



2020-21 SEASON TEAM INFORMATION

WHAT IS THE US YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUES PROGRAM?

The US Youth Soccer Leagues program features a network of 13 conferences (formerly known as US Youth Soccer Regional Leagues) across the country. The competitions provide teams with the highest possible level of competition at the national and multi-state levels. The **Sunshine Conference** is one of 13 conferences that fall under the scope of the Leagues Program and operate at a multi-state level — providing high-level competition on a consistent basis at a targeted local level (Florida).

Beginning with the 2020-21 seasonal year, all Sunshine Conference teams will have access to the new National League Showcase Series. The National League Showcase Series provides more opportunities for Sunshine Conference teams to compete within a national platform against other similarly performing teams from other Conferences. These Showcases are designed to maximize identification opportunities for Sunshine Conference players and to create efficient recruiting opportunities for the scouting community. More information about the National League Showcase Series can be found in FAQ document and additional information will be forthcoming on the usyouthsoccer.org website.

US YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUES PATHWAY



COMMITMENT

Any team looking to participate in the Sunshine Conference must understand the level of commitment it takes to participate in a League that stretches across a large geographic area. All teams understand they 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 Sunshine 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 2020-21 Sunshine Conference will include the following Boys and Girls age groups:

- 13 and Under (13U) – for players born on January 1, 2008 or later
- 14 and Under (14U) – for players born on January 1, 2007 or later
- 15 and Under (15U) – for players born on January 1, 2006 or later
- 16 and Under (16U) – for players born on January 1, 2005 or later
- 17 and Under (17U) – for players born on January 1, 2004 or later
- 18 and Under (18U) – for players born on January 1, 2003 or later
- 19 and Under (19U) – for players born on January 1, 2002 or later

ENTRY FEE

The Team Entry Fee to participate in the Sunshine Conference is \$750 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. Following the acceptance of teams into the Conference, each Club will be sent an invoice from US Youth Soccer.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

In completing any application into the Sunshine 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.

Application Deadline for 13U-19U teams:

Application Link (for teams applying for an Open Slot): [APPLY HERE](#)

SELECTION AND PLACEMENT

There is a two-step approval process for the Sunshine Conference. First, each team must be confirmed by its respective State Association as properly registered. Second, the Sunshine 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 Sunshine Conference.

THE 2020-21 SEASON

The start date of the 2020-21 season for the Sunshine Conference will be August 1, 2020. All games for the Sunshine Conference must be completed by June 1, 2021.

COMPETITION FORMAT

The Sunshine Conference follows a round robin competition format. The anticipated tier size, match count, and season of play for each gender age group and tier are listed in the below chart.

SUNSHINE CONFERENCE 2020-21 GENERAL TEAM INFORMATION – PAGE 3

Gender	Age	Season	Tier Size	Game Count
Boys	13U	Fall 2020	8	7
Boys	14U	Fall 2020	8	7
Boys	15U	Fall 2020	8	7
Boys	16U	Fall 2020	8	7
Boys	17U	Fall 2020	8	7
Boys	18U	Fall 2020	8	7
Boys	19U	Fall 2020	8	7
Boys	19U	Fall 2020	8	7
Girls	13U	Fall 2020	8	7
Girls	14U	Fall 2020	8	7
Girls	15U	Fall 2020	8	7
Girls	16U	Fall 2020	8	7
Girls	17U	Fall 2020	8	7
Girls	18U	Fall 2020	8	7
Girls	19U	Fall 2020	8	7

LOCATION OF GAMES--HOSTING

The Sunshine Conference will include both an event format and self-schedule element (if applicable based on the final make-up of teams). The event dates for the 2020-21 season are posted below. Finalized locations/complexes will be posted here by July 1, 2020. Self-schedule matches may be scheduled anytime (with agreement by both teams/clubs) following acceptance into the Conference.

13U-19U Boys/Girls Premier I Event Dates

August Event: August 22 – 23

October Event: October 3 – 4

Rain Date: November 7 – 8

February 20 – 21, 2021:

**Additional rain dates in Spring 2020 may be added as needed at the discretion of the League Manager.

GENERAL SCHEDULING INFORMATION

Conference schedules will be developed by the League Manager, who will have sole discretion of match schedules. The anticipated release of the event schedules will be in August 2020.

The event weekends will include one match per day (Sat/Sun) for a total of 6 matches. The 7th remaining match for each team will be identified as “self-schedule”. Additional self-schedule matches may be identified by the League Manager. These self-schedule matches will be coordinated by the teams/clubs on any date from acceptance into the Conference until April 1, 2020, with exception to the event weekends. Both teams/clubs involved in a self-schedule match must be in agreement regarding the final match details.

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

Teams participating in the Sunshine Conference must be available to play on the published conference event dates, which includes rain dates. By submitting your team application, your team is committing to play on the published event dates for the conference.

REFEREES

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

13U-14U: \$120.00 (Center \$60, AR1 \$30, AR2 \$30). \$60.00 per team.

15U-16U: \$140.00 (Center \$70, AR1 \$35, AR2 \$35). \$70.00 per team.

17U-19U: \$160.00 (Center \$80, AR1 \$40, AR2 \$40). \$80.00 per team.

TEAM ROSTERS

Teams may utilize 30 players during the course of a season in accordance with League Rules and Policies. 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 Sunshine Conference website:

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/sunshine-conference/>

COACHING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Coaches of teams within the Sunshine Conference must have the minimum coaching education levels of a US Soccer National D License or the United Soccer Coaches National Diploma.

PERMISSION TO TRAVEL

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

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

The Sunshine Conference has partnered with Traveling Teams, Inc. to provide support when it comes to hotel accommodations for your team during all Sunshine Conference play. Through this partnership for the 2020-21 season, teams can more easily reserve, manage, and ensure the best rate for all their hotel needs during the season. Use of Traveling Teams is required for all teams participating in Sunshine Conference events.

ADVANCEMENT TO REGIONALS

The top team in the Premier I tier of each 13U-19U gender age group in the Sunshine Conference will qualify for 2020 Southern Regional Championships that same seasonal year as the Sunshine Conference representative. To be eligible for advancement to the 2020 Southern Regional Championships, the qualified Sunshine Conference team must have participated in their state association's State Cup competition.

COMMUNICATION FROM/WITH THE CONFERENCE

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

CONTACT

For more information on the Sunshine Conference please contact the League Manager, Luis Torres at Sunshine@FYSA.com.

Subject to change—as of May 12, 2020