



# **Elite Clubs National League**

*Rules and Regulations*

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## *Rules and Regulations*

The ECNL is a competitive league for female youth soccer players organized by the Elite Clubs National League, Inc. These Rules and Regulations (the “Regulations”) provide the requirements and rules for ECNL Competition (as defined below).

### **1. Definitions**

1.1 “ECNL” means the Elite Clubs National League, Inc. and the competitions and programs it organizes.

1.2 “ECNL Club” means a member club of the ECNL as provided in the bylaws of the ECNL.

1.3 “ECNL Competition” means a game played during the ECNL Regular-Season or at the ECNL National Championship.

1.4 “ECNL Flight” means either the “Challenge A” or “Challenge B” flight of each ECNL age group.

1.5 “ECNL National Championship” means the annual post-season games held by the ECNL to determine the ECNL champions, promotion, and relegation.

1.6 “ECNL National Event” means a regular-season event at which ECNL Regular Season games are held.

1.7 “ECNL Regular Season” means the regular-season ECNL games played prior to the ECNL National Championship.

1.8 “ECNL Season” means the competitive season beginning August 1 of each year and ending July 31 of the following year, including the ECNL Regular Season and the ECNL National Championship.

1.9 “ECNL Team” is a team of an ECNL Club that participates in ECNL Competition.

1.10 “Incident Report” is a report in the form provided by the ECNL Board of Directors for reporting disciplinary incidents during ECNL Competitions.

### **2. Roster Rules**

#### **Roster Requirements**

2.1 A maximum of twenty-six (26) players may be rostered on each ECNL Team each ECNL Season (the “ECNL Roster”).

2.2 All players on the ECNL Roster must be registered with US Club Soccer (an “ECNL Registered Player”).

2.3 Eighteen (18) ECNL Registered Players from an ECNL Team’s ECNL Roster will be eligible for each game in ECNL Competition.

2.4 No ECNL Registered Players may be dropped from an ECNL Roster during an ECNL Season, except pursuant to the Transfer Regulations below.

2.5 Players may be added to the ECNL Roster until April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Notwithstanding the foregoing, after April 1<sup>st</sup> of the ECNL Season, only two (2) players may be added to an ECNL Team’s ECNL Roster for the remainder of the ECNL Season.

2.6 A player may only be rostered in only one (1) ECNL Club each ECNL Season, except pursuant to the Transfer Regulations below.

2.7 An initial ECNL Roster of a minimum of fifteen (15) ECNL Registered Players must be provided by each ECNL Team prior to the ECNL Team’s first game in ECNL Competition each ECNL Season.

### **Duel Rostering**

2.8 An ECNL Registered Player may play for any ECNL Team for which she is age eligible within the same ECNL Club provided that the ECNL Registered Player is on the ECNL Roster for such ECNL Team. Age eligibility is determined by **Exhibit A** of these Regulations.

2.9 An ECNL Registered Player may play on different ECNL Teams within her ECNL Club from game-to-game during the ECNL Regular Season, provided that such player may only play on one (1) ECNL Team per day, and provided that such player is on the ECNL Roster for each ECNL Team for which she plays.

2.10 An ECNL Registered Player may play for only one ECNL Team within her ECNL Club at the ECNL National Championship.

## **3. Competition Rules**

### **General**

3.1 Unless otherwise provided in these Regulations, all ECNL Competitions shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game in force at the time of competition as provided by the International Football Association Board.

## **Scheduling**

3.2 The ECNL Board of Directors shall identify the dates and locations of all ECNL Competitions for each ECNL Season, and the date and location of the ECNL National Championship for each ECNL Season.

3.3 The ECNL Board of Directors shall determine the total number of ECNL Competitions during the ECNL Season, the number of ECNL National Events each ECNL Season, and the total number of ECNL National Events that each ECNL Club must attend.

## **Cancelled Games**

3.4 If any ECNL Competition is cancelled during any ECNL National Event, the ECNL Board of Directors shall determine if and how such ECNL Competition shall be rescheduled, in consultation with the relevant ECNL Clubs. If the ECNL Board of Directors, at its sole discretion, determines that it is impossible to reschedule such cancelled ECNL Competition, the ECNL Competition shall be considered a non-played game, and neither team shall be awarded any points.

## **Substitution Rules**

3.5 Once an ECNL Registered Player is substituted in one half of any ECNL Competition, such ECNL Registered Player may not re-enter the game for the duration of the half.

3.6 Once an ECNL Registered Player is substituted in one period of overtime of any ECNL Competition, such ECNL Registered Player may not re-enter the game for the duration of such overtime period.

3.7 There shall be a maximum of seven (7) substitutions in any half or in any overtime period of any ECNL Competition.

## **Yellow and Red cards**

3.8 Any ECNL Registered Player receiving a red card in an ECNL Competition will be suspended for the remainder of that ECNL Competition and also for the next day on which any ECNL Competition is played by her ECNL Club. For purposes of clarification, if an ECNL Registered Player receives a red card in an ECNL Competition, the ECNL Registered Player will not be eligible to participate in any ECNL Competition on the next day of ECNL competition for any team within the ECNL Registered Player's ECNL Club.

3.9 Any coach receiving a red card in an ECNL Competition will be suspended for the remainder of the ECNL Competition and for that ECNL Team's next ECNL Competition.

3.10 Red card suspensions will carry over into subsequent ECNL Seasons if the red card is received in the final ECNL Competition of the current ECNL Season.

3.11 There shall be no yellow card accumulation policy for ECNL Competitions.

### **Transfer Regulations**

3.12 An ECNL Registered Player may not play for more than one ECNL Club during the ECNL Season, unless the following conditions are satisfied: (i) the ECNL Registered Player's family moves to a new geographic area; (ii) the Director of Coaching of both the prior ECNL Club and the proposed new ECNL Club consent to the transfer in writing; (iii) the new ECNL Club has an available spot on an ECNL Roster; and (iv) the ECNL Board of Directors, at its sole discretion, consents to such transfer in writing (such player referred to as a "Transferred Player").

3.13 A Transferred Player shall be removed from the ECNL Roster(s) of the "old" ECNL Club.

### **Guest Players**

3.14 No guest players are allowed to participate in any ECNL Competition.

### **Points and Standings**

3.15 In each ECNL Competition during the ECNL Regular Season, teams shall be awarded three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie, and zero (0) points for a loss. A forfeit shall be considered a 3-0 loss for the forfeiting team.

3.16 The standings in each age group and ECNL Flight shall be determined at the end of the ECNL Regular Season (the "Regular Season Standings"). The Regular Season Standings shall determine seeding in the ECNL National Championship.

3.17 Teams shall be placed in groups of four (4) for the ECNL National Championship based upon the Regular Season Standings (each a "Championship Group"). Upon conclusion of the ECNL National Championship, teams shall be ranked one through four in each Championship Group for determination of the final standings of teams in each ECNL Flight (the "Final Standings").

3.18 At the end of each ECNL Season, based on the Final Standings, the bottom three (3) teams in Challenge A shall be relegated to Challenge B for the subsequent ECNL Season, and the top three (3) teams in Challenge B shall be promoted to Challenge A for the subsequent ECNL Season.

### **Tie Breakers**

3.19 The following tie-breakers will be used for resolving ties between ECNL Teams in determining the Regular Season Standings, in the following order:

1. Most Points
2. Goal Difference
3. Goals Against
4. Goals For
5. Coin Toss

3.20 There shall be no cap on goal difference in any ECNL Competition.

### **Game Length**

3.21 ECNL Competitions shall be played with the following game length:

U15: 2 x 40 minutes

U16: 2 x 40 minutes

U17: 2 x 45 minutes

### **ECNL National Championship**

3.22 In the ECNL National Championship, each ECNL Team will be placed in a Championship Group based upon the Regular Season Standings. Each Championship Group shall consist of two Semi-Final Games, a Championship Game, and a Placement Game. Teams in each ECNL Championship Group shall be seeded 1 through 4 for purposes of competition within such Championship Group at the ECNL National Championship, such seeding to be based upon the Regular Season Standings. The Semi-Final Games shall consist of # 1 vs. # 4 and # 2 vs. #3. The winners of each Semi-Final Game shall meet in the Championship Game, and the losers of each Semi-Final Game shall meet in the Placement Game.

3.23 In the event of a tie at the end of regulation of any ECNL Competition played at the ECNL National Championship, two (2) ten-minute overtime periods shall be played. If the ECNL Competition remains tied at the end of the overtime periods, the winner shall be determined by penalty kicks. The winner shall then be the ECNL Team that scores the most penalty kicks in five (5) kicks, such rounds of five (5) kicks to continue until a winner is determined.

3.24 At the end of the ECNL National Championship, an overall ECNL National Club Champion will be determined based upon the Final Standings. Each ECNL Club will earn points towards the ECNL National Club Championship based upon the final position of each ECNL Team in the ECNL Club in the Final Standings of each age group, from first place in Challenge A through last place in Challenge B. Points will be awarded in each age group according to **Exhibit B** hereto. The ECNL Club with the most total points from its ECNL Teams, as determined pursuant to this section 3.24, shall be crowned the ECNL National Club Champion.

#### **4. Miscellaneous**

##### **Disciplinary Matters**

4.1 Any disciplinary matters brought before the ECNL Board of Directors through submission of an Incident Report shall be addressed and responded to at the discretion of the ECNL Board of Directors.

##### **Protest and Appeals**

4.2 There will be no protests or appeals of decisions made in ECNL Competitions or by the ECNL Board of Directors. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any decision by the ECNL Board of Directors that results in a suspension of a player or coach that is not due to a red card is appealable to US Club Soccer, and then to the US Soccer Federation. Any hearing for such appeal shall be conducted pursuant to US Club Soccer and US Soccer Federation policies and procedures, available at <http://www.usclubsoccer.org/Files/Disciplinary%20Procedures.pdf>.

##### **Matters Not Provided For**

4.3 Any matter not provided for in these Regulations shall be decided by the ECNL Board of Directors. All such decisions are final.

**Exhibit A:**  
*ECNL Age Group Eligibility*

ECNL age groups for the 2009-2010 ECNL Season are provided below:

U17 Age Group: Born between 8/1/1992 and 7/31/1993

U16 Age Group: Born between 8/1/1993 and 7/31/1994

U15 Age Group: Born between 8/1/1994 and 7/31/1995

Players may play for their own age group and for “older” age groups

**Exhibit B:**

*Determining the ECNL National Club Champion*

Points for the ECNL National Club Champion will be awarded in each age group as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Challenge A = 55 Points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Challenge A = 50 Points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Challenge A = 45 Points
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge A = 40 Points
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge A = 36 Points
- 6<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge A = 35 Points
- 7<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge A = 34 Points
- 8<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge A = 33 Points
- 9<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge A = 32 Points
- 10<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge A = 31 Points
- 11<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge A = 30 Points
- 12<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge A = 29 Points
- 13<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge A = 28 Points
- 14<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge A = 27 Points
- 15<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge A = 26 Points
- 16<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge A = 25 Points
- 17<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge A = 24 Points
- 18<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge A = 23 Points
- 19<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge A = 22 Points
- 20<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge A = 21 Points

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Challenge B = 20 Points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Challenge B = 19 Points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Challenge B = 18 Points
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge B = 17 Points
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge B = 16 Points
- 6<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge B = 15 Points
- 7<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge B = 14 Points
- 8<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge B = 13 Points
- 9<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge B = 12 Points
- 10<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge B = 11 Points
- 11<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge B = 10 Points
- 12<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge B = 9 Points
- 13<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge B = 8 Points
- 14<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge B = 7 Points
- 15<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge B = 6 Points
- 16<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge B = 5 Points
- 17<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge B = 4 Points
- 18<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge B = 3 Points
- 19<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge B = 2 Points
- 20<sup>th</sup> Place in Challenge B = 1 Point