



## Review of the 2022/2023 National Championship Policy Changes as approved by the BOD – December 2022

This review does not include administrative changes for the committee. It is a review of Policy changes related to team and player eligibility effective for the 2022/2023 competition season. Each change is provided as it now appears in the 2022/2023 NCS Policy with a brief explanation. If with any change you have questions about a player or team's eligibility, please contact your State Association or your Regional Program Manager for clarification.

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### **Rule 221. Team Eligibility - NEW RULE** (page 4)

~~Section 1 (4) The Team must compete in at least a 4 Team approved league during the current seasonal year in its State Association, US Youth Soccer National League or National League Conferences, or with its State Association's permission in another State Association, except for the 19 and Under age group for boys and girls. The league competition must consist of a minimum of one game against each of 3 different Teams participating in the league. Whether participation in any amateur league shall qualify a youth Team for Championship competition~~

#### CURRENT POLICY

**Section 1 (4) The team must meet the requirements established by State Association.**

Each state now has the choice to set their own requirements for the National Championship Series at the State Cup entry level. A state can choose to keep the requirements the same (team must be a member of a 4-team league and play a minimum of 3 games) OR select criteria that is more in line with a state's competition landscape. The rule is in effect immediately.

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### **Rule 221 Team Eligibility – NEW RULE** (page 4)

~~Section 1 (5) A Team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the league and every level of the National Championships Competitions by maintaining a minimum 11 players common to the roster of the Team at every level of the competitions~~

#### CURRENT POLICY:

**Section 1 (5) A Team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the State Cup and every level of the National Championships Competitions by maintaining a minimum fifty percent (50%) players common to the roster of the Team between the frozen State Cup roster and the frozen Regional roster and between the frozen State Cup roster and the frozen National Championship roster.**

Previous roster continuity was between a team's league roster and the State, Regional and National Championship rosters. The continuity was set as a minimum of eleven (11) players common from the league roster to each level of competition.

NEW and effective for 2023 Regional and National Championship competitions – the team's league roster is not the focus, instead once the team's State Cup roster has been named – the frozen State Cup roster is the roster from which the Regional and National Championship rosters must be built.

For example: A team's frozen State Cup roster consists of 16 players. The same team's Regional and National Championship's roster must have a minimum of 50% or eight (8) players that were named on the team's frozen State Cup roster in order to be in compliance with this new policy change for the 2023 competition series.

Second example: A team's frozen State Cup roster consists of 15 players. The same team's Regional and National Championship's roster must have a minimum of 50% or eight (8) players that were named on the team's frozen State Cup roster. While the math would technically be 7.5 players, submitting a roster of 7 players does **NOT** meet the 50% continuity required per policy. Therefore, the team's roster moving forward in the competition beyond the State Cup must consist of a minimum of eight (8) players that were named on the team's frozen State Cup roster.

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### **Rule 221. Team Eligibility** *(page 5)*

Section 2. (a) (1) A Club may issue a Club Pass to any Youth Player who is a registered Youth Player of the Club before the Team to which such Youth Player is to be rostered for the regional level of the National Championships Competitions submit its roster for its competition at the regional level (Rule 221, Section 6 (2)) ~~or for the National level of the National Championships Competitions submits its roster for its competition at the National level (Rule 221, Section 6 (3)).~~ (2) ~~Only at the State Association level of the National Championships Competitions (but not at the regional and national levels of the competitions) — (A) a Team may roster any player not having a Club Pass of that Team's Club if a written request, stating the reason why this action has been requested, has been made to and approved by the State Association on a form provided by it; and (B) at the time a Team's National Championships Series beginning roster for competitions at the State Association level is determined under this rule, the Team may not have more than 5 rostered youth who were previously rostered during the current seasonal year with a Club other than the Club of which the Team is a member, the Rostering of such Youth players with such Club shall be made in compliance with the rules of the State Association of which the Club is a member. Transfer, for the purpose of this policy, means player movement from one club to another club, prior to providing the National Championship Series roster at the State Association level.~~

#### CURRENT POLICY:

**Section 2. A Club may issue a Club Pass to any Youth Player who is a registered Youth Player of the Club before the Team to which such Youth Player is to be rostered for the regional level of the National Championships Competitions submit its roster for its competition at the regional level (Rule 221, Section 6 (2)) or for the National level of the National Championships Competitions submits its roster for its competition at the National level (Rule 221, Section 6 (3)).**

With the simplification of the State Cup roster being the initial point from where the Regional and National Championship rosters are built - the remainder of Section 2 is no longer required. Simply put, once a team has met the 50% players common to the team's State Cup roster, club pass players may be named to the team's Regional and National Championship roster until the roster maximum limit of 22 players is met.

It is important to note that a player may NOT be rostered to a second team competing in the NCS series until the player's initial team has been eliminated. Upon a team's elimination, the player would then be eligible for selection at the next level of play

For example: Player's team does not win State Cup. Since the team does not advance to the Regional competition player would be eligible to be selected for a Regional or National Championship roster. However, if the player's team does not advance (or elects not to compete due to automatically qualifying through the National League) in the Regional competition but has qualified for the National Championship the player's team is still considered in the competition and the player is NOT eligible to roster as a club pass player with another team at the regional competition level.

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## Rule 221. Team Eligibility *(page 6)*

Section 6. The Team must provide its National Championships roster for National Championships Competitions as follows:

- (1) at the State Association level, prior to the Team's first National Championship game at the State Association level or no earlier than 14 days prior to the beginning of that Team's competition at the State level;
- (2) at the regional level, at the time of the Team's Registration for the Team's age group competition at that level that shall be determined by the Region which shall be no later than 7 days prior to the beginning of the Team's competition at the regional level; and
- (3) at the national level, at the time of the Team's Registration for the Team's age group competition at that level that shall be determined by the National Championships Committee which shall be no later than 7 days prior to the beginning of that Team's competition at the national level.

NEW ADDITION to SECTION 6:

- (4) **After the freeze date set by the State Association, the Regional freeze date or the National freeze date, a state Association may correct ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR to those team rosters until the beginning of competition of those levels.**

The adoption of an "administrative error" correction has been put in place to provide relief for states who have discovered a roster issue that should have been corrected or adjusted prior to the freeze date but was not noted until after the freeze date. Once competition has begun there can be no changes to a team's official roster.

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## Rule 221 Team Eligibility *(page 6)*

Section 7. ~~(a) At the regional and national levels of the National Championships Competitions, a Team of a Club may have on its National Championship roster an eligible player of that Club who was not on the Team's National Championships roster at the prior level of the Team's National Championships competition. (b) A player may be rostered to only one Team's National Championships roster at each level of the National Championships Competitions during the seasonal year.~~

CURRENT POLICY:

**Section 7. A Team may compete in only one age group of the National Championships Competitions during the seasonal year.**

Section 7 in the initial policy was removed to eliminate repetitive reference to Club Pass Policy. The above section 7 was section 8 in the previous NCS policy. Rule stands a team may only compete in one age group in the NCS series.

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## Rule 224. Player Eligibility. *(Rewritten for clarification purposes) page 7*

Section 1. A player must be properly registered and rostered in accordance with the rules of US Youth Soccer and the State Association. ~~Section 2. A youth player may only play for one Club in the National Championship Series. A youth player may be on the National Championships roster of only one Team within that Club at each level of the National Championships Competitions during any seasonal year; provided, however, that a Youth Player who was rostered to a Team of that Club at a National Championship competition level that has been eliminated and does not advance to any level of the competition and who has been issued a Club Pass of that Club in accordance with this policy may be rostered to another Team of that Club at the next level of the National Championship competitions. Subject to the foregoing, and subject to the provisions of Rule 221, Section 1 (5), at each level of the National Championships Competitions, a Team may add to its National Championship roster for that level as many registered Youth Players holding Club Passes of that Club of which a Team is a member as the Team or its Club determines so~~



long as the roster does not exceed 22 players. A Team may not change the Club of which it is a member at any time after the commencement of the National Championship competitions and in any event only in compliance with the rules of the State Association of which the Club is a member.

## CURRENT POLICY

**Section 1. A player must be properly registered and rostered in accordance with the rules of US Youth Soccer and the State Association.**

**Section 2. A youth player may be on the National Championships roster of only one Team with that Club until the team has been eliminated from the National Championship series during any seasonal year.**

- 1. A Youth Player who was rostered to a Team of that Club at the National Championship Series level that has been eliminated and does not advance to any level of the competition and who have been issued a Club Pass of that Club in accordance with this policy may be rostered to another Team of that Club at the next level of the National Championship Series.**
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### **Rule 224. Player Eligibility – NEW RULE**

- 2. In the National Championship Series a team may add two players from other clubs from the prior level of competition, whose team has been eliminated and does not advance to any level of the National Championship Series.**

For teams advancing to the Regional and National Championship level of the competition may add in addition to Club Pass Players a maximum of two players currently rostered outside the team's club who had been rostered on a team that has been eliminated from the NCS competition during the current seasonal year. The players shall be referred to on the team's Regional and National Championship roster as "Previously Rostered" players using the acronym "PR".

For example: Club A team adds to their roster players John and Sam from another club for the team's Regional roster. John and Sam's team competed in the State Cup but did not advance and the team has not qualified either as a Regional Conference Qualifier or National League Pro team to advance in the competition. Club A team wins the Regional competition and advances to the National Championships. Club A team has already added two PR players and may roster John or Sam to the National Championship roster. However, John and Sam are the ONLY two previously rostered players eligible as Club A team. Club A team met the maximum limit of two players from another club by naming John & Sam to the team's Regional roster

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### **Rule 224. Player Eligibility.** *(Rewritten for clarification purposes)*

- 3. Subject to the foregoing, and subject to the provisions of Rule 221, Section 1 (5), at each level of the National Championship Competitions, a Team may add as many registered Youth Players holding Club Passes of the Club of which the Team is a member so long as the roster does not exceed 22 players.**
- 4. A Team may not change Clubs at any time after the commencement of the National Championship competitions.**