

FAQ's for new league formats

1. With the extended season does our team have to play year round?

No your team does not have to play year round. Coaches can try and schedule most of their games in the fall if they so choose. Most teams that make Premier are likely to play in State Cup however, so will maintain the schedules that they currently do in winter and spring.

2. Can teams that make Premier schedule more games in the fall?

The idea was to spread games out and make the league more meaningful. The ideal situation would be to have 1 game a week and then the most consistent teams at the end of the season would be promoted automatically and not have to play in any qualifying tournament. The idea was for approximately 8 games in fall and 6 in spring before State Cup. OYSA is flexible and have maintained that in certain areas of the state or for certain clubs, this may not work, so coaches can try and re-schedule most of their games in the fall if they so choose. Each club, team coach and parents can decide what is best for them after qualifying.

3. Will our team have to play many games on Sundays?

Most Premier level games will be scheduled by OYSA on Saturdays. Depending on the team's decision regarding the question above, will determine if a team tries to schedule games on Sundays in the fall. Classic teams that just play in the fall have to utilize Sunday play to get their games in as has happened in the past.

4. With an extended season won't we just be playing more soccer?

US Soccer Best Practices recommends a higher training to game ratio. In essence they feel that young players in the US play too many games, compared to other countries around the world. I have included some of the recommendations from the English Football Association for the English Premier League youth systems below for reference.

5. What happens if my team enters PQT's and doesn't make Premier? Do we then have to enter the CQT? When do we decide this?

This year, the PQT will be held first. Teams will decide to enter and register for either the PQT, the CQT or both. Registration for the CQT will be staggered by one week. If they apply to both tournaments and qualify in the first weekend for Premier, then the CQT registration fee will be refunded. If a team just enters the PQT and does NOT make it to Premier, they will be placed in the highest available Regional Classic League (D2 or below). The PQT will be used to place teams in Premier Gold and Silver ONLY. A team

that plays in PQT and not the CQT will NOT be able to make the Premier Bronze/Division 1 Classic league.

6. How do we decide which qualifying tournament we enter? Can an OYSA Council advise us?

Yes, the OYSA Competitive Council will be available at their monthly meeting to help advise teams and clubs. Please contact Scott Enyart in the OYSA office for the details of the next Council meeting.

7. The top four teams in State Cup automatically qualify for OYSA Premier Gold in the U13 and U14 age groups. What happens next year at the end of the U12, U13 and U14 Premier Gold seasons?

At the end of the 2009-2010 OYSA Gold Premier Leagues, the top four placed teams will automatically promoted to the next season's Gold Premier League. This current year it was decided to use the State Cup semi-finalists instead of imposing a rule in retrospect. The finishing league positions will be utilized from now on.

8. My team only wants to play in the fall because of children's participation in basketball and skiing etc. What should we do?

Parents who have encouraged their children to do a variety of sports perceive themselves to be in a challenging position. As described above though, teams that make the Premier level can decide to reschedule their spring games on alternate dates in the fall, providing other coaches are willing to accommodate their requests.

9. Can Premier or Classic teams schedule league games during the week in the fall?

Yes teams can schedule games in midweek under direction of OYSA. This must be done in advance with OYSA in order to ensure referee coverage. This is sometimes limited in the fall in midweek because of high school contests. There may be more available this fall if school budget shortfalls cut freshman and JV2 soccer programs.

UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION BEST PRACTICES (P.28)

CONSIDER THIS:

The Football Association (FA), the governing body of English football, has made the following recommendations regarding the Football Academy program, which targets the top young players in England and is run as a mandatory developmental arm of the top professional league in England (the English Premier League –EPL):

- * Players aged 12 to 18 should play a maximum of 30 games per year with their club.
- * No 11-a-side soccer until age 12.
- * The level of competition should be compatible with the player's colleagues and opposition. (e.g., Not so difficult that success is not an option, and not so easy that the players become unmotivated.)
- * Clubs and coaches should ensure that players: Play alongside, and against, players of a comparable standard, enabling them to put into practice skills learned during the week in an environment where they will be stretched.
- * Play in a competitive environment where quality of performance is more important than results.
- * The facilities (field size, ball, etc.) and match officials should also be compatible with the player's ability.
- * The atmosphere surrounding this program should emphasize the role of matches as part of a development program in which the result is not of primary importance. The coaching staff should use the match program to reinforce the key aspects of the player's individual technical development.
- * The number of games per season must be limited to a maximum of 30 and as the number of games will be limited to 30, it is important that none of them are wasted.

Source: US Soccer Best Practices / www.theFA.com