#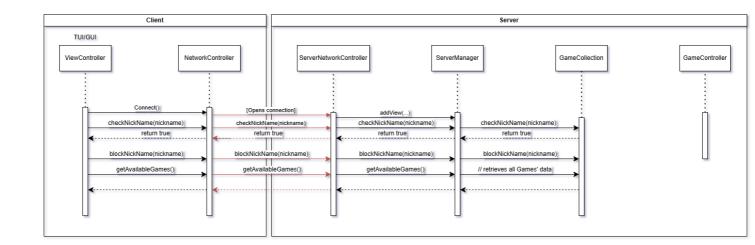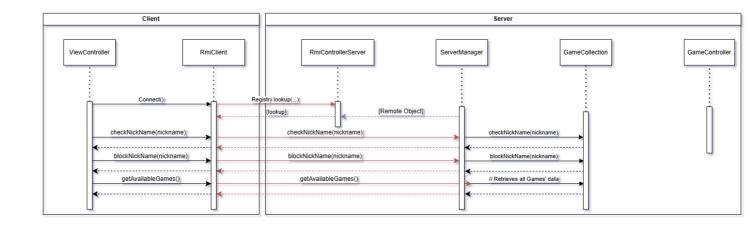 CONNECTION AND SETUP