



US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUES MIDWEST and GREAT LAKES CONFERENCES 2018-19 SEASON FACT SHEET

as of May 11, 2018

INTRODUCTION

US Youth Soccer's current system of Regional Leagues (Eastern Regional League, Midwest Regional League, Southern Regional Premier League and Far West Regional League) will cease to exist at the end of the 2017-18 soccer season.

US Youth Soccer will launch its Leagues Program in time for the 2018-19 youth soccer season in accordance with its Leagues Policy that was adopted by the Board of Directors in March 2018. The umbrella name of the program will be the US Youth Soccer National Leagues. US Youth Soccer National Leagues will have two tiers:

- National Tier called the US Youth Soccer National League currently in its 12th season of competition; and
- Multi-State Tier comprised of a network of leagues called a US Youth Soccer National League (Geographic Area) Conference

Beginning with the 2018 Fall Season, US Youth Soccer will operate the following two Conferences within the Midwest Region along with the three western East Region states as part of its network of integrated Conferences across the country:

- US Youth Soccer National League Midwest Conference
- US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference

CONFERENCE INFORMATION DOCUMENTS and TEAM APPLICATION PERIODS

An informational document for the Conferences outlining details including but not limited to team fees, rostering information, referee fees and scheduling, will be available once the Team registration period opens in early June. Application time periods may be adjusted slightly.

--The Team Application period to participate in the **2018 Fall Season** will open on or around June 6, 2018 and close on Wednesday, June 27, 2018

--The Team Application period to participate in the **2019 Spring Season 15U through 18U age groups** will open on or around July 16, 2018 and close on Wednesday, August 8, 2018

--The Team Application period to participate in the **2019 Spring Season 13U and 14U** age groups will open on or around Oct 15 and close on November 11.

Teams playing in the Conferences will also be required to play in their respective State Cup competitions.

2018-19 BOYS and GIRLS AGE GROUPS

- 13U (2006's) – for players born on January 1, 2006 or later
- 14U (2005's) – for players born on January 1, 2005 or later
- 15U (2004's) – for players born on January 1, 2004 or later
- 16U (2003's) – for players born on January 1, 2003 or later
- 17U (2002's) – for players born on January 1, 2002 or later
- 18U (2001's) – for players born on January 1, 2001 or later
- 19U (2000's) – for players born on January 1, 2000 or later

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WHEN WILL THE BOYS TEAMS PLAY

- **US Youth Soccer National League Midwest Conference**
includes the state associations of Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Michigan*, Indiana*—teams on the eastern part of the conference have the option to participate in the Great Lakes Conference based on the age group and gender of competitions offered
- **US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference**
includes the state associations of NY West, PA West, West Virginia, Ohio South, Ohio North, Kentucky, Indiana*, Michigan*—teams on western part of the conference have the option to participate in the Midwest Conference based on the age group and gender of competitions offered
*Teams in Michigan and Indiana, based on their location can choose to apply in either the Great Lakes or Midwest Conferences.

WHEN WILL THE GIRLS TEAMS PLAY

- **US Youth Soccer National League Midwest Conference**
includes the state associations of Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota*, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Michigan, Indiana—teams on the eastern part of the conference have the option to participate in the Great Lakes Conference based on the age group and gender of competitions offered
- **US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference**
includes the state associations of Minnesota**, NY West, PA West, West Virginia, Ohio South, Ohio North, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan—teams on western part of the conference have the option to participate in the Midwest Conference based on the age group and gender of competitions offered
** At 13U and 14U, teams expected to play in the Midwest Conference, while at 15U and above teams are expected to play in the Great Lakes Conference due to high school soccer season conflicts in the Fall

SEASONS OF PLAY

2018 FALL SEASON

Boys and Girls 14U competitions (Midwest Conference and Great Lakes Conference)

The 14U competition during the 2018 Fall Season will feature Premier I, Premier II, and First Division tiers of play with promotion and relegation between the tiers to determine the 2019 Spring Season placement of teams into tiers.

Girls 15U through 19U competitions (Midwest Conference Only)

Due to avoiding conflicts with high school soccer, the Midwest Conference will offer its 15U through 19U competition during the 2018 Fall Season

Boys and Girls 15U Developmental Competition (Midwest Conference and Great Lakes Conference)

This age group generally features 8th and 9th graders. We will offer development play for the Boys U-15 age group (both Conferences), as well as for Great Lakes Conference Girls 15U teams in the Great Lakes Conference. Teams interested in this competition which will not involve promotion or relegation but rather creating a competition platform for players born in 2004 that are in 8th grade while their 9th grade teammates are participating in high school soccer.

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2019 SPRING SEASON

Boys and Girls 13U and 14U competitions (Midwest Conference and Great Lakes Conference)

The 13U competition during the 2019 Season will feature Premier I, Premier II, and First Division tiers of play with promotion and relegation between the tiers for the following soccer season (2019 Fall Season). As the 13U's is the entry age group for the Conferences, the State Associations at the time of the team application period will rank teams for admission into the Conferences and team placement into tiers.

The 14U competition during the 2019 Spring Season will feature Premier I, Premier II, and First Division tiers of play (primarily based on the results of the 2018 Fall Season of 14U play) with promotion and relegation between the tiers for the following soccer year (2019-20).

Girls 15U through 19U competitions (Great Lakes Conference Only)

Due to avoiding conflicts with high school soccer, the Great Lakes Conference will offer its 15U through 19U competition during the 2019 Spring Season and feature Premier I, Premier II, and First Division tiers of play with promotion and relegation between the tiers for the following soccer year (2019-20).

Boys 15U through 19U competitions (Midwest Conference and Great Lakes Conference)

Boys competitions in these age groups during the 2019 Spring Season will feature Premier I, Premier II, and First Division tiers of play with promotion and relegation between the tiers for the following soccer year (2019-20).

Girls 15U Developmental Competition (Midwest Conference)

This age group generally features 8th and 9th graders. Teams interested in this competition which will not involve promotion or relegation but rather creating a competition platform for players born in 2004 that are in 8th grade while their 9th grade teammates are participating in high school soccer.

SELECTION and PLACEMENT OF TEAMS

There is a two-step approval process for teams. First, each team must be endorsed by its respective State Association. Second, the individual Conference Team Selection Committee shall determine the final selection and placement of all teams. Accepted teams shall be notified via website posting or an e-mail regarding their acceptance and placement into specific tiers and divisions within the Conferences. In accordance with a national set of Rules and Regulations, teams and clubs will be selected and placed into the appropriate tier based on pre-qualification (from MRL and ERL) and standards as outlined in the team application. The method of qualification and promotion/relegation used previously will essentially be carried forward with our new conferences. There will be promotion and relegation between the tiers on a season-to-season basis. Any earned slots for the top tier from MRL and ERL play will be honored at the Premier I tier in a team's respective Conference. A listing of pre-qualified teams will be posted on the US Youth Soccer website at the conclusion of the MRL's and ERL's 2018 Spring Season.

ADVANCEMENT TO 2019 REGIONALS

and QUALIFICATION INTO 2019-20 NATIONAL LEAGUE

Each Conference will have a minimum of one team from the Premier I tier from each gender age group qualify for the 2019 US Youth Soccer Regionals. Each 13U through 17U Premier I gender tier (from each Conference) will qualify two teams into the 2019-20 US Youth Soccer National League tier of competition.

Additional information will be posted, when available, on the following web page:

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/national-leagues/>

For more information contact the Great Lakes Conference and Midwest Conference League Manager, Marc Frankland, at mfrankland@usyouthsoccer.org