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Desert Premier Division of the US Youth Soccer Far West
Regional League is comprised of Arizona, Colorado,
Nevada, New Mexico and Utah State Associations.

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SECTION I. INTRODUCTION

1.01 Name of League

The name of the League shall be the “Desert Premier League” (DPL).

1.02 Mission

To provide the highest standard of competitive play for youth teams in US Youth Soccer Region IV (the Far West Region) and assure the continued growth and development of elite level players.

1.03 League Status

The Desert Premier League is created and established by 5 State Associations that are members of USYS Region IV. The league is operated by the Commissioner and the 5 trustees of the State Associations. Affiliation with USYS and State Association membership in USYS Region IV is a requirement for participation in the league.

1.04 Management of League

The DPL shall be managed and supervised by the 5 State Associations. Members of the six person DPL Committee shall include: (a) the Committee Chairperson who shall also be the US Youth Soccer Region IV Liaison; (b) Arizona (c) Colorado (d) Nevada (e) New Mexico (f) Utah

1.05 Rules, Policies and Procedures

All league rules, policies, and procedures shall be reviewed and approved by the 5 State Associations

1.06 Matter Not Provided For

The 5 State Associations shall have final authority over all matters relating to DPL.

1.07 Age Group Management

Each age group will be managed and supervised by the Commissioner, which will be responsible for, but not limited to, the following:

- Securing venues
- Creating match schedules
- Serving as the liaison with the Regional Referee Administrator, and SYRA or their State Referee Assignors to ensure that match officials are assigned.
- Collecting approved DPL team rosters
- Recording and posting scores and standings
- Ensuring communication of age group news and information is shared with teams

1.08 State Association Representative

Each State Association shall appoint a DPL State Association Representative who shall provide his or her State Association with all information relevant to the DPL. The representative shall be subject to the jurisdiction of and answer to the Commissioner. The representative’s duties include serving as a liaison between the DPL and teams and ensuring that DPL requirements are fully met.





1.09 Site Coordinators

The Commissioner shall approve all Site Coordinators.

1.10 Site Coordinators Duties and Responsibilities

The Site Coordinator's duties and responsibilities under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner shall include but not be limited to:

- Serving as a liaison between the DPL and participating teams on site;
- Establishing a central location for site headquarters;
- Ensuring that the game fields are ready for play;
- Collecting and distributing Referee Game Reports;
- Collecting, recording and distributing appropriate Referee Game Fees;
- Forwarding Referee Game Reports to the DPL at the conclusion of the event;
- Completing any other duties as assigned by the Commissioner.

1.11 Playing Seasons

The DPL season will be played between July 1 and May 31.

1.12 Precedence of Games

US Youth Soccer National Championship Series competition will have priority over DPL matches.

1.13 Team Rights and Privileges

Any team in the DPL shall have the same rights and privileges to those in accordance with any team playing in a league, within their respective US Youth Soccer State Association. Team participation in the DPL will meet the requirements of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series.

1.14 Contact Information and Communication

All member teams of the DPL shall have contact information on file with the DPL, including, but not limited to (a) the Team Manager's Name, Address, Phone Numbers and valid e-mail address and (b) the Team Coach's Name, Address, Phone Numbers and valid e-mail address.

E-mail will be the primary means of communication within the DPL. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that accurate contact information is on file with the DPL.

SECTION II. TEAM APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

2.01 Team Eligibility

Any team affiliated with a Region IV State Association may request approval from its State Association to apply to the DPL pursuant to section 2.02.



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2.02 State Association Approval

State Associations must approve, in writing, all applications for participation in the DPL for each season. Applications submitted by teams, to participate in the DPL, shall be submitted to the DPL through the State Associations. Teams may not apply directly to the DPL.

2.03 Structure

The DPL will offer competition for Boys and Girls in seven Age Groups, beginning with 12U- and concluding with 19U. Each Age Group and gender will include Premier Division, whenever numbers allow. The DPL will determine the configuration of divisions.

2.04 Good Standing

All teams must be properly registered competitive teams that meet the requirements for participation and are in good standing with their respective member State Association.

2.05 Application Deadlines

All applications for participation in the DPL must be received by the deadline established by the DPL for each playing season.

2.06 Application Process

Team Applications to participate in the DPL must be completed on-line at www.desertpremier.com

2.07 Acceptance of Teams

The DPL Committee will determine what teams, from those authorized to apply by their State Association, will be accepted into the league. The committee will make the acceptance decision for entry into the league based on availability of positions, configuration of teams in each division, availability or resources, and regional distribution.

2.08 Refusal to Admit Teams

The DPL after consultation with State Associations shall have the final authority and right to refuse admittance of any team based upon the team's prior performance in the DPL. These factors include, but are not limited to: failure to play DPL matches as scheduled; failure to comply with DPL rules; failure to pay DPL referees; and/or failure to pay assessed DPL fees or fines on time.

2.09 Fees and Other Expenses

Each team participating in the DPL will pay the fees established by the 5 State Associations. The fees imposed shall be based on costs incurred and estimated future costs in connection with the operation of the league. Each team shall be responsible for all costs incurred, in connection, with its participation in the DPL. Including, without limitation, travel, housing, and uniforms.



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2.10 Acceptance of DPL Rules

Any team applying to play in the DPL, agrees to accept, abide by and comply with all rules, policies, and decisions by the DPL and further agrees to pay all fees that are due to the DPL for participation in the DPL.

2.11 Return of DPL Fees

The DPL shall return all fees paid for any team that is not accepted to play in the DPL. If a team withdraws from the DPL before the DPL schedules are published, one-hundred dollars (\$100) will be withheld from the fees paid. If a team withdraws from the DPL after the publication of schedules, the entire entry fee will be retained and an additional fines and/or penalties will be assessed.

SECTION III. TEAM ROSTERS

3.01 Team Rosters

All teams must submit an official DPL Team Roster of players at a time determined by the League Commissioner. An authorized official from the Team's respective home State Association must authenticate the validity of the rostered players. No addition to team rosters is permitted after submission to the league. However club pass players will be allowed per DPL policy.

3.02 Player Eligibility

Player eligibility is governed by the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series rules. A player may not be on the roster of more than one DPL team; provided, however, that a State Association registered player with the approval of his or her State Association may play as a club pass player for a second team from within the same US Youth Soccer affiliated club. No player may play for more than one DPL team in one day. No player may play for more than one DPL team in the same age/gender group in the same seasonal year.

3.03 Club Pass Players

Subject to the provisions of section 3.02, any team may use up to five (5) club pass players per game.

3.04 Member Passes

Valid US Youth Soccer member passes will be used for DPL play. All US Youth Soccer member passes must be valid for the current season, have a current player photo and be laminated.

SECTION IV. FORMATION OF DIVISIONS

4.01 Seeding and Placement of Teams

The DPL committee is responsible for the placement of teams based the team's performance in the DPL, Far West Regionals, the USYS National Championship, and regional representation.



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4.02 Scoring Method

The standings of teams within divisions/sub-divisions are based upon the number of points earned. Teams earn points as follows:

- Three (3) points for a win*
- One (1) point for a tie*
- No (0) points for a loss*
- Minus two (-2) points for a forfeit*

4.03 Forfeits

In the event of a forfeit, the team that forfeits the match will have two (2) points deducted, and the match score will be recorded as 0-2. The opponent will be awarded three (3) points and a 2-0 win.

4.04 Tiebreakers—Two Teams are Tied

If two teams are tied on the basis of points earned, the team's placement will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria:

- (a) Winner of head to head competition*
- (b) Winner of most games.*
- (c) Goal Differential (goals scored minus goals against max four (4) per game)*
- (d) Fewest goals allowed.*
- (e) Playoff Game (if calendar allows)*
- (f) Fewest disciplinary points (yellows and reds earn caution and ejection points)*
- (g) Coin toss*

4.05 Tiebreakers—Three or More Teams That Are Tied

If three or more teams are tied on the basis of points earned, the final rankings will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria. When a team ranks last on any criteria, they will be eliminated from consideration and the sequence will begin again for the remaining teams.

- (a) Points earned in head to head competition among the teams*
- (b) Winner of most games.*
- (c) Goal Differential (goals scored minus goals against max four (4) per game).*
- (d) Fewest goals allowed.*
- (e) Drawing of lots.*





4.06 US Youth Soccer Region IV Championships Wild Cards

In each age group, four Wild Card slots to the US Youth Soccer Region IV Championships may be awarded to DPL Premier Division teams. In order to be eligible for a Wild Card slot, the following conditions must be met:

- (a) The team must participate in their State Association State Cup competition for the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series during the current seasonal year*
- (b) The team must meet all current eligibility requirements for the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series.*
- (c) A team's roster is frozen for DPL play when it is frozen for purposes of state participation under the team's State Association rules.*
- (d) The team may not have forfeited a game in the DPL or in their State competition.*

4.07 Selection of Wild Cards for US Youth Soccer Region IV Championships

The following system of Wild Card qualifiers for the US Youth Soccer Region IV Championships is adopted.

In situations where there is a single Premier Division in an Age Group, the top teams in that Age Group will be awarded the NCS Wild Card slot for that Regional Subdivision Age Group, providing all eligibility requirements are met by each individual team, and each team is not a State Cup Champion or a state wild card.

In situations where the Premier Division in an Age Group has subdivisions, the DPL Committee shall determine the playoff format to determine the Wild Card slot.

The Process for determining the Wild Card representatives is as follows:

After all State Champions/Wild Cards have been eliminated, the highest-ranking team of those remaining, based on the original determination of standings, will be awarded the DPL Wild Card slot.

SECTION V. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

5.01 Reporting of Scores

Site Coordinators shall report game scores in a manner as determined by the DPL Commissioner. In situations where single games are played (i.e. Self Scheduled Games), both teams are required to report the scores in a manner as determined by the DPL Commissioner.

5.02 Lineup Game Cards

Each team must complete and provide a lineup game card on the form approved by the Commissioner and a copy of the team roster, including club pass players if applicable, to the referee at least thirty (30) minutes before the game. No more than 18 players from a team may be in uniform or play in a single game. Any team that plays an ineligible player in a game forfeits that game.





5.03 Forfeited Matches—Premier Division

A Premier Division team that forfeits a game by failing to appear shall 1) be subject to a fine assessed against its club and collected before any team from that club can be admitted to a subsequent DPL season, 2) become ineligible for a Wild Card slot in the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series Far West Regionals, and 3) be demoted to the First Division, for the next fall/spring season of participation. The amount of the fine shall be determined each season by the DPL Trustees.

5.04 Uniforms

Teams playing in the FWRL are only permitted to wear the following on their game uniforms:

US Youth Soccer logo

The logo of the team's State Association or the logo of any State Association sponsor

Their individual club and/or team logo and team sponsor logo

Manufacturer of uniform logo

Name and number of player

No other patches or logos are permitted unless written permission is granted by the DPL Committee.

SECTION VI. MATCHES

6.01 Number of Games

Each team will be scheduled to play a minimum of four (4) games in a season. The scheduled number of games shall be determined by the DPL Committee based on the number of teams in a division and any play-off process.

6.02 Scheduling of DPL Games

The DPL will schedule all DPL games. Once the DPL publishes the season schedule, no game can be rescheduled without the prior written permission of the DPL Commissioner. In the event that games are postponed by the DPL, the Commissioner will reschedule the games at the earliest possible reasonable date.

6.03 Travel/Hosting

For the purpose of DPL competition, Permission to Host/Travel Forms is not required. Permission to host/travel is granted when a team's respective State Association approves the team's application into the DPL.

6.04 Match Schedule and Rest Periods

All matches will be played as scheduled, unless weather conditions dictate. It is the intent of the league to play only one match per day; however, when circumstances dictate, no more than two matches a day will be scheduled and no more than three matches per Saturday/Sunday weekend. Every effort will be made to provide for a minimum of three hours rest between matches.

6.05 Inclement Weather

The Host Club/State Association is responsible for notifying the Commissioner as soon as possible if the scheduled fields are unavailable due to inclement weather. The Commissioner will be responsible for notifying all teams regarding game postponement due to inclement weather. All reasonable efforts must be made to complete the match on the scheduled dates.



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SECTION VII. RULES OF PLAY

7.01 Laws of the Game

Except as expressly modified in these rules, US Youth Soccer Rules of Play apply to all DPL games.

7.02 Substitutions

In the U15, U16, U17 and U18 age groups, a maximum of seven substitutions for each team shall be allowed in each game in each half of play and during overtime play. After leaving the game during a half of play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game during that same half of play. After leaving the game during overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game. Substitutions may be made during any stoppage in play with the consent of the match referee. In the U12, U13 and U14 age group, unlimited substitutions will be permitted at any stoppage of play with the consent of the match referee.

7.03 Match Length and Ball Size

	Length of Half	Ball Size
<i>U-17 and U-18</i>	<i>45 min.</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>U-15 and U-16</i>	<i>40 min.</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>U-13 and U-14</i>	<i>35 min.</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>U-12</i>	<i>30 min</i>	<i>4</i>

7.04 Field Size

The DPL recommended field size is 110 yards by 70 yards.

7.05 Official Match

A match shall be considered official after one full half of play is completed (the second half does not have to start). If less than one half is completed and the match is abandoned, the entire match must be replayed, subject to review by the DPL Committee. If a match is abandoned in the second half of play due to inclement weather, the final score will be the score at the time the match is abandoned. If a match is abandoned due to gross misconduct, the Commissioner will decide the disposition of the match score following review of all information available including but not limited to Referee Game Reports, reports for DPL staff, etc.

7.06 Forfeits-Lack of Appearance

A one-hour delay in the start of a game due to a team's lack of appearance is permitted for scheduled matches before the game is abandoned. Failure to appear for a scheduled match will result in a forfeit.

7.07 Anchored Goals

The coaches and match referee should inspect the integrity of the goals to ensure they are secure and suitable for play. Matches shall not begin until both goals have been firmly secured.





7.08 Player Passes and Rosters

Each team must bring a laminated US Youth Soccer pass for each player and team official signed by an official of their home State Association, a DPL game card, and a copy of their official DPL roster to every match. No player shall be permitted to participate in any game without a current, valid player pass. Game cards, rosters, and player and team official passes must be given to the referee before the start of the game.

7.09 Playing of Ineligible Player

A team that plays an ineligible player shall forfeit any game in which an ineligible player played and be subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to suspension/expulsion of the team and team officials from the DPL.

7.10 Member Passes Presented to Referee

US Youth Soccer Member Passes shall be presented to the referee upon entering the field of play. Passes will be returned to the players at the end of the half. Players will present passes to the referee upon entering the match during the second half.

7.11 Team Rosters

Upon request, copies of official DPL game rosters must be provided to the opposing team coach/manager prior to the start of each game.

7.12 Uniform Color Conflict

When there is a conflict in uniform color, the team listed first on the schedule must change their uniform color, subject to the Match Referee's decision.

7.13 Coaching from Sidelines

Limited coaching from inside the team's respective Technical Area is permitted. Coaches may not leave their team's Technical Area or enter the field of play without permission from the Referee.

SECTION VIII. MATCH CONTROL

8.01 Diagonal System of Control for Officiating

Games are to be officiated by the three-person diagonal system of control pursuant to the United States Soccer Federation Referee Administrative Handbook, Policy: Systems of Officiating Outdoor Soccer Games.

8.02 Game Officials

Game officials will be assigned under the authority of the DPL working with the hosting US Youth Soccer State Association SRA or SYRA.



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8.03 Payment of Referees

Referees and Assistant Referees appointed under the provisions of these DPL Rules shall be paid in accordance with acceptable state and federal guidelines as independent contractors. All referees will be required to complete the US Youth Soccer Independent Contractor form to be compensated. Each team is responsible for payment of one half of the DPL required fees of the match officials.

Fee allocation between the center referee and the assistant referees will be determined by local custom.

If the league requests a 4th official they will be paid \$25.00 by the league.

If fields are closed and/or games are cancelled and the referees are not notified prior to their arrival at the site, the officials will be paid for their first scheduled match only. The site coordinator is responsible for collecting the referee fees prior to the match, and distributing them to the officials. In the event that there is only one Assistant Referee, only one Assistant Referee payment is made. The other Assistant Referee fee may be paid to a club assistant referee, if they are a registered USSF official.

8.04 Termination of Games

Each coach is responsible for the behavior of his or her players and sidelines, including control of parents, fans, and spectators. In the event a game is terminated or abandoned by the referee, the referee will provide the Commissioner with a written report within 48 hours. The DPL Committee may base on the referee report and such additional information it considers appropriate immediately suspend the team, team officials, or players pending the holding of a hearing pursuant to section 10.3. All such suspensions shall remain in effect unless and until modified or reversed following a hearing or an appeal.

SECTION IX. SEND OFFS AND DISCIPLINE

9.01 Cautions and Send Offs

Any player or team official sent off (red card) from a game for conduct other than fighting shall be suspended for at least the team's next DPL game. Any player sent off for fighting whether on or off the field and regardless of with whom shall be suspended for at least the team's next three (3) DPL games. The DPL Committee may base on the referee report and such additional information it considers appropriate impose greater discipline subject to the holding of a hearing pursuant to section 10.3. All such discipline shall remain in effect unless and until modified or reversed following a hearing or an appeal. Players accumulating three (3) yellow cards in a season will be suspended for their next DPL match. Players accumulating five (5) yellow cards in a season will be suspended for their next DPL match. Players accumulating seven (7) yellow cards in a season will be suspended for their next DPL match.

9.02 Disciplinary Actions

All disciplinary measures imposed by the DPL shall be limited to an individual or team's participation in the DPL. The DPL will record the issuance of all red and yellow cards and other matters involving the conduct of a team, its players, coaches or supporters and immediately distribute this information to the respective State Associations and the respective team. The home State Association has the right to impose additional sanctions with regard to any matters arising from participation in the DPL.



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9.03 Violation of Rules

Any violation of the rules herein will be subject to disciplinary action by the DPL.

9.04 Disciplinary/Fine Schedule

Prior to the start of the season, the DPL Committee shall distribute a Disciplinary/Fine Schedule.

SECTION X. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

10.1 Protest

A protest is a formal written objection of any violation of established rules, policies, or procedures. Protests are usually related to a specific game or administrative action and are filed by one of the involved team officials. Only those teams involved are permitted to protest a game result. Third parties, i.e., coaches from other teams, state administrators, cannot file protests on a specific game. Protests must be based upon a violation of the published rules of the organization, competition, or FIFA Laws of the Game. Referee judgment calls cannot be protested. Protests may be heard by any three DPL Trustees except that no Trustee involved in a hearing may be a member of a state association that is party to the protest. Protests may also be referred to the Discipline and Appeals Committee under Section 10.4 of the DPL Rules at the discretion of the DPL Commissioner or the Chairman of the DPL Trustees.

10.2 Appeals

An appeal is a review of a decision following a hearing. The appeals committee shall have the authority to affirm, reverse, or remand a matter on appeal. It shall affirm the decision appealed if the decision does not violate applicable laws, constitutions, bylaws, and rules and regulations and is supported by substantial evidence. Substantial evidence means evidence of credible value that a reasonable person could accept. Only parties to the decision being appealed who have been adversely affected by the decision may appeal. All appeals are handled under Section 10.4 of the DPL Rules.

10.3 Grievances

A grievance is an allegation of misconduct against a league official or against the DPL Trustees which has adversely affected the party filing the grievance. Grievances may be filed by any party with a demonstrated harm caused by the alleged misconduct. The Region IV Director will determine the validity of any grievance. (Allegations of misconduct against a referee or misconduct of a referee will be handled by the state association hosting the competition under USSF Rules 531-9 and 531-10.) All grievance hearings are handled by the Discipline and Appeals Committee under Section 10.4 of the DPL Rules.





10.4 Discipline and Appeals Committee

The chair of the DPL Discipline and Appeals Committee. The chair of the committee will appoint no fewer than three (3) and no more than five (5) members to hold a hearing or decide an appeal. The members appointed will be from the state associations, but not the listed associations involved, or otherwise have a conflict of interest. The committee's decisions shall be in writing, issued within a reasonable time following completion of the review of a protest, the holding of a grievance hearing, or the holding of an appeal and shall be sent to the Commissioner and all affected parties.

10.5 Filing Procedures

A protest, request for a grievance hearing, or appeal must be in writing and filed within seventy-two (72) hours of receipt of the decision or adverse action being protested, for which a hearing is sought, or being appealed. The written filing must include:

- (a) A statement of the specific facts involved;
- (b) Citation of all rules, policies, or procedures alleged to have been violated;
- (c) The relief requested;
- (d) Copies of all relevant documents; and
- (e) A filing fee in the amount of \$250.00 in the form of certified check or money order made payable to DPL.

Any protest, request for a hearing, or appeal may be e-mailed to the Commissioner to meet the 72 hour deadline, but must also be filed by mailing it registered or certified mail to the Region IV office along with the \$250 fee, and postmarked within the 72 hour deadline.

10.6 Protests of Games Played

Notice of intent to protest arising from events relating to a game must be given to the site coordinator within one hour of the completion of the game.

10.7 Appeal of FWRL Assessed Fines

An appeal of DPL assessed fines, must be postmarked no later than three (3) business days from notification of an assessed penalty in accordance with the Filing Procedures listed in Section 10.4. The DPL Discipline and Appeals Committee will hear such fines as established by the DPL.

10.8 Notification of Parties

The Commissioner shall notify all parties involved, no later than three (3) business days from receipt of an appeal or protest, that an appeal or protest has been filed.

10.9 Disputes and Discipline

The DPL Committee is authorized to settle disputes and handle hearings other than grievance hearings which arise during the course of a DPL Competition. The DPL Committee, in accordance with the disciplinary policies and procedures of Region IV, US Youth Soccer, and US Soccer, will investigate all allegations of misconduct by teams, coaches, players or others involved in DPL operations and will impose an appropriate sanction for any violation found.

