



2021-22 SEASONAL YEAR PIEDMONT CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

WHAT IS THE US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE?

The US Youth Soccer National League is debuting a new structure for the 2021-22 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 National League P.R.O. which qualifies the top teams from each National League Conference to compete for slots into the US Youth Soccer National Championships. National League Showcase Series, which operates alongside National League P.R.O events, provides opportunities for additional teams to compete in a showcase environment which matches up similarly competitive 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 2022 US Youth Soccer Southern Regional Championships, which are held annually each summer. All teams within the **Piedmont Conference** also have the opportunity to qualify into National League P.R.O. for the next seasonal year, but also 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 2021-22 Piedmont Conference will include the following Boys and Girls age groups:

- 13 and Under (13U) – for players born on January 1, 2009 or later
- 14 and Under (14U) – for players born on January 1, 2008 or later
- 15 and Under (15U) – for players born on January 1, 2007 or later
- 16 and Under (16U) – for players born on January 1, 2006 or later
- 17 and Under (17U) – for players born on January 1, 2005 or later
- 18 and Under (18U) – for players born on January 1, 2004 or later
- 19 and Under (19U) – for players born on January 1, 2003 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 registration into the Conference and must be paid by CREDIT CARD.*** The total fee, which includes the Entry Fee and Transaction Fee will be \$955.22.

Piedmont Conference teams will pay USYS directly during the registration process and will NOT submit their Conference fees to their State Association.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

Piedmont Conference teams are required to submit accurate information to the questions provided. Any misrepresentation may result in the team being disqualified from Conference participation.

Registration Deadline for 14U-19U teams: Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Registration Deadline for 13U teams: Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Registration Link: https://system.gotsport.com/event_regs/a3f60a556a

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

GOTSPORT

The conference uses the GotSport platform to manage the league. All teams will be required to list a contact from their club (in most cases this will be the club administrator) when they register for the conference. That contact will be the point person that the teams within the club will go to first if there are any issues or questions about the GotSport platform. It is important to check with your club before listing the contact on the registration form to be sure the same contact will be listed by every team within your club that is competing in the conference. Team Registration and Roster Building Walkthroughs will be available on the conference webpage and they will be updated throughout the season should any changes happen with those processes. Teams are encouraged to frequently check the team information tab on the conference webpage to see if any updates have been made to these documents.

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 remaining open slots in the 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 2021-22 SEASON

The start date of the 2021-2022 season for the Piedmont Conference will be August 21, 2021. All games for the Piedmont Conference must be completed by June 1, 2022.

COMPETITION FORMAT

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

Gender	Age	Tier	Season	Tier Size	Game Count
Boys	13U	Premier I	Spring 2022	12	11
Boys	14U	Premier I	Fall 2021	12	11
Boys	15U	Premier I	Fall 2021	12	11
Boys	16U	Premier I	Fall 2021	12	11
Boys	17U	Premier I	Fall 2021	12	11
Boys	18U	Premier I	Fall 2021	12	11
Boys	19U	Premier I	Fall 2021	12	11
Girls	13U	Premier I	Spring 2022	12	11
Girls	14U	Premier I	Fall 2021	12	11
Girls	15U	Premier I	Fall 2021	12	11
Girls	16U	Premier I	Fall 2021	12	11
Girls	17U	Premier I	Fall 2021	12	11
Girls	18U	Premier I	Fall 2021	12	11
Girls	19U	Premier I	Fall 2021	12	11

CONFERENCE EVENT DATES

The anticipated event dates of play for the 2021-22 season are posted below. Teams must be prepared to compete in each event, however, based on the final slate of teams, attending all events may not be necessary.

14U-19U Boys/Girls Premier I Hosting Dates (Fall 2021)

August 21 – August 22: Hampton, GA (North Mt Carmel Park)

September 4 – 6: Greenville, SC (MESA Soccer Complex)

September 18 – 19: Wilson, NC (J Burt Gillette Athletic Complex)

September 25 – 26: RAIN DATE

October 2 – 3: Rock Hill, SC (Manchester Meadows and Comporium Athletic Park)

October 16 – 17: Hampton, GA (North Mt Carmel Park) & Canton, GA (Badger Creek Park)

October 23 – 24: RAIN DATE

October 30 – 31: RAIN DATE

13U Boys/Girls Premier I Hosting Dates (Spring 2022)

TBA October 2021

GENERAL SCHEDULING INFORMATION

Conference schedules will be developed by the League Manager, who will have sole discretion of match 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 2nd coach that can step in should a conflict exist. 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 registering for the Conference, 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 National League 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 should 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 matches 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 2021-22 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 NATIONAL LEAGUE P.R.O.

The top 2 teams in the Premier I tier of each 13U-18U gender age group in the Piedmont Conference will automatically qualify for the 2022-23 National League P.R.O. competition. To retain their eligibility for National League P.R.O., the team must also participate in the Piedmont Conference the same seasonal year as their participation in National League P.R.O.

QUALIFICATION TO SOUTHERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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.

2021-22 NATIONAL LEAGUE SHOWCASE SERIES

All Piedmont Conference teams will have access to the 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 on the Showcase Series [website](#). Inquiries should be sent to nationalleague@usyouthsoccer.org.

Teams understand that all 15U-18U teams competing in a top tier within the USYS National League Piedmont Conference during the 2021-22 season must attend a minimum of one (1) USYS National Showcase Series event to retain their position in the top tier of the 2022-23 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/nationalleaguesoccer



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. Scott may reach out to team contacts throughout the seasonal year for team information, pictures, goal scorers, etc. 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

Scott Belton, Assistant League Manager, sbelton@usyouthsoccer.org

Subject to change—as of May 3, 2021