



**2020-2021 ECNL BOYS POST-SEASON
QUALIFICATION AND INFORMATION**

ECNL Boys National Postseason, Preface:

As we maneuver through the coming months, the ECNL will regularly assess the situation, as based upon conferences that are playing games versus those that cannot due to restrictions, or are playing a limited number of matches for the same reasons. This could factor into the postseason qualification process and structure.

NOTE: the below is as of March 10, 2021 and could change based upon the coming months, but this is our anticipated plan for qualification.

EVENT REGISTRATION & ROSTER-TIE INFORMATION

The ECNL National Playoffs will have team check-in and registration prior to the start of play. Each team will need to follow the below process.

REGISTRATION AND TEAM CHECK-IN PROCESS

- All teams participating in the ECNL National Playoffs must check-in prior to the event at the facility.
 - **Check In Dates:** July 3-July 9, 2021
 - July 2nd - July 3rd: 5:00-7:00pm
 - **ALL TEAMS MUST CHECK-IN THE DAY BEFORE THE FIRST KICKOFF**
 - **Location:** Sheraton Hotel (Please find address on the event home page)
 - Items to bring to check-in:
 - **ROSTER MOVEMENT Sheet:** [click here](#) to download the Roster Movement Sheet. Should you have ECNL players from within your club who are ECNL carded to another team within your club, please fill out the form and bring it to team check in.
 - *Please note, the player will then be roster-tied to that team for the duration of the ECNL National Playoffs event and cannot play with any other team, no exceptions.*
 - **ECNL Player Passcards** for all players listed on the roster being submitted (including those playing up/down or from another ECNL or ECNL Regional League team).
 - **ECNL Staff Passcards** for all sideline staff (including coaches, team admins, team doctors/trainers, etc. Anyone on the players sideline must have a valid ECNL passcard). No exceptions.
 - **HARD copies of Medical Registration Waivers (US Club forms)** for all participants listed on the roster being submitted.

ROSTER TIE INFORMATION AND ROSTER MOVEMENT FOR SECOND STAGE

The ECNL National Playoffs is the first stage for the U14 quarterfinal winners and the U15, U16 and U17 Champions League group of sixteen winners that will advance to the quarterfinals in the second stage. The final four for the U14s and the quarterfinal winners for the U15, U16 and U17 age groups will advance to the second stage, the ECNL National Finals, which takes place in St. Louis, MO on July 22-24. Please refer to ECNL Competition Rules, Rule 2.10 for more information regarding the roster tie.

2.10 ECNL Post-Season Roster Tie. *The ECNL Post-Season includes multiple stages. An ECNL Registered Player may play for only one ECNL Team in the ECNL Post-season, subject to the exceptions below. Players will be roster-tied to a specific team and age group at check-in of the first ECNL Post-season stage in which they appear.*

Once the ECNL National Playoffs is finished, each of the qualifying teams can elect to add up to three (3) new players to the official roster submitted to the league at the beginning of the ECNL National Playoffs. Players must be from within the club and age eligible to participate, and will be roster-tied to that team for the duration of the ECNL National Finals. More information will be sent to all qualifying teams with a form to fill out and bring to check-in at the second stage (ECNL National Finals).

ECNL STANDINGS AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP STRUCTURE 2020-2021 COMPETITION STRUCTURE & POST-SEASON OVERVIEW

After all ECNL regular season games have been played, a predetermined number of teams will automatically qualify for the Champions League Playoffs based solely on conference games. After these Automatic Qualifiers are determined (see below), all additional teams will be eligible for the wildcard pool at the U15, U16, and U17 ages. Once in the wildcard pool, these teams will be ranked based on PPG from all games played – including conference games and national event games. The top eight (8) teams in the wildcard pool will qualify for the ECNL Champions League Playoff.

There will be no wildcard pool at U13, U14, or U18/19

The ECNL Postseason is planned to be a two-stage setup for the U14-17s, whereas the U13s and U18/19s finish in a single stage event (stage 1 of 2). The final details have not yet been publicly released regarding start/end dates per age group or the specific host facility, but all items are set for the stage 1 event to take place in NC, starting July 3, 2021. The National Finals (stage 2 of 2) dates and locations will be announced soon.

NOTE: No club or team should arrange travel plans for the ECNL National Playoffs until they have received a confirmation email from the ECNL.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information regarding play dates, age group and division breakdown.

U13-U18/U19 ECNL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE - NATIONAL PLAYOFFS

U15-U17 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

64 total teams qualify

56 automatic qualifiers based on PPG from Conference matches only

8 Wildcards based on PPG from both Conference matches and National Event matches

Conference	Automatic Qualification
Northeast	Top 4 - Each Division (8 total)
Mid-Atlantic	Top 4 - Carolinas, Top 3 - VA (7 total)
Southeast	Top 5 in Conference
Florida	Top 4 in Conference
Midwest	Top 3 - Each Division (6 total)
Texas	Top 3 - Each Division + Best overall 4th Place (7 total)
Mountain	Top 3 in Conference
Southwest	Top 8 in Conference
Northwest	Top 4 in Conference
Northern Cal	Top 4 in Conference

Stage 1 Playoffs:

64 teams: 16 Groups of 4 for Group Play (3 games), Group Winners advance into one additional Round of 16, with 8 clubs advancing into the National Finals (stage 2 of 2)

Stage 2 Finals:

8 teams: "Knockout" format with winning teams advancing per round, 3 rounds total

U15-U17 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE PLAYOFFS | SCHEDULE & ADVANCEMENT

- Within each Champions League Playoff group, the teams play a 3-game round robin. Teams will earn 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and zero points for a loss. The group winners will advance to the knockout stage quarterfinal.
 - Match A: Winner Group A v Winner Group P

- Match B: Winner Group B v Winner Group O
 - Match C: Winner Group C v Winner Group N
 - Match D: Winner Group D v Winner Group M
 - Match E: Winner Group E v Winner Group L
 - Match F: Winner Group F v Winner Group K
 - Match G: Winner Group G v Winner Group J
 - Match H: Winner Group H v Winner Group I
- For the teams that do not win their group, the points earned will affect their final placement in the national standings.
 - **Knockout.** The sixteen (16) teams that win their group at the ECNL National Playoffs will then compete in a single-elimination knockout game to determine advancement to the ECNL National Finals taking place in July.
 - For the teams that do not advance, the points earned from the ECNL National Playoffs will affect their final placement in the overall club ranking.

U13 & U18/U19 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

16 total teams qualify

16 automatic qualifiers based on PPG from Conference matches only

No Wildcards

Conference	Automatic Qualification
Northeast	Top 1 - Each Division (2 total)
Mid-Atlantic	Top 1 - Carolinas, Top 1 - VA (2 total)
Southeast	Top 2 in Conference
Florida	Top 1 in Conference
Midwest	Top 1 - Each Division (2 total)
Texas	Top 1 - Each Division (2 total)
Mountain	Top 1 in Conference
Southwest	Top 2 in Conference
Northwest	Top 1 in Conference

Northern Cal	Top 1 in Conference
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Stage 1 Finals:

16 teams: "Knockout" format with winning teams advancing per round; all clubs guaranteed 3 games minimum with finalists playing 4th game (National Championship game)

U13 & U18/U19 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE PLAYOFFS | SCHEDULE & ADVANCEMENT

- The sixteen (16) teams that qualify for the ECNL Champions League will play in a guaranteed 3-game knockout competition with a fourth game to crown the ECNL National Champion at the ECNL National Playoffs.
- **Consolation Bracket:** After the first round of games, the losing 8 teams from the first round of games will be in the consolation bracket. For the teams that do not advance, the points earned will affect their final placement in the national standings.

U14 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

32 total teams qualify

32 automatic qualifiers based on PPG from Conference matches only

No Wildcards

Conference	Automatic Qualification
Northeast	Top 2 - Each Division (4 total)
Mid-Atlantic	Top 2 - Carolinas, Top 2 - VA (4 total)
Southeast	Top 3 in Conference
Florida	Top 2 in Conference
Midwest	Top 2 - Each Division (4 total)
Texas	Top 2 - Each Division (4 total)
Mountain	Top 2 in Conference
Southwest	Top 5 in Conference
Northwest	Top 2 in Conference

Northern Cal	Top 2 in Conference
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Stage 1 Playoffs:

32 teams: 8 Groups of 4 for Group Play (3 games), Group Winners advance into one additional Round of 8, with 4 clubs advancing into the National Finals (stage 2 of 2)

Stage 2 Finals:

4 teams: Semifinal Round, National Championship game/Consolation

U14 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE PLAYOFFS | SCHEDULE & ADVANCEMENT

- Within each Champions League Playoff group, the teams play a 3-game round robin. Teams will earn 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and zero points for a loss. The group winners will advance to the knockout stage quarterfinal.
 - Match A: Winner Group A v Winner Group H
 - Match B: Winner Group B v Winner Group G
 - Match C: Winner Group C v Winner Group F
 - Match D: Winner Group D v Winner Group E
- For the teams that do not win their group, the points earned will affect their final placement in the national standings (9-32).
- **Knockout.** The eight (8) teams that win their group at the ECNL National Playoffs will then compete in a single-elimination knockout game to determine advancement to the ECNL National Finals taking place in July.
- For the teams that do not advance, the points earned from the ECNL National Playoffs will affect their final placement in the national standings.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE PLAYOFFS | TIEBREAKERS

Group Play: If two teams are tied within their group play, the tie-breaker will be as follows:

- Total points earned in head to head game (if possible). If more than two teams are tied, this tiebreaker shall not apply.
- Goal difference (based on group play);
- Goals for (based on group play);
- Goals against (based on group play);
- Penalties: If it is still tied, the winner shall be determined by kicks from the mark. The winner shall then be the ECNL Team that scores the most in five (5) kicks from the mark. If the teams remain tied after five (5) kicks, the winner shall be determined by sudden death in rounds of one (1) kick per team.

Knockout Matches: In the event of a tie at the end of regulation in a knockout match, the winner shall be determined by kicks from the mark. Players remaining on the field are eligible to participate in kicks from the mark. The winner shall then be the ECNL Team that scores the most in five (5) kicks from the mark. If the game remains tied after five (5) kicks, the winner shall be determined by sudden death in rounds of one (1) kick per team.

Championship Match: In the event of a tie at the end of regulation in a championship match, two (2) ten-minute overtime periods shall be played. There will not be a golden goal in overtime. At the end of regulation, substitutions re-start with no re-entry for the entirety of the two (2) ten minute periods. Players remaining on the field are eligible to participate in kicks from the mark. If the ECNL competition remains tied at the end of the overtime periods, the winner shall be determined by kicks from the mark. The winner shall then be the ECNL Team that scores the most in five (5) kicks from the mark. If the game remains tied after five (5) kicks, the winner shall be determined by sudden death in rounds of one (1) kick per team.

U14-U17 ECNL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE - NATIONAL FINALS

To crown the ECNL Champions League National Champion, the four (4) winners from the U14 quarterfinal matches along with the eight (8) winners from the U15, U16, and U17 round of sixteen matches advance from the ECNL National Playoffs event to the ECNL National Finals in July.

U14 NATIONAL FINALS | ECNL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE | SCHEDULE & ADVANCEMENT

- The teams will compete in a single-elimination knockout game to advance to the championship / consolation games.
- The Match A winner and the Match B winner will advance to the ECNL National Championship Game at the ECNL National Finals. For the teams that do not win their semifinal, they will play in a third place match to determine their placement in the final National Standings.

U14 NATIONAL FINALS | TIEBREAKERS

- **Day 1 & Championship Match:** In the event of a tie at the end of regulation, two (2) ten-minute overtime periods shall be played. There will not be a golden goal in overtime. If the ECNL Competition remains tied at the end of the overtime periods, the winner shall be determined by kicks from the mark. The winner shall then be the ECNL Team that scores the most in five (5) kicks from the mark. If the game remains tied after five (5) kicks, the winner shall be determined by sudden death in rounds of one (1) kick per team.
- **Placement Matches:** There shall be no overtime, and the winner shall be determined by kicks from the mark. The winner shall then be the ECNL Team that scores the most in five (5) kicks from the

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

U15-U17 NATIONAL FINALS | SCHEDULE & ADVANCEMENT

- The eight (8) teams that qualify for the ECNL Champions League will play in a guaranteed 3-game knockout competition to crown the ECNL National Champion at the ECNL National Playoffs.
- **Consolation Bracket:** After the first round of games, the losing 4 teams from the first round of games will be in the consolation bracket. For the teams that do not advance, the points earned will affect their final placement in the national standings.

U15-U17 NATIONAL FINALS | TIEBREAKERS

Knockout Matches: In the event of a tie at the end of regulation in a knockout match, the winner shall be determined by kicks from the mark. Players remaining on the field are eligible to participate in kicks from the park. The winner shall then be the ECNL Team that scores the most in five (5) kicks from the mark. If the game remains tied after five (5) kicks, the winner shall be determined by sudden death in rounds of one (1) kick per team.

Championship Match: In the event of a tie at the end of regulation in a championship match, two (2) ten-minute overtime periods shall be played. There will not be a golden goal in overtime. At the end of regulation, substitutions re-start with no re-entry for the entirety of the two (2) ten minute periods. Players remaining on the field are eligible to participate in kicks from the park. If the ECNL competition remains tied at the end of the overtime periods, the winner shall be determined by kicks from the mark. The winner shall then be the ECNL Team that scores the most in five (5) kicks from the mark. If the game remains tied after five (5) kicks, the winner shall be determined by sudden death in rounds of one (1) kick per team.