

## **Established Criteria and Procedures for Alignment:**

**The primary basis for team movement will be the team standings from the previous season. These standings will be presented to the Competition Committee who will determine movement and develop the alignment for the next season. The decisions of the Competition Committee are final. The basic criteria will be that the top two teams are promoted and the bottom two are relegated. Between Premier 1 & Premier 2 the basic criteria will be one team is promoted and the bottom team is relegated. Keep in mind that each season new teams enter and previously aligned team disband. This causes unexpected changes in the anticipated alignment. In these instances, the following will be taken into consideration for placement of new teams- season play, state cup play, tournament play, region play, team composition.**

### **Alignment Algorithm:**

- Rank the age groups from last season using tie breaking rules to eliminate all ties.
- Move two teams up and two teams down in each division, except between P1 and P2 where one team is promoted and the bottom team is relegated.
- Relegate any teams without roster continuity down one division.
- Delete teams that have disbanded but leave their spots empty.
- Place new teams.
- Move teams up to fill any holes. Holes will be filled on a case by case basis, with the following considerations.

A team that was relegated may be un-relegated if they have at least one win (forfeits not counting)

A team that placed third in their division may be considered for promotion.

A team that has won all of their games may be considered for promotion to a higher division, not including Premier.

A team that was relegated due to roster continuity should not be considered for promotion.

- Draw in division boundaries based on desired teams/games per division. Optimal division size is 11.

### **Division Size/ Number of Games:**

Division size will remain the discretion of the Competition Committee. It is preferred that a single division have 11 teams and 10 games. No division or age group shall exceed 14 games.

### **Tie Breaking Rules:**

In the case of a tie at the end of the season, the tie breaking procedure will be

- Step 1: The winner in head to head competition
- Step 2: Goal differential (Goals scored minus goals allowed to a maximum differential of 4 per game.)
- Step 3: Least goals allowed

- Step 4: Most goals scored (goals scored to a maximum of 4 per game.)
- Step 5: Shut-out wins (forfeits not counting)
- Step 6: Coin toss by the Competition Committee at the Pre-Alignment

If more than two (2) teams are tied, the tiebreaker criteria listed shall be used in the order shown until one team is advanced. If remaining teams are still tied at this point in the tie-breaking process, they will then be compared beginning again with step 1 until another team is advanced.

### **PRE-ALIGNMENT & ALIGNMENT MEETINGS:**

- Alignment for all Teams (excluding high school teams) must be completed by March 8th for Spring Season and August 5th for Fall Season. In addition, an alignment meeting must be held within three weeks of the registration deadline (July 15th for Fall and February 15 for Spring).
- A Master List of all State Registered Teams is provided to the Competition Committee Director by the State Office. The Section 6 Policies expressly state “Copies of rosters will be given to the Director of Competition within three days of the registration deadline (July 15th for Fall and February 15 for Spring.)
- Pre-Alignment & Alignment Dates shall be posted to the UYSA website no later than two weeks prior.

### **Pre-Alignment Meetings:**

- Held and attended by only Competition Committee Representatives at least one week prior to the Alignment Deadline.
- Each Representative is responsible for attending this meeting. Since the Competition Calendar is set 6 months to a year in advance, each representative is expected to make the necessary arrangements to attend the Pre-Alignment and Alignment Meetings.
- The Section 6 policies expressly state, “Pre-alignment meetings will be for State Competition Board Representatives only.”
- A team will be placed in an age group based on the age of its oldest player according to UYSA age rules.
- At the conclusions of the Pre-Alignment meeting, the UYSA Office Staff posts the pre-alignment results to the UYSA website. The Section 6 policies expressly states “When possible, an alignment preview will be available on the UYSA web page.”)

## **Alignment Meetings:**

- The Committee meets one to two days after Pre-Alignment to finalize the process.
- Committee members gather in a closed door session approximately 1 hour before the open public meeting to resolve any errors or concerns that developed since Pre-Alignment. The intent is to give voice to conflicts in private and develop a consensus on any issues before presenting the results in the public meeting.
- The public meeting begins by allowing the coaches and/or club representatives in by Age Group. In the Fall, we start with the Girls. In the Spring, we start with the Boys. Example: Spring - Boys U11 would enter first. The Section 6 policies specifically state, "The alignment meeting will be an open meeting. The coaches or a team representative may attend. The Region State Competition Board Representatives (or appropriate appointed proxy) will be the only individuals with a voice and a vote."
- Coaches and Club Representatives are allowed to discuss any issues of concern not previously addressed with their Representative for up to 5 minutes. Coaches and Club Representatives are not allowed to directly address the Committee. All correspondences are relayed through their Representative. It is strongly encouraged that discussion with your members be facilitated prior to this open meeting.
- If necessary, discussion is allowed amongst the Committee. A motion to discontinue discussion may be made by any Representative at any time. Upon a 2nd and a vote, discussion will cease.
- Upon closure of discussion, the Director will ask for a vote to finalize that Age Group's alignment with a motion & a second. Each Representative will then cast their one vote in favor or against approving the age group under consideration.
- A neutral individual shall be appointed to count and record all motions and votes. This neutral individual also assists the Director with updating the LCD Projected Alignment to reflect all necessary changes.
- Once an age group is completed, the Director shall ask the Committee if there is the need for any closed discussion concerning the next Age Group. If yes, all non-Committee Members are asked to leave the room and a closed door session is conducted. If the answer is no, the coaches are

let out and the next age group of coaches/club representatives are allowed in.

- This process is repeated until we complete all age groups.