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 South Atlantic EDP 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 at a targeted local level (Maryland, Delaware and Virginia).

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 South Atlantic EDP 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 South Atlantic EDP Conference provides teams with a chance to advance to the US Youth Soccer Eastern Regional Championships, which are held annually each summer.

US YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUES PATHWAY

- Opportunities to advance to the 2020 US Youth Soccer National Championships
- Opportunities to requalify for the National League for the 2020-21 season
- Opportunities for Premier I Division teams to advance to the 2020 US Youth Soccer Eastern Regional Championships
- Opportunities for Premier I Division teams to qualify for the National League for the 2020-21 season
- Success at this level can lead to an opportunity to compete in the South Atlantic EDP Conference
COMMITMENT
Any team looking to participate in the South Atlantic EDP Conference must understand the level of commitment it takes to participate in a League that stretches across multiple 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 South Atlantic EDP 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 South Atlantic EDP Conference will include the following Boys and Girls age groups:

- 12 and Under (12U) – for players born on January 1, 2008 or later
- 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 South Atlantic EDP Conference is $850 per team (paid to EDP Soccer) and is non-refundable if a team is accepted into the conference and later drops out. State Association’s may have a higher entry 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 EDP Soccer. South Atlantic EDP teams do not pay entry fees directly to US Youth Soccer.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES
In completing any application into the South Atlantic EDP 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.

Application Deadline for 12U-14U teams: Monday, July 1, 2019
Application Deadline for 15U-19U teams: Tuesday, October 1, 2019
Registration Link: REGISTER HERE

SELECTION AND PLACEMENT
The South Atlantic EDP Conference Competition Committee 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 South Atlantic Conference.

THE 2019-20 SEASON
The start date of the 2019-20 fall season for the South Atlantic EDP Conference will be September 7, 2019. All games for the Fall South Atlantic EDP Conference must be completed by November 25, 2019.
The start date of the 2019-20 spring season for the South Atlantic EDP Conference will be February 15, 2020. All games for the Spring South Atlantic EDP Conference must be completed by June 9, 2020

RULES AND INFORMATION
Rules and additional information may be found on the South Atlantic EDP Conference website: https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/south-atlantic-edp-conference/

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.
COMPETITION FORMAT
The South Atlantic EDP Conference follows a single round robin competition format within each division/tier. The season of play for each gender age group is as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Season</th>
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<tr>
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<td>12U</td>
<td>Fall 2019 and Spring 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys</td>
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<td>19U</td>
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GENERAL SCHEDULING INFORMATION
Conference schedules will be developed by the League Manager, who will have sole discretion of game schedules. The anticipated release of schedules will be in August for the 12U-14U age groups for the Fall Season, and late January for the 12U-19U age groups for the Spring Season. Teams participating in the South Atlantic EDP 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.

LOCATION OF GAMES
Games will be played at the location selected by the designated home team in the schedule.

2020 USYS CONFERENCE SPRING SHOWCASES
US Youth Soccer will be hosting its 2nd annual Showcase (managed by EDP) in Hammonton, New Jersey on April 18-19 (Girls) and April 25-26 (Boys). This cross-conference play opportunity is open to teams participating in the thirteen US Youth Soccer Conferences from across the country. Teams participating in the South Atlantic Conference will receive a bye that weekend so they have the opportunity to compete. The event will be an excellent opportunity for teams to compete against high level teams from other Conferences.

REFEREES
South Atlantic EDP Conference games will use a 3-man referee system. The amount and form of payment to referees in the South Atlantic EDP Conference will be in accordance with the Conference Operating Procedures. Payment amounts are summarized below:

- 12U: $120.00 (Center $60, AR1 $30, AR2 $30), $60.00 per team.
- 13U-14U: $140.00 (Center $70, AR1 $35, AR2 $35), $70.00 per team.
- 15U-16U: $160.00 (Center $80, AR1 $40, AR2 $40), $80.00 per team.
- 17U-19U: $180.00 (Center $90, AR1 $45, AR2 $45), $90.00 per team.
COACHING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS
Coaches of teams within the South Atlantic EDP 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 South Atlantic EDP Conference play.

ADVANCEMENT TO REGIONALS
The top team, not already qualified as a State Cup champion, in the Premier I tier of each 13U-19U gender age group in the South Atlantic EDP Conference may qualify for 2020 Eastern Regionals that same seasonal year as the South Atlantic EDP Conference representative. To be eligible for advancement to the 2020 Eastern Regionals, the qualified South Atlantic EDP Conference team must have participated in their state association’s State Cup competition.

QUALIFICATION INTO 2020-21 NATIONAL LEAGUE
The top team in the Premier I tier of each 13U-17U gender age group in the South Atlantic EDP Conference will qualify for the US Youth Soccer National League for the 2020-21 seasonal year.

COMMUNICATION FROM/WITH THE CONFERENCE
E–mail is the primary means of communication within the South Atlantic EDP Conference. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that accurate contact information is on file with the conference. The South Atlantic EDP Conference compiles team contact information based on each team’s application into the conference.

CONTACT
For more information on the South Atlantic EDP Conference please contact the League Manager, Jen Marcella, at Jen@edpsoccer.com

Subject to change—as of September 3, 2019