



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

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

[Apply](#)

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

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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.