



SPORTS CONNECT UPDATES

2023-2024 SEASON

New Jersey Youth Soccer continuously evaluates our Sports Connect software configurations to ensure stability, optimize process, and preserve data quality. This document is purely informational and there are no imminent actions needed from club administrators as a result of these configuration changes. With that in mind, the following configuration changes were made for the 2023-2024 seasonal year:

- **Discontinuation of Recreational Birth Certificate Collection:** NJYS previously displayed an optional upload of a birth certificate or age verification document for recreation players. Given that NJYS does not require state association level age verification for recreation players, NJYS will no longer present the option to upload or store those certificates at any point in the recreational player registration process.
- **Non-Binary Gender (Gender X):** Consistent with NJYS' inclusion policy, a third option is available for selection in the association platform for the 2023-2024 seasonal year. The club may update *unverified* profiles to reflect such gender identity or contact the state office to modify verified profiles. NJYS anticipates this option to be available at the time of registration by the parent in the club platform later in 2023. The 2023-2024 upload portal template currently accepts "X" for new and existing players.
- **Preferred Name (Alias):** NJYS has exposed the 'alias' or preferred name text box for use during the club platform registration and upload file process. Beginning with the 2023-2024 seasonal year, preferred names (if entered) will be printed on the player pass and official state roster in place of the legal first name.
- **Removal of Driver's License Details Collection:** Previously, Sports Connect software required Driver's License Information during the coach registration process. This information is not tied to the background check process at all and has since been removed. Coaches are still required to submit an SSN for background check submissions.
- **"ITC" Questions:** The International Transfer Certificate questions (e.g., country of birth, citizenship, participation in soccer worldwide) required by FIFA are now displayed during the player registration process. While such questions are marked unrequired, the information is only used for compliance with US Soccer and FIFA transfer certificate policies.
- **Lookup Screen Compliance Filters:** NJYS requested that additional filters be available on the player and admin lookup screens for each document that could be uploaded. Clubs may notice that the lookup screens can be filtered by document type and verification/upload status. The screen also permits email functionality to the filtered list.



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These configurations are in addition to key configurations implemented over the course of our tenure in Sports Connect, including, but not limited to:

- **Integrated Background Check Submission:** An individual is now asked to enter their SSN within the initial coach registration process, eliminating the extra step to submit a background check after completing registration. Background checks remain on a two-year cycle.
- **SafeSport Integration:** Sports Connect has a course integration with SafeSport. That integration is based off an email address, first name, and last name match. Coaches are encouraged to complete the SafeSport training through the integration to reduce any manual reviews of the certificate.
- **US Soccer Learning Center Integration:** Sports Connect has an integration with US Soccer's Digital Learning Center to automatically relay course results from Coaching Courses, SafeSport, Concussion Education. The integration is based on a match of first name, last name, and date of birth. NJYS can also insert the USSF ID manually to establish a connection.
- **Dynamic Expiration of Player Photos (2-Year Cycle):** NJYS introduced expiration of travel player photos that are two seasonal years (or more) old to ensure a more accurate photo on the player pass. The software is now configured to dynamically remove applicable photos near the end of each seasonal year.

Through our partnership with Sports Connect, we continue to evaluate and propose new configurations that are aimed at optimizing the way our members engage with us. For further questions or recommendations, please contact registration@njyouthsoccer.com.