

FAQs for new league structure for CYS

Reason for change:

Over the past many years, CYS has made adjustments to the existing league structure to account for recommendations, problems and considerations that have come down from US Soccer, USYS, Director's of Coaching in Colorado, and other appropriate avenues. With that being the case, the conditions the current structure was created under have changed dramatically. CYS is bigger, travel is a growing concern, developmental recommendations continue to advance, continued issues regarding player movement, seasons are getting squeezed by parks departments, and overall the system had to be examined to account for these changes.

Highlights of new structure:

- Team promotion/relegation would take annually versus bi annually. With an 18 game schedule, home and away, the schedule will adjust to have 10 games in the fall and 8 games in the spring. This allows for the younger teams to play Cup in the spring which is a recommendation by all DOC's due to player development and team selection issues. It also accounts for the shorter spring season. Additionally it could slow down recruiting that takes place between seasons when teams drop from a higher flight to a lower flight and supports the year round registration players currently pay to CYS. Most importantly it relaxes the pressure on results. Teams just moving up from a lower level have a longer period of time to adjust and rise to the new level of play. Coaches can teach more as they have a longer period of time to improve their players. Currently over 70% of teams moving into Premier 1 from Premier 2 drop back down the following season. Interestingly enough, their records over the last 5 games often have much better results than their first 5 games. Based on only having 1 league champion a year versus every season, the emphasis on winning will be relaxed. Lastly, CYS will be more mobile in dealing with specific situations that fall in gray areas due to it only happening once per year.
- Regionalization of teams will begin at the Classic level. Colorado will be set into 3 regions; north, south, and metro at the U11-U14 age groups. Beginning at U15, due to the trend of decreased numbers, 2 regions would be established; North and South. This will lessen travel for lower level teams. As a point of interest, Grand Junction would be in the Metro group. Large clubs like Rush, Real and Storm might be in both Metro and North/South to keep brackets level. This accounts for increased travel costs and might encourage more participation in the challenge and classic levels when members find out they won't travel to Pueblo, Wyoming and Grand Junction in the same season. Likewise, Pueblo families will only travel as far as Metro Denver, eliminating travel to Edge, Arsenal and the western slope.
- Elite program changed. Based on the vote of the Directors of Coaching, the top teams in Colorado will now break down into U16 and U18 super groups. The top 10 U17's and U18's will play in one, while the top 10 U15's and U16's will play in the other. Our current system does not allow our top U15 and U16 teams to play the older team's top teams until Elite 1. The new system would reward younger teams the developmental opportunity to play against teams better than them and older. Over the past few years the winning percentage for younger teams versus older teams in Elite 2 and Elite 3 is over 80%. Younger teams deserve the chance to play against top older competition in the H.S. age groups. Additionally, there will be 3 dates this fall at a neutral location in Colorado to host all the Super Group games scheduled for that week on a Wednesday night. This will be a pilot program in hopes of making it true for all games in the highest brackets. First of all it will encourage the highest level teams to play their league games. Secondly, playing during the week will open up the weekend schedule of most senior staff coaches to work with younger teams and coaches, therefore accelerating the development of our youngest players. Further, it will provide an exciting venue and stage for CYS, only matched by State Cup semi's and finals. Finally it offers an ideal setting for all local, and some national college programs to watch the top players in Colorado compete.

Closing thoughts:

While it's impossible to establish a league structure that is perfect for each individual club in Colorado, I am confident the proposed structure is the right step for Colorado youth soccer as a whole. The committee has sought out feedback from all clubs in CYS at different times in the process, incorporated ideas that were more universal in the returned feedback and I am certain came out with the best direction for CYS moving forward.

2009/2010 Game Dates

(Subject to change)

League Dates 2009/2010	State Cup Dates (14-18 Girls)
Saturday, August 29, 2009	Saturday, September 05, 2009
Sunday, August 30, 2009	Sunday, September 06, 2009
Saturday, September 12, 2009	Monday, September 07, 2009
Saturday, September 19, 2009	Sunday, September 13, 2009
Saturday, September 26, 2009	Sunday, September 20, 2009
Saturday, October 10, 2009	Sunday, September 27, 2009
Saturday, October 17, 2009	Sunday, October 11, 2009
Saturday, October 24, 2009	Sunday, October 18, 2009
Saturday, October 31, 2009	
Saturday, November 07, 2009	
Saturday, March 13, 2010	State Cup Dates (12-13 Girls and 12-18 Boys)
Saturday, March 20, 2010	Saturday, March 27, 2010
March 27-28, 2010 (Spring Break)	Sunday, March 28, 2010
Saturday, April 03, 2010	Sunday, April 11, 2010
Saturday, April 10, 2010	Sunday, April 18, 2010
Saturday, April 17, 2010	Sunday, April 25, 2010
Saturday, April 24, 2010	Sunday, May 02, 2010
Saturday, May 01, 2010	Sunday, May 09, 2010
Saturday, May 08, 2010	Sunday, May 16, 2010
Saturday, May 15, 2010	

4. RULES FOR ADVANCED STATE LEAGUE 2nd Edition

4.0 CYS Transitional Rules for Advanced State League

The following transitional rules shall be effective immediately upon approval by the CYS Board of Directors. They shall govern the promotion and relegation of teams during all CYS Advanced League Play during the Spring 2009 season. Commencing August 1, 2009 The Rules for Advanced State League 2nd Edition shall become effective superseding the Transitional Rules for all future relegation and promotion. The CYS BOD has adopted these rules to facilitate a smooth transition into the Rules For Advanced State League 2nd Edition which shall take effect commencing with the Fall 2009 Season. These transitional rules seek to foster player and team development through a de-emphasis on league standings by giving teams a longer time to adjust playing at their appropriate level per the CYS Mission Statement.

A. Relegation and Promotion from Spring 2009 into Fall 2009(U11,U12,U13 only)

- 1. The bottom team in P1 shall move to P2. The LOC shall review the league records, current and prior, head to head results between the involved teams, prior relegation history, strength and any other relevant factors of the 10th place team in P1 and the first place finisher in P2. The LOC shall then determine which of these two teams shall be placed in P1 and which shall be placed in P2 for the Fall 2009 Season. All other continuing P1 teams shall remain in P1 for play commencing in Fall 2009.**
- 2. The bottom 2 teams in P2 shall move to Classic Division for play commencing in Fall 2009. The LOC shall review the league records, current and prior head to head results between the involved teams, prior relegation history, strength and any other relevant factors of the 8th and 9th place finishers in P2 and the first place finishers in Classic Blue and Silver. The LOC shall then determine which two out of these four teams shall be placed in P2 for the Fall 2009 season. All other continuing P2 teams shall remain in P2 with the exception of the first place finisher in P2 who may be considered for promotion to P1 as outlined in A.1 above.**
- 3. All continuing Classic teams from Spring 2009 shall remain in Classic for play commencing in Fall 2009 with the exception of the first place teams in Classic Blue and Silver who may be considered for promotion to P2 as outlined in A 2 above.**
- 4. The top 6 teams from Challenge 1 shall be promoted to the Classic Division for league play commencing in Fall 2009.**
- 5. All remaining Challenge 1 and Challenge 2 teams shall be placed in the newly formed Challenge Division for league play commencing in Fall 2009.**
- 6. As per the Rules For Advanced State League 2nd Edition commencing in Fall 2009 all Classic and Challenge Divisions will be formed both on the basis of geographical location and strength.**
- 7. Relegation of all other age groups shall be in accordance with the Rules for Advanced State League 2nd Edition.**

4.1 LEAGUE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE (LOC)

- A. Prior to the start of each state-league season, the League Operations Committee shall meet and, using the rules in Parts II and III (below), shall assign each team to a division within its appropriate age-level league based on either 1) automatic or 2) non-automatic relegation.**
- B. The LOC shall assign teams (with non-automatic relegation) based on information supplied by the coach or manager on the "Information for Registration" form. If the coach or manager provides no data, it is not the LOC's obligation to seek out information. If no data is provided, a team could be seeded lower rather than higher.**
- C. Prior to the start of each state-league season, the Executive Director (ED) shall:**
 - 1. Advise each club registrar in writing of the division to which each team in that club has been assigned for the forth-coming state-league season. It is the registrar's duty to communicate the information about state-league assignment to each team in the club.**
 - 2. A team, which disagrees with its state-league placement, may request, at no charge, that the LOC review its decision.**

3. The decisions of the LOC, however, are final and non-appealable.

D. The LOC shall meet at such other times as appropriate for efficient and just league operations.

E. In those rare instances where the rules of relegation fail to provide a fair migration of teams, the LOC reserves the authority to suspend the rules and modify the structure of a given league appropriately.

4.2 LEAGUE DIVISION STRUCTURES

Length of Season: league play shall consist of one 18 game season (hereinafter referred to as season). The season shall span both fall and spring play commencing and ending on dates established by the CYS BOD. The fall portion of the season shall be referred to as the fall segment and the spring portion of the season shall be referred to as the spring segment.

A. Under 11 Boys and Under 11 Girls (i.e. youngest boys' and girls' age groups)

1. **Fall Segment:** The best 20 teams, as determined by the League Operations Committee on the basis of information provided by club coaches, club registrars, and the State Director of Coaching, shall be placed into two 10-team divisions, designated Premier White, and Premier Blue... The next best 30 teams as determined by the LOC on the basis of information (same as above) shall be placed in three 10-team divisions designated Classic North, South and Metro. The remaining teams shall be placed in Challenge divisions designated North, South and Metro.
 - a. Classic and Challenge divisions shall be geographically divided in so far as possible. The LOC reserves the right to alter the number of classic divisions or the size when team numbers and or strength require such action.
2. **Transition from Fall to Spring Segment:**
 - a. For the Spring segment, the top 5 teams in Premier White and the top 5 teams in Premier Blue shall be placed in Premier 1. The remaining 10 teams shall be placed in Premier 2.
 - b. There will be no relegation or promotion in the Classic and Challenge Divisions between the Fall and Spring Segments of the Season for the U11 age group.

B. Under 12 through Under 14 League Structure (Automatic Relegation):

1. League competition shall be divided into the following divisions: Premier I, Premier II, Classic and Challenge.
2. Premier I shall consist of the top 10 teams and shall be limited to a maximum number of 10 teams.
3. Premier II shall consist of the next best 10 teams and shall be limited to 10 teams.
4. Classic Division shall consist of the next best 30 teams in an age group. Classic teams shall be divided into three flights designated Classic North, South and Metro. Each flight shall contain 10 teams. The LOC will seed the flights based on geographic location and on an equal distribution of teams with regard to strength. In an age group where there are not a sufficient number of teams to form a 30 team classic division or within the sole opinion of the LOC there are not 30 "classic" level teams in terms of ability in an age group the LOC may limit the classic division to two flights or reduce the number of teams in each flight as it deems appropriate.
5. The remaining teams shall be placed in one or more equally weighted challenge flights. The LOC will seed the flights based on geographic location and on an equal distribution of teams with regard to strength.

C. Automatic Relegation shall be based on the prior season's divisional standings. It will not be used in U11, 15, 16,17and U18 divisions, or in any division with predominantly new teams.

1. The bottom 2 Premier I teams from the prior season will change places with the top 2 Premier II

teams.

2. The bottom 3 Premier II teams from the prior season shall relegate to the classic division in those instances where there are three classic flights. The relegating Premier two teams shall be placed in different flights as the top seeds regardless of geography. In those instances where there are two or less

classic flights then only the bottom two Premier two teams shall relegate. The top team in each classic flight

shall be promoted to Premier two.

3. The bottom 2 teams from each classic flight will be relegated to Challenge.

4. The top 6 teams from Challenge will be advanced to Classic. Where there is more than one Challenge

flight, the 6 promoting teams shall be selected equally in so far as possible from the different flights (i.e. – 3

Flights – 2 teams from each flight promoted, 2 Flights – 3 teams from each flight promoted and so forth) to

reach the total number of 6 teams promoting.

D. Non-automatic relegation/assignment (In those leagues where appropriate). Consideration will be given to such factors as prior regular season record, number and caliber of returning players and teams

E. Under 15-18: Non-automatic assignment based on, among other things, prior season.

F. **F. CYS Super League shall consist of (SL)16 and Super League (SL)18.**

1. **SL 16 - The top 10 teams in the U15 and U16 team age groups as determined by the LOC based primarily on previous league performance. Other factors that may be considered are State Cup Performance and strength of roster. SL 16 shall be open geographically and the teams shall play a maximum of 9 games.**

2. **Promotion and Relegation of SL 16 Division.**

The top 2 teams promote regardless of age into the SL 18's. Teams must have a .500 record or better for

consideration for promotion into SL 18's. The bottom team shall automatically relegate to Division 1. The LOC may at its discretion relegate additional teams from SL 16 into Division 1 if they do not have a .500 record.

3. **SL 18 – The top U17 and U18 teams in addition to the top 2 SL16 teams for a total of 10 teams.**

Placement shall be determined by the **LOC** based primarily on previous league performance. Other factors that may be considered are State Cup Performance and strength of roster. SL 18 shall be open geographically and the teams shall play a maximum of 9 games. **Promotion and Relegation of SL 18 Division.** Promotion not applicable. The bottom team shall automatically relegate to Division 1. The LOC may at its discretion relegate additional teams from SL 18 into Division 1 if they do not have a .500 record.

4. **Division 1** shall be comprised of no more than 10 teams per age group. Teams in division one shall play a nine-game season. Division one shall be open geographically. Promotion and relegation shall be determined by the LOC based primarily on league performance according to established rules. As relegation and promotion are non-automatic in this age group, the LOC may alter the structure, numbers and relegation rules in Divisional play when necessary.

5. **Division 2 and below.** All remaining teams shall be placed in Division 2 and lower i.e. 3 and 4) as numbers dictate. These divisions: shall be comprised of no more than 10 teams per age group.

Teams in these divisions play a nine-game season. Division 2 and below shall be geographically based when possible.

Promotion and relegation shall be determined by the LOC based primarily on league performance according to established rules. As relegation and promotion are non-automatic in this age group, the LOC may alter the structure, numbers and relegation rules in Divisional 1 play when necessary.

G. SL teams and all U18 teams will be allowed to have a maximum of 3 intra-club guest players for league games, subject to the following restrictions:

1. The intra-club guest player must be properly registered by CYS with the same club as the SL

- team for which they will guest play.**
- 2. An intra-club guest player may play for any SL team within their appropriate age group or older.**
 - 3. Under no circumstances will more than 18 players be allowed to dress for any league game.**
- H. For **U15** and younger teams, the team roster shall not have more than 18 youth players on the team roster at any given time during the seasonal year. For U16 and older teams, the roster may have up to 22 youth players on the team roster at any given time during the seasonal year. Every team roster shall have a minimum of 7 players on the roster at all times.