

Northern Lights Qualifier

Safety & Logistics

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the Northern Lights Qualifier (NLQ) being held?

Yes. The Northern Lights Qualifier and January Thaw volleyball tournaments will still be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Is it safe to attend the NLQ?

Yes. We are working closely with Meet Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Convention Center, hotels, and security partners to support a safe, welcoming, and well-coordinated event. At this time, there has been no protest activity in the immediate vicinity of the Minneapolis Convention Center, and we continue to monitor conditions closely.

What is the NLQ doing to monitor conditions leading up to the event?

Northern Lights remains in regular communication with Meet Minneapolis, venue partners, hotels, and security teams. These partners provide ongoing situational updates so we can assess conditions before and throughout the event and communicate promptly with attendees if anything changes.

Is the Minneapolis Convention Center open to the public?

The Minneapolis Convention Center is a public facility; however, the halls and rooms rented by the NLQ are not public spaces and require credentials and admission tickets to enter.

Are protests taking place in Minneapolis?

Protests and vigils have occurred in some areas of the metro, generally near the federal building in St. Paul or locations associated with enforcement activity. There has been no protest activity in the immediate vicinity of the Minneapolis Convention Center. Most activity has occurred miles away from the downtown convention center area.

How does federal immigration enforcement impact the Minneapolis Convention Center?

The City of Minneapolis has established safety and security guidelines for public facilities, including the Minneapolis Convention Center. As a public building, the convention center cannot interfere with federal law enforcement activity; however, as a policy, ICE should not access rental or non-public event spaces without venue or client consent. The NLQ continues to coordinate closely with venue partners to support a secure event environment.

Is the National Guard present in downtown Minneapolis?

No. The Minnesota National Guard is not currently deployed in downtown Minneapolis or near the convention center. While the Governor has authorized the Guard to be prepared to assist if requested, there has been no deployment impacting the event area.

Are businesses, restaurants, and attractions still open in Minneapolis?

Yes. Minneapolis remains open and active for residents and visitors. Restaurants, shops, cultural venues, and attractions continue to operate as usual. As always, attendees may wish to check business hours in advance when making plans.

How will the NLQ communicate updates if something changes?

If there are any changes that impact event safety or logistics, the NLQ will communicate directly with registered teams and attendees using email and on-site communications.

What should I do if I am feeling nervous about attending?

We understand that people may have a wide range of feelings regarding attending the Northern Lights Qualifier. The event will be held in a safe environment and supported by coordinated safety planning. Our team will continue monitoring conditions and communicating updates so teams can focus on competing their best.

If we choose not to attend, will there be refunds?

The NLQ is not refunding tournament entry fees, spectator admission, or travel expenses for teams choosing not to attend due to personal concerns. If conditions were to change significantly and require large-scale cancellations, the NLQ would communicate next steps accordingly.

Why isn't the Northern Lights Qualifier cancelling?

At this time, there is no indication that it is unsafe to hold the tournament. The NLQ takes the safety of players, coaches, guests, and partners seriously and will continue to assess conditions. If cancellation were necessary due to safety concerns, the NLQ would act accordingly and communicate clearly with attendees.