



League Championships Policy

(September 18, 2021)

US YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021-2022

PART I—GENERAL

Rule 101. DEFINITIONS

Except as otherwise provided, the following definitions apply to this League Championships policy (“policy”):

- (1) “Article” preceding a Roman numeral means a reference to a specific portion of the US Youth Soccer Bylaws.
- (2) “Board of Directors” means the Board of Directors of US Youth Soccer established under Article XIII.
- (3) “CEO” and “CEO of US Youth Soccer” means the Chief Executive Officer of US Youth Soccer established under Article XVIII.
- (4) “League Championships” means the competitions provided for under this policy for the 13 and Under, 14 and Under, 15 and Under, 16 and Under, 17 and Under, 18 and Under and 19 and Under age groups.
- (5) “region” means one of those regions established under Article VIII.
- (6) “Regional Championships” means the regional championships as part of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series.
- (7) “State Association” means the administrative body within a territory determined by the National Council to carry out US Youth Soccer’s programs for youth players.
- (8) “team” means a group of soccer players playing on the same side in soccer games.
- (9) “US Youth Soccer” means the United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc.

Rule 102. ESTABLISHMENT

Section 1. US Youth Soccer establishes and shall organize annually, based on need, League Championships in the 13 and Under, 14 and Under, 15 and Under, 16 and Under, 17 and Under, 18 and Under and 19 and Under age groups. This policy applies to those competitions.

Section 2. There shall be, based on need, one individual League Championships for boys and girls in each of the age groups with advancement to each of the Regional Championships as part of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series.

Rule 103. TITLES

Section 1. The title of the League Championships for each of the age groups shall be “US YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS”.

Section 2. League Championship competitions within the various geographies advancing to the applicable Regional Championships shall include in their title the name US Youth Soccer League Championships as follows:

- (1) “US YOUTH SOCCER [insert applicable region name (e.g. EAST REGION)] LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS”.

- (2) The US Youth Soccer League Championships logo is required on all event merchandise and graphics. The logo can be used as part of event artwork or as a stand-alone logo.

Rule 104. ADMINISTRATION

- Section 1. There is a League Championships (LC) Management Group. The LC Management Group has authority for the administration of the LC as provided by this policy.
- Section 2. The LC Management Group will consist of two (2) USYS National League Managers and representation from two (2) State Associations. The LC Management Group Chairperson shall be the USYS Director of Competitions and Event Operations.
- Section 3. The CEO of US Youth Soccer shall appoint, either as a paid employee or as an independent contractor of US Youth Soccer, an LC administrator, as necessary. The LC administrator shall be responsible for the administration of the LC in accordance with this policy. The LC administrator, if applicable, shall serve as a member of the LC Management Group.
- Section 4. In addition to the specific powers detailed in other sections of this policy, the LC Management Group is vested with all necessary power and authority to manage, regulate, supervise, administer, and conduct the LC.
- Section 5. The LC Management Group will have authority subject to the provisions of this policy, to prescribe all LC rules, standards, regulations and procedures reasonable and necessary for the administration and growth of the LC. All LC rules, standards, regulations and procedures must be in writing and available for inspection by administrators, coaches, teams, players, parents and others.
- Section 6. Except as otherwise provided in Rule 105, Sections 7 and 8 of this policy, all proposed LC rules, standards, regulations and procedures, and amendments to them, must be in writing and note an effective date at least one (1) day after the date it has been approved by the LC Management Group. A copy of each LC rule, standard, regulation, procedure and amendment approved by the Management Group, including those adopted under Rule 105, Sections 7 and 8, shall be made generally available in writing.
- Section 7. The LC Management Group is authorized to establish various technical, advisory, and other specialized support groups and designate persons on either a permanent or ad hoc basis to assist and advise the Management Group in the operation of the LC.
- Section 8. The CEO of US Youth Soccer may establish one or more paid LC positions and may retain persons to fill those positions either as employees or independent contractors of US Youth Soccer. From time to time, the LC Management Group may make recommendations to the CEO about LC staffing needs and requirements.
- Section 9. The LC Management Group, in consultation with the CEO of US Youth Soccer, will submit a proposed annual budget in accordance with the US Youth Soccer Financial Policy.
- Section 10. The LC shall be linked to the US Youth Soccer Policy on Players and Playing Rules and US Youth Soccer National Championships Policy.

Section 11. The LC Management Group is authorized to settle any disputes which arise in the course of LC play. The LC Management Group, in accordance with the disciplinary policies and procedures of US Youth Soccer and US Soccer, will investigate and adjudicate all allegations of misconduct by clubs, teams, coaches, players, or others involved in LC operations and will impose an appropriate sanction for any violation found. When an appeal of an LC Management Group decision is authorized, the appeal will be made to an Appeals Committee, appointed by the CEO of US Youth Soccer composed of no less than three (3) nor more than five (5) members, with the CEO appointing one of the members as chair of the Appeals Committee.

Rule 105. OPERATION OF THE MEMBER LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP MANAGEMENT GROUP

Section 1. The Chairperson of the LC Management Group shall preside over all LC Management Group meetings and represent the LC Management Group.

Section 2. In the event of a vacancy in Chairperson, the CEO of US Youth Soccer, or a temporary designee, will assume general executive authority over the work of the LC Management Group and the LC and will supervise the work of all LC staff and volunteers.

Section 3. The LC Management Group Chairperson shall be responsible for making sure that all responsibilities assigned to the LC Management Group by this policy are performed. The LC Management Group Chairperson will faithfully perform all duties as detailed in his/her job description and tasks as assigned by the CEO of US Youth Soccer.

Section 4. Excluding the US Youth Soccer General Managers, all LC staff, volunteers, individuals as part of groups as defined in Rule 104, Section 2, and others accountable to the LC Management Group will report to the LC Management Group Chairperson. The LC Management Group Chairperson will report to the CEO of US Youth Soccer.

Section 5. Each member of the LC Management Group, except as otherwise noted in this policy, shall have one vote on the LC Management Group.

Section 6. Except as provided in Sections 7 and 8 of this Rule, the LC Management Group may meet in formal session in person or by conference call on 24 hours notice. An agenda must be provided to the LC Management Group prior to the meeting.

Section 7. The LC Management Group may hold an emergency meeting with minimal advance notice as determined by the LC Management Group Chairperson, CEO of US Youth Soccer or a simple majority of the LC Management Group. Only matters needing immediate attention may be acted upon during an emergency meeting.

Section 8. The LC Management Group may meet by telephone, email or in some other manner to reach agreement on some matter that must be resolved quickly. The decision will be placed on the agenda for the next formal meeting for ratification at that time. The Chairperson or his/her designee may also poll individual LC Management Group members on a matter where time is of the essence and the decision is final, provided each LC Management Group member was given a chance to vote on the matter.

Rule 106. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SERIES

Section 1. In order to be eligible to advance to the US Youth Soccer Regional Championships as part of the National Championship Series, teams participating in the LC must be a team in good standing and must also participate in their respective State Cup competition in the current seasonal year.

Section 2. Teams participating in the LC are not eligible to participate in the USYS National League Conferences or National League P.R.O.

Section 3. Teams winning their respective State Cup will represent their state at the Regional Championships. Each seasonal year the top team in the League Championship of each 13U-19U gender age group in the League Championship will qualify for the Eastern Regional Championships that same seasonal year and be designated as the League Championship representative. To be eligible for advancement to the Eastern Regional Championships, the qualified League Championship team must have participated in their state association's State Cup competition. Should a team qualify for the Eastern Regional Championships through both the League Championship and State Cup competition, the team will advance to the Eastern Regional Championships as the League Championship representative.

Section 4. If any LC team qualifying for the Regional Championships in a gender age group is determined to be ineligible to compete, then the next eligible LC team in that gender age group will represent the LC in the Regional Championships in place of the ineligible team.

Rule 107. AMENDMENT OF POLICY

Section 1. This policy may be amended at any time by a majority vote of the USYS Board of Directors.

Section 2. Amendments to this policy are effective the day after approval by a majority vote of the USYS Board of Directors.

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