

**MSYSA USYS National League Conference Endorsement Criteria/
U13 MSPSP Divisional Offerings**

The below criteria will be used by MSYSA to determine NLC (USYS National League Great Lakes & Midwest Conference) endorsement for U13 teams in the Spring season.

In the Fall season of U13, MSPSP will offer divisions in the following manner:

1. One or more “NLC Qualifying” divisions within the U13 age groups (boys & girls) will be formed. These divisions are open only to teams who participated in the MSYSA Directors Academy program in the previous Fall and Spring seasons.
Note: In cases where there are multiple “NLC Qualifying” divisions, all divisions will be considered competitively equal.
2. Only those teams who compete in the “NLC Qualifying” division will be eligible for NLC in the Spring season. Note: the “NLC Qualifying” division is ONLY offered in the Fall season of U13. Teams not participating in this division will be eligible for NLC play beginning at the Fall U14 season.
3. At registration, teams coming from the MSYSA Directors Academy will have the option to opt into the “NLC Qualifying” division.
4. Those teams that opt in for the “NLC Qualifying” division will be placed in competitively equal divisions as determined by MSYSA/MSPSP.
5. Those teams that do not opt for the “NLC Qualifying” division will be placed in their choice of a statewide or local MSPSP competition.
6. The number of teams interested in NLC endorsement shall dictate the number of “NLC Qualifying” divisions as noted below.
7. MSYSA will endorse up to 8 teams from the “NLC Qualifying” divisions as noted below.

# Interested Teams	# NLC Qualifying Divisions	Endorsement Process
Up to 11 teams	1 division – round robin format	Top 8 teams are endorsed
12 teams	2 divisions, split equally – teams play home & away series	Top 4 teams from each division are endorsed
13 – 22 teams	2 divisions split as equally as possible– round robin format	Top 4 teams from each division are endorsed
23 – 31 teams	3 divisions split as equally as possible – round robin format	Top 2 teams from each division are endorsed + 2 additional “wildcards” based on established policy*

*Wildcard Policy –

- a. For age groups with the SAME number of teams in each “NLC Qualifying” division and which require a wildcard for endorsement purposes, wildcard qualification shall be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria:
 - Teams with the most points.
 - Winner of head to head competition. However, this criterion shall not be used when more than two teams are tied in points.
 - Goal spread (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum goal differential of four goals per game.
 - Fewest goals allowed.
 - Kicks from the penalty mark.
- b. For age groups with a DIFFERENT number of teams in each “NLC Qualifying” division and which require a wildcard for endorsement purposes, wildcard qualification shall be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria:
 - Teams with the highest average number of points per game (number of points divided by number of games)
 - Goal spread (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum goal differential of four goals per game
 - If teams are still tied at the end of the above sequence, MSYSA will make endorsement decisions on a case-by-case basis.
- c. If more than two teams are tied, the sequence shall be followed until one team is eliminated.
- d. Once one team has been eliminated, the remaining teams shall then restart the sequence above until the tie is broken.