



COMING 2026-2027 SEASON

VISION

Beginning with its inaugural season in 2026-27, the **National 1 League** brings together two established league platforms — US Club Soccer's National Premier Leagues and US Youth Soccer's National League — in an extraordinary display of collaboration.

In alignment with the U.S. Soccer Pathways Strategy, **National 1** represents the top team-based competition structure in US Club Soccer and US Youth Soccer.

This landmark partnership takes the first step in a broader effort to strengthen soccer competition platforms among national organizations and local/state leagues.





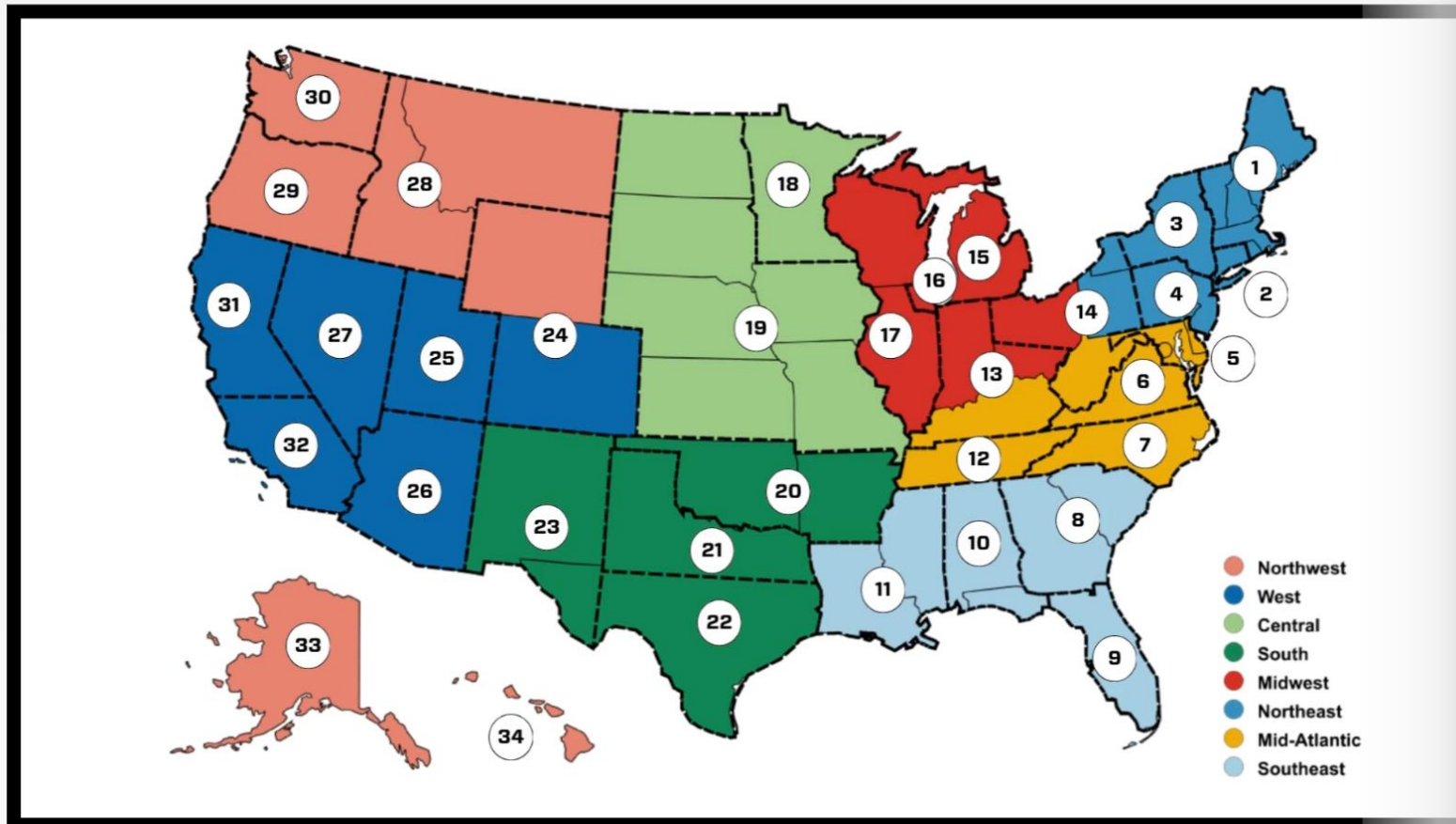
WHO

The collaborative effort to launch National 1 brings together up to 10,000 teams and approximately 150,000 players.

The league will enable teams from outlying areas of the country, currently not part of either structure, an opportunity to be part of something bigger with a genuine pathway. All teams will apply to be part of NewComp in year one.

This provides more clarity to parents and players about their soccer environment, and it will help provide a better youth soccer experience by reducing confusion, reducing cost, reducing travel and helping to stop the fracturing in the youth soccer landscape. The intent of the league is to be inclusive of all teams that meet the standards.

STRUCTURE



National 1 will consist of **eight conferences**: Northwest, West, Central, South, Midwest, Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Southeast.

Within each conference, there will be multiple **districts**.

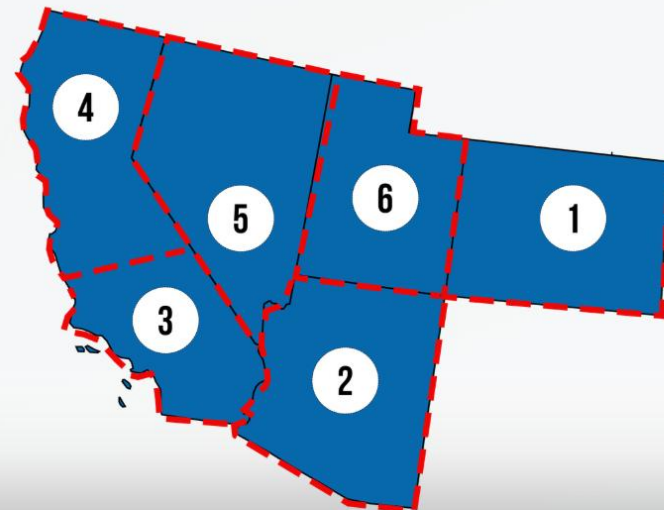
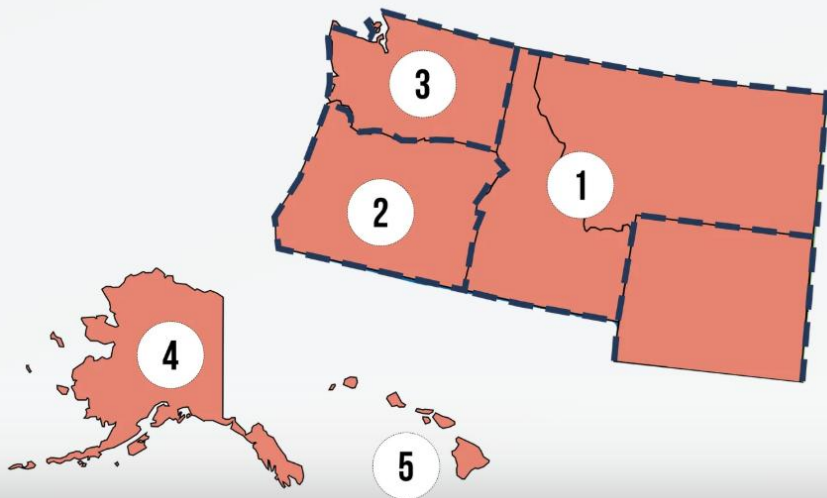
Each district was generated using population data, driving distances and concentration of teams, with the primary goal of creating meaningful matches with reasonable travel.

Please note that numbers on the map do not represent actual district numbers

NORTHWEST & WEST



DISTRICTS



Please note: District boundaries are flexible. Teams near borders may choose districts.

1 Idaho & Montana
Operator: TBD

4 Alaska
Operator: Alaska Youth Soccer Assn.

2 Oregon
Operator: Oregon Youth Soccer Assn.

5 Hawaii
Operator: MISO Junior League

3 Washington
Operator: Washington Premier League & Regional Club League

1 Colorado & Wyoming
Operator: Colorado Soccer Association

4 Northern California
Operator: NorCal Premier Soccer

2 Arizona
Operator: Arizona Youth Soccer

5 Nevada - Las Vegas
Operator: Las Vegas Club Soccer League

3 Southern California
Operator: Arizona Youth Soccer & SOCAL Soccer League

6 Utah
Operator: Utah Youth Soccer Assn.



WHY

National 1 is a vital step in the U.S. Soccer Pathways Strategy — creating clearer progression, rewarding on-field performance, and maintaining strong connections and inclusivity to local and state-based competitions.

By better aligning levels of play and competition standards, the new league pathway is designed to reduce unnecessary travel and cost while improving access to meaningful, high-quality matches.

The result is a simpler, more efficient structure that improves the participant experience.



HOW

Registration for National 1 will take place in GotSport and will be sanctioned by US Club Soccer, with all participants receiving passes displaying their unique USSF ID.

A National 1 management team, led by commissioner Marc Frankland, will manage the administration of the league and provide oversight of operators and districts.

Interested teams should contact the league operator of their area to inquire about National 1 participation for the 2026-27 season.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand touching a soccer ball. The ball is white with black, red, and yellow-green patterns. The word 'NITREHE' is visible on the ball. The person is wearing blue shorts and orange socks.

STANDARDS

Operator standards will ensure administrative, technical and competitive aspects of National 1 are best-in-class.

- Ensure players are put in the correct playing environment
 - Competitive level
 - Safe playing environment - match day standards
- Unified set of national playing rules
- Referee and assigning standards
- Oversight/implementation of pathway strategy at entry levels
- Coaching standards
- Full-time staff providing governance and ongoing audit of operators, to ensure compliance, safeguarding and discipline



POSTSEASON

National 1's inaugural season will be capped in summer 2027 at the **ECNL Conference League Playoffs**.

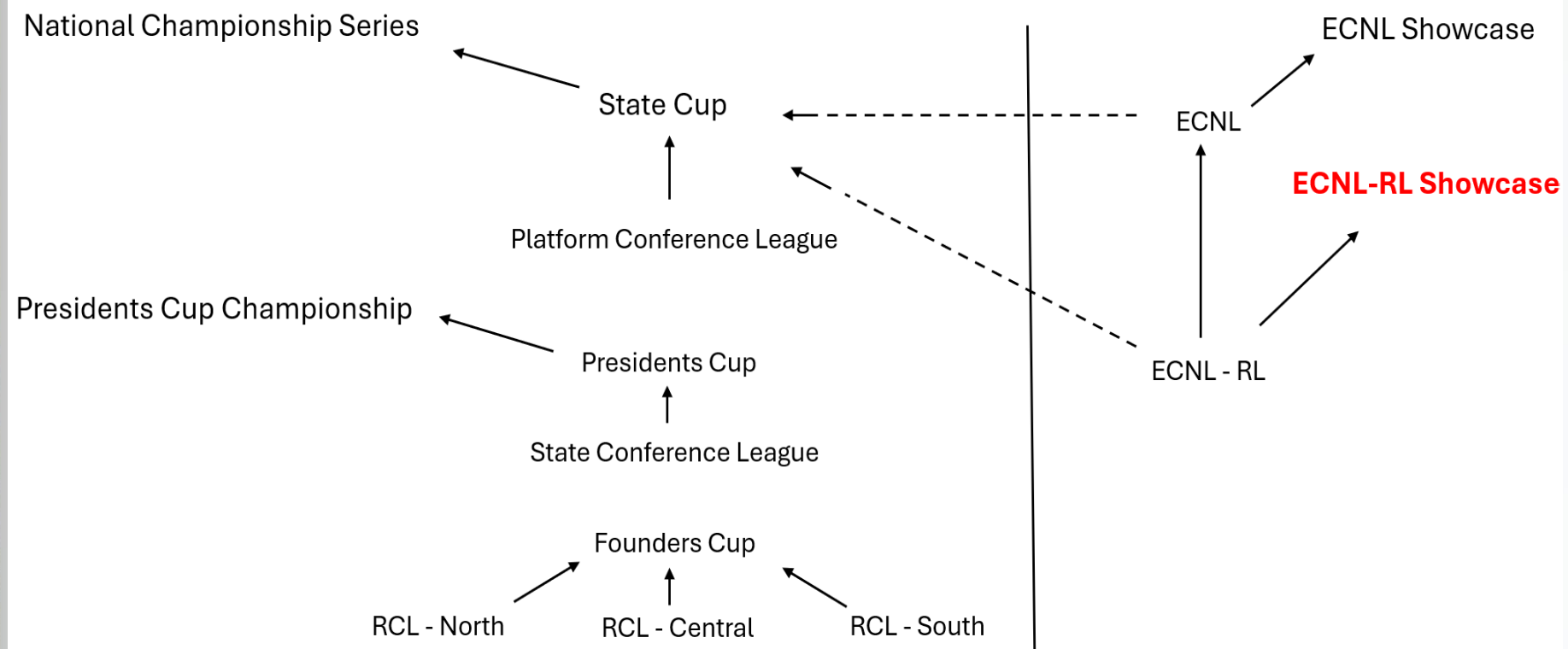
The Elite Clubs National League (ECNL), which operates US Club Soccer's top club-based competitions, is integrated in the postseason structure to offer best-in-class college scouting opportunities and event experience for families. The postseason events will be managed and operated by ECNL.

More information about the playoff structure will be announced throughout the spring.

The ECNL Conference League Playoffs will combine qualifying teams from the ECNL Regional League and National 1. The combined new competition will be the top team-based league playoff competition in the country.

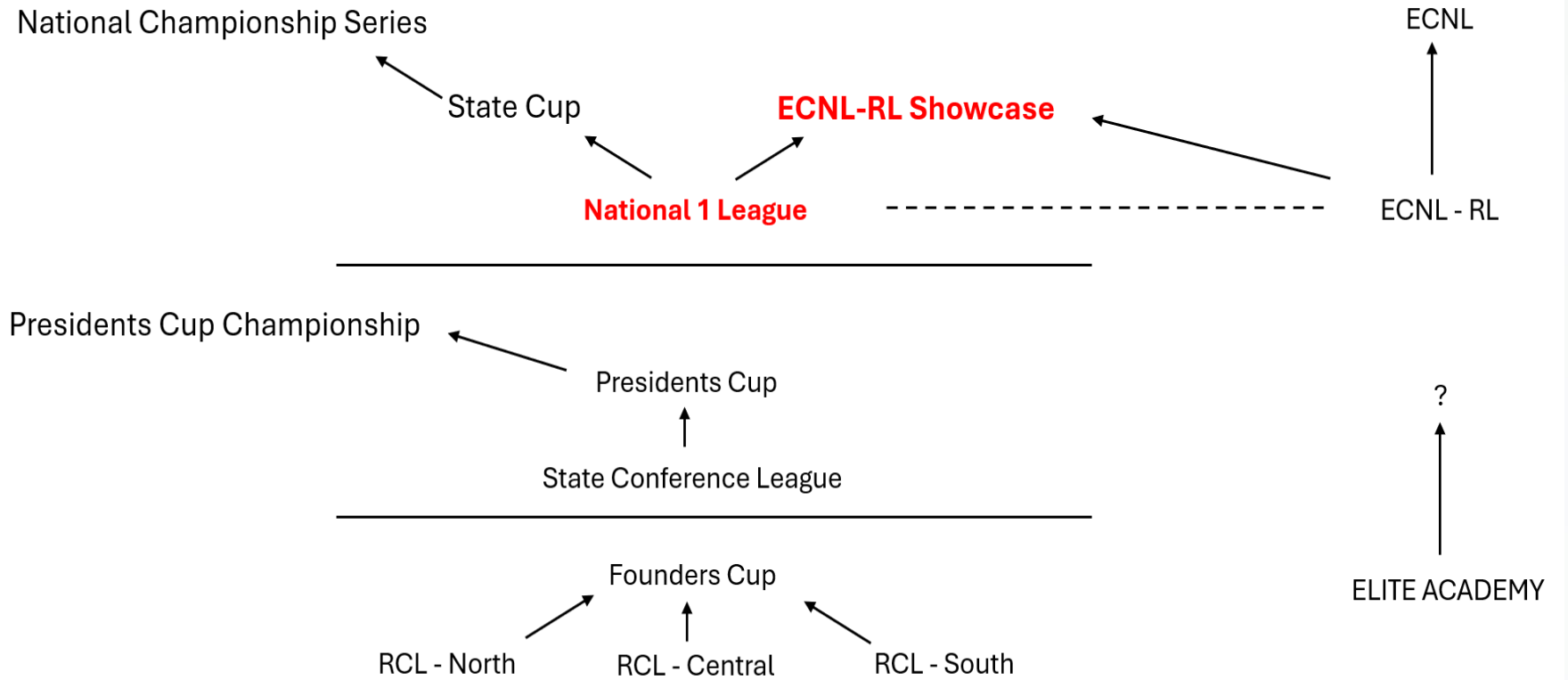


CURRENT LANDSCAPE





NEW LANDSCAPE





OREGON STANDARDS

- 15 player minimum rosters, 30 player max
- Home team to provide canopies for both teams and the officials, turf fields, corner flags and correct goals
- Home team must record the game, footage to be uploaded into League Exchange for all teams to view
- 3 officials at every game, including an additional mentor
- HC will have a minimum of a D-license & be present at game
- ACs will have minimum of GR year 1



OREGON STANDARDS

- U13 & U14 teams: 20 game season (Sept – April)
- U15 – U19: 12 game season (Jan – April)
- Single game weekend where possible. Geography considered.
- Games kick off between 9am & 3pm Saturdays
- You will have your entire year schedule in late August for planning purposes



N1 REGISTRATION

- Deadline for registration is June 15, 2026
- National 1 will be registered through US Club soccer
- National 1 will be administered through GOTSport
- Any player appearing on an ECNL roster is not eligible for National 1
- A maximum of 4 ECNL/RL players are allowed to be on a National 1 roster
- MLS/GA/EA and other non-ECNL league players are eligible for participation



N1 POST-SEASON

- Teams that win their division in National 1 are eligible to participate in the ECNL Conference League Playoffs as district league qualifiers
- Finishing last in the division may result in relegation from National 1
- National 1 teams may play State Cup or Presidents Cup. They may not play Founders Cup.



N1 COST

- U13 & U14 for a 20-game season will be \$2250**
- U15 - U19 for a 12-game season will be \$1550**
- **A \$380 discount will be given for any team that registers their players with USYS in addition to National 1



N1 WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All scheduling (incl. reschedules, coaching conflicts, travel consideration, field availability)
- All referee assignment costs and referee game day costs for four officials
- League Exchange (video uploading system)
- N1 teams have access to State or Presidents Cup
- Insurance, SafeSport
- Recruiting and coach movement support
- Risk management
- Appeals
- Operational support & experience
- Game day hotlines
- Governance for polices and guidelines
- Neutral governing body for disciplinary issues, and miscellaneous



QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS?

...and I'll start with the obvious one...