



NSL Club Standards overview

- The aim of these standards is not to ensure exclusivity but rather provide for inclusion and development
- Providing a club meets and satisfies these standards they can then aspire to the size, level and structure they want
- These standards will not be based on size of club or number of teams but rather on meeting criteria that meets NSL's mission, vision and philosophy
- It is the aim of NSL to provide access, support and assistance to member clubs to satisfy the above standards to ensure the continued growth and development of the league and all member clubs, coaches and players

How will these club standards be monitored?

- A club that satisfies these standards will be considered in good standing but must provide a new and complete application every 3 years. However, any new or additional coaches to the club must satisfy the license requirements
- Should a current club fail to satisfy the minimum standards then they may be removed from the NSL league.

What is the Application Process for clubs considering NSL?

1. The club will complete an on-line application that is passed to the NSL Technical Director for review. As part of this process the NSL TD will conduct a phone or in person interview with each new club to discuss the NSL standards and the application responses. This will include but not be limited to the clubs responses to questions regarding the key areas defined in the club standards.
2. Based on this evaluation of the application the NSL Technical Director will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors and the Board may accept or deny Club Membership at their sole discretion.
3. New clubs must also meet the standards to become a club through the Governing Body affiliated with NSL. It is the responsibility of the club to meet any additional standards required by the governing body. For our clubs we require the following additional standards;
 - a. Bylaws and Constitution
 - b. Proof of being officially registered within your home state as an entity and up to date on reports
 - c. IRS Tax ID Number
 - d. Proof of having a business checking account

Failure to provide any of the requirements noted above will result in a delay to the acceptance process.

What are the key areas of NSL Club Standards?

1. Club Structure and Administration
2. Facilities
3. Staff
4. Development

In addition to satisfying the NSL clubs standards the following criteria will also be used in the decision making process.

1. Impact on Existing Member Clubs
2. Geography and location within the northeast region
3. Overall Club Infrastructure
4. The Player Development Model implemented by the club
5. History of Player Development
6. History of Adherence to USSF Affiliations Code of Ethics

Clubs applying for membership should submit applications during the following dates:

- Fall Season should be sent no later than March 15th with notification of acceptance or denial by May 15th
- Spring Season should be sent no later than Dec 15th with notification of acceptance or denial by Jan 15th

The NSL reserves the right to evaluate applications from clubs outside of the stated application windows.



CLUB STRUCTURE AND ADMINISTRATION

1. Must have a Club Administrator in good standing with the league
2. As of August 1st 2017 any NEW club application must have a minimum of 3 teams of any gender or age group to be considered for play in the Northeast Soccer League.
3. Club must have clearly defined policies and procedures for administrative issues (i.e. grievances, protests, player/coach/parent ejection)
4. Must have an annual player registration process managed by a club registrar or administrator
5. Must meet and satisfy the respective standards required by the governing body the league is affiliated with.
6. Must be able to provide an IRS Tax ID Number
7. Must have a club/team business checking account
8. Must register all of their teams with GotSoccer each season
9. Must use the NSL online player registration platform

FACILITIES

1. Must be able to provide the required number of fields, in good condition, to stage games based on USSF guidelines of field size and goal size. (open to NSL inspection)
2. Must be able to provide adequate practice facilities
3. Must be able to provide adequate toilet facilities
4. Parking facilities (as per bylaws)
5. Must have access to fields to ensure that league games can be scheduled during the start and end of the season
6. Must have access to indoor facilities during the winter months for practice and training

STAFF

1. All assigned staff coaches for the club must have the minimum of a US Soccer Grass Roots License or United Soccer Coaches Diploma i.e. the 7v7, 9v9 or 11v11 qualification respective of the team age they will be coaching. NSL may also consider respective and proven experience within the game on a case by case basis to be approved by the NSL Technical Director, with the understanding that the coach will pursue the appropriate licensure.
2. All assigned staff involved with the club, specifically those involved with children, must complete the respective Background Checks required by the governing body.
3. Each club must identify a Director of Coaching as a point of contact for the NSL Technical Director, responsible for the technical oversight of all teams and coaches within the club.
4. All coaching staff are required and expected to exhibit and satisfy the NSL Coaches Code of Conduct and Ethics.
5. The club must provide for goalkeeper instruction.
6. All coaching staff is required to meet a professional level of appearance including, but not limited to, wearing respective club apparel that identifies them as a member of the club's coaching staff.

DEVELOPMENT

1. Must be able to provide a copy of a developmentally appropriate coaching curriculum.
2. Must provide a player evaluation and feedback program to all players.
3. Must have a mission statement identifying the primary purpose for the club's existence. The mission statement should be realistic based on the club and community resources.
4. Must have Club DOC attend a minimum of 2 (two) NSL sponsored education (training) events per year.
5. Must specify player and personal development goals.
6. Must adhere to the NSL parent, player and coach codes of conduct (protocols).
7. Must have a defined philosophy of play, guiding principles, vision and mission that is applied across the entire club.
8. Must complete a report for each team in the club at the conclusion of each soccer year.
9. Must have an annual club assessment meeting to review all teams and identify areas for improvement and change for the future.
10. Must have an annual review and assessment process for their coaching staff.