

Merit Program Accounting for 2018-2019
Will be updated and posted
In January

Please see the next two pages of this document



Important Information - For All Coaches and Teams

Starting with our June Kickoff Tournament this year and continuing through each event, we are instituting a policy that will enhance the competitive aspect of the events. Teams will have the opportunity to earn a berth in the very popular PGF Shootout, earn preferred placement in the Early Thanksgiving, October Showcase and Summer Showcases; which remain viable recruiting venues. There will also be a means through Surf City events to enhance the chances of receiving a PGF Platinum Berth and in fact earning one of two Platinum Berths that will be set aside in 14U, 16U, 18U

Teams will earn Merits for each event they enter and further Merits based on how far they advance in a tournament, if they are a semi-finalist, or if they win a tournament. Teams that accrue the most Merits will be placed in the most competitive pools at the most desired sites for our most popular Showcase events. As an example... the Early Thanksgiving Showcase Huntington Beach site will have two teams in every pool that are in that pool because of the Merits they earn. The same will hold true for Fountain Valley, and Bill Barber Park.

The teams with the most Merits will be offered a berth to Platinum Nationals in each of the 14U, 16U, 18U Division. Up to four teams in 14U, 16U, 18U may also choose a berth in the PGF Shootout. We will also award equipment to the semi-finalists or tournament winner.

The following Tournaments will all be elimination type events and Merits will be given as stated below.

Winter Tournament
Valentine's Tournament
June Kickoff Tournament
September Classic Tournament
Halloween Tournament
Tournament Merits
3 Merits for participation
1 Merit for winning a pool
1 Merit for each win in the bracket
3 Merits for winning a semi-final
3 Merits for winning a tournament

The following events will remain College Showcase Events.

June Premier Showcase
Summer Showcase
October Showcase
Early Thanksgiving Showcase
Las Vegas Showcase On Deck Elite Recruiting Camp
Showcase Merits
3 Merits for participation
1 merit for every win
3 Merits for winning a pool

Merit Program Information

We instituted our Merit Program to encourage teams to participate in our events and to reward those teams that do play in Surf City tournaments and showcases. In this program teams accrue merits to be used for preferred placement in our biggest, most important showcases and a greater opportunity to be invited to our invitation-only events such as our October Shootout and berths to the Premier Girls' Fastpitch Platinum Division National Tournaments.

We stated at the time we initiated the Merit Program that we would offer two Platinum berths in each age group for 14U, 16U, 18U divisions; one berth in each age group would go to a local team and one to a non-local team. In addition to those advantages we would place teams with more merits in prime locations at our showcases and would consider the number of merits a team had accumulated in addition to its placement in PGF Qualifiers when offering at-large berths to Nationals.

One of the most difficult tasks the PGF Board of Directors and Advisors must undertake each year is deciding which teams are awarded at-large berths to Nationals. Many teams play in two or three or even more qualifiers and have similar won-loss records. This year we used Merits to decide berths in over 35-40 instances over the three age groups. With the addition of another eighty to one hundred teams in 2019, the use of accrued Merits will be an even greater factor.

For 2019 we are going to improve the Merit Program as stated here:

We will offer Platinum Berths to a minimum of 3 teams from each of these three categories in each age group.

Category One: Local teams, that is, teams that do not need to stay in hotels

Category Two: Teams from just outside of the mileage standards we use to ask teams to get hotels and States that border California.

Category Three: Teams from other States that do not border California.

These are bare minimum and it is highly likely many more than three teams will be taken from each category.

The other facets of the Merit Program will remain in place:

Preferred placement in Showcases, greater opportunity to receive invitations to invitation-only tournaments.

The timeframes we will use for Merit program are as follows:

Summer Showcase until June Premier Showcase for Platinum Berth consideration.

Winter Tournament through October Shootout for preferred placement in the Fall Showcases and the June Premier Showcase.