



# LEAGUES // OVERVIEW

**EXPLAINING THE US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE  
AND THE US YOUTH SOCCER CONFERENCES**

*As of Aug. 22, 2019*



**US YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUES PROGRAM**

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**LEAGUES**

# WHAT IS THE LEAGUES PROGRAM?

The US Youth Soccer Leagues Program provides – for the highest levels of boys and girls teams in US Youth Soccer – annual league competitions at the multi-state and national tiers.

The multi-state tier of competition is comprised of **US Youth Soccer Conferences**. The Conference structure debuted in 2018-19, replacing what were previously known as the US Youth Soccer Regional Leagues.

The national tier of competition is the **US Youth Soccer National League**, which has served as the highest league competition in US Youth Soccer since 2007.

Qualification pathways are available between the Conferences and the National League, and the League Program competitions also provide qualification opportunities into the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series\*.

\*The National Championship Series (NCS) is US Youth Soccer’s cup competition for its highest levels of teams, with tournaments held at the state, regional and national levels – culminating in the US Youth Soccer National Championships. More information on the Leagues Program’s connection to the US Youth Soccer NCS can be found on pages 19-20.



**US YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUES PROGRAM**



# US YOUTH SOCCER CONFERENCES

## MULTI-STATE TIER OF THE LEAGUES PROGRAM

The US Youth Soccer Leagues Program features a network of Conferences that are geographically focused, under one leadership and management structure, and linked into the highly successful National League (national tier) and National Championship Series.



US YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUES PROGRAM



# PARTICIPATING IN CONFERENCE PLAY

Teams can earn their way into a Conference based on success in competitive league and cup competitions within each US Youth Soccer State Association – ensuring the top teams from each state have access to US Youth Soccer Conferences competition.

If teams do qualify through performance in State Association competitions, teams can apply for consideration based on their existing resume.

**STATE  
LEVEL**



**REGIONAL (MULTI-STATE)  
TIER**



**NATIONAL  
TIER**

LOCAL LEAGUES

CONFERENCES

NATIONAL LEAGUE



US YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUES PROGRAM



# CONFERENCES LIST

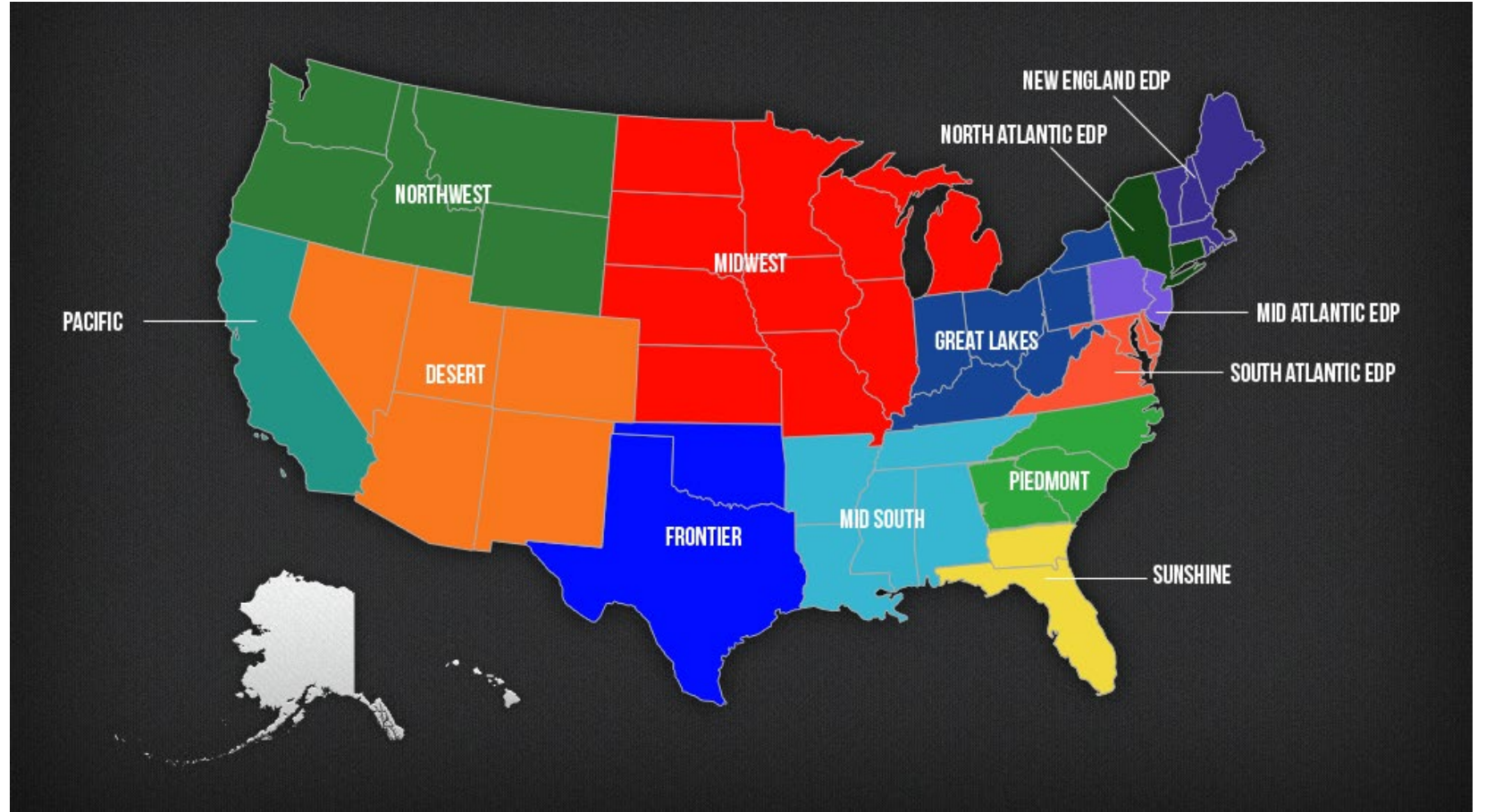




# CONFERENCES MAP

The map to the right provides a breakdown of which State Associations comprise each US Youth Soccer Conference.

*MAP IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE*





# CONFERENCE AGE GROUPS

The US Youth Soccer Conferences feature competition for boys and girls club teams, with age groups ranging from 12-and-Under to 19-and-Under.

The entry age group varies from Conference to Conference, with some Conferences beginning competition with 12U teams and others beginning competition with 13U teams.

<b>12U</b>	<b>13U</b>	<b>14U</b>	<b>15U</b>	<b>16U</b>	<b>17U</b>	<b>18U</b>	<b>19U</b>
Select Conferences	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL







# CONFERENCE DIVISIONS OF PLAY

Each US Youth Soccer Conference features a top (Premier I) division in which teams can qualify for that season's US Youth Soccer Regional Championships and/or the next season's National League (national tier).

Conferences may also feature additional divisions with promotion and relegation within the conference from year to year.

*(Example – Midwest Conference: Premier I Division, Premier II Division, First Division)*

Some Conferences may offer Club vs. Club Divisions, with such competitions operating parallel to Team vs. Team competitions.





# CONFERENCE TEAMS

Across the 13 conferences, more than 3,600 teams compete in the multi-state tier of the Leagues Program.

Teams in the National League (national tier) also compete in the Conference competition of the multi-state tier in order to requalify for the National League (national tier).

In the first season of the current Conference structure, 2018-19, teams that competed in the Conferences made up more than 95 percent of the field at the US Youth Soccer National Championships.

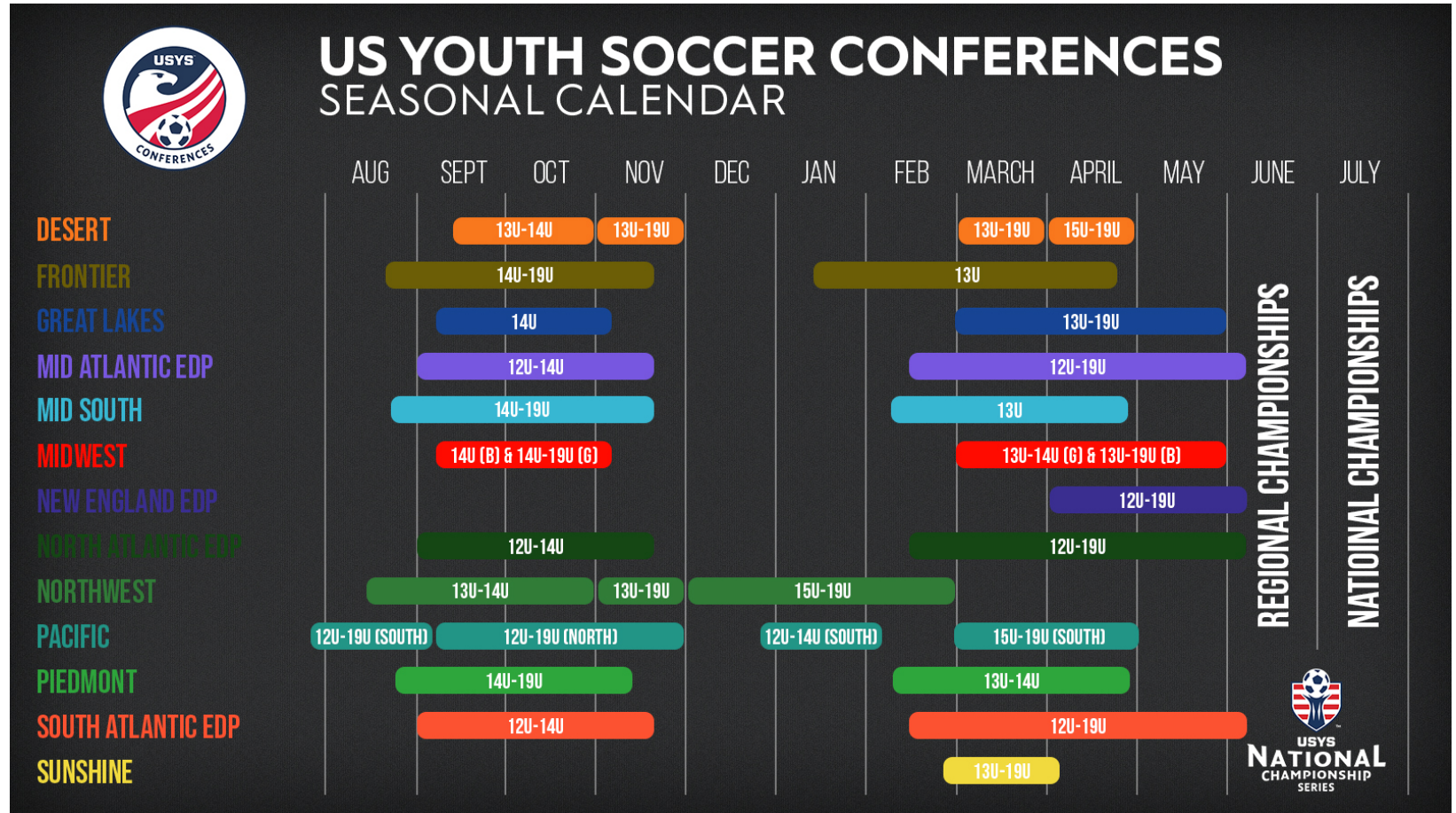




# SEASONS

Each conference has a unique range of dates for its seasonal year based on local factors such as weather and high school soccer seasons. See below for general play dates for each conference.

*CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE*





# US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE

## NATIONAL TIER OF THE LEAGUES PROGRAM

The US Youth Soccer National League competition is for the nation's top US Youth Soccer teams in the 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U and 19U age groups. The 14U through 18U divisions consist of up to 32 teams per gender age group, while the 19U age group features up to 16 teams for each gender.



US YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUES PROGRAM



# HOW TO QUALIFY

**There are three means to earning automatic qualification into the National League:**

- 72 returning National League division top finishers from previous year
- 48 Regional Cup Championship winners/finalists/representatives
- 232 US Youth Soccer Conference (multi-state tier) qualifiers



US YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUES PROGRAM



# LEAGUE FORMAT

Each team plays a seven-game schedule over two events, facing each team within its age group division one time while playing one game per day at each of its events.

The National League consists of three events for 15U-19U teams, with each team playing two of the three events. All 14U teams are assigned to play at two designated events during the season.

In the 14U-18U age groups, the winner of each division earns a berth to that season's US Youth Soccer National Championships, while the top two finishers in each division of the 19U age group advance to Nationals.





# MEANINGFUL COMPETITION

The top teams from each National League division advance to the US Youth Soccer National Championships, the oldest and most prestigious youth soccer national championship in the country.

The four National League representatives in the 14U through 19U age groups will join the four Regional Champions to play for the National Championship. Since its inception in 2007, National League teams have claimed 75 percent of all possible National Championships.

The top teams in each 14U through 18U National League division also secure a spot to return to National League play for the following season.





# VARIETY OF TEAMS & STYLES

The National League annually features teams from various parts of the country – often having 40 or more of the 55 US Youth Soccer State Associations represented in a single season.

The variety of teams in the league brings with it an opportunity to face multiple styles of play and unique challenges throughout each National League season.







# NOTABLE ALUMNI - BOYS

## **Jack Harrison**

Manchester City FC (England), No. 1 Pick at 2016 MLS SuperDraft (New York City FC)

## **Daniel Lovitz**

U.S. Men's National Team, Montreal Impact

## **Jordan Morris**

U.S. Men's National Team, Seattle Sounders FC

## **Keegan Rosenberry**

Colorado Rapids, 2016 MLS All-Star as Rookie (Philadelphia Union)

## **Gedion Zelalem**

Sporting Kansas City, Appeared in FA Cup and UEFA Champions League for Arsenal FC (England)

## **Walker Zimmerman**

U.S. Men's National Team, Los Angeles FC



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# NOTABLE ALUMNI - GIRLS

## **Morgan Brian**

U.S. Women's National Team, Chicago Red Stars, No. 1 Pick at 2015 NWSL Draft (Houston Dash), 2015 and 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup Champion

## **Danielle Colaprico**

U.S. Women's National Team, Chicago Red Stars, 2015 NWSL Rookie of the Year

## **Rose Lavelle**

U.S. Women's National Team, Washington Spirit, No. 1 Pick at 2017 NWSL Draft (Boston Breakers), 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup Champion

## **Samantha Mewis**

U.S. Women's National Team, NC Courage, 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup Champion

## **Emily Sonnett**

U.S. Women's National Team, Portland Thorns, 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup Champion



**LEAGUES**



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## LEAGUES

# ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The image to the right provides a visual guide to the pathway and opportunities available for league teams at the state, regional and national levels.

For specifics on the relationship between the Leagues Program and the National Championship Series, see the next page.



## LEAGUES



# US YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUES PROGRAM



# NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SERIES

## STATE CUPS

- ▶ Teams must compete in their respective State Cup (NCS) to remain eligible for the National League and the National Championships.

## REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- ▶ Top finishers in the Conference Premier I Divisions (13U-19U) can earn qualification into the current season's Regional Championship.
- ▶ Regional Champions (and Regional Reps to the National Championships) in the 13U-18U age groups can earn qualification into the National League for the following seasonal year.

## NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- ▶ Each of the four National League Division winners in the 14U-18U age groups automatically qualify for the current season's National Championships.
- ▶ National League Division winners and runners-up in the 19U age group automatically qualify for the current season's National Championships.





**LEAGUES**

# STAY CONNECTED

## WEBSITE

[www.USYouthSoccer.org/Leagues](http://www.USYouthSoccer.org/Leagues)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow the National League and Conferences on social media...

**Twitter:** [@NationalLeague](https://twitter.com/NationalLeague)

**Instagram:** [@NationalLeagueSoccer](https://www.instagram.com/NationalLeagueSoccer)

**Facebook:** [@NationalLeagueSoccer](https://www.facebook.com/NationalLeagueSoccer)

**Hashtag:** #EarnYourPlace



**LEAGUES**



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