





TAMPA & AUBURNDALE, FL

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### **CONGRATS!**

Dear 2024 Southern Regional Championships Team:

On behalf of US Youth Soccer, I congratulate you on qualifying for the 2024 US Youth Soccer Southern Regional Championships! This is a tremendous accomplishment toward your goal of advancing to the 2024 US Youth Soccer National Championships in Orlando, Florida, and competing for a National Championship.

Our work to host this event began several years ago. The Southern Regional Championship Committee has been teaming with the Local Organizing Committee in Florida, *Visit Tampa Bay*, *Visit Central Florida* and *Tampa Sports Authority* to help ensure an amazing experience for you in Tampa and Auburndale, Florida. The 15 grass fields at The Tournament Sportsplex, 11 grass fields at Lake Myrtle and 6 grass fields at John McGee Park will be ready for action. We are grateful for all the efforts of Florida Youth Soccer Association and our LOC partners to help make this event possible! And an advanced thank-you to all the volunteers and park staff that will working tirelessly to make sure "all things tournament" run smoothly with the best possible experience for our athletes and their supporters.

Included in this team information guide are a variety of items to help prepare you for your upcoming trip to Florida. In addition, for the latest information, please visit our website at: 2024 Southern Regional Championships

Schedule updates and other event-specific announcements may be posted at any time at: 2024 Southern Regional Championships

Should you have any additional questions not answered in this team information guide or on our website, the first person to contact would be your State Association Representative.

I look forward to seeing you in Florida in a few weeks. Safe Travels! Yours in soccer,

Jane Llewellyn

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US Youth Soccer Southern Region NCS Program Manager

A special message from US Women's National Team legend Christie Pearce Rampone



Dear USYS Southern Regional Championship Teams and Families,

First and foremost, congratulations! You should be incredibly proud of what your team has accomplished, having earned a spot in the 2024 US Youth Soccer Southern Regional Championships in Tampa Bay, with an opportunity to advance to the National Championships!

As we prepare to host you this June, I can assure you that our community is ready to welcome you with open arms! Tampa is a very unique destination. Our splendid accommodations have the ability to meet the needs of each and every visitor. Our airport is world-class and consistently wins awards for comfort and efficiency. Our venues, led by our Tournament SportsPlex, are top-notch. Our beaches are some of the finest in the world. Impressive entertainment options are everywhere. Our attractions are many and varied, from Busch Gardens and The Florida Aquarium to ZooTampa.

The area is filled with rich culture and diversity such as Ybor City - a National Historic District to the Seminole Indian Reservation. Some of the finest museums can be found in Tampa Bay. Our restaurants are among the most superb in the world, featuring the historic Columbia Restaurant and world-renowned Bern's Steakhouse. Tampa is also home to Outback Steakhouse and their many specialty restaurants.

Tampa is uniquely qualified and experienced in planning and staging prestigious events of all sizes. As our resume continues to grow, so does our reputation. We truly pride ourselves on delivering on the promises that we make. Based on our experience in hosting a wide variety of events, you can be assured of our capacity and skill to not only accommodate your teams and families, but to help produce a successful Southern Regional Championships for you!

We look forward to welcoming you to our magnificent destination this summer! To help you prepare for your trip, we would encourage you to check out the following assets:

- Tampa Bay Explorer
- <u>Tampa Riverwalk Attraction Pass:</u>
- Tampa CityPass:
- All Tampa Maps | Visit Tampa Bay
- **Downtown Restaurant Guide**
- Visit Tampa Bay Digital Visitor Guides
- Fast Facts

Sincerely,

Jason Aughey Senior Vice President of Sports Tourism Visit Tampa Bay









To the 2024 US Youth Soccer Southern Regionals Athletes, Coaches, and Fans:

Welcome to Central Florida's Polk County! On behalf of Visit Central Florida Sports, we want to congratulate you on making it this far in your journey to the National Championships. Let us take a moment to share how excited we are to welcome you and the 2024 US Youth Soccer Southern Regionals to Lake Myrtle Sports Park here in Auburndale, Florida.

Did you know Polk County is the soccer capital of Florida and home to the Florida Youth Soccer Association? Wait until you step out on the pitch, you will quickly learn why. Our municipal partner here at Lake Myrtle Sports Park, the City of Auburndale meticulously maintains and cares for the 11 Bermuda 419 grass soccer fields to a world class standard. Our championship field boasts more than 5,000 seats and the Orlando Health Stadium which opened in early 2023. It is the ultimate backdrop for celebrating your victory!

In addition to a world-class sports environment, Polk County offers a variety of affordable accommodations and unique restaurants that annually provide millions of visitors the experience of a lifetime. Our tourist, cultural and historical attractions offer visitors a wide and affordable array of the world's finest theme parks and attractions. Within a 50-mile drive in either direction is some of the world's most recognizable attractions including the Walt Disney World Resort, Sea World Orlando, Universal Studios Orlando, and Busch Gardens Tampa. The City of Winter Haven, located within Polk County is proud to be the home of LEGOLAND Florida, which still boasts the longest running ski show in the world, Peppa Pig, and soon a new Sea Life Aquarium!

The 2024 US Youth Soccer Southern Regionals has brought together a great opportunity for partnership between Visit Central Florida Sports, the US Youth Soccer, Florida Youth Soccer Association, and the City of Auburndale. Visit Central Florida Sports certainly looks forward to working in conjunction with these other entities and to welcome all of you into our community and wishing you the very best at the 2024 US Youth Soccer Southern Regionals.

Sincerely,

Mark Jackson

Director of Tourism and Sports Marketing

Visit Central Florida Sports



201 N. Franklin Street

**Suite 2900** 

Tampa, FL 33602

Phone 813.223.1111

Toll Free 800.826.8358

Fax 813.229.6616

www.TampaBaySports.org

Dear 2024 Southern Regional Championships Teams:

On behalf of our Tampa Bay Sports Commission, we are thrilled to welcome you to our community this summer to compete for a chance to attend the 2024 USYS National Championships!

Tampa Bay is a destination that has it all – from the places to play to the places to stay, along with an infinite list of things to do – we can assure you that your experience in our destination will be a memorable one!

With the Bay area's strong history of accommodating a variety of sporting events with great success, Tampa Bay has the necessary experience, commitment, and world-class facilities, hotels and entertainment to host events of all sizes at a high level.

While Tampa Bay has demonstrated its ability to host major events such as five Super Bowls, WWE WrestleMania and Royal Rumble, College Football Playoff National Championship, Reliaquest and Gasparilla Bowls, NCAA Men's and Women's Final Four Basketball Championships, three NCAA Frozen Fours, the ACC and SEC Men's Basketball Tournaments, NCAA Men's Basketball First and Second Rounds, ACC Football Championships, NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championships, NHL Stanley Cup Finals and All-Star Weekend, it's events like the USYS Southern Regional Championships that truly drive us. We are constantly working to raise the bar with every USYS event that we are fortunate to host, and we look forward to rolling out the red carpet for you!

As millions of visitors descend upon the Tampa Bay area each year to experience our weather in the summer, white sandy beaches, rich culture and exciting entertainment, Tampa Bay takes pride in all it has to offer. We feel confident that you will feel the genuine hometown comfort while reveling in the energy and spirit that the area has to offer. It should also be noted that our convention and visitor's bureau, Visit Tampa Bay, affords you the comfort of knowing that you will have a true one-stop-shop for all of your needs!

Working hand in hand with US Youth Soccer, the Florida Youth Soccer Association and our partners at Visit Tampa Bay, we are excited to deliver an unforgettable experience. We look forward to seeing you in Tampa this June!

Sincerely,

Rob Higgins Executive Director

**Tampa Bay Sports Commission** 

#### REGISTRATION

- A team's Southern Regional Championship roster will be frozen on Thursday, June 13th @ 11:59 PMCT. Once the roster is frozen, no player changes may be made. Each State is responsible for certifying the eligibility of all players and teams. Team Managers or a Team Representative will meet with their respective State Reps on Thursday, June 20 at the Sheraton Tampa Brandon Hotel located at 10221 Princess Palm Avenue in Tampa. Please, ONLY one person per team. Clubs with multiple teams can send a representative to check-in all teams.
- State Check-In Requirements and Schedule: Team Check-in Team Schedule

#### **MEMBER PASSES**

• Each player listed on a team roster and team official expecting to be on the team's sideline during a game must have a valid US Youth Soccer member pass at the competition. The US Youth Soccer member pass must carry a current photograph of the player or team official. All member passes shall be laminated (or machine produced). Teams/players without US Youth Soccer member passes shall not be allowed to participate in the Southern Regional Championships.

#### **TEAM BENCH & OFFICIAL CREDENTIALS**

• Players and up to 4 club-specific credentialed team officials may be on the bench during the game. A team official may be DOC, coach, assistant coach, manager, or registered medical personnel affiliated with the team's club. Team Official Credentials will be issued at registration and must always be visible during each match. Non-game day rostered players may sit on the bench and must wear clothing distinct from game-day uniform.





#### **MEDICAL BADGE**

- Teams/clubs or states that travel with trainer, DR., DO, PT, nurse, or other licensed medical personnel, may request a Medical Badge Credential. The medical badge grants an individual permission to step on to the field or bench area with permission from the referee, and only in a supporting medical role from the tournament medical team. The Tournament Medical Team is primary related to medical care. Club/State Medical Trainer will assume a secondary role. Team medical staff is NOT permitted on the team side during a game without a Medical Badge and will be counted as one of the four team officials permitted on the bench.
- Prior to receiving the credential, the individual must provide a valid 2024 US Youth Soccer member pass and a copy of their current certification or license. Please notify your State Rep if your team will be requesting a Medical Badge. The individual's documentation should be brought to your team's check-in on Thursday, June 20.
- Note that the ATCs contracted for this event are considered primary and any team ATCs are secondary.

#### **SUBSTITUTIONS**

- The number of substitutions shall be unlimited for 13U and 14U.
- For all other age groups, a maximum of 7 substitutions for each team shall be allowed in each game, during each half of play, and during overtime play. After leaving the game during a half of play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game during that same half of play. After leaving the game during overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game.
- Substitutions may be made with the consent of the referee at any stoppage of play.

### Per Rule 242 Playing Rules Section 3 (subsection 3) Medical Substitution from the USYSNC National Championships Policy:

• If a player is suspected of suffering a head injury, they may be substituted for evaluation without the substitutions counting against the team's total number of allowed substitutions during each half or overtime period. If the player with the suspected head injury has received clearance from the events' Health Care Professional, the player may re-enter at any stoppage of play. The evaluated player must replace the original substitute and will not count as a substitution. The temporary substituted player may re-enter the game as a regular substitute. A team may only make a temporary substitution if they have a substitution available.







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# FREE EVENT PHOTOS

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#### **EVENT HOSTS**

- Florida Youth Soccer Association (FYSA)
- Tampa Bay Sports Authority
- Visit Tampa
- Visit Central Florida

#### **EVENT LOCATION**

• Games will be played at three (3) locations:

Tampa Sportsplex (girls only). 9330 E. Columbus Dr. Tampa, FL. 33619. Field Map PDF

Lake Myrtle Sports Complex (boys only). 2701 Lake Myrtle Park Rd. Auburndale, FL. 33823

Field Map PDF

USYS Southern Regionals - Auburndale - Google Maps link

John McGee Park (boys – prelims only). 3050 Lakeland Highlands Rd. Lakeland, FL. 33803

Field Map PDF

USYS Southern Regionals - Lakeland - Google Maps link

#### **EVENT DATES**

- Thursday, June 20 Team Registration
- Friday, June 21 Group Play
- Saturday, June 22 Group Play
- Sunday, June 23 Group Play
- Monday, June 24 Rest Dayforall age groups
- Tuesday, June 25 Semifinals (18U & 19U girls)
   Quarterfinals (13U-17U boys & girls; 18U & 19U boys & girls)
- Wednesday, June 26 Finals (18U & 19U girls)

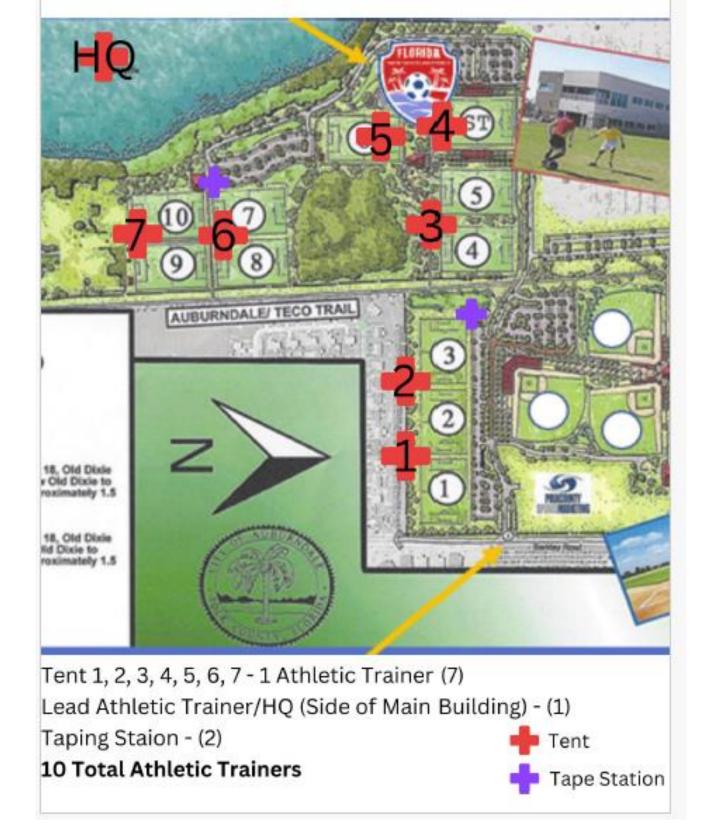
Semifinals: (13U - 19 boys; 13U - 17U & 19U girls)

• Thursday, June 27 - Finals (13U-17U & 19Uboys; 13U-17U girls)

#### PRACTICE FIELDS

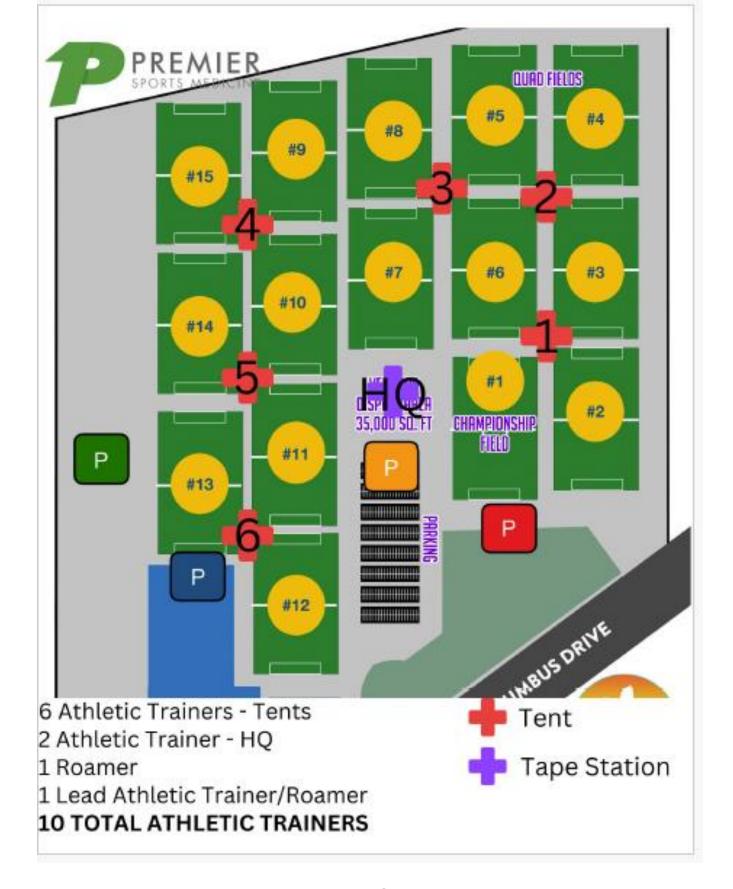
- Practice fields will be available at two sites, one located in Polk County for teams playing in Auburndale & Lakeland. And one in Tampa for those that the Tournament Sportsplex. Each state will be assigned fields at a particular complex. A google doc will be available to register for a field. Managers are to contact their State Rep to reserve ½ field to practice. Practice fields will be available Wednesday, June 19 & Thursday, June 2 0 and Monday, June 2 4 for teams advancing out of group play.
- Teams must have a reservation please do not just show up, thank you.





#### Lake Myrtle, Auburndale, FL

2701 Lake Myrtle Park Rd Auburndale, FL 22823 13U – 19U Boys



#### **Tournament Sportsplex**

9339 E. Columbus Drive Tampa, FL 33619 13U – 19U Girls





Tent 1, 2, 3 - 1 Athletic Trainer (3)

\*\*Lead Athletic Trainer will be stationed at Tent 2\*\*

#### John McGee Park

2399 Edgewood Drive S Lakeland, FL 33803 13U-18U boys Group Play only

Google Map Directions to Parking









# We're helping kids achieve their GOOOAAALLS!

Tree Top has been a favorite snack of America's youngest athletes for decades. Now we're taking it to the next level as the exclusive juice and snack partner of US Youth Soccer!

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Whether you're fueling up for the big game, celebrating after a big win or just enjoying them for kicks, you can't beat the real fruit goodness of Tree Top apple juice and apple sauce.





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### **COMPLEX INFORMATION**

#### PARKING/TRAFFIC

- There is a parking fee of \$50 per passenger vehicle for the entire seven (7) day event for those purchasing passes prior to the start of the event. A link will be provided for the Team Representative to place an order on behalf of the entire team. Parking Passes will be distributed at the team check-in on Thursday, June 20th. Weeklong passes purchased at the fields will be \$60 per car. Daily parking will be \$20 per vehicle with a fee of \$80 for buses and RVs.
- Those that pre-purchase their parking passes will receive a colored pass to hang on the rear-view mirror, allowing the parking attendant the ability to waive you through quickly as you enter the park each day.
- Parking passes are required at all three (3) Soccer Complexes.
- Police & parking attendants will be stationed at park entrances to help reduce any back-ups or issues.

#### **ANIMALS**

• Animals are NOT allowed at The Tournament Sportsplex (exception: service animals with proper documentation). Animals are NOT permitted on the sideline or near the fields at Lake Myrtle and John McGee Soccer Complexes. Animals must be on a leash.

#### **TOBACCO & ALCOHOL**

• Please note that all complexes are NO-Smoking facilities during this event. Furthermore, alcohol may not be brought into the premises. Please be respectful of those around you. This is for the kids.

#### **HYDRATION**

• We will be operating with team-supplied water. Players/teams must bring their own water for their hydration needs. US Youth Soccer will not be providing water jugs/cups in the team bench areas. We will have hydration stations that players can use to refill their own water bottles post-game, located around all three Soccer Complexes. Teams are encouraged to bring a water cooler that can be placed behind the team bench. Teams are responsible for cleaning up their bench area prior to the next game.



#### **HOTELS**

- This is a Stay to Play event. TSH is the tournament's housing provider. Communicate with your State Rep to secure rooms within your State's selected block of rooms. TSH will provide a hotel link for making reservations and will work directly with the hotels to make sure your team's needs are met. Please do not contact the hotels directly.
- States are required to secure an average of eight (8) rooms per night per team during group play. There is an "opt out" option for \$2500, if a team would like to make their own arrangements. However, in addition to the \$2500 fee, the team understands they are NOT PERMITTED to utilize or reserve housing properties that are under contract through Tournament Housing Services (THS). Teams who choose to go outside the tournament Stay to Play Policy or fail to register as an "opt out" team, may lose eligibility to participate in the competition. Please work closely with your State Rep.

#### **GAMES**

- The age group schedule without teams is enclosed in this team guide and is available on the Southern Regional Championship Tournament site: 2024 Southern Regional Age Group Schedule Bracket information will be available once all qualifying events are completed throughout the South Region with a tentative date of Tuesday, June 6th. Once verified via GotSport, the team names will be released within a PDF version of the schedule on Tuesday, June 11th.
- The web-based version will be activated approximately seven (7)-days prior to kickoff of the 2024 Southern Regional Championships. Your State Rep will be notifying team managers when the schedule is available on the 2024 Southern Regional website.

Be mindful that there may be last minute game changes. Communication with your State Rep is critical.

#### **AWARDS**

• Following the final whistle of your age group finals, both teams are asked to move promptly to the stage area. Champion and Finalist medals will be awarded. There will also be an area for team pictures at the conclusion of the awards ceremony. The Champion Team will receive information regarding the 2024 USYouth Soccer National Championship Tournament in Orlando, FL at the ESPN Wide World of Sports in Disney, Orlando, FL beginning July 22 - 28.



#### **UNIFORMS**

- Each player must wear an official uniform with a number on the back of the jersey.
- Numbers are not required on goalkeeper jerseys.
- Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from other players and game officials.
- Duplicate numbers or tape on uniforms is not permitted.
- HOME teams wear Light colored jersey and socks.
- VISITING teams wear Dark colored jersey and socks.
- The team in the incorrect color will have to change.
- If the teams are wearing the correct color uniform (home-light, away-dark) but the referee determines there is a color conflict between the home and visiting team's uniform - the home team must change.
- Each team MUST have 2 (TWO) complete uniform kits on-site, including socks.
  - One light and one dark
- The referee's decision is final.

#### **UNIFORM LOGOS, MARKINGS, & SPONSORS**

- At every level of the National Championships competitions, each player, team, and team official may only have on his/her/their apparel the name, logo, or other identifying mark of US Youth soccer or a member directly or indirectly of US Youth Soccer.
- A name, logo, or other identifying mark of any youth soccer organization other than US Youth Soccer or its member must be removed, replaced, or covered before a player, team or team official may enter or remain at a field complex where the National Championships competition is being held.
- After an initial warning, pursuant to (1) above, the name, logo, or other identifying mark of any youth soccer organization other than US Youth Soccer or its member must be removed, replaced, or covered before the player, team or team official may enter or continue in the competition.





#### **UNIFORM PATCHES**

- As teams advance through the US Youth Soccer National Championship State Cup competition, they may be presented with State Championship uniform patches. The State Championship patches are optional however, highly encouraged to be worn during the Southern Regional Championship competition.
- Patches are recommended to be placed on the right sleeve of the jersey, approximately 1" above the bottom edge of the sleeve with the patch facing forward. All team member uniforms must have each patch permanently affixed in the same location.
- If the right sleeve is not available, an alternate location may be chosen but it is important to note for those teams advancing to the National Championships in July, teams will be required to wear the National Championship patch on both sets of uniforms. The Championship patch is required to be located on the right short leg. Placement for both patches is provided below:



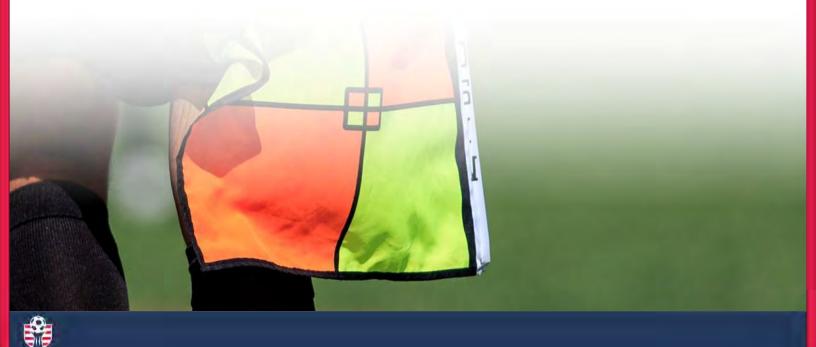


#### **REFEREES**

• Just as teams earned the right to compete at the Southern Regional Championship, the referees have also earned their place, based on recommendations and accomplishments from within their state. Referees compete to earn the honor of attending the National Championships based on their performance at this competition. The referees are supported by senior referees, referee coaches, and mentors who contribute to their development by guiding them in post-match reflections. Please refrain from criticizing the officials throughout the competition.

#### **SPECTATORS**

- Parents and/or spectators who can reasonably be deemed as affiliated with a team are considered a part of that team, and the actions of those individuals are the responsibility of the credentialed team officials appearing on the team's bench. No spectators are permitted anywhere behind the goal line or team side of the field during a match. The spectator area is located on the opposite side of the field from the technical/bench area.
- Technical instruction from any part of the spectator area, provocative or unsportsmanlike behavior by any spectator may result in 1) their removal from the complex or 2) clearing the sideline and removing all spectators from the match, either from one or both teams.
- Any spectators asked to leave by law enforcement, security, referee, or any other event official must immediately depart the field area and remain out of sight and sound of the match until the teams have departed the field of play and are no longer the responsibility of the referee. Any individuals removed may not return to the field at the end of the match.





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#### To Register:

**NCSA College Recruiting Platform** 

Official Recruiting Partner:

**IMG** 







# **CRITICAL INFORMATION**

#### **SEVERE WEATHER**

The Southern Regional Championships staff and complex staff will be constantly monitoring weather conditions using multiple sources. They will be in constant contact if severe weather is approaching. Should it be deemed necessary to suspend games due to severe weather, it will be announced using warning horns and sirens. The signal to clear the fields is: INTERMITTANT BEEP-BEEP's for at least 10 seconds. Information will also be communicated to teams by field marshals from the event staff. As soon as the warning is sounded, everyone must remove themselves from the fields and seek immediate shelter in their vehicles. Do not seek shelter under trees or in the pavilion as this is NOT SAFE from lightning. There is simply not enough room in any structures... all must go to their cars and wait out the storm until the "all clear" is given. The event staff will give the "all clear" signal – a solid blast of at least 10 seconds from air horns and sirens. At that point players, coaches, referees, and fans may return to the fields. Schedule updates and other event specific announcements may also occur during a weather delay or at any time. State Reps will be notified with instructions to update their teams immediately. Additionally, notices will be published on the tournament website.

#### **MEDICAL**

• Medical services will be provided by Premier Sports Medicine, LLC. Athletic trainers will be on site along with EMTs and an ambulance. Additionally, After Hours Medical Care Locations options will be available.

#### **TAPING STATIONS**

• Preventive taping stations will be located around all soccer complexes for easy access to and from the fields. Please refer to enclosed Complex map for approximate locations. Tape will be provided by the LOC. Players requiring pre-taping are encouraged to arrive 90-minutes prior to game time, allowing plenty of time to make team warm-up.



## **CRITICAL INFORMATION**

#### **HEAD INJURY REVIEWS**

• If during play, a player is suspected of having a head injury, the Athletic Trainer may require a follow-up exam the next day, (prior to game time) to evaluate the player's condition and determine if the head injury is such to prevent further involvement in the competition. Beginning Saturday, players requiring a "next-day review" will be given the option to come to the Burbank Soccer Complex within a designated time frame for evaluation by an onsite Physician or DO, trained in concussion evaluation. Players that are cleared will be permitted to join their team for the next game. If it is determined after the evaluation the head injury is in fact a concussion – the player will be placed in the US Youth Soccer Concussion Protocol.

#### **US YOUTH SOCCER CONCUSSION PROTOCOL**

- Please be advised that after a player receives a completed US Youth Soccer Possible Concussion Notification due to displaying signs and symptoms of a concussion, that player may not return to play until a signed clearance form from a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy who specializes in concussion treatment and management has been received. Please refer to the US Youth Soccer Concussion Protocol for further information. For clarification, whether an M.D. or D.O., the physician must specialize in concussion treatment and management.
- The clearance must be on a document from the medical doctor's office stating that the player has been cleared to return to play and is clear of symptoms. The document must be signed by the medical official.
- If a player is cleared during the event, please notify your State Rep, who will bring the signed clearance to the event headquarters for the player to be released to play. If a player is cleared post-event, please send the medical release documentation to the US Youth Soccer National Office address, as provided on the Notification Form, or contact your State Rep for instructions on how to have the player's pass returned.





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TEAM IP, AS THE US YOUTH SOCCER

ONLINE AND ONSITE OFFICIAL MERCHANDISER

WILL BE SUPPORTING THE US YOUTH SOCCER

SCHEDULE FOR 2023-2024 ALONG WITH ITS OFFICIAL

MERCHANDISE WEBSITE AT SHOPUSYS.COM





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#### **CONNECT WITH USYS**

- Check out the Southern Regional Championship action on US Youth Soccer's Instagram | Facebook | Twitter.
  - Easily find and download free event photos in US Youth Soccer's photo galleries.

#### **OFFICIAL EVENT MERCHANDISE**

• We are proud to have Team IP as the official apparel provider of the 2024 Southern Regional Championships. TeamIP tents will locate at both The Tournament Sportsplex and Lake Myrtle Soccer Complex available to purchase event t-shirts, hats, and other apparel.

#### LOCAL AREA INFORMATION

• Our work to host this event began several years ago. The Southern Regional Championship Committee has been teaming with the Local Organizing Committee in Florid to help ensure an amazing experience for you in Florida. The 32-grass fields located in Tampa; Auburndale & Lakeland will be ready for action. We are grateful for all the efforts of the Florida Youth Soccer Association and partners with Visit Central Florida and Visit Tamp to help make this event possible!







A: 2828 Lake Myrtle Park Road, Auburndale, FL 33823

W: www.fysa.comT: 863-268-8220

Welcome to the 2024 Southern Regional Championships!

On behalf of the Florida Youth Soccer Association (FYSA) Board of Directors and Staff, we are thrilled to be hosting the 2024 Southern Regional Championships in Tampa Bay and Auburndale, Florida.

This event will be an amazing experience for players, coaches, and all soccer fans! The Tampa Bay and Auburndale area are conveniently located near international attractions, beaches and of course, plenty of sunshine. This is the Sunshine State after all!

As the hosting organization of the 2024 Southern Regional Championships, we must thank and recognize our two amazing partners in Visit Central Florida Sports and the Tampa Bay Sports Commission. Collectively, this event has taken nearly a year of planning! This partnership brings together the leading sports commissions in the region. Without the support and guidance of Jason Aughey and Tony Diaz (Tampa Bay Sports Commission) and Neal Duncan and Dan Barto (Visit Central Florida Sports) this event would not have been possible!

One prevailing feature of the 2024 Southern Regional Championship will be evident on day one: the world-class facilities! Teams will be participating on some of the best pitches the South Region has to offer. 26 exceptional championship fields at two sites:

#### **Tournament Sportsplex of Tampa Bay:**

- o 15 full-size (lighted) fields
- o Celebration Bermuda Grass
- o Locker-rooms
- o Vendor plaza
- Permanent tournament headquarters

#### **Lake Myrtle Sports Park:**

- 11 full-size (lighted) fields
- o 419 Bermuda Grass
- o Locker-rooms
- o 3000+ seat stadium
- Home of the FYSA State Office

Together, we have leveraged local and statewide partnerships to ensure the experience is first-class for players, coaches, and spectators alike. We are confident you will enjoy your time in Tampa Bay and the Central Florida Region!

Sincerely,

Joel P. Dragan
Executive Director

Florida Youth Soccer Association