

U13 Qualification for Playoffs

1. Automatic Qualifiers

- a. Frontier Conference
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 2
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games only.
 - b. Mid-America Conference
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 2
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games only.
 - c. Mid-Atlantic North
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 1
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games only.
 - d. Mid-Atlantic South
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 2
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games only.
 - e. Midwest-East
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 2
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games only.
 - f. Midwest-West
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 1
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games only.
 - g. Mountain West Conference
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 1
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games only.
 - h. Northeast Conference
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 2
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games only.
 - i. Northwest Conference
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 1
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games only.
 - j. Pacific Northwest Conference
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 1
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games only.
 - k. Southeast Conference
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 2
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games only.
 - l. Southwest Conference
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 2
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games only.
2. If two or more teams are tied, based on points per game (ppg), for automatic qualification in a conference, the tiebreakers are:
- a. total points earned head-to-head (NA if more than 2 teams are tied) -moved to first tiebreaker
 - b. greatest goal difference per game in all conference league games (gd)
 - c. greatest number of goals scored per game in all conference league games (gf)
 - d. least number of goals allowed per game in all conference league games (ga)
 - e. total number of wins in conference league play

3. U13 Playoff Structure Overview

- a. After all GA conference matches have been played, 19 teams will automatically qualify for the GA Playoffs, solely based on the conference standings. An additional one (1) wildcard allocation will be based on points per game (ppg) from all conference, cross-conference and national event matches and scores listed in the GA National Standings.
- b. The U13 playoffs is a 20 team group play, round robin competition.
- c. Semi-Finals and Finals to be played at the GA Finals – two (2) games across (3) three days

4. Playoffs

a. Groupings/Draw

- i. All qualifying teams will be ranked 1-20 based on points per game (ppg) from all conference, cross-conference and national event matches.
- ii. All qualifying teams will be placed into one (1) of four (5) pods of four (4) teams based on seeding listed in the GA National Standings.
 1. Pod 1 will include the four (4) highest ranked teams based on the GA National Standings.
 2. Pod 2 will include teams ranked 5-8 based on the GA National Standings.
 - a. Teams will be randomly drawn from each pod. If a team is drawn into a group that already includes a conference member, then the team will be placed back into the pod and a new team will be selected.
 3. Pod 3 will include teams ranked 9-12 based on the GA National Standings.
 - a. Teams will be randomly drawn from each pod. If a team is drawn into a group that already includes a conference member, then the team will be placed back into the pod and a new team will be selected.
 4. Pod 4 will include teams ranked 13-16 based on the GA National Standings
 - a. Teams will be randomly drawn for each pod. If a team is drawn into a group that already includes a conference member, then the team will be placed back into the pod and a new team will be selected.
 5. Pod 5 will include teams ranked 17-20 based on the GA National Standings
 - a. Teams will be randomly drawn for each pod. If a team is drawn into a group that already includes a conference member, then the team will be placed back into the pod and a new team will be selected.

b. Schedule & Advancement

i. Overview

1. Teams will play a three (3) game round robin to qualify for a Quarterfinal advancement round at the Summer Playoffs. Semi-Finals and Finals will be held at the GA Finals event in July.

2. Teams will earn:
 - a. Three points for a win One point for a tie Zero points for a loss Forfeit = 0-3 loss
 - b. Each group winner will advance to the semi-finals.
3. Schedule
 - a. Day 1 - Game 1: 1 vs 4, 2 vs 3
 - b. Day 2 - Game 2: 1 vs 3, 2 vs 4
 - c. Day 3 - Game 3: 1 vs 2, 3 vs 4
 - d. Day 4 - Off or Inclement Weather Day
 - e. Day 5 – Quarter-Finals
4. Tiebreakers
 - a. If two (2) teams are tied after group play is complete, the tiebreaker will be as follows:
 - i. Total points earned in head-to-head.
 1. Note: if more than two teams are tied, then this tiebreaker shall not apply.
 - a. Goal difference in group play
 - b. Goals for in group play
 - c. Goals against in group play
 - d. If tied, the winner shall be determined by penalty kicks.
 - i. The winner shall be the team that scores the most in five (5) penalty kicks.
 - ii. If tied after five (5) penalty kicks, the winner shall be determined by sudden death in rounds of one (1) kick per team.

c. Quarterfinals

i. Overview

1. The five (5) group winners and the top three (3) second place teams across all groups will advance to the Quarterfinals. (see tiebreakers above)

ii. Structure: In each age group, the qualifying teams will be paired in the quarterfinals based on points per game (ppg) from all conference, cross-conference and national event matches listed in the GA National Standings.

- a. Match 1: Seed 1 vs Seed 8
- b. Match 2: Seed 2 vs Seed 7
- c. Match 3: Seed 3 vs Seed 6
- d. Match 4: Seed 4 vs Seed 5

2. Tiebreaker

- a. In the event of a tie at the end of regulation in a knockout match, then two (2) ten-minute overtime periods shall be played with no golden goal during the overtime periods.
- b. If the match remains tied at the end of the overtime periods, then the winner shall be determined by penalty kicks.

- i. The winner shall be the team that scores the most in five (5) penalty kicks.
- ii. If tied after five (5) penalty kicks, the winner shall be determined by sudden death in rounds of one kick per team.

5. National Finals (July)

a. Semifinals

i. Overview

1. Semifinals shall be composed of the four (4) quarterfinal winners during the GA Playoffs. Two games will be played across three (3) days.

ii. Groupings/Draw

1. In each age group, the qualifying teams will be paired in the semifinals based on points per game (ppg) from all conference, cross-conference and national event matches listed in the GA National Standings.

iii. Structure

1. Match 1: Semifinal #1 – Highest Ranked Quarterfinal Winner vs Lowest Ranked Quarterfinal Winner

2. Match 2: Semifinal #2 – 2nd Highest Ranked Quarterfinal

Winner

- vs 3rd Highest Ranked Quarterfinal Winner

3. Match 3: Consolation #1 – Highest Ranked Quarterfinal non-advancing team vs Lowest Ranked Quarterfinal non-advancing team

4. Match 4: Consolation #2 – 2nd Highest Ranked Quarterfinal non-advancing team vs 3rd Highest Ranked Quarterfinal non-advancing team

- a. In the event of a tie at the end of regulation in Semifinal #1 or Semifinal #2, then two (2) ten-minute overtime periods shall be played with no golden goal during the overtime periods.

b. Overtime Substitutions

- i. Once a player is substituted in any period of overtime of any GA Advancement Game, then such player may not re-enter the game.

- ii. Advancement Games shall permit a maximum of three (3) moments across both halves of overtime with a maximum of two (2) moments per half.

- iii. The stoppage between each period of overtime does not count as a moment.

- iv. The overtime periods shall permit a maximum of seven (7) substitutes total.

2. If the match remains tied at the end of the overtime periods, then the winner shall be determined by penalty kicks.

- a. The winner shall be the team that scores the most in five (5) penalty kicks.

- b. If tied after five (5) penalty kicks, the winner shall be determined by sudden death in rounds of one (1) kick per team.

b. Championships & 3rd Place Match

i. Overview

1. The championship shall be composed of the two (2) winners of the semifinals.
2. 3rd Place Match shall consist of the two (2) semifinal non-advancing teams at GA Finals.

ii. Structure

1. Match 1: **Final** – Semifinal #1 Winner vs Semifinal #2 Winner
2. Match 2: **Consolation Match** – Semifinal #1 vs Semifinal #2 non-advancing teams
 - a. In the event of a tie at the end of regulation in the Final, then two (2) ten-minute overtime periods shall be played with no golden goal during the overtime periods.
 - b. Consolation match - there shall be no overtime, and the winner shall be determined by penalty kicks outlined below.
3. If the match remains tied at the end of the overtime periods, then the winner shall be determined by penalty kicks.
 - a. The winner shall be the team that scores the most in five penalty kicks.
 - b. If tied after five (5) penalty kicks, the winner shall be determined by sudden death in rounds of one (1) kick per team.