

GEORGIA SOCCER NATIONAL LEAGUE SELECTION CRITERIA AND TEAM CONTINUITY POLICY

Georgia Soccer is a member of US Youth Soccer. US Youth Soccer created a National League with several conferences in order to allow the most competitive teams in the country to compete against each other on a scheduled basis. Georgia belongs under the Piedmont Conference of the National League. The League is comprised of boys' teams and girls' teams in the 13U-19U age groups. Each State Association may place teams in the National League and each State determines the criteria for selecting its respective teams to be included. Teams are promoted and relegated between the National League and the highest League of each State Association through criteria set up by USYS National League and each State Association.

The set of criteria in the section below is provided by the Piedmont Conference of the National League and can also be found at the National League website (click below).

National League Piedmont Conference Qualification for 2021-22 (December 9, 2020)

The Piedmont Conference will qualify up to twelve (12) teams into Premier I for the 2021-22 Conference season using the following criteria. The Team Selection Committee shall have the final determination on the number of teams in a gender age group.

- The four (4) highest finishing teams in each 13U-18U Premier I gender age group, according to the standings of the 2020-21 Piedmont Conference season shall automatically qualify for their rising gender age group in their 2021-22 Conference.
- The State Associations of Georgia and North Carolina will each receive three (3) qualifying Conference slots in each 14U-19U gender age group for teams not already qualified into the 2021-22 Conference.
- The State Association of South Carolina will receive two (2) qualifying Conference slot in each 14U-19U gender age group for a team not already qualified into the 2021-22 Conference.
- The 13U gender age group will include up to twelve (12) teams. The State Associations of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia shall submit zero (0), two (2), or four (4) teams into the 13U gender age group.

In situations whereby a team does not apply for participation for a season where such team had previously qualified as a Premier I division team, such slot may be filled at the discretion of the Conference Team Selection Committee.

Georgia Soccer Criteria for Selection to the National League Conferences:

The Georgia Soccer Select Committee reserves the right to select the teams that represent Georgia in the National League.

13U National League Piedmont Conference Selection Criteria for Spring 2021:

The top four (4) finishers in the 13U Georgia Premier League Fall season shall receive invitations to represent Georgia in the National League.

If any of these teams is unable to participate, or declines the invitation to the National League, the next-place finisher in the Georgia Premier League shall receive the National League slot, and so on.

15U National League Piedmont Conference Selection Criteria for Fall 2021:

In addition to any automatic invites earned by the Georgia teams through play in the National League Piedmont Conference in the Fall, the criteria order below shall be used to select the three (3) teams per age group and gender which shall receive a Georgia invitation to fill the open National League slots:

1. Georgia Premier League Spring Champion, or, the highest finish team in the 14U Georgia Premier League Spring by order of standing that does not automatically qualify through NL Piedmont. GPL for Spring will include teams participating in the National League Piedmont Conference Fall of the same seasonal year.
2. State Cup Champion (slot goes to the next criterion if State Cup Champion has already qualified)
3. Winner of NL Qualification Playoffs¹ with Georgia teams of highest ranked divisions among new leagues affiliated with USYS through Georgia Soccer by March 1, 2021.
4. Georgia Premier League Fall Season Champion
5. 2nd highest finish team in the Georgia Premier League Spring by order of standing not automatically qualified through NL, or through the preceding criteria
6. State Cup Finalist
7. Teams who finished above the bottom two (2) in the Georgia Premier League Spring by standing
8. To be determined by the Georgia Soccer Select Committee

14U & 16U-19U National League Piedmont Conference Selection Criteria for Fall 2021:

In addition to any automatic invites earned by the Georgia teams through play in the National League Piedmont Conference, the criteria order below shall be used to select the three (3) teams per age group and gender which shall receive a Georgia invitation to fill the open National League slots:

1. Georgia Premier League Champion of the most recent season² (13U Spring for rising 14U & Fall for the rest)
2. State Cup Champion (slot goes to the next criterion if State Cup Champion has already qualified)
3. Winner of NL Qualification Playoffs³ with Georgia teams of highest ranked divisions among new leagues affiliated with USYS through Georgia Soccer by March 1, 2021.
4. Teams in the National League Piedmont Conference that averaged at least 1 point per game (AKA a tie per game per the NL Piedmont Conference point system) by order of standing.
5. State Cup Finalist
6. Teams who finished above the bottom two (2) in the National League Piedmont Conference by standing
7. Georgia Premier League Runner-Up of the most recent season (13U Spring for rising 14U & Fall for the rest)
8. To be determined by the Georgia Soccer Select Committee

If a team is unable to participate, or declines a National League invitation, the next team in the order from the criteria above shall be offered the slot.

TEAM CONTINUITY

To be considered the same team moving from Georgia Premier League or Affiliated League, or from one National League season to the next eligible team must retain at least 11 players from the previous season. If a club is unable to field a team meeting this requirement, the available National League slot will be offered to the next qualified candidate, based on the previously stated Georgia Soccer selection criteria policy.

¹ One-time 13U & 14U qualification playoffs to be held in late April or May 2021. 15U-18U playoffs to be held in May 2021.

² The select committee reserves the right to evaluate GPL teams in combined age groups, and graduating age groups in order to determine whether to award none, one, or two slots.

³ One-time 13U & 14U qualification playoffs to be held in late April or May 2021. 15U-18U playoffs to be held in May 2021.

Effective for 2022:

13U National League Piedmont Conference Selection Criteria for Spring 2022:

The top four (4) finishers in the 13U Georgia Premier League Fall season shall receive invitations to represent Georgia in the National League.

If any of these teams is unable to participate, or declines the invitation to the National League, the next-place finisher in the Georgia Premier League shall receive the National League slot, and so on.

15U National League Piedmont Conference Selection Criteria for Fall 2022:

In addition to any automatic invites earned by the Georgia teams through play in the 14U National League Piedmont Conference in the Fall, the criteria order below shall be used to select the three (3) teams per age group and gender which shall receive a Georgia invitation to fill the open National League slots:

1. Georgia Premier League Spring Champion or, the highest finish team in the 14U Georgia Premier League Spring by order of standing, that does not automatically qualify through NL Piedmont. GPL for Spring will include teams participating in the National League Piedmont Conference Fall of the same seasonal year.
2. State Cup Champion (slot goes to the next criterion if State Cup Champion has already qualified)
3. Georgia Premier League Fall Season Champion
4. 2nd highest finish team in the Georgia Premier League Spring by order of standing not automatically qualified through NL, or through above criteria
5. State Cup Finalist
6. Teams who finished above the bottom two (2) in the Georgia Premier League in the Spring by standing
7. To be determined by the Georgia Soccer Select Committee

14U & 16U-19U National League Piedmont Conference Selection Criteria for Fall 2022:

In addition to any automatic invites earned by the Georgia teams through play in the National League Piedmont Conference, the criteria order below shall be used to select the three (3) teams per age group and gender which shall receive a Georgia invitation to fill the open National League slots:

1. Georgia Premier League Champion of the most recent season (13U Spring for rising 14U & Fall for the rest)
2. State Cup Champion (slot goes to the next criterion if State Cup Champion has already qualified)
3. Teams in the National League Piedmont Conference that averaged at least 1 point per game (AKA a tie per game per the NL Piedmont Conference point system) by order of standing
4. State Cup Finalist
5. Teams who finished above the bottom two (2) in the National League Piedmont Conference by standing
6. Georgia Premier League Runner-Up of the most recent season (13U Spring for rising 14U & Fall for the rest)
7. To be determined by the Georgia Soccer Select Committee

If a team is unable to participate, or declines a National League invitation, the next team in the order from the criteria above shall be offered the slot.