



NATIONAL 1 MIDWEST DISTRICT 2 (OHIO RIVER LEAGUE) 2026-2027

Game Minimum Standards, Requirements & Basic N1 MW D2 Competition Rules

National 1 League (N1) is a 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.

Minimum Standards: *The following are the minimum standards expected for all N1 MW D2 games, and all clubs are required to provide a game-day environment compliant with these standards.*

- **Player Registration:** All players on a National 1 League roster must be registered and carded with US Club Soccer through the league's designation sanctioning process in GotSport.
- **Branding:** Only approved branding, compliant with the ECNL Brand Standards, may be used in marketing and promoting the N1. Please visit the N1 Resource Page at <https://national1league.org/resources/> for Brand Guidelines.
- **Scheduling:** Participating teams must prioritize the N1 schedule over other competitions in which they participate.
- **Top Class Playing Field:** The playing field must be among the best fields in the geographic area, and must allow the ball to run smoothly on the surface. Turf or natural grass is acceptable.
- **Corner Flags and Lining:** The playing field must have 4 corner flags and be appropriately lined per FIFA requirements.
- **Team Area and Benches:** Team benches must be provided for both teams. Tents are optional.
- **Game Balls:** Two (2) Size 5 (11v11) Quality Game Balls should be provided by the home team for every N1 Match.
- **Restrooms/Port-A-Let:** Every Field Complex must have clean restrooms or port-a-lets available to players and spectators.
- **Referee Procedures:** Every Club is expected to be diligent in obtaining the best referees in the area through their local referee assignors. The home club is responsible for making sure referees are assigned for all home games.



- **General Communication Protocol:** The host club must provide the visiting club with the following facility information a minimum of three (3) days prior to competition:
 - Address of the facility
 - Field Numbers and any other unique game-day protocol for the facility
 - Parking Restrictions and fees if any
 - Restroom information
 - Type of playing surface (Grass or Turf)
 - Any expected weather related issues
 - Expected uniform colors to be worn
 - Main contact for questions or changes
- **Certified Athletic Trainer:** A Certified Athletic Trainer or other similarly qualified individual is NOT required for N1 games but the home team is strongly encouraged to provide.
- **Scheduling and Player Restrictions:** N1 teams can play in no more than one (1) N1 match per day. N1 players may only play in one (1) match per day. A Goalkeeper may be listed on up to two (2) National 1 game cards per day from the same club, with the written consent of 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.
- **Uniform Colors:**
 - 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.
 - The team listed first on the schedule (i.e. home) is to wear their light kit and the team listed second on the schedule (i.e. away) is to wear their dark kit.
 - 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 causing the conflict should change to their other kit.
 - All Players must have uniforms with individual numbers on the shirt that corresponds 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.
 - The goalkeeper's shirt must be easily distinguishable from all other players and referees.



- **N1 Midwest District 2 Competition Rules**

- All N1 matches will be played in accordance with the FIFA/US Soccer Laws of the game except as modified by these competition rules.
- **Game Length:** National 1 Matches shall be played with the following game length:
 - **U13-U14:** 2 x 35 minutes with 10-minute half-time
 - **U15-U16:** 2 x 40 minutes with 10-minute half-time
 - **U17-U19:** 2 x 45 minutes with 10-minute half-time
- **Game Day Roster:** A maximum of eighteen (18) players may be rostered on a game day roster.
- **Club Pass:** 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- **Substitutions:** Substitutions may be made at any stoppage with the approval of the referee.
 - For 2026-2027, All U13-U19 National 1 Midwest District 2 substitutions are unlimited.
 - Coaches may NOT agree to changes to the substitution policy.