



PROPOSED 12U ILLINOIS MWC CHANGES



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WHAT IS THE 12U ILLINOIS MWC QUALIFIER

Since 2018, Illinois Youth Soccer has run the 12U Illinois MWC Qualifier as a direct path for teams to earn their place into the US Youth Soccer National League Midwest Conference on the field.

The competition is open to any team registered to an Illinois Youth Soccer member competitive league but is designed for the most competitive teams in the 12U age group.

The competition is played 11v11



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CURRENT FORMAT

- Played in Spring
- Team Play 8-9 games within a “division” (depending on the number of teams that register)
- Teams play the team that finished in the same position in the other division in a “playoff”
 - 1st vs 1st
 - 2nd vs 2nd
 - 3rd vs 3rd
 - Thru last vs last
 - Illinois is guaranteed 8 spots in both genders in the Fall 13U Midwest Conference but often gets more than 8 spots, so a comprehensive ranking is imperative
- Games are played home team host



PROPOSED CHANGE

Transition from a Spring ONLY competition to a FALL/SPRING competition so that teams play ALL teams in their gender age group. NOT just the teams in their division.



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RATIONAL & BENEFITS

1. Currently, teams are placed in divisions and do not play all teams in their age group. **By having each team play all the other teams it will eliminate the potential for “groups of death” and gives all teams an equal chance to earn a proper ranking.**



RATIONAL & BENEFITS

2. Scheduling Flexibility. By expanding the season we allow teams more time to play their games as well as the chance to schedule matches long-term to eliminate conflicts for other teams they coach. Teams would be allowed to play in the winter indoors of full size fields and IYSA could help to coordinate field rentals in Rockford for teams interested in that. **By giving the teams their full year-round schedule in August, they can appropriately plan for other competitions they want to play in including tournaments and other LEAGUE divisions. With more time to play their Qualifier games some teams may choose to ALSO compete in league division at 9v9 to optimize playing opportunities for all players while maintaining a deep player pool from within their club.** The yearlong format would also allow coaches to work on the transition of 11v11 early in the Fall and then schedule games later in the Fall season into the Spring .As opposed to now, where teams may play 9v9 in the Fall and then jump right into 11v11 in the Spring.



RATIONAL & BENEFITS

3. Proper Tryout Planning: With the competition starting in the Fall. Club can properly plan for larger rosters during their Spring tryouts instead of selecting a 12U teams based on 9v9 play in the Fall and then having to adjust for 11v11 in the Spring.



CLUB FEEDBACK

IYSA has a document we can share with clubs to review

Send feedback to chrisj@illinoisyouthsoccer.org



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