US YOUTH SOCCER
2022-23 MID SOUTH CONFERENCE OPERATING PROCEDURES
(as of September 6, 2023)

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the US Youth Soccer National League Conference Rules (10.06) these Mid South Conference Operating Procedures shall be an extension of the National League Conference Rules. When National League Conference Rules are referenced or summarized in these Operating Procedures, they are meant to mirror the National League Conference Rules in every respect. These Operating Procedures are specific to the US Youth Soccer Mid South Conference.

The Gulf Coast Division, as a designated 2nd tier competition within the Mid South Conference, shall abide by these Operating Procedures unless otherwise as noted.

SECTION 1. MID SOUTH CONFERENCE – TEAM APPLICATION

1.01 Team Eligibility
Any team applying for entry into the Mid South Conference must meet the eligibility requirements in accordance with the National League Conference Rules.

1.02 Registration System / Application Process
GotSport shall be the official team application/registration system of the Mid South Conference. Any eligible team must apply their team into the Conference using GotSport. No applications will be received or accepted in any other system.

Eligible teams must have a GotSport account in order to apply into the Mid South Conference. Team accounts must have accurate information regarding the coach and manager at the time of submission. In completing any application into the Mid South 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.

1.03 Application Deadlines
14U-19U Mid South Conference Application Deadline: June 16, 2023.
13U Mid South Conference Application Deadline: December 18, 2023.

1.04 Application Agreement
Any team applying to play in a Conference agrees to accept, abide by, and comply with all policies, rules, and decisions of the National League and further agrees to pay all fees that are due to the Conference for participation in the Conference by the applicable deadlines.

1.05 State Association Registration
To be eligible for participation in the Mid South Conference a team must be properly registered with their respective member State Association prior to acceptance into the Conference.

1.06 Fees and Other Expenses
The Team Entry Fee to participate in the Mid South Conference Premier I is $925 per team and is non-refundable if a team is accepted into the Conference and later drops out. The Team Fee does not include Referee Fees, which will be paid in accordance with Section 8 (Referees) of this document. The Team Entry Fee must be paid directly to USYS following acceptance into the Conference.

The Team Entry Fee to participate in the Mid South Premier II (formerly Gulf Coast) is $650 per team and is non-refundable if a team is accepted into the Conference and later drops out. The Team Fee does not include Referee Fees, which will be paid in accordance with Section 8 (Referees) of this document. The Team Entry Fee must be paid directly to USYS following acceptance into the Conference.

SECTION 2. MID SOUTH CONFERENCE – LEAGUE STRUCTURE AND QUALIFICATION

2.01 Structure
The 2022-23 US Youth Soccer Mid South Conference will include the following Boys and Girls age groups:
- 13 and Under (13U) – for players born on January 1, 2011 or later
- 14 and Under (14U) – for players born on January 1, 2010 or later
- 15 and Under (15U) – for players born on January 1, 2009 or later
- 16 and Under (16U) – for players born on January 1, 2008 or later
- 17 and Under (17U) – for players born on January 1, 2007 or later
- 18 and Under (18U) – for players born on January 1, 2006 or later
- 19 and Under (19U) – for players born on January 1, 2005 or later

Within the Mid South Conference there are two (2) tiers of competition: Premier I (tier 1), which includes up to 8 teams in each gender age group from the State Associations of Alabama (AL), Arkansas (AR), Louisiana (LA), Mississippi (MS), Tennessee (TN), and Florida-West (W-FL), and the Premier II (formerly Gulf Coast), which includes teams from TN, AL, MS and LA. Teams will play a single round-robin within each gender age group unless there are fewer than 5 teams, in which case will play a double round-robin.

2.02 Qualification for 2023-24
The Mid South Conference will qualify teams into Premier I for the 2024-25 Conference season using the following criteria. The Team Selection Committee shall have final determination of the number of teams in gender age group.4
- The two (2) highest finishing teams in each 13U-17U gender age group, according to the final standings of the 2023-24 Mid South Conference Premier I season shall automatically qualify for their rising gender age group in the 2024-25 Mid South Conference Premier I.
- The top finishing team in each 13U-17U gender age group of the 2023-24 Premier II Division will be strongly considered for an Open Slot position in their rising gender age group of the 2024-25 Mid South Conference Premier I.
- Remaining slots will be filled by Open Team Application, with review and acceptance by the Mid South Conference Team Selection Committee. The Team Selection Committee shall have the final determination of acceptance and volume of teams in the Conference.
- The 13U gender age group will be filled by Open Team Application, with review and acceptance by the Mid South Conference Team Selection Committee. The top team in the 13U Premier II fall division will be strongly considered for an Open Slot position for the spring 13U Premier I division. Team Selection Committee shall have the final determination of acceptance and volume of teams in the Conference.

In situations whereby a team does not apply for participation for a season where such team had previously qualified as a Premier I Division team, such slot may be filled at the discretion of the Conference Team Selection Committee.

2.03 Premier II (Gulf Coast) Division Qualification for 2024-25
The Mid South Conference League Manager, in consultation with the Club Director or Director of Coaching from member clubs, shall determine the number of teams in each gender age group. Clubs interested in competing in the Gulf Coast Division should contact the Conference League Manager.

SECTION 3. MID SOUTH CONFERENCE – TEAM ROSTERS

3.01 Team Rosters
The official Team Roster for the Mid South Conference shall be in GotSport. Teams are responsible for ensuring that their GotSport Mid South Team Roster (with regards to Primary Players) is identical to their Official State Association Roster. The GotSport roster must be accurate by 24 hours prior to a team's first match of the season. A team's State Association may impose an earlier deadline. Additions to the Team Roster, subject to the requirements of a team's State Association, must be updated in the GotSport roster no later than Friday at 12pm CT prior to a Mid South Conference weekend of play, or in the case of a weeknight match, no later than 24 hours prior to the weeknight match.

Mid South Conference teams may create a Club Pass Roster in GotSport, which is the pool of Club Pass players designated for use by a specific team.   Any club pass player must be added to the Club Pass Roster and Match Card no later than Friday at 12pm CT prior to a Mid South Conference weekend of play, or in the case of a weeknight match, no later than 24 hours prior to the weeknight match. Any club pass player, once added to a team's Club Pass Roster, cannot be removed until the completion of the Conference season.

3.02 Player Eligibility and Limitations
All players must be current US Youth Soccer members and have member passes that have been approved by their respective State Association.

A player in the Mid South Conference may only play for one (1) team in the Conference Division in which their primary team is participating. For example, if a club has two (2) teams in the Mid South Conference Premier I Division, primary and club pass players may only play on one (1) of those teams during the Conference season, not both.

A player may play for only one (1) Conference team during any single day. Once a player is on the roster of a team in a Conference Division and such team has played one (1) match in Conference competition, such player may not appear on another team's roster in such Conference Division during the remainder of the Conference season.

During the Conference season, a Goalkeeper may be listed on up to two (2) Conference team match day team lineups per day from the same club, with the written consent by the Conference League Manager. A Goalkeeper may not play on more than one team in the same gender age group of a Conference Division and is subject to the same standards as club pass players.

3.03 Team Match Day Line-Ups
Up to eighteen (18) players (inclusive of both primary players and club pass players) are eligible to play in each Conference match. Eligible players must be listed on the GotSport Match Card. The GotSport Match Card will be the used as the official Team Line-Up prior to each Conference match, and the official Match Report following each Conference match. The process, timing, and verification of the Team Line-Up and Match Card must be done in accordance with Section 9 (Match Day Procedures) of this document.

Players on the team roster who are not eligible/participating in a Conference match are allowed in the team bench area but must not be in uniform.

3.04 Playing of Ineligible Player
In accordance with National League Rules, a team that plays an ineligible player may be subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to: (a) forfeiture of the match; and (b) suspension of the team's coach from Conference competition. Additional disciplinary action could include (a) expulsion of the team from the Conference; and/or (b) any further action(s) as determined by the Conference League Manager.

Accusations from teams of an ineligible player must be extensively substantiated and is incumbent on the accuser to provide concrete evidence of ineligibility.

3.05 Player Information
The Mid South Conference may require participating teams to provide information on players for use in promoting the Conference and/or its teams and players. Upon request, teams are required to submit information regarding personal player history, competition history, roster history, and any other information that may help promote the league, player, or team.

SECTION 4. MID SOUTH CONFERENCE – SCHEDULING AND MATCH MANAGEMENT

4.01 Number of Matches
Each team will be scheduled to play a minimum of four (4) matches in a season. Most gender age groups in the Mid South Conference Premier I will play between five (5) – seven (7) matches in a single round-robin format. The final match count will be determined by the number of accepted teams in the Conference.

4.02 Conference Match Types
There are two (3) types of matches within the Mid South Conference.
   a) **Event Matches** are those Premier I matches scheduled and played in an event format. These matches primarily include teams from two different states. The scheduling of these matches will be done solely at the discretion of the League Manager.
   b) **Self-Schedule Matches** are those matches which are the responsibility of the teams, clubs, and/or state association to schedule/manage. Self-Schedule Matches typically include two teams from the same state, but in certain situations may include teams from different states. Each respective State Association will have oversight of matches that includes two teams from that state.
   c) **Premier II Division matches** are those matches that involve member clubs of the Gulf Coast Division of the Mid South Conference.

4.03 Location of Event Matches
The location of event matches will be determined by League Manager, in coordination with the respective hosting State Association.

4.04 Host/Travel/Hotels
For the purpose of Mid South Conference competition, Notification to Host/Travel Forms are not required. Notification to host/travel is granted when a team's respective State Association confirms the team's application into the Conference.

The Mid South Conference requires the use of Traveling Teams, Inc. (TTI) by teams who are participating in Conference Premier I Inter-state events. All pertinent hotel information and requirements can be found on the Mid South Conference website.

4.05 Event Match Schedules
The League Manager will have sole discretion in scheduling event matches. The intention of the Conference is to publish the schedule approximately one (1) month prior to the first event match weekend. The event match schedules will take into account the following situations:
   a) Head Coaches of multiple teams. Every attempt will be made to de-conflict coaches of two (2) teams within the Mid South Conference. Head coaches of three (3) or more teams cannot be guaranteed. The Head Coach of a team must be accurately listed in GotSport prior to the schedule being published in order to be considered for de-conflicting.
   b) ACT / SAT dates. Should a Conference date fall on a SAT or ACT test date, the older age groups will be scheduled as late in the day as possible (i.e. 2pm or later) so that, at a minimum, a player can take the test in the same area as the inter-state match and participate in their scheduled match.
   c) Distance of Travel. Every attempt will be made so that teams traveling a greater distance will play later on Saturday and earlier on Sunday.

4.06 Self-Schedule Match Schedules
The respective Teams and State Association shall coordinate and confirm most self-schedule matches. The State Association may or may not schedule self-schedule matches in an event format, but the self-schedule match details should be confirmed early in the season. For 2022-23, self-schedule matches may be played in the

fall or spring, but must be completed by June 1, 2023. Any self-schedule matches not played prior to the deadline will not be scored and will be considered as a "no contest".

Self-Schedule matches that are between teams from the same club must be played during the first half of each team's season or the match will be considered as a "no contest", subject to the final determination by the League Manager.

4.07 Premier II Division Match Schedules
The League Manager will have sole discretion in scheduling any Gulf Coast Division events. The League Manager will work with the Club Director or Director of Coaching with each member club to establish the dates and locations of any Gulf Coast Division events. Any matches not included in the Gulf Coast Division events shall be referred back to the clubs to self-schedule.

4.08 Match Schedule and Rest Periods
It is the intent of the league to play only one (1) match per day; however, when circumstances dictate, no more than two (2) matches a day may be scheduled.   Every effort will be made to provide for a minimum of three (3) hours rest between matches.

4.09 Inclement Weather and Unplayable Field Conditions Prior to Match
The Host Complex / Club is responsible for notifying the League Manager as soon as possible if matches on scheduled fields are unable to be played due to field closings or inclement weather. The League Manager, in consultation with the host complex, will make every effort to determine the status of inter-state matches by the Wednesday prior to the inter-state weekend of play (Saturday and Sunday). Rescheduling of inter-state matches is done in accordance with Conference Rescheduling Policy.

4.10 Rescheduling Policy
Once the Mid South Conference event and self-schedule match details are published the schedule will be considered official. Changes are permitted at the discretion of the League Manager due to transcription errors, inaccurate information provided to the Mid South Conference or other errors as determined by the League Manager. All other changes to the schedule shall be made in accordance with the below parameters. Any reschedule situation not included here-in will be determined at the sole discretion of the League Manager.
   (a) Should a team have a conflict with a National League P.R.O. event (national tier), their conflicting Mid South Conference match will be rescheduled by the League Manager.
   (b) Should the hosting complex change fields numbers or field availability prior to an event weekend, the League Manager will update the schedule as necessary. Every attempt will be made to have as little impact on the schedule as possible, however, some match start times may have to be updated.
   (c) Should an event match or matches be cancelled due to rain or inclement weather, it shall be rescheduled on a date/time/location as determined by the League Manager. Following a rain-out, the rescheduled match shall be published no later than ten (10) days after the originally scheduled match. The rescheduled match may be scheduled as the second match on a day when both teams are at the same Conference event. Once the reschedule is published, it shall be considered official.
   (d) In situations where multiple event matches are being played on an event weekend, and matches are postponed during the first day of competition (i.e. Saturday), the postponed match is to be scheduled for the following day (i.e. Sunday) if possible with such determination made solely by the League Manager. The League Manager may determine to shorten match lengths of any scheduled or rescheduled match in order to play as many postponed matches as possible.
   (e) Requests to reschedule an event match due to a team, player(s), or coach conflict will not be considered unless there are extraordinary circumstances as determined by the League Manager. Most reschedule requests due to travel, time preference, or player/coach availability will not be considered. In the rare case of granting a reschedule request, the requesting team will be invoiced for any non-refundable expenses related to the scheduling of the match at its original date, time and location.
   (f) Self-Schedule matches that are cancelled due to rain or inclement weather will be rescheduled with the approval of the teams' respective State Association.
   (g) Self-Schedule matches not scheduled by the Conference may be rescheduled should both teams agree to do so at least 10 days prior to the originally scheduled match, with the approval of both their State Association and League Manager. A rescheduled date/time/location must be agreed to prior to receiving approval by the League Manager.

(h) Gulf Coast Division event matches may not be rescheduled without the approval of the League Manager and the consent of both clubs involved in the match. Self-Schedule matches may be rescheduled with the approval of the teams/clubs.

4.11 Referee Jurisdiction
Once the referee has jurisdiction of a match, the match may be stopped, suspended, or terminated as provided in the "IFAB Laws of the Game."

4.12 Emergency Match Management Procedures
On an emergency basis, the League Manager reserves the right to impose emergency Match Management Procedures. These procedures shall be limited to those items that are necessary, in the sole opinion of the League Manager, in order for a match to be played. Such procedures could include, but are not limited to, the following.
   (a) Shortening match lengths or half time due to inclement weather, lack of light, or other extraordinary circumstances.
   (b) Moving a match to earlier or later in a day.
   (c) Establishing additional match day(s) due to excessive rain-outs.
   (d) Approving the use of less than a 3-man referee crew or approving use of a "club" linesman.
   (e) Approving an alternate method to validate eligible players.

SECTION 5. MID SOUTH CONFERENCE – STANDINGS

5.01 Earning Points in Matches
Points earned in the Mid South Conference will be in accordance with National League Conference Rules. The standings of teams within the Mid South Conference will be based upon the number of points earned from each match. Teams earn points as follows: 3 points for a win; 1 point for a tie; and no points for a loss.

5.02 Forfeits
A forfeited match will be scored as a 1-0 win for the opponent. A team forfeiting any match shall be dropped from the Mid South Conference at the discretion of the League Manager following a review of the incident resulting in any Forfeits. Should a team be dropped, all scores for that team in the seasonal year schedule shall be recorded as a 1-0 win for the opponent. In addition, a team that forfeits one of more matches may be subject to further sanctioning including but not limited to a fine, become ineligible to advance to Regionals, become ineligible to advance to the National Tier of the National League, or be suspended from the National League. The League Manager of the Mid South Conference, after consultation of the NL Management Group, shall determine any additional sanctioning.

SECTION 6. MID SOUTH CONFERENCE – NATIONAL/REGIONAL COMPETITIONS

6.01 Advancement to US Youth Soccer Southern Regional Championships
Teams in the Premier I tier of each 13U-19U gender age group in the Piedmont Conference will have the opportunity to qualify for the 2024 Southern Regional Championships that same seasonal year as the Piedmont Conference representative. To be eligible for advancement to the 2024 Southern Regional Championships, the qualified Piedmont Conference team must have participated in their state association's State Cup competition. Should a team qualify for the Southern Regional Championships through both the Piedmont Conference and State Cup competition, the team will advance to Southern Regional Championships as the Piedmont Conference representative.

6.02 Qualification into National League Conference Playoffs
Teams in the Premier I tier of each 13U-17U gender age group in the Piedmont Conference will have the opportunity to qualify for the National League Conference Playoffs (national tier) the next seasonal year in the team's rising gender age group. The National League Management Group will set a certain number of automatic conference qualifiers on an annual basis. Please click here to view the automatic qualifying spots for the National League Conference Playoffs. All automatic qualifying and open slots are subject to the approval of the National League Management Group.

7.01 Applicable Rules and Laws of the Game
Matches will be played under the applicable policies and rules of National League and US Youth Soccer. Teams are responsible for obtaining and abiding by the IFAB Laws of the Game as they govern play subject to the modifications noted the National League Rules.

7.02 Substitutions
Matches in the 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U and 19U age groups will operate under the FIFA-7 players "per half" substitution system (limited substitution). Once replaced, players cannot re-enter the game during that half of play. Substitutions may be made at any stoppage of play with the approval of the referee. If a player is removed from the match and no substitute enters the match for the player (team plays short), the original player may reenter the match. Reentry shall be at a normal substitution point (with approval of the referee) or at any point during the match if the referee signals for the player's reentry. Matches in the 13U and 14U age groups shall have unlimited substitutions.

Gulf Coast Division matches shall have unlimited substitutions.

During a match is that is part of a Conference event using neutral Health Care Professionals (HCP) or neutral Athletic Trainer Certified (ATC) to monitor the fields, if a player is suspected of suffering a head injury, such player may be substituted for evaluation. The substitution for the evaluation of a concussion/head injury will not count towards the team's total allowed substitutions in a half. However, the team must have at least one substitution available to implement this temporary substitution.

If the player is deemed by the neutral HCP or neutral ATC to not have been diagnosed as having a possible concussion, the player may re-enter the game at any stoppage of play and must replace the original substitute. This head injury evaluation substitution will not count as a used substitution in the half. Furthermore, the temporary substitute will be able to re-enter the game in that half at a later time. If the player is not cleared to return to play by the HCP or ATC, the replacement player will no longer be considered a temporary substitute and the team will be charged a substitution.

7.03 Match Length
Each Conference match length will be in accordance with National League Conference Rules. The League Manager will have discretion to shorten match lengths in cases of extraordinary circumstances.

7.04 Team Uniforms
Team Uniforms must be in accordance with National League Conference Rules. Every team in the Mid South Conference must have two (2) sets of jersey's and socks. The expectation is for the team listed first in the schedule to wear their lighter/white colored jersey and socks, while the team listed second in the schedule to wear their darker colored jersey and socks. If, in the opinion of the Referee, a team color conflict exists, the team listed second in the schedule should change.

Every player on the field must have a unique number (from the rest of the team) affixed on the back of their jersey, with the exception of goalkeepers. Goalkeeper jersey numbers are optional, but if a number is affixed, it must be a unique number (from the rest of the team). Taped numbers will not be allowed.

US Youth Soccer, National League, or other US Youth Soccer related logos/patches are allowed on uniforms, in addition to the team name, team sponsor, or shirt manufacturer. No other patches/logos are permitted without the written approval of the League Manager.

7.05 Mid South Conference Protocol for Send Offs and Dismissals
Protocols for send offs and dismissals shall be in accordance with National League Conference Rules. In the Mid South Conference, should a player be sent off from a Conference match, the designated area for the ejected player shall be the Team Bench Area and will remain there under the supervision of the player's Coach. If the sent off player cannot be controlled by the Coach, the Referee may require the removal of the player from the

entire field area. If such player is removed from the field area, the Coach must designate a parent or Team Official to supervise the player away from the field area.

7.06 Team Coaches
Coaches of teams within the Mid South Conference should have obtained a US Soccer National D License or the United Soccer Coaches equivalent (National Diploma) level of coaching education. All coaches and team officials in the Team Bench Area must have proper credentials issued by their State Association.

SECTION 8. MID SOUTH CONFERENCE – REFEREES

8.01 Three Person System
Matches shall be officiated in accordance with National League Rules. The League Manager may, in extreme circumstances, approve exceptions to the use of the three-person system.

8.02 Referee Assignor
The League Manager, in consultation with the hosting State Association/Club, will determine which referee assignor will assign each event hosted in their State Association boundaries. Referee assignors must be a certified US Soccer assignor. The referee assignor shall be paid according to US Youth Soccer Policy (via the Expensify App) unless the State Association or hosting club chooses to invoice US Youth Soccer for the assignor fees.

8.03 Mid South Premier I and Premier II Payment of Referees
Referee and Assistant Referees will be paid at the fields, prior to the start of each match. Each team involved in a Conference match will be responsible for paying half of the total cost for the Referee and Assistant Referees. The Referee and Assistant Referees will be made in accordance with the below totals and breakdown of denominations.

- 13U-16U: $150.00 (Center $70, AR1 $40, AR2 $40)
  - $75.00 per team. Breakdown of denomination: 3 x $20.00, 1 x $10.00, 1 x $5 – Per Team
- 17U-19U: $180.00 (Center $80, AR1 $50, AR2 $50)
  - $90.00 per team. Breakdown of denominations: 4 x $20.00, 1 x $10.00 – Per Team

8.04 Filing of Referee Match Report
Prior to each Conference match, each team shall present a GotSport "Match Card" to the Referee, which shall serve as the Official Team Line-Up prior to the game and the official Match Report following the completion of the game. The Referee shall select one of the Match Cards and use it to check-in the players from both teams. The selected Match Card will become the official Match Report.

Following the completion of each Conference Match, the Referee shall accurately report all scores and cards issued onto the selected Match Card (now the official Match Report). Once the scores and cards issued are written on the Match Report, it should be presented to both coaches for their signature. It is recommended that each team take a picture of the final Match Report for their own records. The Referee shall then submit the Match Report to the on-site Conference Official or referee assignor. In cases of "one off" games (typically self-schedule matches), the Referee shall submit the Match Report to his/her referee assignor, who will in turn submit to the League Manager.

If a player is sent off for Violent Conduct, Spitting, or Abusive Language, a US Soccer Supplemental Report must be filled out and submitted to the on-site Conference Official or referee assignor with the Match Report. Additionally, a US Soccer Supplemental Report must be filled out and submitted to the on-site Conference Official or referee assignor for situations involving Referee Abuse or Referee Assault. The on-site Conference Official or referee assignor shall submit all Match Reports and US Soccer Supplemental Reports to the League Manager.

9.01 Match Day Procedures
The Mid South Conference Match Day Procedures apply to all matches played in the Mid South Conference, including the Gulf Coast Division, unless otherwise instructed by the League Manager.

9.02 Team Line-Up
The GotSport generated Match Card shall be the official Team Line-Up for the Mid South Conference. The Match Card for each Conference match should be printed no earlier than 24 hours prior to the scheduled start of that match. This timing will ensure the most accurate information for each Team Line-Up. The eighteen (18) eligible players (inclusive of both primary and club pass players) should be listed on the Match Card no later than Friday at 12pm CT prior to a Mid South Conference weekend of play, or in the case of a weeknight match, no later than 24 hours prior to the weeknight match.

9.03 Team Line-Up - Players
The Match Card must include the eighteen (18) eligible players (inclusive of both primary and club pass players) a team will use in a Mid South Conference match. Should more than eighteen (18) players appear on the card, the Coach or Team Official must manually strike through the players that will not participate (prior to check-in by the referee) for a maximum of eighteen (18) eligible players.

9.04 Club Pass Roster
Any Club Pass Players must be listed on the Club Pass Roster (i.e. pool of club pass players) and Match Day Line-Up Card to be eligible to participate. A Primary or Club Pass Player may only appear on one (1) Mid South Conference Primary Roster/Club Pass Roster in a gender age group during the Conference season. The maximum Club Pass Roster for a Mid South Conference team is 30 minus the number or primary rostered players (i.e. a team with 18 rostered players has a Club Pass Roster maximum of 12).

9.05 Team/Player Check-In
Prior to the start of a Conference match, each team shall present the referee with the copy of the Match Card and their properly prepared US Youth Soccer Player Passes.

The Referee shall select one of the Match Cards and check-in each team's players using both the Match Card and the US Youth Soccer Player Passes. Only a maximum of eighteen (18) players may be checked in for a Conference match. Any player not present at the time of check-in may not enter the field of play until the Referee can properly check-in the player. The League Manager may designate an on-site Conference Official to perform any required check-in.

9.06 Team Bench / Spectator Areas
The teams will occupy the same side of the field, unless otherwise instructed by the League Manager. Teams are to remain on their half of the field between the halfway line and eighteen yards from their goal line. Spectators are to only occupy the opposite side of the field from the teams on the same end of the field as their team bench area, unless otherwise instructed by the League Manager. Coaches/Managers are required to maintain control of their players and their team's fans on the sideline.

9.07 Post-Match Protocol
Following the conclusion of the game, the Referee shall fill out the official Match Report, which is the selected Match Card used for player check-in. The Coach or Team Official from each team is required to sign the completed Match Report prior to leaving the field area. Each team must take a picture of the Match Report for their records.

The signed Match Report will be kept by the Referee and submitted to the Referee Assignor or Conference official. In some cases, primarily involving self-schedule matches, the League Manager may adjust how the Match Report is submitted to the Conference.

9.08 Reporting of Scores and Red Cards (GotSport)
Both teams are responsible for promptly and accurately reporting the score of their match in GotSport, in addition to reporting any red cards issued. Teams must take a picture of the completed Match Report so they can upload it into GotSport immediately following the match. The reporting of a particular match score and any red cards issued needs to be done within one (1) hour of the completed match.

(a) *Information needed to report a match result in GotSport:* The Team Official must have their GotSport Account login information and their GotSport Account must be affiliated with the team they are reporting the score for.

(b) *To report a match result in GotSport:* Log into your GotSport Account, navigate to the "Team Management" menu and select "Matches" on the left. You can then filter for the correct match as needed. Select the *** icon to the right of the match and choose the "Match Stats" option. Enter the Score and any red cards issued in the resulting pop-up. Click Save. For a complete Walkthrough Guide with visuals [Click Here](#).

9.09 Submission of Best XI Premier I Nominations (GotSport)
Both teams who compete in a Premier I Conference match are responsible for promptly submitting their Best XI nomination from that match in GotSport. During the submission of a nomination, PLEASE NOTE that teams vote for players on the OPPOSING TEAM. Teams need to take a picture of the completed Match Report for their records and to assist the Team Official with accurate player information. The nomination submission for Best XI should be done within one (1) hour of the completed match. Best XI nominations are submitted in GotSport at the same time a score is recorded. See 9.08 for an overview of score reporting. [Click Here](#) for a complete Walkthrough Guide regarding Best XI submissions.

9.10 Protests
Protests must be made in accordance with US Youth Soccer National League Conference Rules, Section 20. To be valid and eligible for consideration, a protest must be noted on the Match Report and orally lodged by a team official with the match referee and the opposing coach at the match site before leaving the field of play. All protests must be submitted in writing and filed by the Director of the Club or the Director of Coaching of the Club that the team is a member with the appropriate fee to the Conference League Manager. The protest must be postmarked no later than three (3) business days after match completion in accordance with the Filing Procedures listed in National League Rule 20.06. The referee is the final authority on the field of play. All decisions of the referees with respect to matters of fact, including judgment matters, are final.

9.11 Final Authority
The League Manager shall have final authority to act in the best interest of the Mid South Conference, which may include but not limited to adjusting Match Day Procedures for specific matches or making decisions to address situations not covered in the Mid South Conference Operating Procedures.