INTRODUCTION
The US Youth Soccer National League Desert Conference mission is to provide the highest standard of competitive play for youth teams that are members of US Youth Soccer State Associations of Arizona, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada. The US Youth Soccer National League Desert Conference offers quality league competition for teams primarily against teams outside of their state association. Teams playing in the 2018-19 US Youth Soccer National League Desert Conference compete for the chance to earn spots into the West Regionals as part of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series. Additionally, teams participating in the 13U-18U age groups have the opportunity to qualify for the US Youth Soccer National League for the following seasonal year.

COMMITMENT
Any team looking to participate in the US Youth Soccer National League 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 US Youth Soccer National League 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 2018-19 US Youth Soccer National League Desert Conference will include the following age groups:

- 12 and Under (12U) – for players born on January 1, 2007 or later
- 13 and Under (13U) – for players born on January 1, 2006 or later
- 14 and Under (14U) – for players born on January 1, 2005 or later
- 15 and Under (15U) – for players born on January 1, 2004 or later
- 16 and Under (16U) – for players born on January 1, 2003 or later
- 17 and Under (17U) – for players born on January 1, 2002 or later
- 18 and Under (18U) – for players born on January 1, 2001 or later
- 19 and Under (19U) – for players born on January 1, 2000 or later

ENTRY FEE
The Team Entry Fee to participate in the US Youth Soccer National League 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. Payment information will be collected at the time that the team application is submitted. 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM/WITH THE CONFERENCE
E-mail is the primary means of communication within the US Youth Soccer National League Desert Conference. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that accurate contact information is on file with the conference. The US Youth Soccer National League Desert Conference compiles team contact information based on each team’s application into the conference.
APPLICATION PROCEDURES
The Team Application deadline is Monday, June 25, 2018. Teams wishing to participate in the Desert Conference should contact their State Association office for the web link in order 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 decline 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 2018-2019 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 user name and password. Please do not sign up for the league if you cannot meet all of the required dates above that apply to your team.

QUALIFYING TEAMS, SELECTION AND PLACEMENT
There is a two-step approval process for the US Youth Soccer National League Desert Conference. First, each team must be endorsed by its respective State Association. Second, the US Youth Soccer National League Desert Conference shall review, determine the final selection of all teams and placement into divisions, if applicable.
Each gender age group is populated in four ways:
- The 2017-18 DPL champion earns an automatic slot
- The 2017-18 State Cup or State League champions from the 5 states earn automatic slots
- The 2017-18 National League teams that qualify for the 2018 Nationals earn automatic slots
- Teams selected by the Desert Conference

See “US Youth Soccer National League 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 2017-18 DPL play, 2017-18 US Youth Soccer National Championship Series play (State Cup, Regionals and Nationals), and 2017-18 National League. Accepted teams shall be notified via a website posting or an e-mail regarding their acceptance and placement into the US Youth Soccer National League Desert Conference. The list of teams accepted along with tier and division placement for the 2018-19 season is expected to take place on or around July 13, 2018.

REFEREES
US Youth Soccer National League 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 the course of 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/national-leagues/

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 US Youth Soccer National League Desert Conference play.
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 subdivisions, teams may play up to a total of 9 US Youth Soccer National League Desert Conference games during the course of the season. Please be aware of the number of games that teams will be required to play. US Youth Soccer National League Desert Conference teams are required to fulfill their commitment by playing out their entire conference schedule of games.

ADVANCEMENT TO REGIONALS
The top team from each age group in accordance with the US Youth Soccer National League Desert Conference Rules and Operating Procedures will qualify for 2019 West Regionals that same seasonal year as the US Youth Soccer National League Desert Conference representative. To remain qualified for Regionals, a team must also play in their state association’s State Cup.

QUALIFICATION INTO 2019-20 NATIONAL LEAGUE
The top team from each applicable age group in the US Youth Soccer National League Desert Conference will qualify for the National League for the following seasonal year. Teams participating in National League must also play in the US Youth Soccer National League Desert Conference.

LOCATION OF GAMES—HOSTING
There are two categories for hosting US Youth Soccer National League 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 will determine the site of one off games between teams with field costs shared by the teams.

THE 2018-19 SEASON
The start date of the 2018-2019 season for the US Youth Soccer National League Desert Conference will be September 5, 2018. All games for the US Youth Soccer National League Desert Conference must be completed by April 15, 2019
The Conference Events are:
- September 14-16, 2018 in Salt Lake City UT  Boys and Girls 12U, 13U, 14U

GENERAL SCHEDULING INFORMATION
• Conference schedules will be developed by the League Manager, who will have sole discretion of game schedules. A coach of multiple teams within the US Youth Soccer National League Desert 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 exists.
• Any reschedules will be done in accordance with the Conference Operating Procedures. 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. Any team requesting to reschedule a One Off Game should understand that they will need to travel to the opposing teams home location provided that both teams agree to the new date and time.
• Teams participating in the US Youth Soccer National League 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.

CONTACT
For more information on the US Youth Soccer National League Desert Conference please contact the League Manager, Chris Webb, at cwebb@usyouthsoccer.org

Subject to change—as of May 11, 2018