

State Cup Seedings -updated fall 2024

Due to multiple leagues in US Youth, we will need to have some changes to the State Cup seeding procedures. If a team is registered in a US Youth Regional league and they want to participate in State Cup, the following procedures will occur:

1. If a team is in a USYS Regional league outside of Alabama State League (ASL), those USYS Regional teams will be in a blind random draw (**along with ASL A Division winner**) for their true age group seeding positions above the ASL for State Cup.

A team may play up in age group for their current fall ASL league with approval from the ASL Technical Committee based on previous year performance in State Cup and ASL, then move down to their true age group top division for State Cup and added to blind draw for A Division.

Example: 16U Midsouth, 16U Frontier, 16U National Academy and **ASL First Place** will be put into a hat for a blind draw for positions 1 through 4 for the 16U A Bracket State Cup then the ASL seeding will follow so the **second-place** team in ASL 16U A Division will be seeded 5, **third place seeded 6**.

2. If an **accepted regional** team decides to **also** play in the ASL in their true age group, they will be seeded based on the **current** ASL fall final schedule. Example: if 16U Midsouth Team plays in 16U ASL for the fall, they will be seeded based on their **current** ASL fall season.

3. If a team decides to play in the ASL in an older age group at least A division or B division, they will be seeded above their ASL true age group A Division for State Cup.

Example: 17U team plays in Midsouth 17U then plays up in ASL in 18U B Division, they will be seeded as the 17U A Division for State Cup as the first-place seed unless other USYS Regional teams apply then the blind draw will occur.

4. **Since USYS added Midsouth Premier 2, those teams will be seeded based on previous fall ASL League, unless they are in the current ASL Fall league. If Premier 2 teams are playing in current ASL in true age group, they will be seeded as the current ASL Fall season.**

5. If an ASL team wants to play up in age group, with the approval of the Technical Advisory Committee prior to the season, they will be seeded as their previous fall seasons ranking for State Cup. Example: 15U Team won their A Division ASL FALL 2022 and want to play up for the next fall season, they will retain their first place seeding from 2022 for State Cup unless a USYS Regional team(s) apply for State Cup.

USYS TOP Regional League is defined as playing in a USYS sanctioned league that plays against other affiliated USYS State associations in a USYS league managed and approved by Alabama Soccer Association. ASA views these leagues above ASL because they must apply and be approved based on success in previous ASL A Division, State Cup seedings, USYS Events, and USYS Regional Events.

Note for ASL player rosters: If a team is playing 17U Regional league and the same players are playing as the same team 17U for ASL, it will no longer be considered playing down for your team roster. If the same teams are playing 18U Regional and playing the same team for 17U ASL, it will no longer be considered playing down for your team roster if all players are true 17U. 18U true age players cannot play down to 17U in ASL without ASA approval.