



MIDWEST CONFERENCE

Midwest Conference Spring 2021 Scheduling Update (12-15-20)

This email is for all team contacts that are listed on current Midwest Conference (MWC) teams registered for the 2020/21 season. The Midwest Conference is one of 13 conferences across the country that make up the USYS National League Conferences. See below for important upcoming dates and information.

CONFERENCE UPDATES



This email is being distributed to the team contacts from the 11 State Associations that are within the footprint of the USYS Leagues Program Midwest Conference (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin).

Team Contacts,

We wanted to get this newsletter out to all team contacts to update you on the scheduling process for the Spring 2021 season. All teams have been notified that we are placing volunteer Designating Scheduling Coordinators (DSC's) as we speak. Emails have gone out to all of the team coaches and Director of Coaches (DOC's), so if you have not been receiving these as a coach or DOC, you will need to check you have your contacts correctly listed for your team within GotSport. Or if you are a team manager/Club administrator, you should connect with your coach. We did not send out the initial emails to team admins as we always prefer the DSC's to be either coaches or DOC's, experienced in the scheduling process. Moving forward, communication will go to ALL team contacts listed on your GotSport team account, once we pass this initial scheduling phase.

We already have about 80% of all divisions with a confirmed DSC and those DSC's have been sent all of the information within the past few days to start scheduling with their division contacts. As soon as we appoint DSC's to remaining divisions that don't currently have one, they will be notified too.

As you know, the in person scheduling meetings have been replaced by these online conference meetings (Zoom or other format chosen by the DSC), scheduled by the DSC for each division. The absolute deadline to have your schedule completed, agreed upon by all teams and returned to the conference is Wednesday January 13 for all Premier I and Premier II divisions and Wednesday January 27 for all First Divisions and Conference Qualifiers. Club vs Club divisions are currently being completed and they will be confirmed and posted online next week.

Contact List. Please be aware that these are the most up to date contacts we have. We can only go by what we have on the team GotSport accounts, so we have been regularly asking teams to ensure this is up to date. If you click on the Scores, Standings & Schedules drop down, hit the link for the Spring 2021 Schedules. From there select your teams division then click on your teams name in the schedule. Here you will see who the contacts are listed for your team that can be viewed by the public. Again for many teams this is not accurate or even blank in some cases. If this is the case, other teams have no way of contacting you to start the scheduling process. PLEASE CHECK THIS TODAY and if you need to update your contacts, please do so right away. For clear instructions on how to do this, see the note at the foot of this email.

Team Availability Sheet. Once a DSC reaches out to you, this is the document that you will need to complete and send back to them quickly. Please fill out this document with as much availability as possible. The May 7-9 Showcase is a mandatory event weekend for all PI/PII teams, so if you are in PI/PII, you should always start with this weekend and work out the rest of the schedule from there. There are no guarantees for First Division teams in this event, but we will add them if we have space left following all PI/PII scheduling.

Remember that for ANY of the conference hosted weekend/s, they fill up fast so there are never any guarantees on these.

The Must Be Available to Play weekends are as they state, all teams should be available. It does not mean you have to use those weekends, but all teams should be available. The only weekends teams are exempt from are their State Cup weekends. Note that this is for State Cup knockout stages, this does NOT include prelim weekends. There are no exemptions at all for any Presidents Cup weekends.

Other Important Scheduling Notes

Everyone should be aware of all of the Conference Operating Procedures (COP's) with regard to scheduling before you get started. The COP's can be found on the conference homepage in the Rules & Policies drop down. Make sure you read through Section 3 - Scheduling Information (pages 10-15). It is very important you all read through these pages as they contain all of the procedures for scheduling. Ignore the information on the in person scheduling meeting as these have been replaced with the online scheduling meeting run by a DSC, but all other information is very important.

Please remember that you MUST have at least a date for all matches, including the One-Off matches. You cannot list TBD for any match dates. Matches can be rescheduled at a later date, but we do need a date. We understand that kick off times/field numbers may not be possible at this time and they may be added later on. If teams still have scheduling concerns about covid, as we have explained on all communication, look to backload the schedules as much as possible and avoid the early spring games. If a certain state is still under restrictions as the match date closes, any team in this situation can request a reschedule with no penalty. The opposition must agree to a reschedule and if no date can be found, the match would be recorded as a No Contest. This would only be in place if a certain state had mandatory travel restrictions.

You MUST also list a HOST club for ALL matches, this cannot be left blank. Even if the game is played at a neutral location, there MUST be a HOST listed. The HOST will be the team responsible for booking fields, contacting the local referee assignor and collecting fee's (if applicable). If the HOST team is using their own fields, it is expected that the HOST picks up the fees for hosting (excluding ref fees that are always split), as they do not incur travel expenses. The only time that hosting fees can be split is if the game/s are played at a neutral facility or if ALL teams agree to the fee's in writing at the time of scheduling. What clubs cannot do is send out a field bill in the weeks leading up to the event.

Once your DSC has set up a zoom call and all teams commit to the call time, if any team is a no show, their schedule will be created for them by the group at the time of the meeting. They should have already sent through their availability prior to this meeting.

Conference Hosted Events

The conference hosted event weekends can be seen listed on the conference homepage in the Team Information drop down menu. Click on the 2020-21 Team Information Document and scroll to the last page of the document. This lists the date, location, costs and hotel mandates for event weekends. If you plan to play in conference hosted weekends, understand that once these events are full, we will close them down.

Conference Calendar of Dates

Make sure that all teams are fully aware of all of the important dates for the Spring Season, these can be seen on the Conference Calendar in the Team Information dropdown. It is important all teams understand the start and finish dates of the Spring season and the roster freeze deadline dates.

Creating Venues and Fields

In order for games to be scheduled in GotSport, the fields and venues must be created in GotSport by the club admin and shared with the Conference. Only club admins can add venue information, so please make

them aware if they have not already created venues in GotSport. If you do not own the complex and multiple clubs in your area use the complex, please contact your state so they can create the venue for you. If you own the complex, please build the field using the walkthrough on the Conference website under the Team Information drop-down titled "Walkthrough - Clubs Building and Sharing Fields in GotSport." Venues only need to be created once in the system. Once shared, you will not need to worry about creating and sharing the venue again.

Team Contact Updates (VERY IMPORTANT)

To ensure that your team contacts receive these emails from the Conference and are displayed accurately on the GotSport standings website for scheduling purposes, please make sure any coaches and managers affiliated with the team are assigned to the team in GotSport. In GotSport, the contacts are displayed on the website and the contacts included in our exports from the system pull from the coach/manager assigned to the team's Conference-specific roster. This was also included in the application process when your team was registered in GotSport for the Spring 2021 Conference. To update your team contacts, please follow the walkthrough available on the Conference website. The walkthrough is titled "Walkthrough - Updating Team Contact" and can be found under the Team Information drop-down, in the General Team Information section.

Conference Rules & Conference Operating Procedures

All of the rules and COP's have been updated for the Fall 2020/Spring 2021 seasonal year. Please take the time to read through these documents as they do contain the answers to almost any question you can throw at us. We understand that these are long documents, but they need to be that way to cover as many eventualities as possible. Both documents can be found in the Rules & Policies drop down.

FAQ's

Please remember to always check the FAQ's section on the conference homepage. We try to update this regularly and many times your answers can be found by checking the FAQ's if you cannot find the information in the rules or COP's.

Yours in Soccer,
Marc Frankland
League Manager

IMPORTANT DATES

February 5 - 2021 Spring Season Begins

April 17-18 - Must be available to play weekend for 2021 Spring Season

April 24-25 - Must be available to play weekend for 2021 Spring Season

May 1-2 - Must be available to play weekend for 2021 Spring Season

May 6 - Roster Freeze Deadline for the 2021 Spring Season

May 8-9 - Must be available to play weekend for 2021 Spring Season

May 7-9 - Mandatory College Showcase for ALL PI and PII teams (15U-19U) in Westfield, IN

June 6 - 2021 Spring Season - Last day of scheduled games for ALL teams

June 25-30 - 2021 Midwest Regional Championships in St Louis, MO

(All dates are subject to change)



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