



## 2020-21 SEASON GENERAL TEAM INFORMATION

### WHAT IS THE US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE?

The US Youth Soccer National League is debuting a new structure for the 2020-21 season. The primary competition takes place at the multi-state level within the network of 13 regionally-aligned conferences across the country. The national platform that ties together the Conferences is the National League Showcase Series, which will provide opportunities for more teams to participate in showcases that match up similar teams from varying areas of the country.

The **Piedmont Conference** is one of 13 conferences that fall under the scope of the National League and operate at a multi-state level — providing high-level competition on a consistent basis at a targeted local level (North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and parts of east Tennessee).

The **Piedmont Conference's** top divisions (both team-based and club-based) offer its teams an opportunity to qualify for the 2021 US Youth Soccer Southern Regional Championships, which are held annually each summer. All teams within the **Piedmont Conference** also have the opportunity to take part in the National League Showcase Series, which provides teams with a chance to play cross-conference matches in a national setting with increased exposure to college, professional and national team scouts.

### NATIONAL LEAGUE PATHWAY



## **COMMITMENT**

Any team looking to participate in the Piedmont Conference must understand the level of commitment it takes to participate in a League that stretches across 3 different state associations. All teams understand that this is a multi-state league and that teams may travel hundreds of miles to participate in conference games. Teams understand that they may not play any true “home” games. A limited number of teams are accepted into the Piedmont Conference, so it is important that each team makes the commitment to travel BEFORE applying to the conference.

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

The 2020-21 Piedmont Conference will include the following Boys and Girls age groups:

- 13 and Under (13U) – for players born on January 1, 2008 or later
- 14 and Under (14U) – for players born on January 1, 2007 or later
- 15 and Under (15U) – for players born on January 1, 2006 or later
- 16 and Under (16U) – for players born on January 1, 2005 or later
- 17 and Under (17U) – for players born on January 1, 2004 or later
- 18 and Under (18U) – for players born on January 1, 2003 or later
- 19 and Under (19U) – for players born on January 1, 2002 or later

## **ENTRY FEE**

The Team Entry Fee to participate in the Piedmont Conference is \$925 per team and is non-refundable if a team is accepted into the Conference and later drops out. The Team Fee does not include Referee Fees, which will be paid in accordance with the Conference Operating Procedures. **PLEASE NOTE** that the Team Entry Fee must be paid to USYS at the time of application into the Conference and must be paid by CREDIT CARD or CHECK. A transaction fee will apply for credit card payments in GotSport. If paying by check, a team MUST also include a filled out [Payment Form](#) and send both together to the USYS national office.

Beginning with the 2020-21 season, Piedmont Conference teams will pay USYS directly during the registration process instead of submitting payment to their state association.

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

In completing any application into the Piedmont Conference teams are required to submit accurate information to the questions provided. Misrepresentation of team accomplishments may result in the team being disqualified from conference participation.

Application Deadline for 14U-19U teams: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 (extended to July 8)

Application Deadline for 13U teams: Friday, December 11, 2020

Application Link: [https://system.gotsport.com/event\\_regs/d4de636438](https://system.gotsport.com/event_regs/d4de636438)

Please note that since GotSport is new platform, a team official will need to first create a profile. A walkthrough guide to registering your team for the Piedmont Conference can be found [HERE](#).

## **SELECTION AND PLACEMENT**

There is a two-step approval process for accepting teams into the Piedmont Conference. First, each team must be confirmed by its respective State Association as properly registered. Second, the Piedmont Conference shall review and determine the final selection of all teams. Accepted teams shall be notified via a website posting or an e-mail regarding their acceptance and placement into the Piedmont Conference.

Teams in the Boys Premier I and Girls Premier I tier will be accepted based on their qualification from the previous seasonal year. Any TBA “open” slots in Boys Premier I or Girls Premier I will be filled by the Team Selection Committee. The final selection of teams should be completed by late June.

## **THE 2020-21 SEASON**

The start date of the 2020-2021 season for the Piedmont Conference will be August 22, 2020. All games for the Piedmont Conference must be completed by June 1, 2021.

## **PIEDMONT CONFERENCE 2020-21 GENERAL TEAM INFORMATION – PAGE 3**

### **COMPETITION FORMAT**

The Piedmont Conference follows a round robin competition format. The anticipated tier size, match count, and season of play for each gender age group and tier is summarized below.

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Tier</b>	<b>Season</b>	<b>Tier Size</b>	<b>Game Count</b>
Boys	13U	Premier I	Spring 2021	12	11
Boys	14U	Premier I	Fall 2020	12	11
Boys	15U	Premier I	Fall 2020	12	11
Boys	16U	Premier I	Fall 2020	12	11
Boys	17U	Premier I	Fall 2020	12	11
Boys	18U	Premier I	Fall 2020	12	11
Boys	19U	Premier I	Fall 2020	12	11
Girls	13U	Premier I	Spring 2021	12	11
Girls	14U	Premier I	Fall 2020	10	9
Girls	15U	Premier I	Fall 2020	10	9
Girls	16U	Premier I	Fall 2020	10	9
Girls	17U	Premier I	Fall 2020	10	9
Girls	18U	Premier I	Fall 2020	10	9
Girls	19U	Premier I	Fall 2020	10	9

### **LOCATION OF GAMES--HOSTING**

The anticipated dates of play for the 2020-21 season are posted below.

#### **14U-19U Boys/Girls Premier I Hosting Dates (Fall 2020)**

August 22 – August 23: Hampton, GA (North Mt Carmel Park)

September 5 – 7: Greenville, SC (MESA Soccer Complex)

September 19 – 20: RAIN DATE

September 26 – 27: Wilson/Goldsboro, NC (J Burt Gillette / Bryan Sport Complex)

October 10 – 11: Fayetteville, GA (McCurry Park)

October 17 – 18: Columbia, SC (SCUFC Complex)

October 31 – Nov 1: RAIN DATE

#### **13U Boys/Girls Premier I Hosting Dates (Spring 2021) – TBA**

### **GENERAL SCHEDULING INFORMATION**

Conference schedules will be developed by the League Manager, who will have sole discretion of game schedules. The anticipated release of schedules will be in Mid-Late July for the 14U-19U age groups, and late-December for the 13U age group.

A coach of multiple teams within the Piedmont Conference will be given scheduling considerations so he/she can be present for their team's games, however coach conflict resolution IS NOT guaranteed. Clubs are strongly encouraged to have a 2<sup>nd</sup> coach that can step in should a conflict exists. Any reschedules will be done in accordance with the Conference Operating Procedures. Schedule requests for individual teams will NOT be considered.

Teams participating in the Piedmont Conference must be available to play on the published conference dates, which includes rain dates. By submitting your team application, your team is committing to play on the published dates for the conference.

## **REFEREES**

Piedmont Conference games will use a 3-man referee system. The amount and form of payment to referees in the Piedmont Conference will be in accordance with the Conference Operating Procedures. Payment amounts are summarized below:

13U-16U: \$150.00 (Center \$70, AR1 \$40, AR2 \$40). \$75.00 per team.

17U-19U: \$180.00 (Center \$80, AR1 \$50, AR2 \$50). \$90.00 per team.

## **TEAM ROSTERS**

Teams may utilize 30 players during the course of a season in accordance with the Leagues Program Rules. A maximum 22-player Team Roster with additional use of a Club Pass Roster shall be utilized in all age groups. Club Pass players may only come from within a team's club, provided that the player is a US Youth Soccer member.

## **RULES AND INFORMATION**

Rules and additional information may be found on the Piedmont Conference website:

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/piedmont-conference/>

## **COACHING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

Coaches of teams within the Piedmont Conference must have obtained a US Soccer National D License or the United Soccer Coaches equivalent (National Diploma) level of coaching education.

## **PERMISSION TO TRAVEL**

Teams are not required to complete Permission to Travel permits/forms for games played outside of their State Association as permission is automatically granted by State Association approval of the team for Piedmont Conference play.

## **HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS**

The Piedmont Conference has partnered with Traveling Teams, Inc. for the 2020/21 seasonal year to provide hotel accommodation support for teams at Piedmont Conference scheduled events. Through this partnership, teams can reserve and manage their hotel needs for these events. Additionally, this partnership protects teams when it comes to hotel refunds should a Piedmont Conference event be postponed or cancelled (due to weather or other). Use of Traveling Teams is required for all teams participating in Piedmont Conference events. A hotel list will be published [HERE](#) once Traveling Teams confirms hotels.

## **QUALIFICATION TO REGIONALS**

The top team in the Premier I tier of each 13U-19U gender age group in the Piedmont Conference will qualify for the 2021 Southern Regional Championships that same seasonal year as the Piedmont Conference representative. To be eligible for advancement to the 2021 Southern Regional Championships, the qualified Piedmont Conference team must have participated in their state association's State Cup competition.

## **2020-21 NATIONAL LEAGUE SHOWCASE SERIES**

Beginning with the 2020-21 seasonal year, all Piedmont Conference teams will have access to the new National League Showcase Series. The National League Showcase Series provides more opportunities for Piedmont Conference teams to compete within a national platform against other similarly performing teams from other Conferences. These Showcases are designed to maximize identification opportunities for Piedmont Conference players and to create efficient recruiting opportunities for the scouting community. More information about the National League Showcase Series can be found in [FAQ](#) document and additional information will be forthcoming on the usyouthsoccer.org website. Questions regarding the Showcase Series can be directed to [nationalleague@usyouthsoccer.org](mailto:nationalleague@usyouthsoccer.org).

Teams understand that all 14U-18U teams competing in a top tier within the USYS National League Piedmont Conference during the 2020-21 season must attend a minimum of one (1) USYS National Showcase Series event to retain their position in the top tier of the 2021-22 USYS National League Piedmont Conference or any other USYS National League Conference.

**STAY CONNECTED!**

Clubs, Coaches, Parents, and Players are encouraged to stay connected with National League on social media!



facebook.com/usysleagues



twitter.com/nationalleague



instagram.com/nationalleaguesoccer



youtube.com/user/usyouth

If teams have any social media related questions concerning the Piedmont Conference, please contact Scott Belton, Assistant League Manager, [sbelton@usyouthsoccer.org](mailto:sbelton@usyouthsoccer.org). Scott may reach out to team contacts throughout the seasonal year for team information, pictures, goal scorers, etc. in order to promote the Conference competition on the National League’s social media platforms.

**COMMUNICATION FROM/WITH THE CONFERENCE**

E–mail is the primary means of communication within the Piedmont Conference. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that accurate contact information is on file with the conference. The Piedmont Conference compiles team contact information based on each team’s application into the conference.

**CONTACT**

For more information on the Piedmont Conference please contact:

Mike Leland, League Manager, [mleland@usyouthsoccer.org](mailto:mleland@usyouthsoccer.org)

Scott Belton, Assistant League Manager, [sbelton@usyouthsoccer.org](mailto:sbelton@usyouthsoccer.org)

*Subject to change—as of June 30, 2020*