



UYSA Alignment Primer

Updated For Fall 2024

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.
- UYSA's Leagues and Divisions (13U and up)
 - Premier League (Statewide travel; Logan to St. George, Tooele to Vernal)
 - Premier 1 and Premier 2
 - State Competition League (travel less than Premier – No travel to Region 6)
 - 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)
 - Same travel as IRL.

How do we Align?

- The goal is to group teams who are competitive with each other
- The process includes promotion of top teams from lower divisions up and relegation 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
 - Ex: SCL Division 1 – 3 up to Premier 2; Premier 2 - 3 down to Division 1
 - Ex: 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
 - Ex: IRL North B – 2 up to North A; North A - 2 down to North B
 - Ex: Division 2 – 2 up to Division 1; Division 1 – 2 down to Division 2
 - Ex: 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 skill (not team) development with similarly skilled and developed players playing against each other.
- The Competition Committee has created a ranking of the NS/NS leagues to help the teams self-align.
 - Red (top, highly skilled players for the age)
 - White
 - Blue
 - 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 so many teams that choose the same color that 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.
- There is no mandatory promotion nor relegation between the colored levels.
- Teams can re-align themselves each season.

Alignment Process

- Clubs and Independent teams register their teams with UYSA 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: [State Committee Directory - USYS Utah \(utahyouthsoccer.net\)](https://www.utahyouthsoccer.net)
- Competition Committee pre-aligns all of the 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
 - SU-IRL teams “may” qualify to play in Premier 2
- UYSA publishes the Pre-Alignment for review to catch errors
 - Typically published the Sunday after Pre-Alignment
 - Fall 2024: July 7th
 - Spring 2025: Early Feb
- Clubs and independent teams communicate with Comp Committee members to fix errors PRIOR to Final Alignment
- Final Alignment ZOOM meetings takes place
 - Typically, the next Wednesday or Thursday after Pre-Alignment – Fall ‘24 on July 11th
 - Noon for the Premier alignment and 6pm for the rest of the leagues
 - We typically start with the 19U boys and work down in age and then go to the girls.

What about 12U?

- Fall 2024 – self alignment with caveats
 - Because 11U is no scores/ no standings, ANY team can request placement in 12U Premier for Fall '24 if, and only if, they played 11U Red SCL the previous season in Spring '24.
 - The Spring season of playing against the highest developed players should allow the coach to make a reasonable determination as to whether they are competitive.
 - After the Fall '24 season, for the Spring '25 alignment, the top 18 teams in the Premier will be aligned into 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: self-align into D2 and/or into the IRLs
 - As always, the goal is to get your team playing competitive games.
 - After the Fall '24 season, for the Spring '25 alignment, based on results, teams will be placed in D1, D2 or the IRLs as applicable.

And 13U?

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 seasonal year are used to create Premier 1 and Premier 2
 - The Premier Committee has a goal of making the Premier 1 division as competitive as possible.
 - 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 up to 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