

U14 - U17 Qualification for Playoffs

1. Automatic Qualifiers

- a. Frontier Conference
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 3
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games only
 - b. Mid-America Conference
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 3
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games only
 - c. Mid-Atlantic North
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 2
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games only
 - d. Mid-Atlantic South
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 3
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games only
 - e. Midwest-East Conference
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 3
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games only
 - f. Midwest-West Conference
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 2
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games only
 - g. Mountain West Conference
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 2
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games only
 - h. Northeast Conference
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 3
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games only
 - i. Northwest Conference
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 2
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games only
 - j. Pacific Northwest
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 2
 - ii. U14 qualification based on points per game (ppg) from all conference games
 - iii. U15-U19 qualification based on points per game (ppg) from the last (11) designated conference games, played against unique opponents
 - k. Southeast Conference
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 3
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games
 - l. Southwest Conference
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 3
 - 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. Playoff Structure Overview

- a. After all GA conference matches have been played, 31 teams will automatically qualify for the GA Playoffs, solely based on the conference standings. An additional five (5) wildcard allocations 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 U14-17 playoffs is a 36-team group play, round robin competition, followed by quarterfinals, semifinals and finals to determine the GA National Champion.
 - i. The playoffs will take place over five (5) days. The group stage will be completed across (4) days with day five reserved for a Round of 16 Advancement stage. Upon completion of the playoffs, eight (8) teams from each age group will advance to the GA Finals.

4. Summer Playoffs (June)

- a. Groupings/Draw
 - i. All qualifying teams will be ranked 1-36 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 (4) pods of nine (9) teams based on seeding listed in GA National Standings. After drawing via method below, there will be nine (9) groups of four (4).
 - 1. Pod 1 will include the nine (9) highest ranked teams in the GA National Standings.
 - a. Teams will be randomly drawn from each pod.
 - 2. Pod 2 will include teams ranked 10 -18 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 19-27 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 28-36 based on the GA National Standings.
 - a. Teams will be randomly drawn from each pod. Depending on wildcard allocations, it is possible that two teams from the same conference could be matched up with one another. However; if a team is drawn into a group that already includes a conference member, that 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.
2. (9) group winners and (7) top second place teams will advance to a (16) team knockout round.
3. Teams will earn:
 - a. Three points for a win One point for a tie Zero points for a loss Forfeit = 0-3 loss
 - b. The eight (8) group winners will advance to the quarterfinals, to be played at the GA Finals
4. 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 - Off or Inclement Weather Day
 - d. Day 4 - Game 3: 1 vs 2, 3 vs 4
5. 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.
 - e. If tied after five (5) penalty kicks, the winner shall be determined by sudden death in rounds of on (1) kick per team.

c. Round of 16

i. Overview

1. The knockout round consists of (9) group winners and (7) top second place teams.
2. Seeding for the Round of 16 will be determined as follows:
 - a. Seeds 1–9 will be awarded to the nine group winners. The specific order (Seeds 1–9) will be determined using Points Per Game (PPG) from all conference, cross-conference, and national event matches as listed in the GA National Standings.
 - b. Seeds 10–16 will be awarded to the seven best second-place teams across all groups, based on Points Per Game (PPG) from all conference, cross-conference, and national event matches as listed in the GA National Standings.
3. There are no consolation games for non-advancing teams after Day 4.

ii. Structure

a. In each age group, the qualifying teams will be paired in the round of 16 based on points per game (ppg) from all conference, cross-conference and national event matches listed in the GA National Standings.

- i. Match 1: Seed 1 vs Seed 16
- ii. Match 2: Seed 2 vs Seed 15
- iii. Match 3: Seed 3 vs Seed 14
- iv. Match 4: Seed 4 vs Seed 13
- v. Match 5: Seed 5 vs Seed 12
- vi. Match 6: Seed 6 vs Seed 11
- vii. Match 7: Seed 7 vs Seed 10
- viii. Match 8: Seed 8 vs Seed 9

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.
- c. 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 (1) kick per team.

5. National Finals (July)

a. Overview

- i. The eight (8) winners from the round of 16 will advance to the GA Finals.
- ii. All teams will play 3 games regardless of win/loss in quarterfinals.
 1. Upon a team losing in a Quarterfinal or Semifinal, they will be entered into the consolation bracket (2nd and 3rd round).

b. Schedule

- i. Thursday - Quarterfinals
- ii. Friday - Semifinals / 2nd round
- iii. Saturday - Off or Inclement Weather Day
- iv. Sunday - National Championship / 3rd round

c. Quarterfinals

- i. Overview

- 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.
- iii.
 - 1. The five (5) group winners and the top three (3) runners-up across all groups will advance to the Quarterfinals. (see tiebreakers above)
 - 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
 - 1. 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.
- d. Semifinals / 2nd Round
 - i. Overview
 - 1. Semifinals shall be composed of the four (4) quarterfinal winners during the GA Finals.
 - 2. Consolation games shall be composed of the four (4) quarterfinal non-advancing teams during the GA Finals.
 - 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.

