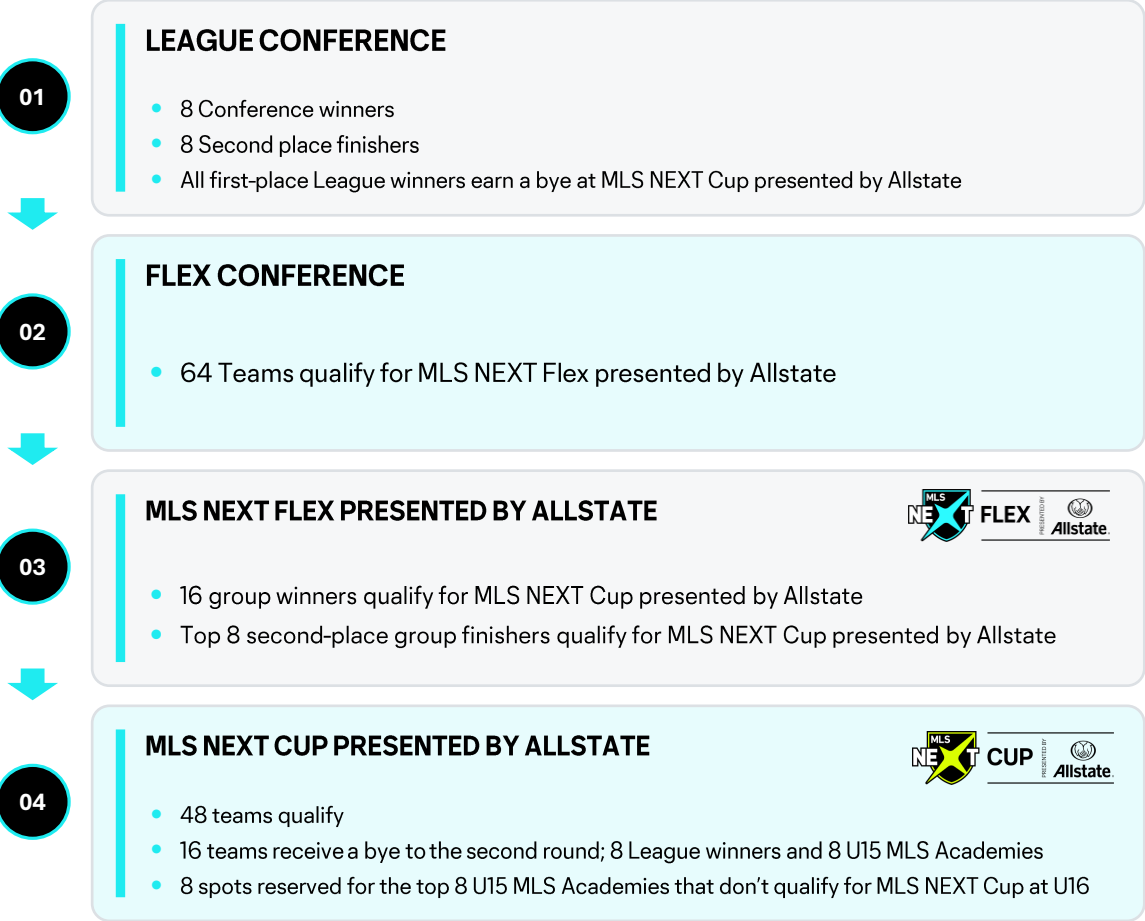


U15-U19 Competition Structure

2026-27 | Qualification pathway to MLS NEXT Cup presented by Allstate



U15



U16-U19



U13-U19 MLS NEXT Cup Qualification

2026-27 | Qualification pathway to MLS NEXT Cup presented by Allstate



League Conference						
Conference	U13 Cup Spots	U14 Cup Spots	U15 Cup Spots	U16 Cup Spots	U17 Cup Spots	U19 Cup Spots
Mid-America	4	3	1	1	1	1
Frontier	3	4	1	1	1	1
Southwest	5	4	1	1	1	1
Northwest	3	3	1	1	1	1
Northeast	5	4	1	1	1	1
Mid-Atlantic	4	4	1	1	1	1
Southeast	3	3	1	1	1	1
Florida	3	3	1	1	1	1

MLS Pro Player Pathway League Conference			
Conference	U16 Cup Spots	U17 Cup Spots	U19 Cup Spots
MLS Northeast	2	2	2
MLS Southeast	2	2	2
MLS Central	2	2	2
MLS West	2	2	2
Wildcards	3	3	3

Flex Conference			
Conference	U16 Cup Spots	U17 Cup Spots	U19 Cup Spots
Mid-America East	1	1	1
Mid-America West	1	1	1
Frontier	1	1	1
Southwest North	1	1	1
Southwest South	1	1	1
Northwest	1	1	1
New England	1	1	1
Empire	1	1	1
Turnpike	1	1	1
Mid-Atlantic North	1	1	1
Mid-Atlantic South	1	1	1
Southeast	1	1	1
Florida	1	1	1
Second NEXT Cup Spot	1	1	1

- The first-place finisher in each Flex Conference at U16, U17, and U19 will earn a playoff spot at MLS NEXT Cup presented by Allstate.
- The conferences highlighted in yellow at the specific ages are competing for a second playoff spot at MLS NEXT Cup presented by Allstate.

U15-U19 MLS NEXT Flex Qualification

2026-27 | Qualification pathway to MLS NEXT Flex presented by Allstate



MLS NEXT Flex Event				
Conference	U15 Flex Spots	U16 Flex Spots	U17 Flex Spots	U19 Flex Spots
Mid-America East	5	4	4	4
Mid-America West	4	3	3	3
Frontier	5	3	4	3
Southwest North	6	4	4	4
Southwest South	5	4	4	4
Northwest	7	6	5	6
New England	3	3	3	3
Empire	3	3	3	3
Turnpike	4	3	3	3
Mid-Atlantic North	4	3	3	3
Mid-Atlantic South	5	4	4	4
Southeast	7	6	5	5
Florida	6	6	5	6
Additional Flex Spot			1	

- All MLS Academies are qualified for MLS NEXT Flex presented by Allstate at U16, U17, and U19.
- The Flex Spots above at U16, U17, U19 are only for Elite Academies.
 - For example, the top 4 Elite Academies at U16, U17, and U19 in Mid-America East will qualify for the Flex event.
- The conferences highlighted in yellow at U17 are competing for 1 additional Flex spot.