



Frequently Asked Questions

What is Sports Connect?

*Sports Connect is built on the core of the Blue Sombrero and Affinity Sports registration platforms that NJ Youth Soccer will use for member passes and rosters **beginning with the 2020-2021** seasonal year. Sports Connect replaces the previous platform and is a completely different platform.*

There is a state membership platform that will be utilized by all organizations for member passes, rosters, transfers/releases, and risk management verifications.

This is also a club platform available to organizations that wish to collect player registration fees and submit registration data to the Affinity Sports platform through an integration.

Will I lose my current Club and League Connect account?

No. Clubs will have access to their Club and League Connect account for two years for referencing and "read only" access. Club and League Connect will not be available for use past the 2019-2020 seasonal year.

Will players and coaches need to upload certificates for verification?

*Players and coaches that have been verified within the past three years **will not** need to be re-verified. NJYS and Sports Connect are migrating basic player/coach information with verification status'. This will not exempt coaches from retaking certifications that may require a new verification each year (e.g., SafeSport 30-minute refresher course).*

How will I register players with NJYS for the 2020-2021 seasonal year?

There are three ways that players may register with NJYS in the 2020-2021 seasonal year.

- 1. Sports Connect: This option is available to clubs that are using the platform to collect registration payments.*
- 2. Import File: Clubs using another provider can submit a file to NJYS or Sports Connect for uploads into the state platform. The process involves a fee.*
- 3. Manual Entry: Clubs with no registration provider can manually enter players into the state platform.*

Options 2 and 3 requires a club administrator to upload photos and birth certificates (if new to the system) for players in year one of Sports Connect.

When will Sports Connect be ready for use?

NJYS plans to begin taking registrations for the 2020-2021 season on or about March 1st, 2020. Sports Connect can be used at any time and submitted to NJYS on the planned launch date.

What is the cost to use Sports Connect?

There is no cost to use the association platform, which is used to print member passes and rosters.

Clubs opting to use the Sports Connect club platform are subject to a processing fee no higher than 2.9% (billed to the organization) and a \$2.80 service fee per transaction (paid by the cardholder). A \$0.20 discount on the service fee per transaction is sponsored by New Jersey Youth Soccer.

Clubs utilizing the import option may incur an administrative fee through NJYS or Sports Connect. These details will be confirmed prior to March 1, 2020.

Is my club required to use Sports Connect?

All clubs will be required to use the Sports Connect association level of the platform. This is where all registration operations for NJYS will occur (i.e. member passes, rosters, risk management, transfers/releases).

NJYS does not require clubs to use the Sports Connect club product as a method of registration. However, clubs may decide to utilize Sports Connect to collect player registrations and to submit players and coaches through an integration with the state platform.

What time commitment should I expect for this transition?

NJYS will communicate educational trainings in the form of group webinars, in-person roadshows, and 1:1 digital training. The training is expected to begin in February 2020. Club administrators may attend as many or as few sessions as needed to become familiar with Sports Connect.

While Sports Connect is new to NJ Youth Soccer, Affinity Sports and Blue Sombrero have a history of servicing US Youth Soccer associations, clubs and leagues. Unified under the Sports Connect and US Soccer Connect umbrella, these platforms aim to provide an enhanced user experience that offers a simpler solution to the previous platform.

Additional questions may be directed to registration@njyouthsoccer.com.