

SUNSHINE CONFERENCE ACADEMY DIVISION



ACADEMY DIVISION OVERVIEW

- ▶ The Academy Division will follow previously established academy standards, continually seek opportunities to improve, and ensure structural flexibility to evolve efficiently.
- ▶ The Academy Division play dates will enable players to participate in high school soccer and other US Youth Soccer programs (e.g. ODP, National League Showcase Series, FYSA State Cup, National Championship Series).



STRUCTURE AND STANDARDS

STRUCTURE

Age Group Structure	U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U19 age groups
Competition Format	All teams play 'home and away' within division. There will be neutral sites used to alleviate travel time for both opponents (This will make for a 20-game season over Sep – May).
Competition Format (1)	A Regional Soccer Festival with matchups based on club league standings
Competition Format (2)	A League break for high school season (Nov. – Feb.)
Match Format (16U, 17U, 18/19U)	Two 45-minute halves with a 15-minute half time
Match Format (14U, 15U)	Two 40-minute halves with 15-minute half time
Match Format (13U)	Two 35-minute halves with 10-minute half time
Match Scheduling Standards	A specific framework should be provided by league regarding order matches
Match Schedule Standards	A framework establishing an allowable time frame for matches to be scheduled during a given day must be followed.

STANDARDS

Club standards, game day standards, staffing standards, substitution standards and player development standards will be established by the directors of the participating clubs in collaboration with US Youth Soccer.

TEAM PATHWAYS

NATIONAL LEAGUE P.R.O.

- ▶ The top two teams in each Sunshine Conference Academy age group qualify for the next season of National League P.R.O.
- ▶ Playing within the National League Conferences is the only way to automatically qualify for National League P.R.O.
- ▶ National League P.R.O. (Player. Recruitment. Opportunity.) provides a platform for the top teams from across the country to compete in a league format with tickets to the USYS National Championships on the line.

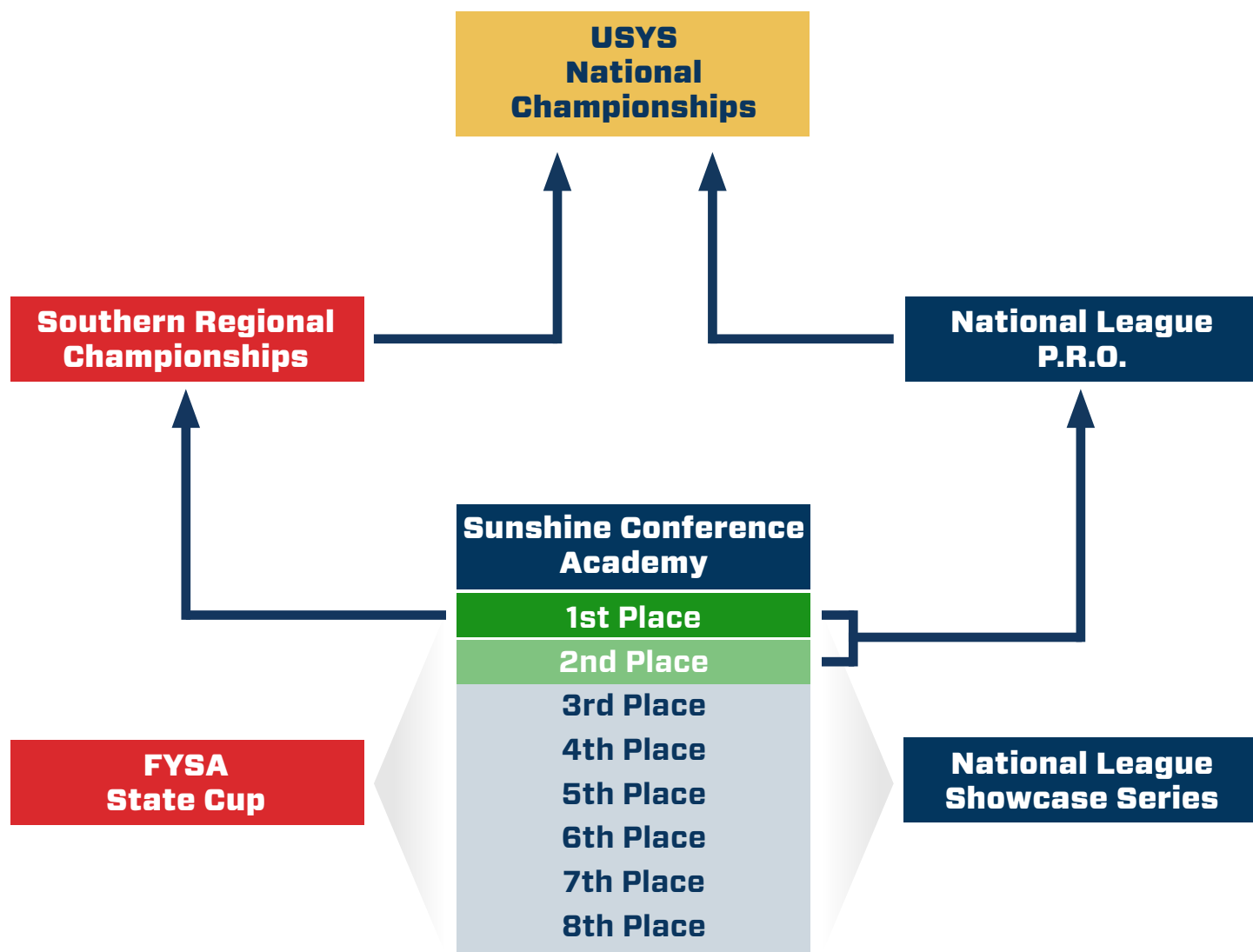
USYS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

- ▶ The first-place team in each Sunshine Conference Academy age group will advance to the USYS Southern Regional Championships
- ▶ Sunshine Conference Academy teams may have an opportunity to earn direct advancement to the USYS National Championships through National League P.R.O., should they qualify to compete in National League P.R.O.
- ▶ Teams must compete in the Florida Youth Soccer Association State Cup in order to remain eligible to compete at the USYS Southern Regional Championships and/or the USYS National Championships

NATIONAL LEAGUE SHOWCASE SERIES

- ▶ Sunshine Conference Academy teams will have access to the National League Showcase Series, which provides an additional national platform to compete in unique cross-conference matches.

TEAM PATHWAYS



- ▶ The first-place team advances to the USYS Southern Regional Championships
- ▶ The top two teams qualify for the next season of National League P.R.O.
- ▶ Teams must play in the FYSA State Cup to remain eligible to compete at the USYS Southern Regional Championships and/or the USYS National Championships

SHOWCASE SERIES PLAY DATES

Feb. 4-7, 2022

Premier Sports Complex (Lakewood Ranch, Fla.) or
Tournament SportsPlex of Tampa Bay (Tampa, Fla.)

March 18-21, 2022

Legacy Sports USA (Mesa, Ariz.)

*The above girls-specific Showcase Series events
take place alongside National League P.R.O. competition.*

**Information is subject to change*



ADMINISTRATIVE & LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

US YOUTH SOCCER PROVIDES...

- ▶ Governance process and procedure documents
- ▶ Club and Team registration/Insurance
- ▶ Coach and Player registration/Insurance
- ▶ Website and software for schedule and standings
- ▶ League Schedule - FYSA to complete with club input; Displayed on USYS website
- ▶ League Standings - Displayed on USYS website
- ▶ Marketing - USYS to market league as part of National League & Conferences

ON MATCH DAY...

- ▶ **Club-hosted matches** - Clubs to provide ALL logistical requirements* for their home games, including referees.
- ▶ **FYSA-hosted matches (central locations)** - FYSA to provide all logistical requirements* for matches, including referees.

* **Logistical requirements include:**

- a. Certified ATC or medical personnel
- b. Hydration
- c. Adequate seating in team bench areas
- d. Three (3) 10'x10' tents for shading

**WE ARE PLAYERS,
PARENTS AND
VOLUNTEERS.**

**WE ARE COACHES,
REFEREES, CLUBS
AND LEAGUES.**

**WE ARE 55 STATE
ASSOCIATIONS.**

**WE ARE
YOUTH SOCCER.**



**US
YOUTH
SOCCER**

