

TENNESSEE STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION YOUTH PLAY LEVEL DEFINITIONS

DIVISION 1 – The highest level of play offered to teams that are categorized as U13 to U19 in the State of Tennessee. This level of competition is recommended for our elite teams. Teams are eligible to participate in tournament sanctioned events and will typically play in our Tennessee State League (TSL), US Youth Soccer National League and US Youth Soccer National Championship Series (NCS). These teams may qualify to play in our Division 1 State Cup, Region III Tournament, and the United States Youth Soccer (USYS) National Tournament. Players at this level have the opportunity to also participate and be selected for the Olympic Developmental Program (ODP).



DIVISION 2 – The 2nd tier level of competitive play offered to teams that are categorized as U13 to U19 in the State of Tennessee. This level of play is recommended for our teams that are not quite at the elite level but aspire to be there one day. Teams are eligible to participate in tournament sanctioned events and will typically play in our Tennessee State League (TSL) and may qualify to play in our Division 2 State Cup, Region III Presidents Cup Tournament, and the United States Youth Soccer (USYS) National Presidents Cup Tournament. Players at this level have the opportunity to also participate and be selected for the Olympic Developmental Program (ODP).

DIVISION 3 – The 3rd final level of competitive play offered to teams that are categorized as U13 to U19 in the State of Tennessee. This level of competition is recommended for teams that desire something more than the local recreational soccer league. Teams are allowed to play in tournament sanctioned events and are eligible for the Division 3 Tennessee State League (TSL) and may qualify to play in our Division 3 State Cup. Players at this level have the opportunity to also participate and be selected for the Olympic Developmental Program (ODP).

DIVISION 4 – This level of play is categorized as our local grass roots (or Recreational soccer) age U3 to U19. Play is specifically organized locally, and teams are allowed to participate in tournament sanctioned events that have a specific bracket organized for recreational teams. Recreational teams are NOT allowed to play competitive teams without prior approval from the Tennessee State Soccer Association. Teams are eligible to compete in seasonal Kohl's Cup or Cleveland Grimes Friendship Cup events designed specifically for our recreational minded team. Teams must be registered with the TSSA to participate in Cup events.

SOCCER JUNIORS – This level of play can range in skill levels. This category is specifically designed to offer a lower cost to our teams categorized as U9 to U12. Teams are allowed to participate in tournament sanctioned events, but there are no State Cup competitions offered to these age groups. Tennessee State Soccer Association strongly recommends that all clubs registering Soccer Juniors use the United States Youth Soccer (USYS) recommended modified playing rules (Policy 13) when organizing play for these age groups. Registration at this level includes Indoor and Futsal registrations.

INDOOR/ FUTSAL - This level of play is designed for players seeking ONLY to register and play during the indoor/ futsal soccer season. This season is typically but not limited to the winter months. Players categorized to be on teams age U3 to U19 are



FUTSAL

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eligible to participate. It is suggested that players attempt to play on teams and against teams with similar abilities but need to understand that Indoor/ Futsal events may merge ability groups together to make an event more likely to occur.

US YOUTH SOCCER TOPSoccer - US Youth Soccer TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is a community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with disabilities, organized by youth soccer association volunteers. The program is designed to bring the opportunity of learning and playing soccer to any boy or girl, who has a mental or physical disability.



TOPSOCCER

TSSA STATE CUP

The Tennessee State Soccer Association has hosted the Tennessee State Cup as one of our programs since 1976. The Tennessee State Cup is open to all member clubs and their teams via an application at the start of each seasonal year. We have competitive levels within 3 Divisions (Division 1, Division 2, and Divisions 3). As a member of the [United States Youth Soccer Association](#) our Division 1 Champions have the unique opportunity to then compete at Regional and National level competitions that are within the [National Championship Series](#). The Division 1 competitors are considered to be our highest level of competition within the State. Our next level of competition is Division 2 and the Champions at this level have the opportunity to compete at Regional and National level competitions that are within the [President's Cup](#). Our final level of competition is Division 3. Many of our teams at the Division 3 level are newly formed teams or coming from a more recreational based environment.



US YOUTH SOCCER

The **United States Youth Soccer Association (US Youth Soccer)** is the largest youth affiliate and member of [U.S. Soccer](#), the governing body for [soccer](#) in the United States. US Youth Soccer includes 55 State Associations, one per state except for [California](#), [New York](#), [Ohio](#), [Pennsylvania](#) and [Texas](#), which each have two State Associations.



**US
YOUTH
SOCCER**

US Youth Soccer is a [non-profit organization](#) whose stated mission is to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of America's youth through soccer at all levels of age and competition; to make soccer fun; and to instill in young players a lifelong passion for the sport.

US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Each summer US Youth Soccer crowns a boys and girls national champion in each of its seven age divisions (13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U and 19U). The finals are a culmination of a year-long series of competitions at the state and regional levels known as the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series which provides approximately 185,000 players on 10,000 teams from US Youth Soccer's 55 State Associations the opportunity to showcase their soccer skills against the best competition in the nation.



**USYS
NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP
SERIES**

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US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE

The US Youth Soccer National League represents the national tier of the Leagues Program. It features the nation's top 14U through 19U boys and girls teams, offering additional exposure to collegiate, professional and U.S. National Team coaches. All teams earn their place in the National League through success in US Youth Soccer's regional and national competitions, and the top finishers in the National League qualify for the annual US Youth Soccer National Championships.



The US Youth Soccer Leagues program features the National League and 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 national tier is known as the **US Youth Soccer National League**. Established in the 2007- 08 season, the National League provides annual competition for the best US Youth Soccer teams in the country to play each other in meaningful games with increased exposure to college coaches and scouts. Every season features teams that each earn a place in the league and compete for division titles, as well as berths to the annual US Youth Soccer National Championships.

The re-imagined Leagues Program commenced in the Fall of 2018 and features a network of **US Youth Soccer Conferences** (formerly known as regional leagues) that are geographically focused, under one leadership and management structure, and linked into the highly successful National League and National Championship Series.

US YOUTH SOCCER MID SOUTH CONFERENCE

The US Youth Soccer Mid South Conference is one of 13 Conferences under the [US Youth Soccer Leagues Program](#) in the Multi-State Tier. The Mid South Conference consists of teams primarily from Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee. The top teams in the Conference will earn advancement to the US Youth Soccer Regional Championships, part of the [US Youth Soccer National Championship Series](#), as well as a chance to earn a coveted spot in the National Tier of the Leagues Program, the [US Youth Soccer National League](#).



US YOUTH SOCCER OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (ODP)

The US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program (US Youth Soccer ODP) was formed in 1977 to identify a pool of players in each age group from which a National Team will be selected for international competition; to provide high-level training to benefit and enhance the development of players at all levels; and, through the use of carefully selected and licensed coaches, develop a mechanism for the exchange of ideas and curriculum to improve all levels of coaching.



US YOUTH SOCCER PRESIDENTS CUP

The US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup provides a progressive, competitive experience to US Youth Soccer teams from the state to regional to national level. The Presidents Cup gives players an additional opportunity to compete against teams from across the country at a high level for the joy and the challenge of the game. It provides the chance to experience a unique US Youth Soccer event with camaraderie, community and competition through sport.

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THE GOVERNING ORGANIZATIONS OF SOCCER AND WHERE YOU FIT IN

THE HIERARCHY OF SOCCER WORLD-WIDE

You are on a local soccer team that is part of your local **soccer club**.

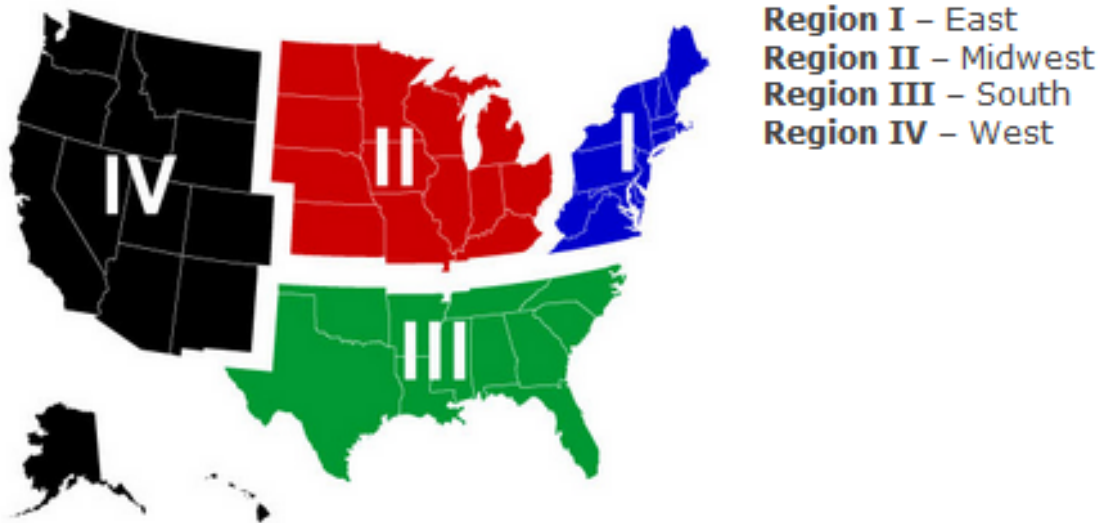


Your local soccer club is a member of the **Tennessee State Soccer Association** (TSSA). There are 55 State Associations in the United States: one in each state, and two in California, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas.



TSSA is a member of the **United States Youth Soccer Association** (US Youth Soccer) and the **United States Adult Soccer Association** (USASA). US Youth Soccer is the largest member organization within the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), and USASA is the largest member organization for adult soccer in the United States. Both US Youth Soccer and USASA are organized into four Regions; TSSA is part of **Region III**.

The four Regions in the United States are pictured below:



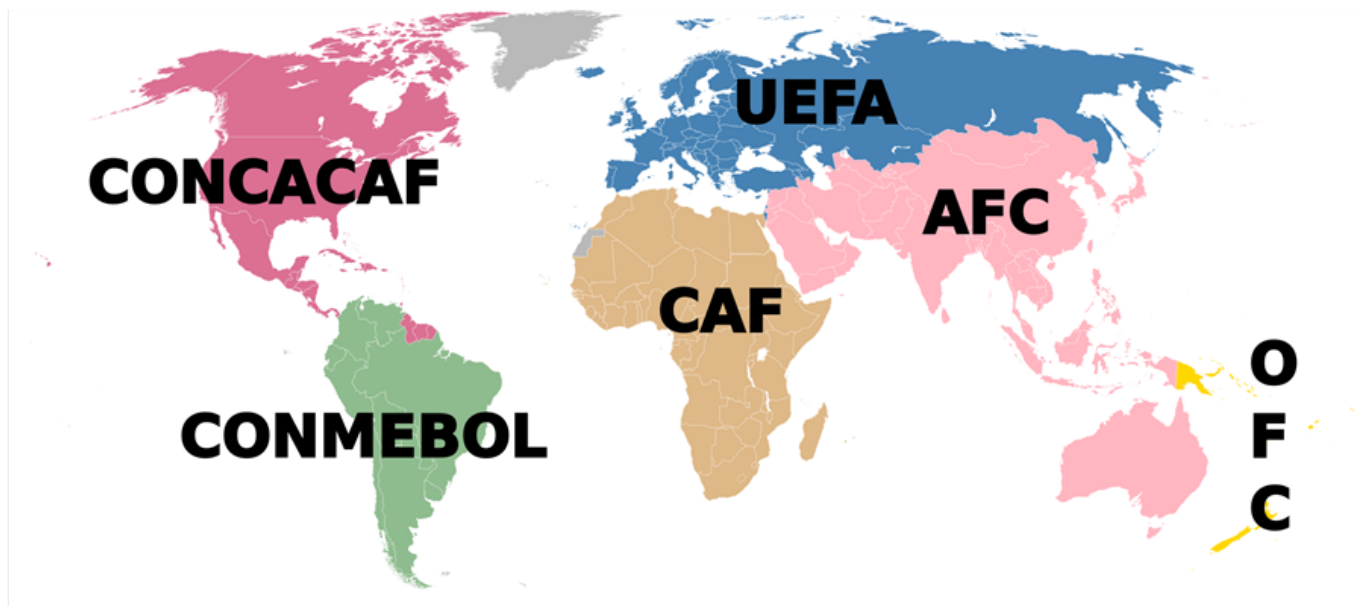
The **USSF** is the governing body for soccer in the United States, and is part of the Confederation of North, Central American, and Caribbean Associations of Football (CONCACAF).



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CONCACAF is one of six member Confederations of the **Fédération Internationale de Football Association** (FIFA), which is the worldwide governing body for soccer.

The six FIFA Confederations are pictured below:



AFC – Asian Football Confederation

CAF – Confédération Africaine de Football

CONCACAF – Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football

CONMEBOL – Confederación Sudamericana de Fútbol

OFC – Oceania Football Confederation in Oceania

UEFA – Union of European Football Associations