

USL Promotion and Relegation Plan and new USSF Pro League Standards



A new era of Soccer in the USA

Designed by: Isaac Payano
2023

Includes a Bonus Plan for the U.S. National Teams

The purpose of this document is to outline a viable promotion and relegation plan for the United Soccer League (USL) and to present a proposed updated version to the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) Pro League Standards.

USL Promotion and Relegation Plan

The USL is aiming to create a promotion and relegation system within its organization akin to the football/soccer systems around the world. It has the potential to initiate and build this system by 2024 with a full implementation by 2029. The goal is to take the current quantity of men's clubs and leagues of the USL, including the USL Championship (USSF D2), USL League One (USSF D3), and USL League Two (Non-USSF Division/De facto D4), and expand them to a total of 320 clubs in 8 divisions. This would form the top of a U.S. national pyramid with thousands of clubs.

New USL Soccer League System

USL Premiership (D1) = 32
USL Championship (D2) = 32
USL League One (D3) = 32
USL League Two (D4) = 32
USL National One (D5) = 48
USL National Two (D6) = 48
USL National Three (D7) = 48
USL National Four (D8) = 48
= 320 clubs by 2029

U.S. National Pyramid (D9-D20) with thousands of clubs by 2030

Note: Each national league has four regions (W, S, N, and E). Leagues with 32 clubs = 8 clubs in four regions. Leagues with 48 clubs = 12 clubs in four regions. This model can be replicated for the women's leagues in the USL.

To accomplish this, the USL and its clubs can primarily focus on building upwards through promotion only for the next 5 years, starting in 2024. By the 6th year in 2029, promotion and relegation can take full effect. Promotion and relegation happens between the regions. The following is an outline of how each year would develop.

2024 - Promotion Phase Begins (Summer Olympics Year)

USL Championship (D2) = 28 clubs (organized into four regions)
(At the conclusion, the top 16 clubs move to the Premiership, leaving 12 in the Championship)
USL League One (D3) = 15 clubs (organized into four regions)

(At the conclusion, the top 4 clubs move to the Championship to make 16, leaving 11 clubs in League One)

USL League Two (De facto D4) = 122 clubs (organized into four regions)

(At the conclusion, the top 5 clubs move to League One to make 16. The next top 24 clubs will form part of League Two. The remaining clubs will be split into National One and National Two based on table rankings)

= 165 total clubs in the USL

During the season, rounds of interleague play can occur within the regions between the Championship and League One. This will save on cost and travel while increasing derbies and expansions.

2025 - Promotion Phase (USL Premiership and CONCACAF Gold Cup Year)

USL Premiership (D2) = 16 (4 clubs in four regions) = 16
(temporary division status pending USSF PLS update)

USL Championship (D2) = 16 (4 clubs in four regions) = 32

USL League One (D3) = 16 (4 clubs in four regions) = 48

USL League Two (De facto D4) = 24 (6 clubs in four regions) = 72

USL National One (De facto D4) = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) = 120

USL National Two (De facto D4) = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) = 168 total clubs
in the USL

During the season, rounds of interleague play can occur within the regions between the Premiership and Championship; League One and League Two; and National One and National Two.

Clubs are promoted from the lower divisions up, with expansions available as well.

USSF Pro League Standards will be Updated for 2026 (see following pages)

2026 - Promotion Phase (Men's World Cup Year)

USL Premiership (D1) = 20 (5 clubs in four regions) = 20

USL Championship (D2) = 20 (5 clubs in four regions) = 40

USL League One (D3) = 20 (5 clubs in four regions) = 60

USL League Two (D4) = 28 (7 clubs in four regions) = 88

USL National One (D5) = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) = 132

USL National Two (D6) = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) = 184 total clubs in the USL

During the season, rounds of interleague play can occur within the regions between the Premiership and Championship; League One and League Two; and National One and National Two.

Clubs are promoted from the lower divisions up, with expansions available as well.

2027 - Promotion Phase (Women's World Cup and CONCACAF Gold Cup Year)

| | | | |
|--------------------|------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| USL Premiership | (D1) | = 24 (6 clubs in four regions) | = 24 |
| USL Championship | (D2) | = 24 (6 clubs in four regions) | = 48 |
| USL League One | (D3) | = 24 (6 clubs in four regions) | = 72 |
| USL League Two | (D4) | = 32 (8 clubs in four regions) | = 104 |
| USL National One | (D5) | = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) | = 152 |
| USL National Two | (D6) | = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) | = 200 |
| USL National Three | (D7) | = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) | = 248 total clubs in the USL |

During the season, rounds of interleague play can occur within the regions between the Premiership and Championship; League One and League Two; and National One, National Two, and National Three.

Clubs are promoted from the lower divisions up, with expansions available as well.

2028 - Promotion Phase (Summer Olympics Year)

| | | | |
|--------------------|------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| USL Premiership | (D1) | = 28 (7 clubs in four regions) | = 28 |
| USL Championship | (D2) | = 28 (7 clubs in four regions) | = 56 |
| USL League One | (D3) | = 28 (7 clubs in four regions) | = 88 |
| USL League Two | (D4) | = 32 (8 clubs in four regions) | = 120 |
| USL National One | (D5) | = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) | = 168 |
| USL National Two | (D6) | = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) | = 216 |
| USL National Three | (D7) | = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) | = 264 total clubs in the USL |

During the season, rounds of interleague play can occur within the regions between the Premiership and Championship; League One and League Two; and National One, National Two, and National Three.

Clubs are promoted from the lower divisions up, with expansions available as well.

2029 - USL Promotion and Relegation Begins (CONCACAF Gold Cup Year)

| | | | |
|------------------|------|---------------------------------|-------|
| USL Premiership | (D1) | = 32 (8 clubs in four regions) | = 32 |
| USL Championship | (D2) | = 32 (8 clubs in four regions) | = 64 |
| USL League One | (D3) | = 32 (8 clubs in four regions) | = 96 |
| USL League Two | (D4) | = 32 (8 clubs in four regions) | = 128 |
| USL National One | (D5) | = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) | = 176 |

USL National Two (D6) = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) = 224
USL National Three (D7) = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) = 272
USL National Four (D8) = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) = 320 total clubs in the USL

During the season, rounds of interleague play can occur within the regions between the Premiership and Championship; League One and League Two; National One and National Two; and National Three and National Four.

At the conclusion of the season, clubs will move up and down between divisions through their respective four regions (W, S, N, and E). (Parachute funding will be available, in connection to USL shared revenue from TV/streaming and more.)

2030 - National Promotion and Relegation Begins (Men's World Cup Year)

USL Premiership (D1) = 32 (8 clubs in four regions) = 32
USL Championship (D2) = 32 (8 clubs in four regions) = 64
USL League One (D3) = 32 (8 clubs in four regions) = 96
USL League Two (D4) = 32 (8 clubs in four regions) = 128
USL National One (D5) = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) = 176
USL National Two (D6) = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) = 224
USL National Three (D7) = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) = 272
USL National Four (D8) = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) = 320 total clubs in the USL
U.S. National Pyramid (D9-20) - Connecting with thousands of clubs and dozens of leagues across the country through promotion and relegation.

During the season, rounds of interleague play can occur within the regions between the Premiership and Championship; League One and League Two; National One and National Two; and National Three and National Four.

Clubs are promoted and relegated, with expansions available as well.

2031 - Promotion and Relegation Era (Women's World Cup and CONCACAF Gold Cup Year)

USL Premiership (D1) = 32 (8 clubs in four regions) = 32
USL Championship (D2) = 32 (8 clubs in four regions) = 64
USL League One (D3) = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) = 112
USL League Two (D4) = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) = 160
USL National One (D5) = 64 (16 clubs in four regions) = 224
USL National Two (D6) = 64 (16 clubs in four regions) = 288
USL National Three (D7) = 80 (20 clubs in four regions) = 368
USL National Four (D8) = 80 (20 clubs in four regions) = 448 total clubs in the USL
U.S. National Pyramid (D9-20) - Connecting with thousands of clubs and dozens of leagues across the country through promotion and relegation.

During the season, rounds of interleague play can occur within the regions between the Premiership and Championship; and League One and League Two.

Clubs are promoted and relegated, with expansions available as well.

2032 - Promotion and Relegation Era (Summer Olympics Year)

USL Premiership (D1) = 32 (8 clubs in four regions) = 32
USL Championship (D2) = 32 (8 clubs in four regions) = 64
USL League One (D3) = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) = 112
USL League Two (D4) = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) = 160
USL National One (D5) = 64 (16 clubs in four regions) = 224
USL National Two (D6) = 64 (16 clubs in four regions) = 288
USL National Three (D7) = 80 (20 clubs in four regions) = 368
USL National Four (D8) = 80 (20 clubs in four regions) = 448 total clubs in the USL
U.S. National Pyramid (D9-20) - Connecting with thousands of clubs and dozens of leagues across the country through promotion and relegation.

During the season, rounds of interleague play can occur within the regions between the Premiership and Championship; and League One and League Two.

Clubs are promoted and relegated, with expansions available as well.

2033 - Promotion and Relegation (CONCACAF Gold Cup Year)

USL Premiership (D1) = 32 (8 clubs in four regions) = 32
USL Championship (D2) = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) = 80
USL League One (D3) = 64 (16 clubs in four regions) = 144
USL League Two (D4) = 80 (20 clubs in four regions) = 224
USL National One (D5) = 96 (24 clubs in four regions) = 320
USL National Two (D6) = 128 (32 clubs in four regions) = 448
USL National Three (D7) = 160 (40 clubs in four regions) = 608
USL National Four (D8) = 192 (48 clubs in four regions) = 800 total clubs in the USL
U.S. National Pyramid (D9-20) - Connecting with thousands of clubs and dozens of leagues across the country through promotion and relegation.

During the season, rounds of interleague play can occur within the regions between the Premiership and Championship.

Clubs are promoted and relegated, with expansions available as well.

2034 - Promotion and Relegation Era (Men's World Cup Year)

USL Premiership (D1) = 32 (8 clubs in four regions) = 32

USL Championship (D2) = 48 (12 clubs in four regions) = 80
USL League One (D3) = 64 (16 clubs in four regions) = 144
USL League Two (D4) = 80 (20 clubs in four regions) = 224
USL National One (D5) = 96 (24 clubs in four regions) = 320
USL National Two (D6) = 128 (32 clubs in four regions) = 448
USL National Three (D7) = 160 (40 clubs in four regions) = 608
USL National Four (D8) = 192 (48 clubs in four regions) = 800 total clubs in the USL
U.S. National Pyramid (D9-20) - Connecting with thousands of clubs and dozens of leagues across the country through promotion and relegation.

During the season, rounds of interleague play can occur within the regions between the Premiership and Championship.

Clubs are promoted and relegated, with expansions available as well.

And beyond!

Note: The above guide and distribution is comparable to the top 10 football/soccer systems around the world. As the U.S. has a population of over 330 million and a vast geographical landscape, this design gives all U.S. clubs and communities an opportunity to join through their regions while meeting the needs of clubs and fans in relation to cost and time for travel. Interleague play within regions will increase derbies and expansions between divisions and increase the value of each club, division, and league.

Buy-in Clause for Initial Investors Only

- Clubs that buy into the Premiership (D1) by 2025 (even with promotion, as expansion/entry fees have to be covered) will not be relegated below the Premiership (D1) for the next 10 years (until 2035), and below the Championship (D2) for the next additional 10 years (until 2045).
- Clubs that buy into the Championship (D2) by 2025 will not be relegated below the Championship (D2) for the next 10 years (until 2035), and below League One (D3) for the next additional 10 years (until 2045).
- Clubs that buy into League One (D3) by 2025 will not be relegated below League One (D3) for the next 10 years (until 2035), and below League Two (D4) for the next additional 10 years (until 2045).
- Clubs that buy into League Two (D4) by 2025 will not be relegated below League Two (D4) for the next 10 years (until 2035), and below National One (D5) for the next additional 10 years (until 2045).
- Clubs that buy into National One (D5) by 2025 will not be relegated below National One (D5) for the next 10 years (until 2035), and below National Two (D6) for the next additional 10 years (until 2045).

- Clubs that buy into National Two (D6) by 2025 will not be relegated below National Two (D6) for the next 10 years (until 2035), and below National Three (D7) for the next additional 10 years (until 2045).

This gives every initial investor a twenty-year opportunity to build their club as the organization grows with promotion and relegation. It also incentivizes greater investment and confidence in the success of the clubs, the leagues, and the system across all levels.

This timeline gives the USL a 5-year window to substantially increase revenue, expand its organization, and agree-upon its revenue-sharing through promotion and relegation by 2029. This model can be replicated for the women's leagues in the organization. National promotion and relegation with thousands of clubs and dozens of leagues across the country within (de facto) divisions 9 through 20 can begin by 2030. The USL can be on top of this pyramid with (USSF) divisions 1 through 8.

New USSF Pro League Standards (Men's and Women's)

The United States has the potential to become one of the top 5 soccer nations in the world. To do so, the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) must rethink, consolidate, and update its Professional League Standards (PLS), potentially by 2026 in time for the FIFA Men's World Cup in the USA. This proposed new design unlocks the country's power in the sport while increasing financial wealth and geographical reach.

Proposal: There will be eight (8) total professional divisions from the USSF for both men and women. In each of the divisions there will be three geographical designations: National, Regional, and State.

1) Pro National

- 3 time zones minimum and 4 maximum (within the continental USA)
 - Eastern, Central, Mountain, and/or Pacific
 - Alaska and Hawaii will receive D1 State designations
- If an organization opens a national D1 or other, then all connecting divisions (within their organization) have to be national bound and cover all four time zones and all four regions (W, S, N, and E) with their respective four conferences

Note: Existing professional leagues with active clubs/teams in other countries or U.S. territories can continue to honor their partnership with these specific groups (e.g. The three Canadian teams currently in Major League Soccer (MLS) can continue to play in the league: Vancouver (West: Cascadia), Toronto (East: Empire), and Montreal (East: Empire or New England). These clubs/teams can also opt to play in the Canadian Premier League (CPL), which can gain increased exposure and multiple berths to three potential CONCACAF Cup tournaments that include annual competition with U.S. pro clubs.)

2) Pro Regional

- 1 region only (within the continental USA): West, South, North, or East.
 - West (all states): Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming = 76.57 million
 - Subregion Groups/Conferences (based on population)
 - Cascadia: Washington and Oregon = 12.03 million
 - Mountain: Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado = 12.86 million
 - Golden State: California = 39.03 million
 - Desert Sun Belt: Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico = 12.65 million
 - South (all states): Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas = 105.9 million
 - Subregion Groups/Conferences (based on population)
 - Lone Star: Texas = 30.03 million
 - Gulf Coast: Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Alabama = 26.72 million
 - Sunshine State: Florida = 22.25 million
 - South Atlantic: North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia = 26.9 million
 - North (all states): Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin = 73.3 million
 - Subregion Groups/Conferences (based on population)
 - Prairieland: North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin = 13.3 million
 - Heartland: Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri = 14.28 million
 - Midwest: Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky = 23.93 million
 - Great Lakes: Michigan and Ohio = 21.79 million
 - East (all states): Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington D.C., and West Virginia = 74.36 million
 - Subregion Groups/Conferences (based on population)
 - Capital: West Virginia, Virginia, Washington D.C., Maryland, and Delaware = 17.3 million
 - Mid Atlantic: Pennsylvania and New Jersey = 22.23 million
 - Empire: New York = 19.7 million
 - New England: Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine = 15.13 million
- If an organization opens a regional D1 or other, then all connecting divisions (within their organization) have to be region bound (W, S, N, or E) and cover all

conferences and states with their intrastate geographical regions/districts (e.g. Upstate and Downstate New York; or Northern and Southern California; etc.)

Regional Map (Distribution based on population size and location):



Note: The distribution line of the four regions (W, S, N, and E) applies to the national leagues, regional leagues, and state leagues. As aforementioned, Hawaii (1.44 million) and Alaska (734,000) will benefit from state D1 designations based on their location, and will receive access to national and international cup competition like all states, as outlined ahead.

3) Pro State

- 1 state: Among 50 U.S. states
- If an organization opens a state D1 or other, then all connecting divisions (within their organization) have to be state bound and cover all districts (e.g. Upstate and Downstate New York, etc.), metropolitan areas, counties, and municipalities

An organization that wants to operate a league in a single division in any geographical designation with or without promotion and relegation can do so as long as they meet the requirements. If an organization wants to open up various leagues in different divisions, with or without promotion and relegation, then all divisions have to be within the same geographical designation (e.g. all within national, or all within the same region, or all within the same state).

New USSF Pro League Standards 3 Geographic Designations with 8 Divisions each (Men and Women)

| USSF Geographic Designations | Pro: National Regional State | Pro: National Regional State | Pro: National Regional State | Pro: National Regional State | Pro: National Regional State | Pro: National Regional State | Pro: National Regional State | Pro: National Regional State |
|--|--|--|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Division | D1 | D2 | D3 | D4 | D5 | D6 | D7 | D8 |
| Clubs per League in each Geographic Location | 12 minimum | 12 minimum | 12 minimum | 12 minimum | 12 minimum | 12 minimum | 12 minimum | 12 minimum |
| | 24 ideal | 24 ideal | 32 ideal | 32 ideal | 40 ideal | 40 ideal | 48 ideal | 48 ideal |
| | 32 maximum | 48 maximum | 64 maximum | 80 maximum | 96 maximum | 128 maximum | 160 maximum | 192 maximum |
| Note: The maximum quantity of clubs can progressively increase as shown in a table ahead. | | | | | | | | |
| Continental Cup Participation: CONCACAF 1. Champions Cup 2. League (s) Cup 3. Conference Cup Note: For women, this would apply to the corresponding tournaments | National: Each league receives 4 berths to the Champions Cup, 4 berths to the League Cup, and 4 berths to the Conference Cup Regional: Each league receives 2 berths to the League Cup, and 2 berths to the Conference Cup State: Each league | National: Each league receives 2 berths to the League Cup, and 2 berths to the Conference Cup Regional: Each league receives 2 berths to the Conference Cup | National: Each league receives 2 berths to the Conference Cup | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| | <p>Regional: 1 Region only (W, S, N, or E) (Must be in all four conferences within a region)</p> <p>State: 1 State (Covering all districts, and multiple counties and municipalities)</p> | <p>Regional: 1 Region only (W, S, N, or E) (Must be in all four conferences within a region)</p> <p>State: 1 State (Covering all districts, and multiple counties and municipalities)</p> | <p>Regional: 1 Region only (W, S, N, or E) (Must be in all four conferences within a region)</p> <p>State: 1 State (Covering all districts, and multiple counties and municipalities)</p> | <p>Regional: 1 Region only (W, S, N, or E) (Must be in all four conferences within a region)</p> <p>State: 1 State (Covering all districts, and multiple counties and municipalities)</p> | <p>Regional: 1 Region only (W, S, N, or E) (Must be in all four conferences within a region)</p> <p>State: 1 State (Covering all districts, and multiple counties and municipalities)</p> | <p>Regional: 1 Region only (W, S, N, or E) (Must be in all four conferences within a region)</p> <p>State: 1 State (Covering all districts, and multiple counties and municipalities)</p> | <p>Regional: 1 Region only (W, S, N, or E) (Must be in all four conferences within a region)</p> <p>State: 1 State (Covering all districts, and multiple counties and municipalities)</p> | <p>Regional: 1 Region only (W, S, N, or E) (Must be in all four conferences within a region)</p> <p>State: 1 State (Covering all districts, and multiple counties and municipalities)</p> |
| <p>Market Population Option 1</p> | <p>National: 75% w/ 1 mil+ (or 75% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each region represent greater than 10% of each region's population and together 10% of the nation)</p> <p>Regional: 75% w/ 750k+ (or 75% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each conference represent greater</p> | <p>National: 75% w/ 750k+ (or 75% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each region represent greater than 7.5% of each region's population and together 7.5% of the nation)</p> <p>Regional: 75% w/ 500k+ (or 75% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each conference represent greater</p> | <p>National: 75% w/ 500k+ (or 75% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each region represent greater than 5% of each region's population and together 5% of the nation)</p> <p>Regional: 75% w/ 250k+ (or 75% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each conference represent greater</p> | <p>National: 75% w/ 250k+ (or 75% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each region represent greater than 2.5% of each region's population and together 2.5% of the nation)</p> <p>Regional: 75% w/ 100k+ (or 75% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each conference represent greater</p> | <p>National: 75% w/ 100k+ (or 75% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each region represent greater than 1% of each region's population and together 1% of the nation)</p> <p>Regional: 75% w/ 75k+ (or 75% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each conference represent greater</p> | <p>National: 75% w/ 75k+ (or 75% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each region represent greater than 0.75% of each region's population and together 0.75% of the nation)</p> <p>Regional: 75% w/ 50k+ (or 75% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each conference represent greater</p> | <p>National: 75% w/ 50k+ (or 75% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each region represent greater than 0.5% of each region's population and together 0.5% of the nation)</p> <p>Regional: 75% w/ 25k+ (or 75% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each conference represent greater</p> | <p>National: 75% w/ 25k+ (or 75% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each region represent greater than 0.25% of each region's population and together 0.25% of the nation)</p> <p>Regional: 75% w/ 10k+ (or 75% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each conference represent greater</p> |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| | <p>than 7.5% of each conference's population and together 7.5% of the region)</p> <p>State: 75% w/ 500k+ (or 75% of the combined counties and municipalities for all clubs in each district represent greater than 5% of each district's population and together 5% of the state)</p> | <p>than 5% of each conference's population and together 5% of the region)</p> <p>State: 75% w/ 250k+ (or 75% of the combined counties and municipalities for all clubs in each district represent greater than 2.5% of each district's population and together 2.5% of the state)</p> | <p>than 2.5% of each conference's population and together 2.5% of the region)</p> <p>State: 75% w/ 100k+ (or 75% of the combined counties and municipalities for all clubs in each district represent greater than 1% of each district's population and together 1% of the state)</p> | <p>than 1% of each conference's population and together 1% of the region)</p> <p>State: 75% w/ 75k+ (or 75% of the combined counties and municipalities for all clubs in each district represent greater than 0.75% of each district's population and together 0.75% of the state)</p> | <p>than 0.75% of each conference's population and together 0.75% of the region)</p> <p>State: 75% w/ 50k+ (or 75% of the combined counties and municipalities for all clubs in each district represent greater than 0.5% of each district's population and together 0.5% of the state)</p> | <p>than 0.5% of each conference's population and together 0.5% of the region)</p> <p>State: 75% w/ 25k+ (or 75% of the combined counties and municipalities for all clubs in each district represent greater than 0.25% of each district's population and together 0.25% of the state)</p> | <p>than 0.25% of each conference's population and together 0.25% of the region)</p> <p>State: 75% w/ 10k+ (or 75% of the combined counties and municipalities for all clubs in each district represent greater than 0.1% of each district's population and together 0.1% of the state)</p> | <p>than 0.1% of each conference's population and together 0.1% of the region)</p> <p>State: 75% w/ 7.5k+ (or 75% of the combined counties and municipalities for all clubs in each district represent greater than 0.075% of each district's population and together 0.075% of the state)</p> |
| <p>Market Population Option 2</p> | <p>National: 50% w/ 1 mil+ (or 50% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each region represent greater than 10% of each region's population and together 10% of the nation)</p> | <p>National: 50% w/ 750k+ (or 50% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each region represent greater than 7.5% of each region's population and together 7.5% of the nation)</p> | <p>National: 50% w/ 500k+ (or 50% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each region represent greater than 5% of each region's population and together 5% of the nation)</p> | <p>National: 50% w/ 250k+ (or 50% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each region represent greater than 2.5% of each region's population and together 2.5% of the nation)</p> | <p>National: 50% w/ 100k+ (or 50% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each region represent greater than 1% of each region's population and together 1% of the nation)</p> | <p>National: 50% w/ 75k+ (or 50% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each region represent greater than 0.75% of each region's population and together 0.75% of the nation)</p> | <p>National: 50% w/ 50k+ (or 50% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each region represent greater than 0.5% of each region's population and together 0.5% of the nation)</p> | <p>National: 50% w/ 25k+ (or 50% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each region represent greater than 0.25% of each region's population and together 0.25% of the nation)</p> |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| | <p>Regional: 50% w/ 750k+ (or 50% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each conference represent greater than 7.5% of each conference's population and together 7.5% of the region)</p> <p>State: 50% w/ 500k+ (or 50% of the combined counties and municipalities for all clubs in each district represent greater than 5% of each district's population and together 5% of the state)</p> | <p>Regional: 50% w/ 500k+ (or 50% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each conference represent greater than 5% of each conference's population and together 5% of the region)</p> <p>State: 50% w/ 250k+ (or 50% of the combined counties and municipalities for all clubs in each district represent greater than 2.5% of each district's population and together 2.5% of the state)</p> | <p>Regional: 50% w/ 250k+ (or 50% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each conference represent greater than 2.5% of each conference's population and together 2.5% of the region)</p> <p>State: 50% w/ 100k+ (or 50% of the combined counties and municipalities for all clubs in each district represent greater than 1% of each district's population and together 1% of the state)</p> | <p>Regional: 50% w/ 100k+ (or 50% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each conference represent greater than 1% of each conference's population and together 1% of the region)</p> <p>State: 50% w/ 75k+ (or 50% of the combined counties and municipalities for all clubs in each district represent greater than 0.75% of each district's population and together 0.75% of the state)</p> | <p>Regional: 50% w/ 75k+ (or 50% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each conference represent greater than 0.75% of each conference's population and together 0.75% of the region)</p> <p>State: 50% w/ 50k+ (or 50% of the combined counties and municipalities for all clubs in each district represent greater than 0.5% of each district's population and together 0.5% of the state)</p> | <p>Regional: 50% w/ 50k+ (or 50% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each conference represent greater than 0.5% of each conference's population and together 0.5% of the region)</p> <p>State: 50% w/ 25k+ (or 50% of the combined counties and municipalities for all clubs in each district represent greater than 0.25% of each district's population and together 0.25% of the state)</p> | <p>Regional: 50% w/ 25k+ (or 50% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each conference represent greater than 0.25% of each conference's population and together 0.25% of the region)</p> <p>State: 50% w/ 10k+ (or 50% of the combined counties and municipalities for all clubs in each district represent greater than 0.1% of each district's population and together 0.1% of the state)</p> | <p>Regional: 50% w/ 10k+ (or 50% of the combined metro areas for all clubs in each conference represent greater than 0.1% of each conference's population and together 0.1% of the region)</p> <p>State: 50% w/ 7.5k+ (or 50% of the combined counties and municipalities for all clubs in each district represent greater than 0.075% of each district's population and together 0.075% of the state)</p> |
| | Option 2 opens up room for more clubs from different areas with varying population sizes to reach national, regional, or state division 1 | | | | | | | |
| Minimum Stadium Seat Capacity (This is proportion) | National: 10,000 Regional: 7,500 State: | National: 7,500 Regional: 5,000 State: | National: 5,000 Regional: 2,500 State: | National: 2,500 Regional: 1,000 State: | National: 1,000 Regional: 750 State: | National: 750 Regional: 500 State: | National: 500 Regional: 250 State: | National: 250 Regional: 100 State: |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Proportional to the market size) | 5,000 | 2,500 | 1,000 | 750 | 500 | 250 | 100 | 75 |
| | Note: Clubs can and are recommended to share stadiums within and/or across divisions and geographic designations. These numbers are comparable to top soccer nations around the world. This opens up greater opportunities for stadium construction or renovations for soccer in the U.S. | | | | | | | |
| Lease Lead | National: 180 days | National: 180 days | National: 150 days | National: 150 days | National: 120 days | National: 120 days | National: 90 days | National: 90 days |
| | Regional: 180 days | Regional: 150 days | Regional: 150 days | Regional: 120 days | Regional: 120 days | Regional: 90 days | Regional: 90 days | Regional: 60 days |
| | State: 150 days | State: 150 days | State: 120 days | State: 120 days | State: 90 days | State: 90 days | State: 60 days | State: 60 days |
| Each club must have a full lease representing the season of their league within a division. | | | | | | | | |
| Bond Option 1 (This is proportional to the market size) | National: \$1 mil | National: \$750k | National: \$500k | National: \$250k | National: \$100k | National: \$75k | National: \$50k | National: \$25k |
| | Regional: \$750k | Regional: \$500k | Regional: \$250k | Regional: \$100k | Regional: \$75k | Regional: \$50k | Regional: \$25k | Regional: \$10k |
| | State: \$500k | State: \$250k | State: \$100k | State: \$75k | State: \$50k | State: \$25k | State: \$10k | State: \$7.5k |
| Bond Option 2 (This is proportional to the market size in half) | National: \$500k | National: \$375k | National: \$250k | National: \$125k | National: \$50k | National: \$37.5k | National: \$25k | National: \$12.5k |
| | Regional: \$375k | Regional: \$250k | Regional: \$125k | Regional: \$50k | Regional: \$37.5k | Regional: \$25k | Regional: \$12.5k | Regional: \$5k |
| | State: \$250k | State: \$125k | State: \$50k | State: \$37.5k | State: \$25k | State: \$12.5k | State: \$5k | State: \$3.75k |
| Option 2 allows organizations to reinvest more in their clubs and leagues per division to increase value and salaries. This also increases the quantity of investors per division. | | | | | | | | |
| Time Guarantee | 5 years | 5 years | 5 years | 5 years | 5 years | 5 years | 5 years | 5 years |
| Primary Owner Worth (POW) (w/35% control) Option 1 (Note: Bonds are 5% of a POW option 1 or 2.5% of option 2 without | National: \$20 mil | National: \$15 mil | National: \$10 mil | National: \$5 mil | National: \$2 mil | National: \$1.5 mil | National: \$1 mil | National: \$500k |
| | w/Partners: \$30 mil | w/Partners: \$22.5 mil | w/Partners: \$15 mil | w/Partners: \$7.5 mil | w/Partners: \$3 mil | w/Partners: \$2.25 mil | w/Partners: \$1.5 mil | w/Partners: \$750k |
| | Regional: \$15 mil | Regional: \$10 mil | Regional: \$5 mil | Regional: \$2 mil | Regional: \$1.5 mil | Regional: \$1 mil | Regional: \$500k | Regional: \$250k |
| | w/Partners: \$22.5 mil | w/Partners: \$15 mil | w/Partners: \$7.5 mil | w/Partners: \$3 mil | w/Partners: \$2.25 mil | w/Partners: \$1.5 mil | w/Partners: \$750k | w/Partners: \$350k |
| | State: \$10 mil | State: \$5 mil | State: \$2 mil | State: \$1.5 mil | State: \$1 mil | State: \$500k | State: \$200k | State: \$150k |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| including partnering investors) | w/Partners: \$15 mil | w/Partners: \$7.5 mil | w/Partners: \$3 mil | w/Partners: \$2.25 mil | w/Partners: \$1.5 mil | w/Partners: \$750k | w/Partners: \$350k | w/Partners: \$225k |
| Primary Owner Worth (POW) (w/35% control) | National: \$10 mil | National: \$7.5 mil | National: \$5 mil | National: \$2.5 mil | National: \$1 mil | National: \$750k | National: \$500k | National: \$250k |
| Option 2 | w/Partners: \$15 mil | w/Partners: \$11.25 mil | w/Partners: \$7.5 mil | w/Partners: \$3.75 mil | w/Partners: \$1.5 mil | w/Partners: \$1.125 mil | w/Partners: \$750k | w/Partners: \$375k |
| (Note: Bonds are 10% of a POW option 1 or 5% of option 2 without including partnering investors) | Regional: \$7.5 mil | Regional: \$5 mil | Regional: \$2.5 mil | Regional: \$1 mil | Regional: \$750k | Regional: \$500k | Regional: \$250k | Regional: \$100k |
| | w/Partners: \$11.25 mil | w/Partners: \$7.5 mil | w/Partners: \$3.75 mil | w/Partners: \$1.5 mil | w/Partners: \$1.125 mil | w/Partners: \$750k | w/Partners: \$375k | w/Partners: \$150k |
| | State: \$5 mil | State: \$2.5 mil | State: \$1 mil | State: \$750k | State: \$500k | State: \$250k | State: \$100k | State: \$75k |
| | w/Partners: \$7.5 mil | w/Partners: \$3.75 mil | w/Partners: \$1.5 mil | w/Partners: \$1.125 mil | w/Partners: \$750k | w/Partners: \$375k | w/Partners: \$150k | w/Partners: \$112.5k |
| Option 2 is an optimal base for both men and women clubs to increase primary investors and partners that can include partial fan ownership. Each league within an organization can then determine its own additional financial requirements through expansion/entry fees. | | | | | | | | |

Note: The above design closes the gap between divisions and between regional designations while increasing opportunities for all clubs to participate, reach division 1, and compete internationally.

Promotion and Relegation within a Singular Organization (between D1 and D8)

- Promotion and Relegation is a choice within an organization that has multiple divisions
- Every champion from a division can be promoted to the next division within their geographical designation (e.g. State D4 champs can move up to State D3; Region D3 champs can move up to Region D2; National D2 champs can move up to National D1)
- Clubs in the bottom can be relegated within their geographical region (e.g. last placed club in National D1 can go to National D2; last placed club in Region D3 can go to Region D4; last placed club in State D5 can go to State D6)
- Maximum quantity of clubs promoted and relegated within an organization will be determined by the organization itself. For national leagues, a minimum of four clubs, one in each of the four regions will be promoted, while a minimum of four clubs, one in each of the four regions will be relegated. For regional leagues, a minimum of four clubs, one in each of the four conferences will be promoted, while a minimum of four clubs, one in each of the four conferences will be relegated. For state leagues, a minimum of four clubs, two in each of two districts will be promoted, while a minimum of four clubs, two in each of two districts will be relegated. The larger the division, as leagues grow, the more clubs should be promoted and relegated for access (e.g. between D1 and D2 national, 8

clubs up and 8 down, 2 in each region; D2 and D3 national, 12 clubs up and 12 down, 3 in each region; D3 and D4 national, 16 clubs up and 16 down, 4 in each region; etc.)

Promotion and Relegation between Organizations and Geographical Designations

- Champions can be promoted to the same division they are in within the next geographical designation if the accepting organization permits and the club meets the requirements and expansion/entry fees (e.g. State D4 champs can be promoted to Regional D4; State D1 champs can be promoted to Region D1; Region D1 champs can be promoted to National D1)
- Clubs can also be relegated to the geographical region below so long as they pay the expansion/entry fee of the region entering (e.g. last placed club in National D1 can go to Regional D1; last placed Region D3 can go to State D3)
- Quantity of clubs promoted and relegated between organizations will be determined by the organizations themselves

Promotion and Relegation between D1-D8 and D9-D20

- An organization with USSF D1-D8 designation can build out its own (non-USFF) D9 to D20 leagues to expand upon a national pro/rel pyramid
- At the same time, clubs and leagues representing (de facto) D9 to D20 can affiliate with a D1-D8 organization. Clubs in D8 can be relegated to an affiliated D9 league while clubs in D9 can be promoted to D8 so long as they meet the requirements and the affiliated organizations are in agreement
- D1-D8 organizations must work with affiliates to define the standards for their D9-D20

New Clubs

- Clubs that want to enter an organization's pyramid can start at the bottom of the geographical designation they enter or they can pay the expansion/entry fee of the division and geographical designation they seek, so long as space is available for them and the organization permits it

Territory Rights

- The use of territory rights within an organization is a choice.
- An organization with promotion and relegation in multiple divisions is recommended to waive territory rights to increase access for all clubs

Interleague/Interdivision Play

- Engaging in interleague/interdivision play is a choice within an organization, potentially to reduce cost and travel for clubs and fans while increasing derbies and expansion
- It is recommended that
 - National leagues with interleague/interdivision play should do so through their regions
 - Regional leagues with interleague/interdivision play should do so through their conferences
 - State leagues with interleague/interdivision play should do so through their districts

Club Ownership and League Play for Reserve Teams and Affiliates

- An investor can be a primary owner/operator with 35% minimum control of only one men's club and one women's club (including first teams, B teams, and other connecting teams) across divisions 1-8. They can be a secondary owner/operator of multiple clubs. The remaining 65% max investment of a club can come from various partners and fans.
- Within the same pyramid, B teams and all other reserve teams and affiliated teams can not play in the same division as the first team of their club. It is recommended that B teams and other connecting teams play in a parallel D1-D8 pyramid designed for them.

Example of a USSF D1-D8 Organization with Increasing Max # of Clubs, Connecting to a D9-D20 U.S. Pyramid

| (e.g. USL Organization w/USSF D1-D8 National Designation w/D9-D20) | (e.g. USL Organization w/USSF D1-D8 National Designation w/D9-D20) | (e.g. USL Organization w/USSF D1-D8 National Designation w/D9-D20 - Increasing Clubs) | (e.g. USL Organization w/USSF D1-D8 National Designation w/D9-D20 - Increasing Clubs) |
|--|--|---|---|
| D1 = 24 (ideal) | D1 = 32 (max) | D1 = 32 (max) | D1 = 32 (max) |
| D2 = 24 (ideal) | D2 = 32 (max) | D2 = 32 (max) | D2 = 48 (max) |
| D3 = 32 (ideal) | D3 = 32 (max) | D3 = 48 (max) | D3 = 64 (max) |
| D4 = 32 (ideal) | D4 = 32 (max) | D4 = 48 (max) | D4 = 80 (max) |
| = 112 clubs | = 128 clubs | = 160 clubs | = 224 clubs |
| D5 = 40 (ideal) | D5 = 48 (max) | D5 = 64 (max) | D5 = 96 (max) |
| D6 = 40 (ideal) | D6 = 48 (max) | D6 = 64 (max) | D6 = 128 (max) |
| D6 = 48 (ideal) | D6 = 48 (max) | D6 = 80 (max) | D7 = 160 (max) |
| D8 = 48 (ideal) | D8 = 48 (max) | D8 = 80 (max) | D8 = 192 (max) |
| = 288 clubs | = 320 clubs | = 448 clubs | = 800 clubs |
| D9 = 96 | D9 = 96 | D9 = 96 | D9 = 384 |
| D10 = 96 | D10 = 96 | D10 = 128 | D10 = 512 |
| D11 = 192 | D11 = 192 | D11 = 160 | D11 = 640 |
| D12 = 192 | D12 = 192 | D12 = 192 | D12 = 768 |
| = 864 clubs | = 896 clubs | = 1,024 clubs | = 3,104 clubs |
| D13 = 384 | D13 = 384 | D13 = 384 | D13 = 1,536 |
| D14 = 384 | D14 = 384 | D14 = 512 | D14 = 2,048 |
| D15 = 768 | D15 = 768 | D15 = 640 | D15 = 2,560 |
| D16 = 768 | D16 = 768 | D16 = 768 | D16 = 3,072 |
| = 3,168 clubs | = 3,200 clubs | = 3,328 clubs | = 12,320 clubs |
| D17 = 1,536 | D17 = 1,536 | D17 = 1,536 | D17 = 6,144 |
| D18 = 1,536 | D18 = 1,536 | D18 = 2,048 | D18 = 8,192 |
| D19 = 3,072 | D19 = 3,072 | D19 = 2,560 | D19 = 10,240 |
| D20 = 3,072 | D20 = 3,072 | D20 = 3,072 | D20 = 12,288 |
| = 12,584 clubs | = 12,616 clubs | = 12,744 clubs | = 49,217 clubs |

Note: The above table shows a national pyramid for one organization and its affiliated leagues (that play within their regions, states, districts, metro areas, counties, and municipalities). Multiple national pyramids from different organizations, with and without promotion and relegation, can coexist. At the same time, various regional and state pyramids can be formed by different groups. This will substantially increase the quantity and quality of clubs in the country, competing in the three geographical designations, that will have access to division 1 and international cup competition.

| Example of USSF D1-D8 National, Regional and State Designations | | |
|---|---|---|
| An Organization with USSF D1-D8 National Designation | An Organizations with USSF D1-D8 Regional Designation | An Organization with USSF D1-D8 State Designation |
| D1 = 32 (max) D2 = 48 (max) D3 = 64 (max) D4 = 80 (max) = 224 clubs D5 = 96 (max) D6 = 128 (max) D7 = 160 (max) D8 = 192 (max) = 800 clubs | D1 = 32 (max) D2 = 48 (max) D3 = 64 (max) D4 = 80 (max) = 224 clubs D5 = 96 (max) D6 = 128 (max) D7 = 160 (max) D8 = 192 (max) = 800 clubs X 4 regions/4 organizations = 3,200 clubs | D1 = 32 (max) D2 = 48 (max) D3 = 64 (max) D4 = 80 (max) = 224 clubs D5 = 96 (max) D6 = 128 (max) D7 = 160 (max) D8 = 192 (max) = 800 clubs X 50 states/50 organizations = 40,000 clubs |
| = 44,000 clubs | | |

Division Playoffs and Continental Cup Competition

- Each organization sets its regular season competition within its leagues and divisions and must declare a champion
- The greater the number of clubs in a division, the greater the number can participate in a league's playoff tournament
 - National, regional, and state divisions: No more than half of a region, conference, district, or other subgroup can enter the respective playoffs
- CONCACAF Champions Cup Participation
 - Each national D1 league receives four berths (representing four regions)
 - The champion and runner-up of the playoffs and the top two teams in the other two regions during the regular season
- CONCACAF League(s) Cup Participation
 - Each national D1 league receives four berths
 - The next best four teams, one in each of the four regions, that did not go to the Champions Cup
 - Each regional D1 league receives two berths
 - The champion and runner-up of the playoffs
 - Each national D2 league receives two berths
 - The champion and runner-up of the playoffs
- CONCACAF Conference Cup Participation
 - Each national D1 league receives four berths
 - The next best four teams, one in each of the four regions, that did not go to the League(s) Cup
 - Each regional D1 league receives two berths

- The top two teams in the other two conferences during the regular season, that are not the champion and runner-up of the playoffs
- Each state D1 league receives two berths
 - The champion and runner-up of the playoffs
- Each national D2 league receives two berths
 - The top two teams in the other two regions during the regular season, that are not the champion and runner-up of the playoffs
- Each regional D2 league receives two berths
 - The champion and runner-up of the playoffs
- Each national D3 league receives two berths
 - The champion and runner-up of the playoffs

Note: This increases the value of national, regional, and state division one, national and regional division two, national division three, and all three potential international cup competitions for CONCACAF. As aforementioned, this can be replicated for the women's leagues. Berths can be expanded. The above competitions are exclusively for first teams of a club.

National Cup Competition

USSF U.S. Open Cup

- All first teams of clubs in divisions 1 through 8, in all three designations, along with champions of the top amateur tournaments are eligible to play in the U.S. Open Cup
 - The winner and runner-up receive berths to the CONCACAF Champions Cup
 - The other two semi-finalist receive berths to the CONCACAF Leagues Cup
- A new Women's U.S. Open Cup can mirror this format

U.S. Inter-Regional League Championships

- The champions of each Regional D1 league compete in a knock-out tournament.
 - The winner and runner-up of the Inter-Regional D1 League Championship go to the CONCACAF Champions Cup.
- The champions of each Regional D2 league compete in a knock-out tournament.
 - The winner and runner-up of the Inter-Regional D2 League Championship go to the CONCACAF League(s) Cup.
- The champions of each Regional D3 league compete in a knock-out tournament.
 - The winner and runner-up of the Inter-Regional D3 League Championship go to the CONCACAF Conference Cup.

Note: This can be organized by the USSF or by the leagues.

U.S. Inter-State League Championships

- The champions of each State D1 compete in a knock-out tournament.
 - The winner and runner-up of the Inter-State D1 League Championship go to the CONCACAF Champions Cup.
 - The other two semi-finalist go to the CONCACAF League(s) Cup.
- The champions of each State D2 compete in a knock-out tournament.
 - The winner and runner-up of the Inter-State D2 League Championship go to the CONCACAF League(s) Cup.
 - The other two semi-finalist go to the CONCACAF Conference Cup.
- The champions of each State D3 compete in a knock-out tournament.
 - The winner and runner-up of the Inter-State D3 League Championship go to the CONCACAF Conference Cup.

Note: This can be organized by the USSF or by the leagues.

U.S. Reserves Championships

- As B teams and affiliated teams of a club are not eligible for the above cup competitions, they can compete in a new national and continental tournament designed for them.

State Cup and League Cup Competition

- All clubs in divisions 1 through 8, in all three designations, are recommended to participate in their respective State Cups (from the State Associations) and Intra-League Cups (apart from playoffs) to increase the profile and value of the sport at all levels.

Conclusion

The USL can create the first professional national promotion and relegation soccer system in the United States by 2024. Promotion can be done for the next five years to build out the system while both promotion and relegation can start by 2029, with thousands of clubs across the nation joining by 2030. Updating the USSF Pro League Standards by 2026, building on the above, will unlock the full potential of the sport in the U.S. with more clubs, leagues, and investors at all levels for both men and women. Collectively, this will place the U.S. in the top 5 soccer systems in the world.

| USL Soccer League System (with national promotion and relegation) | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| West = 76.57 million | South = 105.9 million | North = 73.3 million | East = 74.36 million |
| USL Premiership (D1 - 32 Clubs - 8 in each region) | | | |
| USL Championship (D2 - 48 Clubs - 12 in each region) | | | |
| USL League One (D3 - 64 clubs - 16 in each region) | | | |
| USL League Two (D4 - 80 clubs - 20 in each region) | | | |
| USL National One (D5 - 96 clubs - 24 in each region - 6 in four conferences each) | | | |
| USL National Two (D6 - 128 clubs - 32 in each region - 8 in four conferences each) | | | |
| USL National Three (D7 - 160 clubs - 40 in each region - 10 in four conferences each) | | | |
| USL National Four (D8 - 192 clubs - 48 in each region - 12 in four conferences each) | | | |
| U.S. National Pyramid (D9-D20) - thousands of clubs and dozens of leagues within regions, conferences, states, districts, metro areas, counties, and municipalities | | | |

Bonus: The United States National Soccer Club

As the United States of America (USA) has a population of over 330 million people throughout 50 states, covering a large coast to coast landscape, it is important to create a system for the sport to properly select the best soccer players from across all leagues to represent the country on the international stage. Therefore, the "United States National Soccer Club" (USNSC), composed of the U.S. Men's National Teams (USMNT) and U.S. Women's National teams (USWNT), and supported by the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), should advantageously be reorganized through a state to regional to national pyramid.

Keep in mind that the last five men's FIFA World Cup winners (W) and runner-ups (RU) came from countries, the majority from Europe, with one to two time zones (within their main lands), with populations that range from approximately 3.9 million to about 84 million: Argentina (2022 W and 2014 RU) = 46.642 million; France (2022 RU, 2018 W, and 2006 RU) = 68.043 million; Croatia (2018 RU) = 3.872 million; Germany (2014 W) = 84.433 million; Spain (2010 W) = 48.345 million; Netherlands (2010 RU) = 17.196 million; and Italy (2006 W) = 58.854 million. Many of our states and all of our regions have comparable sizes. Moreover, while the U.S. has the most decorated women's soccer team, around the world women's soccer is rapidly growing and becoming competitive, as we saw an all-European final in the recent FIFA Women's World Cup with Spain (2023 W) and England (2023 RU) = 56.536 million. Thus, our nation should focus on building our teams from the state level to then the regional level to then the national level so our quality on the field can continue to grow and lead us to success.

Through this endeavor, every state will have an official state team for both men and women at all age levels (e.g. USWNT California; USMNT Texas; USWNT Illinois; USMNT New York; etc.). The players will come from the different professional and amateur clubs in the country, who would be previously selected through their municipalities, counties, metro areas, and districts. Top players will represent their home state and will be holistically developed through their local programs. State teams will compete with one another within their region to crown an inter-state champion. During this process the best players from each state will be selected to form part of their respective regional teams in the west, south, north, and east (USWNT West, USMNT South, USWNT North, and USMNT East) using the previously shown distribution map. The regional teams will play in a tournament to determine an inter-regional champion. Once more, through these games the best professional and amateur players of the four regions will be chosen to then form part of the national teams (USWNT and USMNT). This system will expand and strengthen the sport throughout the U.S. while elevating the best players and teams at all levels to win national and international championships.

Example of a USSF Pyramid to Support and Select the best Professional and Amateur Men's and Women's Players from State, Regional, and National Levels

| National | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| United States Men's National Team (USMNT) = 330 million+ | | | |
| Regional | | | |
| USMNT West = 76.57 million | USMNT South = 105.9 million | USMNT North = 73.3 million | USMNT East = 74.36 million |
| State | | | |
| West | South | North | East |
| USMNT Alaska = 734 thousand | USMNT Alabama = 5.074 million | USMNT Illinois = 12.582 million | USMNT Connecticut = 3.626 million |
| USMNT Arizona = 7.359 million | USMNT Arkansas = 3.046 million | USMNT Indiana = 6.833 million | USMNT Delaware = 1.018 million |
| USMNT California = 39.029 million | USMNT Florida = 22.245 million | USMNT Iowa = 3.201 million | USMNT Maine = 1.385 million |
| USMNT Colorado = 5.84 million | USMNT Georgia = 10.913 million | USMNT Kansas = 2.937 million | USMNT Maryland = 6.165 million |
| USMNT Hawaii = 1.44 million | USMNT Louisiana = 4.59 million | USMNT Kentucky = 4.512 million | USMNT Massachusetts = 6.982 million |
| USMNT Idaho = 1.939 million | USMNT Mississippi = 2.94 million | USMNT Michigan = 10.034 million | USMNT New Hampshire = 1.395 million |
| USMNT Montana = 1.123 million | USMNT North Carolina = 10.699 million | USMNT Minnesota = 5.717 million | USMNT New Jersey = 9.262 million |
| USMNT Nevada = 3.178 million | USMNT Oklahoma = 4.02 million | USMNT Missouri = 6.178 million | USMNT New York = 19.677 million |
| USMNT New Mexico = 2.113 million | USMNT South Carolina = 5.283 million | USMNT Nebraska = 1.968 million | USMNT Pennsylvania = 12.972 million |
| USMNT Oregon = 4.24 million | USMNT Tennessee = 7.051 million | USMNT North Dakota = 779 thousand | USMNT Rhode Island = 1.094 million |
| USMNT Utah = 3.381 million | USMNT Texas = 30.03 million | USMNT Ohio = 11.576 million | USMNT Vermont = 647 thousand |
| USMNT Washington = 7.786 million | | USMNT South Dakota = 910 thousand | USMNT Virginia = 8.684 million |
| USMNT Wyoming = 581 thousand | | USMNT Wisconsin = 5.893 million | USMNT Washington DC = 672 thousand |
| | | | USMNT West Virginia = 1.775 million |

This design benefits all men's and women's teams. Through this system, players from all communities and states can reach the top to play for Team USA's U.S. National Soccer Club.