



2023-24 SEASONAL YEAR MID SOUTH CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

WHAT IS THE US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE?

The primary National League competition takes place at the multi-state level within the network of thirteen (13) regionally aligned conferences across the country. The national platform that ties together the Conferences is the [National League Conference Playoffs](#) which qualifies the top teams from each National League Conference to compete for slots into National League P.R.O. Teams who qualify for [National League P.R.O.](#) will have the opportunity to advance to the US Youth Soccer National Championships. For more information on the National League Conference Playoffs and National League P.R.O, [please click here](#).

The **Mid South Conference** is one of 13 conferences that fall under the scope of the National League and operate at a multi-state level — providing high-level competition on a consistent basis at a targeted local level (Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, and the parts of the Florida panhandle).

The **Mid South Conference's** top divisions (both team-based and club-based) offer its teams an opportunity to qualify for the 2024 US Youth Soccer Southern Regional Championships, which are held annually each summer. All teams within the **Mid South Conference** also have the opportunity to qualify into the National League Conference Playoffs for the next seasonal year and compete in a national setting with increased exposure to college, professional and national team scouts.

NATIONAL LEAGUE PATHWAY



COMMITMENT

Any team looking to participate in the Mid South Conference must understand the level of commitment it takes to participate in a league that stretches across six (6) 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 Mid South 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 2023-24 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

18U BOYS DIVISION - TRANSITIONAL YEAR

For the 2023-24 seasonal year, all National League Conferences will be transitioning to a combined 18U/19U age group division. The Mid South Conference has been granted an exception for the 2023-24 seasonal year to have a separate 18U boys division and a separate 19U boys division. The Conference does maintain the right to combine the divisions if needed. The Mid South will be combining the 18U and 19U boys age groups for the 2024-25 seasonal year.

ENTRY FEE

Premier I

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 the Conference Operating Procedures. ***PLEASE NOTE that the Team Entry Fee must be paid to USYS at the time of registration into the Conference and must be paid by CREDIT CARD.*** The total fee, which includes the Entry Fee and Transaction Fee will be \$955.22. There will be an additional \$25 GotSport software fee on top of the Team Entry Fee.

Mid South Conference Premier I teams will pay USYS directly during the registration process and will NOT submit their Conference fees to their State Association.

Premier II (Gulf Coast)

The Team Entry Fee to participate in the Mid South Conference Premier II is \$600 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 the Conference Operating Procedures. ***PLEASE NOTE that the Team Entry Fee must be paid to USYS at the time of registration into the Conference and must be paid by CREDIT CARD.*** The total fee, which includes the Entry Fee and Transaction Fee will be \$619.65. There will be an additional \$25 GotSport software fee on top of the Team Entry Fee.

Mid South Conference Premier II teams will pay USYS directly during the registration process and will NOT submit their Conference fees to their State Association.

APPLICATION / REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

In completing any Open Slot application into the Mid South Conference teams are required to submit accurate information to the questions provided. Misrepresentation of team accomplishments may result in the team being disqualified from conference participation.

Application/Registration Deadline for 13U-19U teams: Thursday, June 15, 2023

Application/Registration Deadline for 13U PI teams: Thursday, December 7, 2023

GotSport REGISTRATION: https://system.gotsport.com/event_regs/e6e62f74dc

*This registration will not only serve as the official registration into Premier I and Premier II, but also the Open Slot Application for teams not pre-qualified into the Mid South Premier I.

Please note that since GotSport is newer platform, a team official will need to first create a profile. A walkthrough guide to registering your team for the Mid South Conference can be found on the Mid South Conference website.

GOTSPORT

The Conference uses the GotSport platform to manage the league. All teams will be required to list a contact from their club (in most cases this will be the club administrator) when they register for the conference. That contact will be the point person that the teams within the club will go to first if there are any issues or questions about the GotSport platform. It is important to check with your club before listing the contact on the registration form to be sure the same contact will be listed by every team within your club that is competing in the conference. Team Registration and Roster Building Walkthroughs will be available on the Conference webpage and they will be updated throughout the season should any changes happen with those processes. Teams are encouraged to frequently check the team information tab on the conference webpage to see if any updates have been made to these documents.

SELECTION AND PLACEMENT

There is a two-step approval process for accepting teams into the Mid South Conference. First, each team must be confirmed by its respective State Association as properly registered. Second, the Mid South Conference shall review and determine the final selection of all teams. Accepted teams shall be notified via a website posting or an e-mail regarding their acceptance and placement into the Mid South Conference.

Teams in the Boys Premier I and Girls Premier I tier will be accepted based on their qualification from the previous seasonal year. Any Open Slots in Boys Premier I or Girls Premier I will be filled by the Conference. The final selection of teams should be completed by late June.

THE 2023-24 SEASON

The first event date of the 2023-24 season for the Mid South Conference Premier I will be September 9/10, 2023. All games for the Mid South Conference must be completed by June 1, 2024.

13U PREMIER II - FALL

The Mid South Conference will operate a 13U Premier II (PII) division in the fall season. The top team in this 13U PII division will earn an automatic qualification to the 13U Premier I (PI) division in the spring season. All other 13U teams will need to complete an open application for the spring 13U Premier I season.

COMPETITION FORMAT

The Mid South Conference follows a round robin competition in an event-based format. The anticipated tier size, match count, and season of play for each gender age group and tier is summarized below.

Gender	Age	Tier	Season	Tier Size	Game Count
Boys	13U	Premier I	Spring 2024	8-10	7-9
Boys	13U	Premier II (Gulf Coast)	Fall 2023	6-8	5-7
Boys	14U	Premier I	Fall 2023	8	7
Boys	14U	Premier II (Gulf Coast)	Fall 2023	6-8	5-7
Boys	15U	Premier I	Fall 2023	8	7
Boys	15U	Premier II (Gulf Coast)	Fall 2023	6-8	5-7
Boys	16U	Premier I	Fall 2023	8	7
Boys	16U	Premier II (Gulf Coast)	Fall 2023	6-8	5-7
Boys	17U	Premier I	Fall 2023	8	7
Boys	17U	Premier II (Gulf Coast)	Fall 2023	6-8	5-7
Boys	18U	Premier I	Fall 2023	8	7
Boys	19U	Premier I	Fall 2023	8	7
Boys	18/19U	Premier II (Gulf Coast)	Fall 2023	6-8	5-7
Girls	13U	Premier I	Spring 2024	8-10	7-9
Girls	13U	Premier II (Gulf Coast)	Fall 2023	6-8	5-7
Girls	14U	Premier I	Fall 2023	8	7
Girls	14U	Premier II (Gulf Coast)	Fall 2023	6-8	5-7
Girls	15U	Premier I	Fall 2023 / Spring 2024	8	7
Girls	15U	Premier II (Gulf Coast)	Fall 2023	6-8	5-7
Girls	16U	Premier I	Fall 2023 / Spring 2024	8	7
Girls	16U	Premier II (Gulf Coast)	Fall 2023	6-8	5-7
Girls	17U	Premier I	Fall 2023 / Spring 2024	8	7
Girls	17U	Premier II (Gulf Coast)	Fall 2023	6-8	5-7
Girls	18U	Premier I	Fall 2023 / Spring 2024	8	7
Girls	19U	Premier I	Fall 2023 / Spring 2024	8	7
Girls	18/19U	Premier II (Gulf Coast)	Fall 2023	6-8	5-7

CONFERENCE EVENT DATES

The anticipated event dates of play for the 2023-24 season are posted below. Teams must be prepared to compete in each event, however, based on the final slate of teams, attending all events may not be necessary.

13U-19U Boys/Girls Premier I Hosting Dates (2023-24)

September 9 – 10: Huntsville, AL (Merrimack Park Turf Complex)

September 23 – 24: Gulfport, MS (Gulfport Sportsplex)

Sept. 30 - Oct 1.: RAIN DATE

October 7 – 8: Central Mississippi (Flowood) & Memphis, TN (Mike Rose Soccer Complex)

October 14 – 15: RAIN DATE

October 21 – 22: RAIN DATE

March 2 - 3 Gulfport, MS (13U Boys/Girls & 15U-19U TN/MS/LA Girls)

March 16 – 17: RAIN DATE

March 23 – 24: Huntsville, AL (13U Boys/Girls & 15U-19U TN/MS/LA Girls)

April 6 – 7: Murfreesboro, TN and TBD MS Location (13U Boys/Girls & 15U-19U TN/MS/LA Girls)

April 20 – 21: RAIN DATE

April 27 – 28: RAIN DATE

13U-19U Boys/Girls Premier II Hosting Dates (Fall 2023)

September 16 – 17: Gulfport, MS (County Farms Soccer Complex)

Sept 30 – Oct 1: RAIN DATE

October 7 – 8: Jackson, MS (JFC Soccer Complex)

October 21 – 22: RAIN DATE

GENERAL SCHEDULING INFORMATION

Conference schedules will be developed by the League Manager, who will have sole discretion of match schedules. The anticipated release of schedules will be in Mid-Late July for the 14U-19U Premier I age groups, and late-December for the 13U Premier I age group. All Premier II schedules will be published in late July.

A coach of multiple teams within the Mid South Conference will be given scheduling considerations so he/she can be present for their team's games, however coach conflict resolution IS NOT guaranteed. Clubs are strongly encouraged to have a 2nd coach that can step in should a conflict exist. Any reschedules will be done in accordance with the Conference Operating Procedures. Schedule requests for individual teams will NOT be considered.

Teams participating in the Mid South Conference must be available to play on the published Conference dates, which includes rain dates. By registering for the Conference, your team is committing to play on the published dates for the conference.

REFEREES

Mid South Conference games will use a 3-man referee system. The amount and form of payment to referees in the Mid South Conference will be in accordance with the Conference Operating Procedures. Payment amounts for both Premier I and Premier II are summarized below:

13U-16U: \$150.00 (Center \$70, AR1 \$40, AR2 \$40). \$75.00 per team.

17U-19U: \$180.00 (Center \$80, AR1 \$50, AR2 \$50). \$90.00 per team.

TEAM ROSTERS

Teams may utilize 30 players during the course of a season in accordance with National League Rules. 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 Mid South Conference website:

<https://www.usynationalleague.com/mid-south-conference/>

COACHING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

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.

PERMISSION TO TRAVEL

Teams are not required to complete Permission to Travel permits/forms for matches played outside of their State Association as permission is automatically granted by State Association approval of the team for Mid South Conference play.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS *Hotel Partner for 2023-24*****

The Mid South Conference has partnered with Traveling Teams, Inc (TTI) for the 2023-24 seasonal year to provide hotel accommodation support for teams at Mid South Conference Premier I scheduled events. Through this partnership, Premier I teams can reserve and manage their hotel needs for these events. Additionally, this partnership protects teams when it comes to hotel refunds should a Mid South Conference event be postponed or cancelled (due to weather or other). Use of Traveling Teams is ***required*** for all teams participating in Mid South Conference Premier I events who need hotel accommodations. A hotel list will be published **HERE** once Traveling Teams confirms hotels.

QUALIFICATION TO NATIONAL LEAGUE CONFERENCE PLAYOFFS

The top teams in the Premier I tier of each 13U-17U gender age group in the Mid South Conference will qualify for the 2024-25 [National League Conference Playoffs competition](#). National League Conference Playoff qualification spots can be found [here](#). To retain their eligibility for National League Conference Playoffs, the team must also participate in the Mid South Conference the same seasonal year as their participation in National League Conference Playoffs.

QUALIFICATION TO SOUTHERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The top team in the Premier I tier of each 13U-19U gender age group in the Mid South Conference will qualify for the 2024 Southern Regional Championships that same seasonal year as the Mid South Conference representative. To be eligible for advancement to the 2024 Southern Regional Championships, the qualified Mid South Conference team must have participated in their state association's State Cup competition.

QUALIFICATION INTO 2024-25 MID SOUTH CONFERENCE

The top 2 teams in the Premier I tier of each 13U-17U gender age group and top team in the 18U gender age group in the Mid South Conference will automatically qualify to return to the Mid South Conference for the following seasonal year. The top team in the Premier II (Gulf Coast) tier of each 13U-17U gender age group in the Mid South Conference will automatically qualify into the Premier I tier for the following seasonal year. In situations where Premier II gender age groups are combined, the League Manager will determine automatic qualification into Premier I on a case-by-case basis.

STAY CONNECTED!

Clubs, Coaches, Parents, and Players are encouraged to stay connected with National League on social media!



facebook.com/nationalleaguesoccer



twitter.com/nationalleague



instagram.com/nationalleaguesoccer



youtube.com/user/usyouth

If teams have any social media related questions concerning the Mid South Conference, please contact the League Manager. USYS/National League staff may reach out to team contacts throughout the seasonal year for team information, pictures, goal scorers, etc. to promote the conference competition on the National League's social media platforms.

COMMUNICATION FROM/WITH THE CONFERENCE

E-mail is the primary means of communication within the Mid South Conference. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that accurate contact information is on file with the conference. The Mid South Conference compiles team contact information based on each team's application into the conference.

CONTACT

For more information on the Mid South Conference please contact:

Matt Dellaria, National League Manager, mdellaria@usyouthsoccer.org

Subject to change—as of April 28, 2023