

2026 FORCE USL-Y

Frequently Asked Questions



Scheduling Questions

When does the season start and finish?

Practices will begin immediately after the conclusion of the Spring season, likely the week of **June 8th**. Some teams may choose to take a week off and start the week **June 15th**. All teams will receive 12 training sessions regardless of the start date. Games are expected to begin in the final week of June, with the season concluding on **July 31/August**

Will the season conflict with other FORCE/Club programs?

Schedules will be coordinated to avoid conflicts or overlaps between USL- Y and the regular club season. The only exception is if a club team advances to **USYS Regionals or Nationals** after winning the State Cup or Presidents Cup. In such cases, a weekend of USL- Y games may need to be rescheduled. The other exception would be USA Cup, but we would work on a team by team basis to make sure we don't have any conflicts.

When will we see a game schedule?

Game schedules will be released in **April**. Once finalized, we'll share the dates and post them for reference.

When and where are practices?

Practices will take place on weekday evenings (**Tuesday-Thursday**) in **Crystal Lake**. Teams will typically practice **twice per week**, though this may fluctuate depending on holidays and game schedules.

What if we have conflicts with summer vacation or other pre-planned events?

We'll make every effort to create a schedule that accommodates most families. However, it's impossible to eliminate all conflicts. If you anticipate missing multiple weekends, contact **USL-Y Director AJ Cappello** before committing.

Note: There are no prorated fees for players who miss part of the season due to vacations.

Roster/Team Selection Questions

Are we competing as Force FC or FCLC?

For the 2026 season, teams will compete as Force FC. We are no longer formally collaborating with FC Lake County for USL-Y. This partnership provided valuable experiences for both clubs, but at this time we have decided to continue in USL-Y as Force FC. FC Lake County players and teams are still welcome to try out and compete, and there may be FC Lake County coaches involved within the program.

Competing as Force FC allows us to maintain clear leadership, consistent standards, and a unified development approach within USL-Y. This structure supports player growth while remaining flexible and inclusive for players and coaches from other clubs.

Does my player need to play for FORCE to participate?

No. Any competitive player may participate in the FORCE USL-Y program. USL-Y does not conflict with the traditional club season, and players will return to their primary clubs once the USL-Y season concludes.

How are age groups determined for 2026?

Beginning Summer 2026, USL Youth will follow the grade-year model using an August 1 birthdate cutoff. Teams will be formed based on a player's school grade or an August 1–July 31 birth year window. This aligns USL-Y with other major youth soccer organizations. We will host educational sessions in January to help families better understand the transition from birth year to grade year.

How large will the rosters be?

11v11 teams (U13/U14): Maximum of 2 goalkeepers and 13 field players, plus 4–7 training players

9v9 teams (U11/U12): Maximum of 2 goalkeepers and 11 field players, plus 5–7 training players

7v7 teams (U9/U10): Maximum of 2 goalkeepers and 9 field players, plus 5–7 training players

Can my player play up an age group?

Requests to play up can be made in the tryout application. Players are expected to try out for their assigned age group unless no team is available. Playing up is not guaranteed and is determined by the USL-Y coaching staff and Program Director.

Is it possible to have two teams in the same age group and gender?

Yes. In age groups with larger player pools, A and B teams may be formed if depth allows. This will only occur if the B team is considered competitive enough for the USL-Y level.

Cost Questions

What is the cost, and what does it include?

The program fee is around **\$625**, and will be confirmed before tryouts. This includes:

- 6–10 games
- 12 team practices (minimum of 2 and a maximum of 3 practices per week)
- 1 goalkeeper training session per week (for goalkeepers)

What about uniforms?

Players will purchase a FORCE USL-Y kit for approximately **\$80**, which includes:

- 3 jerseys
- 1 pairs of socks
- 1 pair of shorts

Are there additional costs?

Families are responsible for additional expenses such as transportation, hotels, and meals for out-of-state travel. Team managers will coordinate accommodations to ensure all team members stay at the same hotel.

Travel Questions

What are the travel commitments?

Teams may travel out of state **1-3 times**, depending on the division. Out-of-state weekends typically include **2-3 games**, similar to a tournament.

Where are the out-of-state games?

Summer 2026 Potential Game Dates - TBD - However, the trend tends to be that most out of state games are played in July.

Note: The 2017 teams will follow a local schedule and should not have any out-of-state games.

When and where are the National Championships?

The National Championships take place in **early December** in **Florida**. Teams qualify by winning their division in the summer or earning a wild card bid.

Note: The 2017 birth year does not have a national tournament, which starts with 2016.

Coaching Questions

Who coaches the FORCE USL-Y teams?

Members of the FORCE coaching staff will coach the USL- Y teams. Assignments are determined by the **USL- Y Director**.

<https://clsf.byga.net/tryouts/d7l6ivfcp5/signup>

