



NORTHERN CONFERENCE

2020 - 2021 ONPL & State League Expansion & Restructure

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Ohio North is excited to announce the new Northern Conference which will kick-off with the 2020-2021 seasonal year for 9U-19U teams. The Northern Conference, an expansion and restructure of the former Ohio North Premier League and Ohio North State League, will implement a complete player development and competitive pathway, alongside Ohio South and US Youth Soccer integrated programming. We look forward to more teams and clubs joining as they see the benefits and opportunities that the Northern Conference will provide:

- Developmental pathway for players and their teams from the younger ages in initial levels of competitive play all the way through the older ages and the most competitive levels of play.
- Provide meaningful competitive matches for geographically based communities, as well as, Northern Ohio, statewide, regional and national levels for teams seeking relevant competition and exposure.
- Provide a safe playing environment based on sound player development principles.
- Create a statewide approach to coaching and player development.
- Increase opportunities for the education of coaches, referees and spectators.
- Promote sportsmanship in a safe, healthy and fun playing environment.
- Enhance member experiences and benefits with more opportunities and partnerships.

MEMBER BENEFITS



**PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCED
STATE OFFICE
STAFF**



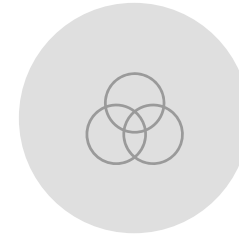
**PARTICIPANT
SAFETY &
COMPLIANCE
MANAGEMENT**



**NEW ROBUST
LEAGUE
MANAGEMENT
TECHNOLOGY**



**FLEXIBLE PLAYER
POOLS,
SCHEDULING &
TRAVEL**



**INTEGRATED
PATHWAYS FROM
LOCAL TO
NATIONAL LEVELS**

2020 - 2021 NORTHERN CONFERENCE DIVISIONS

Blue Division

10U-19U Boys & Girls

- Team based seasonal year application
- Fee Structure: Annual Team Fee
- Ohio North travel required
- Games played between August-June
- Opportunities: Ohio South State League, Great Lakes Conference (GLC) and National Showcase Series
- Pathway: State Cup

White Division

9U-19U Boys & Girls

- Team based declaration per Fall and Spring seasons
- Fee Structure: Seasonal Declarations & Team Fee
- Ohio North travel required
- Fall season games played between August-October
- Spring season games played between April-June
- Opportunities: Blue Division
- Pathway: Presidents Cup

Red Division

9U-19U Boys & Girls

- Team based declaration per Fall and Spring seasons
- Fee Structure: Seasonal Declarations & Team Fee
- Community based
- Fall season games played between August-October
- Spring season games played between April-June
- Opportunities: White Division
- Pathway: Bothwell Cup



PATHWAY STRUCTURE

US Youth Soccer National Showcase Series

NEW 2020-2021 programming within National League structure

US Youth Soccer Great Lakes Conference

1 of 13 multi-state National League Conferences for 13U-19U age groups

Ohio South State League

NEW 2020-2021 unified state-wide league for 13U-19U age groups

Ohio Northern Conference

NEW 2020-2021 structure serving Northern Ohio for 9U-19U age groups

Ohio North Member Leagues

Competitive, Rec-Plus, and Recreational levels of play

NORTHERN CONFERENCE

Blue Division

Team based seasonal year application and commitment for **Premier** level teams.

White Division

Team based declaration per season for **Competitive** level teams.

Red Division

Team based declaration per season for **Community based** teams.



BLUE DIVISION

- ONPL founding members
- Inclusive, multi-tiered pathway
- Establish league integrity with merit-based application acceptance
- Number of teams TBD
- Affordable fee structure
- Flexible player pools
- Club hosted weekends
- Ohio North boundary travel
- Promotion and Relegation
- Ohio North Cup Series
- Level of commitment

NORTHERN CONFERENCE

Blue Division

- Team based seasonal year application and commitment
- 10U-19U Boys & Girls
- Premier I Tier
- Premier II Tier

White Division

- Team based Declaration per Fall and Spring seasons
- 9U-19U Boys & Girls
- Comp 1 Tier
- Comp 2 Tier

Red Division

- Team based Declaration per Fall and Spring seasons
- 9U-19U Boys & Girls
- Community/Geographically based sub-conferences
- Supports existing member leagues



WHITE DIVISION

- Previously known as State League
- Inclusive, multi-tiered pathway
- Convenience of one league management system
- Affordable fee structure
- Flexible player pools
- Club hosted weekends
- Ohio North boundary travel
- Promotion and Relegation
- Ohio North Cup Series

NORTHERN CONFERENCE

Blue Division

- Team based seasonal year application and commitment
- 10U-19U Boys & Girls
- Premier I Tier
- Premier II Tier

White Division

- Team based Declaration per Fall and Spring seasons
- 9U-19U Boys & Girls
- Comp 1 Tier
- Comp 2 Tier

Red Division

- Team based Declaration per Fall and Spring seasons
- 9U-19U Boys & Girls
- Community/Geographically based sub-conferences
- Supports existing member leagues



RED DIVISION

- Professional Staff
- Vertically integrated player pathway
- Integrated participant safety and compliance management
- Convenience of one league management system
- Affordable fee structure
- Minimized travel
- Flexible player pools
- Unification of rules
- Associate Membership
- Coaching Education

NORTHERN CONFERENCE

Blue Division

- Team based seasonal year application and commitment
- 10U-19U Boys & Girls
- Premier I Tier
- Premier II Tier

White Division

- Team based Declaration per Fall and Spring seasons
- 9U-19U Boys & Girls
- Comp 1 Tier
- Comp 2 Tier

Red Division

- Team based Declaration per Fall and Spring seasons
- 9U-19U Boys & Girls
- Community/Geographically based sub-conferences
- Supports existing member leagues

COACHES COMMITTEE

- Advisory group to provide guidance in the development and growth of the Conference for 10U-19U age
- (6) appointed members with participating teams in any of the sub-conferences
- Review and make recommendations for Conference rules and playing rules
- Advise on pathway for all sub-conferences

FLEXIBLE PLAYER POOLS

- Any player registered in the club to a Conference team is eligible to ***club pass*** for ***another team*** in the ***same club***, provided the ***player is age appropriate***.
 - **Blue Division:** No horizontal play. Open vertical play.
 - **White Division:** Pending recommendations of Coaches Committee
 - **Red Division:** Blue Division rostered players may not play down.
- Players may only be registered to one (1) State Association per US Youth Soccer policy and Cup Series*.
- Players are required to designate a primary roster* to one team in the Conference (GLC, Cup Series & Application of Club Pass).
- Roster & Pool Limits: TBD based on Coaches Committee recommendations

PRIMARY SCHEDULING APPROACH

- *Will be based on each Sub-Conference needs*
- Club/Team Hosted Weekends: ie. 1 club/team hosts 2 or more clubs/teams
 - Benefits Include:
 - Ohio North to help identify and secure primary facilities
 - Convenience
 - Leverage Conference pricing
 - Flexibility in scheduling by age groups, gender, etc.
 - Better referee resources with multiple venue options
- Neutral Site: Ohio North to assist with scheduling
- Self-Schedule

Facility Options

- Blue Creek
- Copley
- Diamond
- Emory Adams
- Lost Nations East
- Lost Nations West
- Medina
- Mentor
- Pacesetter
- Perrysburg 199
- Pinnacle
- Sport Force Parks
- Others

OHIO NORTH CUP SERIES



This event is focused on those teams seeking to play in the highest level of state competition and the potential to advance onto the regional and national stages of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series.

The US Youth Soccer National Championship Series is the country's most prestigious national youth soccer competition, as teams earn their way from the top teams in their state to regional and national levels. The National Championship Series provides players the opportunity to showcase their soccer skills against the best competition in the nation while emphasizing teamwork, discipline and fair play.



This event is focused on those teams seeking to play in the 2nd highest level of state competition and the potential to advance to the regional and national stages of the US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup.

The US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup offers teams the challenge of experiencing different types of play by competing from state to regional to national levels. The President Cup provides teams with a progressive competitive experience that highlights competition, camaraderie and community.

An alternative competition to the National Championship Series.



This event is focused on those teams that seek a state event experience; however, does not require the commitment of advancement to regionals or nationals.

The competition will end at the state level and is targeted for community based and/or travel teams.

CUP SERIES REQUIREMENTS

- Teams looking to participate in the 2021 Ohio North Cup Series must play through the Northern Conference, OSSL or GLC.
- Players/Teams may only participate in the Cup Series in the State Association they are registered with.
- Roster Continuity:
 - At least 50% of each team's Cup Series rosters must reside in Ohio North boundaries.
 - **10U-12U**: TBD based on Coaches Committee recommendations
 - **13U-19U**: At least nine (9) players must be from the league roster

**The team's league roster serves as the basis for the National Championship Series or the National Presidents Cup roster continuity. Advancing teams must have at least nine (9) players from their league roster who carry over to the regional and national levels of the competition. A player may only be rostered to one team at each level of the National Championship Series or National Presidents Cup.*

CUP SERIES ELIGIBILITY

State Cup

10U-19U Boys & Girls

- All current 13U-19U GLC Premier 1 teams must play in State Cup to be eligible to advance to the regional levels of the NCS.
- All teams anticipating playing in the GLC the following season must play in State Cup.
- All competing teams must play in the Northern Conference, OSSL or GLC for the current seasonal year.

Presidents Cup

13U-17U Boys & Girls

- All competing teams must play in the Northern Conference for the current seasonal year.
- All current GLC Premier I and Premier II teams are not eligible for Presidents Cup
- Presidents Cup participating teams will be eligible to receive a spot in the GLC 1st Division.

Bothwell Cup

9U-19U Boys & Girls

- The event is open to current US Youth Soccer and/or U.S. Soccer affiliated teams.
- All current Regional League and Blue Division teams and players are not eligible for this event.



**PROVIDE PATHWAYS.
SERVE COMMUNITIES.**