

MANDATORY PROMOTION AND RELEGATION POLICY EFFECTIVE 2020-2021

(Applies January 1, 2020 based on prior results)

CONTINUITY OF ROSTER IS REQUIRED UNDER NCS RULES FOR 13U THROUGH 19U FROM START OF SEASON THROUGH STATE CUP AND REGIONAL PLAY FOR PRESIDENT'S CUP, SOUTHERN REGIONALS AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP. CONTINUITY OF ROSTER IS REQUIRED BETWEEN SEASONAL YEARS FOR NL-PC . SLOTS WILL BELONG TO THE CLUB.

In the event there is a conflict of rules under SC Youth Soccer, the Promotion/Relegation rules will be controlling.

PROMOTION TO US Youth Soccer National League - Piedmont Conference

13U Age Group- TEAMS ARE PROMOTED FROM THE PREVIOUS FALL CHALLENGE LEAGUE (SCSCL) BY ORDER OF FINISH TO PARTICIPATE IN NL-PIEDMONT CONFERENCE PLAY DURING SPRING SEASON. 2020 SPRING SEASON HAS FOUR SLOTS. SLOT NUMBERS MAY CHANGE ANNUALLY.

14U-19U Age Groups

PREMIER DIVISION- SC YOUTH SOCCER TEAMS QUALIFY FOR THE NL – PIEDMONT PREMIER DIVISION (IF ONLY ONE DIVISION) BASED ON THEIR RESULTS IN THE PREVIOUS SEASON OF THE NL-PIEDMONT CONFERENCE. THE NATIONAL LEAGUE RULES MAY DETERMINE WHICH TEAMS ARE GIVEN THESE POSITIONS.

FIRST DIVISION (if applicable)-SC YOUTH SOCCER IS GIVEN TWO SPOTS IN THE FIRST DIVISION EACH SEASON. CLUBS WILL BE AWARDED THESE SPOTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER IF THEY HAVE NOT ALREADY RECEIVED A SPOT IN THE PREMIER (SINGLE) DIVISION:

SC YOUTH SOCCER WILL DETERMINE AS FOLLOWS

- 1) STATE CUP CHAMPION
- 2) STATE CUP FINALIST
- 3) SCSCL CHAMPION
- 4) STATE CUP 3RD PLACE
- 5) SCSCL 2ND Place
- 6) STATE CUP 4TH PLACE
- 7) TEAMS RELEGATED FROM FIRST DIVISION BY STANDINGS
- 8) SCSCL TEAMS BY ORDER OF STANDING

SC YOUTH SOCCER reserves the right to limit the total number of NL Piedmont Conference spots available to the membership based on the quality of teams that may advance in any given age group.

FALL NATIONAL LEAGUE- 13U-NOT APPLICABLE AT THIS TIME (SPRING SEASON ONLY) LEAGUE STANDINGS FROM FALL 13U SCACL SEASON WILL DETERMINE NATIONAL LEAGUE –PIEDMONT CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES. TEAMS FINISHING FIRST THROUGH FOURTH (1-4) WILL BE DECLARED REPRESENTATIVES IN THE ORDER THOSE TEAMS ENDED FALL SEASON i.e. 1st PLACE WILL BE FIRST CHOICE, 2D PLACE WILL BE SECOND CHOICE, ETC. NCS DOES REQUIRE CONTINUITY OF ROSTER FOR QUALIFYING TEAMS WITHIN THE SAME SEASONAL YEAR. ALL SC YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE AND PIEDMONT CONFERENCE TEAMS MUST PLAY AT AGE LEVEL DURING THE SEASONAL YEAR.

Clubs must get approval from SC Youth Soccer Registrar before finalizing any changes to their roster when entering spring National League play. This is to ensure compliance and qualifications for those teams for both seasonal and post season play.

PIEDMONT CONFERENCE–14U (FALL SEASON) REPRESENTATIVES ARE DETERMINED BY NATIONAL LEAGUE PIEDMONT STANDINGS AND/OR STATE CUP AND SCACL STANDINGS PREVIOUS YEAR (SEE PROMOTION ABOVE). ALL SC YOUTH SOCCER TEAMS MUST PLAY AT AGE LEVEL DURING THE SEASONAL YEAR TO QUALIFY.

PIEDMONT CONFERENCE-14U (SPRING SEASON IF APPLICABLE) REPRESENTATIVES ARE DETERMINED BY THE PIEDMONT CONFERENCE STANDINGS IN PRIOR FALL SEASON. IF THERE IS NO FALL SEASON THEN REFER BACK TO SPRING OF 13U FOR QUALIFICATION.

PIEDMONT CONFERENCE- 15-19U (FALL SEASON) REPRESENTATIVES ARE DETERMINED BY NATIONAL LEAGUE PIEDMONT STANDING AND/OR STATE CUP AND SCACL STANDINGS (SEE ABOVE).

IN THE EVENT THAT ANY CLUB DECLINES ACCEPTANCE INTO NL-PIEDMONT CONFERENCE THEN SC YOUTH SOCCER WILL APPLY THE ORDER OF ACCEPTANCE AS LISTED ABOVE AND IF NECESSARY WILL SEEK OUT APPLICATIONS FROM OTHER CLUBS FOR A REPLACEMENT TEAM. IT IS THE POSITION OF SC YOUTH SOCCER THAT CLUBS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO FIELD TEAMS FOR NL-PIEDMONT CONFERENCE IF QUALIFIED. SC YOUTH SOCCER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE WILD CARD SLOTS IF IN THE OPINION OF THE STATE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR AND/OR LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR, THERE ARE NO COMPETITIVE TEAMS TO FILL THOSE WILDCARD SLOTS.

RELEGATION-PIEDMONT CONFERENCE

TEAMS THAT DO NOT EARN A SPOT IN NL PIEDMONT CONFERENCE WILL BE RELEGATED TO THE SCACL.

PROMOTION-SCACL- EACH SCACL DIVISION LIMITED TO MAXIMUM 11 TEAMS (10 MATCHES OR LESS) EXCEPT 13U.

SCACL-13U (FALL SEASON) THE JIM HUDSON AUTOMOTIVE GROUP 9V9 STATEWIDE 12U LEAGUE STANDINGS (PREVIOUS SEASONAL YEAR) WILL BE THE PRIMARY FACTOR IN DETERMINING ACCEPTANCE INTO THE SCACL FOR THE FALL SEASON. ANY TEAM NOT FROM THE JIM HUDSON LEAGUE MUST APPLY TO PARTICIPATE. NO MORE THAN ELEVEN TEAMS WILL BE ACCEPTED IN ONE DIVISION. SC YOUTH SOCCER RESERVES THE RIGHT **TO ADMINISTER MORE THAN ONE DIVISION** IF THE NUMBER OF TEAMS APPLYING IS SUFFICIENT. IF THERE ARE MORE THAN ONE DIVISION THEN PARTICIPATING TEAMS WILL BE SELECTED IN A BLIND DRAW BY SC YOUTH FOR STATEWIDE LEAGUE OPPONENTS PRIOR TO SCHEDULING.

SCACL-13U (SPRING SEASON) THE PROMOTION AND RELEGATION IS BASED ON LEAGUE FINISH FROM FALL SEASON. AUTOMATIC BIDS FOR SPRING 13U SCACL AND PIEDMONT CONFERENCE WILL BE

DETERMINED BY STANDINGS FROM THE FALL SEASON. TEAMS WILL BE SELECTED FOR THE NL PIEDMONT FIRST THEN REMAINING TEAMS WILL BE SELECTED FROM FALL SCSCCL/PMSL. PMSL 13U FALL FIRST AND SECOND PLACE WILL BE PROMOTED FOR SPRING SCSCCL PLAY. IF TWO DIVISIONS IN PMSL 13U THEN THE FIRST PLACE IN EACH DIVISION WILL BE PROMOTED. SC YOUTH SOCCER WILL ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR POSSIBLY TWO ADDITIONAL TEAMS. APPLICATIONS MAY COME FROM TEAMS THAT PARTICIPATED IN A SC YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE OR MEMBER LEAGUE DURING PRIOR FALL SEASON. TEAMS FROM OUTSIDE LEAGUES (NON-SCYSA) MAY APPLY. SC YOUTH SOCCER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADMINISTER MORE THAN ONE DIVISION IF THE NUMBER OF TEAMS APPLYING IS SUFFICIENT. IF THERE ARE MORE THAN ONE DIVISION THEN PARTICIPATING TEAMS WILL BE SELECTED IN A BLIND DRAW BY SC YOUTH FOR STATEWIDE LEAGUE OPPONENTS PRIOR TO SCHEDULING.

SCSCCL-14U (FALL SEASON) LEAGUE STANDINGS FROM THE PREVIOUS SPRING SEASON (13U NL-PC/SCSCCL/PMSL) WILL ENSURE AUTOMATIC SLOT FOR FALL SEASON. SC YOUTH SOCCER WILL SET THE NUMBER OF TEAMS ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE EACH YEAR. NO LESS THAN EIGHT TEAMS OR MORE THAN ELEVEN (11) WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR FALL SCSCCL PLAY. SC YOUTH SOCCER WILL ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR TEAMS NOT AUTOMATICALLY SLOTTED. APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM TEAMS WITH SC YOUTH SOCCER HISTORY FROM PRIOR SEASONAL YEAR. FALL SCSCCL 14U WILL BE LIMITED TO MAXIMUM 11 TEAMS IN ANY SINGLE DIVISION. TEAMS FROM OUTSIDE LEAGUES (NON-SCYSA) MAY APPLY. SC YOUTH SOCCER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADMINISTER MORE THAN ONE DIVISION IF THE NUMBER OF TEAMS APPLYING IS SUFFICIENT. IF THERE ARE MORE THAN ONE DIVISION THEN PARTICIPATING TEAMS WILL BE SELECTED IN A BLIND DRAW BY SC YOUTH FOR STATEWIDE LEAGUE OPPONENTS PRIOR TO SCHEDULING.

SCSCCL- 14U (SPRING SEASON) FALL LEAGUE STANDINGS (SAME SEASONAL YEAR) WILL BE THE MAIN FACTOR IN DETERMINING ACCEPTANCE INTO THE SCSCCL FOR THE SPRING SEASON. A CONTINUITY OF ROSTER (9 PLAYERS) IS REQUIRED. NO MORE THAN ELEVEN TEAMS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR SPRING SCSCCL PLAY. FALL SEASON 14U NL-PIEDMONT CONFERENCE TEAMS WILL BE PLACED IN THIS DIVISION AUTOMATICALLY IF NECESSARY. 14U PMSL FALL FIRST PLACE AND SECOND PLACE WILL BE PROMOTED FOR SPRING PLAY. IF TWO DIVISIONS IN 14U PMSL THEN FIRST PLACE IN EACH DIVISION WILL BE PROMOTED. PROMOTION IS MANDATORY. SPRING SCSCCL 14U WILL BE LIMITED TO MAXIMUM 11 TEAMS IN ANY SINGLE DIVISION. (10 MATCHES OR LESS) TEAMS FROM OUTSIDE LEAGUES (NON-SCYSA) MAY APPLY IF REGISTERED AS SCYSA IN THE LEAGUE SEASON. SC YOUTH SOCCER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADMINISTER MORE THAN ONE DIVISION IF THE NUMBER OF TEAMS APPLYING IS SUFFICIENT. IF THERE ARE MORE THAN ONE DIVISION THEN PARTICIPATING TEAMS WILL BE SELECTED IN A BLIND DRAW BY SC YOUTH FOR STATEWIDE LEAGUE OPPONENTS PRIOR TO SCHEDULING.

SCSCCL-15U/16U/17U/18U/19U (FALL SEASON) STATE CUP STANDINGS ALONG WITH LEAGUE FINISHING FROM PREVIOUS SEASONAL YEAR (NL-PC/SCSCCL/PMSL) WILL ENSURE AUTOMATIC BID FOR EIGHT SLOTS. RELEGATED NL-PC TEAMS WILL BE PLACED IN THIS DIVISION AND NO LESS THAN EIGHT TEAMS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR FALL SCSCCL PLAY. PROMOTION FROM PMSL IS MANDATORY. FALL SCSCCL 15U/16U/17U/18U/19U WILL BE LIMITED TO MAXIMUM 11 TEAMS IN ANY SINGLE DIVISION. (10 MATCHES OR LESS). TEAMS FROM OUTSIDE LEAGUES (NON-SCYSA) MAY APPLY IF REGISTERED IN SCYSA IN THE LEAGUE SEASON. SC YOUTH SOCCER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADMINISTER MORE THAN ONE DIVISION IF THE NUMBER OF TEAMS APPLYING IS SUFFICIENT. IF THERE ARE MORE THAN ONE DIVISION THEN PARTICIPATING TEAMS WILL BE SELECTED IN A BLIND DRAW BY SC YOUTH FOR STATEWIDE LEAGUE OPPONENTS PRIOR TO SCHEDULING.

RELEGATION FROM SCSCCL

TEAMS THAT FAIL TO EARN A SPOT IN SCSCCL FOR THE NEXT YEAR WILL BE RELEGATED TO THE PMSL. TWO OR MORE TEAMS MAY BE RELEGATED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR WHEN REQUIRED BASED ON PERFORMANCE/STANDINGS.

SCSCCL TEAMS ARE RELEGATED TO PMSL FOLLOWING THE END OF LEAGUE/STATE CUP PLAY.

PROMOTION/ACCEPTANCE TO PMSL

ALL TEAMS REGISTERED FOR PMSL WILL BE PLACED IN DIVISIONAL PLAY. IN SINGLE DIVISIONS, THE TOP 8 TEAMS WILL QUALIFY FOR PMSL CUP PLAY. IF THERE ARE TWO DIVISIONS THEN TOP 4 TEAMS IN EACH DIVISION WILL QUALIFY FOR PMSL CUP PLAY. EVEN NUMBER OF TEAMS REQUIRED AT PMSL CUP (i.e. 4, 6 OR 8). ALL PMSL TEAMS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE PMSL CUP IF QUALIFIED IN ORDER FOR PROMOTIONAL CONSIDERATION IN THE FOLLOWING SEASONAL YEAR. ANY TEAM THAT FAILS TO PARTICIPATE WILL BE RELEGATED AUTOMATICALLY TO THE OPEN LEAGUE. PROMOTION IS MANDATORY. THE WINNER AND/OR FINALIST FOR THE OPEN CUP MAY BE INVITED TO FILL AN EIGHT (8)-TEAM BRACKET AT THE PMSL OR THE TOP FINISHER IN THE OPEN LEAGUE IF THE OPEN CUP DOES NOT HAVE A BRACKET AT THAT AGE LEVEL.

PMSL 13U/14U (FALL SEASON) THIS DIVISION IS RESERVED FOR TEAMS THAT PREVIOUSLY PLAYED IN A SC YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE OR MEMBER LEAGUE AS AUTOMATIC QUALIFIERS. TEAMS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE STATEWIDE 12U LEAGUE THE SEASON PRIOR ARE AUTOMATICALLY SLOTTED. SC YOUTH SOCCER WILL LIMIT TEAM NUMBERS AT THESE AGE GROUPS TO ENSURE BALANCED DIVISIONS WITH NO MORE THAN ELEVEN TEAMS IN ANY DIVISION. NUMBER OF DIVISIONS IS BASED ON PARTICIPATION AND QUALITY OF COMPETITION. HOWEVER, TO ASSIST IN SCHEDULING SC YOUTH SOCCER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO RELEGATE ANY TEAM TO OPEN LEAGUE FOR FALL PLAY IF REQUIRED. IF DIVISIONAL PLAY IS REQUIRED THEN NO MORE THAN 11 TEAMS PER DIVISION (10 MATCHES OR LESS) IS PREFERRED. APPLICATIONS CAN COME FROM ANY SC YOUTH SOCCER TEAM FROM ANY SC YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE OR MEMBER LEAGUE TEAMS FROM OUTSIDE LEAGUES (NON-SCYSA) MAY APPLY IF REGISTERED WITH SCYSA IN THE LEAGUE SEASON.

PMSL 13U/14U (SPRING SEASON) SC YOUTH SOCCER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO LIMIT THIS AGE GROUP BASED ON FALL SEASON STANDINGS TO NO MORE THAN 11 TEAMS PER DIVISION IF POSSIBLE. RELEGATED SCSCCL TEAMS WILL BE PLACED IN THIS DIVISION/S. DIVISIONAL PLAY MAY BE REQUIRED WITH NO MORE THAN 11 TEAMS PER DIVISION (10 MATCHES OR LESS). TEAMS FROM OUTSIDE LEAGUES (NON-SCYSA) MAY APPLY IF REGISTERED WITH SCYSA IN THE LEAGUE SEASON.

PMSL 15U/16U/17U/18U/19U (FALL SEASON) STATE CUP STANDINGS AND LEAGUE PLAY FROM THE PRIOR SEASONAL YEAR MAY BE USED FOR ACCEPTANCE IN THIS DIVISION. SC YOUTH SOCCER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO LIMIT THIS DIVISION/S TO NO MORE THAN 11 TEAMS IF POSSIBLE. RELEGATED SCSCCL TEAMS WILL BE PLACED IN THIS DIVISION/S AUTOMATICALLY. DIVISIONAL PLAY MAY BE REQUIRED WITH NO MORE THAN 11 TEAMS PER DIVISION (10 MATCHES OR LESS). TEAMS FROM OUTSIDE LEAGUES (NON-SCYSA) MAY APPLY IF REGISTERED WITH SCYSA IN THE LEAGUE SEASON.

RELEGATION FROM PMSL

PMSL TEAMS ARE RELEGATED TO OPEN LEAGUE FOLLOWING THE END OF LEAGUE/STATE CUP PLAY. FOUR (4) TEAMS OR MORE MAY BE RELEGATED. ANY PMSL TEAM THAT EARNS AT LEAST 50% OF THE AVAILABLE POINTS DURING LEAGUE PLAY WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR RELEGATION.

PROMOTION/RELEGATION OPEN LEAGUE

THE OPEN LEAGUE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL REGISTERED TEAMS. PROMOTION TO PMSL WILL BE BASED ON LEAGUE STANDINGS. PROMOTION FROM OPEN LEAGUE IS MANDATORY WITH AS MANY AS FOUR (4) TEAMS OR MORE. THERE IS NO RELEGATION FROM OPEN LEAGUE. HOWEVER, IF DIFFERENT TIERS ARE APPLIED TO THE OPEN LEAGUE THEN PROMOTION AND RELEGATION BETWEEN THE TIERS WILL BE BASED ON LEAGUE STANDINGS IN PRIOR SEASON.

15/16U AND 17/18/19U SPRING SEASON DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE IS AVAILABLE TO ANY AND ALL TEAMS REGARDLESS OF FALL SEASON PLAY LEVEL. IF TEAM NUMBERS ALLOW THEN TWO OR MORE DIVISIONS MAY BE CREATED TO INCLUDE AN UPPER AND LOWER TIER AS WELL AS A GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISION OR ANY COMBINATION REQUIRED TO PROVIDE MATCH OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEAMS PARTICIPATING (10 MATCHES OR LESS). THIS LEAGUE MAY INCLUDE HIGH LEVEL TEAMS. PURPOSE OF THIS LEAGUE IS TO ALLOW PLAYERS IN HIGH SCHOOL TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE CLUB DEVELOPMENT IN TWO DIFFERENT AGE BRACKETS- 15/16U AND 17/18/19U. THESE TEAMS MAY BE FROM ANY LEVEL OF PLAY SO SC YOUTH SOCCER RESERVES THE OPTION OF SETTING THE DIVISIONS TO ENSURE REASONABLE COMPETITION FOR THE SEASON IF AND WHEN POSSIBLE.

SEEDING FOR THE STATE CHALLENGE CUP WILL INCLUDE EIGHT (8) TEAMS SELECTED FOR 1ST ROUND PLAY BASED ON PARTICIPATION IN THE NL-PIEDMONT CONFERENCE FOR THAT AGE BRACKET. IF TWO (2) TEAMS PLAY AT NL-PC THEN TOTAL FIRST ROUND IS MAXIMUM EIGHT (8) TEAMS. IF FOUR (4) TEAMS PLAY IN NL-PC THEN TOTAL FIRST ROUND IS MAXIMUM EIGHT (8) TEAMS. THE SEEDING ORDER WILL BE PIEDMONT CONFERENCE TEAM FINISHERS (PREMIER/FIRST) FOLLOWED BY CHALLENGE LEAGUE FINISHERS. STATE CUP PLAY DATE IS DETERMINED IN CONJUNCTION WITH BOTH NATIONAL LEAGUE AND PIEDMONT CONFERENCE LEAGUE PLAY DATES AND SUBJECT TO MOVEMENT ON CALENDAR DURING THE PLAYING SEASON AT ANY TIME.

NO FRIENDLIES IN SC YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE PLAY 13U-19U. EVERY GAME COUNTS TOWARDS STANDINGS (POINTS) EVEN IF YOU PLAY THE SAME TEAM MORE THAN ONCE.