



SJSL/SJGSL Joint General Membership Meeting  
April 9, 2018



*What is our plan?*

There are two courses of action being taken: a switch to another website provider and a change from USYS carding to US Club carding.

Both SJSL and SJGSL have begun negotiations to transition from their current Blue Star website to another website provider.

Both SJSL and SJGSL will switch from USYS carding to only US Club carding effective beginning with the Fall 2018 season.

*When will it go into effect?*

Clubs should plan ahead now. For the Fall 2018-Spring 2019 seasonal year, both SJSL and SJGSL will only use US Club passes.

*Why are we taking this course of action?*

As noted by most if not all of our members, both of our leagues have had countless unresolved problems with both our website provider and NJYS.

Over a year ago, we began small group meetings with our member clubs to consider our options.

The continued occurrence and reoccurrence of missing or incorrect Game Day Rosters, score reporting, scheduling and communication problems and errors make continued use of our current website provider untenable. Some of the open items have been listed for over 3 years with no resolution in sight.

The lack of effective leadership and direction from the state office, coupled with the continued inability to quickly and competently address carding, rostering and financial obligations has proven to be difficult to manage at the league level. It is the combined opinion of both league executive boards that NJYS is not working in the best interests of our leagues and our general membership, and that it will not improve in the foreseeable future. Representatives from our two leagues have worked over the last two years to improve operations and efficiency at the state level to no avail. At this point, continued participation in NJYS is not in the best interests of our two leagues.

*How will these changes affect our members?*

As with all changes, there will be a learning curve. Both leagues have committed to providing enough information and arranging for any necessary training to minimize the difficulties in transitioning to the new websites and the US Club carding platform. It is anticipated that most, if not all, of the problems that we are currently experiencing will go away after the change. The following FAQs should address most of the common questions.

## **A. Financial Questions:**

### *1. What will it cost the clubs if the league changes website providers?*

There is obviously a cost to utilize the services of any other website provider. There are set up costs as well as annual fees to the league. The costs range from a couple thousand dollars to almost ten thousand a year. It is not anticipated at this time that the cost will pass down to the member clubs. Both leagues have committed to not pass that cost down to its member clubs for at least the first 3 years.

### *2. What will it cost the clubs to use US Club passes?*

To understand the difference in the carding costs, it makes the most sense to compare the relative costs of both systems over a 2 year period.

Under the old NJYS/USYS passes, each player will pay \$15 a year, or \$30 over 2 years. Under the new US Club passes, the cost will be exactly the same, \$15 a year. (Note that the current US Club fees are \$18 a year for U8-11 and \$24 a year for U12-19. We are negotiating to have the rate be \$15 a year for all age groups guaranteed for 5 years.)

Under the old NJYS/USYS passes, each coach will pay \$15 a year, which includes a background check, for a total cost of \$30 over 2 years. Under the new US Club passes, each coach will pay \$25 for a two year pass, \$18 for a background check and \$5 to take an online safety course for a total cost of \$48.

To help offset this initial cost, SJSJ will offer a \$10 discount per team for the Fall 2018 registration.

### *3. Does US Club also offer carding for recreational teams?*

Yes. US Club offers a similar program to USYS for carding recreational teams. The cost (which includes insurance) is the same (\$10).

### *4. How will the clubs be billed for carding and league registration?*

The US Club platform requires payment to be tendered before the player/coach passes are approved and can be printed. Payment must be made by credit card. The leagues will continue to send out invoices for the league registration payment as has been done in the past.

## **B. Tournament/ODP Questions:**

1. *Will holding US Club passes instead of USYS passes adversely affect the ability of our teams to play in tournaments?*

No. Most tournaments are “unrestricted” tournaments, and they accept both USYS and US Club passes. If, however, a tournament is listed as “restricted”, you will need to have the passes accepted by that tournament, whether they accept USYS or US Club passes.

2. *Will our teams still be able to play in the NJYS State Cup tournaments?*

No. In order to compete in the NJYS State Cup series, you will need to also be carded with USYS passes. If you are carded with USYS passes and also playing in another league, you can play in the NJYS State Cup.

3. *Will our teams be able to play in the New Jersey Cup?*

Yes. This is the US Club equivalent to the State Cup series.

4. *Will our coaches still be required to have background checks?*

Yes. This is a standard carding requirement under most regional youth soccer associations.

5. *If our coaches are already subject to a background check from their local municipality, can it be used to substitute for the US Club background check?*

No. The background check under US Club, like that under USYS, is mandatory, and neither organization accepts alternate background checks.

6. *Are players required to be carded on NJYS/USYS passes to tryout and play for ODP?*

No. There is no such requirement. Note, however, there may not be a convenient South Jersey location for tryouts.

7. *Does US Club offer an alternative to the USYS ODP process?*

Yes. It is called Player Development Program or PDP and it falls within the iD2 Program with approved by USSF. More information is available on the US Club website.

### **C. Carding Questions:**

1. *How do we card our players and coaches under US Club?*

On each league website, there will be a link provided that will take clubs to the US Club registration platform. Training in the actual carding process will be provided.

2. *Will the US Club system prevent us from dual carding a player that is already carded to another team/club?*

Yes. The system will automatically prevent a player from being dual carded unless the league expressly allows dual carding. See question #3.

3. *Can players be carded with more than one US Club pass?*

Yes. The normal default in the US Club carding system is to not allow dual carding. A league can agree to permit dual carding which would allow players to play on more than one team, or in more than one league. If a player is dual carded, they cannot play on more than one team playing in SJSJL or SJGSL. Each club will also have the ability to restrict which if any other clubs that their players may play on.

4. *Will there be a long delay in getting passes approved?*

No. Most passes are approved within 48 hours. All card processing and transfers are handled online by a paid staff in the US Club headquarters.

5. *How will player transfers be handled?*

Player transfers will occur through the US Club platform. Restrictions on the movement of players will still be enforced at the league level.

6. *Will passes have to be printed out on hard card stock like in the past?*

No. Cards can be printed out on standard paper stock and laminated.

#### **D. Website Questions:**

1. *Will we have to enter our roster information more than once if the league(s) switch to a different website provider?*

Yes. You will have to enter your information to create your team roster through the US Club platform, and you will have to enter/upload your roster information into the league website. The only reason that you enter it only once now, is because NJYS made the Blue Star platform mandatory and the leagues had already switched to the same website provider. If your teams are playing in tournaments, they likely still had to reenter their roster information into Gotsoccer. This will be similar to previous years where the rosters were done in Gotsoccer (per NJYS), and the leagues used different website providers.

2. *Will our information in the new website automatically carry over from season to season? From year to year?*

Yes.

3. *Is it possible for our teams to receive Gotsoccer points for league play?*

Yes, if the league utilizes the Gotsoccer platform, it can be set up to award Gotsoccer points for league play.

#### **E. Game Day Questions:**

1. *Will we still be using Game Day Rosters?*

Yes. They will look different, but we will still be using Game Day Rosters.

2. *Will we still have the option to use Guest Players?*

SJSL and SJGSL will evaluate the effectiveness of the Guest Player policy at the conclusion of the Spring 2018 season. If it proves to have been successful, we will continue it in the Fall 2018 season. The exact procedure at that time will be explained to everyone.

3. *Will we be able to use any player in our club, regardless if he/she is assigned to that particular team?*

No. Once you enter your roster into the league website, you will follow the league guidelines regarding roster sizes, adding players and transfers.