



2020 Expansion Draft Process and Procedures

The following processes and procedures will guide the NWSL's 2020 Expansion Draft. While these processes and procedures may be utilized to guide future Expansion Drafts, the NWSL reserves the right to implement different processes and procedures for future Expansion Drafts.

1. Overview. This document outlines the process and procedures for Racing Louisville FC to add to its roster by selecting Players and U.S. Allocated Players from Teams.

2. Definitions.

A. **Team.** A "Team" is a professional soccer team which currently plays in the NWSL: Chicago Red Stars, Houston Dash, North Carolina Courage, Orlando Pride, Portland Thorns FC, OL Reign, Sky Blue FC, Utah Royals FC, and Washington Spirit.

B. **Expansion Team.** The "Expansion Team" is Racing Louisville FC, which will participate in the NWSL competition beginning with the 2021 season.

C. **NWSL Season.** Each NWSL Season begins on January 1 and ends on December 31 of each calendar year.

D. **Allocation Money Grant.** An Allocation Money Grant is allocation money that has been purchased by the NWSL and is provided to a Team or the Expansion Team. This grant of allocation money may never be converted to cash by the Team, even if traded to another Team.

E. **Player.** A "Player" is any individual who is:

i. Not a U.S. Allocated Player for the 2020 NWSL season, as defined in Section 2(F);

ii. Currently under contract with the NWSL and is included on a Team's Senior Roster, Supplemental Roster, DL45, or Season Ending Injury list;

iii. On Player Elected Leave from a Team;

iv. Currently under contract with the NWSL, but is on loan to a club outside the NWSL;

v. Under contract with the NWSL for all or part of the 2021 NWSL season;

vi. Currently not under contract with the NWSL, but whose rights to play in the NWSL are controlled by a Team for any reason, excluding Discovery. For purposes of clarity, this includes (but is not limited to):

1. Rights acquired by a Team via waivers for individuals who are out of contract;

2. Individuals whose rights were acquired through the NWSL Draft, and are not under contract, but whose rights are still controlled by a Team (including individuals who may be under contract with a team outside the NWSL);

3. Individuals who have retired, but whose rights are still controlled by a Team.



4. Individuals who have received a bona fide offer from a Team, but have declined the offer, resulting in the Team's holding the individual's rights.

Individuals on a Team's Discovery List who have yet to receive an offer from a Team or who have received an offer but have not accepted the offer are not eligible to be selected in the Expansion Draft and should not be included on a Team's Protected/Unprotected List.

- F. **U.S. Allocated Player**. For the purposes of the Expansion Draft, a U.S. Allocated Player is an individual who was designated as an Allocated Player by U.S. Soccer for the 2020 NWSL season.

A complete list of U.S. Allocated Players is attached as Exhibit A.

For purposes of clarity, it should not be assumed any of the U.S. Allocated Players listed in Exhibit A will be allocated by U.S. Soccer for the 2021 season. U.S. Soccer will make an independent determination of the individuals, if any, it wishes to allocate to the NWSL for the 2021 season. U.S. Soccer is expected to inform the NWSL of its decisions regarding U.S. Allocated Players in January of 2021.

3. **Timeline.** The Expansion Draft will utilize the following timeline:

Thursday, October 22 (1 pm ET)	Trade/Waiver Window Closes
Thursday, October 22 (5 pm ET)	All Previously Unannounced Trades Announced to All Teams
Thursday, October 29 (5 pm ET)	End-Of-Season Process Deadline
Wednesday, November 4 (5 pm ET)	Protected List Deadline (Protected Lists Due from All Teams)
Thursday, November 5 (1 pm ET)	Protected/Unprotected Lists Distributed to All Teams
Thursday, November 12 (7 pm ET)	Expansion Draft
Friday, November 13 (9 am ET)	Trade Window Opens

4. **Expansion Draft.** The Expansion Draft will utilize the following processes and procedures:

- A. **Protected/Unprotected Status of Players.** Except as noted below, Teams must designate all Players and U.S. Allocated Players as either Protected (meaning they are INELIGIBLE for selection by the Expansion Team in the Expansion Draft) or Unprotected (meaning they are ELIGIBLE for selection by the Expansion Team in the Expansion Draft), according to the following requirements:

- i. Teams may protect up to two (2) U.S. Allocated Players on their rosters. All additional U.S. Allocated Players on a Team's roster must be left Unprotected.
- ii. Teams are permitted to protect a total of eleven (11) Players/U.S. Allocated Players, which may include up to two (2) U.S. Allocated Players. All other Players and other U.S. Allocated Players must be Unprotected.
- iii. Individuals on the Discovery List of any Team are not eligible to be selected in the Expansion Draft (meaning that Teams are not required to designate Discovery Players as Protected or Unprotected).



- iv. Teams are required to disclose to the League, along with the Protected/Unprotected designation, any Players/U.S. Allocated Players who a Team believes will be unavailable to play by January 1, 2021, due to injury, retirement, loan, or any other reason. This information will be shared with the Expansion Team.
- B. Expansion Draft List. Teams are required to submit lists of their Protected/Unprotected Players and Protected/Unprotected U.S. Allocated Players to the League by the Protected List Deadline. The League will create a list of all Protected/Unprotected Players and Protected/Unprotected U.S. Allocated Players and distribute that list to the Teams and Expansion Team; the version of the Expansion Draft List provided to the Expansion Team will also include compensation information for all Players eligible for selection in the draft.
- C. Expansion Draft Selection Criteria and Limitations.
 - i. The Expansion Team may select various combinations of Unprotected Players, Unprotected U.S. Allocated Players, and Allocation Money Grants, as illustrated below:

Selection Option	Players	U.S. Allocated Players	Allocation Money Grant
A	18	0	\$150,000
B	17	1	\$75,000
C	16	2	\$0

 - ii. The Expansion Team may select no more than two (2) Unprotected U.S. Allocated Players in the Expansion Draft.
 - iii. If the Expansion Team selects an Unprotected U.S. Allocated Player from a Team, the Expansion Team may not select any additional Unprotected Players or Unprotected U.S. Allocated Players from that Team.
 - iv. Each Team may lose no more than two (2) Unprotected Players in the Expansion Draft.- D. Expansion Draft Process. The Expansion Draft will utilize the following process:
 - i. The Expansion Draft will be comprised of up to eighteen (18) Rounds. The Expansion Team will select one Unprotected Player or Unprotected U.S. Allocated Player in each Round, consistent with the limits described in Section 4(C).
 - ii. For each Round, the Expansion Team will have three (3) minutes to make its selection.
 - iii. After the selection is made, the League will verify the eligibility of the selection, confirm that the selection is approved, and publicly announce the selection.
 - iv. The Expansion Team may call up to three (3) 5-minute time-outs during the Expansion Draft.
 - v. Each Team may call one (1) 5-minute time-out during the Expansion Draft.
 - vi. It is permissible for a Team and Expansion Team to both utilize time-outs consecutively.



- vii. The League may call any number of time-outs of any length at any time.
- viii. Teams and the Expansion Team are prohibited from making public selection information (including information about Players/U.S. Allocated Players who have had their Unprotected status altered) prior to that information being publicly disseminated by the League.

E. Compensation

Any Team that loses an Unprotected U.S. Allocated Player in the 2020 Expansion Draft will receive an Allocation Money Grant of \$75,000.

Note

Allocation money may be used on the salary of the first pick in the 2021 NWSL Draft.



EXHIBIT A
U.S. Allocated Players

Morgan Brian
Abby Dahlkemper
Tierna Davidson
Crystal Dunn
Julie Ertz
Adrianna Franch
Ashlyn Harris
Tobin Heath
Lindsey Horan
Ali Krieger
Rose Lavelle
Carli Lloyd
Allie Long
Samantha Mewis
Alex Morgan
Alyssa Naeher
Kelley O'Hara
Christen Press
Mallory Pugh
Megan Rapinoe
Becky Sauerbrunn
Casey Short
Emily Sonnett