



Teams in the USYS Great Lakes Conference qualify for the USYS National League P.R.O. based on their finish in the club vs club or premier 1 divisions of the conference. Qualifiers are also available through team performance at the Midwest Regional Championships and the USYS National Championships. This National League platform requires teams to play their league matches at national showcase events in December and February or March. Selection of which showcase events a team participates in is at the discretion of the league.

The National League P.R.O. structure has some disadvantages including the following:

1. No control over the dates or location of a team's league matches
2. Divisions organized nationally not regionally
3. The geographical distribution of teams in National League P.R.O. and the tendency to play matches in warmer climates in December, February and March gives a distinct advantage to teams located in southern states as compared to teams in northern states given our challenges with full field training in December, February, and March.
4. There can be weather related travel issues with league matches especially in December and February which can impact the ability of teams to get to these events
5. Weather issues can happen for any event, the National League P.R.O. structure makes rescheduling these league matches geographically prohibitive
6. National League P.R.O. consists of 7 matches with 6 matches played over 2 three day event weekends. Playing this type of concentrated match schedule does not support a concept of quality competition for potential advancement to the USYS national championships. It is one thing to play in this format in a showcase event with unlimited substitution. It is another issue to play these matches with substitution restrictions with qualification for a national championship on the line. Player fatigue can become an issue. In addition, if there are player injuries preceding the event or during the event these issues have significantly more impact on the overall National League P.R.O. season results than if an injury impacts a player for a single match.
7. National League P.R.O. teams are required to also play in their respective USYS National League Conference which in our case is the Great Lakes Conference and teams are required to play in their respective State Cup competition.
8. Teams participating in State Cup and USYS National League Great Lakes Conference all are competing to qualify for the USYS National Championship Series. State Cup champions and Great Lakes Conference club vs club champions and Great Lakes Conference wild card qualifiers participate in the USYS Midwest Championships in June. Champions of the USYS

Midwest Championships along with qualifying teams from USYS National League P.R.O. compete for the USYS National Championship in July.

For the 2022-2023 season, USYS is offering a new USYS Elite 64 national league. Our Ohio Galaxies FC program was one of 64 clubs across the country selected to participate. This is an entirely different league than USYS National League P.R.O. or its regional conferences including Great Lakes Conference.

The USYS Elite 64 national league structure includes the following components:

1. League comprised of 8 conferences across the country with 8 clubs in each conference.
2. Clubs field teams in 6 age groups - u13 - u18/u19
3. Each conference of 8 teams in an age group plays a full complement of 14 matches with an objective of a home/away match schedule with each opponent
4. The conferences are organized geographically
5. Included in the league structure are two optional national showcase events, clubs can choose from events hosted in December, February, or March. League matches are not played at these events. Opponents are from other Elite 64 conferences or Premier 1 conference teams. There are no roster restrictions for these events
6. All teams will compete in a national showcase/championship event in June. Teams that win their conference will compete at this event for an Elite 64 national championship, all other teams will participate in 3 showcase matches.
7. For the 2022-2023 season, the 8 clubs in our Elite 64 conference are the same as the 8 clubs in our GLC club vs club division in 2021-2022.
8. Elite 64 teams are not required to participate in a second state league or conference league, the 14-match schedule is built into one league structure
9. Elite 64 teams are not required to participate in State Cup but have the option to do so if interested
10. Player carding is facilitated by the USYS national office in Dallas, not by the Ohio Soccer Association
11. There are no roster size restrictions with Elite 64
12. Elite 64 players will have access to ProScore and StatSports technologies for match analysis and player performance metrics
13. The league design provides more consistency to the overall season structure with defined event dates and a more finite end to the league season in June.
14. Club vs club scheduling model enhances the ability of our coaches to integrate across multiple age groups at league events

We believe the league structure for Elite 64 is a better overall approach to managing the competition for our players.