

# National Premier Leagues

## League Minimum Standards 2025-26 Season



This document details the minimum standards for member leagues in the National Premier Leagues (NPL). These standards are intended as a roadmap for leagues to share best practices, support clubs growth and development, and add value to the membership. They provide guidelines for self-evaluation and yearly evaluation with US Club Soccer staff.

### Minimum Standards

#### Technical Standards

Each NPL, or as part of the overall league managing the NPL division, should:

- Send competitive teams to participate at the NPL Finals – 1st or 2nd place teams.
- Must agree to pay for all pre-approved qualifying spots. In addition, clubs that qualify and do not attend will be fined by US Club Soccer.
- Ensure all registered NPL coaches participate in continuing education and have completed NPL coach curriculum.

#### Facilities/Fields

- Have a minimum game day experience and protocols, which are adequate to the league's expectations.

#### Structural/Administrative/Staff

Each NPL, or as part of the overall league managing the NPL division, should:

- Be a registered corporate entity, either for-profit or not-for-profit, in good standing according to federal and state law, up to date bylaws and have a registered league logo.
- Have a mission statement identifying the primary purpose for the league's existence and its goals for player and personal development. The mission statement should be realistic based on the clubs and community resources.
- Have either a formal governance board or an advisory board to provide guidance and assistance in financial, legal, real estate and other general business matters.
- Have an adequate number of staff to service the membership within the league.
- Have a discipline committee comprised of a minimum of 5 people that abides by US Club Soccer Discipline Standards.
- Have a meaningful, competitive schedule (7 games minimum), allocated over sufficient time and considerate of the local high school calendar.

### Best Practices

- Provide identification and development opportunities through league-operated Player Development Programs (PDPs) and/or id2.
- Host and provide opportunities for coaching education at all levels (Grassroots, 'D' license, 'C' license, DOC course).
- Referee component – details to be announced.
- Partner with US Club Soccer to facilitate or host a State Cup and/or National Cup Regional event.
- Send teams and encourage participation in National Cup events (State Cup and Regionals).
- Implement a league-wide video platform to record matches for scouting/highlight purposes.
- Diversify soccer offerings available to membership – i.e. Futsal, Recreational, small-sided, etc.
- Offer elements that differentiate your league (i.e. health screenings, coaching trips, scholarships).
- League admin and member club registrars to attend US Club Soccer onboarding sessions.

