



## 2019-20 SEASON TEAM INFORMATION

### 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 **Northwest 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 (Idaho, Oregon and Washington).

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 **Northwest 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 **Northwest Conference** provides teams with a chance to advance to the US Youth Soccer Far West Regional Championships, which are held annually each summer.

### US YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUES PATHWAY



## **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 2019-20 Northwest 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 Northwest Conference is \$1,500 per team for 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 Northwest 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 1, 2019.

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

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**

See “Northwest Conference-Populating Each Gender Age Group” document for specific paths for each gender age group. Each gender age group may be populated from up to four paths depending on the gender age group. These paths include: (1) returning the top two teams from the 2018–19 Northwest Conference competition; (2) state cup or state league representatives; (3) any National League teams that qualified for the 2019 Nationals; or (4) teams selected by the Northwest Conference through an application process. Following submission of a team application, your State Association will either endorse/approve the application or reject the application for participation in the Northwest Conference. After receiving State Association recommendation, the Northwest Conference will review team applications and determine if your team will be accepted into the Northwest Conference for the 2019-20 Season. The criteria used for acceptance and placement includes but is not limited to the team’s performance in 2018-19 Northwest Conference play, 2018-19 US Youth Soccer National Championship Series play (State Cup, Regionals and Nationals), 2018-19 results from state leagues, and 2018-19 National League. 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 2019-20 season is expected to take place on or around July 13, 2019.

## **THE 2019-20 SEASON**

The start date of the 2019-20 season for the Northwest Conference is August 23, 2019. 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 9 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**

There are two categories for hosting Northwest Conference games.

**Conference Events:** The League will host three (3) events for 13U through 14U teams; and three (3) events for 15U through 19U teams.

**One Off Games:** The League Scheduler will determine the site of one off games between teams that are not available to participate in the December event due to National League games.

### **The Conference Dates:**

August 23-25, 2019 in Seattle, WA	Boys and Girls 13U, 14U
October 5-6, 2019 in Seattle, WA	Boys and Girls 13U, 14U
November 9-10, 2019 in Portland, OR/Seattle, WA	Boys and Girls 13U, 14U
November 8-9-10, 2019 in Portland, OR/Seattle, WA	Boys and Girls 15U, 19U (if needed)
December 13-15, 2019, Portland, OR*	Boys and Girls 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U and 19U
*Timbers Alliance College Showcase*	
January 24-26, 2020 in Seattle, WA	Boys and Girls 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U and 19U

## **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## **REFEREES**

Northwest 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 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 2019 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**

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 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](mailto:pbayly@usyouthsoccer.org)

*Subject to change—as of May 24, 2019*