

New Club Pass Rule for the National Championship Series

The US Youth Soccer National Council has voted to add club player passes to the National Championship Series beginning with the 2012 NCS. This set of rule changes allows teams to add players from their own club to their NCS roster as they progress from State Cup to FWR to Nationals. Following is a list of the changes that will be implemented for all New Mexico teams. Please be aware that the rule has taken shape over the last few months and that there might still be changes.

- 1) A team is eligible for NCS participation if the team has played in an approved league of four or more teams (the NCS qualifying event) and has played one game each against three different teams in that league (this is not a change.) To participate in the NCS, nine members of that team must then be on the frozen NCS State Cup roster. Roster changes involving movement of players within a club, may be made until the State Cup roster freeze date (April 20 for U18 and below; May 5 for U19). Most of the other old eligibility requirements are still in effect.
- 2) The state association roster freeze date now has two implications -- the State Cup roster is frozen as it has been traditionally. In addition, all players are "club-tied" for the remainder of the NCS, regardless of whether or not they are on an NCS team. Any player changing clubs after the state association NCS roster freeze date is ineligible for further participation in the NCS.
- 3) If the team subsequently qualifies for Far West Regionals, by any method, they can replace players on the team, or add players to the team, from within their club, after State Cup has ended. For FWR, teams may carry a 22 player roster at U14 and above, and an 18 player roster at U13. The team must demonstrate a nine-player continuity between their qualifying event and FWR.
- 4) Teams advancing to Nationals may add to or replace players on their team, but must demonstrate a nine-player continuity between the NCS qualifying event and Nationals. (Stated differently, nine players must be common to the team from the qualifying event throughout the NCS.) All players added to the roster for Nationals must be from within the club.
- 5) For NCS play, beginning with State Cup, teams may not have more than five rostered players that have been rostered to another club during that seasonal year. Over the last three years in NMYSA, we have had teams request to switch clubs during the seasonal year. Under the new NCS rules, movement of players between clubs is a transfer and would keep a team that had changed clubs from participating in the NCS because of having more than 5 players that had previously been rostered to another club. Movement of a player within a club is not counted as a transfer and is not tracked for eligibility in the NCS.
- 6) A player may be on only one roster at each level of the NCS, and for the duration of play at that level.

7) Red cards follow the player from event to event in the same year, and carryover to the NCS the following year.

8) Clubs with teams in multiple leagues are one unit for purposes of NCS, based on the definition of "club" in the NCS rules. That rule also implies that leagues that do not have clubs are, in effect, clubs for purposes of the NCS. In other words, Hobbs could take a team with nine players and add players from the rest of the league to compete as a team in State Cup.