

Applications for the Spring 2012 Season

Applications for the Spring 2012 season of the Far West Regional League will open September 19. Applications will be accepted until midnight PT November 7, 2011. The entry fee is \$525 and is due in full on November 7. **All teams that apply after midnight November 7 will be automatically wait-listed and will only be admitted at the convenience of the league.** Announcement of acceptance of wait-listed teams will be made by December 1. Schedules will be published by January 10, 2012.

In addition to Premier, we are actively trying to form sub-regional (geographic) First Divisions, so if your team is looking for a higher level of competition, w/o the travel commitment of Premier, then contact Jim Tilley at jim.tilley@regioniv.com. First Division play dates will vary from the Premier dates below.

Play Weekends

This is complicated, so read it carefully. Please choose at least one optional weekend. The play dates for the Spring 2012 Season are:

1. February 24, 25 are optional for every team;
2. We will share facilities with the Sereno College Showcase in Phoenix, Arizona, on March 3, 4. This is an optional weekend for everyone;
3. March 10, 11 are mandatory for all boys' teams, optional for girls' teams;
4. March 17, 18 are mandatory for every team;
5. March 24, 25 are optional for every team;
6. March 31, April 1 are mandatory for all girls' teams, optional for boys' teams. Girls have the choice of also joining the Eclipse College Showcase;
7. April 14, 15 are mandatory for every team.

Note on the Sereno weekend: This is a normal Far West Regional League weekend, **offered in conjunction with and played on the same fields as the Sereno College Showcase.** We will play all games by FWRL rules – limited substitution for G15 and older and full length games. There is no extra charge for this weekend.

Note on the Eclipse weekend: This is a normal Far West Regional League weekend for girls only, **offered in conjunction with and played on the same fields as the Eclipse College Showcase.** We will play all games by FWRL rules – limited substitution for G15 and older and full length games. You must join the Eclipse Showcase and pay the entry fee to participate in the FWRL bracket of the Eclipse Showcase. Otherwise, girls teams will play at a different site that weekend. Please make sure Neil Powell of Laguna Hills Soccer Club knows you intend to play in the FWRL bracket of the Showcase. You must join the Showcase and pay the fees by December 15 to be in the FWRL bracket. Again, this is for girls teams only – boys teams will play at other sites.

Not every team will play every weekend as we will make every effort to consolidate travel and play multiple games each weekend. Our goal is to make as fair a schedule as possible for teams from every state association that can participate in the spring, and the option to schedule each of those weekends will help us reach that goal. It is quite likely

that any one team may only play two or three of those weekends. **Please do not sign up for the league if you cannot meet all of the required dates above that apply to your team. At application, agreeing to play on the optional weekends may well save you on travel costs, as it will give us the flexibility to pair you with more teams at more times.**

Please understand that you may be asked to travel to play a local team but you will not be asked to travel to play only a local team. For example, two San Diego teams may play each other in Portland as part of a multi-team weekend. We emphasize similar rest for opponents in each game. It may therefore be necessary to travel to play neighboring teams in order to make the league fairer for everyone.

We understand that there are regional differences in schedules and that certain weekends will be easier for teams from certain areas. That is the reason that we have made the optional dates and the dates that are required for some, but not for all. Again, with the above having been said, **please do not sign up for the Far West Regional League unless you can meet all of the required dates above that apply to your team.**

Travel

In this difficult economy, we will make every effort to consider travel costs in scheduling. The highest priority for scheduling will be competitive fairness, but cost control for teams will be a very important consideration. That being said, **the FWRL is a regional league.** You must be prepared to travel two or three weekends to participate in this league. Travel is mandatory, and the penalty for failure to meet your schedule is severe. Sanctions for failure to meet schedule commitments are levied against your club. **Please note that in some states, additional penalties apply, including exclusion from NCS events and state tournaments.** The schedule is a full round robin (it's a league, not a tournament) with participating teams from many states, so it is possible, though unlikely, that your team could travel a very long way to play just one game. **Do not take this commitment lightly.** We continue to try to streamline travel, and sub-regionalize brackets where competitively fair.

Hosting Far West Regional League Games

With very few exceptions, the Far West Regional League does not pay for fields. With the travel requirements for the league, hosting by state associations, clubs and even groups of teams is a significant financial benefit, even with local payment for fields. As of September 15 the primary play locations will be Phoenix, Las Vegas, San Diego, and Los Angeles. Applications to host will be taken from any accepted team, and evaluated for suitability.

With the large number of teams in Southern California and Arizona, the FWRL will arrange multi-field venues, consolidate the total costs of those venues, and distribute the costs associated with fields in So Cal amongst the Cal South teams and the costs of Arizona fields amongst the Arizona teams. (For the purpose of planning team budgets, anticipate costs of somewhere between \$75 and \$100 per team per game for consolidated

venues. This bill will go out almost immediately after the schedules go out and is due upon receipt.)

Please note that college coach attendance is a very high priority for the FWRL, and that priority is best accomplished by multiple fields in one location. We have made great strides in attracting college coaches to our venues. The FWRL will favor venues that offer multiple fields (4+) that can host enough games to attract coaches from a long way away.

Concern

The requirements for participating in this league are significant. Please expect 1) your team to travel -- perhaps more than 1000 miles; 2) a difficult and demanding schedule that will require each of your players to make a full commitment – please consider the possibility for injury and individual travel expense when you look at the ability of your roster to meet this commitment; and 3) that any disputes will be analyzed by what’s in the long term best interest of the fairness of the entire league. Please do not enter this league lightly.