



## Under 14 COMPETITION STRUCTURE and PROCEDURES 2017 FALL SEASON and 2018 SPRING SEASON

PROPOSED as of February 15, 2017

In accordance with MRL Rules the MRL shall conduct 2017 Fall Season League Competitions in the Boys Under 14, and Girls Under 14 age groups for the purpose of determining the placement of teams into their respective three tiers (Premier I Division, Premier II Division and First Division) for the 2018 Spring Season.

Here are the procedures:

**Ranking of Approved Teams:** After Team Applications are approved at the State Association and MRL levels the State DOC's shall rank all approved teams from within their State Association.

**Tiers of Competition:** The teams shall be split into two tiers of competition: **Premier Division Qualification** and **First Division**.

**Premier Division Qualification Allotment by State Association:** Utilizing the participation numbers of teams from State Associations from the previous three years of MRL Premier Division competitions, an allotment of teams from each State Association shall determine the number of teams from each State Association in order to create a 32 team "Premier Division Qualification" competition for each gender age group during the 2017 Fall Season.

### Boys Under 14:

Michigan	5 teams	Ohio South	4 teams	Illinois	4 teams
Ohio North	3 teams	Missouri	3 teams	Indiana	3 teams
Wisconsin	3 teams	Kentucky	2 teams	Kansas	2 teams
Nebraska	1 team	Iowa	1 team	Minnesota	1 team
S. Dakota	0 teams	N. Dakota	0 teams		

### Girls Under 14:

Ohio South	5 teams	Illinois	5 teams	Michigan	5 teams
Missouri	3 teams	Ohio North	3 teams	Nebraska	3 teams
Indiana	2 teams	Minnesota	1 teams	Kentucky	1 teams
Kansas	1 team	Wisconsin	1 team	Tennessee	1 team
Iowa	1 team	S. Dakota	0 teams	N. Dakota	0 teams

**Determining the Premier Division Qualification Teams:** The top ranked teams from each State Association are placed into the "Premier Division Qualification" competition. In the event that a State Association cannot fill its allotment of teams or teams opt out of the competition, then additional teams will be added, one team at a time, as follows:

**Boys**—Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota and return to the top of the list (i.e. Michigan)

**Girls**—Kentucky, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas, Tennessee, Iowa, and return to the top of this list (i.e. Ohio South)

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**Premier Division Qualification Sub-Divisions:** The 32 teams will be split into four sub-divisions of eight teams each emphasizing a split of teams based on geographical location when possible. Single round robin play within each division will occur resulting in a final ranking of teams.

Top four finishers (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>) in each sub-division shall qualify for 2018 Spring Season Premier I Division competition.

Next three finishers (5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>) in each sub-division shall qualify for 2018 Spring Season Premier II Division competition.

The 8<sup>th</sup> place finisher in each sub-division shall be placed in the 2018 Spring Season First Division competition.

**Determining the Sub-Divisions:** Further information as to the mechanics of determining the sub-divisions is included in the “Team Selection, Tier Placement and Divisional Placement Criteria” document for the 2017 Fall Season.

**First Division Teams:** The remaining teams in each gender age group shall be placed in the First Division tier for the Fall Season with teams split into no more than four sub-divisions based primarily on geographic location. Single round robin play within each division will occur resulting in a final ranking of teams.

Top finisher (1<sup>st</sup>) in each sub-division shall qualify for 2018 Spring Season Premier II Division competition.

All other finishers in each sub-division shall be placed in the 2018 Spring Season First Division competition.

The above is based on having 4 sub-divisions in the First Division Tier during the 2017 Fall Season. If additional sub-divisions are structured, then 7<sup>th</sup> place finisher in the Premier Division Qualification tier during the 2017 Fall Season may also be placed in the First Division tier for the 2018 Spring Season.

Any issues not covered within these procedures are subject to ruling by the MRL Commissioner.

*Subject to revision*