



US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUES EDP CONFERENCES 2018-19 SEASON FACT SHEET

revised May 4, 2018

US Youth Soccer National Leagues Conferences Managed by



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

The Leagues Program will be overseen by a National League (NL) Management Group chaired by the NL Commissioner that will have the authority to manage, regulate, supervise, administer, and conduct the program. As part of the management structure of the Leagues, League Managers will be hired to oversee the day-to-day activities of the Conferences.

Beginning with the 2018 Fall Season, US Youth Soccer will offer the following four Conferences within the East Region as part of its network of integrated Conferences across the country:

- US Youth Soccer National League New England EDP Conference
- US Youth Soccer National League North Atlantic EDP Conference
- US Youth Soccer National League Mid Atlantic EDP Conference
- US Youth Soccer National League South Atlantic EDP Conference

These four conferences will be managed by EDP. Teams are not required to be members of EDP to participate in the US Youth Soccer National League Conferences that are managed by EDP.

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

In addition to the traditional team v team competitions, the expectation is to also offer parallel club v club competitions within each of these Conferences.

TEAM v TEAM COMPETITION

In the traditional team v team competition, each Conference expects to operate a Premier I and Premier II tier of play (in ERL play these tiers were known as Elite and Premier). There will be promotion and relegation between the tiers on a season-to-season basis. Any earned slots for the top tier from 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 ERL's 2018 Spring Season.

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CLUB v CLUB COMPETITION

For those clubs with enough player depth across all age groups and looking to compete in a platform where teams in a club travel to play all teams in another club, a Club v Club competition will be offered. Those teams participating in the Club v Club competition cannot also participate in the traditional team v team competition, although another team from a club may apply to participate in the team v team platform.

SEASONS OF PLAY

The 13U and 14U competitions in both team v team and club v club platforms will be offered in the 2018 Fall and 2019 Spring Seasons.

The 13U team v team competition during the 2018 Fall Season will determine the Premier I and Premier II placement of teams for the 2019 Spring Season.

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

The 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U and 19U team v team and club v club competitions will take place during the 2019 Spring Season. The team v team competition will have two tiers of play (Premier I and Premier II) while the club v club competition expects to only have one tier of play.

**All Teams and Clubs looking to participate in the
US Youth Soccer National Leagues EDP Conferences must apply for admission.**

APPLICATION PERIODS

For **Boys and Girls Clubs** looking to participate in the club v club platform, the 2018-19 application period opens on or around May 15, 2018 and closes on July 2, 2018.

For **Boys and Girls 13U and 14U Teams** looking to participate in the 2018 Fall Season, the application period opens on or around May 15, 2018 and closes on July 2, 2018. (teams looking to play in the Spring must also apply for the Spring)

For **Boys and Girls 13U through 19U Teams** looking to participate in the 2019 Spring Season, the application period opens on or around May 15, 2018 and closes on October 1, 2018.

SELECTION and PLACEMENT OF TEAMS

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 ERL) and standards as outlined in the team and club applications.

COMPETITION FORMAT

Based on the final number of teams, it is expected that each tier of competition will have an 8 to 10-team bracket with each team playing 7 to 9 matches in its season.

ADVANCEMENT TO REGIONALS and QUALIFICATION INTO 2019-20 NATIONAL LEAGUE

From the four US Youth Soccer National Leagues EDP Conferences (New England, North Atlantic, Mid Atlantic and South Atlantic), a total of 5 teams are expected to advance to the 2019 US Youth Soccer East Regionals and the 2019-20 US Youth Soccer National League tier of competition. Based on the number of and quality of participants, teams from each of the appropriate gender age groups will participate in an end of season playoff to determine such slots. Playoffs to take place in mid-May 2019.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION DOCUMENT

A complete informational document outlining details including but not limited to team fees, referee fees and scheduling, will be available once the Team and Club registration period opens in May. Team roster size is 22 players although through a club passing system each team may use up to a maximum of 30 players.

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

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/national-league/>
www.edpsoccer.com