

# NSL RULES AND REGULATIONS



# 2023



**NATIONAL  
SOCCER  
LEAGUE**



**LEONARD HURT  
U.S. OPEN CUP**



We are happy to welcome you to the National Soccer League family, the fastest growing league of its kind. The National Soccer League (NSL) was created for those teams that were looking for the benefits of a federated league, without the high membership, bonds and registration fees they require. We believe teams are what make up a league and for the NSL, teams are our priority.

The NSL is sanctioned by the US Soccer as an affiliate of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), the governing body for soccer in the United States, and FIFA.

Each team is owned and operated individually and is responsible for maintaining NSL minimum standards and for raising its own operating budget.

NSL teams automatically can participate in the Lamar US Open Cup, with the opportunity to compete against MLS teams among others. Also, they can participate in the USSSA National Champions tournament, among others.

Operational costs for teams in the NSL are low, even though we provide the same benefits as other big ticket national sanctioned leagues.

We take pride in furnishing a sustainable business model to team owners, who can manage to play within their regions, keeping traveling distances to a minimum. Winners of those regions then will advance to state final, until reaching the National Championship.

The NSL includes different divisions, such as First division, Premiere, Youth and Woman's division. The goal of the NSL is to provide a competitive playing league platform for players so they can showcase their skills and achieve higher levels with their game. The NSL currently competes in nationwide conferences in which we provide cash prizes to conference champions for them to keep advancing into states, regional and national finals.

The NSL offers two separate seasons within each calendar year, which provides our member teams roughly 10 to 11 months per year of high competition.

We are excited about our growth and the positive experiences of our teams in the different conferences around the United States. We look forward to your club participation this season with the NSL, as it promises many positive additions. Teams 1<sup>st</sup>.





# RULE OVERVIEW

## MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Field in great condition. No locker room required.
- Livestreaming required by pro company or phone app thru mycujoo (eleven sports). Free app.
- League patches on right sleeve of uniform jersey. Twenty (20) patches provided with registration
- Home team must bring four (4) NSL official balls for games. Six (6) NSL official balls provided with registration.
- Field fee: must be split by both teams.
- Referee fee: must be paid each game by both teams
- Team owner must pay team registration fee each season.
- Player registration is due every season. No limit on number of players on roster.
- Roster closes 3 matches prior to playoffs.
- Playoff final must be livestream with pro company and commentators. Expenses must be divided equally between both teams

### **NSL Seasons: two Seasons per year.**

- ✓ Spring Season: March/April-July
- ✓
- ✓ Fall Season: Sept-December
- Game Schedule dates/start times vary in different markets based on weather conditions.
- All registered NSL players are college eligible as the NSL allows players to play both in the NSL and College during the same calendar year. While participation in the NSL does not necessarily interfere with college eligibility, the practices of individual teams may jeopardize a player's amateur status if they are considered to be a "professional team" by the NCAA For more information on what constitutes a professional team, see NCAA Bylaw 12.02.1





## NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

### 2023 NSL PREMIER & FIRST DIVISION RULES AND REGULATIONS

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**NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE**  
**RULES AND REGULATIONS (CONTINUED)**

**PREAMBLE**

These rules are used as complement to the NSL Bylaws.

**1. LAWS OF THE GAME**

1.1 All NSL games shall be played according to the current FIFA Laws of the Game except for any exception that may be listed in these rules.

1.2 All NSL games shall be officiated by currently registered USSSA and/or FIFA Referees and Assistant Referees who shall be assigned by a registered National Referee Assignor.

1.3 Substitutions shall be allowed up to a maximum of seven (7) players per team during all NSL games: however, no re-entry shall be allowed.

1.4 No club shall be allowed to play any NSL game without nine (9) players available to start or continue the match. If that happens before or during the match, the game shall be stopped, and the Referee shall include that in his/her referee report. The club with less than the minimum number of players shall forfeit the game and three goals to the opposing team.

**2. DEFINITION OF THE SEASON**

2.1 All official league matches must be completed during the specified dates for the season toward which they are counted. All NSL clubs shall be notified about the start of the season at least three weeks in advance to enable clubs to prepare their teams in time.

2.2 Clubs shall be informed about the last date of the season at the beginning of the season to enable them to make off-season/post-season arrangements.

2.3 The NSL season is split into a Spring and Fall seasons.





### 3. ANNUAL DUES AND ENTRIES

3.1 WE DO NOT HAVE an annual membership fee, We have a team registration fee and player registration fee. They must be completed at the beginning of each season.

### 4. LEAGUE COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE

#### 4.1 Composition

4.1.1 The League shall comprise of Conferences (Regions) which shall be split into Divisions, if needed.

#### 4.2 League Structure

4.2.1 All clubs within the Conferences and/or Divisions shall play a minimum of 10 league games on a home and away basis if possible, with three (3) points being awarded for a win, one (1) for a draw, none (0) for a loss.

4.2.2 For all Conferences and/or Divisions, the club which has accumulated the highest amount of points at the end of the regular season shall be declared the Champion of that Conference and/or Division

4.2.3 If two or more clubs obtain the same number of points at the end of the regular season, their rankings shall be determined as follows in the stated order:

*4.2.3.1 Total goal difference*

*4.2.3.2 Total goals scored*

*4.2.3.3 Head-to-head points*

*4.2.3.4 Head-to-head goal difference*

*4.2.3.5 Greatest away goal in head-to-head*

*4.2.3.6 Fair-play points (YC=-1;2YC=-3; Direct RC=-4)*

*4.2.3.7 Play-off. In the event of a three-way tie to determine the Regular Season Champions, a mini-table involving games only between those three teams shall be used based on the above order in nude 4.2.3 if needed.*





#### 4.3 Playoffs

4.3.1 Each Conference determines the number of clubs qualifying for its respective playoffs.

4.3.2 The National Championship shall consist of all state or regional Playoffs Champions however, the playoff format is subject to change.

4.3.3 Registration of all new players is frozen three (4) weeks before the end of the regular season and before playoffs.

4.3.4 The NSL provides cash prizes for winners of each state so they can financially afford the travel expenses to the next round.

### 5. TROPHIES AND AWARDS

5.1 Trophies will be presented to Regular Season Champions and playoff champion from each Conference.

5.2 If a Conference has Divisions, Trophies will be presented to each Regular Season and playoff champion of each division.

5.3 Cash Prizes shall only be awarded to the conference champions, state champions and national champions (prize may vary depending on conferences sizes) amount shall be determined by the League Board and all clubs shall be informed about the amount before registering for each season.

### 6. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

6.1 Promotion and Relegation shall be in effect for some Conferences with multiple divisions.

6.2 The number of teams promoted and relegated shall be one for each division. The second finisher will face off in a match versus the team that landed one before last of the higher division.

6.3 New teams entering the UPSL must enter at the lowest available tier in their geographic region unless the following criteria are met:

a) Team comes with experience in a National League previously such as NPSL, USL, UPSL or higher.

b) Team has participated In the US Lamar Open Cup and advanced beyond the first round of qualifying

6c) Team has participated in State and or National Cup competition and advanced to the National Final





## 7. DATES, POSTPONEMENT, WITHDRAWAL, REFUSAL TO PLAY, FORFEITURE

### 7.1 Dates and Times of Matches

7.1.1 All conferences must submit a draft schedule to the league office no fewer than 30 days prior to the public release of the season schedule. The release date for the season schedule will be set by the league office and communicated with plenty of time to spare in order to meet this deadline.

7.1.2 Games are not allowed to be scheduled earlier than 4:00 PM unless the NSL approves depending on team's field availability. Games should be scheduled Saturday and Sunday, games that are needed to be played during the week must be approved by the NSL

7.1.3 All NSL games shall commence on the dates, times, venues as stated on the released fixture, except otherwise decided by the NSL based on uncontrollable circumstances.

### 7.2 Postponement of Matches

7.2.1 The NSL Board has the right to postpone any league game for cause of force majeure.

7.2.2 If a game is called off by the Referee due to lightning or any other force majeure, the following rules shall apply.

*7.2.2.1 1-45 minutes played Replayed from start.*

*7.2.2.2 46-69 minutes played Replayed second half with the same score line when the game was called off.*

*7.2.2.3 70 minutes or more = Game considered official.*

7.2.3 Where the NSL sanctions the postponement of a game for a club engaged in the Lamar Hunt US Open Cup or State Cup, the postponed match must be played within two weeks after the said cup match on a date to be determined by the NSL Board.

7.2.4 Clubs seeking approval for a fixture change must submit a written request for the fixture change to the NSL Board ten (10) days prior to the match in question accompanied by all supporting documents required. The NSL Board has the discretion to grant or deny the request.

7.2.5 Fixture change request may be accepted after the ten (10) days period if there are extenuating circumstances but should be accompanied by supporting documents required.





### 7.3 Withdrawal of Clubs from Matches

7.3.1 It shall be an offense for any NSL registered club to withdraw from the league once placed on the league fixture.

7.3.2 Any club failing to honor a game without justifiable reason except in a case of force majeure determined by the NSL shall forfeit the match 3-0, be fined \$500.00 and three (3) points deducted from its standings.

7.3.3 Any club failing to honor three (3) league games during the season shall constitute a withdrawal from the league. 734 If a club withdraws, and/or is banned or expelled from the League, the following rules shall take effect

7.3.4 If a club withdraws, and/or is banned or expelled from the League, the following rules shall take effect

*7.3.4.1 If at least half of the games on the schedule has been played, all scores from those games remain valid and remaining scheduled games shall be credited to the opponents as a 3-0 win.*

*7.3.4.2 If less than half of the games on schedule have been played, all the played and scheduled games of that club shall be canceled.*

### 7.4 Refusal to Play

7.4.1 Any club refusing to continue a game for a period of up to ten (10) minutes, walks off the field or engage in tactics to abort the game shall forfeit the match to its opponent 3-0, pay a \$500.00 fine before its next game, and have three (3) points deducted from its standings.

7.4.2 Any club engaged in tactics to avoid being fined for forfeiting a game by constantly appearing with only nine (9) players for its remaining games of the season shall be considered a Refusal to Play and shall be penalized as follows:

*7.4.2.1 First Offense No penalty*

*7.4.2.2 Second Offense \$500.00*

*7.4.2.3 Third Offense Relegated or Expelled*

### 7.5 Forfeiture of Matches

7.5.1 A club shall be punished with the forfeiture of a game when:

*7.5.1.1 The club walks off the field of play.*





7.5.1.2 *The player/club supports initiate an act responsible for the abrupt end of the game.*

7.5.1.3 *When a club plays a game which has been declared non-completive or the results has been found to be predetermined or fixed.*

7.5.1.4 *A club is fifteen (15) minutes late for a scheduled game.*

7.5.2 In respect to Section 7.5.1.1-3, no matter the scores shall be at the time of the offence or the end of the game, the offending club shall forfeit and three (3) points with three (3) goals shall be awarded to the offended club, unless the offended club is leading by more than a three-goal margin at the time of the offence, in which case the score will stand. Three (3) points will also be deducted from the standings of the offending clubs

7.5.3 Any Club which fails to honor, appear, or play a league game without prior excuse from the NSL Board shall forfeit.

7.5.4 Any Home Club forfeiting a game shall be charged \$500.00 forfeiture fine.

7.5.5 Any Visiting Club forfeiting a game shall be charged \$500.00 forfeiture fine.

7.5.6 All referee fees shall be paid by the Club forfeiting if the forfeit is called less than thirty-six (36) hours of the scheduled game.

7.5.7 All fines and fees must be paid within seven (7) days or before the Club's next match, 8 whichever comes first

## 8. TEAM ARRIVAL, MATCH DURATION TEAM SHEETS

### 8.1 Arrival at the Venue

8.1.1 All Clubs are requested to report to the match officials at least one (1) hour prior to kick-off for pre-match formalities. Breakdown of vehicles and traffic shall not be considered as force majeure.

8.1.2 Inspection of players will commence thirty (30) minutes before kick-off

8.1.3 Club which reports fifteen (15) minutes after kick-off shall forfeit said match in question 814 On the day of its game, a Club shall be allowed into the stadium and the perimeter of the field with a maximum delegation of twenty-three (25) persons which include eighteen (20) players and five (5) technical officials





## 8.2 Duration of Matches

8.2.1 Each game shall last for ninety (90) minutes with two periods of forty-five (45) minutes each plus referee's optional time. Interval between periods shall not be more than 15 minutes

8.2.2 During playoffs the game shall be decided via penalty kicks.

## 8.3 Game day Rosters

8.3.1 Clubs will submit duly completed game roster to the referee at least forty-five (45) minutes prior to the start of the match.

8.3.2 The Game Rosters will record the following information full names of the eleven starters substitutes and team Officials. Game day roster must also include the players jersey numbers and each players photo 833 No Player may be added to the Game Roster that was not listed on the team roster that submitted

## 9. REFEREES, REFEREE FEES, REFEREE ASSIGNORS

9.1 The NSL National Referee Assignor shall assign ALL Match Officials for Conference and/or Division matches. The NSL will be responsible for all assignor fees.

9.2 All Match Officials (Referees, Assistant Referees, and Fourth Officials) shall be USSSA or FIFA-certified Referees

9.3 The Referee shall have the authority to call decisions pertaining to the game. He/she shall follow FIFA Laws of the Game except where there have been modifications made by the NSL in these Rules and Regulations

9.4 The Referee shall inspect the playing pitch before the commencement of the match. If he/she decides that a field is unsafe for the players, the game shall be abandoned and both teams notified.

9.5 The Match Officials fees shall be set between the National Referee Assignor and the NSL Board yearly and communicated with the clubs during the registration period of the season. Both Clubs on Game Day will split the fees equally before the start of the game. Referee's fees beginning the 2023 Fall Season shall be \$150 per team for four referees depending on the conference.

9.6 The Match Officials shall be paid when the following happens

9.6.1 The game was abandoned during play due to other reasons.





9.6.2 After they arrived at the stadium, but the game has been canceled without prior notification or either team forfeits.

9.6.3 The game was abandoned during play due to other reasons.

9.6.4 Fifty percent (50%) of the fees shall be paid if there's a rain-out or other weather-related issues.

9.7 The NSL Board shall provide the NSL National Referee Assignor these Rules and Regulations to provide to all Match Officials of NSL games.

9.8 A Club may request that a particular referee shouldn't be assigned to its games, however, the NSL National Referee Assignor shall make the final decision as to assigning referees to all games.

## 10. PLAYERS REGISTRATION, ELIGIBILITY, TRANSFERS

10.1 All players must be properly registered and have a valid NSL Player registration to be eligible to participate in the league.

10.2 There's no limit on the number of players a Club can register. Player Registration costs covers USSSA's Secondary player's insurance.

10.3 A Player may be registered with a maximum of two (2) clubs during one season, provided he/she is properly transferred and approved by the League.

10.4 A Player shall not be allowed to register with another club within the same Conference/Division without being properly released from his/her former team.

10.5 NSL Clubs are not allowed to approach a player who is registered with another NSL club without his/her club's consent. If a player contacts a club from another NSL club, kindly inform said player to speak with his/her current club president or director for a release or transfer.

10.6 For any transfer to be official, the new club must pay twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) to the former club as well as any applicable USSSA transfer fees. The player's former club president must notify the League of the transfer in writing via email to your conference manager. Once a player is transferred, they must wait three weeks before they are able to play with the new team.





## 11. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

### Misconduct

11.9 Any club official who shall insult/abuse or castigate a match official before, during and/or after the game shall be suspended for six (6) months for the first offence, one (1) year for the second offence, two (2) years for the third offence and banned from all NSL activities for any further offence.

11.10 Any player or club official who shall assault a match official before, during and/or after the match shall face the following:

11.10.1 In case of a player(s), he/she shall be suspended for one (1) year for the first offense and eighteen (18) months for the second offense. Said player shall pay all medical expenses incurred by the match official.

11.10.2 In case of a club official, he/she shall be suspended for eighteen (18) months and pay all expenses incurred by the match official for the first offense, two (2) years for the second offence, three (3) years for the third offence and banned from all NSL football activities for any further occurrence.

11.11 Misconduct towards a match official away from the field of play where that misconduct can be related or traced to a game, shall be dealt with as if it has been committed on the field of play.

11.12 The NSL shall hold clubs responsible for the misconduct of their players, fans, supporters, sympathizers and followers, etc. before, during and after a game.

11.13 The NSL shall uphold disciplinary action on any player(s) and club official(s) suspended by USSSA, USSF, and/or FIFA.

### Qualifying Games for Serving Suspension

11.14 Only games actually played count towards execution of a suspension. If a game is abandoned, canceled or forfeited, a suspension is only considered to have been served if the club to which the suspended player belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeit of the game.

## 12. PROTESTS, APPEALS, DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

### PROTESTS

12.1 Protests emanating from a game must be registered on the referee's game report, before, during and immediately after the game in question and follow by a formal letter within thirty-six (36) hours to the NSL Board (excluding the day of the game itself, Saturdays, Sundays or public holidays).





12.2 The formal protest must be accompanied with by a \$100.00 filing fee which is refundable if the club wins the protest.

12.2 The formal protest must set out the reasons for the protest including the facts on which it is based and must refer to the Article or Rule allegedly contravened by the alleged offender.

12.3 The onus is on the protesting Club to ensure that the provisions of this Rule are complied with failing which the protest will not be entertained by the NSL

12.4 A protest will not be entertained if it relates to a decision of the referee or assistant referee made during the match as these decisions are final Appeals

12.5 A Club wishing to appeal any player or club official suspension must submit the Appeal to the NSL Board along with a \$100.00 filing fee which is refundable if the club wins the appeal.

#### **DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

12.6 The NSL Disciplinary Committee shall deal with all cases of alleged misconduct, protests and appeals.

12.7 The decision of the Disciplinary Committee shall be based from the written reports of the Referees and other evidence provided by the parties concerned.

### **13. MINIMUM STANDARDS**

#### **CONTACT PERSON**

13.1 Club must provide the League the name, mailing address, email address, and phone number of at least one person to serve at its Point of Contact.

#### **LEAGUE PAYMENT**

13.2 Clubs are required to pay all league registration fees and fines, if any. Only Clubs with zero (\$0) balance shall be allowed to compete in Playoffs.

#### **VENUE OF MATCHES**

13.3 Only League-approved venue shall be used to play official NSL games.

13.4 The NSL reserves the right to deny any club from using a specific stadium if the League deems it unfit to host NSL games.





13.5 Club requesting to use a home venue must meet the following criteria:

13.5.1 Home stadium must seat at least 500 fans and must have controlled access for fans and ticketing.

13.5.2 Home stadium must have Press Box available (optional) or a PA System to play the U.S. National Anthem. An American Flag shall be made available. I phone, speakers, boombox are also approved. Options for Anthem sound.

13.5.3 Home stadium must have locker rooms for both home and away teams. If there are no locker rooms, home club must provide separate Pop-Up Tents to be used separately by both teams and the referees.

13.5.4 Home stadium must have working scoreboard, if available. Portable score board is also acceptable.

13.5.5 Home stadium must have a playing surface of 65 yds x 110 yds, goal nets, and four corner flags. No exceptions as the Home Club shall forfeit the match.

13.5.6 Home stadium must have (two) benches per team to accommodate both clubs.

13.5.7 Home team must provide water for the visiting club

13.5.8 All home teams MUST STREAM ALL MATCHES to [www.mysujoo.ty](http://www.mysujoo.ty) or any other digital platform. If unable to stream, film and upload to a digital platform. Any team who does not comply will be charge \$50 per gam Clubs are also require to mandatory livestream 2 matches with a professional company and use commentators.

## SCHEDULE

13.6 Clubs are required to honor all games already scheduled. All clubs are required to travel to participate in the NSL Travel will be determined by the schedule. Travel is required to compete at a higher level of competition and to increase the level of the league and the players.

## ROSTER

13.7 Roster shall be frozen three (4) weeks before playoffs.

13.8 All clubs must carry a roster of no less than twenty (18) registered players throughout the season.





13.9 All clubs must have a game day roster of no less than nine (18) players. NSL requires a full game day roster of 18 players, but a game can be played with as little as nine (9) players or the game shall be called a forfeit.

13.10 Home Club is required to send travel information sheets no later than Tuesday at 5 PM before the upcoming weekend game. Home Club shall be fined \$25.00 each day until the Home Team Travel Sheet is submitted to the Visiting Club and the League Director.

## **REGISTERED COLORS AND NUMBERING SYSTEM**

13.11 Each club shall register a Home and Away colors distinct from each other on forms to be supplied by the NSL

13.12 In the event of a clash of colors the visiting club's jerseys and the home club's jersey, the visiting club shall change to its alternative colors. Every away club shall carry in addition to its away colors, its registered home colors. Where also the clash of colors affects the goalkeeper colors, the goalkeeper shall change to an alternative color.

13.13 All jerseys and shorts must be numbered to 99 with the name or logo of the Club printed on the jersey and the logo of the NSL on the right sleeves.

13.14 It is the home club's responsibility to report the game score within forty-five (45) minutes after the home match. Score reports can be updated to our app partners non pro soccer or to your conference manager.

## **14. EXCEPTIONS TO MINIMUM STANDARDS**

If a club is unable to meet some of the minimum standards, a waiver must be submitted in writing to the NSL Board as soon as possible. If the waiver is approved, the NSL Board will inform the visiting club immediately. Consideration shall be given to new clubs. Teams are to use the Minimum Standard exception forms.

## **15. ADHERENCE**

The NSL Board will review all clubs' performance regarding how they have supported the League in the previous year, and if they have abided by the rules of the League and completing all obligations (i.e. fielding competitive teams for all games, maintaining discipline over players, club officials and supporters, and Including financial commitments). Based on this, the NSL Board will make its recommendations for a club acceptance into the League for the next season

## **16. CLUBS NOT IN GOOD STANDING**





16.1 Any club that is not in good standings with the league at any time, gives up all rights to the club and its membership to the NSL; therefore, the club ownership will give up all rights to the club and it shall be under the direction of the League. The club's owner agrees to turn over all contact information of the club's rosters. The League reserves all rights to the club to do with as it sees fit.

16.2 Any club suspended from the league will have its roster released to allow players to pursue other clubs unless the suspension involves the players and they could be suspended as well.

## 17. REVIEW, VARIATION, AMENDMENT AND/OR CHANGE

17.1 These NSL Rules and Regulations may be reviewed, varied, amended and/or changed by the NSL Board from time to time either to change existing Rules and Regulations, or to add new ones or to incorporate changes ordered by FIFA, USSF and/or USSSA

17.2 Any changes, variations and/or amendments made shall take immediate effect notwithstanding that they have not yet been incorporated into these NSL Rules and Regulations provided that the change, variation and/or amendment shall have been adequately communicated to all NSL clubs

### APPENDIX L: GAME DAY OPERATIONS

1. All teams must arrive one hour prior to kickoff. (1 1/2 hours prior to kickoff is suggested)
2. The home team must send travel sheet FOUR (4) DAYS PRIOR TO MATCH.
3. Visitors must present a copy of their NSL official game roster upon arrival. 4. Both teams must have their game rosters signed by each player 45 minutes before each game.
5. Teams must have a printed copy of it's NSL team roster available if challenged by either the officials or for verification of players not on the NSL roster. (Players not on official NSL game roster may not play). If a player appears on the game roster with registration ID numbers but no photo, he/she may play if he/she has a valid Picture ID such as Driver's License, State, etc.)
6. Game-day rosters are limited to 20 players but only 18 can play - 11 starters and 7 subs.
7. Check-in: All players are to be checked in by the officials before each game. Starters must be checked in with NSL Game Day Rosters. Each player that is to play must sign the game roster.
8. Substitutions must have an ID (sub pass) upon entering the field. Player/Coach must present substitution pass to sideline official.





9. Teams starters are to enter the field from the center sidelines with subs on the bench and proceed to midfield lined up with officials at the center circle facing the crowd. Captains complete the coin toss.

10. Two pop up banners must be displayed by teams around the game field.

11. The home team must provide 4 NSL Match balls and a system of retrieving loose balls so not to cause a stoppage in game-play. Ball boys (must have a neutral color vest). If the home team does not have the 4 NSL Match balls, the visiting team will provide the difference. If any of the visiting team balls are lost, the home team will reimburse the visiting team. Any team not using Official NSL approved Match Balls, will be fined \$100 per game.

12. The home team must provide water for visitors and officials.

13. All NSL teams must display an official NSL sleeve patch (right or left) on all game kits, home and away. Missing patches will result in a \$100 fine per occurrence. Violations of the above may result into fines up to \$300.00 each and/or loss of points.

#### Substitution Rule:

1. Each team is allowed a total of seven (7) substitutions per game.

2. Any player substituted may not re-enter.

3. If a player re-enters after being substituted, he could be considered an illegal player and the game could result in a forfeit.

## APPENDIX II: CODE OF CONDUCT

The following are principles of ethical behavior for the National Soccer League (NSL) internal and individual team media to be applied to Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Mycujoo, YouTube, Periscope or any other print, on-air or online platform, based on the Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Code of conduct: Applies to all source of media, Social media, written media (publications) and visual Violation will be dealt with swiftly and harshly.

### PROMOTE & REPORT THE TRUTH

- Do not lie and do not make assumptions.
- Identify and cite sources.
- Avoid profanity, the morose and/or inflaming emotions over controversial issues.
- Label opinions and personal interpretations as such.
- Label advertising clearly.





#### MINIMIZE HARM

- Be transparent and with the public.
- Act honorably and ethically in dealing with sources, the public and colleagues.
- Do not expose the private life of any NSL-affiliated personnel without permission.
- Do not abuse referees and respect the rights of all persons involved.
- Observe common standards of decency, and treat people with dignity, respect and compassion.

#### BE ACCOUNTABLE

- Avoid conflicts of interest by refusing to accept outside gifts, favors or other benefits.
- Avoid being influenced by advertisers on the content of your reporting.
- Do not give favorable rates to one advertiser and not others.
- Do not seek autographs or other memorabilia from NSL personnel
- Be accountable to your sources and the public for the fairness and accuracy of your work
- Be accountable for how you behave and collect news.
- Obey the state and local laws and the standards of ethical behavior

In any social media format or broadcasting media and or any written matter, one shall avoid any kind of inflammatory statements (i.e. speech or writing arousing or intended to arouse angry or violent feelings).

"Inflammatory slogans"

Synonyms: provocative, incendiary, inflaming, inciting, agitating, stirring, rousing, provoking, fomenting, rabble-rousing, seditious, subversive, mutinous; fiery, passionate; controversial, contentious. The NSL takes all rules of conduct seriously and will respond to any such actions with swift and harsh penalties for any such behavior. Penalties will result in fines not less than \$500.00 and/or expulsion from the league.

Anyone or Club violating the above Code of Conduct will be fined not less than \$50.00 and suspended for two (2) games. Depending on the degree of violation, the person or club could be expelled from the league.

#### APPENDIX: FAILURE TO COMPLY

Through the Disciplinary framework players, club officials & clubs are required to make payments by specific dates, as outlined in these Rules and Regulations. Failure to make the required payment will result in a suspension being imposed on the player, club official or club.

#### APPENDIX IV: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At least one representative from each club is required to attend the NSL Annual General Meeting/Summit or a \$250.00 fine will be issued.

Clubs unable to attend are required to notify the League in writing prior to the AGM or Summit





## 2023 NSL Expansion Application Process

Thanks for your interest in the NSL and a 2023 NSL Expansion Team. The NSL is a privately-owned company based in Miami, Florida.

### Expansion Process & Timeline.

Step 1: Review & submit application, application will be emailed to your email of choice, to initiate the application process.

Step 2: The League Board reviews the application, strategic plan & and financials. Typically, there is a conference call scheduled with the League Board and the conference manager of your region to exchange questions and request additional information. Once endorsed, the application moves to the Headquarters Office with the League Board's recommendation.

Step 3: League board and Conference Manager evaluates the application and the strategic plan; may request additional information or clarification, then the League members take a formal Decision.

Step 4: Once approved, the organization will be notified and will receive payment invoice from NSL. Membership activates once fees are paid, and then the organization is an official member in the NSL. Payment in full is due upon receiving the invoice.

Step 5: The NSL Media Director will contact the team and coordinate the press announcement and web story. The team is asked not to communicate acceptance on social media, team webpages etc., until given clearance by the NSL Media Director. The NSL announcement is the lead communication for all new Expansion Teams.

