

U19 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: 1
 - 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: 1
 - ii. Based on points per game (ppg) from conference games only.
 - e. Midwest-East
 - i. Total Allocation of Automatic Qualifiers: 1
 - 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. 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: 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)
 - 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. U19 Playoff Structure Overview

- a. After all GA conference matches have been played, 16 teams will automatically qualify for the GA Playoffs, solely based on the conference standings. The U19 playoffs is a 16-team group play, round robin competition, followed by semifinals and finals to determine the GA National Champion.
- b. The playoffs will take place over six (6) days to crown the GA National Champion.
- c. Roster
 - i. College Age players
 1. Up to two age eligible current college players who were members of your Girls Academy team the previous season may be added to your roster for the playoffs ONLY. If they are added and approved prior to playoffs, they may train with your team but may not play in league matches.
 - a. If a player attends college but does not play college soccer, they are eligible to play GA conference league games and events if they fall into the birth year age groups for U19.
 2. If a player has graduated high school, but is not entering college yet, i.e. taking a GAP year, they are eligible to play GA conference league games and events if they fall into the birth year age groups for U19.
 - ii. Age Eligible Players
 1. Up to three age eligible GA club players that are not primarily rostered on the U19s are permitted to be added to the roster and play during playoffs ONLY, in addition to their primary team.
 - a. Players can participate with both teams in the same round of playoffs.
 - b. These players are only permitted to play one (1) game per day.

4. Playoffs

- a. Groupings/Draw
 - i. All qualifying teams will be ranked 1-16 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 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.

b. Schedule & Advancement

i. Overview

- 1. Teams will play a three (3) game round robin.
- 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 - Semi-Finals
 - f. Day 6 - National Championship
- 4. Tiebreakers
 - a. If two (2) teams are tied after group play is complete, the tiebreaker will be as follows:
 - i. Total points earned 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. Semifinal and Finals

i. Overview

- 1. The GA National Championships shall be composed of the four (4) group winners during the GA Playoffs.
- 2. There is no 3rd place match

ii. Groupings/Draw

1. In each age group, the qualifying teams will be paired in the semi-finals 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: Highest Ranked Team vs Lowest Ranked Team
2. Match 2: 2nd Highest Rank Team vs 3rd Highest Ranked Team
 - 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.
3. Overtime Substitutions
 - a. Once a player is substituted in any period of overtime of any GA Advancement Game, then such player may not re-enter the game.
 - b. Advancement Games shall permit a maximum of three (3) moments across both halves of overtime with a maximum of two (2) moments per half.
 - i. The stoppage between each period of overtime does not count as a moment.
 - c. The overtime periods shall permit a maximum of seven (7) substitutes total.
4. 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.