



2026-27 ECNL Boys Postseason Structure

Conference Structure

New England Conference

- 12 teams
- Single Table Competition: U13-U14
- Divisional Structure: U15-U18/19:
 - **North (6)** : FC Stars, Scorpions, Select, FSA, SUSA Academy, CFC
 - **South (6)** : SUSA FC, East Meadow, AC Connecticut, Manhattan SC, Oakwood SC, East Coast Surf

Automatic Play-off Qualification

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

North Atlantic Conference

- 12 teams
- Single Table Competition: U13-U18/19

Automatic Play-off Qualification

- Top 2 Teams in the Conference U13 based on PPG from Conference games only
 - **PLUS:** 3rd best team in U13 based on PPG from Conference games only will qualify as a Wild Card spot from either the New England or North Atlantic Conference
- 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
 - **PLUS:** 2nd best team in U18/19 based on PPG from Conference games only will qualify as a Wild Card spot from either the New England or North Atlantic Conference

Mid-Atlantic Conference

- 13 teams
- Single Table Competition: U13-U18/19

Automatic Play-off Qualification

- Top 4 Teams in the Conference U13 based on PPG from Conference games only
- Top 6 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

- 9 teams
- Single Table Competition: U13-U18/19

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

- 10 teams
- Single Table Competition: U13-U18/19

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

Florida Conference

- 11 teams
- Single Table Competition: U13-U18/19

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
 - **PLUS:** 4th best team in U14-U17 based on PPG from Conference games only will qualify as a Wild Card spot from either the Florida or Mountain Conference
- Top 2 Teams in the Conference U18/19 based on PPG from Conference games only

Ohio Valley Conference

- 9 teams
- Single Table Competition: U13-U18/19

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
 - **PLUS:** 4th best team in U14-U17 Ohio Valley Conference based on PPG from Conference games only will qualify as a Wild Card spot from either the Ohio Valley or 10th best from Texas Conference
- Top Team in the Conference U18/19 based on PPG from Conference games only
 - **PLUS:** 2nd best team in U18/19 based on PPG from Conference games only will qualify as a Wild Card spot from either the Ohio Valley or Midwest Conference

Midwest Conference

- 8 teams
- Single Table Competition: U13-U18/19

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
 - **PLUS:** 2nd best team in U18/19 based on PPG from Conference games only will qualify as a Wild Card spot from either the Ohio Valley or Midwest Conference

Texas Conference

- 20 teams
- Single Table Competition: U13-U18/19

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
 - **PLUS:** 10th best team in U14-U17 Texas Conference based on PPG from Conference games only will qualify as a Wild Card spot from either the Texas Conference or 4th best from Ohio Valley Conference
- Top 4 Teams in the Conference U18/19 based on PPG from Conference games only

Southwest Conference

- 13 teams
- Single Table Competition

Automatic Play-off Qualification

- Top 6 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 4 Teams in the Conference U18/19 based on PPG from Conference games only

Heartland Conference

- 12 teams
- Single Table Competition: U13-U14
- Divisional Competition: U15-U18/19:
 - **Blue (6)** : Sporting Iowa, VSA Rush, Sporting Nebraska, Gretna Elite Academy, OK Energy, Arkansas Comets
 - **White (6)** : FC Wichita, Kansas Rush, KC Athletics, Union KC, Missouri Rush, St. Louis Stars

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 based on PPG from Conference games only
- Top Team in each Division U15-U17 based on PPG from Conference games only
 - **PLUS:** Next 2 best teams regardless of 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 Rush, Real Colorado National, Pride SC, NM Rapids, El Paso Locomotive
 - **West (6):** Colorado EDGE, Colorado Storm, Utah Avalanche, La Roca, CCV Stars, AZ Arsenal

Automatic Play-off Qualification

- Top Team in each Division U13 based on PPG from Conference games only
 - **PLUS:** *Best 2nd place 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
 - **PLUS:** *Best 2nd place team from either division in Conference U14-U17 based on PPG from Conference games only*
 - **PLUS:** *4th best team overall regardless of division U14-U17 based on PPG from Conference games only will qualify as a Wild Card spot from either the Mountain or Florida Conference*
- Top 1 Team in each Division U18/19 based on PPG from Conference games only

Northern Cal Conference

- 17 teams
- Single Table Competition: U13-U18/19

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
 - **PLUS:** *6th best team in U14-U17 Northern Cal Conference based on PPG from Conference games only will qualify as a Wild Card spot from either the Northern Cal or 3rd best from Far West Conference*
- Top 2 Teams in the Conference U18/19 based on PPG from Conference games only

Northwest Conference

- 9 teams
- Single Table Competition: U13-U18/19

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

- 7 teams
- Single Table Competition: U13-U18/19

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
 - **PLUS:** *3rd best team in U14-U17 Far West Conference based on PPG from Conference games only will qualify as a Wild Card spot from either the Far West or 6th best from Northern Cal Conference*
- Top 1 Team in the Conference U18/19 based on PPG from Conference games only

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 = 68 teams Champions League

- ECNL National Playoffs - Group Play = 3 guaranteed games + Round of 16 + Round of 8 = 5 Games Total
 - Groups:
 - 15 Groups of 4 Teams (A-O)
 - Bottom 8 seeded teams in Knockout
 - Advancement from Group Play = Round of 16
 - 15 Group Winners
 - Winner of Bottom 8 Knockout
 - Advancement from Round of 16:
 - Winners advance to Round of 8
 - Advancement from Round of 8:
 - 4 Round of 8 Winners advance to ECNL Finals (VA)

Champions League Advancement to Round of 16 - U14-U17

- 15 Group Winners Based on:
 1. Total Points
 2. Head to Head (unless there are 3 teams tied on Points, then skip to next tiebreaker)
 3. Goal Differential

- 4. Goals For
- 5. Goals Against
- PLUS Winner of Bottom 8 seeded Knockout

Champions League Round of 16 Match Ups - U14-U17

- Group A Winner v. Bottom 8 Knockout 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

68-Team Champions League

- 68 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