



SKY
BLUE
FC



NATIONAL WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE

2017 MEDIA GUIDE



2017 SKY BLUE FC SCHEDULE

@ SEATTLE REIGN FC	SAT. APRIL 15
@ BOSTON BREAKERS	SUN. APRIL 23
FC KANSAS CITY	SUN. APRIL 30
@ WASHINGTON SPIRIT	SAT. MAY 6
@ HOUSTON DASH	SAT. MAY 13
HOUSTON DASH	SAT. MAY 20
@ N.C. COURAGE	WED. MAY 24
ORLANDO PRIDE	SAT. MAY 27
PORTLAND THORNS FC	SAT. JUNE 3
@ PORTLAND THORNS FC	SAT. JUNE 17
@ CHICAGO RED STARS	SUN. JUNE 25
ORLANDO PRIDE	WED. JUNE 28
@ N.C. COURAGE	SAT. JULY 1
FC KANSAS CITY	SAT. JULY 8
CHICAGO RED STARS	SAT. JULY 15
@ SEATTLE REIGN FC	SAT. JULY 22
WASHINGTON SPIRIT	FRI. AUG 4
@ ORLANDO PRIDE	SAT. AUG 12
SEATTLE REIGN FC	SAT. AUG 19
BOSTON BREAKERS	SAT. AUG 26
@ FC KANSAS CITY	SUN. SEPT 3
WASHINGTON SPIRIT	SUN. SEPT 10
N.C. COURAGE	SUN. SEPT 24
@ BOSTON BREAKERS	SAT. SEPT 30

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OWNERSHIP GROUP

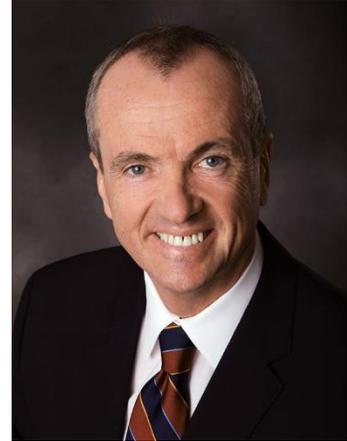
Philip D. Murphy - Majority Owner

A lifelong fan of “the beautiful game,” Philip D. Murphy was a driving force in bringing Sky Blue FC to New Jersey. His love of the game has spread throughout his family, as his wife, Tammy, and children Josh -- a member of the 2016 Division III National Champion Tufts University Jumbos -- Emma, Charlie, and Sam all play.

Born in Boston, Phil and his family have called Monmouth County, New Jersey, home for two decades. A graduate of both Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania, Murphy made his career in financial services, and worked around the world. Since his retirement from business in 2003, he and Tammy have immersed themselves in charitable works and public service.

From 2009 until 2013, Phil served with distinction as the United States Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, having been appointed by former President Barack Obama. Phil also served as national finance chairman of the Democratic National Committee alongside former chairman Howard Dean, and played an integral role in the implementation of the 50-State Strategy that culminated in Democrats retaking Congress and the 2008 election of President Obama.

Phil served as the board chair of 180 Turning Lives Around, a Monmouth County organization committed to ending domestic and sexual violence; he and Tammy founded 2nd Floor, a hugely successful teen helpline. Murphy also served as New Jersey’s sole representative on the national operating board of the NAACP. He and Tammy also founded New Start New Jersey, a statewide “think and do” organization dedicated to finding bold ideas to jump-start the state’s economy and rebuild the middle class. Phil is a founding partner of Democracy Alliance, an organization committed to growing grassroots engagement in politics and public service.



Steven Temares - Owner

Steven Temares has been part of the ownership group of Sky Blue Soccer since 2009. He is the Chief Executive Officer and member of the Board of Directors of Bed Bath & Beyond Inc., which operates under the names Bed Bath & Beyond, Christmas Tree Shops, Christmas Tree Shops andThat! or andThat!, Harmon or Harmon Face Values, buybuy BABY and World Market, Cost Plus World Market or Cost Plus, Linen Holdings, One Kings Lane, Personalizationmall.com, Chef’s Central, Of A Kind and Decorist. Additionally, the Company is a partner in a joint venture which operates eight retail stores in Mexico under the name Bed Bath & Beyond.

Temares is a graduate of Rutgers University – where he serves on the Board of Overseers and the Board of Trustees– and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. In addition, he is on the Advisory Board of the New York Mets.

Temares and his wife, Amy, have three daughters.



SKY BLUE FC

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat: @SkyBlueFC

Facebook: Facebook.com/SkyBlueFC

YouTube: YouTube.com/SkyBlueFCvideo

OWNERSHIP GROUP

Majority Owner	Phillip D. Murphy
Owner	Steven D. Temares
Investor	Thomas Hofstetter

FRONT OFFICE STAFF

President & General Manager	Tony Novo
Chief Financial Officer	Mary Smoot

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

Vice President of Operations	Gioia DiFlumeri
Director of Operations	Cristine Wilson
Ticket Operations Manager	Mary Kate Minitelli

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Vice President of Communications	John Archibald
Game Day Video/Graphic Design	Mike Guirgis, Chelsea Martin
Game Day Press Box Liaison	Scott Neaves
Official Team Photographer	Robyn McNeil
Public Address Announcer	Mike Cantor

SALES DEPARTMENT

Vice President of Sales	Mike Milich
Partnership Development Manager	Catie Cooper
Business Development Specialists	Anthony DeNicola, Amanda Filippone, Bryan Finley, Amy Kantor

TECHNICAL STAFF

Head Coach	Christy Holly
Assistant Coach	Paul Greig
Goalkeeper Coach	Jill Loyden
Sports Science Coach	David Hodgson
Goalkeeper Coach	Maria Dorris
Head Athletic Trainer	Sue Penrod
Assistant Athletic Trainer	Dan Chraschewsky
Sports Performance Partner	RYPT (Reach Your Potential Training); Tinton Falls, N.J.

COACHING STAFF

Christy Holly – Head Coach

Christy Holly enters his second season as Sky Blue FC head coach in 2017 after leading an entire cultural reorganization of the club in 2016, finishing just outside the playoffs with a cumulative 7-8-5 record.

A native of Ireland, Holly brings over 17 years of coaching experience to Sky Blue FC that spans across various levels in both the United States and his native country.

Prior to being promoted to head coach, Holly served as a top Sky Blue FC assistant for three seasons, also spending two years as an assistant coach at Georgian Court University in Lakewood, N.J. The Derry native has a longstanding reputation as a great talent evaluator and game strategist, which was on full display in his first season as Sky Blue FC boss. All four of the team's 2016 NWSL College Draft picks became starters for the club, while open trialist Erin Simon was also an immediate entrant into the Starting XI. Additionally, first round selection Raquel Rodriguez won 2016 NWSL Rookie of the Year accolades, and the team now looks to build upon a young and exciting roster that was further strengthened this past offseason.

In addition to his coaching background, Holly earned his Bachelors Degree in Sports Science with Honors in Sports Psychology. He also worked previously as a coach and evaluator for the Bayern Munich National ID program, which is run in conjunction with Global Premier Soccer (GPS). Additionally, he played collegiately for John Moores University in Liverpool before joining the professional ranks with Limavady United in the top-level Irish Premier Division.



Paul Greig – Assistant Coach

Paul Greig is also entering his second season with Sky Blue FC after being appointed assistant coach by Christy Holly in 2016. Greig brings vast international coaching experience with him to New Jersey, including stops in his native Scotland, USA, England, Sweden, Spain and most recently in New Zealand, where he was the head coach of Northern Football in 2015. In what was his first year at the position, Greig led Northern Football to the ASB Women’s League championship to become the youngest coach in New Zealand history to manage his club to a National League title (men’s or women’s team). By scoring 37 goals in just nine matches, Northern Football was also the highest scoring club in league history.



Possessing 14 years of coaching experience, Greig served in a number of roles at the youth academy level in New Jersey before returning home to Scotland in 2006, where he earned an appointment as the Grassroots Manager at Scottish Premier League powerhouse Heart of Midlothian. Additionally, he worked at East Fife Football Club while coaching at the youth development level for both organizations. Greig eventually moved to New Zealand in 2011 and joined the National Talent Centre as head coach, and he remained with the group until making his most recent move to Sky Blue FC.

Jill Loyden – Goalkeeper Coach

Residing in Vineland, N.J., Jill Loyden joined Sky Blue FC as an assistant coach in 2016. Her time with the club dates back to its origins, when she was a goalkeeper for Jersey Sky Blue of the USL W-League. Collegiately, she was a three-time Big East Goalkeeper of the Year at Villanova University before being drafted by Saint Louis Athletica in the 2009 Women’s Professional Soccer (WPS) College Draft. The following season, she was signed by the Chicago Red Stars as their starting goalkeeper, compiling a 1.17 GAA (Goals Against Average) before bettering that number with a 1.13 GAA the next year for magicJack SC.



In international play, Loyden worked her way onto the U.S. Women’s National Team (U.S. WNT) scene in 2010, earning her first cap on October 1st of that year when she backstopped the team to a 2-1 victory over China. The following year, she earned a spot on the U.S. WNT roster for the 2011 FIFA Women’s World Cup in Germany, and she served as an alternate in London for the Gold Medal winning U.S. WNT side at the 2012 Olympic Games. Loyden joined Sky Blue FC in 2012 as part of the U.S. WNT allocation and spent her final two years as a professional player with the New Jersey club. Over that pair of seasons, she registered a cumulative 8-7-6 record over 21 starts with five shutouts and 115 saves.

Loyden is also the owner and operator of The Keeper Institute (TKI) in Sewell, N.J., which is an all-encompassing training school that aims to educate young aspiring goalkeepers in every component of the game. Additionally, she founded the Jillian Loyden Foundation in 2012, which was established with a mission to create and support signature programs and activities that motivate young people by empowering them and helping them to find value in themselves. The JL Foundation hosts an annual “Break the Silence” Gala each year, conducted to raise awareness and empower people to help victims of domestic violence.

David Hodgson - Sports Science Coach

A native of Liverpool, England, David Hodgson joins Sky Blue FC as its Sports Science Coach in 2017 with an extensive educational and coaching history.

Hodgson achieved his Master's Degree in Exercise Science & Sports Performance Enhancement at California University of Pennsylvania. Additionally, he became a Performance Enhancement Specialist through the National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM), as well as being a Certified Speed Coach by the National Association of Speed & Explosion (NASE). The England native also acquired his Advanced National Diploma from the NSCAA.



As a coach, Hodgson currently works at the club level with Sky Blue FC Development Academy Partner PDA. He established his coaching roots as the assistant coach for the women's soccer team at St. Peter's College in Jersey City, N.J. He then served as the head women's coach at Cedar Crest College in Allentown, Penn., before serving as an assistant for Sky Blue FC from 2008-09. After two stints as the assistant women's assistant coach at Drew University, he also served as the head coach of the women's soccer program at Rutgers University in Camden, N.J.

A New Jersey State Firefighter, Hodgson and his wife, Melissa, are proud parents of a baby boy, Jude.

Goalkeeper Coach – Maria Dorris

Maria Dorris enters her second season as a goalkeeper coach for Sky Blue FC, working alongside assistant coach Jill Loyden. In addition to Sky Blue FC, Dorris also serves as an assistant women's soccer coach at Drew University and on the staff of The Keeper Institute in Sewell, N.J., which is owned and operated by Loyden.

Dorris attended The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey for two years. In her rookie season, she started 22 games, recording 91 saves, notching 7 shutouts, and received 2 NJAC Rookie of the week honors. She led the Ospreys to an NJAC Final and their last NCAA appearance to date. She then transferred to Rowan University in the spring of 2011. That fall, she started four games and recorded 15 saves. She received NJAC Defensive Player of The Week and ECAC Defensive Player of the Week honors as she led the Profs into the 2011 NCAA tournament. During her senior season in 2012, Dorris started all 18 games, notching 74 saves for 11 shutouts and a save percentage of .881 (21st in NCAA Division III). She received NJAC Defensive Player of the Week honors twice, ECAC Defensive Player of the Week honors twice, and led the Profs to another NCAA tournament. She ended her career as the New Jersey Athletic Conference leader in shutouts and save percentage, and she was chosen to the 2012 NJAC All-Conference Honorable Mention Team. Maria earned her Master's Degree in Business Administration from Rowan University in 2016.



2017 SKY BLUE FC ROSTER - NUMERICAL

#	<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Last Team</u>
1	Kailen Sheridan	GK	KAY-lynn SHARE-uh-dan	Whitby, Ontario	Clemson
2	McKenzie Meehan	F	Muh-KEN-zee MEE-han	Glocester, R.I.	Boston College
3	Christie Pearce	D	KRIS-tee PIERCE	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.	MagicJack SC
5	Maya Hayes	F	MY-ya HAZE	Montclair, N.J.	Penn State
6	Taylor Lytle	M	TAY-ler LIE-til	Las Cruces, N.M.	Pali Blues
7	Nikki Stanton	M	NI-kee STAN-ton	North Bend, Wash.	Seattle Sounders Women
8	Erica Skroski	D	EH-ri-kuh SKRAH-ski	Galloway, N.J.	Rutgers
10	Daphne Corboz	M	DAFF-nee CORE-bohz	Greenbrook, N.J.	Georgetown
11	Raquel Rodriguez	M	Ruh-kehl roh-DREE-geh-z	San Jose, Costa Rica	Penn State
12	Kim DeCesare	M	KIM Duh-SEEZ-er	Massapequa Park, N.Y.	Eskilstuna United DFF
15	Kayla Mills	D	KAY-luh MILLS	West Covina, Calif.	Southern California
16	Sarah Killion	M	SAR-ruh KILL-yun	Fort Wayne, Ind.	UCLA
17	Domi Richardson	D	DAH-mee RICH-uhrd-sun	Fullerton, Calif.	FC Kansas City
19	Kelley O'Hara	F	KEL-ee Oh-HAIR-ah	Fayetteville, Ga.	Boston Breakers (WPS)
20	Samantha Kerr	F	Suh-man-THUH Kher	Fremantle, Australia	Western New York Flash
21	Leah Galton	F	LEE-ya GALL-ton	Harrogate, England	Hofstra
22	Mandy Freeman	D	MAN-dee FREE-man	Royal Palm Beach, Fla.	Southern California
27	Caroline Casey	GK	CARE-oh-line KAY-see	Chesapeake, Virg.	William & Mary
32	Tasha Kai	F	Nuh-TASH-uh KYE	Kahuku, Hawaii	Philadelphia Independence
33	Erin Simon	D	AIR-ehn SYE-mun	Oakhurst, N.J.	Syracuse
73	Madison Tiernan	M	MAD-uh-son TEAR-nan	Voorhees, N.J.	Rutgers

2017 SKY BLUE FC ROSTER - ALPHABETICAL

<u>#</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>College/School</u>
27	Caroline Casey	GK	5'7"	5/27/1994	Chesapeake, Virg.	William & Mary
10	Daphne Corboz	M	5'2"	6/14/1993	Greenbrook, N.J.	Georgetown
12	Kim DeCesare	M	5'10"	8/11/1991	Massapequa Park, N.Y.	Duke
22	Mandy Freeman	D	5'8"	3/23/1995	Royal Palm Beach, Fla.	Southern California
21	Leah Galton	F	5'7"	5/24/1994	Harrogate, England	Hofstra
5	Maya Hayes	F	5'7"	3/26/1992	Montclair, N.J.	Penn State
32	Tasha Kai	F	5'8"	5/22/1983	Kahuku, Hawaii	Hawaii
20	Samantha Kerr	F	5'8"	9/10/1993	Perth, Australia	N/A
16	Sarah Killion	M	5'8"	7/27/1992	Fort Wayne, Ind.	UCLA
6	Taylor Lytle	M	5'1"	3/31/1989	Las Cruces, N.M.	Texas Tech
2	McKenzie Meehan	F	5'5"	12/25/1994	Glocester, R.I.	Boston College
15	Kayla Mills	D	5'9"	11/8/1995	West Covina, Calif.	Southern California
19	Kelley O'Hara	F	5'5"	8/4/1988	Fayetteville, Ga.	Stanford
3	Christie Pearce	D	5'6"	6/24/1975	Point Pleasant, N.J.	Monmouth
17	Domi Richardson	D	5'6"	10/8/1992	Fullerton, Calif.	Missouri
11	Raquel Rodriguez	M	5'6"	10/28/1993	San Jose, Costa Rica	Penn State
1	Kailen Sheridan	GK	5'9"	7/16/1995	Whitby, Ontario	Clemson
33	Erin Simon	D	5'5"	8/19/1994	Oakhurst, N.J.	Syracuse
8	Erica Skroski	D	5'6"	2/14/1994	Galloway, N.J.	Rutgers
7	Nikki Stanton	M	5'7"	10/26/1990	North Bend, Wash.	Fairfield
73	Madison Tiernan	M	5'4"	7/9/1995	Voorhees, N.J.	Rutgers

#1 KAILEN SHERIDAN – GOALKEEPER



Hometown: Whitby, Ontario

Date of Birth: 7/16/1995

Height: 5-4

College: Clemson University

How Acquired: No. 23 overall pick in the 2017 NWSL College Draft

BIO:

Sheridan, 21, was selected by Sky Blue FC as the no. 23 overall pick in the 2017 NWSL College Draft. She made her debut for the Canada Women's National Team in March 2016, and she has been a member of their youth program since she was 15-years-old. Before arriving at the senior team, the Ontario native played for the U-17, U-20 and U-23 sides.

Collegiately, Sheridan played for Clemson University. While backstopping the Tigers, she made 76 appearances, recording 229 saves and 28 shutouts. The Canada international received an NSCAA All-America Third Team nod in 2015 while also receiving All-ACC honors after each of her four seasons at Clemson.

#2 MCKENZIE MEEHAN – FORWARD



Hometown: Glocester, Rhode Island

Date of Birth: 12/25/1994

College: Boston College

Height: 5-5

How Acquired: No. 23 overall pick in the 2017 NWSL College Draft

BIO:

McKenzie Meehan was a strong offensive playmaker while attending Boston College, finishing her collegiate career as their all-time leader in points (124) and goals (58). Additionally, she recorded the best mark in Boston College history for a single season when she tallied 20 goals as a sophomore. She finished off her senior campaign this past fall with an All-ACC First Team selection, leading Boston College in points (26), goals (12), shots (88) and shots on goal (45).

#3 CHRISTIE PEARCE (C) – DEFENDER



Hometown: Point Pleasant, New Jersey

Date of Birth: 6/24/1975

Height: 5-6

College: Monmouth University

How Acquired: U.S. Women's National Team Allocation (2013)

BIO:

One of the most legendary players in the history of international soccer, Christie Pearce enters her fifth NWSL season with Sky Blue FC in 2017 after playing every single minute of every single match during her 2016 campaign.

A native of Point Pleasant, N.J., Pearce attended Monmouth University on a basketball scholarship and was their starting point guard. During her senior year, then U.S. Women's National Team head coach Tony DiCicco called her into the U.S. WNT in January of 1997, just months after the USA had won its first Olympic gold medal. With nothing guaranteed, she chose to miss several basketball games for a shot at the National Team. While she was a high-scoring forward for Monmouth, tallying 79 goals in her college career, DiCicco brought her into camp for a run at playing defender. After playing well in her first training camp in San Diego, she made the roster for a trip to Australia.

Pearce came off the bench in her first game, playing the second half, then started her second match. Aside from injuries and the birth of her two daughters (Rylie, born in September of 2005, and Reece, born in March of 2010), she was rarely out of the starting lineup for the next 19 years, starting in 272 of her 311 caps. She played 24,011 minutes in a U.S. uniform, second-best in U.S. history. Her 311 caps are second-best in the history of international soccer (Kristine Lilly), men or women.

Pearce was the captain of the U.S. WNT during two gold medal runs and one FIFA Women's World Cup title. She played in 19 total Women's World Cup matches, tied for sixth best all-time, and played in 22 Olympic matches, more than any U.S. player. During her tenure with the U.S. WNT, Pearce captained the USA on 113 occasions.

Pearce finishes as the U.S. WNT's only four-time Olympian, a three-time Olympic gold medalist and an Olympic silver medalist in 2000. She also finishes as a two-time FIFA Women's World Cup champion, winning in 1999 and 2015, and is the eighth woman in U.S. history with two World Cup titles on her resume.

She and Kristine Lilly are the only two U.S. players to have played in five FIFA Women's World Cup tournaments. Pearce was a starter in seven of the nine world championships she played, serving as a reserve only in her first in 1999 and her last in 2015.

Pearce, who began her professional career in 2001, has played in all three iterations of the U.S. professional leagues. She played for the New York Power in the Women's United Soccer Association from 2001-03, played for Sky Blue FC and magicJack SC in Women's Professional Soccer, and since 2013 has played for her home state Sky Blue FC in the National Women's Soccer League.

During the 2009 inaugural season of Women's Professional Soccer, Pearce took over as Sky Blue FC player/head coach for the final stretch of the season, leading the team to an improbable run to the WPS Championship.

#5 MAYA HAYES – FORWARD



Hometown: Montclair, New Jersey

Date of Birth: 3/26/1992

Height: 5-7

College: Penn State University

How Acquired: No. 6 overall pick in the 2014 NWSL College Draft

BIO:

Hayes, who hails from Montclair, N.J., enters her fourth season with Sky Blue FC in 2017. In her previous three years with the club, she has tallied four goals and two assists, making 31 starts over 52 appearances.

One of the most decorated players in Penn State history, Hayes was a three-time NSCAA All-American. She was named a MAC Hermann Trophy semifinalist for three consecutive years, including her being a finalist in 2011. She was also a three-time first team All-Big Ten selection, as well as the Forward of the Year in 2011 and 2012. The New Jersey native ended her time as a Nittany Lion with 71 career goals, the third most in program history. She is also ranked third in career points with 163.

On the international front, the former U.S. U-23 WNT player was a member of a U.S. side that won the 2012 FIFA Women's U-20 World Cup, as well as the 2010 and 2012 CONCACAF U20 Women's Championship.

#6 TAYLOR LYTLE – MIDFIELDER



Hometown: Las Cruces, New Mexico

Date of Birth: 3/31/1989

Height: 5-1

College: Texas Tech

How Acquired: Free Agency (2013)

BIO:

Taylor Lytle is the only non-allocated player to be a member of Sky Blue FC since the inception of the National Women's Soccer League. During the previous four NWSL seasons, she has registered five goals and six assists, making 46 starts over 61 appearances.

The Las Cruces, N.M., native attended Texas Tech University and was named to the All-Big 12 First Team in 2009, also receiving a Second Team nod following both the 2008 and 2011 seasons. For her college career, she scored 14 goals and recorded 27 assists, with the assists being the most in program history.

On the international front, Lytle played in the 2012 Four Nations Tournament in La Magna, Spain, with the U.S. U-23 Women's National Team.

#7 NIKKI STANTON – MIDFIELDER



Hometown: North Bend, Washington

Date of Birth: 10/26/1990

Height: 5-7

College: Fairfield University

How Acquired: Free Agency (2014)

BIO:

A native of North Bend, Wash., Stanton played collegiately at Fairfield University in Fairfield, Conn., also playing for the Seattle Sounders of the now defunct USL W-League in 2012.

Originally a member of a Sky Blue FC Reserve Team that played in 2014 (under then Reserve Team assistant coach Christy Holly), Stanton eventually earned herself a professional contract with the full Sky Blue FC team. Over the past three NWSL seasons, she has made seven starts over 25 appearances.

Over the past two NWSL offseasons, Stanton has joined Sky Blue FC teammate Sam Kerr in Australia, with the duo playing key starting roles for Perth Glory.

#8 ERICA SKROSKI – DEFENDER



Hometown: Galloway, New Jersey

Date of Birth: 2/14/1994

Height: 5-6

College: Rutgers University

How Acquired: No. 23 overall pick in the 2016 NWSL College Draft

BIO:

Defender Erica Skroski was selected no. 23 overall in the 2016 National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) College Draft. She came to Sky Blue FC after anchoring the Rutgers University back line to its most successful season in program history in the fall of 2015, where the Scarlet Knights reached the NCAA College Cup semifinals.

The Galloway, N.J., native received 2015 Big East Defender of the Year honors and was also named to the All-Big East First Team and NSCAA All-America Second Team. Despite her defensive position, the four-year starter still contributed five goals and four assists on the offensive end as well during her college campaign.

Upon arriving at Sky Blue FC, Skroski immediately worked her way into the Starting XI, playing all but six minutes of her rookie campaign in 2016. The young defender scored the first goal of her professional career on July 17, 2016, when she finished off a Kristin Grubka assist in the 72nd minute of a match against the Boston Breakers.

On the international front, Skroski is currently a member of the U.S. U-23 Women's National Team pool and played in the past two Four Nations Tournaments in La Magna, Spain.

#10 DAPHNE CORBOZ – MIDFIELDER



Hometown: Greenbrook, New Jersey

Date of Birth: 6/14/1992

Height: 5-2

College: Georgetown University

How Acquired: Free Agency (2017)

BIO:

Corboz, 23, was originally selected by Sky Blue FC as the no. 22 overall pick in the 2015 NWSL College Draft. Although she had already proclaimed her intent to join Manchester City, Sky Blue FC still opted to secure her NWSL rights at the time.

As a youth player, Corboz attended Watchung Hills High School and flourished within the Players Development Academy, which is the U.S. Soccer Girls' Development Academy partner of Sky Blue FC. She then attended Georgetown University and had one of the most decorated careers in program history. Making 80 starts in 82 appearances, Corboz accumulated 134 points over four years, registering 47 goals and 41 assists. The 47 goals still stand as the highest mark ever in the Georgetown record books. During her collegiate career, she was named an NSCAA All-American on three occasions, including a First Team nod following her sophomore campaign.

Before arriving at Sky Blue FC, Corboz spent two seasons with Manchester City of the FA Women's Super League.

#11 RAQUEL RODRIGUEZ – MIDFIELDER



Hometown: San Jose, Costa Rica

Date of Birth: 10/28/1993

Height: 5-6

College: Penn State University

How Acquired: No. 2 overall pick in the 2016 NWSL College Draft

BIO:

Midfielder Raquel “Rocky” Rodriguez is entering her second season with Sky Blue FC after a 2016 campaign that saw her claim NWSL Rookie of the Year honors. On the season, she registered one goal and one assist, making a huge impression in the midfield over 17 starts and 18 appearances.

Sky Blue FC selected the 2015 MAC Hermann Trophy winner, Costa Rica international and Penn State University standout with the second overall pick in the 2016 National Women’s Soccer League (NWSL) College Draft. With the selection, Sky Blue FC brought in a championship playmaker who played every minute for Costa Rica in the 2015 FIFA Women’s World Cup before leading Penn State to the 2015 NCAA College Cup title that fall.

Rodriguez joins Kelley O’Hara as the second MAC Hermann Trophy winner on the Sky Blue FC roster, an elite distinction awarded to the best player in NCAA Division I soccer. During her senior campaign in Happy Valley, she started 27 matches for Penn State and recorded 18 points on a diversified six goals and six assists. None of those goals were bigger than her game-winner in the NCAA Women’s College Cup final, where her 72nd minute tally lifted Penn State to its first ever national championship by defeating Duke, 1-0. In addition to claiming both the NCAA’s greatest team and individual awards, the Nittany Lion captain was also honored in 2015 as the NCAA Women’s College Cup Most Outstanding Offensive Player, NSCAA Scholar Player of the Year, TopDrawerSoccer Player of the Year, TopDrawerSoccer Best XI First Team, Honda Sport Award winner, NSCAA All-America First Team and All-Big Ten First Team, among others.

For her college career, Rodriguez made 90 starts over 93 appearances, registering 74 points on 23 goals and 28 assists. The 23-year-old has always had a knack for scoring when the stage was biggest, tallying nine game-winning goals over her final three seasons.

On the international front, Rodriguez has been a member of the full Costa Rica National Team since 2012. The San Jose native proved once again to rise up when the lights were brightest at the 2015 FIFA Women’s World Cup in Canada, scoring the first FIFA Women’s World Cup goal in Costa Rica history when she buried a 1-1 equalizer against Spain in her nation’s first-ever FIFA Women’s World Cup game. Additionally, Rodriguez has been nominated for CONCACAF Female Player of the Year accolades the past three consecutive years.

#12 KIM DECESARE – FORWARD



Hometown: Massapequa, New York

Date of Birth: 8/11/1991

Height: 5-11

College: Duke University

How Acquired: Free Agency (2015)

BIO:

While playing at Duke University, DeCesare recorded 29 goals and 15 assists. Her 29 goals rank sixth on Duke's all-time list, while her 73 career points are ninth best in program history. The New York native also registered six goals in the NCAA College Cup Tournament for Duke, which is second all-time for the Blue Devils.

DeCesare is entering her third season with Sky Blue FC. Over the past two years, she has made seven starts over 15 appearances. Prior to arriving in New Jersey, she spent time with the NWSL's Boston Breakers and Eskilstuna United DFF of the Swedish Women's Premier Division, Damallsvenskan.

#15 KAYLA MILLS – DEFENDER



Hometown: West Covina, California

Date of Birth: 11/8/1995

Height: 5-9

College: University of Southern California

How Acquired: No. 4 overall pick in the 2017 NWSL College Draft

BIO:

Sky Blue FC made Kayla Mills the no. 4 overall selection in the 2017 NWSL College Draft.

Mills was named the 2015 Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year and received All-Pac-12 First Team accolades her senior campaign while helping Southern California to the 2016 NCAA College Cup championship. The West Covina, Calif., native had an outstanding tournament and was named to the All-College Cup Team. Additionally, Mills has been a regular within the U.S. Youth National Team system, and she most recently participated in a U.S. U-23 Women’s National Team camp in January.

#16 SARAH KILLION – MIDFIELDER



Hometown: Fort Wayne, Indiana

Date of Birth: 8/11/1991

Height: 5-10

College: UCLA

How Acquired: No. 2 overall pick in the 2015 NWSL College Draft

BIO:

Sarah Killion is entering her third season with Sky Blue FC after being named the team most valuable player following the 2016 season. Over two years in the NWSL, the Indiana native has recorded three goals and two assists, making 31 starts over 35 appearances.

The former UCLA standout was selected no. 2 overall by Sky Blue FC in the 2015 NWSL College Draft. The playmaking midfielder started 77 matches over 88 total appearances during her collegiate career at UCLA, having her best campaign as a senior, registering 30 points on nine goals and 12 assists while taking 45 shots. All marks were career highs, with the 12 assists matching her 2013 tally and equaling a school record. The 2014 NSCAA 3rd Team All-American was also selected to Top Drawer Soccer's Best XI and named to her third consecutive All-Pac-12 Team in 2014.

On the international level, Killion played for the U.S. U-18 Women's National Team and started for a U-20 side that won the FIFA World Championship in 2012. The crafty midfielder then made the next step in her career by being selected to the U.S. U-23 National Team, which won the 2013 Four Nations Tournament. In 2014, Killion received her first call-up to the full U.S. Women's National Team.

She returned to the U.S. Women's National Team for camps in 2016 and 2017 as well.

#17 DOMI RICHARDSON – DEFENDER



Hometown: Fullerton, California
Date of Birth: 10/8/1992
Height: 5-6
College: Missouri
How Acquired: Free Agency (2016)

BIO: Domi Richardson is entering her second season with Sky Blue FC. Before arriving in New Jersey, the California native spent time with the Houston Dash in 2014 and was part of an NWSL Championship while playing for FC Kansas City in 2015. Collegiately, Richardson played at the University of Missouri.

#19 KELLEY O'HARA – FORWARD



Hometown: Fayetteville, Georgia

Date of Birth: 8/4/1988

Height: 5-5

College: Stanford University

How Acquired: U.S. WNT Allocation (2013)

BIO:

A native of Fayetteville, Ga., Kelley O'Hara is entering her fifth season with Sky Blue FC and has played every NWSL season with the New Jersey side.

A mainstay with the U.S. Women's National Team, O'Hara made her first appearance for the senior team against Mexico on March 28, 2010, after competing at various levels of the U.S. youth program over the preceding five years. She is now approaching her 100th cap and has registered a pair of goals, despite mostly playing as a defender. She was a member of the U.S. WNT when it finished second overall in the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup before winning the Olympic gold medal the following summer in London. Three years later, O'Hara and the U.S. WNT hoisted the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup championship, where she recorded her first international goal on the largest stage of the game by hitting a game-sealing finisher against Germany in the semifinals.

Collegiately, O'Hara excelled at Stanford University. During her junior campaign, she led the Cardinal to its first NCAA College Cup appearance since 1993, where it defeated defending national champion Portland before falling to Notre Dame in the semifinals. The following year, O'Hara had one of the greatest seasons in NCAA history, recording 26 goals and adding 13 assists. Needless to say, she won the MAC Hermann Trophy that year, which is awarded the top player in college soccer. Stanford also advanced to the NCAA College Cup Championship, where it fell to North Carolina, 1-0.

For her college career, O'Hara recorded 57 goals and 32 assists, both of which were program records upon her graduation.

Professionally, O'Hara was the no. 3 overall selection of FC Gold Pride in the 2010 Women's Professional Soccer College Draft. Widely acknowledged as the great professional club in women's soccer history that season, FC Gold Pride easily won the 2010 WPS Championship by defeating the Philadelphia Independence, 4-0. After FC Gold Pride ceased operations in November of that year, O'Hara played for the Boston Breakers during the 2011 WPS season.

Upon the launch of the National Women's Soccer League in 2013, O'Hara was allocated to Sky Blue FC by the U.S. WNT. Over four seasons with the New Jersey side, she has scored 11 goals and added 15 assists despite playing primarily as a defender, making 54 starts over 57 appearances.

#20 SAM KERR – FORWARD



Hometown: Perth, Australia

Date of Birth: 9/10/1993

Height: 5-8

Previous Team: Perth Glory

How Acquired: Trade with Western New York Flash (11/24/2014)

BIO:

Sam Kerr, still just 23-years-old, enters her fifth overall season in the National Women's Soccer League and third with Sky Blue FC. The New Jersey side originally acquired Kerr via a trade with the Western New York Flash in late 2014, sending them the no. 4 overall pick in the 2015 NWSL College Draft and the rights to Elizabeth Eddy.

Due to an injury in 2016 and competing in the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup and 2016 Olympic Games with Australia, Kerr has played in just 18 matches for Sky Blue FC over the past two seasons, making 15 starts over those 18 appearances. Remarkably, she has still led the teams in goals over both years, recording six goals and two assists in 2015 before tallying five goals in 2016. Her 11 goals are level with Kelley O'Hara and just two behind the Sky Blue FC all-time leader, Nadia Nadim (13).

At the Flash, Kerr led her team with nine goals in 2014 while finishing third with four assists. She made 20 appearances for Western New York that year, starting every match. During her first NWSL campaign in 2013, the Australian striker started 19 games over 21 appearances, registering six goals and five assists to help

lead the Flash to the NWSL Shield. The Flash eventually fell to Portland Thorns FC in the 2013 NWSL Championship match.

Internationally, Kerr made her debut for the Australian Women's National Team in 2009, just five months after her 15th birthday. Two years later, she made two starts in three appearances for the Matildas in the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup. She has been an instrumental part of the Australia Women's National Team ever since.

Professionally, the Western Australia native began her club career in 2008 for Perth Glory in the Australian W-League. She remained in Perth until 2012 before joining Sydney FC. After a two-year stint in Sydney, Kerr returned to Perth for the 2014 W-League season. She has now spent the past three NWSL offseasons playing in Perth.

#21 LEAH GALTON – FORWARD



Hometown: Harrogate, England

Date of Birth: 5/24/1994

Height: 5-7

College: Hofstra University

How Acquired: No. 13 overall pick in the 2016 NWSL College Draft

BIO:

Sky Blue FC made English forward Leah Galton the no. 13 overall pick in the 2016 NWSL College Draft. The 2015 MAC Hermann Trophy semifinalist registered 122 points while at Hofstra University, a program record. Her 48 goals were second most in school history, and the 26 assists on her college resume are tied for most ever in the Pride record books. A native of Harrogate, England, Galton earned Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Player of the Year accolades for three consecutive years, the only player in CAA history to do so.

During her rookie 2016 campaign, Galton registered three goals and four assists, with the four assists equaling a team-high (Taylor Lytle). After missing the start of the NWSL season while finishing school at Hofstra University, Galton made 10 starts over 14 appearances.

#22 MANDY FREEMAN – DEFENDER



Hometown: Royal Palm Beach, Florida

Date of Birth: 3/23/1995

Height: 5-8

College: University of Southern California

How Acquired: No. 10 overall pick in the 2017 NWSL College Draft

BIO:

Mandy Freeman was selected as the 2016 Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year for her efforts in co-anchoring the Southern California back line to the NCAA College Cup Championship. The West Palm Beach, Fla. native was twice named to the Pac-12 First Team, including her recent senior campaign. Additionally, she received NSCAA All-America Second Team accolades in 2016. Currently a member of the U.S. U-23 Women's National Team, Freeman helped the American side win the Istria Cup last March and most recently joined the U-23s for camp in January.

#27 CAROLINE CASEY – GOALKEEPER



Hometown: Chesapeake, Virginia

Date of Birth: 5/27/1994

Height: 5-8

College: William and Mary

How Acquired: No. 29 overall pick in the 2016 NWSL College Draft

BIO:

Sky Blue FC made goalkeeper Caroline Casey the no. 29 overall selection in the 2016 NWSL College Draft. The Virginia native then earned an opening day nod to start her rookie campaign, defeating Hope Solo in a road match against Seattle Reign FC at Memorial Stadium, a venue where they had never lost before. During the 2016 season, Casey made nine starts over 10 appearances, recording a team-leading five wins (5-3-1 overall record).

Casey had a fantastic senior season at the College of William and Mary, earning All-America First Team accolades after recording a 0.88 goals-against-average, 86 saves and 11 shutouts while also claiming 2015 CAA Defensive Player of the Year accolades. She started every game of her college career and finished with 301 saves (second all-time at William and Mary), 29 shutouts (third all-time) and 48 wins.

#32 TASHA KAI – FORWARD



Hometown: Kahuku, Hawaii
Date of Birth: 5/22/1983
Height: 5-8
College: University of Hawaii
How Acquired: Free Agency (2016)

BIO:

A native of Kahuku, Kai attended the University of Hawaii and was named the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) Player of the Year on three occasions, the first person to ever receive that distinction. She completed her college career with 162 points on 72 goals in 73 matches. Her point and goal marks were second best in WAC history.

Upon finishing her collegiate career, Kai was called up to the senior U.S. Women's National Team (U.S. WNT) after playing in the U-21 program over the previous two years. She made her debut in the 2006 Algarve Cup, scoring goals in each of her first two matches with the senior national team. She was just the fourth player in U.S. WNT history to accomplish that feat. She was also a member of the U.S. WNT in the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup in China, and she scored the game-winner in extra time of a quarterfinal match over Canada in the 2008 Olympics. The U.S. WNT then proceeded to win the Gold

Medal in those Olympic Games. Over four years on the senior national team, Kai registered 24 goals and 13 assists in 67 matches. During that span, the U.S. WNT compiled a record of 57-1-9.

Kai started her professional club career with Sky Blue FC after being allocated to the New Jersey side in the 2009 U.S. WNT allocation for Women's Professional Soccer (WPS). During that inaugural campaign, Kai tallied six goals and one assist during the regular season before scoring a goal in the quarterfinal round of the WPS Playoffs to help Sky Blue FC past the Washington Freedom. She also served up the game-winning assist a week later when Sky Blue FC defeated the Los Angeles Sol to win the 2009 WPS Championship.

In the 2010 season, Kai scored another five goals in 19 appearances for Sky Blue FC. She then competed for the Philadelphia Independence in 2011, recording 10 goals in 19 matches, which was just a single tally short of the league lead. Kai then notched another goal in the 2011 WPS Semifinals to help Philadelphia past magicJack SC. The Independence eventually fell to the Western New York Flash in the 2011 WPS Championship game on penalty kicks, Kai's second championship match appearance in three years.

Since that final WPS season, Kai was away from the game until Sky Blue FC head coach Christy Holly lured her out of retirement prior to the 2016 NWSL season, which would be her first professional campaign in five years. On the season, Kai registered four goals and one assist, making 17 starts over 20 appearances.

#33 ERIN SIMON – DEFENDER



Hometown: Oakhurst, New Jersey

Date of Birth: 8/9/1994

Height: 5-5

College: Syracuse University

How Acquired: Open Tryouts (2016)

BIO:

A soccer and basketball standout at Red Bank Regional High School in New Jersey, Erin Simon played her college soccer at Syracuse University. She arrived on campus as a forward, registering nine goals and six assists in her first two seasons with the Orange. Her athleticism and an injury to a teammate on the back line then led Simon to a run as defender, a position she then played for the entirety of her final two years at Syracuse.

With a dream of becoming a professional soccer player within reach, Simon then attended Sky Blue FC's open tryouts before the start of the 2016 NWSL season. She impressed head coach Christy Holly enough to earn an invite into preseason, soon after earning a professional contract and a starting spot on the Sky Blue FC back line. During her rookie campaign, the New Jersey native made 18 starts over 19 appearances, tallying a pair of assists.

#73 MADISON TIERNAN - MIDFIELDER



Hometown: Voorhees, New Jersey

Date of Birth: 7/9/1995

Height: 5-4

College: Rutgers University

How Acquired: No. 24 overall pick in the 2017 NWSL College Draft

BIO:

A native of Voorhees, N.J., Madison Tiernan played three seasons alongside former Rutgers and now Sky Blue FC teammate Erica Skroski before leading the Scarlet Knights with 28 points on 11 goals and six assists this past fall. After her senior campaign, she was named to the NSCAA All-Great Lakes Region Second Team, as well receiving All-Big Ten Second Team accolades. For her collegiate career, Tiernan left her imprint on the Rutgers record books, finishing second in shots (275), fifth in game-winning goals (9), sixth in goals (25) and seventh in points (66).

TEAM HISTORY

Sky Blue FC, owned and operated by Sky Blue Women's Soccer Inc., is an internationally recognized organization dedicated to becoming the leader in high-level soccer, both in the national and international arena. Sometimes referred to as Sky Blue Soccer, the organization's mission is based on an integrated program allowing players to progress from youth through amateur ranks to professional status.

Established in the fall of 2006, Sky Blue Soccer made its on-field debut as Jersey Sky Blue in the USL W-League in 2007. Sky Blue Soccer successfully operated Jersey Sky Blue for two seasons before partnering and transferring the W-League team to Quickstrike FC in New York.



Sky Blue FC made its professional debut in 2009 as a founding member of Women's Professional Soccer (WPS), winning the inaugural league championship that year after an improbable run through the WPS Playoffs with Christie Pearce as player/coach. Sky Blue FC competed in all three seasons that WPS played.

In November 2012, the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) announced the establishment of the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL). Sky Blue FC became one of the eight founding members of the NWSL, which was supported by the USSF, Canadian Soccer Association and the Federation of Mexican Football.



Sky Blue FC set several franchise records during the inaugural 2013 NWSL season, including a 435-minute shutout streak and going six matches without a loss. Despite being at the top of the table for the majority of the regular season, the club finished the season in fourth place, claiming the final spot for the NWSL Playoffs. Sky Blue FC met the Western New York Flash in a semifinal game, suffering a 2-0 defeat.

During its 2014 campaign, Sky Blue FC hit a few hurdles along the way before truly finding its groove over the home stretch of the regular season. The New Jersey side ended the regular season as the hottest team in the league, matching a franchise-record five-match winning streak, but ultimately ended up just a single point shy of the postseason.

Prior to the start of the 2016 season, Sky Blue FC promoted top assistant Christy Holly to head coach, as former head coach Jim Gabarra made the move to the Washington Spirit after four seasons in New Jersey. After guiding an exceptionally young roster into becoming one of the most entertaining clubs in the NWSL, Holly now enters his second season as head coach with an ambition to lead Sky Blue FC back to the postseason for the first time since 2013.

STADIUM INFORMATION

Yurcak Field

Sky Blue FC plays its home matches at Yurcak Field on the campus of Rutgers University in Piscataway, NJ.

Officially known as “The Soccer/Lacrosse Stadium at Yurcak Field” in honor of Ronald N. Yurcak, a 1965 All-American Rutgers Lacrosse player, the stadium was dedicated in 1994 and is considered one of the premier soccer and lacrosse facilities in the country. Yurcak Field seats 5,000 fans in the grandstand with room for additional fans across the field in the stadium’s lawn area. It has hosted the largest crowds to see college soccer in America.

For more information, visit ScarletKnights.com, the official Rutgers University Athletics website.

Rutgers Athletics Bag Policy

Fans will be able to carry the following style and approximately sized bags into all athletic venues:

- Bags that are clear plastic, vinyl or PVC and are approximately 12” x 6” x 12”, or
- One-gallon clear plastic storage bag or similar, and/or
- Small clutch bags, approximately the size of a hand, with or without a handle or strap can be taken into athletic venues in addition to one of the clear plastic bag options.
- An exception will be made for medically necessary items after proper inspection at the Guest Services gates designated for this purpose.

Prohibited bags include: purses larger than a clutch bag, coolers, briefcases, backpacks, fanny packs, cinch bags, luggage of any kind, computer bags and camera bags or any bag larger than the permissible size.

Prohibited items include: alcoholic beverages, balloons, bottles, cans, containers, coolers, fireworks, flares, laser pointers, noise making devices, pets, plastic horns, smoke bombs, smoking, sticks/poles, strollers, umbrellas, weapons, whistles and other items deemed dangerous and/or inappropriate.

Any prohibited bag at the gate will be highly visible and more quickly resolved. Prohibited bags will be turned away. Clear bags are easily and quickly searched and greatly reduce faulty bag searches. It also supports the Department of Homeland Security’s “If You See Something, Say Something” campaign.

Parking

Parking is conveniently located next to Yurcak Field and costs \$5 per vehicle.

COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS

SINGLE TABLE:

Teams will be aligned into a single table:

Boston Breakers
Chicago Red Stars
Houston Dash
FC Kansas City
North Carolina Courage
Orlando Pride
Portland Thorns FC
Seattle Reign FC
Sky Blue FC
Washington Spirit

REGULAR SEASON:

Each of the ten (10) NWSL clubs will play 24 games, 12 at home and 12 away.

POINT SYSTEM:

Teams will receive three points for a win, one point for a tie and zero points for a loss.

REFEREES:

All referees in NWSL are either USSF (United States Soccer Federation) or CSA (Canadian Soccer Association) National Referees. Referees for all NWSL games will be trained, assigned and evaluated by PRO (Professional Referee Organization).

GAME CLOCK:

The official game time for all National Women's Soccer League games will be managed on the field by the referee. If necessary, the referee may also allot extra time (a.k.a. "stoppage time") at the end of each period (first half, second half, and if applicable, first overtime period and second overtime period during playoff matches) to allow for injuries, time-wasting or other disturbances.

The stadium clock will display the time from 0:00 to 45:00 and from 45:00 to 90:00. For statistical purposes, the minutes for goals, substitutions, yellow cards, etc., will be listed from the first minute until the 90th minute. A goal scored at 15 minutes 10 seconds will be listed as having been scored in the 16th minute. Events occurring during stoppage time will follow the international norm by being demarcated with a "+" sign and the extra minutes. For example, a goal scored three minutes into first half stoppage time will be officially identified as happening at "48+".

GAME DAY ROSTERS:

Each team can nominate 18 players for a game day roster. Teams are allowed three substitutions per game.

CAUTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS:

A Player will be suspended for one game upon receiving her fifth yellow card, regardless of the nature of the infraction which resulted in her being awarded the yellow card. A second suspension of one game would result after the awarding of an additional three cards as would a third suspension after the awarding of card number eleven.

LIGHTNING AND SEVERE WEATHER:

Given the likelihood of lightning during the League season, and the potential for personal injury and structural damages lightning can cause, each Home Team will have a detailed weather delay plan that includes the following:

- 1) Specific persons in charge of decision-making (one management level person from the stadium, one person from the Home Team, one person from law enforcement)
- 2) Direct contact with the U.S. Weather Bureau and/or Doppler radar
- 3) Formation of a weather delay committee with pre-designated meeting location (and back-up location) that includes the Referee, Team representatives and TV producer
- 4) Immediate and consistent contact with the League's Game Notice Designee
- 5) Updates to spectators and media via PA announcement (and video if available)
- 6) "Standing Orders" (procedures) published and posted to accomplish the above In the event it is deemed safe to resume play, refer to "Team Warm-Up Period Following Game Delay" for League guidelines.

HYDRATION BREAKS:

Per the measures taken to protect player safety at the 2014 FIFA World Cup, the NWSL has established the following hydration break procedure for the League.

Decision Making Process:

- Per the National Weather Index Heat Chart, cooling breaks are mandated if the heat index reaches 89 degrees Fahrenheit or higher Temperature and humidity should be checked sixty (60) minutes before kick-off
- Heat index should be confirmed by the referee and a representative from each team (coach, medical staff, etc.)
- Any onsite questions should be directed to the NWSL League Staff
- Implementation of the breaks will be managed solely by the referee

Implementation:

- Each break shall be approximately three (3) minutes in length and held approximately thirty (30) minutes into each half (around the 30th and 75th minute respectively)
- Ball must be out of play for the break to commence
- Referee will signal for the start of the break and inform both teams and all match officials
- Both teams will go to their respective team areas
- Clock will continue to run and all time allotted for the break will added to stoppage time

NWSL Playoffs:

Single-Elimination Format

WHO QUALIFIES:

The top four clubs in points from the League standings at the end of the regular season, qualify for the 2015 NWSL Playoffs.

- The two Semifinals will be decided by a single knockout game, the winner of which will advance to the Championship Game.
- The NWSL Championship will be a single championship match hosted at a pre-determined site.
- If the score is tied after 90 minutes of play in any playoff game, two 15-minute extra time periods will be played in their entirety, followed by kicks from the penalty mark, if necessary.

Team-Standings Tie-Breaking Procedures

The team awarded the highest position in the NWSL standings will be the team with the greatest number of points (three points for a win, one point for a tie, zero points for a loss). In the event that two teams finish the regular season with an equal number of points, the following system will be used to break the tie:

When two or more teams are tied in the standings on points (3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw, 0 points for a loss), the following tiebreakers will be used in the sequence below, until one team ranks ahead of the other(s):

- 1) The highest position shall be awarded to the team with the better win/loss record in current Regular Season games against all other teams equal in points. (head-to-head competition)
- 2) If the teams are still equal in the standings, the highest position shall be awarded to the team with the greater goal difference against all other teams during the Regular Season. (goal differential)
- 3) If the teams are still equal in the standings, the highest position shall be awarded to the team scoring the greatest number of total goals against all other teams during the Regular Season. (total goals)
- 4) If the teams are still equal in the standings, the procedures described in this section shall be applied only to games played on the road by each team against all other teams during the Regular Season. (road 1-3)
- 5) If the teams are still equal in the standings, the procedures described in this section shall be applied only to games played at home by each team against all other teams during the regular season. (home 1-3)
 - If the teams are still equal in the standings, the highest position in the standings shall be determined by the toss of a coin.
 - The first tiebreaker in a three-way tie is also head-to-head, but it is determined via points-per-game versus the other two teams. If two teams are tied in points-per-game head-to-head, the next tie breaker is goal difference.

NOTE: If two clubs remain tied after another club with the same number of points advances during any step, the tie breaker reverts to step 1 of the two-club format.

2017 Competition Calendar

Thursday, March 09, 2017	Primary Registration/Transfer Window opens
Monday, March 13, 2017	Preseason starts
Monday, April 10, 2017	18-20 Player Rosters Due
Saturday, April 15, 2017	Regular Season / Discovery Process begins
Wednesday, May 31, 2017	Primary Registration/Transfer Window closes
Monday, June 05, 2017	Secondary Registration/Transfer Window opens
Friday, July 05, 2017	Secondary Registration/Transfer Window closes
Monday, August 28, 2017	Last day to Waive Players prior to Roster Freeze 2017 Discovery Process Closes
Tuesday, August 29, 2017	Roster Freeze Date 2017 Semi-Guaranteed contracts become guaranteed
Wednesday, August 30, 2017	2018 Re-signings and Option Extensions Open
Saturday, September 30, 2017	Regular Season ends
TBD	NWSL Semifinals
TBD	NWSL Championship
Tuesday, October 17, 2017	Off-season Discovery Process Opens
Wednesday, October 18, 2017	Deadline for Teams to exercise 2018 options
Monday, October 23, 2017	End of Season Process Commences
Tuesday, October 24, 2017	End of Season Process Concludes

NOTE: For the purposes of NWSL deadlines, the time of the day at which the deadline expires shall be 5 p.m. ET for deadlines falling on a business day and 11:59 p.m. ET for a deadline falling on a weekend or public holiday.

ROSTER RULES

Team Salary Cap Regulations

Team Salary Cap

In computing the Salary Cap, it is assumed that it is spread across a minimum of 18 Players (if a Team is carrying additional Players because of Roster Relief due or Goalkeeper Replacement, these Players are also included) based on adjustments for Federation Players. Therefore, if a Team is carrying less than 18 Players, minimum salary Player spots are added to the Team's budget for the purpose of calculating the total TSC (i.e. a Team cannot spread the TSC over 11 Players).

Team Salary Cap: \$315,000.

Maximum, Minimum Player Salary Budget Charges

Minimum Salary: \$15,000.

Maximum Salary: \$41,700.

Roster Limits

- 18-20 Player Roster
- Teams may have no more than 20 available Players under contract on their Roster at any one time, subject to Injury and Goalkeeper Replacement exceptions.

League Classifications

Individual

An Individual is a person who is eligible to play in the NWSL but is not a Player.

Player

A Player is a person who:

- A) Is currently under contract with a Team
- OR
- B) Is not under contract with a Team, but has their rights to play in the NWSL controlled by a Team.

Federation Player

A Federation Player is a Player whose compensation is underwritten by a Federation.

Unattached Federation Individual

An Unattached Federation Individual (UFI) is an Individual who a Federation has designated as a potential Federation Player, but whose rights are not yet controlled by a Team. Unattached Federation Individuals are designated as such by one of the following mechanisms:

- A) From time to time, a Federation may choose to designate certain Individuals as Unattached Federation Individuals.
- B) Teams may, as permitted by the NWSL, choose to relinquish their rights to a Federation Player. Any Federation Player whose rights have been relinquished by a Team will become an Unattached Federation Individual.

Domestic Players

A domestic Player is either a U.S. citizen, a permanent resident (Green Card holder) or the holder of certain other special status (e.g., has been granted refugee or asylum status). There is no limit as to the number of domestic Players on a Team's Roster within general Roster limits.

International Players

Each Team has four (4) international Roster spots for the 2017 season. These international Roster spots may be traded with the only condition being time (spots can be traded for one year, two years or forever). With trades, there is no limit on the number of international Roster spots a Team may have. Any Player who does not qualify as a domestic Player in the U.S. shall be considered an international Player. Any international Player must occupy an international Roster spot on a Team's Roster (with the exception of Federation Players).

Amateur Players

An amateur Player is any person other than a professional Player. An amateur Player may not receive or retain any remuneration for playing except expenses directly related to a game or games which have actually been incurred by the Player.

Amateur List

- Each Team's Amateur List will initially be allowed 10 amateur Players
- The Players listed on the Amateur List may remain there through the end of the 2017 Season.

Team

A Team is one of the following entities: Boston Breakers, Houston Dash, Chicago Red Stars, FC Kansas City, North Carolina Courage, Orlando Pride, Portland Thorns FC, Seattle Reign FC, Sky Blue FC and Washington Spirit (together, the "Teams").

Expansion Team

An Expansion Team is any Team who did not compete in the prior NWSL season.

Federation

A Federation is one of the following entities: the Mexican Football Federation, Canadian Soccer Association or United States Soccer Federation (together, the “Federations”).

MECHANISMS OF ACQUIRING PLAYERS

Teams may add Players to their Roster through one of the following mechanisms:

Distribution Process

College Draft

Trades

Discovery

Waivers

Loans and Transfers

Amateur Call-up

Disabled List

Season-ending Injury Replacement

Goalkeeper Replacement

In order for a Team to add a Player to its Roster, it must use one of the above mechanisms. Once it has been determined that a Player may be added pursuant to one of the above mechanisms, it must then be determined if the Player’s addition would be within the relevant Roster limits and guidelines.

Player Distribution ProcessPurpose and Intent

The intent of the Player Distribution Process is to provide an equitable mechanism for distributing the rights to certain Individuals to Teams in the NWSL.

Types of Individuals Available for Distribution. The following types of Individuals will have their rights distributed to Teams via the Distribution Process.

- A) Unattached Federation Individuals

Collectively, these types of Individuals will be referred to as *Distribution-Eligible Individuals*.

Distribution Ranking Order. The Distribution Ranking Order is the mechanism used to determine which Team has first priority to select a Distribution-Eligible Individual.

- A) The Distribution Ranking Order will be determined by the reverse order of finish of the prior NWSL season, taking playoff performance into account. Specifically, the 10th Ranking will go to the winner of the NWSL Championship Game, the 9th Ranking will go to the loser of the NWSL Championship Game, the 8th Ranking will be given to the team with the highest playoff seeding that lost in a Semi-Final Game, and the 7th Ranking will be given to the team with the lowest playoff seeding that lost in a Semi-Final Game. The 6th through 1st Rankings will be given to the non-playoff teams in reverse order of finish, such that the 1st Ranking will be provided to the team with the lowest position in the NWSL table. The 11th Ranking will be provided to the Expansion Team.
- B) Once a Team uses its Distribution Ranking to select a Distribution-Eligible Individual, it will drop to the bottom of the Distribution Ranking Order.
- C) Teams may trade their Distribution Ranking, provided part of the compensation received in return is the other Team's Distribution Ranking. At all times each Team is assigned one Distribution Ranking.
- D) The Distribution Ranking Order will reset on the day following the current year's Championship match, as per the methodology described in Section 4(A).
- E) Until the conclusion of the current season, each Team's Distribution Ranking can only be adjusted through one of the following mechanisms:
 - i. By acquiring an Distribution-Eligible Individual via the Distribution Process;
 - ii. Through a trade with another Team.

Distribution Process. Teams will be provided the opportunity to select Distribution-Eligible Individuals on a rolling basis, in accordance with the following processes:

- A) *Timing.* Distribution-Eligible Individuals will be made available for selection by Teams after the NWSL is notified that a Distribution-Eligible Individual is available for Distribution, except after the Roster Freeze date, in which case the Distribution-Eligible Individual will not be available for selection until after the completion of the current season, on a date to be determined by the NWSL.
- B) *If One Distribution-Eligible Individual Available for Selection.* If a single Distribution-Eligible Individual is available for selection by Teams via the Distribution Process, the NWSL will provide formal notice to all Teams via email. Interested teams will be required to respond via email by 5pm ET on the same day. The Distribution-Eligible Individual will be awarded to the Team that selects the Distribution-Eligible Individual, except in the event that more than one Team requests the Distribution-Eligible Individual, in which case the Team with the highest Distribution Ranking will be awarded the Distribution-Eligible Individual.

- C) *If More Than One Distribution-Eligible Individual Available for Selection.* In the event that more than one Distribution-Eligible Individual is made available for selection by the Teams, a “Distribution Draft” will be held, in accordance with the following rules: The NWSL will provide Teams with a date, time and conference call number on which the Distribution Draft will be conducted;
- i. Teams will be permitted to select Distribution-Eligible Individuals following Distribution Ranking Order;
 - ii. Teams may choose to not make any selections in the Distribution Draft;
 - iii. Teams are permitted to trade their Distribution Ranking to another Team during the Distribution Draft;
 - iv. Teams are permitted to select an unlimited number of Distribution-Eligible Individuals in each Distribution Draft;
 - v. In the event an Distribution-Eligible Individual is not selected by any Team in the Distribution Draft, the Individual will be immediately eligible to be designated as a Discovery Player by a Team.
- D) *Retention of Rights.* Teams who select a Distribution-Eligible Individual, but do not sign the Distribution-Eligible Individual to a contract, will retain the Distribution-Eligible Individual’s rights until start of preseason the following year.

College Draft

These are Players drafted by Teams in the annual NWSL College Draft.

All Players who have exhausted their college eligibility or who will graduate in the 2017-18 year are eligible for the College Draft. Players must be registered by Jan. 2018 to be part of the College Draft. If a Player is eligible and does not register, that Player will not be able to be on the Roster of a NWSL Team until the start of the Offseason Discovery Window – at which point that Player will become eligible as a Discovery Player.

The draft order is based upon the Teams’ on-field performance during the previous year. If Teams are tied, the Tie Breaking Procedures shall be utilized.

Once preseason begins, Teams must make a decision on Non-Contracted Players, whose rights they hold, within 15 days once the Player reports.

Undrafted Players

A Player who is on the College Draft List and is undrafted may be added to a Team’s Roster via a Discovery claim on a first-come, first-serve basis. If more than one Team selects the same Player on the same day, priority will be determined in accordance with the League’s Discovery Order.

College Protected List

If a college Player is drafted by a Team in the College Draft, the League will attempt to sign the College Player to a contract in a salary range predetermined by the League Office.

Any college Player who has refused to sign an NWSL contract or who has refused to report to the Team to be evaluated does not need to be placed on waivers and may remain college protected.

A Player on the College Protected List is not a Roster Player and may not play for the Team, since she has not signed a Player contract.

Trades

Players may be acquired in trades with League approval. See Standard Trade Agreement Form.

All Player trades are subject to League approval and to Salary Cap as well as Roster size and composition constraints. Player trades cannot be made for finite periods (i.e., Players may not be “loaned” by one Team to another or temporarily swapped by Teams).

Trades may not be conditioned upon a Player passing a physical examination or unwound because she failed to do so – it is a case of “buyer beware.” Teams are advised to undertake any inquiries regarding a Player’s medical condition before executing a Trade Agreement. It is also a case of “buyer beware” with regard to a Player failing to report to her new Team.

Bona fide consideration (either an exchange of Players, future draft choices) is required in each trade of a Player. No financial consideration is permitted. Teams are able to trade future draft picks and International spots as well as Players. Teams may not structure trades such that a Player may not play against her previous Team.

The League should be consulted early in any trade discussions so that Player salaries and other Player Agreement provisions can be confirmed, Team Salary Cap impacts can be determined, any draft positions to be traded can be confirmed, and any other matters, including the Players’ physical condition, can be discussed.

Teams must respond fully to all inquiries in anticipation of a trade regarding Player injuries, illnesses, or other matters, and provide copies of medical records as requested. It is anticipated that Team trainers and physicians will communicate directly on these matters. A Team’s failure to respond fully and accurately may result in sanctions imposed by the League as set forth under “Binding Agreement and Approval”. There is, however, no prohibition against Teams trading an injured Player.

Binding Agreement and Approval

A trade is binding on the Teams from the time the Trade Agreement is executed by both Teams and submitted to the League office, but is not final until approval has been received in writing from the League office. Once the League has given approval, the trade is final except where, in the opinion of the League, egregious conduct has occurred on the part of a Team involved in a trade that was not known at the time the trade was approved.

The League shall disapprove any trade of a Player if the consideration is not clearly established and accurately disclosed on the Trade Agreement submitted to the League.

Trades of Discovery Rights

Teams may not trade Discovery Player “rights” or “spots.”

Trades for International Spots

Teams may trade International spots, provided that the only condition can be the length of time the spot is traded (e.g., a spot can be traded for 1 year, 2 years or forever).

Trades for College Draft Picks

Teams trading College Draft picks may not place conditions on those draft picks.

Teams are only permitted to trade selections for the next College Draft. The sole exception to this is that Teams will be permitted to trade selections from the next two College Drafts during the period of time from the conclusion of a Season through the end of the subsequent draft.

Trades for Distribution Draft Ranking Spot

Teams may trade their Distribution Ranking Spot, provided part of the compensation received in return is the other Team's Distribution Ranking Spot. At all times, each Team is assigned one Distribution Ranking Spot.

Trade Deadline

No trade may take place between the Roster Freeze and the NWSL Championship.

Standard Trade Agreement Forms

All trades should be submitted to the League office on an official Standard Trade Agreement Form.

Discovery

A Discovery Player is a domestic or international Player who is currently not under contract with the League. A Team may claim her rights by adding her to their Discovery List.

The term "Discovery Player" may refer to both Players on the Discovery List and those Players under contract with the League who have been acquired through Discovery Process.

A Discovery Player request must be made to the League on an official Discovery Player Request Form during the "Discovery Period." If approved by the League, the Player will be informed and will be added to the Team's Discovery List.

Teams may submit discovery forms and sign Players during the following Discovery Periods:

- Seven (7) in the off season period
- An additional four (4) in the Preseason period
- No more than three (3) unsigned international Players may be on a Team's discovery list in the Offseason and Preseason period
- An unlimited number of Players may be signed, but only two (2) unsigned discovery Players may be on a Team's discovery list during the Inseason period
- No more than two (2) unsigned international Players may be on a Team's discovery list in the Inseason period

Once submitted the Discovery Player continues to occupy a discovery spot. An exception to this would be applied if another Team submits a discovery request for the same Player and after 14 days the Player is not signed with the original Team she will be removed from the first Team and placed on the second Team's list who submitted the request. The Player will then occupy a spot on the 2nd Team's discovery list.

Discovery Process

- A Player is put on a Team's discovery list once they are in talks/negotiations (on behalf of the League) to sign the Player.
- It is incumbent upon all Teams to notify their Discovery Players that they are on their Teams' Discovery List in order to assure that no tampering will take place.
- If another Team submits a discovery request for the same Player, the Team who holds the discovery rights will need to provide a Player Agreement within 14 days for the Player or release her rights.
- If the Player is released or the offer is deemed to not be bona fide, the discovery rights for the Player will then be awarded to the second requesting Team.
- If the Team makes a bona fide offer to the Player and she does not accept, the Player will not be eligible to be placed on another discovery list during that Season.
- Players will remain on a Team's discovery list until the end of the Season at which time she will be removed.
- No discovery may take place from the close of the Inseason period until the start of the Offseason period

A list of Discovery Players will be available for Teams to review in order to facilitate the process. This list is for internal use only and not be publicized in any way.

Non-Discoverable Players

Teams may not discover Players in the pool for the full U.S. Women's National Team. The Player pool for the USWNT is as determined by U.S. Soccer (usually posted on their website) at the time the Player is being signed by the League.

Teams may not discover a Player who played at a four-year collegiate institution during the college Season immediately prior to the date of discovery. If a Player has completed her college eligibility in the Season immediately prior to the date of her discovery and was not on the College Draft list, she shall not be permitted to play in the League for the current Season.

Discovery Period

The discovery period for Discovery Players is as set forth in the Competition Calendar. After the Roster Freeze Date the Discovery List is wiped clean as only goalkeeper replacement signings will be made for the remainder of that Season.

Multiple Claims for the Same Player

If a Team makes a valid Discovery Player request and no other Team makes a Discovery Player request for the same Player on the same day (whether or not it's a business day) during the Discovery Period, the Player shall be assigned to the requesting Team. In the event a Discovery Player is requested by more than one Team during the Discovery Period, the League shall award the Player to the Team per the Discovery Order.

The Discovery Order is determined via reverse order of the standings from the previous Season until Teams have played at least three (3) League games. If the discovery takes place prior to all Teams playing in at least three (3) League games priority shall be granted based upon the prior year's performance according to their point totals through the end of the Regular Season.

In the offseason, once a Team involved in a tie wins the tie breaker, it is moved to the bottom of the Discovery Order.

New expansion Teams shall be in the middle of the Discovery Order. If only one of the claiming Teams participated in the prior League Season, priority shall be granted to the Team that so participated. If neither Team played in the previous Season, priority will be granted to the Team that received the lowest 1st Round College Draft pick. If the Teams are equal in points, the League shall award the Player using the Tie Breaking Procedures for determining playoff participation and seeding.

Salary Cap of Discovery Players

A Discovery Player's Salary Cap number will include the Player's salary (and bonuses, camps, etc.). The resulting Salary Cap number for the Player must not exceed the maximum Salary Cap charge or cause the Team to exceed its Team Salary Cap.

Loans and Transfers

All contract and loan/transfer negotiations shall be approved by the League, consistent with the current rules. The League should be consulted at the beginning of any loan or transfer process.

U.S. Soccer will not register Player loans or transfers that take place outside of our two annual transfer windows. The Primary and Secondary Windows are set forth in the Competition Calendar.

International Transfers and Loans

With respect to international loans or transfers of Players, the Players must be registered with U.S. Soccer within the registration windows. A number of requirements must be fulfilled prior to registering a Player pursuant to a loan or transfer. These include:

1. Negotiation and agreement with the Player's club for her loan or transfer;
2. Negotiation and agreement with the Player as to her personal employment terms with NWSL;
3. Confirmation from the respective football associations that the Player can be transferred in accordance with FIFA guidelines;
4. Confirmation that the respective football association will release the international clearance;
5. The Player receiving a work permit;
6. The Player passing a physical;
7. Receipt of the Player's International Transfer Certificate (ITC).

Loans of Players to NWSL must comply with the following:

- The Loan Agreement will be filled out by the Team requesting the loan and sent to the League Office for approval, along with contact information. The League Office will send the Loan Agreement to the Team from which the Player is being loaned.
- NWSL will send a Loan Agreement to the Team the Player is coming from. See Loan Agreement Into NWSL.
- A Loan Fee will not be part of the Loan Agreement.

- The Loan Period for the Player shall be from the start date through the conclusion of the League Season.
- The Loan Period for the Player shall be over two (2) consecutive League seasons, as follows: for the 2017 League season from start date until the end of the season; and for the entirety of the 2018 League season.
- The NWSL Team will submit a Player Agreement form to the League.
- The loaned Player will sign the Standard Player Agreement.
- The loaned Player must have an entrance and exit physical with the NWSL Team.
- The loan must fall within the Registration Windows.
- Medical Health benefits will be provided for the term of the loan.
- Workers Compensation benefits will be provided for the term of the loan.
- International Players must provide a P-1 Visa.
- International Players must have a Social Security Number.

Amateur Call-up

If a National Team Player is being called up for National Team duty, a Team may bring in a U.S. Amateur Player to count toward the 20-Player Roster. The Team is not to provide any compensation to the Amateur Player, but may cover necessary expenses as approved by the League.

An Amateur Call-up Form will be submitted and Amateur Players will sign an Amateur Player Agreement. They must be registered Amateur Players with U.S. Soccer. (See Amateur Player Agreement and Registration Process)

For each National Team Call-up, each Team will need to submit its Amateur Call-Up Form no less than five (5) days prior to the Amateur Player's participation with the Team.

Goalkeeper Exception

In the case where a Team has less than two available goalkeepers, a Team will be able to add a goalkeeper to its Roster until its goalkeeper is back to full participation with the Team. This must be done within the Salary Cap.

Disabled List

In the event a Player suffers a Short-Term Injury or a Season Ending Injury, a Player may be placed on the Disabled List of a Team's Roster.

Disabled List Replacement

In the event a Player suffers a Short-Term Injury or a Season Ending Injury, a player may be added to a Team's Roster as a "Disabled List" replacement as set forth below.

Where the League determines that a Player has sustained an injury that will prohibit the Player from participating for at least 45 days during the League Season, it may provide the Team Roster relief, provided the full amount of the injured Player's salary is charged to the Team's Salary Cap in the relevant Season. Therefore, the Team is given Roster relief, but not Cap relief. Disabled List Replacement Players must be signed prior to the Roster Freeze Date.

In the event where a Team has two (2) or more Players on its Disabled List, Salary Cap relief may be considered by the League.

Teams that carry or can create extra Salary Cap room will therefore be able to temporarily replace Players who are on the Disabled List. The budget number for the replacement Player will be calculated in the same manner as any other Roster Player.

Also, if the Player suffering the injury is an international Player, the Team may replace such Player with an international Player.

Any Player coming off the Disabled List following the Roster Freeze Date may be added to the Roster, but Teams must comply with the relevant Roster limits.

Short-Term Injury

Where the League determines based on certification from a Team's medical staff that a Player has suffered an NWSL related injury after the start of the league season that will prohibit the Player from participating for at least 45 days, but not the entire length of the season, may be placed on the Disabled List.

Unexpected Recovery from Short-Term Injuries

In the event a Player who suffered a Short-Term Injury and has been replaced on the Roster by another Player, but recovers earlier than anticipated, will not be permitted to join the active Roster prior to the end of the 45-day period.

Season-Ending Injury

Where the League determines based on certification from a Team's medical staff that a Player has received an NWSL related injury after the start of the league season that will prohibit the player from participating for the remainder of the season may be placed on the Disabled List.

The League may provide the Team Roster relief, provided the full amount of the injured Player's salary (or any settlement amount paid to that Player) is still charged to the Team's Salary Cap in the relevant Season. In the event of such a determination, the injured Player shall not be eligible to play for the Team again during the Season in question. Therefore, the Team is given Roster relief, but not Salary Cap relief. Also, if the Player suffering the Season-ending injury is an international Player, the Team may replace such Player with an international Player.

Unexpected Recovery from Season-ending Injuries

In the event a Player who suffered a Season-Ending Injury and has been replaced on the Roster by another Player, but recovers prior to the end of the Season, will not be permitted to join the active Roster through the remainder of the Season.

Goalkeeper Replacement

It is up to each Team to structure its Roster to ensure that it has the best make-up to field a Team throughout the year. Teams are required to carry two (2) goalkeepers.

In the case of an injured goalkeeper, or where a Team has less than two available goalkeepers, a Team will be able to add a goalkeeper to its Roster until its goalkeeper is back to full participation with the Team. Also, if the goalkeeper is an international Player, the Team may replace such goalkeeper with an international Player.

This must be done within the Salary Cap.

METHODS OF RELEASING PLAYERS

Waivers

Clubs may waive players based on performance at any time during the NWSL season. Players with guaranteed contracts will continue to have their salary budget charge applied to the club salary budget, subject to any settlement. Players on Semi-Guaranteed Contracts can be waived prior to Roster Freeze and free up the corresponding budget space. If a player on a Semi-Guaranteed Contract is waived after July 1, her salary budget charge will continue to count against the team's salary budget. Any settlement amount will be charged to the club's salary budget.

Players may be added to all other Team's Roster from the Waiver wire, which is distributed via e-mail.

Teams may waive Players based on performance at any time prior to the Roster Freeze date during the NWSL Season. Teams may not waive Players between the Roster Freeze and the NWSL Championship. See Waiver Request Form.

A Team wishing to waive a Player must first obtain a favorable medical examination of the Player – an "exit physical", and then submit its waiver request to the League.

Once a Player on a P-1 visa has been waived and is not picked up by another Team in the League, the League is obligated to notify the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) of the termination of the employment relationship. After that date, if another Team intends to offer the player a contract, it would need to file a new petition.

Waiver Wire

Provided the League approves the Player being placed on waivers pursuant to the above, it will distribute a waiver notice to all Teams. A Team claiming the Player must notify the League of the measures it will take to remain Roster compliant, if any such moves are necessary. Notice must be received by the League from a Team claiming a waived Player within the "Waiver Claiming Period."

The "Waiver Claiming Period" shall commence on the first business day (the "Waiver Period Commencement Date") the League gives notice to Teams and shall expire at 5:00 p.m. EST on the first business day after the Waiver Period Commencement Date (the claiming period is 24 hours).

If a Team claims a Player and no other Team claims the same Player during the Waiver Claiming Period (having regard to the time of League deadlines, set forth in the Competition Calendar attached to this document), the Player shall be assigned to the claiming Team.

Waiver Order

The waiver order is determined via reverse order of the standings from the previous Season, taking playoff performance into account, until Teams have played at least three (3) League games. If the waiver takes place prior to all Teams playing in at least three (3) League games priority shall be granted based upon the prior year's performance according to their point totals through the end of the Regular Season.

In the offseason, once a Team claims a Player from waivers, it is moved to the bottom of the Waiver Order claiming order.

Transfers and Loans

All contract and loan/transfer negotiations shall be approved by the League, consistent with the current rules. The League should be consulted at the beginning of any loan or transfer process.

An NWSL player may be transferred or loaned at any time to a club outside the League (subject to that club's Federation's transfer window), and subject to the consent of the player. Upon loaning a player, Clubs will receive roster relief and budget space, subject to the terms of the loan.

The registration windows – the dates between which NWSL may request the transfer certificate of a player under contract in another country – are as follows:

Primary Window – Mar. 9 – May 31, 2017

Secondary Window – June 5 – July 5, 2017

Loans and Transfers of Players by NWSL

Transfer of Players by NWSL

A Team may transfer or loan the services of any Player on a Team Roster to a Team outside of NWSL, subject to League approval for any such action that would remove a Player from her NWSL Team.

Loans of Players by NWSL

Players may be loaned by NWSL to overseas clubs during the off-Season.

Loans of Players by NWSL must comply with the following:

- The Loan Agreement will be filled out by the Team and sent to the League Office for approval, along with contact information.
- NWSL will send a Loan Agreement to the Team to which the Player is being loaned. See Loan Agreement NWSL Form.
- Loans may not include any player out-of-contract during the NWSL season.
- An exit physical must be conducted prior to the loan being approved.
- NWSL Medical Health benefits will be available only while the Player is in the U.S.
- NWSL Workers Compensation does not apply while the Player is on loan with another League.
- NWSL will write into the loan agreement the Team that is taking the Player on loan will be responsible for injury and guaranteed their health.
- Per FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players: Article 10, paragraph 3 “the club that has accepted a Player on a loan basis is not entitled to transfer her to a third club without the written authorization of the club (NWSL) that released the Player on loan and the Player concerned.”

Loans for certain Players may occur after the conclusion of a Team's Season and before the NWSL Championship. In this case, there may be a reduction of such Players' salaries for salary budget purposes. Such loans are made in the sole discretion of the League.

Players Loaned to NWSL

All terms of any arrangements contemplated between an NWSL Team or any related party and a Player to be loaned to NWSL shall be fully disclosed to the NWSL League office. Any loan must be extendable to a second (2nd) year which will allow for the option year to be exercised. The loan agreement will include a proviso to this effect. The League office shall make a determination, in its sole discretion, as to the terms upon which it may accept such Player on loan.

LOANS TO WPSL – Teams may loan contracted Players to a WPSL Team. The loan period shall be from the initial date of the agreement through the end of the NWSL season, when the Player is not providing services to her NWSL Team. Teams will need to submit a loan agreement for an amateur Team which will be signed off by the National Women’s Soccer League prior to any participation by a Player.

Contract Expiration

When a player’s contract expires, the player does not count against the roster or budget of the club in question. Subject to the End of Season Process, a club retains the rights to the player until the next preseason following the expiration of a contract provided attempts were made to re-sign the player.

Buyout of Guaranteed Contract

Clubs may have the ability to buy out one player who has a Guaranteed Contract. Details follow below:

A club may buy out one (1) player who has a Guaranteed Contract during the offseason and free up the corresponding budget space. Such a buyout is at the NWSL club’s expense.

A club may not free up room in the salary cap with a buyout of a player’s contract during the season. In the case a team buys out a player’s contract during the season, the buyout amount will be charged against the club’s salary cap.

End of Season Process

A club must place a player in the Re-entry Wire, whose option was not extended, no new contract was offered or contract expired, at following the conclusion of the season at which point she is made available to all other clubs. The Re-Entry Claiming Period shall commence on the first business day after the League delivers notice to teams and expires at 5 p.m. ET on the second business day after the Re-entry Wire period commencement date.

RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL

An NWSL club has priority over other NWSL clubs -- known as a Right of First Refusal -- to add a player to its roster in the following circumstances:

Out of Contract Players / Options Not Picked Up

In the event a player is out of contract (including as a result of not exercising her option or loan option) and her current team was unable to re-sign her. The player’s rights can be acquired via the End of Season Process.

College Protected

A player who was selected in the College Draft, provided her club offered her a contract and the contract offer was refused by the player.

Other Unsigned Players

Players who were (i) on a club's roster who that club attempted, but were unable, to resign at the expiration of their contract or (ii) on a club's Discovery List and who that club attempted, but were unable, to sign.

In both cases, the club who attempted to sign the player maintains a Right of First Refusal to acquire the player in the event she is subsequently signed to an NWSL contract.

Holding a Right of First Refusal applies only within NWSL and does not indicate holding of the player's International Transfer Certificate.

- For Players whose rights a Team holds from the previous Season, the decision must be made by start of preseason. Any Player not signed at that point will become available to be claimed as a Discovery Player. The Player would then be available to all Teams through the Discovery Process.
- Once preseason begins, Teams must make a decision on Non-Contracted Players, whose rights they hold, within 15 days once the Player reports (Example: college drafted Players)
- If another Team puts in a Discovery claim to sign a Player on another Team's amateur list to a Standard Player Agreement the club will have 48 hours to make a decision.

RULES & REGULATIONS**Player Registration**

All Players in the NWSL must be registered with U.S. Soccer prior to participating in any competition.

Transfer Windows/Registration Period

The registration windows – the dates between which NWSL may request the transfer certificate of a player under contract in another country.

Out of Contract Players

With respect to Players not under contract to any club, they may be able to be registered outside the transfer windows, provided the Player was out of contract during NWSL's immediately previous registration window. As opposed to Players that have secured a release from an existing contract or whose contracts have expired outside an NWSL registration window. In this instance, we cannot request the International Transfer Certificate (ITC).

College Drafted Players

With respect to U.S. Players selected in the College Draft, they may be signed and registered outside the Transfer Window provided their clearance has not been transferred outside the U.S.

With respect to International Players selected in the College Draft, they may be subject to the Transfer Windows and may have potential work permit issues.

Transfer Windows/Registration Period

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With respect to International Players selected in the College Draft, they may be subject to the Transfer Windows and may have potential work permit issues.

Player Tryouts

No tryouts may be conducted by a Team unless they are done pursuant to this Section. A Player tryout shall include any practice, participation, or training: (a) with any Players not under contract to NWSL; or (b) under the direct or indirect supervision of an NWSL Coach, Trainer, or other member of a Team's management. No Team may conduct a tryout with a Player unless she has executed a Waiver of Liability Agreement and received an entrance physical.

Names of all non-contracted Players that are practicing with Teams throughout the season should be submitted to the League in order to have a record should any workers comp or insurance issues arise.

Once preseason begins, Teams must make a decision on Non-Contracted Players, whose rights they hold, within 15 days once the Player reports.

Contracted NWSL Players are not allowed to participate in offseason tryouts as this would be considered a violation of the offseason training rule.

Teams may not try out a Player on the Roster of another Team or a College Player who has been drafted by another Team without League approval. No Team may try out a Player under contract to a Team outside NWSL without the written approval of the League Office.

Any violations of these guidelines subjects a club to aforementioned tampering rules.

Preseason

Teams may commence preseason training on date set out in the competition calendar, but Players may report for off-field activities no more than three days before the start of preseason. A training session shall include any practice, participation, or training: (a) with any Players under contract to NWSL; or (b) under the direct or indirect supervision of an NWSL Coach, Trainer, or other member of a Team's management.

Any Player that is in preseason training camp with an NWSL Team cannot be discovered by another NWSL Team until she is released by that Team.

Once preseason begins, Teams must make a decision on Non-Contracted Players, whose rights they hold, within 15 days once the Player reports.

During preseason, Teams must submit a preseason list of up to 32 Players, 25 Players and 20 Player rosters on the corresponding dates outlined in the Competition Calendar. This list is to include only those Players who are currently participants in the camp. The list should be resubmitted any time there is a change in participants. Forms will be provided to submit your list of Players to the League office.

A Player must be on an official NWSL preseason Roster to participate in scrimmages or exhibition games. Therefore, Non-contracted Players may participate in any scrimmages or exhibition games. If such a Player participates in a scrimmage or exhibition game without being added to the official preseason Roster, the Team will be subject to sanctions, including but not limited to fines.

The League will approve an unlimited number of tryout Players for a calendar year provided that the Team has not incurred more than US \$5,000 in expenses in aggregate in such year in connection with such tryouts. Teams shall provide the League office with projected expenses in connection with the tryout and shall confirm actual expenses incurred after the tryout.

Scrimmages and Exhibitions

Teams may hold scrimmages and exhibitions during the regular season with prior notice and approval from the League office. A scrimmage/exhibition Roster must be submitted at least 48 hours in advance to the League for approval.

In addition to Amateur Player Call-ups, Teams will be allowed to use Non-contracted Players in scrimmages and exhibitions in order to replace any missing Women's National Team Players on their 18-20 Player Roster during WNT call-ups. It must be a one-for-one swap without exceeding the maximum of 20 Players on a Team Roster. Any Non-contracted Player must sign a Release and Liability Waiver in advance and be at least 18 years and older to be eligible.

A Player must be on the approved scrimmage and exhibition Roster in order to participate in scrimmages or exhibition games.

Off-Season Training

Teams may not commence training between the end of the season and the start of preseason. A training session shall include any practice, participation, or training: (a) with any Players under contract to NWSL; or (b) under the direct or indirect supervision of an NWSL Coach, Trainer, or other member of a Team's management.

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About

The National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) is a 10-team Division-I women's professional soccer league featuring national team players from around the world. The ten clubs are the Boston Breakers, Chicago Red Stars, Houston Dash, FC Kansas City, North Carolina Courage, Orlando Pride, Portland Thorns FC, Seattle Reign FC, Sky Blue FC and Washington Spirit.

Based in Chicago, the NWSL is supported by the Canadian Soccer Association and the United States Soccer Federation. For more information about the NWSL, log on to the league's official website at NWSLsoccer.com.

2017 NWSL SCHEDULE

2017 NATIONAL WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE SCHEDULE

(All Times ET)

Saturday, April 15, 2017

Houston Dash vs. Chicago Red Stars	2:00 PM
Portland Thorns FC vs. Orlando Pride	3:00 PM
Washington Spirit vs. NC Courage	3:00 PM
Seattle Reign FC vs. Sky Blue FC	10:00 PM

Sunday, April 16, 2017

FC Kansas City vs. Boston Breakers	6:00 PM
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Saturday, April 22, 2017

Chicago Red Stars vs. FC Kansas City	4:00 PM
Orlando Pride vs. Washington Spirit	4:00 PM
NC Courage vs. Portland Thorns FC	7:30 PM
Seattle Reign FC vs. Houston Dash	10:00 PM

Sunday, April 23, 2017

Boston Breakers vs. Sky Blue FC	4:00 PM
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Saturday, April 29, 2017

North Carolina Courage vs. Orlando Pride	4:00 PM
Portland Thorns FC vs. Chicago Red Stars	4:00 PM
Boston Breakers vs. Seattle Reign FC	7:00 PM
Washington Spirit vs. Houston Dash	7:00 PM

Sunday, April 30, 2017

Sky Blue FC vs. FC Kansas City	6:00 PM
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Saturday, May 06, 2017

Chicago Red Stars vs. Houston Dash	4:00 PM
Washington Spirit vs. Sky Blue FC	7:00 PM
Portland Thorns FC vs. Seattle Reign FC	10:00 PM

Sunday, May 07, 2017

Boston Breakers vs. NC Courage 6:00 PM

FC Kansas City vs. Orlando Pride 6:00 PM

Saturday, May 13, 2017

Houston Dash vs. Sky Blue FC 4:00 PM

Seattle Reign FC vs. Washington Spirit 4:00 PM

FC Kansas City vs. Portland Thorns FC 4:00 PM

Sunday, May 14, 2017

Orlando Pride vs. North Carolina Courage 5:00 PM

Chicago Red Stars vs. Boston Breakers 6:00 PM

Friday, May 19, 2017

Boston Breakers vs. Portland Thorns FC 7:00 PM

Saturday, May 20, 2017

Sky Blue FC vs. Houston Dash 4:00 PM

Washington Spirit vs. FC Kansas City 7:00 PM

Sunday, May 21, 2017

NC Courage vs. Chicago Red Stars 4:00 PM

Seattle Reign FC vs. Orlando Pride 9:30 PM

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

North Carolina Courage vs. Sky Blue FC 7:30 PM

Saturday, May 27, 2017

Chicago Red Stars vs. NC Courage 4:00 PM

Houston Dash vs. Seattle Reign FC 4:00 PM

Sky Blue FC vs. Orlando Pride 7:00 PM

FC Kansas City vs. Washington Spirit 8:00 PM

Portland Thorns FC vs. Boston Breakers 10:00 PM

Saturday, June 03, 2017

North Carolina Courage vs. FC Kansas City	4:00 PM
Sky Blue FC vs. Portland Thorns FC	7:00 PM
Washington Spirit vs. Houston Dash	7:00 PM
Orlando Pride vs. Boston Breakers	7:30 PM

Sunday, June 04, 2017

Chicago Red Stars vs. Seattle Reign FC	3:00 PM
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Saturday, June 17, 2017

Chicago Red Stars vs. Washington Spirit	4:00 PM
FC Kansas City vs. Seattle Reign FC	4:00 PM
Houston Dash vs. Orlando Pride	8:30 PM
NC Courage vs. Boston Breakers	7:30 PM
Portland Thorns FC vs. Sky Blue FC	10:00 PM

Saturday, June 24, 2017

Boston Breakers vs. NC Courage	4:00 PM
Orlando Pride vs. Houston Dash	4:00 PM
Washington Spirit vs. Portland Thorns FC	7:00 PM
Seattle Reign FC vs. FC Kansas City	10:00 PM

Sunday, June 25, 2017

Chicago Red Stars vs. Sky Blue FC	6:00 PM
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Wednesday, June 28, 2017

Sky Blue FC vs. Orlando Pride	7:00 PM
Houston Dash vs. Boston Breakers	8:30 PM
Portland Thorns FC vs. FC Kansas City	10:00 PM
Seattle Reign FC vs. Chicago Red Stars	10:30 PM

Saturday, July 01, 2017

Boston Breakers vs. Washington Spirit	4:00 PM
North Carolina Courage vs. Sky Blue FC	4:00 PM
Orlando Pride vs. Chicago Red Stars	5:00 PM
Seattle Reign FC vs. Portland Thorns FC	10:00 PM

Sunday, July 02, 2017

FC Kansas City vs. Houston Dash	8:00 PM
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Friday, July 07, 2017

Boston Breakers vs. Chicago Red Stars	7:00 PM
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Saturday, July 08, 2017

NC Courage vs. Seattle Reign FC	4:00 PM
Washington Spirit vs. Orlando Pride	4:00 PM
Sky Blue FC vs. FC Kansas City	7:00 PM
Houston Dash vs. Portland Thorns FC	8:30 PM

Saturday, July 15, 2017

Portland Thorns FC vs NC Courage	4:00 PM
Seattle Reign FC vs. Boston Breakers	4:00 PM
Sky Blue FC vs. Chicago Red Stars	7:00 PM
Houston Dash vs. Washington Spirit	8:30 PM
Orlando Pride vs. FC Kansas City	7:30 PM

Saturday, July 22, 2017

Chicago Red Stars vs. Orlando Pride	4:00 PM
FC Kansas City vs. North Carolina Courage	4:00 PM
Houston Dash vs. Boston Breakers	8:30 PM
Portland Thorns FC vs. Washington Spirit	10:00 PM
Seattle Reign FC vs. Sky Blue FC	10:00 PM

Friday, August 04, 2017

Boston Breakers vs. FC Kansas City 7:00 PM

Sky Blue FC vs. Washington Spirit 7:00 PM

Saturday, August 05, 2017

North Carolina Courage vs. Seattle Reign FC 4:00 PM

Portland Thorns FC vs. Houston Dash 4:00 PM

Orlando Pride vs. Chicago Red Stars 7:30 PM

Tuesday, August 08, 2017

Orlando Pride vs. Washington Spirit 7:30 PM

Saturday, August 12, 2017

Orlando Pride vs. Sky Blue FC 4:00 PM

Washington Spirit vs. Boston Breakers 4:00 PM

Chicago Red Stars vs. Portland Thorns FC 8:00 PM

Sunday, August 13, 2017

Houston Dash vs. FC Kansas City 8:30 PM

Seattle Reign FC vs. North Carolina Courage 9:00 PM

Wednesday, August 16, 2017

Boston Breakers vs. Houston Dash 7:30 PM

Chicago Red Stars vs. Seattle Reign FC 8:00 PM

FC Kansas City vs. Portland Thorns FC 8:00 PM

Saturday, August 19, 2017

Boston Breakers vs. Orlando Pride 4:00 PM

NC Courage vs. Washington Spirit 4:00 PM

Sky Blue FC vs. Seattle Reign FC 7:00 PM

Portland Thorns FC vs. Houston Dash 10:00 PM

Sunday, August 20, 2017

Chicago Red Stars vs. FC Kansas City 6:00 PM

Saturday, August 26, 2017

FC Kansas City vs. Orlando Pride	4:00 PM
Seattle Reign FC vs. Portland Thorns FC	4:00 PM
Sky Blue FC vs. Boston Breakers	7:00 PM
Washington Spirit vs. Chicago Red Stars	7:00 PM

Sunday, August 27, 2017

Houston Dash vs. North Carolina Courage	8:00 PM
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Wednesday, August 30, 2017

Washington Spirit vs. NC Courage	7:30 PM
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Saturday, September 02, 2017

Orlando Pride vs. Boston Breakers	4:00 PM
Portland Thorns FC vs. Washington Spirit	4:00 PM

Sunday, September 03, 2017

FC Kansas City vs. Sky Blue FC	6:00 PM
Chicago Red Stars vs. NC Courage	6:00 PM
Houston Dash vs. Seattle Reign FC	8:00 PM

Saturday, September 09, 2017

FC Kansas City vs. Chicago Red Stars	4:00 PM
Orlando Pride vs. Seattle Reign FC	4:00 PM
North Carolina Courage vs. Houston Dash	7:30 PM

Sunday, September 10, 2017

Boston Breakers vs. Portland Thorns FC	6:00 PM
Sky Blue FC vs. Washington Spirit	6:00 PM

Saturday, September 23, 2017

Houston Dash vs. Chicago Red Stars	4:00 PM
Orlando Pride vs. Portland Thorns FC	5:00 PM
Washington Spirit vs. Boston Breakers	7:00 PM

Sunday, September 24, 2017

Sky Blue FC vs. North Carolina Courage 6:00 PM

Seattle Reign FC vs. FC Kansas City 9:00 PM

Friday, September 29, 2017

FC Kansas City vs. Houston Dash 8:00 PM

Saturday, September 30, 2017

Portland Thorns FC vs. Chicago Red Stars 4:00 PM

Boston Breakers vs. Sky Blue FC 7:00 PM

Washington Spirit vs. Seattle Reign FC 7:00 PM

North Carolina Courage vs. Orlando Pride 7:30 PM

