

US Soccer Connect, National Data Center (NDC) & International Transfer Clearance (ITC) FAQ's

Please refer to announcement -
**Affinity Sports to offer automated solutions
to support US Soccer 2018 initiatives**

Updated December 14, 2017

What is the US Soccer NDC?

As part of a FIFA worldwide mandate countries started to collect player data and setup National Data Centers and issue a unique ID number that will stay with the player for their entire playing period. US Soccer is in the process of setting up its NDC for the USA market. One of our closest neighbors, Canada started this process in 2015 to conform to the FIFA mandate.

What is the Affinity Connect Services portfolio?

The Affinity platform supports a range of connections to other systems via a set of secure web services allowing us to automate activities that are time consuming for State customers. If you want to learn more setup time with your Account Manager for a preview of these services.

I have just heard about the US Soccer 2018 initiatives, what do I need to do?

We have your back. We have been busy testing with US Soccer. No action is needed from you NOW; we will provide a number of updates in early 2018 around the Soccer Connect and ITC process.

How do I collect the additional data fields that US Soccer is requesting in 2018?

We collect it for you, see below. Five additional data fields will be implemented in the Affinity player profile in compliance with the new US Soccer 2018 standards. State customers do not need to send in a MOD request, as these fields will be part of the global system template for all soccer customers.

When will the US Soccer NDC be live and when is testing due to finish.

Affinity State Association customers will be compliant with the US Soccer 2018 standards. The joint US Soccer/Affinity integration test period is scheduled to run from January 15th to February 28th and a production service is expected to be live in early April.

What is the US Soccer International Transfer Clearance (ITC) process?

FIFA has worldwide regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players registering with an affiliated club in the United States. The international clearance process is required when any foreign-born player over the age of 10 looking to register with an affiliated club in the United States. When pulling a FIFA ID these players will be flagged for State Association Registrars to review and work with the parents to complete an ITC request. Affinity will assist its State Association customers with this process.

Getting State Association data to the NDC: How will this all work? What does the proposed workflow look like?

1. Affinity Sports will collect the required data points in our registration platform
2. Affinity Connect Services will automatically submit all registered players to the NDC
3. The NDC will automatically return the USSF ID# and the FIFA ID# for all approved players
4. The NDC will send an email alert to the State Association if an ITC is required
5. The State Association will need to log into the NDC to review and submit the ITC
6. Once the ITC has been approved, the NDC will automatically return the USSF ID# and the FIFA ID#
7. ITC will only impact a small percentage of the players playing under a State Association and we expect most players will not be subject to this screening process

What data fields will be required & submitted as part of this process?

Affinity Sports Player ID#
Player First Name
Player Last Name
Player Date of Birth
Player Gender
Player Contact Country
Player Zip Code
Adult Player Email or Primary Guardian Email
Country of Birth
Country of Citizenship
Played Outside of the U.S.
Affinity SID# Club Code

How will this look in the platform? What should I expect to see?

In preparation for the US Soccer National Data Center requirements, we have prepared five additional fields to maintain full compliance.

The first three questions will be exposed during all registration interfaces:

Country of Birth
Country of Citizenship
Has this player played outside of the U.S.?

The FIFA ID# and US Soccer ID# will be read only fields tracked only for compliance

US Soccer Player ID (16 digit #)
FIFA Connect ID (7 digit #)

This will appear as follows for all Players:

The screenshot shows a web form for player information with several tabs: Player Information, Preferences, Applications, Transfer, Parents, Disciplinary, and Events. The form contains various input fields and dropdown menus. Three areas are highlighted with red boxes: 1) Country of Birth and Country of Citizenship, both set to 'United States of America'. 2) A dropdown menu for 'Has this player played outside of the U.S.' set to 'NO'. 3) Two input fields at the bottom for 'FIFA ID#' and 'USSF ID#'. Other visible fields include Legal First Name (Testg), Middle / Initial, Legal Last Name (Test5), Suffix, Alias / NickName, Height (ft. and in.), Weight (lbs.), GPA, School Name, Grade, Player Rank, Graduation Year, Birth Month (December), Day (31), Year (1999), Gender (Girls), Age Group (1999), Calendar Age (17), and Seasonal Age (17). There are also dropdowns for 'Number of Prior Seasons Played', 'Uniform Size: SHIRT', 'Uniform Size: SHORTS', and 'Uniform Size: SOCKS'.

When will these new data fields be in the platform?

Expect to see the new data fields in the Affinity Sports platform on January 1st. The 3 questions noted above will be required fields for all new applicants. US Soccer is targeting April as the production live date to accept submissions.

Will I need to configure anything in the NDC for my State Association?

No

Will the NDC be deduping player submissions?

Yes, additional details to follow on how the deduping workflow will work and the Platform interchange between the Affinity Platform and the NDC

What will you be doing with the US Soccer ID# and FIFA ID#?

Just storing it in the Player profile

What is the frequency of submission?

We are working on this with US Soccer. Frequency of updates TBD.

What will I need to do if a player has been flagged for an ITC?

We are working on this with US Soccer. More details coming soon.

Will US Soccer be billing me for players submitted?

We do not have all the details but it is expected that US Soccer will bill the States per player annually submitted to the NDC. More information from US Soccer is expected in early 2018.

How do I setup the Affinity e-Learning Connect Service to the US Soccer Digital Coaching Center?

Affinity Sports is the first platform to directly connect to the US Soccer Digital Coaching Center. We are currently working on automating the process of managing and updating, coaching license status results for coaches in the Affinity system. This automated access generates efficiency gains for Association staff.

If your Association is interested in registering for this Service please reach out to your Affinity Account Manager and they will place your Association on the DCC Trial list.

How can I find more details on the functionality and specifications for the NDC and DCC? Can you provide more details?

If a customer is asking for specific functionality, etc., please let them know we are working with US Soccer and are looking to have more details in the New Year. If you do not know the answer to a question the customer is asking, please write it down and share with Product. Product will provide answers as they become available. Please do not improvise the answer.