



UYSA Alignment Primer

Updated for Spring '24

UYSA Aligns all of its Competitive Teams

- Prior to each Fall and Spring seasons, UYSA's Competition Committee and Premier Committee align all of UYSA's competitive teams into various Leagues and Divisions. (Premier 13U and 14U only align at the beginning of the seasonal year, Fall Alignment)
- UYSA's Leagues and Divisions (13U and up)
 - **Premier League** (Statewide travel; Regions 1-6, approx. Logan to Spanish Fork, Tooele to Vernal, R6 home games in Fillmore)
 - Premier 1 and Premier 2
 - **State Competition League** (Regions 1-5)
 - Division 1, Division 2, Division 3 (sometimes a Division 4 at the discretion of the Comp Committee in the older ages)
 - **Inter-regional League** ("IRL")
 - North A, B, C, etc. (Regions 1 and 2: Cache, Rich, Box Elder, Morgan, Weber and Davis Counties)
 - Metro A, B, C, etc. (Regions 3 and 4: Salt Lake, Summit, Daggett and Tooele Counties)
 - South A, B, C, etc. (Region 5; Utah, Wasatch, Duchesne and Uintah Counties)
 - SU-IRL (Southern Utah, region 6, does not align with the rest of the State – yet 😊)
 - **X-League** (9U to 11U no scores / no standings, 12U)

How do we Align?

- The goal is to group teams who are competitive with each other
- The process includes promoting top teams from lower divisions and relegating of bottom teams down from higher divisions
 - Between Leagues – 3 up and 3 down (Generally – the Committees have limited discretion and flexibility)
 - Leagues: Premier, State Competitive and IRL
 - Examples:
 - SCL Division 1 – 3 up to Premier 2;
 - Premier 2 – 3 down to Division 1
 - Examples:
 - IRL A divisions (North, Metro and South) – 1 up from each of North, Metro and South A to lowest SCL Division;
 - Lowest SCL Division – 3 down to the IRL As.
 - Inside divisions – 2 up and 2 down
 - Examples:
 - IRL North B – 2 up to North A;
 - North A - 2 down to North B
 - Division 2 – 2 up to Division 1;
 - Division 1 – 2 down to Division 2;
 - Premier 2 – 2 up to Premier 1;
 - Premier 1 – 2 down to Premier 2

How does UYSA align the No Scores / No Standings League (9U, 10U and 11U)?

- For UYSA's 9U-11U, the clubs and teams work with their coaches and director of coaching to self-align based on how developed the players are on that particular team.
- No Scores or standings: the goal is developing individual players' skills more than team development – have players compete with similarly skilled and developed players.
- The Competition Committee has created a ranking of the NS/NS leagues to help the teams self-align.
 - Red (experienced, highly skilled players for the age)
 - White (not quite there yet)
 - Blue (some experience, learning the skills)
 - Green (beginners)
- The clubs and teams provide their Competition Committee rep with their desired alignment color.

How does UYSA align the No Scores / No Standings League (9U, 10U and 11U)?

- Some areas have many teams choosing the same color so UYSA offers multiple divisions.
 - Ex: Blue A, Blue B.
 - Those divisions are considered to be equal in level.
- It is important for coaches to work with their directors of coaching and with their Comp Committee member to make sure the team is properly aligned.
 - It can make for a very long season when players are in over their heads. Once schedules are out, we cannot fix.
- There is no mandatory promotion nor relegation between the colored levels.
- Teams can re-align themselves each season.

Alignment Process

- Clubs and Independent teams must register and apply their teams with the UYSA league by the applicable deadlines – typically 1 week before pre-alignment
 - July 1st for Fall and February 1st for Spring
- Clubs and Independent teams fill out their alignment forms with their alignment requests and provide them to their Competition Committee representatives by the registration deadline
- Comp committee members list:
 - [Competition Sub-Committee — Utah Youth Soccer Association](#)
- Competition Committee pre-aligns all of the non-Premier teams for that season utilizing policy guidelines and its discretion

Alignment Process

- Premier Committee reviews the alignment for the Premier League and makes changes if applicable
- UYSA publishes the Pre-Alignment for review to catch errors
 - Typically published the Sunday after Pre-Alignment
 - Spring '24 – Feb 4th
- Clubs and independent teams should communicate with Comp Committee members to fix errors PRIOR to Final Alignment
- Final Alignment ZOOM meeting takes place
 - Typically, the next Wednesday or Thursday after Pre-Alignment
 - Spring '24 – Feb 8th
 - Noon for the Premier alignment and 6pm for the rest of the leagues
 - We typically start with the 19U girls and work down in age and then go to the boys.

What about 12U?

- 12U– self alignment with caveats in Fall and results-based alignment for Spring
 - Because 11U is no scores/ no standings, ANY team that played 11U Red SCL the previous Spring is eligible to request placement in 12U Premier for Fall.
 - The Spring season of playing against the highest developed players should allow the coach to make a reasonable determination as to whether they will be competitive.
 - After the Fall season, for the Spring alignment, the top 18 teams in the Premier will be aligned into 2 Premier colors (Black and Silver – equally ranked)
 - Teams that aren't in the top 18 will be placed into D1, D2 and the IRLs as applicable.
 - Teams that don't choose Premier may self-align into D2 and/or into the IRLs
 - As always, the goal is to get your team playing competitive games.
 - After the Fall season, for the Spring alignment, based on results, teams will be placed in D1, D2 or the IRLs as applicable.

And 13U?

- For 13U, similar to all standard alignments with the following exceptions:
 - For Fall alignment, the standings from the two equal Premier divisions after the 12U Premier Spring season are used to create Premier 1 and Premier 2
 - Typically, 8 teams in Premier 1 and 10 in Premier 2
 - (The Premier Committee has a goal of making the Premier 1 division as competitive as possible, so will tend to aim for a Premier 1 division with only 6 teams by 15U)
 - Division 3 is added
 - Allows more teams to promote up from the IRL A's to alleviate the IRL bottleneck where only 1 team typically promotes up.

Q & A

- Why is this so complex?
 - The current alignment policies and guidelines have been developed over years
 - The goals are: 1) competitive divisions, and 2) certainty (teams should know what they need to do or to avoid to be placed in a competitive division)
- Why doesn't the whole alignment just get done by the Competition Committee using their discretion?
 - See "certainty" above.
- Why are teams relegated 2 divisions if they fail to keep roster continuity?
 - Quick answer – it isn't the same team that earned the spot anymore.
- Why are teams relegated 2 divisions if they leave a club for another?
 - This is to protect clubs from being raided by others

Q & A

- Where do brand new teams start in 13U and older?
 - The bottom, with exceptions at times depending on openings in divisions and ability to prove the quality of the players.
 - Highest a team could be placed would be in the IRL A divisions.
- What if my team wins all its games? Can we promote up more than 1 division?
 - Perhaps. By policy, teams cannot promote up more than one step between leagues. (Can't go from IRL North B to Division 3.) If space is available, teams could promote up two steps in the same league. (Ex; Division 3 to Division 1).
- Can I request to go to a lower division because I lost players?
 - Absolutely – that is encouraged. We want competitive games at all levels.
- What if I have questions about how all this works?
 - Contact UYSA 801-307-5150 or the Competition Committee rep for your region for answers.
 - Comp committee list: [Competition Sub-Committee — Utah Youth Soccer Association](#)