

Introduction

Earlier in 2024 we surveyed Local Disc Organizations regarding the youth club (non-school based) competition structure. Based on that survey and other data points, we have identified three structures that could be compelling to the community. In this survey we are looking for the opinions of youth players, their parents, their coaches and others involved in youth ultimate. For more background and rationale of this survey (how we got here and what we are hoping to accomplish, including results from the previous survey), you can find more details [HERE](#).

Please share this survey with anyone connected with youth ultimate in the United States.

Our goal:

We want to build a youth club competition structure that provides access to national competition and increases playing opportunities at both the regional and local level. Our current system, a single national event called the Youth Club Championships (YCC), has surpassed its capacity limits in several divisions.

This survey has three parts. The first two parts each contain 1-2 required questions and should take a total of 4-7 minutes to complete, while Part III is completely optional and will take another 10-15 minutes to complete.

Part I helps us understand your connection to youth ultimate.

Part II asks you to weigh the value of the 3 different competition structures.

Part III asks your preferences on various aspects of youth competition, which can largely be applied to any of the 3 competitive structures. (These will be used to help us craft detailed implementation guidelines.)

Thank you for your participation!

**Youth Competition working group
(Ante, Dan, Jack, Jamie, Joe and Josh)**

2024 USA Ultimate Youth Club Competition Structure Survey

Part I

* 1. Which of the following best describe the role(s) you've held in youth ultimate? (please choose all that apply):

- Player in youth ultimate currently
- Player in youth ultimate within the last 5 years (since 2019)
- Parent of a youth player
- Coach of a youth team
- Other (please specify)
- Organizer of youth ultimate events/teams
- Currently I am not directly involved in youth ultimate, but I believe I will be in one of these roles in the future
- Currently I am not directly involved in youth ultimate, but I am involved with other age groups

2. If you selected multiple roles, which is your PRIMARY role in youth ultimate? (dropdown):

* 3. Indicate which years you have attended the Youth Club Championships (YCC):

- None
- 2024
- 2023
- 2022
- 2021
- 2019
- 2018
- 2017
- 2016
- 2015
- 2014
- 2013
- 2012
- 2011
- 2010
- 2009
- 2008
- 2007
- 2006
- 2005

* 4. What is your 5-digit **zipcode**?

5. Which of the following options most closely aligns with your **gender identity**?

- Woman/Girl
- Man/Boy
- Non-binary
- Prefer to Self-Report

6. Which **ethnic or racial identity** best describe(s) you?

- American Indian or Alaskan Native or Aleutian
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hawaiian Native or Other Pacific Islander
- Hispanic or Latinx
- Multiracial
- White
- Other ethnic or racial identity (please specify)

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Part II

Current Structure: Organizational Priority Application for standalone YCC

YCC is an annual event (in early August) with no direct connections to any other events for youth club teams. Teams must submit applications for YCC, and the acceptance process follows a set of priorities that measure sponsoring organizations' state and local youth ultimate programming (growth, size, gender diversity, etc.). Once a YCC age-gender division is full (16-24 teams accepted), all remaining applications are waitlisted and teams can only attend if a spot opens up (an accepted team drops).

Following are three new structures that could be implemented in the future. Each includes an example of a draft model to illustrate how each might look. Please do not vote based on the example, but instead focus on the general structure that you prefer.

New Structure: Regional Competition Qualification for YCC (make regionals, not applications, the way teams get to YCC)

- YCC remains in August.
- Teams qualify for YCC only by results at Regionals.
 - 2/3 of bids are earned by winning a regional.
- Regions will have the ability to earn extra bids by accomplishing priorities that incentivize state & local youth ultimate.
 - 1/3 of bids are earned by finishing in 2nd place in a regional that has earned an extra bid.

This approach has all teams earning a bid to attend YCC based on their competition results at regional qualifying events (i.e., single qualification system). About two-thirds of the bids will be earned by a team winning a regional qualifying event. The remaining one-third of bids will be distributed to regions that earn extra bids to YCC (i.e., won by teams placing 2nd or lower in the regional competition), based on priorities that incentivize state & local youth ultimate activity (growth, size, gender diversity, outreach, etc.).

[Example model of regional qualification](#)

New Structure: Hybrid Qualification Pathways to YCC (offer both regionals & applications for teams to get to YCC)

- YCC remains in August.
- Two ways for teams to be invited to YCC:
 - 2/3 of the bids are earned by winning a regional.
 - 1/3 of the bids are awarded to organizations via an application process based on a priority system.

This approach would create a dual qualification system for teams to be invited to YCC. Teams could pursue either or both pathways. About two-thirds of the bids will be earned by a team winning a regional qualifying event. The remaining one-third will be awarded via a team application acceptance process, based on a set of priorities that measure sponsoring organizations' state and local youth ultimate programming (growth, size, gender diversity, outreach, etc.).

[Example model of hybrid pathways](#)

New Structure: Two National Events (leave YCC as is, add new separate Juniors Club series)

- YCC doesn't change. It remains in August as an invitational for teams representing Local Disc Organizations.
- A new Junior Club series will be added in the mid to late fall, culminating with a National Championship.
 - Teams earn bids to Junior Nationals by winning regionals.
- The two events are not connected. Teams and players could compete in one or both events.

This approach maintains the YCC qualification system's current structure, with an application and acceptance process based on priorities that measure sponsoring organizations' state and local youth ultimate programming (growth, size, gender diversity, etc.). This structure adds a new junior club series where youth club teams qualify through regional events. YCCs and the Junior club are two separate events. This means that players could play in either season or both seasons. And, if they are playing both seasons they could do so on different teams.

[Example model of two events](#)

*** 7. You have up to 100 total points to distribute/award among these 3 new structures. How many points would you award each?**

For example, you might give all 100 points to one, or 50 points to each of two that you like equally, etc.

Regional Competition
Qualification for YCC

Hybrid Qualification
Pathways to YCC

Two National Events

*** 8. Would you like to continue to Part III to answer more specific questions about the details of the structure?**

Or would you like to skip and submit your response?

All Part III questions are optional, and answering all will take about 10-15 minutes. You may also return to edit your survey response any time before the survey closes.

- Yes, I am ready to spend a few more minutes responding to detailed components in Part III.
- No, I would like to skip Part III and submit my response.

Comments on the above

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Part III

The following questions are all optional for those that want to provide more granular and detailed feedback on various aspects of youth club competition at different levels of impact and importance. These will be used to help craft detailed guidelines for implementation.

Several aspects are actually applied within the example model details. For your optional reference, here are those examples again:

- Example model of YCC regional competitive qualification
- Example model of YCC hybrid priority and competitive pathways

- **Example model of two separate events (YCC + Junior Nationals)**

9. The **number of youth club regions** across the U.S. that qualify one or more teams to national events is important for such considerations as distance and competition level.

With **more regions**, the smaller and **more geographically accessible** each regional event is with **less driving distance** on average.

With **fewer regions**, the larger and **more competitive** each regional event will typically be, with **more bids to nationals** per region available.

8 regions (~6 states in each) 10 regions (~5 states in each) 12 regions (~4 states in each) 14 regions (~3.5 states in each) 16 regions (~3 states in each)

What is the ideal number of total youth club regions?

Comment

10. If a division at nationals can only include 16-20 teams, what is the **minimum number of teams** that should qualify from each and **every region**?

- 1 (top team)
- 2 (1st & 2nd place)
- 3 (1st, 2nd, 3rd places)

Comment

11. Should **regions** have a way to be able to **earn extra qualification bids** to nationals?

No, all regions should have the same number.

Either way is fine.

Yes, very important.

12. Should **regions** earn extra qualification **bids to nationals** for **non-competition priorities**/reasons? (growth, size, outreach, equity, diversity, etc.)

No, extra bids should only be based on competition.	Either way is fine.	Yes, it is important to include incentives beyond competition.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="radio"/>			

13. Should **teams** be able to **qualify directly for nationals**, regardless of regional performance, for **non-competition priorities**/reasons? (local growth, size, outreach, equity, diversity, etc.)

No, teams should only qualify based on competition.	Either way is fine.	Yes, it is important to include teams beyond the competitively strongest.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="radio"/>			

14. If they could, what **percentage of teams** at nationals should be able to qualify directly based on **non-competition priorities**/reasons (local growth, size, outreach, equity, diversity, etc.), regardless of regional performance?

- 50%
- 33%
- 20%
- 0%

Other (please specify)

15. Which of these **categories** should earn **priority** in a system that allows some teams **direct bids to nationals**?

- Number of **all** youth **players** locally
- Number of **girls/non-binary** youth **players** locally
- Number of **all** youth **teams** locally
- Number of **girls/non-binary** youth **teams** locally
- Number of **mixed** gender youth **teams** locally
- Number of youth outreach/**intro events** hosted locally
- Number of youth outreach/**intro participants** locally
- Number of **all** youth leagues/**tournaments** hosted locally
- Number of **girls/non-binary** youth leagues/**tournaments** hosted locally
- Number of **mixed** gender youth leagues/**tournaments** hosted locally

Comment

16. What do you think about a **points-based system**, vs a priority tree, for measuring state and local playing opportunities **for awarding non-competition priority** bids?

17. Please indicate your opinion if an area listed below should be used by USA Ultimate to **prioritize YCC bids/invitations**.

	Not valuable as a differentiator	Should not be used	Probably should not be used	Could be used	Should be used
Growth of youth ultimate locally	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Competitive youth travel events (e.g., state championships, regional tournaments, national team camps, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local youth programs (e.g., youth leagues, hat tournaments, local tournaments, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outreach/intro youth programs (e.g., Learn to Play clinics, Boys & Girls Club outreach, Girls Ultimate Movement programs, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gender equity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Racial diversity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ability inclusion (e.g., wheelchair ultimate)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

18. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about the **timing of regional qualifiers for YCCs.**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Slightly Agree	Slightly Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Regionals can be held in any preceding season. (e.g., anytime after September for YCCs in Aug).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regionals should be held no more than 4 months before YCC. (e.g., no earlier than April for YCCs in Aug)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comment

19. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with:

"Youth club **national events** should be played in the **summer** and not during the school year."

Comment

20. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with:

"If a youth club **national** event is hosted during the school year, it should be in the **fall** season, **not the spring** season."

Comment

21. When possible & feasible, should a youth event be **co-hosted alongside an adult or college event?**
(sharing staff, fields, food, water, other amenities)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
National youth events (e.g., YCC and ICC at US Open in August)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regional youth events (e.g., YCC regional qualifiers and college regionals in April)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comment

22. What **age divisions** should be included at **national** championships?

- Under-20 (ages 14-19)
- Under-17 (ages 12-16)
- Under-15 (ages 10-14)
- Under-13 (ages 8-13)

Comment

23. What **age divisions** should be included at **regional** championships?

- Under-20 (ages 14-19)
- Under-17 (ages 12-16)
- Under-15 (ages 10-14)
- Under-13 (ages 8-13)

Comment

24. When introducing a **new age group** in an event, which **gender division(s)** should be included first?
(rank 1 for top preference, 2 for next best, etc.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed gender division only
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Girls/Non-binary and Boys/Open divisions
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed gender and Boys/Open divisions
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	All 3 gender divisions at the same time

25. How many **days long** should a **summer youth national** event be?
(rank 1 for top preference, 2 for next best, etc.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 days
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3 days
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 days
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5 days

26. Which **days of the week** are ideal for a 3-day **summer national** championship?

- Mon, Tue, Wed
- Tue, Wed, Thu
- Wed, Thu, Fri
- Thu, Fri, Sat
- Fri, Sat, Sun
- Sat, Sun, Mon
- Sun, Mon, Tue

Other (please specify)

27. What **winning score** should competitive Youth Club games be played to?

- 11 pts
- 13 pts
- 15 pts
- 17 pts

Other (please specify)

28. **How long** should competitive youth club games last?
(from game start to hard cap)

- 60 min
- 75 min
- 90 min
- 105 min
- 120 min

Other (please specify)

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Thanks!

Thanks for taking the time to provide your feedback.

29. (Optional) What is your email address? (May be used to follow up on comments or provide future survey results and restructuring details.)

30. (Optional) What is your name?

First Name:

Last Name:

31. (Optional) We plan to publish survey results. When we do, we may include some individual comments. Do you consent to allow any of your comments to be published, or do you prefer they remain unpublished and private?