

Northern Lights Power League

Policy for Requesting / Missing League Dates

Each year one of the biggest issues we face while running the Northern Lights Power League is when teams ask to miss league dates or simply do not show up for their competition.

Teams frequently inform us they will be missing after the schedule for the league date has already been posted. Changing the schedule is difficult and ends up impacting all of the other teams in the pool or bracket. The coaches, players, and parents on the receiving end complain to Northern Lights to do something about it.

In an effort to be more flexible and to have a policy in place to handle such occurrences, we have implemented the following policy. The policy allows teams to miss, but has rules and penalties in place to encourage early notification and to discourage missing competition dates.

Option 1) Teams will be excused from a league date for attending one of the 10 USAV National Qualifiers held across the country. These teams will be placed back into the league at the same position they were when they left, however the other teams may have moved in relation to them.

If your team is going to miss a league date because of a National Qualifier, you can notify us by email PRIOR to the schedule being posted for the league date you plan to miss. There is no penalty for missing because of National Qualifier if you notify us ahead of time. We will either find a replacement team OR adjust the schedule. Notification must be received prior to the schedule being posted.

If you do not notify us prior to the schedule being posted for the league date you plan to miss, your team will still be scheduled to play, and your absence will be treated according to Option 4.

If you do not notify us at all, and simply do not show up for your scheduled league date, then your absence will be treated according to Option 5.

Option 2) If your team is going to miss, you can find replacement players or a replacement team without any penalty. Below are suitable replacement options.

- Use any of the other players or teams in your club that are eligible in that age division.
- Find another team that is in the league and get them to play for you.
- Find another USAV registered team that is eligible in your age division to play for you.

Northern Lights does not need to be notified if you are using replacement players from within your club. However, we must be notified of any changes where an entire team is replacing your team. If time allows, we will change the team name on the schedule to reflect any name changes of the replacement team. If not, your team name will still appear on the schedule.

Replacements can be found at any time. There is no deadline as long as a full team shows up to compete.

Your team agrees to accept the match results of the matches played by the replacement team. If the replacement team does not show up, your team will be held responsible according to Option 5 listed below.

Option 3) If your team is going to miss a league date, you can notify us by email AND pay a \$100 penalty PRIOR to the schedule being posted for the league date you plan to miss. We will either find a replacement team OR adjust the schedule. Notification and payment must be received prior to the schedule being posted. If the \$100 penalty is not paid prior to the schedule being posted for the league date you plan to miss, your team will still be scheduled to play, and your absence will be treated according to Option 4.

Example: Your team plans to miss the March 17 / 18 competition date. You notify us by email and pay the \$100 penalty prior to the schedule for the March 17 / 18 league date being posted.

Result: Your absence is excused. You will not be scheduled to play on March 17 / 18. You will be scheduled to play again on the March 31 / April 1 league date.

Example: Your team plans to miss the March 17 / 18 competition date. You notify us by email prior to the schedule for the March 17 / 18 league date being posted, but you DO NOT pay the \$100 penalty.

Result: Your absence is not excused. Your request was not complete because you did not pay the \$100 penalty, therefore your team will still be scheduled to play on the March 17 / 18 league date. Move on to Option 4.

Example: Your team plans to miss the March 17 / 18 competition date. You notify us by email prior to the schedule for the March 17 / 18 league date being posted and pay the \$100 penalty on the morning of March 8. The schedule was posted on the afternoon of March 7.

Result: Your absence is not excused. Your request was not complete because you did not pay on time, therefore your team will still be scheduled to play on the March 17 / 18 league date. Move on to Option 4.

Option 4) If your team is going to miss a league date, you can notify us by email after the schedule for the league date that you wish to miss has been posted, but BEFORE 5:00 pm on the Wednesday before that league date AND pay a \$175 before the 5:00 pm deadline. We will either find a replacement team for you or adjust the schedule. If the \$175 penalty is not paid by 5:00 pm on the Wednesday before the league date you plan to miss, your team will remain on the schedule. If your team does not show up for competition, your absence will be treated according to Option 5.

The schedule will not be changed, nor will a replacement team be contacted until we have your \$175 penalty in our possession. Do not notify us after Wednesday at 5:00 pm and expect us to change the schedule for you. It will not happen. Move on to Option 5.

Example: Your team plans to miss the March 17 / 18 competition date. You notify us by email on Monday March 12, and pay the \$175 penalty that day.

Result: Your absence is excused. Your team is removed from the schedule. You will be scheduled to play again on the March 31 / April 1 league date.

Example: Your team plans to miss the March 17 / 18 competition date. You notify us by email at 4:00 pm on Wednesday March 14 and you give us a credit card to pay the \$175 penalty.

Result: Your absence is excused. Your team is removed from the schedule. You will be scheduled to play again on the March 31 / April 1 league date.

Example: Your team plans to miss the March 17 / 18 competition date. You notify us by email at 4:00 pm on Wednesday March 14 and tell us you are mailing a check for the \$175 penalty.

Result: Your absence is not excused. Your request was not complete because we did not have payment before the deadline. Your team will remain on the schedule for March 17 / 18. Move on to Option 5.

Option 5) If your team does not show up for a league date without giving any prior warning, your team will be dropped from the league until a \$250 penalty has been paid. Any notification sent

AFTER 5:00 pm Wednesday prior to the league date will be considered “no prior warning”. This simply does not give us enough time to make changes or find another team.

Teams that do not pay their penalties by the final league date, or do not show up for competition on the final league date will not be allowed into the league the following year until the penalty has been paid.

Example: Your team sends us an email on the Thursday before your February 12 competition date stating “We don’t have enough players so we are not going to be there this weekend”, and your team does not show up for competition.

Result: Your team will owe the \$250 penalty, and will not be scheduled to compete on the March 3 / 4 date, or ANY future dates until you have paid the \$250 penalty. Your team will receive no refund for missed dates. If your team does not pay the penalty, no teams from your club will be allowed to enter the league the following season until the penalty is paid in full.

Example: Your team is tired of competing and wants to be done for the season. They leave a message on the Northern Lights voice mail on Friday March 30 stating that they “won’t be there this weekend”. They do not show up for competition on the April 1 league date.

Result: Your team will owe the \$250 penalty, and no teams from your club will be allowed into the league the following season until the penalty is paid in full.