



# Far West Regional League Spring 2009 General Information

The **FAR WEST REGIONAL LEAGUE'S (FWRL)** mission is to provide the highest standard of competitive play for youth teams in US Youth Soccer Region IV (the Far West Region) and to assure the continued growth and development of elite level players. Very simply we are here for the **BEST**. Only qualified teams are accepted. Team success, with special emphasis on State Cup and Regionals competition results, helps determine qualification for participation in the FWRL.

## **LEVEL OF COMMITMENT EXPECTED BY FWRL TEAMS**

Any team considering participation in the FWRL must understand the level of commitment needed to participate in a league that stretches across US Youth Soccer Region IV. All teams must understand that this is a **regional league and that teams may travel hundreds of miles to participate in FWRL games**. Teams understand that they **may not** play any home games. The level of competition far surpasses any youth team competition within a team's state association. Teams will be competing against the **best teams** from across the **Far West**.

## **AGE GROUPS OF COMPETITION**

The FWRL offers Premier and First Division competition in the **Girls and Boys U14, U15, U16, U17 and U18** age groups. Primarily Premier Division competition will be offered in the Spring 09 Season, but some First Division competition may be offered.

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

The team application deadline is **midnight PT, November 10, 2008**. Your state association will review your application and **solely determine** if your team will receive state association approval to participate in the FWRL. Only after state association approval will the FWRL review the application and determine if your team will be accepted into the FWRL for the 2009 Spring Season.

In completing the application form, teams are required to submit accurate information on team accomplishments. Misrepresentation of team accomplishments may result in the team being disqualified from FWRL participation. Teams that were State Cup semi-finalists from their home state have a reserved slot in the FWRL. Premier Division slots in all age groups are determined based on play from previous Far West Regionals, Far West Regional League and State Cup competition. Teams that are State Cup finalists from their home state have priority, but are not automatically entered into the FWRL or automatically placed in the Premier Division.

## **ENTRY FEE**

The entry fee is **\$395** per team and is non-refundable if a team is accepted into the FWRL and later drops out of the league. The team fee does not include referee fees that are paid on a game-by-game basis. Team fees are paid either on-line via credit card or by check sent to FWRL Commissioner at 4152 Dietz Farm Circle, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107. Make checks payable to Region IV, and note Far West Regional League on the check.

## **SELECTION AND PLACEMENT**

Following approval by the individual state associations, the FWRL Committee will determine the final selection and placement of all teams. Teams will be notified via e-mail regarding their

acceptance and placement into specific divisions within the FWRL. Premier Division teams are determined based on previous season State Cup, Far West Regional League and Far West Regionals performance. For the Spring Season 09, teams will be divided by seeding and then by geography into Premier subdivisions. There will be a First Division in the northern states, and possibly for the rest of the region. Teams may apply to that division if desired.

## **COMMUNICATION FROM/WITH FWRL**

**E-mail will be the primary means of communication within the FWRL.** It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that accurate contact information is on file with the FWRL. **This cannot be emphasized enough – very important communications often come via e-mail only.**

## **TEAM ROSTERS**

22-player rosters with 3 guest players will be utilized for the Under 18 and Under 17 age groups. For all other age groups, an 18-player roster and 7 guest players are permitted. **Guest players may only come from within a team's club**, provided that the player is a current US Youth Soccer member. See FWRL Rules for further information. Teams follow the guest player rules of their local state association in obtaining guest player permission to travel.

## **REFEREES**

The three-man system will be used for all games. Referee assignments are done through the respective authorized FWRL assignor. Each team is responsible for one-half of the total referee fees per game. (One-half is \$50 per game per team for U14; \$55 per game per team for U15 & U16 and \$65 per game per team for U17 & U18.)

## **FWRL RULES AND INFORMATION**

Additional information on the FWRL is available on the league website: [www.RegionIV.com](http://www.RegionIV.com) under the FWR League tab. Any questions can be directed to Jim Tilley at [fwrjtl@aol.com](mailto:fwrjtl@aol.com).

## **LOCATION OF GAMES--HOSTING FWRL GAMES**

In addition to sites secured by the FWRL, **teams are offered the opportunity to host games at their home sites.** To qualify, a team must submit an APPLICATION TO HOST MULTIPLE FWRL GAMES, which can be downloaded from the FWRL website. The FWRL will review applications and have the sole authority in determining if a team may host FWRL games at their proposed site. In the FWRL, teams are not required to complete Permission to Travel permits/forms for games played outside of their state association.

## **COMPETITION FORMAT**

All competitions in every age group and sub-division will be round robin in nature. In the Premier Divisions, there may be a need to compete in an end of season playoff to determine invitations to the Far West Regionals. First Division teams will also play a round robin competition within their division (or sub-division) and may need to compete in an end of season playoff competition to determine the teams to be promoted into the Premier Division. The Premier Division playoff weekend is April 4 and 5, 2009. Thus, depending on the number of teams accepted into divisions, teams may play up to a total of 10 FWRL games during the course of the Spring Season 09. **Please be aware of the number of games that may be required. FWRL teams are required to fulfill their commitment by playing out their entire FWRL schedule of games.** The FWRL Committee shall determine the penalty for failure to fulfill a team's schedule.

## **SCHEDULING**

- **Further specifics of the Spring Season 09 play dates are explained in the Application Announcement on the FWR League home page at [www.regioniv.com](http://www.regioniv.com)**
- First available date to play Spring 2009 games is February 21, by self-schedule.

- Last available play date for completion of bracket games will be March 29, unless your particular age/gender group has only one bracket. If your age/gender group has only one bracket, bracket games may be played on April 4 and 5.
- Mandatory FWRL play dates are April 4 and 5, 2009.
- Each team will play up to three (3) matches on each "League" weekend.
- Teams may be responsible for scheduling some other matches at their own discretion.
- Generally, on the league play dates the concept of scheduling will have teams traveling the farthest play each other and may allow teams in a closer geographical proximity to work out their individual matches when it is convenient.

*Note:* FWRL games may be scheduled during other US Youth Soccer sanctioned competitions during spring weekends, but must be stand alone games (i.e. the results of the games may only count towards FWRL competition and played under FWRL rules). Teams and host organization will be held responsible for FWRL rules compliance in these situations.

## **BOYS and GIRLS PREMIER DIVISIONS**

**Competition:** Teams accepted into the FWRL that earn a spot in the Premier Division may be sub-divided into divisions based on geography and competitive strength for regular season FWRL play. A round-robin competition within your division (or sub-division) will take place to determine the standings of teams (this competition could consist of as few as four games and as many as 9 games based on the number of teams accepted per age group). In age groups that have sub-divisions the FWRL will have an end-of-season playoff weekend (scheduled for April 4 and 5) to determine the top team. The number of teams participating and the playoff format will be determined by the FWRL. The top-finishing team in the Premier Division that is not a state cup champion will earn an invitation for the wild card slot into the 2009 US Youth Soccer Far West Region Championships in Lancaster, California.

**Relegation:** Based on the number of teams and the final structure of the age/gender group, the FWRL Committee will determine the number of teams to be relegated to the First Division for future seasons.

## **BOYS and GIRLS FIRST DIVISIONS**

**Competition:** Teams accepted into the FWRL and not placed in the Premier Division will be placed in the First Division. Based on the number of qualified teams, the First Division may be sub-divided into divisions based on geography for regular season FWRL play. A round-robin competition with your division (or sub-division) will take place to determine the standings of teams (this competition could consist of as few as five games and as many as 9 games based on the number of teams accepted into your age group).

**Promotion:** Based on the number of teams and the final structure of the age/gender group, the FWRL Committee will determine the number of teams to be promoted to the Premier Division for future seasons.

- 1) an end-of-season playoff weekend may take place to determine the teams that will be promoted into the Premier Division. The number of teams participating and the playoff format will be determined by the FWRL. There will be no U18 playoff weekend; or
- 2) in age groups that have two sub-divisions within the First Division, the top team within each sub-division shall be promoted into the Premier Division.