



POLICIES & PROCEDURES FOR RETENTION IN & PROMOTION TO THE NATIONAL LEAGUE TEAM-BASED GREAT LAKES/MIDWEST CONFERENCES

(Updated 10/17/2025)

Indiana Soccer applies the following criteria when considering an application for team retention (returning) in the US Youth Soccer National League Team-Based Great Lakes/Midwest Conferences (NL, TB-GLC/MWC).

1. **Teams who competed in the NL, TB Premier 1 of GLC/MWC** the immediate prior season are approved to return to GLC/MWC even though their previous performance may cause relegation to NL, TB Premier 2 GLC/MWC Division. They must also meet the roster continuity policy.
2. **Teams who competed in the NL, TB Premier 2 Division of GLC/MWC** the immediate prior season and finished at the bottom of their play group (see table below), will be relegated to ISL Premier, if they meet the roster continuity policy. If any of the teams finishing in one of the places on the chart finishes in 1st or 2nd place in Indiana Soccer State Cup competition that year, they will retain their place in the GLC/MWC, if they meet the roster continuity policy.

Number of teams in their play group	Finish in play group	Automatic relegation
6 or less teams	Last place	Yes
7, 8 or 9 teams	Last two places	Yes
10, 11 or 12 teams	Last three places	Yes

3. **Teams finishing above the places identified in the chart** will retain their recommendation to play in NL, TB Premier 2 GLC/MWC if they meet the roster continuity policy.
4. **Roster Continuity:** Even though NL, TB GLC/MWC does not have the same requirements for player continuity as Indiana Soccer (60%), Indiana Soccer expects that teams returning to the NL, TB GLC/MWC are the same team. Teams with less than 60% of the players returning will not be recommended to participate in NL, TB Premier 2 GLC/MWC play that season.
5. **Addition** of new players will not be considered for recommendation to GLC/MWC.
6. **League Standings in the Indiana State League's (ISL) Premier Division**
 - a) Teams must participate in the ISL Premier Division during the most recent available season of ISL competition to be eligible to be promoted into the NL, TB GLC/MWC. The exception is the Fall 13U applicants, they needed to participate in the 12U 2nd White Division during the previous seasonal year.
 - b) Teams that finish in 1st and 2nd place in ISL Premier Division for the 13U Fall season and all other divisions in the previous season are recommended for promotion into the NL, TB GLC/MWC unless criteria number four is not met.
 - c) Teams applying to NL, TB GLC/MWC for Fall 13U will be reviewed by the ISL Commissioner for promotion to the NL, TB GLC/MWC. 14U teams that compete in ISL play in the fall that utilize trapped players (a 15U player), will not be eligible for promotion the following season.
 - d) If a team applies to NL, TB GLC/MWC that did not participate in ISL's Premier Division, that team will not be considered for NL, TB GLC/MWC. They will need to play at least one season in ISL Premier Division. Exceptions may be made for teams applying to NL, TB GLC or MWC 19U.

7. Minimum Coaching Standards

- a) All coaches on the team bench coaching in a NL, TB GLC/MWC game must have at the minimum a US Soccer "D" Coaching License or equivalent as determined by NL, TB GLC/MWC Manager (i.e. minimum United Soccer Coaches Advanced National Diploma).
- b) Proof of a current license/diploma must be submitted to the State Director of Coaching.
- c) Proof consists of a copy of the license/diploma and/or license number (in case a copy cannot be located).

8. Team's League Placement

- a) A team's placement belongs to the club it was registered to at the time of earning the placement.
- b) If a team moves to a different club, the placement earned in the previous season does not move with the team unless the previous club approves the move. No consideration is given to the percentage of the players moving to the new club. (This was approved at the 2018 AGM DOC meeting.)

The Director of Competition will submit recommendations to the NL, TB GLC/MWC Manager for final approval. The Director of Competition will decide all matters not provided for in these policies and procedures.