



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 **Northwest 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 (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Alaska and Hawaii).

The **Northwest 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 **Northwest 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



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COMMITMENT

Any team looking to participate in the Northwest Conference must understand the level of commitment it takes to participate in a League that stretches across 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 Northwest 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 Northwest Conference will include the following boys and girls age groups:

- 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 Northwest Conference is \$2055 per team for 13U-14U teams. \$2225 per team for 15U -16U. \$2260 for 17U-19U teams. This 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 Northwest Conference.

The Team Entry Fee breakdown **does** include Referee Fees, field rentals and the league winner’s entry fee into Far West Regionals. Team Fees are paid through league software. **League Fees are due by September 20th, 2020.** 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 September 1st, 2020.

Teams wishing to participate in the Northwest Conference should apply by completing the application form found here: <https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/northwest-conference/>

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 Northwest Conference participation. ***Please do not apply 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 Northwest Conference. Washington Youth Soccer and Oregon Youth Soccer allocated 3 places; Idaho Youth Soccer allocated 2 places. Additional applications from other states will be viewed by the Northwest Conference League Manager and Northwest Conference Advisory Committee (if any open spots) based on their Far West Regional Championship finish.

Open Slots will be filled by Open Team Application, with review and acceptance by the Northwest Conference Advisory Committee. The Northwest Conference shall have the final determination of acceptance and number of teams in the Conference.

In situations whereby a team does not apply for participation for a season where such team had previously qualified as a Northwest Conference team, such slot may be filled at the discretion of the League Manager.

Accepted teams shall be notified via a website posting or an e-mail regarding their acceptance and placement into the Northwest Conference. In situations where slots that are not claimed or a team that claims multiple slots, then the slot will be filled by the selection process. The list of teams accepted along with tier and division placement for the 2020-21 season is expected to take place on or around September 15, 2020. Also see NWC Conference Operation Procedures for additional information.

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THE 2020-21 SEASON

The start date of the 2020-21 season for the Northwest Conference is December 2020. All games for the Northwest Conference must be completed by May 1, 2020

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 7 Northwest Conference games during the season. **Please be aware of the number of games that teams will be required to play.** Northwest Conference teams are required to fulfill their commitment by playing out their entire conference schedule of games.

LOCATION OF GAMES--HOSTING

The Northwest Conference games will be Event based with 1 additional stand-alone game to complete the 8 teams per division playing 7 games. The League will host two (2) event weekend for 13U through 19U teams and a single One-Off Game. The League Scheduler will determine the site and date of one-off game between teams when registration is complete. **There will be playdates where you play a team from your own state, these games CANNOT be rescheduled.**

The Conference Dates:

Boys 13U-14U

- March 12th-14th in Boise Area
- December 4th-6th in Portland Area (@Timbers Showcase)

Boys 15U-17U

- December 4th-6th in Portland Area (@Timbers Showcase)
- Jan 15th-18th (@ FC Portland Showcase)

Boys 18U-19U

- December 4th-6th in Portland Area (@Timbers Showcase)
- January 15th-18th in Seattle Area (@ PacNW Showcase)

Girls 13U-14U

- March 12th-14th in Boise Area
- December 11th-13th in Portland Area (@Timbers Showcase)

Girls 15U-17U

- December 11th-13th in Portland Area (@Timbers Showcase)
- Jan 15th-18th in Portland area (@ FC Portland Showcase)

Girls 18U-19U

- December 11th-13th in Portland Area (@Timbers Showcase)
- January 15th-18th in Seattle Area (@ PacNW Showcase)

Boys and Girls 13U,14U October date may be subject to change to March 2021 if Covid-19 is a factor. League Management will let teams know of any changes will be made.

GENERAL SCHEDULING INFORMATION

Teams participating in the Northwest 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 Northwest 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.

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REFEREES

Referee and Assistant Referees and referee assignor will be paid by the league, included as part of your entry fee.

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/national-leagues/>

COACHING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Coaches of teams within the Northwest Conference must 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 Northwest 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 Northwest Conference representative, subject to a playoff if there are two divisions within a gender age group. To be eligible to compete at Regionals, a team must play in their state association's State Cup.

QUALIFICATION INTO 2020-21 NATIONAL LEAGUE Showcase Playoff

The top team in the Premier I tier of each 13U through 17U age group in the Northwest Conference will qualify for the National League Showcase Playoff for the following seasonal year, subject to a playoff of the top teams if there are two divisions within a gender age group.

COMMUNICATION FROM/WITH THE CONFERENCE

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

CONTACT

For more information on the Northwest Conference please contact the League Manager, Paul Bayly at

pbayly@usyouthsoccer.org

Subject to change—as of July 29, 2020