

Isaac Payano  
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## **NASL and NPSL Inter-league Play**

(How to potentially save the league)

The North American Soccer League (NASL) is currently facing a transformation period with its growth. As teams come and go throughout its course, the league must now set a path towards stability and cohesiveness among all its clubs for short and long term success. To get there, certain steps must be taken. Primarily, this includes ensuring that the league is able to play in 2017 with a financially sustainable model.

After thinking about various possibilities, I came to an attractive and inventive proposal. The NASL needs to incorporate some form of regional play in order to substantially alleviate cost. This can be obtained by looking to one of its closest allies - the National Premier Soccer League (NPSL).

At this juncture, the NASL has approximately 10 teams on the table. While that list might change with incoming teams, or teams moving on, the goal of this concise pitch is to show that the league can work for next year with a viable model that many fans across the entire soccer community would support.

This is what the NASL currently looks like:

<u><b>North American Soccer League</b></u>
Carolina RailHawks
FC Edmonton
Fort Lauderdale Strikers
Indy Eleven
Jacksonville Armada
Miami FC
New York Cosmos
Puerto Rico FC
Rayo OKC
San Francisco Deltas

With teams in various times zones, stretching from Edmonton to Puerto Rico, and travel cost always being a factor for the league, it is important at this point to minimize costs while maintaining excitement and high level of quality play.

Theoretically, with ten teams, the league would play 9 or 18 games in the Spring, and 9 or 18 games in the Fall, totalling 18 or 36 for the year. The league can split half of those games with the NPSL.

**My proposal is** that the NASL clubs that will participate in the 2017 year, play each other one round in the Spring and one round in the Fall. And each club can play a league set number of games against any clubs in the NPSL.

For instance (with teams remaining constant):

9 games in the Spring, 9 games in the Fall - against NASL teams; plus

3 (or up to 9) games in the Spring, and 3 (or up to 9) games in the Fall - against NPSL teams;

Total: 24 (or up to 36) games per club

= 12 home and 12 away (or up to 18 home and 18 away)

The amount of games against NPSL teams would be even across the league. The max amount of potential games against NPSL teams is also synonymous with the amount of teams playing in the NASL (e.g. 12 NASL teams = 11 max games possible against NPSL teams).

By bringing in the NPSL teams to play some games in the Spring and some in the Fall, the clubs in the NASL can greatly minimize cost, while boosting fan support and potential growth on several levels.

Here's what the NASL clubs look like placed into regional brackets:

<b><u>North American Soccer League</u></b>			
<b><u>West</u></b>	<b><u>South</u></b>	<b><u>North</u></b>	<b><u>East</u></b>
FC Edmonton	Rayo OKC	Indy Eleven	New York Cosmos
San Francisco Deltas	Jacksonville Armada		Carolina RailHawks
	Fort Lauderdale Strikers		
	Miami FC		
	Puerto Rico FC		

Here are the NPSL clubs in their appropriate Regions (without including reserve teams):

<b><u>National Premier Soccer League</u></b>			
<b><u>West</u></b> <b><u>(West Region)</u></b>	<b><u>South</u></b> <b><u>(South Region)</u></b>	<b><u>North</u></b> <b><u>(Midwest Region)</u></b>	<b><u>East</u></b> <b><u>(Northeast Region)</u></b>
Kitsap SC	Fort Worth Vaqueros	Erie Commodores	Seacoast United Mariners
OSA FC	Dallas City FC	AFC Cleveland	Seacoast United Phantoms
Spartans FC	Corinthians FC of San Antonio	Detroit City FC	Greater Lowell United
Sacramento Gold	Houston Dutch Lions	AFC Ann Arbor	Boston City
Sonoma County Sol	Houston Regals	Michigan Stars	Rhode Island Reds

CD Aguiluchos USA	FC Wichita	Lansing United	FC Buffalo
East Bay FC Stompers	Tulsa Athletics	Grand Rapids FC	Rochester River DogZ
Real San Jose	Joplin Demize	Kalamazoo FC	GBFC Thunder
FC Hasental	Little Rock Rangers	Dayton Dynamo	Kingston Stockade
Corinthians USA	Shreveport Rafter	FC Indiana Lions	Clarkstown SC Eagles
Southern California SC	New Orleans Jester	Milwaukee Torrent	New York Athletic Club
Deportivo Coras	Memphis City FC	La Crosse Aris FC	Brooklyn Italians
Temulca FC	Chattanooga FC	Minnesota TwinStars	New Jersey Copa FC
Albion SC Pros	Knoxville Force		Electric City Shock
FC Arizona	Birmingham Hammers		Buxmont Torch
	Atlanta Silverbacks		Junior Lone Star FC
	FC Carolina Discoveries		Hershey FC
	Myrtle Beach FC		Fredericksburg FC
	Georgia Revolution		Legacy 76
	Kraze United		Virginia Beach City
	Miami United		
	Miami Fusion		

The clubs in the NASL can choose to play whichever teams in the NPSL they like, but ideally they can opt to look at teams in their region exclusively. This can open doors for road trips for the majority of the clubs in the NASL. It also lessens the cost of flights and distance traveled for teams like Edmonton and Puerto Rico.

The NASL and NPSL can work out a plan where games played against each other count in their respective league. In other words, games against NPSL teams will count in the Spring, Fall, and Combined Tables respectively within the NASL; while games against NASL teams will count in the NPSL regional standings. Winning counts in both leagues.

There are many exciting teams in the NPSL with growing attendance / fanbase, good stadiums, marketing, work ethics, and aspirations to expand.

An array of potential assets can come from this venture. This is just a quick pitch which you guys can continue to develop. A lot of true growth can be found here if taken very seriously. There is room for future expansion, a long term merger, and / or even promotion and relegation.

If the NASL wants to succeed in 2017 and beyond, all the clubs as a whole should value this path.

All the best to everyone,  
Isaac Payano  
Economist, Urban Planner, and Educator