



## **NY West Champions Conference FAQ's**

The NY West Champions Conference is a state level premier league that implements promotion/relegation and is chartered and administered by New York State West Youth Soccer Association (NYSWYSA). The NY West Champions Conference is a qualifying league for the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series for NYSWYSA. Any team participating in a state-cup qualifying league can apply to the league and be admitted if they qualify. Acceptance to the league and promotion within the league are based on team performance and the league is intended for teams that can show successful performance at the state level or highest district division level.

### **Who can apply to the NY West Champions Conference?**

- Any team that is a top performer in a state-cup qualifying district league can apply.

### **What is the acceptance criteria for the Champions Conference?**

- Teams will be accepted based on performance in their district state cup qualifying league.
- The two teams finishing at the top of the highest division in a state cup qualifying league will be accepted.
- Teams that have advanced to the State Cup final four will be accepted.
- Teams comparable to top-division district league champions and state cup champions may be accepted if they can show performance against such teams.
- Tournament performance that includes positive results against top-division district league teams or state cup final four teams will strengthen the application.

### **What are the coaching requirements?**

- Teams in the Champions Conference are expected to have at least one coach with a National D-License or equivalent.
- All coaching staff are expected to have completed a 11v11 grassroots course (or a 9v9 grassroots course for 12U teams).
- If a team is accepted, the coaching staff has two seasons to establish the adequate credentials or the team may be dropped.

### **Will 20U players be allowed this spring?**

- The National Championship Series has allowed 20U players to participate this spring, as an exception, at the National, Regional, and State level (state cup). See the US Youth Soccer [announcement](#) of this one-year exception. Since the Champions Conference is a NYSWYSA State Cup Qualifying league, we will also grant this exception for the 2021 spring season.
- However, the age group competition will still require 50%+1 of players to be in the 18U-19U age range, so it is not possible to have a team with a majority of 20U players.



**What does promotion/ relegation mean in the Champions Conference?**

- The winner of the higher Champions Conference division will be recommended for Regional Conferences.
  - In the future, as the league gains prominence, we plan to establish an automatic promotion to the Regional Conferences.
- If there are two Champions Conference divisions, the top two teams in the lower division will be promoted to the upper division, and the bottom two teams in the upper division will be relegated to the lower division.
- The bottom one or two teams in the lower Champions Conference division will be relegated back to their District League.

**What are the key dates for registration?**

- Registration opens October 30, 2020 for all teams and closes at midnight on January 15, 2021.
- Accepted teams will be notified by February 1, 2021.

**What are the registration fees?**

- Registration fees are due at the time of registration. The registration fees include a non-refundable application fee, the league fee and referee fees for 8 games. Any team who applies and is not accepted will receive a refund of the league fee and the referee fees.
- The registration fee does not cover field rental costs.

Age Group	Non-Refundable Application Fee	League Fee	Referee Fees	Total
12U	\$25.00	\$200.00	\$416.00	<b>\$641.00</b>
13U	\$25.00	\$200.00	\$496.00	<b>\$721.00</b>
14U	\$25.00	\$200.00	\$496.00	<b>\$721.00</b>
15U	\$25.00	\$200.00	\$608.00	<b>\$833.00</b>
16U	\$25.00	\$200.00	\$608.00	<b>\$833.00</b>
17U	\$25.00	\$200.00	\$688.00	<b>\$913.00</b>
19U	\$25.00	\$200.00	\$688.00	<b>\$913.00</b>



### **What are the league fines?**

- The league will impose fines for failure to discharge team obligations, are similar to district leagues and other premier leagues.
- The fines for schedule changes, match cancellations, forfeits, withdrawals, red cards, and such are comparable in amount or less than other leagues.
- Teams will be invoiced for any fines incurred at the end of the season unless otherwise noted in the league policies & procedures.

### **How will the referees be paid?**

- Referees will be paid by the League Administrator after each league match report is received from the referees.
- Teams do not pay for referees in cash at league matches.

### **How is scheduling done?**

- Teams will be notified of their acceptance by February 1, 2021.
- A preliminary competition schedule will be developed (excluding dates/times) and will be released in mid-February.
- Home team coaches have a 3-week period to set-up a mutually agreed upon schedule (date/ time/ field) with their assigned opponents.
- Teams are expected to play only one league match per day, two are allowed for long distances but not against the same team.
- The home team will email the league administrator with the game # and confirmed date/ time/ location.
- After the 3 weeks, the League Commissioners will schedule any games that were not set during the open period. Both teams will be required to play on their league assigned date to avoid fines.
- Once the final schedule is set, it is still possible to reschedule a match, but league rules must be followed, and fines may apply.
- The League Administrator will publish the schedule and have referees assigned to each game
- Home teams are responsible for reporting their game score by the Monday evening, following their game.

### **When will games be held?**

- Since this is a self-scheduled league, you have the flexibility to select a day/ time that will work best for your team and the team you are playing against.
- The league season runs from the last weekend in April through the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of July.
  - 2021 Season: April 24<sup>th</sup> – July 11<sup>th</sup>



### **Can teams play in more than one league?**

- The decision about whether a team participates in both their district league and the Champions League is up to each individual team, but we suggest that the coach follow US Youth player development guidelines. Those indicate that a team should practice 2 or 3 times for each match they play during the season. Whether that is possible depends on whether the team plans to enter any tournaments, such as State Cup or a Showcase Tournament, for example and how many games the district league has.
- A good description of how this plays out for a team is provided on pages 17-22 of the following article:  
[http://morrisunited.bonzidev.com/doclib/US\\_Youth\\_Soccer\\_Player\\_Development\\_Model.pdf](http://morrisunited.bonzidev.com/doclib/US_Youth_Soccer_Player_Development_Model.pdf)

### **What fields will be used?**

- Each team will provide their own home fields, and a field coordinator who is authorized to schedule the fields.

### **What if our club doesn't have fields available to play on in our location?**

- We recommend working with the team that you will be playing against to determine a field location. It is possible that the team you are playing may have fields available.
- You would be the "home" team at their location and responsible for any applicable field rental fees.

### **How far will we need to travel for games?**

- This will be dependent on the location of the teams that register in each division; however, travel may be anywhere within the NYSW region.
- If you are scheduled to play multiple games versus teams that are a substantial distance away, two games are allowed in one day but not against the same team.
- Following is a link to NYSW region map: <http://nyswysa.org/association-info/map-of-nysw>