



## 2019-20 SEASON GENERAL 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 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 **Piedmont 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 (North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and parts of Tennessee).

The **Piedmont 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 Piedmont Conference provides teams with a chance to advance to the US Youth Soccer Southern Regional Championships, which are held annually each summer.

### US YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUES PATHWAY



## **COMMITMENT**

Any team looking to participate in the Piedmont Conference must understand the level of commitment it takes to participate in a League that stretches across 4 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 Piedmont 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 Piedmont 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 Piedmont Conference is \$925 per team (paid to your state association) 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 your respective State Association and are to be paid to your State Association as determined by your local State Association. The State Association pays US Youth Soccer for all teams entered in the Piedmont Conference. Teams do not pay entry fees directly to US Youth Soccer.

For teams competing in the 14U age group of the Piedmont Conference, the entry fee will be \$1850 (\$925x2) to account for both the Fall and Spring seasons. See “Competition Format” below for more information.

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

In completing any application into the Piedmont 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 14U-19U teams: Thursday, June 27, 2019

Application Deadline for 13U teams: Friday, December 13, 2019

Registration Link: <https://events.gotsport.com/forms/app/Default.aspx?EventID=73628>

## **SELECTION AND PLACEMENT**

There is a two-step approval process for the Piedmont Conference. First, each team must be confirmed by its respective State Association as properly registered. Second, the Piedmont Conference 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 Piedmont Conference.

In most cases, the Boys Premier II will include up to 4 teams from each State Association (NC, SC, and GA--teams from outside these states will be added should there be available slots). Teams in the Boys Premier I and Girls Premier I tier will be accepted based on their qualification from the previous seasonal year. Any TBD slots in Boys Premier I or Girls Premier I will be filled by the Conference.

## **THE 2019-20 SEASON**

The start date of the 2019-2020 season for the Piedmont Conference will be August 17, 2019. All games for the Piedmont Conference must be completed by June 1, 2020.

## **COMPETITION FORMAT**

The Piedmont Conference follows a round robin competition format. The anticipated tier size, match count, and season of play for each gender age group and tier is listed below.

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Tier</b>	<b>Season</b>	<b>Tier Size</b>	<b>Game Count</b>
Boys	13U	Premier I	Spring 2020	12	11
Boys	14U	Premier I	Fall 2019 / Spring 2020	10	18
Boys	14U	Premier II	Fall 2019 / Spring 2020	12	22
Boys	15U	Premier I	Fall 2019	10	9
Boys	15U	Premier II	Fall 2019	12	11
Boys	16U	Premier I	Fall 2019	10	9
Boys	16U	Premier II	Fall 2019	12	11
Boys	17U	Premier I	Fall 2019	10	9
Boys	17U	Premier II	Fall 2019	12	11
Boys	18U	Premier I	Fall 2019	10	9
Boys	18U	Premier II	Fall 2019	12	11
Boys	19U	Premier I	Fall 2019	10	9
Boys	19U	Premier II	Fall 2019	12	11
Girls	13U	Premier I	Spring 2020	12	11
Girls	14U	Premier I	Fall 2019 / Spring 2020	12	22
Girls	15U	Premier I	Fall 2019	12	11
Girls	16U	Premier I	Fall 2019	12	11
Girls	17U	Premier I	Fall 2019	12	11
Girls	18U	Premier I	Fall 2019	12	11
Girls	19U	Premier I	Fall 2019	12	11

## **LOCATION OF GAMES--HOSTING**

The primary dates of play for the 2019-20 season are posted below. Finalized locations/complexes will be posted here by June 1, 2019.

### **14U-19U Boys Premier I Hosting Dates**

August 30 – September 2: Hosted in Georgia

September 21 – 22: Hosted in North Carolina

September 28 – 29: RAIN DATE

October 5 – 6: Host TBA following final team bracketing / RAIN DATE

October 26 – 27: Hosted in South Carolina

November 2 – 3: RAIN DATE

\*November 9 – 11: USYS National League South Conference Showcase in Panama City Beach, Florida

\*\*Additional rain dates may be added as needed at the discretion of the League Manager

### **14U-19U Girls Premier I Hosting Dates**

August 17 – 18: Hosted in North Carolina

August 30 – September 2: Hosted in Georgia

September 7 – 8: RAIN DATE

September 21 – 22: Hosted in North Carolina

October 5 – 6: RAIN DATE

October 12 – 13: Hosted in Georgia

October 19 – 20: Hosted in South Carolina

October 26 – 27: RAIN DATE

November 2 – 3: RAIN DATE

\*November 9 – 11: USYS National League South Conference Showcase in Panama City Beach, Florida

\*\*Additional rain dates may be added as needed at the discretion of the League Manager

### **14U-19U Boys Premier II Hosting Dates**

August 17 – 18: Hosted in North Carolina (NC vs GA)

September 7 – 8: Hosted in Georgia (GA vs SC)

September 14 – 15: RAIN DATE

September 21 – 22: Hosted in North Carolina (NC vs SC)

September 28 – 29: Hosted in South Carolina (SC vs GA)

October 5 – 6: RAIN DATE

October 12 – 13: Hosted in Georgia (GA vs NC)

October 26 – 27: Hosted in South Carolina (SC vs NC)

November 2 – 3: RAIN DATE

\*November 9 – 11: USYS National League South Conference Showcase in Panama City Beach, Florida

\*\*Additional rain dates may be added as needed at the discretion of the League Manager

### **13U Boys/Girls and Spring 14U Boys/Girls Hosting Dates TBA**

## **2019 USYS NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH CONFERENCE SHOWCASE**

The South Conferences will be hosting their inaugural Showcase in Panama City Beach, Florida on Veterans Day Weekend, November 9-11, 2019. This cross-conference play opportunity is open to teams participating in one of the thirteen US Youth Soccer National League Conferences around the country. Teams participating in the Piedmont 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.

## **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 Mid-July for the 14U-19U age groups, and late-December for the 13U and spring 14U age groups.

A coach of multiple teams within the Piedmont 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.

Teams participating in the Piedmont 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.

## **REFEREES**

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

13U-16U: \$150.00 (Center \$70, AR1 \$40, AR2 \$40). \$75.00 per team.

17U-19U: \$180.00 (Center \$80, AR1 \$50, AR2 \$50). \$90.00 per team.

## **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.

## **RULES AND INFORMATION**

Rules and additional information may be found on the Piedmont Conference website:

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/piedmont-conference/>

## **COACHING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

Coaches of teams within the Piedmont Conference must have obtained a US Soccer National D License or the United Soccer Coaches equivalent (National Diploma) level of coaching education.

## **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 Piedmont Conference play.

## **HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS**

The Piedmont Conference has partnered with Traveling Teams, Inc. to provide superior support when it comes to hotel accommodations for your team during all Piedmont Conference play. Through this partnership for the 2019/20 season, teams can more easily reserve, manage, and ensure the best rate for all their hotel needs during the season. Use of Traveling Teams is required for all teams participating in Piedmont Conference events.

## **ADVANCEMENT TO REGIONALS**

The top team in the Premier I tier of each 13U-19U gender age group in the Piedmont Conference will qualify for 2020 Southern Regionals that same seasonal year as the Piedmont Conference representative. To be eligible for advancement to the 2020 Southern Regionals, the qualified Piedmont 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 Piedmont Conference will qualify for the US Youth Soccer National League for the following seasonal year.

## **COMMUNICATION FROM/WITH THE CONFERENCE**

E-mail is the primary means of communication within the Piedmont Conference. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that accurate contact information is on file with the conference. The Piedmont Conference compiles team contact information based on each team's application into the conference.

## **CONTACT**

For more information on the Piedmont Conference please contact the League Manager, Mike Leland, at [mleland@usyouthsoccer.org](mailto:mleland@usyouthsoccer.org)

*Subject to change—as of May 13, 2019*