

YOUTH SUPER LEAGUE

Relegation and Promotion System



Effective Date: 2026 Outdoor Season Onward	Target Audience: Club Directors, Coaches, Team Managers & League Officials
Governing Body: Game Awareness League Executive	Applicable Divisions: Premier, Elite, & Select (Boys & Girls - All Age Groups)

1. Purpose, Competitive Philosophy & Scope

The Youth Super League (YSL) strives to provide a highly dynamic, competitive, and developmentally appropriate environment for youth soccer clubs across all applicable age groups. To encourage athletic excellence, maintain balanced competition, and reward team progression, the YSL implements a structured Promotion and Relegation System between playing seasons.

- **Boys & Girls Scope:** The Promotion and Relegation Structure applies equally across all Boys and Girls age groups and divisions within the league.

2. Division Hierarchy Structure

Depending on team registration numbers and age group sizes, each age group operates under a 3-Division, 2-Division, or Single (1-Division) Structure. The hierarchy from top-tier to foundational tier is established as follows:

Tier Level	Division Name	Description / Competitive Profile
Tier 1 (Top Tier)	Premier Division	Highest competitive flight. Represents top-performing teams.
Tier 2 (Middle Tier)	Elite Division	Intermediate flight balancing high-level development and transition to top-tier play.
Tier 3 (Lower Tier)	Select Division	Foundational competitive division for emerging teams and entry-level league participants.

3. Standard Promotion & Relegation Mechanics

At the conclusion of each regular season, official standings will dictate the automatic movement of teams for the subsequent season based on the rules outlined below:

A. Promotion Policy (Top 2 Teams)

- **Promoted Teams:** The Top 2 finished teams in lower division(s) earn automatic promotion to the immediate division above for the following season.
- **3-Division Format:** In a 3-Division system (Premier, Elite, Select), the Top 2 teams from Select move to Elite, and the Top 2 teams from Elite move to Premier.
- **2-Division Format:** In a 2-Division system (e.g., Premier & Elite, or Elite & Select), the Top 2 teams from the lower division earn promotion to the upper division.
- **1-Division Format:** In a Single Division (1-Division) system, promotion mechanics do not apply as all teams compete in one unified flight.

B. Relegation Policy (Bottom 2 Teams)

- **Relegated Teams:** The Bottom 2 finished teams in upper division(s) are relegated to the immediate division below for the following season.
- **3-Division Format:** In a 3-Division system, the Bottom 2 teams from Premier are relegated to Elite, and the Bottom 2 teams from Elite are relegated to Select.
- **2-Division Format:** In a 2-Division system, the Bottom 2 teams from the upper division move down to the lower division.
- **1-Division Format:** In a Single Division (1-Division) system, relegation mechanics do not apply.

4. Seasonal Cross-Over Policy (Outdoor to Indoor)

The Promotion and Relegation system seamlessly bridges across primary playing cycles for both Boys and Girls age groups, maintaining competitive continuity from season to season:

- **Cross-Season Continuity:** Promotion and relegation results from the Outdoor season directly determine initial division placement and seeding for the following Indoor season (and vice versa).
- **Promoted Transition:** Teams that earn promotion in the Outdoor season will enter the subsequent Indoor season in their elevated division.
- **Relegated Transition:** Teams relegated during the Outdoor season will begin the subsequent Indoor season in the lower division.

5. Format Breakdown & Movement Scenarios

The exact execution of movement depends directly on the number of active divisions formatted for a given Boys or Girls age group during the season:

System Structure	Promotion Rules (Moving Up)	Relegation Rules (Moving Down)
3-Division System (Premier, Elite, Select)	• Top 2 Select → Promoted to Elite • Top 2 Elite → Promoted to Premier	• Bottom 2 Premier → Relegated to Elite • Bottom 2 Elite → Relegated to Select
2-Division System (e.g., Premier & Elite)	• Top 2 Elite → Promoted to Premier	• Bottom 2 Premier → Relegated to Elite
1-Division System (Single Division)	• N/A (Single division only for that age group)	• N/A (Single division only for that age group)

6. Standings & Tie-Breaking Criteria

Official league standings and promotion placements are determined by the rules set out below. In the event that two or more teams are tied in total points at the conclusion of regular season play, standings placement will be determined strictly according to the following sequential tie-breakers:

- **1. Goal Difference:** Overall goal differential (Goals For minus Goals Against) across all league matches.
- **2. Goals For:** Total number of goals scored during regular season play.
- **3. Head to Head:** Direct head-to-head result (Applicable ONLY if exactly two teams are tied).
- **4. Goals Against:** Fewest total goals conceded during regular season play.
- **5. Coin Toss:** Official League Coin Toss directed by League Officials.

7. Operational Discretion, New Team Entry & Caveats

*** OFFICIAL LEAGUE CAVEAT:** * Prone to change depending on the number of teams registered for each division and age group, and balance of team skills/levels within each division.

While the standard promotion and relegation guidelines defined above establish the baseline competitive structure of the Youth Super League, the League Executive Committee reserves full rights to adjust division placement, group sizing, and bracket allocations prior to the start of any season based on operational realities including but not limited to:

- **New Team Entry & Placement:** The League Executive Committee reserves full discretion to evaluate and place new team entries into appropriate divisions based on demonstrated skill level, past competitive record, and overall divisional balance.
- **Registration Fluctuations:** Total number of registered teams within a specific age group and gender division (Boys & Girls across all age groups).
- **Single Division Formatting:** Single-division structures for age groups with lower overall team registration counts.
- **Competitive Balance:** Overall balance of team skills and competitive play levels to prevent severe competitive disparities.
- **Outdoor/Indoor Transition:** Seasonal transition differences between Outdoor and Indoor participation numbers.