

DETAILS PERTAINING TO NATIONAL 1 LEAGUE (formerly NewComp)



National 1 League (“N1”) is a collaboration between US Youth Soccer (“USYS”) and US Club Soccer, designed to bring together the elite teams from both organizations.¹ N1 is the top TEAM-based competition in USYS and US Club Soccer, elevating teams from across the country into a unified national competition platform in 34 districts through the United States. Beginning with its inaugural season in 2026-27, N1 brings together two established league platforms – the National League from USYS and the National Premier League from US Club – officially sunsetting those respective leagues at the close of the current season. The objective of this collaboration is to create an even higher level of play for the elite teams in GA and SC, while minimizing the amount of required travel. The Southeastern Clubs Champions League (“SCCL”) has been selected as the league operator for the Southeast District 1 Conference for N1, which includes Georgia and South Carolina.

What teams should be considering N1 for their league of choice for 26-27? This league is intended for the elite of the elite teams. It is not for everyone. Teams that participated with success in National League this past year should consider N1 as a viable option. Teams that participated in National League but without much success may want to consider N1, but they should be aware that the level of competition will be higher next year. Teams with a high rate of success in the Georgia Premier League that would have been promoted to National League following this season may also want to consider N1 as a possibility; however, again, please be aware that the level of skill will be higher than previous versions of National League.

Is N1 a TEAM or CLUB based league? N1 is a TEAM based league.

Can a CLUB have a single team participate in N1 with all remaining club teams participating in other leagues such as GPL, Champions, RIAS, etc. through GSSA? Yes, absolutely! If a club has one team that wishes to participate in N1, that one team can apply for entry into the league and the remainder of that club’s teams can participate in their usual GSSA leagues.

How does the application process work for acceptance into the N1 league? Individual TEAMS can complete the application ([N1 I Southeast District #1 \(SCCL\) I 2026-27 - GotSport](#)) for acceptance into N1. The application deadline is May 10 and acceptances will commence on May 15, though acceptances will be on a rolling basis. The fee for participation is significantly higher than prior registration fees for National League, as National League fees were \$1,100 and N1 team registration fees are \$1,800. This fee does include a showcase event or playoffs at the end of the season, but it does not include participation in postseason events for US Club/ECNL or USYS/GSSA/State Cup. Note that payment is NOT required at the time of application, though a

¹ Georgia State Soccer Association (“GSSA”) is a member of USYS.

credit card is required to be on file, but teams are not charged until selected for participation and acceptance of that invitation following their application submission. If a club has a team that applies to N1, is successful in their application and is invited to participate in N1, and ultimately accepts that invitation, the club will need to create a club member application with US Club SOLELY to create access for their team to be entered within the GotSport registration platform that is being utilized by N1 for league operations. The club is not registering their membership with US Club but is only creating an administrative element within the US Club registration platform so that their N1 teams are able to be entered into that software for scheduling purposes.

What age groups does N1 pertain to? N1 will offer scheduling from 13U-19U for both boys and girls. 13U-14U teams will participate in both the fall and spring, while 15U-19U will only participate in the fall, due to high school soccer seasons. Teams are admitted to N1 on an annual basis so 13/14U teams are required to play both fall and spring seasons. Spring season will consist of the same teams that participated in the fall, as N1 will not be adding teams midway through the fiscal year. Please be reminded that US Soccer has modified the age group matrix so N1 will utilize the August 1 through July 31 “school year” calendar for determination of age placement – NOT the “calendar year” model.

How many teams will participate in each bracket in N1? This will depend on the number of qualified teams that apply for each particular age/gender. N1 will only have ONE tier of teams in the Southeast District #1, but the number of teams in a bracket will vary by age and gender, depending on how many teams are qualified for participation based upon their team resumes submitted through the application process. So, if an age/gender, has 12 teams that are of the highest quality for participation, that age group would have 12 teams participating, but if another age/gender only had 8 teams of sufficient quality, they would have only 8 teams participating in the league. In other words, there is no set number of required teams for any bracket, as the focus is to create competitively balanced brackets. Depending on geographical breakdowns of teams in a particular age/gender, where it makes sense, there could be different divisions within a bracket that are based, for example, on East/West or North/South to help minimize travel.

What are the dates for the N1 season? For the 26-27 seasonal year, N1 is looking at play dates from September 12 – November 15 and then March 6 through May 9, with a blackout date of March 28 (Easter). Teams will have the ability to blackout at least 3 other dates (maybe 4) once accepted into the league.

How many games will each team receive in N1 each season? This will ultimately depend on the number of teams within a given bracket, but ideally, teams will have 10 games during each season. However, it is possible that some brackets could have as many as 14-15 games during a single fall or spring season. N1 games may be scheduled on Saturdays, Sundays, or both days, again depending on the number of games within a particular bracket.

Can a team participate in N1 and another league (ex. GPL)? Yes, absolutely. However, there are commitments to participation in N1 and if teams fail to adhere to those commitments and do not fulfill their game obligations, monetary fines (among other possible punishments) could be issued. As such, teams should be cognizant of their ability to commit to more than one league.

Can a team that participates in N1 participate in GSSA State Cup? Yes, absolutely. Teams interested in doing so should communicate that desire to both N1 and GSSA to ensure that the two organizations are working together regarding scheduling to allow for such participation as much as possible. N1 teams interested in State Cup are recommended to utilize their blackout dates in N1 to avoid potential conflicts with State Cup.

Can a team that participates in N1, participate in GSSA State Cup, and if they qualify, advance to USYS Regional/National competitions? Yes, absolutely.

Does participation in N1 provide a pathway to USYS Regional/National competitions? No. In order to qualify for USYS Regional/National competitions such as USYS National Championships or Presidents Cup, teams must participate in the GSSA State Cup/Presidents Cup.

Is participation in N1 the same as participation in SCCL? No. This has created some confusion. N1 is a USYS/US Club collaborative league that is being operated by the same entity (SCCL), but participation in N1 is NOT the same as a club/team that elects to join SCCL, as we have known in the past. SCCL itself does still exist, much like GPL and Champions League still exist as league options with GSSA, but clubs should be careful about misunderstanding that a club that “joins” SCCL may only be referring to a team or two that has been selected for N1, with SCCL as that league’s operator. It is not an indication that the club has opted to leave GSSA. In short, individuals should be aware of the distinction between SCCL as a league versus N1 that has SCCL as its league operator.

So what are my league options for 2026-2027? For those elite of the elite teams, N1 is a viable option for consideration. Georgia Premier League will continue to operate. The Champions League with GSSA will continue to operate. GSSA will also have RIAS available for recreational level teams. GSSA is also exploring other potential relationships with various leagues to provide assistance to our club teams that are searching for the best fit for the competitive level of each of their teams, while trying to minimize travel as much as possible. Clubs may elect to place teams within any of these leagues, as they deem appropriate for a team’s competitive level. Thus, placing one team in N1 does not mean that all of that club’s teams must also compete in N1, as N1 is a TEAM based event – not CLUB based. Note that National League is NOT an option, as it is now folded into the N1 collaboration.




In short, TEAMS that are of the elite level may want to consider N1 for league play in 2026-2027; however, the level of competition will be higher and may not be appropriate for all teams, including those that did not fare well in National League this past year. And, teams that performed well in GPL this past year that would have been otherwise promoted to NL next year will likely face a higher level of competition in N1 than they would have faced in NL. As such, N1 is not for everyone so teams should carefully weigh their options with respect to whether N1 is the correct competitive fit for the team.

For those that are interested in learning more about N1, there is an informational Zoom call on Tuesday, April 28 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss things in greater detail. Information for that call is set forth below:

On behalf of the Southeastern Clubs Champions League (SCCL), we would like to invite you to join us for an informational Zoom meeting focused on the recently announced **National 1 League (N1)** and its impact on the upcoming **2026–27 season**.

This session is specifically geared toward **Georgia National League clubs** and will provide important insight into how the N1 platform is being structured, along with key details around the application process and timeline.

Meeting Details:

-  **Tuesday, April 28th**
-  **10:00 AM (Eastern Time)**
-  **Zoom Meeting**

 **Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81021766634?pwd=TZb2DDC5DecUU0V57A5mruRqpfKTH.1>

 **Add to Calendar:**

[https://calendar.google.com/calendar/render?action=TEMPLATE&text=SCCL+N1+Informational+Meeting+\(GA+NL+Clubs\)&dates=20260428T140000Z/20260428T150000Z&details=SCCL+National+1+League+Informational+Meeting%0A%0AJoin+Zoom:+https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81021766634?pwd=TZb2DDC5DecUU0V57A5mruRqpfKTH.1&location=Zoom](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/render?action=TEMPLATE&text=SCCL+N1+Informational+Meeting+(GA+NL+Clubs)&dates=20260428T140000Z/20260428T150000Z&details=SCCL+National+1+League+Informational+Meeting%0A%0AJoin+Zoom:+https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81021766634?pwd=TZb2DDC5DecUU0V57A5mruRqpfKTH.1&location=Zoom)

Agenda Includes:

- Overview of the National 1 League structure and vision
- SCCL alignment within the N1 ecosystem
- Key updates for the 2026–27 season
- Application process, timelines, and expectations
- Open Q&A with SCCL leadership

This meeting will help ensure your club is fully informed and well-positioned as this new national platform continues to take shape.

Please feel free to share this invitation with other members of your leadership team.