

Three Idaho Rush competitive teams will compete against top teams from Washington and Oregon in the first season of a revised Far West Regional League, battling for a spot at the Far West Regional Championships in Albuquerque, N.M., next June.

The U15 and U16 boys, along with the U17 girls, will travel to Seattle and/or Portland in December and January for the first round of play. The Oregon and Washington teams will return the favor with a trip to Boise in early March. The away leg for Idaho Rush will include participation in the 6th Annual PacNW Winter College Showcase, and both boys teams will face the Seattle Sounders FC Academy teams during league play.

Last summer, US Youth Soccer's Region IV responded to requests from numerous elite teams and clubs by transforming its Far West Regional League into three divisions. The three Idaho Rush teams will compete in the newly created Northern Division, composed of teams from Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, northern Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming.

"In the face of growing competition from all directions, it is clear the US Youth National Championship Series, of which the Far West Regional Championships is part, is still the most sought-after competition for determining national champions," said Region IV director Ken Edmunds. "The changes approved by Region IV will allow our state associations to serve the needs of our region's elite teams and clubs by providing the highest level competition leading to a true national championship."