



## **BLACK AND BLUE LEAGUES 2019 FALL / 2020 SPRING GENERAL INFORMATION**

*Subject to change as of June 12, 2019*



### **INTRODUCTION**

Competitive teams ages 9U through 19U are generally organized by seasonal play (Summer and/or Fall) and register teams as Black or Blue (level). Black is the higher level of the two statuses. Black and Blue teams are eligible to play in MYSA leagues as well as sanctioned tournaments. Leagues for Black and Blue are formed in geographic regions of the state. There is no promotion or relegation in Black and Blue Leagues. There is no roster continuity rule in Black and Blue team registration. Teams that cannot be placed in a league because of geographic limitations, may participate as "Tournament Only" Black or Blue teams. All Black and Blue teams are eligible to participate in the MYSA Minnesota State Championships based on qualifications set by MYSA.

### **COMMITMENT**

Black and Blue level teams should be considered club "traveling soccer" teams. Teams looking to participate in these leagues must understand the need for reasonable travel. While leagues will be organized regionally, there will be a need to travel outside a club's immediate community for games.

### **BOYS and GIRLS AGE GROUPS OF COMPETITION**

Regional Black and Blue Leagues will be offered at the following Boys and Girls age groups (*\*Blue Level Only*):

- 9 and Under (9U) \* – for players born on January 1, 2011 or later
- 10 and Under (10U) – for players born on January 1, 2010 or later
- 11 and Under (11U) – for players born on January 1, 2009 or later
- 12 and Under (12U) – for players born on January 1, 2008 or later
- 13 and Under (13U) – for players born on January 1, 2007 or later
- 14 and Under (14U) – for players born on January 1, 2006 or later
- 15 and Under (15U) – for players born on January 1, 2005 or later
- 16 and Under (16U) – for players born on January 1, 2004 or later
- 17 and Under (17U) – for players born on January 1, 2003 or later
- 18 and Under (18U) – for players born on January 1, 2002 or later
- 19 and Under (19U) – for players born on January 1, 2001 or later

### **COMPETITIVE LEVELING AND TEAM PLACEMENT**

The following pertains to teams of a club that are organized by the season, not including Minnesota League One or Minnesota Futures League teams. While Black and Blue levels are self-selected by the club, MYSA highly recommends the following guidelines be used to properly level teams in any Black or Blue league flight (age).

- Black and Blue levels serve seasonally organized traveling soccer teams in Minnesota
- Black is the higher level
- The first team (or only team) of a club at this commitment level should be classified as Black (level)
- Second teams at this commitment level should be classified as Blue (level)
- Clubs should consult with MYSA if looking to enter additional teams (a third team or more) in any single birth year – reminder to larger clubs that Minnesota League One and Minnesota Futures League serve highly committed players on year-based calendars.
- New clubs or clubs not serviced by high school soccer program(s) may enter their (top) team as Blue level
- The 10U Black level is for more experienced and capable players of 10U and 9U
- At 9U, only Blue level is available
  - o Clubs should level all Blue teams and players equally
  - o Stronger players at 9U should be grouped with 10U at Blue or in appropriate cases, 10U Black

MYSA will review all team entries and has final authority in all matters related to the placement of teams and the ability to reclassify any team to help ensure proper competition

## **LEAGUE SCHEDULES AND CALENDER**

**Fall Season 9U through 15U:** Registration deadline early August  
Team schedules of five or six games  
Games can take place in September and October  
State Championships for qualified teams (mid October)

**Summer Season 9U through 19U:** Discounted Registration early January  
Final Registration deadline early March  
Team schedules of eight to twelve games  
Games can take place between late April and early July  
Playoffs and State Championships for all teams (mid to late July)

## **2019 FALL SEASON**

**Boys and Girls 9U through 15U** Black and Blue teams are registered by member clubs. MYSA will form regional league brackets based on sensible travel and location of the clubs. Fall League play will consist of five or six games. League bracket winners age 10U to 15U will be able to participate in Fall State Championships playoffs while 9U has a season ending tournament as part of the Fall State Championships in Rochester. Teams that cannot be placed in leagues because of geographic disparity will be classified as "Tournament Only". Tournament only teams will be able to play in sanctioned weekend tournaments and qualify for the Fall State Championships. All Black and Blue teams are eligible to participate in the Fall State Championships based on qualifications set by MYSA.

## **2020 SUMMER SEASON**

**Boys and Girls 9U through 19U** Black and Blue teams are registered by member clubs. MYSA will form regional league brackets based on sensible travel and location of the clubs. Summer League play will consist of eight to twelve games. League bracket winners age 10U to 19U will be able to participate in Summer State Championship playoffs while 9U has a season ending tournament as part of the Summer State Championships played in mid to late July. Teams that cannot be placed in leagues because of geographic disparity will be classified as "Tournament Only". Tournament only teams will be able to play in sanctioned weekend tournaments and qualify for the Summer State Championships. All Black and Blue teams are eligible to participate in the Summer State Championships based on qualifications set by MYSA.

## **MYSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

MYSA holds seasonal State Championships starting at 10U. A 9U season ending event will be held in conjunction with the MYSA State Championships at the same location(s).

The Fall State Championships take place on the third Friday, Saturday and Sunday weekend of October. Teams qualify by first registering for the post season and then winning their league bracket or earning a wild card through league play or tournament only status.

The Summer State Championships playoffs allow all teams who register for the postseason to participate. League bracket winners are directly seeded into the pool-play stage of the Championships in late July. All other registered teams play in single-elimination brackets (ladder-play) to earn a bid into the pool-play stage. Summer State Championships games take place in later July.

Teams choosing to participate in Championships playoffs must register by deadlines published by MYSA.

## TEAM AND REGISTRATION FEES

Team fee per season and age group:

|                   | Fall Season<br>Due Early August | Summer Season<br>(Early January) | Last chance (Early March) |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • 9U and 10U      | \$175                           | \$200                            | \$250                     |
| • 11U through 15U | \$205                           | \$325                            | \$375                     |
| • 16U through 19U | N/A                             | \$325                            | \$375                     |
| • Tournament Only | \$100                           | \$100                            | \$100                     |

Annual Individual Fees:

- Players 9U through 19U \$23
- Coach/Manager/Club Official \$25

Annual individual fees includes basic registration and insurance as well as all activation (player pass) charges on all MYSA teams during the year from August 1 through July 31.

## SELECTION AND FINAL LEAGUE PLACEMENT

MYSA will review and determine the final selection of all teams in all seasons. Accepted teams will be notified via a website posting or an e-mail regarding their acceptance and placement into Black and Blue Leagues or Tournament Only Status.

**Note:** MYSA has final authority in all matters related to the placement of teams into league tiers not specifically provided for by these rules. Final league placement will be posted on the MYSA website.

## RULES AND INFORMATION

Rules and additional information may be found on the website: [www.mnyouthsoccer.org](http://www.mnyouthsoccer.org)

## COMMUNICATION FROM/WITH THE LEAGUE

It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that accurate contact information is on file. Only listed team contacts and club officials may communicate with MYSA pertaining to team and league and game issues.

## CONTACT

Additional information will be posted, when available on the website: [www.mnyouthsoccer.org](http://www.mnyouthsoccer.org)

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