



NPL NTX

2025–26 League Structure & Postseason Qualification Guide

Boys | U13–U18/19 | For Coaches and Managers

Season Overview

Welcome to the 2025–26 NPL NTX season. This guide explains the regular season format and exactly how your team can qualify for the NPL National Playoffs. Please read the section that applies to your age group carefully.

Element	Detail
Groups	Red Group and Blue Group (U13–U16) / Single Division (U17–U18/19)
Age Groups	U13, U14, U15, U16 (Red & Blue Groups) U17, U18/19 (Single Division)
Regular Season Games	15 games per team
Standings Tiebreaker	Points Per Game (PPG) — used to seed all postseason brackets
Postseason Target	NPL National Playoff Qualification

U13–U16 | Boys | Red & Blue Groups

Division Structure

U13–U16 Boys are organized into two groups — the Red Group and the Blue Group — competing within a single division. Teams play 15 regular season games consisting of intra-Group and cross-Group matches.

Postseason at a Glance — 2 NPL National Playoff Spots Available

- Red Group 1st Place — BYE directly to Round 2 (no Round 1 game required)
- Blue Group 1st Place — BYE directly to Round 2 (no Round 1 game required)
- Red #2, Red #3, Blue #2, Blue #3 — compete in Round 1 play-in games
- Round 1 winners face the bye teams in Round 2
- Both Round 2 winners each earn an NPL National Playoff AQ spot — no further game required

Bracket — How the 2 NPL National Playoff Spots Are Decided

Six teams compete across two rounds. Both Round 2 winners earn an AQ spot directly — there is no Round 3 or Division Championship game. Seeds are determined by Points Per Game (PPG).

ROUND 1 — GAME A	ROUND 1 — GAME B	ROUND 2 — AQ GAME C	ROUND 2 — AQ GAME D
Red #2 (PPG) vs Blue #3 (PPG)	Blue #2 (PPG) vs Red #3 (PPG)	Winner A vs Red #1 (BYE) → Winner earns AQ Spot 1	Winner B vs Blue #1 (BYE) → Winner earns AQ Spot 2

Round-by-Round Breakdown

- **Round 1 (Play-in): Game A — Red #2 vs Blue #3 | Game B — Blue #2 vs Red #3**

Winners advance to Round 2. Losers are eliminated.

- **Round 2 — AQ Games: Game C — Winner A vs Red #1 (BYE) | Game D — Winner B vs Blue #1 (BYE)**

Both Round 2 winners earn an NPL National Playoff AQ spot immediately. The bracket concludes at the end of Round 2 — there is no championship final.

- **Result: 2 AQ spots awarded at the conclusion of Round 2.**

Complete Postseason Qualification Summary — U13–U16 (2 AQ Spots)

AQ Spot	Who	How	Requirement
AQ 1	Winner of Round 2 Game C	Win Round 2 Game C	Win Round 1 (if applicable), then beat Red #1 (BYE) in Round 2
AQ 2	Winner of Round 2 Game D	Win Round 2 Game D	Win Round 1 (if applicable), then beat Blue #1 (BYE) in Round 2
Note	Red #1 and Blue #1	BYE to Round 2	Group winners skip Round 1. Both Round 2 winners qualify — no Round 3 required.

U17–U18/19 | Boys | Single Division

Division Structure

U17–U18/19 Boys compete in a single division. There are no Red and Blue groups at this age level. Teams play 15 regular season games. Two NPL National Playoff spots are available.

Postseason at a Glance — 2 NPL National Playoff Spots Available

- **AQ Spot 1 — 1st place finishes the regular season as league winner and qualifies automatically. No game required.**
- AQ Spot 2 — 2nd place and 3rd place play a single game. The winner earns the second NPL National Playoff spot.

AQ Spot 2 — Playoff Game

Unlike U13–U16, there are no byes or multi-round brackets at U17–U18/19. The playoff is one game between the 2nd and 3rd place finishers.

GAME	MATCHUP	RESULT
AQ 2 Playoff	2nd Place vs 3rd Place (by PPG)	Winner earns AQ Spot 2 — NPL National Playoff

Complete Postseason Qualification Summary — U17–U18/19

AQ Spot	Who	How	Requirement
AQ Spot 1	1st Place	Direct — no game	Finish 1st in division standings (PPG) — automatic qualifier
AQ Spot 2	2nd Place or 3rd Place	Win Playoff Game	2nd place vs 3rd place — winner earns NPL National Playoff spot

Standings & Tiebreaker — Points Per Game (PPG)

All standings and playoff seeding are determined by Points Per Game (PPG), calculated by dividing total points earned by total games played. This ensures fair seeding regardless of any scheduling differences.

Outcome	Points Earned
Win	3 points
Draw	1 point
Loss	0 points

Questions? Contact NPL NTX League Administration.
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