



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 **Desert Conference** is one of 13 conferences that fall under the scope of the National League and operates at a multi-state level — providing high-level competition on a consistent basis at a targeted local level (Nevada, Arizona, Utah, New Mexico and Colorado).

The **Desert Conference's** top divisions offer its teams an opportunity to qualify for the 2021 US Youth Soccer Far West Regional Championships, which are held annually each summer. All teams within the **Desert 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 Desert Conference must understand the level of commitment it takes to participate in a League that stretches across 5 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 Desert 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 Desert Conference will include the following boys and girls age groups:

- 12 and Under (12U) – for players born on January 1, 2009 or later
- 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 Desert Conference is \$1,500 per team for 12U, 13U and 14U teams; and \$1,600 per team for 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U and 19U teams and is non-refundable if a team is accepted into the conference and later drops out. **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. A transaction fee will be applied for credit card payments in GotSport. However, payment will not be transacted until the team is accepted into the Desert Conference.

The Team Fee does not include Referee Fees, which will be paid in accordance with the Conference Operating Procedures. Each team is responsible for its own costs incurred in connection with participation including but not limited to travel, housing, meals, and uniforms.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The Team Application deadline is Monday, July 6, 2020. Teams wishing to participate in the Desert Conference should contact their State Association office for the web link to enter the secure application website for the Desert Conference. Following submission of a team application, your State Association will either endorse/approve the application or reject the application for participation in the Desert Conference. After receiving State Association recommendation, the Desert Conference will review team applications and determine if your team will be accepted into the Desert Conference for the 2020-21 Season. In completing the application form, teams are required to submit accurate information on team accomplishments. Misrepresentation of team accomplishments may result in the team being disqualified from Desert Conference participation. To register you will need your GotSoccer team's username and password. ***Please do not sign up for the league if you cannot meet all the required dates above that apply to your team.***

QUALIFYING TEAMS, SELECTION AND PLACEMENT

Each gender age group is populated in four ways:

- The 2019 – 20 Desert Conference champion earns an automatic slot
- The 2019 – 20 State Cup or State League champions from the 5 states earn automatic slots
- The 2019 – 20 National League teams that qualify for the 2020 Nationals earn automatic slots
- Teams selected by the Desert Conference through an application process

See “Desert Conference-Populating Each Gender Age Group” document for more info

The criteria used for acceptance and placement includes but is not limited to the team's performance in 2019-20 Desert Conference play, 2019-20 US Youth Soccer National Championship Series play (State Cup, Regionals and Nationals), and 2019-20 National League. Accepted teams shall be notified via a website posting or an e-mail regarding their acceptance and placement into the Desert Conference. The list of teams accepted along with tier and division placement for the 2020-21 season is expected to take place on or around July 13, 2020.

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THE 2020-21 SEASON

The start date of the 2020-21 season for the Desert Conference is September 1, 2020. All games for the Desert Conference must be completed by April 23, 2021.

COMPETITION FORMAT

All competitions in every age group shall be round robin. There will be no end of season playoffs. Based on the number of teams placed into a division, teams may play up to a total of 9 Desert Conference games during the season. **Please be aware of the number of games that teams will be required to play.** Desert Conference teams are required to fulfill their commitment by playing out their entire conference schedule of games.

LOCATION OF GAMES--HOSTING

There are two categories for hosting Desert Conference games.

Conference Events: The League will host three (3) events for 12U through 14U teams; and two (2) events for 15U through 19U teams. There are no field costs associated with these events.

One-Off Games: The League Manager need to approve the site of one-off games between teams with field costs shared by the teams and Desert Conference.

The mandatory Conference Events are:

- September 11-13, 2020 in Utah Boys and Girls 12-13-14U
- November 20-22, 2020 in AZ Boys and Girls 12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19U
- February 26-28, 2021 in NV Boys and Girls 12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19U

GENERAL SCHEDULING INFORMATION

Teams participating in the Desert 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.

Conference schedules will be developed by the League Manager, who will have sole discretion of game schedules. A coach of multiple teams within the Desert Conference will be given scheduling considerations so he/she can be present for their games, however coach conflict resolution IS NOT guaranteed. Clubs are strongly encouraged to have a 2nd coach that can step in should a conflict exists.

Any reschedules will be done in accordance with the Conference Operating Procedures and approval of the League Manager. Schedule requests for individual teams will NOT be considered. For any rescheduling, provided it does not impact the competitive nature at a Conference Event will only be considered if both teams agree to the rescheduling and agree to a date, time and location and it is approved by the League Manager. Any team requesting to reschedule a One-Off Game should understand that they will need to travel to the opposing team's home location provided that both teams agree to the new date and time and it is approved by the League Manager.

REFEREES

Desert Conference games will use a 3-man referee system. Each team is responsible for one-half of the total referee fees per game and payment is to be made in cash prior to each game as follows:

12U:	\$50 per game per team; a total of \$100 (\$40 to Referee and \$30 to each AR)
13U and 14U:	\$60 per game per team; a total of \$120 (\$50 to Referee and \$35 to each AR)
15U and 16U:	\$70 per game per team; a total of \$140 (\$60 to Referee and \$40 to each AR)
17U, 18U and 19U:	\$80 per game per team; a total of \$160 (\$70 to Referee and \$45 to each AR)

TEAM ROSTERS

Teams may utilize 30 players during a season in accordance with League Rules and Policies. 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 US Youth Soccer website:

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

COACHING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Coaches of teams within the Desert Conference are encouraged to have the minimum coaching education levels of a US Soccer National D License or the United Soccer Coaches National Diploma.

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 Desert Conference play.

ADVANCEMENT TO REGIONALS

The top team in the Premier I tier of each 13U through 19U age group, that is not a State Cup Champion representative to Regionals, will qualify for 2021 Far West Regionals that same seasonal year as the Desert Conference representative. To be eligible to compete at Regionals, a team must play in their state association's State Cup.

2020-21 NATIONAL LEAGUE SHOWCASE SERIES

Beginning with the 2020-21 seasonal year, all Desert Conference teams will have access to the new National League Showcase Series. The National League Showcase Series provides more opportunities for Desert 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 Desert Conference players and to create efficient recruiting opportunities for the scouting community. More information about the National League Showcase Series can be found in the [FAQ](#) document and additional information will be forthcoming on the usyouthsoccer.org website.

COMMUNICATION FROM/WITH THE CONFERENCE

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

CONTACT

For more information on the Desert Conference please contact the League Manager, Said Mossavian at smossavian@usyouthsoccer.org

Subject to change—as of May 26, 2020