



2019-20 SEASON TEAM INFORMATION

Subject to change as of July 6, 2019

WHAT IS THE US YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUES PROGRAM?

The US Youth Soccer Leagues program features the National League and a network of 13 conferences (formerly known as US Youth Soccer Regional Leagues) across the country. The competitions provide teams with the highest possible level of competition at the national and multi-state levels. The **Midwest Conference** is one of 13 conferences that fall under the scope of the Leagues Program and operate at a multi-state level — providing high-level competition on a consistent basis primarily at a targeted local level (Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota).

The National League is the top level of competition in the Leagues Program and features the best US Youth Soccer teams in the country. The National League's 14U-18U age groups feature up to 32 teams per gender, while the 19U age group features up to 16 teams per gender. The winners of each National League division earn direct entry into the US Youth Soccer National Championships, the oldest and most prestigious youth soccer national championship in the country. Top finishers in the 14U-18U National League age groups also earn automatic qualification back into the National League for the following season.

Teams must earn their place in the National League, making it the highest level of youth soccer in the country. National League participation offers increased exposure to college, professional and U.S. National Team coaches. National League alumni have gone on to earn success collegiately at the Division I, II and III levels; professionally in Major League Soccer, the National Women's Soccer League and the UEFA Champions League; and internationally with U.S. Soccer and other national teams.

The **Midwest Conference's** Premier I Division tier offers its teams an opportunity to qualify for the 2020-21 National League. In addition to providing a pathway to qualifying for the National League, the **Midwest Conference** provides teams with a chance to advance to the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championships, which are held annually each summer.

US YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUES PATHWAY



COMMITMENT

Any team looking to participate in the US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference must understand the level of commitment it takes to participate in a League that stretches across 11 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 Leagues Program Midwest 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 2019-20 US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference will include the following Boys and Girls age groups:

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

ENTRY FEE

The Team Entry Fee to participate in the US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference is **\$550** per team, per season (paid to your state association) and is non-refundable if a team is accepted into the conference and later drops out. State Association's may have a higher fee to cover additional costs associated with the conference. The Team Fee does not include Referee Fees, which will be paid in accordance with the Conference Operating Procedures. Team Fees are paid to your respective State Association and are to be paid to your State Association as determined by your local State Association. The State Association pays US Youth Soccer for all teams entered in the US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference. Teams do not pay entry fees directly to US Youth Soccer. Teams may also be required to pay additional event fees for conference hosted events, which can be seen later in this document.

CONFERENCE BOUNDRIES

US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference boundaries are for youth teams that are members of US Youth Soccer State Associations of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Indiana, although teams from outside these areas may also apply to participate. B13U-19U and G13U-14U teams from Michigan may choose to play in either the Midwest Conference or the Great Lakes Conference based on their location, but once a conference is chosen, they must remain in that conference for subsequent years. G15U-19U teams from Michigan will play in the Midwest Conference due to fall conflicts with High School in Great Lakes Conference states. B13U-19U and G13U-19U teams from Indiana may choose to play in either the Midwest Conference or the Great Lakes Conference based on their location. Once a team from Michigan or Indiana selects a conference they must remain in that conference for subsequent seasons, or start from the lowest tier. For Minnesota, G13U and G14U teams are expected to play in the Midwest Conference, while at G15U-19U teams are expected to play in the Great Lakes Conference due to their high school soccer season conflicts in the fall season.

SEASONS OF PLAY

2019 FALL SEASON

Boys and Girls 14U competitions. The 14U competition during the 2019 Fall Season will feature Premier I, Premier II, and First Division tiers of play with promotion and relegation between the tiers to determine the 2020 Spring Season placement of teams into tiers.

Girls 15U through 19U competitions. Due to avoiding conflicts with high school soccer, the Midwest Conference will offer its 15U through 19U competition during the 2019 Fall Season

Boys Developmental Competition. This age group generally features 8th and 9th graders. We will offer development play for the Boys 15U age group. Teams interested in this competition which will not involve promotion or relegation but rather creating a competition platform for players born in 2005 that are in 8th grade while their 9th grade teammates are participating in high school soccer.

2020 SPRING SEASON

Boys and Girls 13U and 14U competitions. The 13U competition during the 2020 Season will feature Premier I, Premier II, and First Division tiers of play with promotion and relegation between the tiers for the following soccer season (2020 Fall Season). As the 13U's is the entry age group for the Conferences, the State Associations at the time of the team application period will rank teams for admission into the Conferences and team placement into tiers. The 14U competition during the 2020 Spring Season will feature Premier I, Premier II, and First Division tiers of play (primarily based on the results of the 2019 Fall Season of 14U play) with promotion and relegation between the tiers for the following soccer year (2020-21).

Boys 15U through 19U competitions. Boys competitions in these age groups during the 2020 Spring Season will feature Premier I, Premier II, and First Division tiers of play with promotion and relegation between the tiers for the following soccer year (2020-21).

Girls 15U Developmental Competition. This age group generally features 8th and 9th graders. Teams interested in this competition which will not involve promotion or relegation but rather creating a competition platform for players born in 2005 that are in 8th grade while their 9th grade teammates are participating in high school soccer.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

- The Team Application period to participate in the **2019 Fall Season 14U (Boys and Girls), Developmental B15U and G15-19U** will open on or around May 28, 2019 and close on June 26, 2019.
- The Team Application period to participate in the **2020 Spring Season B15U through B19U and Developmental G15U** age groups will open on or around July 26, 2019 and close on August 30, 2019.
- The Team Application period to participate in the **2020 Spring Season 13U and 14U (boys and girls)** age groups will open on or around Oct 14, 2019 and close on November 12, 2019.

Contact your State Association office for the web link to register. Following your application, US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference will send your team information to your State Association so they may review and endorse the application. After State Association endorsement, the US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference will review team applications and determine acceptance into the conference. In completing any application into the US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference, teams are required to submit accurate information on team accomplishments. Misrepresentation of team accomplishments may result in the team being disqualified from conference participation.

SELECTION AND PLACEMENT

There is a two-step approval process for the US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference. First, each team must be endorsed by its respective State Association. Second, the US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest 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 US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference. Premier I and Premier II level slots earned under the 2018-19 Midwest Conference season will be honored within a team's respective Conference in 2019-20. Pre-qualified teams for Premier I and Premier II for the 2019-20 have posted on the conference website and can be seen in the Team Information drop down.

REFEREES

US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest 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:

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. All rosters shall be submitted to the league through the SportsForms platform.

RULES AND INFORMATION

Rules and additional information on the US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference may be found on the Midwest Conference website at: <https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/midwest-conference/>

COACHING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

Coaches of teams within the US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference must achieve a level of coaching education in accordance with the Conference Operating Procedures where all coaches within the team bench area during a game must have a minimum of a US Soccer "D" Coaching License or equivalent prior to the 2019-20 season including but not limited to a United Soccer Coaches Advanced 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 US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest 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 Leagues Program Midwest 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 Leagues Program Midwest 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 and gender competing in the Premier I tier of the US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference may qualify for 2020 Midwest Regionals in the same seasonal year as the US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference. To remain qualified for Regionals, a team must also play in their state association's State Cup competition. Please note that 14U Regionals qualifiers come from the Spring season.

QUALIFICATION INTO 2020-21 NATIONAL LEAGUE

The top team from each applicable Premier I age group and gender in the US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference may qualify for the National League for the following seasonal year. Teams participating in National League may also play in the US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference. National League teams playing in the US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference are subject to the same standards of qualification as other US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference teams.

LOCATION OF GAMES - HOSTING

There are three categories for hosting US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference games:

US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference Hosting. US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference hosts games at a multiple field location. There will be additional costs to the teams for playing matches at US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference hosted weekend sites, to cover the additional fee's required for facility costs and safely staffing these events. The US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference hosted weekends for the 2019 Fall Season and the 2020 Spring Season will be announced by June 26th and posted on the Midwest Conference website.

One-Off Hosting. A team hosts a one off game between itself and another team from within its division. Host bears all costs for hosting or if teams agree, the teams may share costs (usually for games played at a neutral location).

Group Hosting. A team hosts a number of teams over a weekend amongst teams from within its division. Host team bears all costs for hosting or if the teams agree, the teams may share costs (usually for games played at a neutral location).

MUST BE AVAILABLE TO PLAY WEEKENDS

Must be available to play weekends for 2019 Fall Season are, September 7-8, September 14-15, September 21-22 & September 28-29. There is also a mandatory Showcase weekend for the G15U-G19U teams on November 8-10, (see next section for details on the showcase). Teams are only excused from US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference play on these weekends due to state cup conflicts. However, it is the responsibility of teams, affected by their inability to play on Must Be Available to Play Weekends, to be flexible in being able to schedule US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference games on other weekends during the Fall Season. A team's requirement to be available to play on these US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference weekends ceases once the division schedule is agreed to by the teams. The purpose of the Must Be Available to Play Weekends is to insure common play

dates. US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference allows flexibility in scheduling providing all teams in a division agree to scheduling flexibility. Must be available to play dates in Spring 2020 are, April 18-19, April 25-26, May 2-3 and May 9-10.

FALL SEASON MANDATORY PREMIER I AND PREMIER II EVENT FOR G15U-19U

There will be a mandatory US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference College Showcase Event held in St Louis, MO on November 8-10, 2019. We have secured multiple synthetic turf fields for the event. This showcase event is open only to Premier I and Premier II teams in the Girls 15U-19U age groups and participation by teams in these tiers is required. Teams will be required to play one US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference on Saturday and one US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference match on Sunday. Scheduling two matches in a day will not be permitted and playing a third US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference match on Friday is optional. More information will be available to teams during the scheduling process. An additional per team fee of **\$200 per team** (one or two matches) will be charged to cover costs associated with this Showcase event which will be payable by all teams after the tiers in each age group are finalized (additional Friday game will be \$75 extra). The fee will be collected from teams at the event.

SPRING SEASON MANDATORY PREMIER I AND PREMIER II EVENT FOR B15U-19U

There will be a mandatory US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference College Showcase Event held at Grand Park, Westfield, IN on May 8-10, 2020. We have secured the entire complex for the event. This showcase event is open only to PI and PII teams in the Boys 15U-19U age groups and participation by teams in these tiers is required. Teams will be required to play one US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference match on Saturday and one US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference match on Sunday. Scheduling two matches in a day will not be permitted and playing a third US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference match on Friday is optional. More information will be available to teams during the scheduling process. An additional per team fee of **\$200 per team** (one or two matches) will be charged to cover costs associated with this Showcase event which will be payable by all teams after the tiers in each age group are finalized (additional Friday game will be \$75 extra). The fee will be collected from teams at the event.

GENERAL SCHEDULING INFORMATION

Conference schedules will be overseen by the League Manager, who will have sole discretion in the manner by which game schedules are developed. There will be **MANDATORY** scheduling meetings in the following age groups for all Premier I, Premier II and First Division teams for both the 2019 Fall and 2020 Spring Seasons:

- July 18, 2019** 2019 Fall Premier I and II Mandatory Scheduling Meeting in Champaign, IL (14U through 19U)
- July 19, 2019** 2019 Fall First Division Mandatory Scheduling Meeting in Champaign, IL (14U through 19U)
- Dec 17, 2019** 2020 Spring Premier I and II Mandatory Scheduling Meeting in Champaign, IL (13U through 19U)
- Dec 18, 2019** 2020 Spring First Division Mandatory Scheduling Meeting in Champaign, IL (13U through 19U)

Teams participating in the US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference must be available to play and schedule on the published conference dates. By submitting your team application, your team is committing to play and schedule on the published dates for the conference.

Premier I, Premier II & All First Divisions. After the placement of teams into tiers and subdivisions, teams will be provided with information on the US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference scheduling process, including details of the mandatory scheduling meeting, details will be posted on the Conference website. The US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference provides the opportunity for teams to schedule all games in a division in accordance with US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference procedures. All teams in a subdivision must agree to the entire schedule. Availability of fields at US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference hosted sites is limited and will be provided to teams on a first completely approved scheduled, first served basis.

Teams should understand that due to the nature of scheduling of games for teams from across multiple states that **scheduling games for the benefit of a single coach who coaches multiple teams should not be expected.** Time conflicts will occur for those coaches that coach multiple teams on US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference weekends and the US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference, as well as the other teams within a division, are under no obligation to assist these coaches with their conflicts.

Once schedules are developed, schedule changes are permitted in accordance with US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference Scheduling Policy.

CONFERENCE HOSTED WEEKENDS

Conference hosted weekend will take place on the following weekends:

Fall Season 2019

September 7-8	Rockford, IL	Up to 15 fields (turf and grass)	\$100 per team (1, 2 or 3 matches)
September 7-8	St Louis, MO	13 turf fields	\$75 per game *
September 14-15	Rockford, IL	Up to 15 fields (turf and grass)	\$100 per team (1, 2 or 3 matches)
September 21-22	Westfield, IN	Up to 20 fields (turf and grass)	\$75 per game *
November 8-10	St Louis, MO	Fall College Showcase	\$200 per team (3 rd match an extra \$75) *

Spring Season 2020

April 25-26	Rockford, IL	Up to 15 fields (turf and grass)	\$100 per team (1, 2 or 3 matches)
May 2-3	St Louis, MO	13 turf fields	\$75 per game *
May 2-3	Rockford, IL	Up to 15 fields (turf and grass)	\$100 per team (1, 2 or 3 matches)
May 8-10	Westfield, IN	Spring College Showcase	\$200 per team (3 rd match an extra \$75) *

*Denotes a Stay to Play weekend. We are required to use the housing companies in order to use these state of the art facilities on these weekends.

The fee's associated with these event weekends are to cover additional facility fees, staff, medical coverage etc. These fees are in addition to your conference entry fee. The college showcase events are the only mandatory events as listed previously in this document. All other events are optional, but you accept the fee's if you schedule matches on any of these weekends.

COMMUNICATION FROM/WITH THE CONFERENCE

Email is the primary means of communication within the US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that accurate contact information is on file with the conference. The US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference compiles team contact information based on each team's application into the conference.

CONTACT

Additional information will be posted, when available, on the following web page <https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/midwest-conference/> For more information on the US Youth Soccer Leagues Program Midwest Conference please view the website or email the League Manager, Marc Frankland at mfrankland@usyouthsoccer.org

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