



US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE 2018 FALL SEASON/2019 SPRING SEASON GENERAL TEAM INFORMATION

Subject to change as of June 5, 2018

INTRODUCTION

The US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference mission is to provide the highest standard of competitive play for youth teams that are members of US Youth Soccer State Associations of Michigan, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio North, Ohio South, Kentucky, New York West, Pennsylvania West and West Virginia. The US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference offers quality league competition for teams primarily against teams outside of their state association. Teams playing in the 2018-19 US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference compete for the chance to earn spots into the Midwest Regionals as part of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series. Additionally, teams participating in the 13U-19U age groups have the opportunity to qualify for the US Youth Soccer National League for the following seasonal year.

COMMITMENT

Any team looking to participate in the US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference must understand the level of commitment it takes to participate in a League that stretches across 9 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 US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes 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 2018-19 US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference will include the following Boys and Girls age groups:

- 13 and Under (13U) – for players born on January 1, 2006 or later
- 14 and Under (14U) – for players born on January 1, 2005 or later
- 15 and Under (15U) – for players born on January 1, 2004 or later
- 16 and Under (16U) – for players born on January 1, 2003 or later
- 17 and Under (17U) – for players born on January 1, 2002 or later
- 18 and Under (18U) – for players born on January 1, 2001 or later
- 19 and Under (19U) – for players born on January 1, 2000 or later

ENTRY FEE

The Team Entry Fee to participate in the US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference is \$550 per team, per season (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 US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference. Teams do not pay entry fees directly to US Youth Soccer.

CONFERENCE BOUNDRIES

US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference boundaries are for youth teams that are members of US Youth Soccer State Associations of Michigan, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio North, Ohio South, Kentucky, New York West, Pennsylvania West and West Virginia, although teams from outside these areas may also apply to participate. Teams from Michigan and Indiana may choose to play in either the Midwest Conference or the Great Lakes Conference based on their location. G15U through G19U teams from Michigan will play in the Midwest Conference in the fall due to conflicts with HS teams in the Great Lakes Conference. G15U through G19U from Indiana will play in the Great Lakes Conference in the spring due to conflicts with HS teams in the Midwest Conference. For Minnesota, G13U and G14U are expected to play in the Midwest Conference, while at G15U through G19U are expected to play in the Great Lakes Conference in the spring due to their high school soccer season conflicts in the fall season. Teams from PA West, NY West and West Virginia may choose to play in the Great Lakes Conference, or one of the US Youth Soccer National Leagues North Atlantic, Mid Atlantic or South Atlantic EDP Conferences.

WHEN WILL THE BOYS TEAMS PLAY

Includes the state associations of NY West, PA West, West Virginia, Ohio South, Ohio North, Kentucky, Indiana, and Michigan. Teams on western part of the conference have the option to participate in the Midwest Conference based on the age group and gender of competitions offered. Teams in Michigan and Indiana, based on their location can choose to apply in either the Great Lakes or Midwest Conferences. Teams from PA West, NY West and West Virginia may choose to play in the Great Lakes Conference, or one of the US Youth Soccer National Leagues North Atlantic, Mid Atlantic or South Atlantic EDP Conferences.

WHEN WILL THE GIRLS TEAMS PLAY

Includes the state associations of Minnesota*, NY West, PA West, West Virginia, Ohio South, Ohio North, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan**. Teams on western part of the conference have the option to participate in the Midwest Conference based on the age group and gender of competitions offered. Teams from PA West, NY West and West Virginia may choose to play in the Great Lakes Conference, or one of the US Youth Soccer National Leagues North Atlantic, Mid Atlantic or South Atlantic EDP Conferences.

*Minnesota, at 13U and 14U, teams expected to play in the Midwest Conference, while at 15U and above teams are expected to play in the Great Lakes Conference due to high school soccer season conflicts in the Fall

**Indiana G15U through G19U will play in the Great Lakes Conference due to conflicts with HS teams in the Midwest Conference

***Michigan G15U through G19U teams will play in the Midwest Conference due to conflicts with HS teams in the Great Lakes Conference.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

- The Team Application period to participate in the **2018 Fall Season 14U (boys and Girls) and Developmental 15U (boys and girls)** will open on or around June 6, 2018 and close on Wednesday, June 27, 2018.
- The Team Application period to participate in the **2019 Spring Season 15U through 19U (Boys and Girls)** age groups will open on or around July 16, 2018 and close on Wednesday, August 8, 2018.
- The Team Application period to participate in the **2019 Spring Season 13U and 14U (Boys and Girls)** age groups will open on or around Oct 15 and close on November 12.

Contact your State Association office for the web link to register. Following your application, US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference will send your team information to your State Association so they may review and endorse the application. After State Association endorsement, the US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference will review team applications and determine acceptance into the conference. In completing any application into the US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes 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.

SELECTION AND PLACEMENT

There is a two-step approval process for the US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference. First, each team must be endorsed by its respective State Association. Second, the US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference shall review and determine the final selection of all teams. Accepted teams shall be notified via a website posting or an email regarding their acceptance and placement into the US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference. Premier I and Premier II level slots earned under the 2017-18 season Regional Leagues system will be honored within a team's respective Conference in 2018-19. Pre-qualified teams for Premier I and Premier II will be posted on the conference website.

REFEREES

US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference games will use a 3-man referee system. Each team is responsible for one-half of the total referee fees per game and payment is to be made in cash prior to each game as follows:

13U and 14U:	\$60 per game per team; a total of \$120 (\$50 to Referee and \$35 to each AR)
15U and 16U:	\$70 per game per team; a total of \$140 (\$60 to Referee and \$40 to each AR)
17U, 18U and 19U:	\$80 per game per team; a total of \$160 (\$70 to Referee and \$45 to each AR)

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 US Youth Soccer website: <https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/national-leagues/>

COACHING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

Coaches of teams within the US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference must achieve a level of coaching education in accordance with the Conference Operating Procedures where all coaches within the team bench area during a game must have a minimum of a US Soccer "D" Coaching License or equivalent prior to the 2018-19 season including but not limited to a United Soccer Coaches Advanced 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 US Youth Soccer National League Frontier Conference play.

COMPETITION FORMAT

All competitions in every age group shall be round robin. There will be no end of season playoffs. Based on the number of teams placed into subdivisions, teams may play up to a total of 9 US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference games during the course of the season. Please be aware of the number of games that teams will be required to play. US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference teams are required to fulfill their commitment by playing out their entire conference schedule of games.

ADVANCEMENT TO REGIONALS

The top team from each age group and gender competing in the Premier I tier of the US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference will qualify for 2019 Midwest Regional Championships that same seasonal year as the US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference. To remain qualified for Regionals, a team must also play in their state association's State Cup competition. If any team from New York West, Pennsylvania West and West Virginia win their State Cup AND their US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference Premier I tier, they must attend the East Regional that same seasonal year as their state Champion. Please note that 14U Regionals qualifiers come from the Spring season.

QUALIFICATION INTO 2019-20 NATIONAL LEAGUE

The top two teams from each applicable Premier I age group and gender in the US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference will qualify for the National League for the following seasonal year. Teams participating in National League may also play in the US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference. National League teams playing in the US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference are subject to the same standards of qualification as other US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference teams.

LOCATION OF GAMES - HOSTING

There are three categories for hosting US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference games:

US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference Hosting. US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference hosts games at a multiple field location. There may be additional costs to the teams for playing matches at US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference hosted weekend sites, if parking or spectator fees are charged. The US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference hosted weekends for the 2018 Fall Season and the 2019 Spring Season will be announced by June 26th and posted on the Conference page of the website.

One-Off Hosting. A team hosts a one off game between itself and another team from within its division. Host bears all costs for hosting or if teams agree, the teams may share costs (usually for games played at a neutral location).

Group Hosting. A team hosts a number of teams over a weekend amongst teams from within its division. Host team bears all costs for hosting.

MUST BE AVAILABLE TO PLAY WEEKENDS

Must be available to play weekend for 2018 Fall Season are, September 8-9, September 15-16, September 29-30, October 13-14 and November 10-11. Teams are excused from US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference play on these weekends due to state cup conflicts. However, it is the responsibility of teams, affected by their inability to play on Must Be Available to Play Weekends, to be flexible in being able to schedule US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference games on other weekends during the Fall Season. A team's requirement to be available to play on these US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference weekends ceases once the division schedule is agreed to by the teams. The purpose of the Must Be Available to Play Weekends is to insure common play dates. US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference allows flexibility in scheduling providing all teams in a division agree to scheduling flexibility. Must be available to play dates in Spring 2019 are, April 13-14, April 27-28, May 4-5 and May 11-12.

GENERAL SCHEDULING INFORMATION

Conference schedules will be overseen by the League Manager, who will have sole discretion in the manner by which game schedules are developed. There will be **MANDATORY** scheduling meetings in the following age groups for all Premier I and Premier II teams for both the 2018 Fall and 2019 Spring Seasons:

July 17, 2018 2018 Fall Premier I and II Mandatory Scheduling Meeting in Akron, OH (14U)

Dec 11, 2018 2019 Spring Premier I and II Mandatory Scheduling Meeting in Akron, OH (13U through 19U)

Teams participating in the US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference must be available to play on the published conference dates. By submitting your team application, your team is committing to play on the published dates for the conference.

Premier I Divisions and Premier II Divisions. After the placement of teams into tiers and subdivisions, teams will be provided with information on the US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference scheduling process, including details of the mandatory scheduling meeting, through a group email sent to each Team's Coach and Club Director of Coaching of teams. The US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference provides the opportunity for teams to schedule all games in a division in accordance with US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference procedures. All teams in a subdivision must agree to the entire schedule. Availability of fields at US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference hosted sites is limited and will be provided to teams on a first completely approved scheduled, first served basis.

First Divisions in all Age Groups. After the placement of teams into tiers and subdivisions, teams will be provided with information on the US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference scheduling process through a group email sent to each Team's Coach and Club Director of Coaching of teams. The US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference provides the opportunity for teams to schedule all games in a division in accordance with US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference procedures. All teams in a subdivision must agree to the entire schedule. Availability of fields at US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference hosted sites is limited and will be provided to teams on a first completely approved scheduled, first served basis. A Scheduling Coordinator (SC) who will be appointed by the US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference from within each division to assist in the process. **Our hope is that only Club Directors of Coaching, the Head Coach of a participating team within the division, or a Full-time Club Administrator will be selected as the SC.** Generally, this person will be someone who has scheduled US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference games in the past and understands the nuances in scheduling on a regional basis.

Teams should understand that due to the nature of scheduling of games for teams from across multiple states that scheduling games for the benefit of a single coach who coaches multiple teams should not be expected. Time conflicts will occur for those coaches that coach multiple teams on US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference weekends and the US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference, as well as the other teams within a division, are under no obligation to assist these coaches with their conflicts.

Once schedules are developed, schedule changes are permitted in accordance with US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference Scheduling Policy.

SEASONS OF PLAY

2018 FALL SEASON

Boys and Girls 14U competitions

The 14U competition during the 2018 Fall Season will feature Premier I, Premier II, and First Division tiers of play with promotion and relegation between the tiers to determine the 2019 Spring Season placement of teams into tiers.

Boys and Girls 15U Developmental Competition

This age group generally features 8th and 9th graders. We will offer development play for the 15U age group. Teams interested in this competition which will not involve promotion or relegation but rather creating a competition platform for players born in 2004 that are in 8th grade while their 9th grade teammates are participating in high school soccer.

2019 SPRING SEASON

Boys and Girls 13U and 14U competitions

The 13U competition during the 2019 Season will feature Premier I, Premier II, and First Division tiers of play with promotion and relegation between the tiers for the following soccer season (2019 Fall Season). As the 13U's is the entry age group for the Conferences, the State Associations at the time of the team application period will rank teams for admission into the Conferences and team placement into tiers. The 14U competition during the 2019 Spring Season will feature Premier I, Premier II, and First Division tiers of play (primarily based on the results of the 2018 Fall Season of 14U play) with promotion and relegation between the tiers for the following soccer year (2019-20).

Girls 15U through 19U competitions

Due to avoiding conflicts with high school soccer, the Great Lakes Conference will offer its 15U through 19U competition during the 2019 Spring Season and feature Premier I, Premier II, and First Division tiers of play with promotion and relegation between the tiers for the following soccer year (2019-20).

Boys 15U through 19U competitions

Due to avoiding conflicts with high school soccer, the Great Lakes Conference will offer its 15U through 19U competition during the 2019 Spring Season and feature Premier I, Premier II, and First Division tiers of play with promotion and relegation between the tiers for the following soccer year (2019-20).

COMMUNICATION FROM/WITH THE CONFERENCE

Email is the primary means of communication within the US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that accurate contact information is on file with the conference. The US Youth Soccer National League Great Lakes Conference compiles team contact information based on each team's application into the conference.

CONTACT

Additional information will be posted, when available, on the following web page <https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/great-lakes-conference/> For more information on the US Youth Soccer National League Midwest Conference please contact the League Manager, Marc Frankland at mfrankland@usyouthsoccer.org

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