



Team
Admittance
and
Placement

2024

NY West Champions Conference

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Team Admittance

Any team participating in a New York State West Youth Soccer state-cup qualifying league can apply to the NY West Champions Conference (referred to as the League in this document). Teams from state associations adjacent to NYSWYSA can apply if they are willing to have a home field within or near the NY West geographical area.

Acceptance to the League is based on team performance and is intended for teams that can show successful performance at the state level or highest district division level.

Admittance Objective

The objective of the NY West Champions Conference is to provide a safe and competitive league environment for teams from New York State West Youth Soccer Association (NYSWYSA) or immediately adjacent State Associations who have demonstrated capability of play at a State or Regional level. The League shall be open to any team that has demonstrated capability of play at this level, and that has participated in a State-Cup qualifying league in a prior season.

Admittance Process

- Teams shall request admittance for play in the League as part of the annual application process posted to the League website. The application process shall be opened to the dates that will be announced on the League website. Dates will be subject to change on a year-to-year basis. The application is considered complete upon receipt of the application fees.
- Applications shall be filled out in their entirety and should contain all necessary information to satisfy the criteria. Supporting information should be attached to the team application or separately mailed to the League Administrator.
- Applications shall be screened by the League Administrator, then evaluated, and approved by the League Commissioners.
- Appeals to initial admittance decisions shall be received in writing by the League Administrator no later than 5 calendar days following the publication of preliminary placements (date will be determined based on the specific calendar year of that year of competition). Appeals may not be made verbally or to any other person than the League Administrator and may only reference information provided in the original application, unless clarification or additional detail is requested by the League. Appeals will be evaluated by the Appeals Committee and changes to the original decision approved by the League Commissioners.
- All decisions of the league are considered final.



Admittance Criteria

Teams will be considered for admission to the League based on the following criteria, subject to roster continuity.

- Teams that have placed in the top two positions of the highest division of their respective state-cup qualifying District League
- Teams that have advanced to the State Cup Final Four in the previous season.
- Teams that have been admitted to a regional league (such as the North Atlantic Conference or the EDP Great Lakes Conference) in the current season.
- Teams that played in the previous NY West Champions Conference season and were not demoted from the League because they were at the bottom of the lower division, subject to roster continuity. Note: Teams who are "new" to the League but can demonstrate roster continuity to a previous NY West Champions Conference team may assume the qualifications of the previous team SO LONG AS the previous team does not apply for League play (see application).
- Teams that can demonstrate by team resume the ability to play at a level comparable to the State-cup final four teams or comparable to teams in the highest division of their respective state-cup qualifying District League. Team resumes should show direct competition against NY West Champions Conference participants, other premier league participants, regional league participants, or State Cup tournament participants, subject to roster continuity.

Roster Continuity shall be demonstrated by showing that a majority of the current year players were on the roster of the previous year's team.

Admittance Application Examples

What happens to teams who finish in the bottom two places of the Second Division? They would be permitted to apply as a "new" team for the subsequent year although it would be suggested that they consider competition in a district league rather than the NY West Champions Conference.

A "new" team from Club "B" has substantially the same roster as a team that played last year from Club "A", are they automatically admitted to the League? Subject to roster continuity, the "new" team could be considered to be the "old" team so long as Club "A" does not enter a team in the same age group. This stipulation is purposely a detriment against teams "jumping clubs".



Team Placement

The NY West Champions Conference is a state level league that implements promotion and relegation based on team performance within the League.

As the league establishes credibility, it is anticipated that NY West Champions Conference winners will be granted admission to Regional conferences, such as the North Atlantic Conference or the Great Lakes Conference.

Placement Objective

Once teams have been admitted to the NY West Champions Conference, the object of team placement is to create the best competitive environment at either one or two levels. That is, to place the best half of teams in an age bracket in the First division and the next half of teams in the Second division. This should be done with the intent of first division play being representative of State Cup Final Four level play and second division being representative of District League Champions level play.

Placement Process

Following completion of the league competitive season, the Commissioners will complete the "automatic placement" of teams for the subsequent season as follows;

- The lowest standing team in the First Division of the League shall be relegated to the Second Division
- The highest standing team in the Second Division of the League shall be promoted to the First Division.
- At the recommendation of the Commissioners, relegation, and promotion between divisions in the League may be expanded to include the lower two and upper two teams of any respective division. This expansion shall be done equally (i.e., one/one, two/two) and is intended to be used when the finish for these positions is close.
- The lowest standing team in the Second Division of the League shall be demoted from the League (but permitted re-entry per admittance policy). The second lowest standing team in the Second Division may be demoted when the finishes for the last two positions are close (but in that case permitted re-entry per admittance policy).

Teams shall claim their automatic placement by successfully submitting an application to the League, as part of the registration process, for play for the subsequent (now current) year, subject to roster continuity.



Following close of the application process, the Commissioners shall meet to determine the preliminary placement of teams for the competitive season according to the following process:

- Teams who have claimed their automatic placement shall start with that placement. Automatic placements which have not been claimed shall be considered abandoned.
- Any team which does not have an automatic placement (that is any new team), shall be initially placed into the Second Division.
- Each age group will be evaluated for the number of teams in each division as follows:
 - A division must have a minimum of five (5) and a maximum of nine (9) teams. This will allow either home/home, single round robin, or some hybrid of the two schedules in an eight-game season. Age brackets with nine or less teams will play one division. Age brackets with more than 18 qualifying applicants shall be reduced to 18 teams in accordance with the Placement Criteria below.
 - Divisions shall be of equal number of teams (+/- one if an odd number of teams) at the discretion of the Commissioners. Division structures with more than one team imbalance (i.e., a 7/5 split) shall be rare, and only utilized when it is clear there is a noticeable performance difference that prevents an imbalance of only one team.
- Once the number of teams in each division has been established, teams shall be moved from their initial placement position to fill the divisions according to the Placement Criteria below in order to achieve the Placement Objective (above).
- Preliminary placements shall be completed no later than five days following the last day to withdraw without penalty, approved by the Commissioners and then published to the league web site.
- Appeals to preliminary placements shall be received in writing by the League Administrator no later than 5 calendar days following the publication of preliminary placements (date will be determined based on the specific calendar year of that year of competition). Appeals may not be made verbally or to any other person than the League Administrator and may only reference information provided in the original application, unless clarification or additional detail is requested by the League. Appeals will be evaluated by the Appeals Committee and changes to the preliminary placements approved by the League Commissioners.
- All decisions of the League are considered final.

Placement Criteria

The process is designed such that, in most cases, criteria will be applied to promote teams from initial placement in the Second Division to the First Division. It is possible however that relegation from the First Division to the Second Division may be required.

Teams meeting one or more of the following criteria will be placed in the First Division:

- Top four placements from previous year First Division, subject to roster continuity.
- Teams accepted to play in the North Atlantic Conference or the Great Lakes Conference for the current season.
- State Cup Champion and Finalist from previous season, subject to roster continuity.



Teams will be considered for placement in the First Division based on the following criteria:

- "Automatic placement" in First Division based on prior year results.
- Competitive finish in previous year State Cup (generally defined as qualification for final four).
- Teams that can demonstrate by team resume the ability to play State Cup Level Play. Team resumes should show direct competition against other First division teams, teams in the top division of other premier leagues, or winners of the highest division of a district league. Teams who are "new" to the league but can demonstrate roster continuity to a previous team may assume the qualifications of the previous team SO LONG AS the previous team does not apply for league play (see application).
- Teams that have been relegated in the automatic placement process should not be considered for re-promotion until one other team has been promoted (beyond promotion from automatic placement).
- Consideration may be given to geographic location of teams in the placement process to make travel and scheduling more efficient.

Placement Application Examples

Can a team that has been "relegated" from the First Division to the Second Division return to the First Division for the subsequent year? They would not begin the process there by virtue of the "automatic placement" however it is possible that after non-returning and new teams are considered, this team is in the "upper half". It is anticipated that a relegated team not be "re-promoted" unless one other team (beyond the automatic promotion) is promoted ahead of them.

Can a team refuse promotion, or request play in only the Second Division? The League runs its promotion and relegation system to enhance the level of play. The point of the system is to play at a level to achieve promotion or play at a level to not be relegated. However, if a team makes a strong case for a reason not to be promoted, the league will listen to the case. That being stated, all decisions of the League are final.

Can a "new team" play in the First Division? Only if they have credentials which show them to be in the upper half of teams in the age bracket. By process, they would initially be placed in the Second Division, but if their credentials supported First Division placement, then it would be possible.

What happens to a team that drops out of the League for one season then wishes to return? They would be treated as a "new team" however they would arguably have a team resume and credentials which would be considered in the placement process, provided that they maintain roster continuity to the previous League team.