

## **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 so that the most competitive teams in the country to compete against each other on a scheduled basis. Georgia belongs in the Piedmont Conference of the National League. The League is comprised of boys' teams and girls' teams in the 13U-19U age groups. Teams from Georgia are promoted and relegated between the National League and the Georgia Premier League (GPL).

The number of spots allocated for Georgia and each state is outlined in the [Piedmont Conference Operating Procedures of the National League](#) (see Appendix).

### **State Cup Participation and Team Continuity**

The Georgia Soccer Select Committee reserves the right to select the teams to represent Georgia in the National League. To be considered for selection to the National League Conferences, a team must have participated in State Cup the previous season. If a team does not meet this requirement, the available National League slot will be offered to the next qualified candidate, based on the Georgia Soccer selection criteria policy.

To be eligible for selection, a team must retain at least 11 players from the previous season. If a club is unable to field a team that meets this requirement, the available National League slot may be offered to the next qualified candidate, based on the Georgia Soccer selection criteria policy.

### **13U National League Piedmont Conference Selection Criteria for Spring 2023:**

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

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.

### **14U National League Piedmont Conference Selection Criteria for Fall 2023:**

In addition to any automatic invites earned by Georgia teams through play in the National League Piedmont Conference in the preceding season, 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)
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)
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.

## **15U National League Piedmont Conference Selection Criteria for Fall 2023:**

In addition to any automatic invites earned by 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 (slot goes to the highest finish team in the 14U Georgia Premier League Spring by order of standing, if GPL Spring Champion has already qualified through NL Piedmont). GPL in Spring at 14U shall include teams that participated in the National League Piedmont Conference the 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 (slot goes to the next criterion if already qualified)
4. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

To be eligible for one of the spots, a team must have participated at 14U in the Georgia Premier League during the Spring season, as well as either the Piedmont Conference of the National League, or a division in Georgia Soccer during the Fall season.

## **16U-19U National League Piedmont Conference Selection Criteria for Fall 2023:**

In addition to any automatic invites earned by 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 Champion of the most recent season
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
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.

## APPENDIX

### National League Piedmont Conference Qualification for 2022-23 (August 10, 2021<sup>1</sup>)

The Piedmont Conference will qualify up to twelve (12) teams into Premier I for the 2022-23 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 2021-22 Piedmont Conference season shall automatically qualify for their rising gender age group in their 2022-23 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 2022-23 Conference.
- The State Association of South Carolina will receive two (2) qualifying Conference slots in each 14U-19U gender age group for a team not already qualified into the 2022-23 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> The renewal of this policy for the number of slots has been verbally confirmed by the National League for 2023-24, and is expected to be formally published by August 2022.