



Getting into Elite

Who is it made up from?

The Elite Division is an interleague division for the 12U - 19U ages with three area leagues: Grand Valley Soccer Association (GVSA), West Michigan Youth Soccer Association (WMYSA) and Capital Area Soccer League (CASL). Each division is developed with the top teams within each league. The number of teams is a maximum of nine and each league submits their top teams. The numbers from each league is relative to league size. As a rule of thumb: GVSA submits 5~6, WMYSA submits 2~3 and CASL 1. Even though this is an interleague division, your questions and correspondence goes through our WMYSA staff.

How do teams get submitted?

Since this is a division made up of top teams, a promotion/relegation system is used in the make up each season. Each league has their own process to request to play in the Elite Division. For WMYSA, during the commitment application, a team may request consideration by selecting the Elite as the Level of Play. Below is the procedure used in WMYSA; however, the league must also meet the minimum WMYSA Division size prior to submitting teams to promotion in Elite.

FALL Procedure

- 12U Utilizing the Spring 11U standings, the decision for the 3 placements allowed to 1st Place U11A Division.

Tie breaking determinations will be used for the 2nd and 3rd Elite spot.

1. U11A 2nd place & Top U12 A Division U11 team.
2. U11A 2nd place & 2nd U12A Division U11 team or:
3. U11 A 3rd place and Top U12ADivision U11 team.

Tie Breaking Determination is based on the following:

- a. Most Wins
 - b. Goal Differential
 - c. Head to Head (*if documents record exists)
 - d. Most Shutouts
- 13U Utilizing the Spring 12U standings for both the Elite and the top WMYSA Division, any non-relegation¹ teams in Elite may stay and then the top teams within WMYSA which request Elite are submitted.

¹Non-relegation refers to those teams not in the bottom three of the division standings.



- 14U Utilizing the Spring 13U standings for both the Elite and the top WMYSA Division, any non-relegation¹ teams in Elite may stay and then the top teams within WMYSA which request Elite are submitted.
- 15U Utilizing the Spring 14U standings for both the Elite and the top WMYSA 15U Division teams, any non-relegation¹ teams in Elite may stay and then the top teams within WMYSA which request Elite are submitted.
- 16U/17U Utilizing the Spring 15U & previous Fall 16U/17U Elite and the top WMYSA Spring 15U and previous top Fall 16U WMYSA teams, any non-relegation¹ teams in Elite may stay and then the top teams within the different WMYSA divisions are reviewed to determine top submissions for requested Elite Division.
- 19U Utilizing the previous Fall 16U/17U Elite and the top Fall 17U and 19U divisions, any non-relegation¹ teams and then the top teams within the different WMYSA divisions are reviewed to determine top submissions for requested Elite Division.

SPRING Procedure

- 12U-15U² Teams in Elite non-relegation will be allowed to stay. The bottom three teams in all divisions are automatically relegated to their respective league. The top team from each league is then promoted into Elite
- 16U/17U Utilizing the previous Spring 15U Elite & Spring 16U/17U any non-relegation teams in Elite and then the top teams within the different WMYSA divisions are reviewed to determine top submissions for requested Elite Division.
- 19U Utilizing the previous Spring 16U/17U Elite and Spring 17U and 19U divisions, any non-relegation¹ teams and then the top teams within the different WMYSA divisions are reviewed to determine top submissions for requested Elite Division.

Are Division Sizes Important?

As mentioned, in the Fall, 12U Division WMYSA recommends up to three teams to Elite based on the previous Spring WMYSA results. Moving forward the division operates on the promotion relegation system. With the promotion process, teams finishing in the top of WMYSA have the potential opportunity for promotion into Elite. In order for there to be room for 1 team from each league (GVSA, WMYSA & CASL) to move up, the bottom 3 teams from Elite are automatically relegated back. The size of the division does not matter for the number of teams

²Divisions which play in both seasons of an annual year (Fall & Spring).



being relegated. When there are only 5 teams in the division, only the top 2 teams stay and the others start in the relegation slots. Once the promotion positions are completed, Elite looks to determine if they have any more openings. These openings can occur when one of the leagues did not promote, another team decides to drop or the division has less than the maximum. If this happens Elite looks at the relegated teams to backfill.

Accepted to play Elite ~ Now What?

When are divisions determined? Because 3 leagues are working together, the Elite divisions are typically finalized after the WMYSA placements are set. At times, submitted WMYSA teams are not accepted and they are then placed into the top WMYSA division.

How are matches determined?

Once the divisions are set, GVSA completes the match up (games with home/away determination). The GVSA website: www.GVSoccer.org is then used to post under the Schedules, Results & Standings page. All of the game match ups are posted and it will be up to the home team to make contact and schedule the game with the opponent. WMYSA teams will need to submit their 4 home game information to the **WMYSA Scheduler** by a given deadline. Teams will need to know the parameters of the home venue time/day limitations while scheduling. Some clubs have Field Scheduling Coordinators to help with open space and the WMYSA Scheduler can also help in reviewing open time to schedule.

Important to keep in mind while scheduling:

- Do not schedule outside the WMYSA scheduling season.
- Most venues have limitations of days/times.
- WMYSA divisions have already scheduled games on the fields.
- Submit your home game information prior to the WMYSA deadline.

Games Scheduled, Now What?

Once WMYSA teams have been submitted for uploading into the GVSA system, WMYSA will also receive the data to submit the GVSA home game schedule to enter into GotSport. Both GVSA and WMYSA track the Standings. You will be able to see your game schedule in your GotSport account the same as WMYSA division teams; however, games played in GVSA locations will not have the specific field venue. For appropriate field venue and information, you will need to go to the league website associated with the home team.

Game Day Procedures



Teams follow the same procedures as all WMYSA teams.

- You should be printing your official match card sheet from your GotSport account. **Do not use the GVSA game day sheet.** The game numbers will be similar since GotSport cannot have the hyphen the same as GVSA; however, you will need to use the game match number which is referenced in each online schedule for score reporting.
- Referee Pay is done for home games only and follow WMYSA fees
- Rules & Regulations follow the WMYSA format.
- Score Reporting:
 - the winning team is required to report the scores in the GVSA website:
 - A. Go to website: www.gvsoccer.org
 - B. Click on the Schedules, Results & Standings on right
 - C. Choose the current season from the drop down box
 - D. Choose your Division from the drop down box
 - E. From the list of games, find the correct game, click on the game number which is on the left of the listed teams.
 - F. A pop up screen will ask for score and your email address.
 - G. Enter scores and email address, click on Record Scores and score is updated into the system.
 - You will be responsible for reporting and entering all of your game scores in GotSport since the GVSA and CASL teams do not have the Event ID and PIN to enter scores. Any games without scores are left in the system and will not help in the GotSport rankings program.
- Players must have a **PRINTED** pass card present for each player. If not and the player participates, the game will result in a forfeit. The player may only participate IF the coach can provide a photo of the player pass card AND the player's name is listed on the official roster and match card. The game will still result in a forfeit, but the player teams must scrimmage as listed in the GVSA Rules & Regulations, Section C 4 rule.
- A Game Reschedule Request Form must be submitted at least 7 business days prior to the original game date or proposed new date and approved. No changes to the schedule will be made with less than 7 days. No request is considered final until it appears in the home venue Schedule & Standings software. Fees will be based on the home venue league procedure.