



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 11U and 12U teams).
- If a team is accepted, the coaching staff has two seasons to establish the adequate credentials or the team may be dropped.

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 November 17, 2023 for all teams and closes at 6:00pm on January 19, 2024.
- Accepted teams will be notified by February 2, 2024.

What are the registration fees?

- The registration fee is \$250 per team which includes a \$25 non-refundable application fee, a \$215 team participation fee and a GotSport software fee. If the team is not accepted into the league for any reason, the \$215 team participation fee will be refunded. All other fees are non-refundable.
- The registration fee does not cover field rental costs or referee fees.

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 and will be payable within 30 days unless otherwise noted in the league policies & procedures.

How will the referees be paid?

- Referee fees are to be paid at the field in cash.
- Referee fees are to be split by each team for each game.
- See the league referee fees table below:

Age Group	Referee/ Assistant Referee	Responsibility of each team per match	Total Fees for Season
11U	\$60.00/ \$30.00	\$60.00	\$480.00
12U	\$60.00/ \$30.00	\$60.00	\$480.00
13U	\$68.00/ \$34.00	\$68.00	\$544.00
14U	\$68.00/ \$34.00	\$68.00	\$544.00
15U	\$80.00/ \$50.00	\$90.00	\$720.00
16U	\$80.00/ \$50.00	\$90.00	\$720.00
17U	\$90.00/ \$50.00	\$95.00	\$760.00
19U	\$90.00/ \$60.00	\$105.00	\$840.00



How is scheduling done?

- Teams will be notified of their acceptance by February 2, 2024.
- 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 schedule the match within GotSport. Details on scheduling in GotSport can be found [here](#).
- After the 3 weeks, the League Administrator 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 within 48 hours of conclusion of the game.

What if our team has to reschedule a match?

- First you must contact the opposing team and get agreement to cancel the current match and mutually agree to reschedule to a different date.
- Once mutual agreement is obtained, you need to inform the league administrator.
- The change may incur cancellation fees, dependent on the date the request is received, and if subsequent rescheduling is unsuccessful the match will be deemed a forfeit and incur a forfeit fine.
- Cancellations that occur less than 72 hours prior to game start time incur heavy fines.
- Details for rescheduling matches are given in the rules document, so please refer to that.

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 mid-April through the mid-July.
 - 2024 Season: April 19th – July 14th



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

What fields will be used?

- Each team will provide their own home fields, and a field coordinator who is authorized to schedule the fields.
- Teams that reside outside of the NYSW boundaries are required to utilize a home field location within NYSW if requested by the away team.

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>

What if my team doesn't want to travel to an away match?

- Teams must be willing to travel to away matches, even if they are doing poorly in the standings.
- If they refuse to travel, the match will be forfeited, incurring fines, and potential expulsion from the league



How many players can we have on the roster?

- The official roster can have 18 players for 11U and 12U teams, or 22 players for 13U and older divisions.
- The maximum number of players that can check into any given match is 16 players for 11U and 12U teams, and 18 players for 13U and older teams.
- Teams can use up to three Call-Up players at any league match to supplement their official roster in case of injury, medical isolation, or limited availability of players on the official roster.
- Each Call-Up player must be from the same club as the team, can only be called-up to play for one Champions Conference team, and is limited to playing in three league matches.