

ECNL Regional League Roster Integrity Policy

The ECNL Regional League is both a proving ground and developmental pathway for players, teams, and clubs. While many participants in the ECNL Regional League will move directly from the ECNL Regional League to college soccer, some players and/or clubs, based upon performance and development, will move from the ECNL Regional League to the ECNL prior to the step to collegiate soccer or beyond. Based upon this potential player and club pathway, competition and developmental integrity within the ECNL Regional League must be protected.

Protecting the competition and developmental integrity of the ECNL Regional League requires a delicate balance between: (i) a club’s use of the platform for developmental purposes, (ii) the value of open competition, and (iii) the ECNL’s use of the objective club results within the platform for club evaluation. Specifically, while the use of some players primarily rostered to an ECNL Team, (as determined by Rule 2.2.1 and hereby referred to as “Primary ECNL Players”), within the ECNL Regional League is a positive for development and competition overall, there is a point at which the use of too many Primary ECNL Players jeopardizes the integrity of the platform as a developmental pathway.

As such, the following policy will apply to all ECNL Regional League matches. This policy is in addition to specific roster or eligibility rules in the ECNL Competition Rules.

For all clubs who participate in both the ECNL and the ECNL Regional League in the same season, no ECNL Regional League game day roster may include more than 4 Primary ECNL Players unless approved by the specific Regional League’s executive leadership (the “Executive”) in advance in writing, at the Executive’s sole discretion. If a club requests to use more than 4 Primary ECNL Players in any given ECNL Regional League match, the Executive will review the facts and circumstances surrounding the match, the teams participating, and the club making the request. After this review, in the Executive’s sole and total discretion, the Executive may:

- 1) Allow use of more than 4 Primary ECNL Players in the match with no additional restriction or sanction.
- 2) Allow use of more than 4 Primary ECNL Players in the match but declare the match a forfeit in favor of the opposing team.
- 3) Decline to allow more than 4 Primary ECNL Players in the match. The Executive’s decision in this regard may not be appealed.

The Executive for each Regional League is noted below. If any club makes a significant number of requests at multiple age groups over the season to use more than 4 Primary

ECNL Players, the Commissioner may recommend to the Board of Directors non-renewal of the club in the ECNL Regional League, and / or may determine the teams to be ineligible for the post-season.

For clarity, this policy is intended to provide the Commissioner with total discretion as to when too many Primary ECNL Players are used in a roster.

SAFE HARBOR: For avoidance of doubt, any match using 4 or fewer Primary ECNL players in a game day roster in the ECNL Regional League shall not be subject to review by the Commissioner under this policy.

MULTIPLE LEVELS OF REGIONAL LEAGUE: This policy applies at each level of play in geographic areas where there are multiple ECNL Regional Leagues, and NO PLAYER may move “down” 2 levels of league play for an ECNL Regional League match unless explicitly approved by the Commissioner in writing in advance. For example, in the Texas / OK region:

- No more than 4 Primary ECNL Players may play in any ECNL Regional League Texas Conference match, and zero (0) Primary ECNL Players may play in a match in the ECNL Regional League – North Texas or the ECNL Regional League - USC.
- No more than 4 players primarily registered to an ECNL Regional League – Texas Conference team may play in an ECNL Regional League – North Texas or ECNL Regional League – USC match.

PLAYER FLEXIBILITY CLARIFICATION: This policy only applies to each game individually and does not restrict how many Primary ECNL Players may play in the ECNL Regional League over the course of the season. In other words, any appropriately rostered and age appropriate Primary ECNL player may play in any ECNL Regional League match under this policy – provided that they are properly registered to the club in accordance to all ECNL Competition Rules and provided that no more than 4 Primary ECNL Players appear in any single ECNL Regional League match.

POST-SEASON: This policy does not apply to the post-season. Restrictions on post-season play between the ECNL Regional League and the ECNL are outlined in Rule 2.10 of the ECNL Competition Rules. Regional League Executives: Unless noted otherwise below, the ECNL Girls Commissioner is the Executive for all ECNL Girls Regional Leagues, and the ECNL Boys Commissioner is the Executive for all ECNL Boys Regional Leagues.

The following Regional Leagues have different Executives:

ECNL Regional League – Florida: Lori Trautman, Rules and Competition Committee
ECNL Regional League – Virginia: John Faircloth

ECNL Regional League – Great Lakes: Ed Bernstein

ECNL Regional League – North Texas: Aaron Gordon

ECNL Regional League – USC: Pat O'Toole

ECNL Regional League – NorCal: Dan Chamberlain, Rules and Competition Committee