

## 1.1. NWSL DRAFT

### 1.1.1. REGISTERING FOR THE NWSL DRAFT

Individuals must be registered by the date set forth by the League to be eligible for the NWSL Draft. If an Individual is eligible and does not register, that Individual will not be able to be on the Roster of a Team until the day following the NWSL Championship, at which point the Individual will become Discovery Eligible.

### 1.1.2. 2024 NWSL DRAFT ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for the NWSL Draft, an Individual must:

- Be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States; or
- Be a foreign national who is currently or was enrolled at a college / university in the United States during the 2023-24 academic year; or
- Be an Individual who has exhausted, lost, or renounced their remaining collegiate eligibility during the 2023 calendar year, including high school graduates choosing to forego college eligibility; and
- Turn at least 18-years old on or before December 31, 2023; and
- Not be under a current professional contract, nor have previously signed a contract to play soccer professionally; and
- Register for the NWSL Draft by the registration deadline.

#### 1.1.2.1. ELIGIBILITY FOR ONLY ONE NWSL DRAFT

An Individual may only register and participate in one NWSL Draft. If an Individual enters the draft and withdraws prior to the NWSL Draft, they may enter a future NWSL Draft; however, if a Player registers for the NWSL Draft and goes undrafted, they are not eligible to re-enter future NWSL Drafts and will enter the League via Discovery.

#### 1.1.2.2. NWSL DRAFT ORDER

The draft order will be determined by the reverse order of finish of the most recently completed NWSL regular season, taking the Championship match into account. Specifically, the last ranking will go to the winner of the NWSL Championship, second to last ranking to the Championship runner-up and the 1st ranking will be provided to the Team with the lowest position in the NWSL table.

#### 1.1.2.3. PLACEMENT OF EXPANSION TEAMS

Expansion Team(s) will be placed in the draft order as determined by the NWSL Board of Governors (as recommended by the Competition Committee).

#### 1.1.2.4. DETERMINATION OF DRAFT ORDER

On an agreed upon day after the NWSL Championship and prior to the NWSL Draft, the League will confirm all conditional picks and set the draft order.

### 1.1.3. COLLEGE SIGNING WINDOW AND COLLEGE PROTECTED LIST

#### 1.1.3.1. SIGNING WINDOW

A Team will have an exclusive Signing Window for a Player that it drafts during the NWSL Draft. The Signing Window is sixty (60) days and begins on the first day the Player reports for training. During the Signing Window, a Team must offer the player an SPA, trade the Player's rights to another Team, or waive the Player's rights.

##### 1.1.3.1.1. RESET OF THE SIGNING WINDOW

If a player is unable to participate in training for more than ten (10) consecutive days during the Signing Window, the Signing Window will reset beginning with the first day the player is able to participate in training.

##### 1.1.3.1.2. SIGNING WINDOW AND COLLEGE PROTECTED LIST

The Team holding a Signing Window with a Player will have that Player on its College Protected List for the duration of the Signing Window.

#### 1.1.3.2. ASSETS OF THE TEAM

The rights to any players selected in the NWSL Draft shall be assigned to the drafting Team's College Protected List immediately following the Draft. Rights to Players on a Team's College Protected List are assets of the Team and may be kept, waived or traded, at the Team's discretion. If waived, and not picked up off the Waiver Wire by another Team, the Player becomes Discovery Eligible.

#### 1.1.3.3. PRESEASON REQUIREMENT

A drafted Player shall be invited to participate in NWSL preseason training by the Team that drafted her in the season immediately following the Draft in which they were selected.

#### 1.1.3.4. STANDARD PLAYER AGREEMENT

A Player on a drafting Team's College Protected List is not on the Team's Roster and may not play for the Team unless and until they are offered and signs a SPA.

##### 1.1.3.4.1. DRAFTED PLAYER ADDED TO ROSTER

If a Player is drafted by a Team in the Draft and the Team wants to add that Player to its Roster, the League will attempt to sign the Player to a SPA. There is no guarantee that a drafted Player will be offered or will agree to sign a SPA with

NWSL. Once a drafted Player signs a SPA, the Player moves to the Team's Roster and does not return to the Team's College Protected List.

*1.1.3.4.2. DRAFTED PLAYER NOT OFFERED SPA*

If a drafted Player is not offered a SPA, they will remain on the drafting Team's College Protected List through the Signing Window unless sooner waived or traded.

*1.1.3.4.3. SPA OFFERED DURING THE PROTECTED PERIOD*

If a Player is offered a SPA during the Protected Period but does not sign it or is offered an invitation to training and chooses not to report, they shall remain on the drafting Team's College Protected List until the shorter of (a) January 30 of the third year following the NWSL Draft, or (b) the term (including any option years) of the SPA offered by the Team to the Player.

*1.1.3.4.4. SPA NOT OFFERED DURING THE PROTECTED PERIOD*

If the Player chooses to sign with a non-NWSL team prior to the Team offering an SPA to the player, the Team will retain the rights of players until January 30 of the third year following the NWSL Draft.

*1.1.4. END OF PROTECTED PERIOD-WAIVE WIRE*

A Player will be placed on the Waiver Wire at the direction of the Team holding the Player's College Protected Rights so long as the Player is not at the end of a Signing Window that requires they become Discovery Eligible.

If a Team claims a Player's college protected rights from the waiver wire who has (a) never signed a professional contract, and (b) was selected by another Team in any NWSL Draft, the Team will have a Signing Window that begins on the date the player reports to the Team.

*1.1.5. UNDRAFTED INDIVIDUALS*

An Individual who is eligible and registers for the NWSL Draft and is undrafted becomes Discovery Eligible on the day following the conclusion of the Draft.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Per NCAA legislation, undrafted Individuals may return to school and retain their collegiate eligibility if they notify their institution's Director of Athletics within seventy-two (72) hours following the Draft.