



2025-26 ECNL Boys Conference & Playoff Structure

Conference Structure

New England Conference

- 12 teams
- Divisional Structure U15-U18/19:
 - **North (6)** : FC Stars, Scorpions, CFC, FSA, SUSA Academy, East Coast Surf
 - **South (6)** : SUSA FC II, East Meadow, AC Connecticut, World Class, STA, Manhattan SC
- Divisional Competition, Play each opponent in division home & away | Play each opponent cross-division home or away = 16 games
- Single Table Competition U13-U14:
 - Play each opponent home & away = 22 games

Automatic Play-off Qualification

- Top 2 Teams in the conference U13 based on PPG from conference games only
 - *3rd best team in U13 based on PPG from conference games only will qualify as a Wild Card spot from the New England or North Atlantic Conference*
- Top 3 Teams in the conference U14 based on PPG from conference games only
 - *4th best team in U14 based on PPG from conference games only will qualify as a Wild Card spot from the New England or North Atlantic Conference*
- Top Team in each Division U15-U17 based on PPG from conference games only
 - *2nd best team from either division in conference U15-U17 based on PPG from conference games only*
 - *Next best team in U15-U17 based on PPG from conference games only will qualify as a Wild Card spot from the New England or North Atlantic Conference*
- Top Team in the conference U18/19 based on PPG from conference games only
 - *2nd best team in U18/19 based on PPG from conference games only will qualify as a Wild Card spot from the New England or North Atlantic Conference*

North Atlantic Conference

Baltimore Celtic SC, HEX FC, Lehigh Valley United, Maryland United, Match Fit Surf, Penn Fusion, Pipeline SC, Potomac SC, PSA Monmouth, SJEB, Delaware FC, Philadelphia Ukrainians,

- 12 teams
- Single Table Competition
- U15-U18/19: Play each opponent 1x, home or away = 11 games
- U13-U14: Play each opponent home & away = 22 games

Automatic Play-off Qualification

- Top 2 Teams in the conference U13 based on PPG from conference games only
 - *3rd best team in U13 based on PPG from conference games only will qualify as a Wild Card spot from the New England or North Atlantic Conference*
- Top 3 Teams in the conference U14-U17 based on PPG from conference games only
 - *4th best team in U14-U17 based on PPG from conference games only will qualify as a Wild Card spot from the New England or North Atlantic Conference*
- Top Team in the conference U18/19 based on PPG from conference games only
 - *2nd best team in U18/19 based on PPG from conference games only will qualify as a Wild Card spot from the New England or North Atlantic Conference*

Mid-Atlantic Conference

Arlington Soccer, Beach FC (VA), Charlotte SA, Charlotte SA Academy, Fairfax VA Union, Highland FC, NC Fusion, NCFC Youth Academy, NCFC Youth, Richmond United, Skyline Elite SC, Virginia Development Academy, Wilmington Hammerheads Youth

- 13 teams
- Single Table Competition
- U15-U18/19: Play each opponent in your state 2x (home & away), each opponent out of state 1x (home or away):
 - Virginia clubs: 17 games
 - North Carolina clubs: 18 games
- U13, U14: Play each opponent home & away = 24 games

Automatic Play-off Qualification

- Top 4 Teams in the conference U13 based on PPG from conference games only
- Top 7 Teams in the conference U14-U17 based on PPG from conference games only
- Top 3 Teams in the conference U18/19 based on PPG from conference games only

Southeast Conference

Atlanta Fire United, CESA, Concorde Fire Premier, NTH-NASA, SC Surf, South Carolina United, Concorde Fire Platinum, GSA, United Futbol Academy

- 9 teams
- Single Table Competition
- Play each opponent home & away = 16 games

Automatic Play-off Qualification

- Top 4 Teams in the conference U13 based on PPG from conference games only
- Top 5 Teams in the conference U14-U17 based on PPG from conference games only
- Top 3 Teams in the conference U18/19 based on PPG from conference games only

Mid-America Conference

Alabama FC, Chattanooga Red Wolves, FC Alliance, Germantown Legends FC, Lobos Rush, Louisiana Fire, Mississippi Rush United, Tennessee SC

- 8 teams
- Single Table Competition
- U15-U18/19: Play each opponent home & away = 14 games
- U13, U14: Play each opponent home & away PLUS play additional round of games (home or away) = 21 games

Automatic Play-off Qualification

- Top 2 Teams in the conference U13 based on PPG from conference games only
- Top 4 Teams in the conference U14-U17 based on PPG from conference games only
- Top Team in the conference U18/19 based on PPG from conference games only

Florida Conference

Doral SC, FC Prime, Sporting JAX Soccer Academy, Florida Kraze Krush, Florida Premier FC, Florida West FC, Palm Beach Gardens, Parkland SC, Space Coast United, Fort Lauderdale United FC

- 10 teams
- Single Table Competition
- Play each opponent home & away = 18 games

Automatic Play-off Qualification

- Top 3 Teams in the conference U13 based on PPG from conference games only
- Top 3 Teams in the conference U14-U17 based on PPG from conference games only
- Top 2 Teams in the conference U18/19 based on PPG from conference games only

Ohio Valley Conference

Cleveland Force, FC Pride, Louisville City Academy, Nationals SC, Ohio Elite SA, Ohio Premier, Pittsburgh Riverhounds, WNY Flash

- 8 teams
- Single Table Competition
- Play each opponent home & away = 14 games

Automatic Play-off Qualification

- Top 2 Teams in the conference U13 based on PPG from conference games only
- Top 3 Teams in the conference U14-U17 based on PPG from conference games only
- Top Team in the conference U18/19 based on PPG from conference games only
 - *2nd best team in U18/19 based on PPG from conference games only will qualify as a Wild Card spot from the Ohio Valley or Midwest Conference*

Midwest Conference

Chicago Magic, Eclipse Select SC, Chicago Inter SC, FC Wisconsin, Indiana Elite, Minnesota Thunder Academy, Rockford Raptors, St. Croix SC

- 8 teams
- Single Table Competition
- Play each opponent home & away = 14 games

Automatic Play-off Qualification

- Top 2 Teams in the conference U13 based on PPG from conference games only
- Top 3 Teams in the conference U14-U17 based on PPG from conference games only
- Top Team in the conference U18/19 based on PPG from conference games only
 - *2nd best team in U18/19 based on PPG from conference games only will qualify as a Wild Card spot from the Ohio Valley or Midwest Conference*

Texas Conference

Albion Hurricanes, BVB IA, Colorado Rapids Elite, Dallas Texans, Dallas Texans Academy, DKSC, FC Dallas Red, FC Dallas White, FC Westlake, HTX Soccer, Lonestar SC Black, Lonestar SC Red, OK Energy FC, Real Colorado Academy, RISE SC, San Antonio City SC, San Antonio FC, Solar SC, Solar SC Academy, Tulsa SC

- 20 teams
- Single Table Competition
- Play each opponent home or away = 19 games

Automatic Play-off Qualification

- Top 7 Teams in the conference U13 based on PPG from conference games only
- Top 9 Teams in the conference U14-U17 based on PPG from conference games only
- Top 4 Teams in the conference U18/19 based on PPG from conference games only

Southwest Conference

Beach FC (CA), LV Heat Surf FC, LA Breakers, LAFC SoCal, Legends FC, Legends FC San Diego, Pateadores, Rebels SC, San Diego Surf, SDSC Surf, Slammers FC, Sporting CA USA, West Coast FC

- 13 teams
- Single Table Competition
- Play each opponent home & away = 24 games

Automatic Play-off Qualification

- Top 6 Teams in the conference U13 based on PPG from conference games only
- Top 8 Teams in the conference U14-U17 based on PPG from conference games only
- Top 4 Teams in the conference U18/19 based on PPG from conference games only

Heartland Conference

North Division (4): - Gretna Elite Academy, Sporting Iowa, Sporting Nebraska, VSA Rush

South Division (6): - FC Wichita, KC Athletics, Missouri Rush, Kansas Rush, St. Louis Stars, Union KC Soccer Club

- 10 teams (4 in North, 6 in South)
- U13-U14: Single Table Competition, play each opponent home & away (18 games)
- U15-U18/19: Divisional Competition, Play each opponent in division home & away | Play each opponent cross-division home or away (North: 12 games, South: 14 games)

Automatic Play-off Qualification

- Top 2 Teams in the conference U13 based on PPG from conference games only (Single Table)
- Top 3 Teams in the conference U14 based on PPG from conference games only (Single Table)
- Top Team in each Division U15-U17 based on PPG from conference games only
 - *2nd best team from either division in conference U15-U17 based on PPG from conference games only*
- Top 2 Teams from either division U18/19 based on PPG from conference games only

Mountain Conference

- 11 teams
- Divisional Structure U13-U18/19:
 - **East (5):** Colorado EDGE, Real Colorado National, Pride SC, NM Rapids, El Paso Locomotive
 - **West (6):** Colorado Rush, Colorado Rapids Central, Utah Avalanche, La Roca, CCV Stars, AZ Arsenal
- Divisional Competition, Play each opponent in division home & away | Play each opponent cross-division home or away;
 - East: 14 games
 - West: 15 games

Automatic Play-off Qualification

- Top Team in each Division U13 based on PPG from conference games only
 - *2nd best team from either division in conference U13 based on PPG from conference games only*
- Top Team in each Division U14-U17 based on PPG from conference games only
 - *2nd best team from either division in conference U14-U17 based on PPG from conference games only*
- Top 1 Team in each Division U18/19 based on PPG from conference games only

Northern Cal Conference

Yellow Division (7): Davis Legacy, El Camino FC Salinas, Mustang SC, MVLA, River Island Surf, San Juan SC, Santa Rosa United

Blue Division (8): 1974 Newark FC, Association FC, Cal Odyssey SC, Los Gatos, Marin FC, Placer United, San Fran Elite Academy, Santa Clara Sporting

- 15 teams (8 in Blue, 7 in Yellow)
- U15+: Divisional Competition, Play each opponent in division home & away | Play each opponent cross-division home or away:
 - Yellow: 20 games
 - Blue: 21 games
- U13, U14: Single Table Competition, Play each opponent home and away = 28 games

Automatic Play-off Qualification

- Top 4 Teams in the conference U13 based on PPG from conference games only (Single Table)
- Top 5 Teams in the conference U14 based on PPG from conference games only (Single Table)
- Top 2 Teams in each Division U15-U17 based on PPG from conference games only
 - *3rd best team from either division in conference U15-U17 based on PPG from conference games only*
- Top 1 Team in each Division U18/19 based on PPG from conference games only

Northwest Conference

Columbia Premier SC, Eastside FC, PAC NW, Seattle United, Snohomish United, Three Rivers SC, Washington Premier, XF Academy, XF ECNL

- 9 teams
- Single Table Competition
- U15-U18/19: Play each opponent home & away = 16 games
- U13, U14: Play each opponent home & away + 1 add'l round (home or away): 24 games

Automatic Play-off Qualification

- Top 3 Teams in the conference U13 based on PPG from conference games only
- Top 4 Teams in the conference U14-U17 based on PPG from conference games only
- Top 2 Teams in the conference U18/19 based on PPG from conference games only

Far West Conference

Boise Timbers, Capital FC, Eugene Metro, FC Portland, Idaho Rush, Oregon Premier, United PDX

- 7 teams
- Single Table Competition
- U15-U18/19: Play each opponent home & away = 12 games
- U13, U14: Play each opponent in a double round of home & away:: 24 games

Automatic Play-off Qualification

- Top 1 Team in the conference U13 based on PPG from conference games only
- Top 2 Teams in the conference U14-U17 based on PPG from conference games only
- Top 1 Team in the conference U18/19 based on PPG from conference games only

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ECNL National Playoffs Structure

U13 = 48 teams Champions League

- ECNL National Playoffs - Group Play = 3 guaranteed games + Round of 16 + Round of 8 = 5 Games Total
 - 12 Groups of 4 Teams
 - 12 Group Winners + 4 Best 2nd Place Teams = Round of 16
 - 8 Round of 16 Winners advance to Quarterfinals
 - 4 Round of 8 Winners advance to ECNL Finals (VA)

Champions League Advancement to Round of 16 - U13

- 12 Group Winners + 4 Best 2nd Place Teams Based on:
 1. Must Finish 2nd Place (2nd Place Teams Only)
 2. Total Points
 3. Goal Differential
 4. Goals For
 5. Goals Against

Champions League Round of 16 Match Ups - U13

- Group A Winner v. 2nd Place #4
- Group B Winner v. 2nd Place #3
- Group C Winner v. 2nd Place #2
- Group D Winner v. 2nd Place #1
- Group E Winner v. Group L Winner
- Group F Winner v. Group K Winner
- Group G Winner v. Group J Winner
- Group H Winner v. Group I Winner
- ***A Round of 16 match-up cannot consist of two teams that played one another in the Group Play***
 - ***If this match-up occurs, the wildcard team will switch with the wildcard team below. If it happens to be the 4th wildcard team, the 3rd and 4th wildcard teams will switch.***

U14-U17 = 64 teams Champions League

- ECNL National Playoffs - Group Play = 3 guaranteed games + Round of 16 + Round of 8 = 5 Games Total
 - 16 Groups of 4 Teams
 - 16 Group Winners = Round of 16
 - 8 Round of 16 Winners advance to Quarterfinals
 - 4 Round of 8 Winners advance to ECNL Finals (VA)

Champions League Advancement to Round of 16 - U14-U17

- 16 Group Winners Based on:
 1. Total Points
 2. Head to Head
 3. Goal Differential
 4. Goals For
 5. Goals Against

Champions League Round of 16 Match Ups - U14-U17

- Group A Winner v. Group P Winner
- Group B Winner v. Group O Winner
- Group C Winner v. Group N Winner
- Group D Winner v. Group M Winner
- Group E Winner v. Group L Winner
- Group F Winner v. Group K Winner
- Group G Winner v. Group J Winner
- Group H Winner v. Group I Winner

U18/19 = 32 teams Champions League

- ECNL National Playoffs/Finals - 32-Team Knockout
- 3-Game Guarantee
- Only the Teams Advancing to Champions League and North American Cup Final Play 5th Game
- Champion Crowned at ECNL National Playoffs (No Further Advancement)
- Day 1 Losers drop into 16-Team North American Cup Knockout
- Day 1 Winners remain in 16-Team Champions League Knockout

ECNL National Finals Structure

U13-U17 = 4 teams Advanced to Semifinals

- 4-Team Knockout
- 2-Game Guarantee
- Champion Crowned at ECNL National Finals

Standings Structure

U18/19 Age Group

32-Team Champions League

- 32 Automatic Qualifiers Based on Conference Games PPG Only as Indicated in Conference Breakdown
- NO Wildcard Qualifiers
- Champions League Seeded 1-15 Based on Conference Champions
- Remaining Teams Seeded Based on PPG from Conference Games only
- Conference Champions are Defined as the Team in the Conference with Highest PPG Regardless of Division

U13 Age Group

48-Team Champions League

- 48 Automatic Qualifiers Based on Conference Games PPG Only as Indicated in Conference Breakdown
- NO Wildcard Qualifiers
- Champions League Seeded 1-15 Based on Conference Champions
- Remaining Teams Seeded Based on PPG from Conference Games only
- Conference Champions are Defined as the Team in the Conference with Highest PPG Regardless of Division

U14-U17 Age Groups

64-Team Champions League

- 64 Automatic Qualifiers Based on Conference Games PPG Only as Indicated in Conference Breakdown
- Champions League Seeded 1-15 Based on Conference Champions
- Remaining Teams Seeded Based on PPG from Conference Games only
- Conference Champions are Defined as the Team in the Conference with Highest PPG Regardless of Division