlines key updates and requirements for clubs regarding the National 1 League (N1) for the upcoming season.

MAPL leadership has been in direct communication with National 1 League representatives and will serve as an operator within our assigned district. Please review all sections carefully, as this structure represents a shift from previous league formats.

District Alignment

The Mid-Atlantic Premier League (MAPL) has been confirmed as an operator within:
District 3 – Eastern Pennsylvania / New Jersey
All teams participating in National 1 League through MAPL will compete within the District 3 structure
Postseason qualification pathways will be tied to District 3

New York-Based Clubs

Clubs may continue working with MAPL
Teams will be aligned within the District 3 competition pool
Travel, scheduling, and competition will primarily involve Eastern PA and New Jersey
Postseason qualification will be earned through District 3

Application Process - Click Here To Apply

https://system.gotsport.com/event_regs/cac632f15a

Applications will be submitted through the National 1 League website
All teams must apply individually
Acceptance is based on performance criteria

What is National 1 League

National 1 League is the top team-based platform across US Youth Soccer and US Club Soccer, combining and replacing:
National Premier Leagues (NPL)
USYS National League

Key Characteristics:

Fully team-based model (not club vs. club)
Clubs are not required to field teams at all age groups
Teams may apply only where they are competitive
Entry is performance-based
All operators across all districts follow the same national standards and procedures.

Compliance Requirements

To participate in National 1 League:
Clubs must be US Club Soccer members
Coaches must complete US Club background checks
Players may only be rostered to one club within US Club
Player passes will be issued through GotSport via US Club

Competition Structure & Rules

Age Groups

U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U19

Coach Eligibility

All coaches must complete 5 hours of annual development, including one of the following:
ECNL / US Club Soccer Coaches Voice platform (before August 1)
U.S. Soccer CEU-approved courses
U.S. Soccer “D” License (or higher) within the past 5 years
Approved waiver with documented coaching development plan

Roster Limits

Minimum: 15 players
Maximum: 30 players
All rostered players count toward the 30-player limit

Club Passing

All players must have a US Club pass
Club pass players count toward roster limits
ECNL players are not permitted
ECNL RL players allowed, max of 4 per game

Substitution Rules

U13–U14: 3 moments per half (unlimited re-entry)
U15–U19: 4 moments per game (unlimited re-entry)

Game Lengths

U13: 2 x 35 minutes
U14–U16: 2 x 40 minutes
U17–U19: 2 x 45 minutes
Halftime: 10 minutes

Substitution Rules

U13–U14: 3 moments per half (unlimited re-entry)
U15–U19: 4 moments per game (unlimited re-entry)

Game Lengths

U13: 2 x 35 minutes
U14–U16: 2 x 40 minutes
U17–U19: 2 x 45 minutes
Halftime: 10 minutes

Trapped Players

8th grade players eligible for U15 may play U14 during high school season
Maximum of 2 trapped players per match

Postseason Pathway

ECNL Conference Playoffs
Regional Competitions (details forthcoming)
National Championship: July 2027

Closing

These updates represent a significant shift toward a team-based national structure. MAPL remains committed to supporting clubs through this transition and ensuring clarity around expectations, competition structure, and opportunities.

For questions or further discussion, please contact MAPL leadership.