



# 2016-17 ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS

## GENERAL REGULATIONS AND EVENT-SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

**The following rationale and principles apply to USA Rugby Eligibility Regulations:**

1. To provide fair and equitable standards of eligibility throughout the season for all matches leading to and including USA Rugby National Championships.
2. To provide minimum eligibility and registration standards for all matches, which helps ensure safety and liability insurance coverage.
3. To promote appropriate player movement within a club.
4. To facilitate appropriate competition for all ages and ability levels.
5. USA Rugby is responsible for establishing the structure of USA Rugby Championship Events, along with competition and eligibility standards.
6. The National Competitions Committee and each Competitive Region Committee are responsible for determining the clubs that participate according to the structure established, and according to the eligibility and competition standards as determined by USA Rugby.
7. Additional participation opportunity outside of National Championship channels is encouraged.
8. Each member club and all member players of USA Rugby (i.e. player, coach, manager, referee, medical support staff, administrator or official) shall be familiar with, and comply with, all applicable eligibility rules and regulations of USA Rugby as set forth herein in the conduct of its/their rugby program.
9. A member club and its players must monitor its/their own compliance with all eligibility rules and regulations to identify and report to USA Rugby instances in which compliance has failed, whether intentionally or not.
10. In instances of known or suspected non-compliance, a member club shall take immediate corrective action, including notification of the appropriate administrative authorities.
11. Interpretation ambiguities and waiver allowances are solely the responsibilities of the USA Rugby Eligibility Committees and any appeal board sanctioned by USA Rugby, per USA Rugby rules, practices and procedures.
12. No member club or player is permitted to advance its/their own interpretation to its/their advantage nor to the detriment of an opponent. It is the responsibility of a member club or player to seek resolution of an ambiguity where ambiguity arises and would be reasonably recognized as such by another reviewing the situation. That which is reasonably recognized is within the sole purview of the USA Rugby Eligibility Committee and any appeal board sanctioned by USA Rugby.
13. A player or member club found to be lacking eligibility per the criteria established herein or which is found to have violated USA Rugby's rules pertaining to eligibility shall be subject to such disciplinary and corrective actions as provided under USA Rugby rules and all member clubs and players must adhere to the process provided.
14. Spirit of the Rules (World Rugby Charter) - Rugby owes much of its appeal to the fact that it is played both to the letter and within the spirit of the laws. The responsibility for ensuring that this happens lies not with one individual, it involves coaches, captains, players and referees. It is through discipline, control and mutual respect that the spirit of the game



flourishes, and in the context of a game as physically challenging as rugby, these are the qualities which forge the fellowship and sense of fair play so essential to the game's ongoing success and survival.

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### Section 1. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS.

- Adult Rugby** - Rugby other than Elite Rugby and College Rugby played by teams comprising players normally of 18 years of age and older. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes games played at the U20 level and rugby sevens. These teams would be registered with USA Rugby as 'Senior Clubs'.



2. **Appeal** - A formal, written request, made by the affected player or club to USA Rugby, for relief from a specified determination of USA Rugby or one of its subordinate committees or a CR, LAU or GU, in interpreting or applying these Regulations (Section 13.5).
3. **Basis of Competition** - Game between two teams, playing what is considered to be the strongest squad on that day, in an effort to determine the 'best' team.
4. **CIPP** - USA Rugby's Club and Individual Participation Program. All clubs and players must CIPP register before participating in any competition in accordance with the Regulations contained herein.
5. **CIPP Deadline** - Date by which a player MUST be registered to the club and residing in the United States in order to participate in any League/Qualifying Match (see Section 3.4-(a), Section 9.2-(b)).
6. **Club** - A group, having registered under a specific Club Registration number, which may field multiple Teams or Sides, registered to USA Rugby and to all Local Administrative Bodies (GU/Conference) in accordance with the Regulations contained herein.
7. **College Rugby** - Rugby played by players who are enrolled in a college or university. These teams would be registered with USA Rugby as 'Collegiate Clubs'.
8. **College Rugby Competitive Season** - An annual period during which a student attends a college or university beginning with the first day of the fall semester or quarter and ending at the conclusion of the USA Rugby national championship event in the spring.
9. **Collegiate guest player** - A player who began the 15s competitive season with a collegiate club and wishes to play with a senior club at the conclusion of the player's collegiate competitive season (see Section 3.6).
10. **Competition** - Unless otherwise specified (social, friendly), a game between two teams, using squads considered strongest on that day, to determine the 'best' team.
11. **Competitive Region (CR)** - Eight competitive regions of the United States loosely defined along geographical lines, with four regions contained within the western ('American') and four regions set in the eastern ('National') halves of the country.
12. **Competitive Region Committee** - The competitions administrative body, elected to work within each USA Rugby CR, with delegated responsibility to uphold the policies developed by the USA Rugby National Competitions Committee in accordance with the eligibility standards as specified within the Regulations.
13. **Competitive Region (CR) Competition** - Any League/Qualifying/CR match that is competed by two teams from within the same CR and which falls under the jurisdiction of a single CR (See Section 3.4).
14. **Competitive Region Championships** - Any Qualifying intra-CR match, competed after the regular League schedule, between teams in contention for a play-off berth (See Section 3.4).
15. **Competitive Region Play-In Match** - Any Qualifying match competed by teams from two different CRs and which falls under the jurisdiction of the National Competitions Committee and/or USA Rugby. In addition to the USA Rugby play-offs, this may be a Qualifying (Play-In/Repechage) Match scheduled and required by two teams from different CRs by the National Competitions Committee.
16. **Competitive (League/Qualifying/CR) Match** - A match between teams from the same Competitive Region that leads to any post-season/play-off competition leading to an USA Rugby Championship Event. Jurisdiction of this competition lies with the Competitive Region Committee.
17. **Competition Schedule** - Teams advancing to represent the GU/CR in the Competitive Region/'Round of 8' play-offs must be determined on the basis of competition between teams from the same GU/CR (i.e., rather than allocation or other criteria). See section 3.3.
18. **Competitive Season** - The USA Rugby competitive season runs from August 15th through completion of the USA Rugby Club Sevens Championship.
19. **Cross-Competitive Region (CR) Game** - A match between teams of two different Competitive Regions, scheduled by and required by a Competitive Region Committee, the National Competitions Committee, and/or USA Rugby, for a club which otherwise does not qualify directly to the CR 'Round of 8' due to circumstances beyond its control, and which leads to participation in the CR 'Round of 8' of the USA Rugby Championship Event. This is an extension of the USA Rugby Championship Event and falls under the jurisdiction of USA Rugby. Also referred to as a USA Rugby Play-In Game or Repechage Game.
20. **Division** - Competitive level of League/Qualifying/CR match with the 'Higher' division intended for the more experienced, skilled and continuing players and the 'Lower' division intended for developmental, emerging or less experienced players. This definition applies to Divisions I, II and III in which there is a USA Rugby Championship Event.
21. **Elite College Player** - A collegiate player who has received a waiver to participate for an Elite Senior Club during the 15s competitions cycle without impact to his/her collegiate eligibility (see Section 3.6).
22. **Elite Representative Rugby** - Rugby played between representative teams of unions, provinces, states and other sub-unions or associations of unions. Within USA Rugby this includes National Team and all-star/select side competitions.
23. **Elite Senior Club** - A team participating in a competition(s) that has been designated as 'elite' by the USA Rugby National Competitions Committee (see Section 3.6).
24. **Elite Senior Club Competitions** - Competitions that have been identified by the National Competitions Committee and the USA Rugby High Performance group as high-level competitions that uniquely test the talents of those participating (see Section 3.6). **For the purpose of eligibility, USA Rugby has identified Elite Senior Clubs as clubs that participate in Elite Club Competitions. For 2016-17 these competitions include the PRP, the ARP, the Gold Cup, and the WPL.**
25. **Event Weekend** - The time period covering a single USA Rugby Championship Event, i.e. from team check-in through the final whistle in any given category, division or gender, in which the full Roster of up to 28 players is set (see Section 3.2).
26. **Exceptional Players** - Players showing exceptional talent and physical development, who are in the USA Rugby High School All American and/or the Under-20 program and identified by the coaching staff of those national teams.
27. **Fifteens Competitive Season** - Governs Fifteens competitions leading to any USA Rugby Championship Event for men and women. Runs from August 15th through the completion of the current year's USA Rugby 15s National Championship final.
28. **Friendly (Social) Match** - Game between two teams specifically noted as not meeting criteria of a 'competition' per the USA Rugby Terms and Definitions and does not lead to a USA Rugby Championship Event. All players must be CIPP registered with USA Rugby (at large or with any club) in order to participate.
29. **GU** - Geographical Union. Local administrative and organizational governance model for Senior Club rugby.
30. **Higher Division Side** - Intended division for experienced and continuing senior club players seeking and able to compete at the highest level possible with the largest and most competitive clubs. The top rugby players on a club fielding teams in more than one division.



31. **LAU** – Local Area Union.
32. **High School All-Star Rugby** - High school all-star and select side teams, not including community club teams, which must be sanctioned by the State High School and Youth Rugby Organization (SRO), Geographic Union or Local Area Union. Non-Sanctioned teams fall under ‘High School Rugby’.
33. **High School Club** – Teams made up of high school enrolled players from multiple high schools.
34. **High School Rugby** - Rugby played between players enrolled in high school or of high school age. These teams would be registered with USA Rugby as ‘High School Teams/Clubs’. This includes high school single school, multi-school, community club teams and teams made primarily of High School Players.
35. **High School Team** – Teams made up of high school enrolled players from a single high school.
36. **Laws** - Laws of the Game of Rugby Union as published annually by **World Rugby**.
37. **League (Qualifying/CR) Match** - A match between teams from the same Competitive Region that leads to any post-season/play-off competition leading to an USA Rugby Championship Event. Jurisdiction of this competition lies with the Competitive Region Committee.
38. **Lower Division Side** - Intended division for less competitive clubs, or the developmental squad of larger clubs, so as to provide competitive opportunities to less experienced and emerging players, team members returning from injury. Provides avenue for clubs fielding teams in more than one division to develop their own players.
39. **Match** - A game in which two teams compete against each other.
40. **Match Roster** – List of starting players; may or may not also require possible substitutions to be named (see Section 3.2, 3.3).
41. **National Competitions Committee (NCC)** - Sub-Committee of the USA Rugby Club Strategic Committee responsible for establishing a competitive policy defining the pathway for clubs to advance to USA Rugby National Championship Events and which is in accordance with the eligibility standards specified within the Regulations.
42. **Non-Resident Player (NR)** - A player who lacks U.S. citizenship, a Permanent Resident (“Green”) Card (see Section 3.4-(b)).
43. **Participant** - A CIPP registered member, which includes a club, player, coach, manager, referee, medical support staff, administrator and official participating in USA Rugby.
44. **Play** – Play is defined as actually stepping onto the field either as a starter, reserve, or blood substitution for any length of time. A player can be named on the roster for a match and not actually “play” in the match.
45. **Play-In Game** - A match between teams of two different Competitive Regions, scheduled by and required by the Competitive Region Committee, the National Competitions Committee, and/or USA Rugby for a club which otherwise does not qualify directly to the CR ‘Round of 8’ due to circumstances beyond its control, or a cross-CR match required to fill an unfilled berth in any USA Rugby Championship Event. This is an extension of any USA Rugby Championship Event and falls under the jurisdiction of USA Rugby. Also referred to as a USA Rugby Cross-CR Game or Repechage Game.
46. **Qualifying Match** - A match between teams from the same Competitive Region that leads to any post-season/play-off competition leading to any USA Rugby Championship Event. In the Senior Club division this applies to all matches between teams within the same CR leading to the earlier of either the USA Rugby ‘Round of 8’ or any USA Rugby-required Repechage or Cross-CR matches which lead to the USA Rugby ‘Round of 8.’ Event Jurisdiction for this competition lies with the Competitive Region Committee.
47. **Qualifying Tournament (Sevens)** — A competition taking place over the course of at least one day between four or more registered sevens teams. Rosters used to qualify players for the National Championships must be verified and submitted by an event host to USA Rugby.
48. **Regulations** - Eligibility guidelines relating to the Game and binding on all GUs, LAUs, CRs and Conferences.
49. **Release** - A club, and the local governing body, agree to end the registration of a participant with that club. In support of the Transfer/Release Form, each shall provide a statement to USA Rugby confirming this approval and verifying that the participant has no outstanding financial or disciplinary issues with the club and/or local governing body.
50. **Repechage Game** - A match between teams of two different Competitive Regions, scheduled by and required by USA Rugby/the National Competitions Committee. This is an extension of any USA Rugby Championship Event and falls under the jurisdiction of USA Rugby. Also referred to as a USA Rugby Play-In Game or Cross-CR Game.
51. **Roster** – List of players competing in a specified Division for an entire Event Weekend (see also Match Roster and Event Weekend). The full 28 person Roster for the Event Weekend must be confirmed by the date and time announced by USA Rugby.
52. **Senior Club USA Rugby National Championship Event** — Designates those events under the authority and jurisdiction of USA Rugby. Includes: USA Rugby Playoffs starting with any Repechage/Cross-CR/Play-In Games required by a Competitive Region Committee, the National Competitions Committee, and/or USA Rugby, and which leads to the CR ‘Round of 8’, and USA Rugby Round of 8, Semi-Finals and Finals.
53. **Senior Club National Championship Series** - Includes the 15s playoffs for Men’s Division I, Division II, and Division III, as well as the 15s playoffs for the Women’s Premier League, Women’s Division I, Division II.
54. **Sevens Competitive Season** – Governs Sevens competitions leading to the USA Rugby Club Sevens Championships. Runs from June 1st through completion of the USA Rugby Club Sevens Championships.
55. **Sevens Tournament** — A competition taking place over the course of at least one day between four or more registered sevens teams. Rosters used to qualify players for the National Championships must be verified and submitted by an event host to USA Rugby.
56. **Social (Friendly) Match** - Game between two teams specifically noted as not meeting criteria of a ‘competition’ or ‘contest’ per the USA Rugby Terms and Definitions and does not lead to any USA Rugby Championship Event. All players must be CIPP registered with USA Rugby (at large or with any club) in order to participate.
57. **Spirit of the Rules (World Rugby Charter)** - The responsibility for ensuring that rugby is played both to the letter of the rules and within the spirit of the laws lies not with one individual, it involves coaches, captains, players and referees.
58. **Spring Academic Term** – The academic term as defined by the University Registrar as spring – this may be a spring quarter or spring semester.
59. **Team or Side** – A subgroup of a Club that represents varying levels of competition for any given match or set of matches – often designated as Aside, B-side or C-side, or ‘upper’ or ‘lower’ side, or first-side and second-side, with “A-side”, ‘upper’ and ‘first-side’ being the highest competitive level of players on that Club.
60. **Transfer** – Official process of changing club affiliation. Subject to all rules of USA Rugby Eligibility contained herein. Waivers may be needed for transfers during the Competitive Season (see Section 13.5.2).



61. **USA Rugby Championship Event** — Designates those events under the authority and jurisdiction of USA Rugby. Includes: USA Rugby Playoffs starting with any Repechage/Cross-CR/Play-In Games required by a Competitions or Competitive Region Committee, the National Competitions Committee, and/or USA Rugby, and which leads to the College Quarterfinals, the CR 'Round of 8', and USA Rugby Round of 8, Semi-Finals and Finals.
62. **USA Rugby Senior Club National Championship Series** — Includes the 15s playoffs, starting with any Repechage/Cross-CR Play-In games required by the NCC, for Men's Division I, Men's Division II, and Men's Division III, as well as the 15s playoffs for the Women's Premier League, Women's Division I, and Women's Division II.
63. **Waiver** — Relief from the specified requirement(s) of these Regulations, granted in writing by USA Rugby in response to a formal, written request, made by the affected player or club (see Section 13.5.2).
64. **Winter Quarter** — For schools that utilize a quarter system, the winter quarter typically concludes in March or April of any given year.

## Section 2. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS.

### 2.1. General Policy Statement.

The General Eligibility Regulations apply to all matches. Event-Specific Regulations apply to all League/CR/Qualifying Matches. All following general and event-specific regulations must be strictly enforced by the Approved Governing Body for all matches. USA Rugby is responsible for establishing the structure of USA Rugby Championship Events and minimum competition and eligibility standards. The appropriate administrative body (GU/LAU/CR and WPL) is responsible for determining the clubs that participate according to the structure established by USA Rugby (and which may be reviewed from time to time to ensure compliance).

### 2.2. Power to Provide Official Interpretations and/or to Amend Provisions During the Season.

In the event that any USA Rugby Eligibility Committee considers it is in the interests of USA Rugby or an USA Rugby Competition, it may provide Official Interpretations and/or amend Eligibility Regulations during a Season.

- a. If exceptional and extraordinary material circumstances, such as a natural disaster, have occurred during any USA Rugby Competition which either have not been provided for in or cannot be fairly dealt with under USA Rugby Regulations (particularly if national play-off status is likely to be affected), the appropriate Eligibility Committee may provide Official Interpretations or amend Eligibility Regulations for the current Season and/or determine the results of matches that have not been played for reasons related to the above exceptional and material circumstances.
- b. Any regulation or decision made or taken by this Eligibility Committee shall become final and binding unless any person/Club affected has submitted an appeal to USA Rugby within seven (7) days of that person/Club affected being made aware of it and the Appeals Panel rules that the regulation shall not apply. Such appeal must be made:
  - i) within seven (7) days of the person and/or Club receiving notification of the decision of the USA Rugby Eligibility Committee,
  - and ii) no less than five (5) business days prior to the event for which eligibility is being requested.
- c. Challenges to any Eligibility Decision will not be heard on day of the game/event for which eligibility is being requested or within five (5) business days of such game or event.

### 2.3. Compliance with Eligibility.

Each GU/LAU/CR/Conference or Association (Approved Governing Body) is deemed to have full knowledge of the content of these Regulations.

Each Approved Governing Body must ensure that it complies with these Regulations and must further ensure that it takes appropriate action to inform each and every one of its members of the terms of the Regulations and the obligation to comply with the same.

Each Approved Governing Body must ensure that it complies with the Spirit of the Rules and takes appropriate action to ensure that each and every one of its members understands the obligation to comply with the same.

All updated information on current year deadlines and eligibility requirements will be maintained at [www.usarugby.org](http://www.usarugby.org).

### 2.4. Club Eligibility.

All Clubs must be in good standing with their Approved Governing Body and USA Rugby. The following measures are required for a club to be in good standing with USA Rugby, and therefore, eligible to participation in sanctioned competition:

- a. Club must be registered in the current year's CIPP, with all dues fully paid.
- b. Club must have a registered coach certified by USA Rugby.
- c. Club must have a Roster minimum of **nine (9) players for sevens competitions** and **fifteen (15) players for fifteens competitions**.
- d. Club must adhere to the regulations and procedures for the particular USA Rugby Championship:
  - (i) The teams selected to represent the GU/LAU/CR Competition in the Competitive Region/'Round of 8' play-offs must be determined on the basis of competition (i.e., rather than on basis of allocation).
  - (ii) Each club must fulfill their USA Rugby/CR stated divisional minimum number of contests (or predetermined goal) competed unless a waiver has been granted by USA Rugby.
  - (iii) For purposes of this rule a competition is defined as a game considered to be between the strongest squads of two teams on that day to determine the 'best' team.
- e. Clubs entering the United States from other international Unions must receive official clearance through home Union and USA Rugby in accordance with World Rugby Regulations.

### 2.5. Player Eligibility.

All players must be in good standing with their GU/CR/Conference and USA Rugby. To be in good standing the following minimum rules apply:

- a. Player must be registered in the current year's Club and Individual Participation Program (CIPP), with all dues fully paid, prior to participating in any match.
- b. Player must be registered for the club to play in a League/Qualifying Match with that club.
- c. Player must be registered either as an At-Large member or for a club within the GU/Competitive Region for an NASC event.



- d. USA rugby shall follow the International Olympic Committee and US Olympic Committee policies regarding transgendered athletes.
- e. Player entering the US from any other international union must receive official clearance through his/her home union and USA Rugby in accordance with World Rugby Regulations.
- f. Player must also adhere to the event-specific regulations and procedures for each particular USA Rugby Championship Event.

## **2.6. USA Rugby Policy for Under 18s and Under 19s Playing Adult Rugby.**

Within this policy, the following phrases are defined as:

- **Adult Rugby:** Rugby played by non-collegiate teams comprising players normally of 18 years of age and older. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes games played at the U20 level and rugby sevens. These teams would be registered with USA Rugby as 'Senior Clubs'.
- **Exceptional Players:** Players showing exceptional talent and physical development, who are in USA Rugby's High School All American and Under-20 program and identified by the coaching staff of those national teams.
- **High School Rugby:** Rugby played between players enrolled in high school or of high school age. These teams would be registered with USA Rugby as 'High School Teams/Clubs'. This includes high school single school, multi-school, community club teams and teams made primarily of High School Players.
- **High School All-Star Rugby:** High school all-star and select side teams, not including community club teams. These teams must be sanctioned by the State High School and Youth Rugby Organization (SBO), Geographic Union or Local Area Union. Non-Sanctioned teams fall under 'High School Rugby'.
- **High School Player:** Players enrolled in high school, of any age, including 18 and 19 year olds.
- **Under-18:** Being under 18 years of age, a minor.
- **Under-19:** Being under 19 years of age.

### **Introduction.**

Under-18 players should not normally play Adult Rugby. Under-18 players may not play Adult Rugby during the competitive segment if or when there is an age-appropriate or scholastic program available.

USA Rugby has jurisdiction over the Adult Rugby division and has developed the applicable policies regarding safety, player welfare and local conditions and circumstances by which Under-18 players may be permitted to play Community Adult Rugby.

Players younger than 18, or 19 in the case of participating in the front row, are only permitted to participate in Adult Rugby if each condition listed below has been satisfied. Upon confirmation, USA Rugby shall provide a written waiver documenting that the Under-18 player is eligible to participate in Adult Rugby. This waiver must be maintained by the club and produced if called into question by any rugby official.

**For positions other than front row (but including all positions in rugby sevens) an Under-18 player may not play in any Adult Rugby match unless the following are obtained:**

- a. written agreement from the Under-18 player to play Adult Rugby and acceptance of any associated risk with playing with Adults who may be stronger and more physically developed than the player;
- b. written parental or legal guardian's consent;
- c. Copy of Under-18 player's birth certificate;
- d. Copy of USA Rugby Medical History form, completed and signed by a medical expert/physician; and
- e. written confirmation from the club coach with an appropriate understanding of the physical attributes required of and the risks to players in Adult Rugby and to whom the player is known to have the requisite skills and experience to play Adult Rugby.

**For Front Row Players (except for players that may play in the front row in rugby sevens), an Under-19 player should not play in any Adult Rugby match in the front row unless the following are obtained:**

- a. written agreement from the Under-19 player to play Adult Rugby in the front row and acceptance of any associated risk with playing with Adults who may be stronger and more physically developed than the player;
- b. written parental or legal guardian's consent;
- c. If Under-18, a copy of player's birth certificate;
- d. Copy of USA Rugby Medical History form, or qualified medical assessment, completed and signed by a medical expert/physician; and
- e. written confirmation from the senior club coach with an appropriate understanding of the physical attributes required of and the risks to players in the front row in Adult Rugby and to whom the player is known to have the requisite skills and experience to play Adult Rugby.

**Required records the club must secure before an Under-18 player, or Under-19 front row player, is eligible to play Adult**

**Rugby:** a. all required consents, confirmations and forms listed as mandatory to fulfill terms of this policy; and

- b. all original (except birth certificate which should be a legible copy) signed documents specified above to USA Rugby for review to confirm that the necessary criteria have been met; and
- c. a written waiver from USA Rugby (must be able to produce upon request) for each Under-18 player and/or Under-19 Front Row player verifying that player's eligibility to participate with the Adult Rugby club.

## **2.7. USA Rugby Policy for Under 18s and Under 19s Playing College Rugby.**

This policy relates to players who are Under-18 who wish to play in, or be involved in training for, all college matches. Within this policy the following phrases have the following meaning:

**College Rugby:** Rugby played by players who are enrolled in a college or university, on teams registered with USA Rugby as 'Collegiate Clubs'.

**Under 18:** Being under 18 years of age.

**Under 19:** Being under 19 years of age.

**Positions other than front row (but including all positions in rugby sevens).**



An Under-18 player should not play in any college rugby match unless the following are obtained:

- a. Written agreement from the Under-18 player to play college rugby and acceptance of any associated risk with playing with older players who may be stronger and more physically developed, and
- b. Written parental or legal guardian consent; and
- c. Written confirmation from a coach, with an appropriate understanding of the physical attributes required of and the risks to players in college rugby and to whom the player is known, that the player has the requisite skills and experience to play college rugby; and
- d. Such other consents agreements or confirmations as may be required by the player's conference or to comply with the local jurisdiction.

#### **Front Row Players.**

Because of the particular nature of the front row from other positions different criteria apply before an Under 19 player may play in the front row in college rugby. This specific requirement does not apply to players that may play in the front row in rugby sevens. An Under 19 player should not play in any college rugby match in the front row unless the following are obtained:

- a. Written agreement from the player in writing to play college rugby in the front row and acceptance of any associated risk of playing with Adults who may be stronger and more physically developed than the player, and
- b. If the player is Under 18, written parental or guardian's consent;
- c. Written confirmation from a coach with an appropriate understanding of the physical attributes required of and the risks to players in the front row in college rugby and to whom the player is known that the player has the requisite skills and experience to play college rugby in the front row, and
- d. Such other consents or confirmations (if any) as may be required by the player's GU or Conference or to comply with the local jurisdiction.

#### **Records.**

The club for whom the player wishes to play must:

- a. Keep a full and permanent record of the process undertaken and the consents, confirmations and agreements sought and obtained in relation to each Under 18 player or Under 19 Front Row player who plays in any in college rugby match; and
- b. If reasonably required by the player's conference or GU, or by USA Rugby, provide certification or evidence of the process that has been undertaken and the consents, agreements and confirmations obtained in accordance with the above.

### **2.8. USA Rugby Policy for Under 15s Playing High School and U19 Rugby.**

Under 15 players should not normally play High School or U19 Rugby. This Guideline relates to players who are Under 15 who wish to play in or be involved in training for, High School or U19 Rugby. Within this policy the following phrases have the following meaning:

**High School and U19 Rugby:** Rugby other than Elite Representative Rugby played under the U19 Variations to the Laws of the Game by teams that normally include players of 17 years of age or older.

**Qualifying Match.** Any match that leads to a National Club Championship.

**Under 15:** Being under 15 years of age.

#### **Front Row Players.**

- a. Because of the particular nature of the front row from other positions Under 15 players should not play in the front row in a Qualifying Match in High School or U19 Rugby. This specific requirement does not apply to players that may play in the front row in rugby sevens.
- b. For Under 15 players that wish to play in the front row of other than a Qualifying Match see Section d) below.

#### **Positions other than a Qualifying Match front row (but including all positions in rugby sevens).**

An Under 15 player should not play in any High School or U19 Rugby match unless the following are obtained:

- a. Written agreement from the Under 15 player to play High School or U19 Rugby and acceptance of any associated risk with playing with older players who may be stronger and more physically developed than the player; and
- b. Written parental or legal guardian's consent; and
- c. Written confirmation from a coach with an appropriate understanding of the physical attributes required of and the risks to players in High School or U19 Rugby and to whom the player is known that the player has the requisite skills and experience to play High School or U19 Rugby; and
- d. Such other consents agreements or confirmations (if any) as may be required by the player's GU/LAU or to comply with the local jurisdiction.

#### **Records.**

The Club for whom the player wishes to play must:

- a. keep a full and permanent record of the process undertaken and the consents, confirmations and agreements sought and obtained in relation to each Under 15 player who plays in a High School or U19 match; and
- b. if reasonably required by the player's GU/CR/local administration or by USA Rugby, provide certification or evidence of the process that has been undertaken and the consents, agreements and confirmations obtained as noted in paragraph 3 above.

## **SECTION 3. SENIOR CLUB.**

### **3.1. Competition Sanctioning.**

- a. All matches leading to the USA Rugby Senior Club National Championship Series must be a part of a sanctioned USA Rugby competition or sanctioned playoff pathway.
- b. Non-sanctioned matches and competitions may be recognized by USA Rugby for the purpose of determining eligibility inside of sanctioned competitions.





- c. All sanctioned matches shall be governed by the World Rugby Laws of the Game. Any and all “Union Specific Variations” are applicable to national unions only, with USA Rugby the sole decider in determining whether such variations are open to use for League/Qualifying/CR matches.
- d. Clubs participating in sanctioned competitions must adhere to all Club-specific regulations as outlined in Section 3 of the USA Rugby Eligibility Regulations.

### 3.2. Senior Club National Championship Series.

The USA Rugby Senior Club National Championship Series includes the 15s playoffs for Men’s Division I, Men’s Division II, and Men’s Division III, as well as the 15s playoffs for the Women’s Premier League, Women’s Division I, and Women’s Division II.

- a. Clubs must participate in a sanctioned USA Rugby Competition in order to qualify for the USA Rugby Senior Club National Championship Series.
- b. **Any waiver of a competitions-related policy or determination must be formally granted by the National Competitions Committee, prior to the start of the club’s League/Qualifying/CR schedule, and include the support of the home CR.**
- c. The USA Rugby Senior Club National Championship Series includes the Men’s DI/DII/DIII and Women’s DI/DII playoffs, starting with the National Quarterfinals (Round of 8) and/or any NCC-required Cross-CR Play-In matches (**matches between clubs in different Competitive Regions**).
- d. The USA Rugby Senior Club National Championship Series also includes the Women’s Premier League Semi-Finals and Final.
- e. Matches in the USA Rugby Senior Club National Championship Series will adhere to the same Match Roster requirements as outlined in Section 3 of the USA Rugby Eligibility Regulations, except that:
  - i. No player participating as an Elite College Guest Player may participate in the USA Rugby Senior Club National Championship Series; and
  - ii. No player participating as an Elite Club Guest Player may participate in the USA Rugby Senior Club National Championship Series.
- f. Clubs participating in the USA Rugby Senior Club National Championship Series may carry a maximum Roster of 28 players per Event Weekend. For purposes of this rule:
  - i. *Event Weekend is defined as the time period covering a single USA Rugby Championship Event, i.e. from team check-in through the final whistle in any given category, division, or sex.*
  - ii. *The Full Roster is locked for the duration of the Event Weekend.*
- g. Clubs participating in the USA Rugby Senior Club National Championship Series must carry a minimum Roster of 20 players per Event Weekend.
- h. The Event Weekend Roster may include a maximum of ten (10) Non-Resident Players and a maximum of six (6) Collegiate Guest Players.
- i. Match Rosters for USA Rugby Senior Club National Championship Series events may list a maximum of 23 players.
  - ▶ No Match Roster may contain more than five (5) Non-Resident Players.
  - ▶ No Match Roster may contain more than three (3) Collegiate Guest Players.
- j. Clubs fielding multiple sides are subject to the additional regulations at USA Rugby Senior Club National Championship Series events listed in Section 3.5 of the USA Rugby Eligibility Regulations.

### 3.3. Club Eligibility.

- a. To qualify for the USA Rugby Senior Club National Championship Series, each team selected to represent the Competitive Region must have:
  - i. Participated in a sanctioned USA Rugby competition;
  - ii. Qualified on the basis of competition (as opposed to on the basis of allocation);
  - iii. Played the required minimum number of matches, as determined by division (this number is determined by the USA Rugby National Competitions Committee (NCC)); and
  - iv. Used the USA Rugby Competition Management System (CMS), [usarugbystats.com](http://usarugbystats.com), for all League/Qualifying/CR matches.
- b. Match Rosters for League/Qualifying/CR matches may list a maximum of 23 players.
  - ▶ No Match Roster may contain more than five (5) Non-Resident Players.
  - ▶ No Match Roster may contain more than three (3) Collegiate Guest Players.
  - ▶ No Match Roster in a match under the Pilot Club Guest Player Program (see Section 3.6) may contain more than a combined total of five (5) total Non-Resident Players and Elite Club Guest Players.
- c. Clubs must be registered with USA Rugby prior to either their first League/Qualifying/CR match or April 1, whichever date occurs first.
- d. Clubs fielding multiple sides are subject to the additional regulations listed in Section 3.5 of the USA Rugby Eligibility Regulations.
- e. Clubs are required to maintain proper player documentation, as outlined in Sections 13.3 and 13.4 of the USA Rugby Eligibility Regulations.

### 3.4. Player Eligibility.

The purpose of these regulations is to prevent players from club hopping and to preclude clubs from importing guest players in an effort to strengthen teams advancing to post-season and/or play-off competitions leading to a USA Rugby Championship Event.

A player requesting a waiver (see Section 13.5.2) must receive formal written approval from USA Rugby prior to participating in any League/Qualifying/CR Match. Submitting a waiver request to USA Rugby does not provide temporary eligibility. The official determination must be received before the player may play for his/her Club.

Players must meet each of the following criteria in order to participate in any League/Qualifying/CR Match:

- a. Player must be registered for the club and residing in the United States, either upon initial enrollment or written approval from USA Rugby of an official waiver request seeking an in-season transfer (accompanied by the required release: see 13.5.2-b) from both the previous senior/college club and the previous CR/GU/Conference), by the earlier of:



- i. any participation in a League/Qualifying/CR Match, OR
- ii. no later than 11:59 pm Mountain Standard Time Zone on:
  - April 1 for Men's and Women's Division I, II, and III competitions;
  - April 1 for any sanctioned USA Rugby competition that serves as a Men's Division I/II/III or Women's Division I/II competition on a promotion/relegation basis; or
  - October 15 for Women's Premier League (WPL) championship competitions.
- b. Non-Resident (NR) players must have entered and reside in the United States prior to:
  - April 1 for Men's and Women's Division I, II, and III competitions;
  - April 1 for any sanctioned USA Rugby competition that serves as a Men's Division I/II/III or Women's Division I/II competition on a promotion/relegation basis; or
  - October 15 for Women's Premier League (WPL) championship competitions.

\*NOTE: *Passport or other Proof of Entry into the United States is required to document that this criteria has been met.*

- c. National Team players must be CIPP Registered with a senior club prior to any participation in a League/Qualifying/CR Match and prior to the Registration deadline specified in USAR 3.4-(a). The National Team player has eligibility only with the senior club with whom s/he is registered during the competitive cycle unless criteria specified with USAR 13.5.2 for an in-season transfer have been met. National Team players must meet criteria outlined in **3.4-(d)** for eligibility in any USA Rugby Championship contest.
- d. Player must have played in at least three (3), or in at least 25%, whichever number is lower, of the Club's total League/Qualifying/CR Matches prior to the USA Rugby Senior Club National Championship Series:

<i>9 or fewer League/Qualifying Matches Played:</i>	<i>Must play in at least two (2) matches.</i>
<i>10 or more League/Qualifying Matches Played:</i>	<i>Must play in at least three (3) matches.</i>
<i>Players on Clubs fielding teams in multiple divisions:</i>	<i>Must play in at least three (3) matches.</i>

\*NOTE: *The USA Rugby Competition Management System (CMS), located at [usarugbystats.com](http://usarugbystats.com), is required for all sanctioned competitions and the USA Rugby Senior Club National Championship Series. The CMS is responsible for demonstrating the number of matches each player has played.*

For the purpose of eligibility, **Play** is defined as actually stepping onto the field either as a starter, reserve, or blood substitution for any length of time. All records of playing in a match must be submitted into the USA Rugby CMS.

- e. **For intra-CR play-off matches, each** player must be capable of meeting the required match minimum **by** the start of the USA Rugby National Championship Series.
- f. **For intra-CR play-off matches, each Player is restricted to the division(s) in which s/he will be eligible to compete in the USA Rugby National Championship Series.**
- g. Player must not have played in a League/Qualifying/CR/Recognized match for any other Club, regardless of the division of, or the geographical distance between the two clubs, during the Fifteens Competitive Season. Any waiver to this must be accompanied by a written Waiver from USA Rugby, or confirmation that the player has met criteria as a Collegiate Guest Player. See section 3.8 for Senior Club Player Waivers and Collegiate Guest Players.
- h. No player under the age of 18 may participate at the Senior Club level without a Waiver from USA Rugby. See Section 2.6 of the USA Rugby Eligibility Regulations for Under-18 participation requirements.
- i. No player Under the age of 19 may participate in the Front Row at the Senior Club level without a Waiver from USA Rugby. See Section 2.6 of the USA Rugby Eligibility Regulations for Under-19 Front Row participation requirements.
- j. Player entering the United States from any other international union must receive official clearance through his/her home Union and USA Rugby in accordance with World Rugby Regulations. The clearance must be obtained prior to the CIPP Registration Deadline listed in Section 3.4-(a).
- k. No Competitive Region and/or GU is permitted to create additional or tighter eligibility restrictions than the national guidelines unless specifically approved by the National Competitions and Club Eligibility Committees. CR/GU-specific regulations approved by USA Rugby must be published on the USA Rugby website as an addendum to the USA Rugby Eligibility Regulations to be considered in effect.
- l. Players on clubs fielding multiple sides are subject to the additional regulations outlined within Section 3.5.

#### **3.4.1. USA Rugby 36-Month Non-Resident Player Waiver.**

This Section reflects a one-year pilot policy for local/intra-CR Club and/or Elite Senior Club (see Section 3.6) Competitions during the 2016-2017 Fifteens Competitive Season only.

Each CR and Elite Senior Club Competition may, in its sole discretion, decide whether or not it will adopt the policy set forth in this Section prior to the first Qualifying Match of its Competition for the 2016-2017 Fifteens Competitive Season.

In CRs and Elite Senior Club Competitions which formally adopt this policy prior to the first Qualifying Match of its Competition for the 2016-2017 Fifteens Competitive Season, a Non-Resident Player may apply to USA Rugby for a Waiver of the provisions of Section 3.3.b in accordance with the provisions of this Section, by providing originals or notarized copies of the following documentation in support of his/her application:

- Original Passport and I-94 Arrival/Departure Form confirming residency in the United States for a period of at least 36 consecutive months immediately prior to the date of application for the Waiver, with at least ten (10) months of actual, physical presence within the United States throughout any qualifying year of the Residency period ;
- Proof of employment, or of seeking employment, in the United States during such 36 month period, including the name and address of the NonResident Player's employer(s) and copies of any contracts of employment;



- Proof of home ownership and/or lease or rental agreement(s) covering residence(s) in the United States during such 36 month period and copies of correspondence addressed to the Non-Resident Player at the address(es) reflected in such documents and utility bills in the Non-Resident Player's name at such address(es); and
- Proof of a bank account opened in the name of the Non-Resident Player within the United States with account activity during the 36 month period.”

**NOTE: Documentation (i.e. letters of application) which references the pursuit of permanent or conditional resident status in order to facilitate the Non-Resident Player's participation in Competition is NOT sufficient.**

There is no avenue to appeal to apply this Non-Resident Exemption by a player or club in any CR which does not agree to trial the policy in its League/Qualifying/CR competitions.

The Non-Resident Player must submit his/her Waiver application with required documentation, to:

USA RUGBY  
Attn: Eligibility  
2655 Crescent Drive Suite A, Lafayette, CO 80026 eligibility@usarugby.org /  
303.539.0300 National Office / 303.539.0311 fax

USA Rugby will review the Waiver application and supporting documentation and determine whether the applicant Non-Resident Player meets the requirements of this Section and so advise the applicant Non-Resident Player in writing.

Such Waiver will permit the Non-Resident Player to compete in local/intra-CR Club and/or Elite Senior Club Competitions, as applicable, during the 2016-2017 Fifteens Competitive Season without counting against the Non-Resident Player Roster limits set forth in Section 3.3.b. Such Waiver does not permit the Non-Resident Player to compete in USA Rugby National Championship Events during the 2016-2017 Fifteens Competitive Season without counting against the Non-Resident Player Roster limits set forth in Section 3.3.b. If the requested Waiver is granted, the Non-Resident Player shall ensure that the Waiver is made available to Competition match officials for use in the event of a Roster challenge.

### **3.5. Senior Clubs Fielding Multiple Sides.**

The intent of these regulations is to control the movement of players on upper division sides to lower division sides. For purposes of this rule, the definitions and intent of these sides are:

**Lower Division:** *intended division for less competitive clubs or the developmental squad(s) of larger clubs providing opportunities to less experienced and emerging players, as well as team members returning from injury. This division provides an avenue for clubs fielding teams in more than one division to develop their own players. A lower division side is literally in a lower division of play than an Upper Division side.*

**Upper Division:** *intended division for experienced and continuing senior club players seeking and able to compete at the highest level possible with the largest and most competitive clubs. The top rugby players on a club fielding teams in more than one division.*

**Appeal for Club Divisional Status:** A club may Appeal its assigned divisional status by petitioning the home Competitive Region within seventy-two hours or three business days following receipt of the CR League/Qualifying schedule.

Should the club seek to challenge the determination of its home Competitive Region, a formal Appeal may be presented to the USA Rugby National Competitions Committee. This Appeal must be submitted within fourteen days of receipt of the local determination, or no later than seven days prior to the first regular-season League/Qualifying Match for the team in question, whichever is earlier.

- a. Teams competing towards any USA Rugby Championship Event from the same club must compete in contiguous divisions. For purposes of this rule, a club that participates in the WPL and/or which chooses to participate in a recognized, non-USA Rugby Championship competition shall have its top side considered to be at the level of Division I for the purposes of determining where a second team fielded by that club may compete.

#### **Movement of players from lower divisions to upper divisions is allowed except where specifically prohibited below:**

- b. The movement of Lower Division players to Upper Division sides in League/Qualifying/CR Matches played on the same day and/or weekend during the regular League/Qualifying/CR season, is allowed only when the Lower Division match is played before the Upper Division match (**this allowance does not apply to USA Rugby Championship Events**):
  - i. Up to three (3) players may be listed as a RESERVE PLAYER for the Upper-Division League/Qualifying/CR Match that play in the Lower Division League/Qualifying/CR Match.
  - ii. Up to four (4) players may be listed as a RESERVE PLAYER for the Upper Division League/Qualifying/CR Match that play in the Lower Division League/Qualifying/CR Match if at least one of those players is a front row specialist.
  - iii. The movement of players included on the 28-person Roster of a Lower or Upper-Division side to the 28-player Roster of a different division side fielded by the same club is not allowed during an USA Rugby Championship Event Weekend. For purposes of this rule, each full Roster is locked for the duration of the Event Weekend.
- c. Any player that has played in at least 50% of the total number of League/Qualifying/CR/Recognized matches to be played in the current competitive season by a club's Upper Division side is not eligible to play for that club's Lower Division.

*Example: If the Upper Division side has 12 matches scheduled, participation in 6 Upper Division matches would preclude a return to that club's Lower Division side's League/Qualifying/CR matches.*

- d. Any player who has met the following match participation criteria in WPL Competitions is not eligible to play in any USA Rugby National Championship Series event in a Lower Division:
  - ▶ played in at least four (4) WPL matches, and/or
  - ▶ started in at least three (3) WPL matches, and/or



- ▶ played in the WPL Semifinals or Final during the current competitive season.
- e. Using the total number of League/Qualifying/CR/Recognized matches played by a player, if 50% or more were with the Upper Division side, that player is not eligible to participate with the Lower Division side in the USA Rugby Senior Club National Championship Series.

*Example: If a player plays in 5 Upper Division side matches and 4 Lower Division side matches, that player is not eligible for the Lower Division side's National Championship Series matches.*

- f. To be eligible to compete in a USA Rugby Senior Club National Championship Series event in the Lower Division, a player must have played in a minimum of three (3) League/Qualifying/CR matches at the divisional (or lower) level entered into the USA Rugby NCS.

*Example: To compete in the Division II National Championship Series, a player must have participated in at least three Div. II matches.*

- g. To be eligible to compete in a USA Rugby Senior Club National Championship Series event in the Upper Division, a player must have played in a minimum of three (3) League/Qualifying/CR matches at any division level with his/her club.

*Example: A player may be eligible for the Division I National Championship Series having only competed in three Division II matches.*

- h. A continuing and/or returning player registering for a senior club fielding multiple sides prior to the registration deadline (Section 3.4(a)) but after the conclusion of the League/CR/Qualifying/Recognized schedule, or a player unable to meet the minimum match criteria, may be declared eligible only for the Upper Division side on that club for the remainder of the competitive season.
- i. No club may have more than one side in each divisional level.

### **3.6. Elite Club Competition Waivers.**

Elite Club Competitions are competitions that have been identified by the National Competitions Committee and the USA Rugby High Performance group as high-level competitions that uniquely test the talents of the participants. **For the purpose of eligibility, USA Rugby has identified Elite Senior Clubs as clubs that participate in Elite Club Competitions. For 2016-17 these competitions include the PRP, the ARP, the Gold Cup, and the WPL.**

#### **A. Elite College Guest Player Waiver.**

- i. Non-graduating college players, or those with remaining collegiate eligibility, may receive a temporary, match-specific, transfer to an Elite Senior Club—upon approval by the USA Rugby High Performance Elite Player Review Committee. Elite College Guest Player transfers must be accompanied by a written release from the College Head Coach, which clearly states the specific matches and dates for which the temporary transfer is requested.
- ii. Elite College Guest Players are not eligible to participate in matches between Elite Senior Clubs and Senior Clubs not designated as Elite Senior Clubs.
- iii. Elite College Guest Players are not eligible for participation in the USA Rugby Senior Club National Championship Series with the Elite Club to which the player has received temporary eligibility under the provisions of Section 3.6.
- iv. No player that has played in at least four (4), or has started in at least three (3), WPL matches as an Elite College Guest Player, or who plays in the WPL semifinal or final match, may return to her college club with eligibility for the remainder of the 15s competitive season.

*\*NOTE: The USA Rugby Competition Management System (CMS), located at [usarugbystats.com](http://usarugbystats.com), is required for all sanctioned competitions and the USA Rugby Senior Club National Championship Series.*

#### **B. Elite Senior Club Guest Player Waiver (Pilot).**

Elite Club Competitions may opt into the Pilot Club Guest Player Program, with written submission to USA Rugby acknowledging the restraints of the pilot program. The Pilot Club Guest Player Program allows players registered to **senior** clubs not recognized as Elite Senior Clubs, to participate with Elite Senior Clubs in Elite Club Competitions. The program is a pilot/provisional trial.

Players may participate as Elite Club Guest Players under the Pilot Club Guest Player Program **AFTER** the following conditions have been **verified by USA Rugby (request form from [eligibility@usarugby.org](mailto:eligibility@usarugby.org))**:

- i. The player has received a written release from their Club President (or highest officer) approving the guest transfer, and which clearly states the specific matches and dates for which the temporary transfer is granted. And,
- ii. The player has received a written confirmation of no outstanding disciplinary or financial issues from his/her Union, Conference or CR.  
And, iii. The player initiated his/her guest transfer prior to the player transfer/registration deadline (See: Section 3.4-a and Section 3.7). And, iv. The player was not registered to an Elite Senior Club in the previous 15s competitive season.

Clubs participating in competitions opting into the Pilot Club Guest Player Program may not use more than a combined total of five (5) Non-Resident players and Elite Club Guest players on their Match Roster.

Elite Senior Club Guest players are not eligible to participate in matches between Elite Senior Clubs and senior clubs not designated as Elite Senior Clubs.

Elite Senior Club Guest players are not eligible for participation in the USA Rugby Senior Club National Championship Series with the Elite Club to which the player has received temporary eligibility under the provisions of Section 3.6.

Any player that has played in at least 50% of the total number of league matches in a recognized Elite Senior Club competition may not return to his/ her club with eligibility to play in League/Qualifying/CR/Recognized matches for the remainder of the 15s competitive season.

**Elite Senior Clubs are required to use the USA Rugby Competition Management System for all Elite Club Competitions.**



\* NOTE: The USA Rugby Competition Management System (CMS),

located at [usarugbystats.com](http://usarugbystats.com), is required for all sanctioned competitions.

No player that plays in at least four (4), or starts in at least three (3), WPL matches as an Elite Senior Club Player, or who plays in the WPL semifinal or final match, may return to her home club with eligibility for the remainder of the 15s competitive season.

### 3.7. Transfers To and From Senior Clubs.

Once a player has 'played' in any League/CR/Qualifying match for a college or senior club, a transfer must be approved by USA Rugby for the player to have eligibility with a different senior club during the same competitive season.

All transfers, including Elite College Player, Collegiate Guest player, and Elite Club Guest player requests, must be initiated with USA Rugby prior to the player registration deadline (see Section 3.4-(a)).

Requests USA Rugby can confirm were submitted prior to the deadline, even if not completed, will be considered initiated by the deadline. Each transfer that requires approval from USA Rugby (see Section 13.5.2), must be formally requested and include:

- a personal statement from the player, and
- approval from the previous club, and
- verification of no outstanding financial or disciplinary issues with the previous local governing body, and ▸ documentation supporting reason cited for an in-season transfer of clubs.

All players must appear on the USA Rugby CIPP roster confirming registration to the club, or have an official document from USA Rugby verifying an approved waiver has been granted, before being declared eligible for competition.

### 3.8. Collegiate Guest Players.

Non-graduating college players, or those with remaining collegiate eligibility, may join Senior Clubs upon the conclusion of their intercollegiate schedule and be eligible as Collegiate Guest players for League/Qualifying/CR matches with an approved transfer.

College players that wish to participate as Collegiate Guest players must meet each of the following criteria:

- a. The player's collegiate 15s competitive season must have concluded.
- b. The player has received a written release from their College Head Coach approving the transfer.
- c. The player has received a written confirmation of no outstanding disciplinary or financial issues from his/her college Conference/Union.
- d. The player initiated his/her transfer prior to the player transfer/registration deadline (See: Section 3.4-(a)).
- e. The player must accept that participation in a Senior Club League/Qualifying/CR match means he/she will have no further collegiate 15s eligibility for the remainder of the competitive cycle.

Note: No player registration transfer is required to train with a senior club, or to compete in friendly games or non-qualifying tournaments.

Players that wish to participate with an Elite Senior Club **for a specific match or matches during their college 15s competitive season** may petition to do so under Section 3.6 of the USA Rugby Eligibility Regulations.

### 3.9. Senior Club Player Waivers.

Players that do not meet the criteria for participation with their club under Section 3.4 may seek a waiver from USA Rugby (see Section 13.5.2). No player is guaranteed a right to a waiver, and must be diligent in documenting their case for receiving one.

- a. Players may seek a waiver per the guidelines outlined in Section 13.5 (Waivers). Senior Club Waivers include College to Senior Club In-Season Transfers, Elite Club Guest Player Requests, Elite College Player Requests, Geographic Relocation for Non-Rugby Reasons, and/or Legitimate Medical Hardship.
- b. Each request for a waiver of an Eligibility Regulation must:
  - *be in writing and supported by required documentation; and*
  - *include a personal statement from the player; and*
  - *address reason the waiver is requesting, including any unusual and/or extraordinary personal circumstances; and*
  - *be received by the USA Rugby National Office at least ten (10) business days prior to any match for which the player is requesting a waiver.*
- c. A waiver of the Eligibility Regulation(s) is not guaranteed upon submission of a request. This shall be specified within the waiver documentation returned by USA Rugby.
- d. A continuing and/or returning player registering with a senior club fielding multiple sides prior to the Registration Deadline, but after the conclusion of the League/CR/Qualifying schedule and/or unable to meet the minimum match criteria specified in Section 3.5-b without a waiver, may be declared eligible only for the upper division of that club for the remainder of the competitive season.
- e. No more than five (5) players joining any one club, for any reason, who otherwise meet all criteria specified may receive a waiver of the USA Rugby minimum participation standards.

## Section 4. COLLEGIATE CLUB.

### 4.1 Definitions.

- Academic Year: An annual period during which a student attends a college or university beginning with the first day of the fall semester or quarter and ending at the conclusion of the USA Rugby national championship event.
- Academic Term: An academic session that is a division of the Academic Year. This includes a Quarter (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer) and/or a Semester (Fall, Spring, Summer).
- College Rugby: Rugby played by players who are enrolled in a college or university. These teams would be registered with USA Rugby as 'Collegiate Clubs'.
- Qualifying Match: Any match in which the result is used to determine official competition standings and/or to determine qualification for the national championship tournament.



- Under 18: Being under 18 years of age. • Under 19: Being under 19 years of age.

#### 4.2 Collegiate Team Eligibility.

Each team must be recognized by their Institution and in good standing with USA Rugby. For purposes of this rule, for a college team to be in good standing with USA Rugby, and therefore, eligible to participation in sanctioned competition:

- Team must be registered in the current year's CIPP, with all dues fully paid; and
- Team must have a registered coach certified by USA Rugby; and
- Team must have a Roster minimum of NINE (9) players for sevens competitions and FIFTEEN (15) players for fifteens competitions; and
- Each team must be in good standing with the college/university and the conference or regional governing body of which it is a member.

Each team may carry an unlimited number of student-athletes on its Roster.

Consortium agreements between universities will be recognized by USA Rugby provided there is an academic connection between the universities, the campuses are in reasonable geographic proximity, and:

- there is a formal academic connection between the universities by which the student is considered to be enrolled on a full-time basis by the home Institution (the college fielding the rugby team). This status MUST be verified by the Registrar on the USA Rugby Roster form, prior to the student participating in any League/Qualifying match for the school. The player is considered to be ineligible for any League/Qualifying match for the school until this status has been confirmed by means of Registrar written or stamped approval. OR, ▸ There is a written agreement in place for all recreational club sports.

#### 4.3 Collegiate Student--Athlete Eligibility.

In order to participate in any *Qualifying Match*, and in any National Collegiate Championship, the student-athlete must meet all of the following eligibility criteria at the time of competition:

- The student-athlete must be enrolled full-time as an undergraduate in their first degree or certificate seeking program and in good-standing, as defined by the university or college registrar, to be eligible to participate in their respective University or College rugby program.
- A student-athlete within his/her final two undergraduate *Academic Terms* may carry less than a full-time academic load and still maintain eligibility. This is only permitted if the student-athlete is a graduating senior and a letter from the Registrar confirming such status is obtained.
- A student-athlete may maintain eligibility after completing and/or receiving an undergraduate degree if that student-athlete is enrolled full time in post-graduate studies (graduate school or pursuance of an additional Bachelor's Degree) provided the student-athlete is at the same or at a different institution from that issuing the baccalaureate degree AND provided the student-athlete still falls within all other collegiate eligibility standards AND received his or her baccalaureate degree from an institution in the United States; AND is in good standing with USA Rugby and with the institution.
- A student-athlete competing for an institution utilizing the quarter system is eligible through the National Championships of that *Academic Year* if he/she graduated at the end of the winter quarter. This requires a letter from the registrar confirming such status.
- Every student-athlete has seven years in which s/he may compete a maximum of five (5) years:
- The seven-year period for College Rugby Eligibility begins in the Academic Year immediately following high school graduation date or the graduation date of his or her class (as determined by the first year of high school enrollment) or based on the prescribed educational path in the student athletes country.
- There are no waivers to the seven-year window for college rugby eligibility. (exception: 4.3.3 Collegiate Eligibility Military Waiver)
- A student is eligible to receive a waiver to compete in his/her sixth (6th) year following high school graduation upon submission of a waiver request, accompanied by official college transcripts and verification of the date of high school graduation prior to the start of each competitive cycle to the College Eligibility Committee.
- A student is eligible to receive a waiver to compete in his/her seventh (7th) year following high school graduation upon submission of a waiver request, accompanied by official college transcripts and verification of the date of high school graduation prior to the start of each competitive cycle to the College Eligibility Committee.
- The student-athlete must play on the team representing the school in which he/she is enrolled.
- The student-athlete must not have played in a Qualifying Match for any other collegiate team or senior club at any level during the current Academic Year. The only waiver would be for an approved in-season temporary Elite Player transfer.
- All players must be in good standing with their Conference and with USA Rugby. To be in good standing the player must be registered in the current year's Club and Individual Participation Program (CIPP), with all dues fully paid, prior to participating in any match.

##### 4.3.1 Amateurism.

Student-athletes must meet and remain in compliance with all applicable amateur standards. A student-athlete is not eligible for participation in collegiate rugby if they have ever taken pay for competing in any form of rugby.

- Prize money based on place finish or performance in an open event from the sponsor of the event is permissible provided the amount of prize money does not exceed the actual and necessary expenses to participate in the event.
- A school, team, or organization may provide actual and necessary expenses to players provided the expenses are a reasonable amount for travel, lodging, meals, apparel and equipment subject to the provisions 4.3.1.b.i and 4.3.1.b.ii below. This includes per diem offered during participation with recognized USA Rugby national or representative team assemblies and player-win bonuses offered during participation with the USA Rugby National Team.

Athletic or academic scholarships, work-study grants, or stipends are allowable under this provision for student-athletes that attend an institution for the purpose of participation with the rugby club or team in addition to their academic requirements.

- A foreign academy development contract player may receive actual and necessary living expenses and tuition assistance from the academy provided the player is enrolled full-time in an accredited educational institution and is in good-standing with the institution during the entire period for which the player is under contract. The player will not be eligible in any case if the enrollment with a USA college or university occurs in the last semester of the player's potential USA Rugby collegiate eligibility.



- ii. A college player may receive compensation from the PRO Rugby organization and retain their collegiate eligibility provided the player: 1) joins the PRO Rugby competition after his college 15s season has ended for the year, 2) has received an approved USA Rugby membership waiver, and 3) re-enrolls in college within two semesters of the end of that year's PRO Rugby competition.

#### **4.3.2 Collegiate Eligibility Grandfather Clause. No Longer Applicable.**

#### **4.3.3. Collegiate Eligibility Military Waiver. *\*\*Two-Year Pilot Program for 2015-16 and 2016-17 College Rugby\*\****

This waiver applies to all student-athletes participating in the USA Rugby College men's and women's competitions whose military service has prevented the individual's ability to compete five years within the seven years since high school graduation. To apply for this waiver: a. The student-athlete must meet all criteria listed in USAR 4.3 AND:

- b. The student-athlete must apply to USA Rugby each academic year to request the Military Waiver (it is not automatically awarded). AND
- c. The student-athlete is eligible for the Military Waiver for each year of active military service which prevented college attendance. AND
- d. Regardless of the actual time of military service, if the individual has not already enrolled in college, the seven-year window for college eligibility will automatically begin with the academic term in which the individual reaches the age of 21

#### **4.4. Collegiate Student-Athlete Players Under 18.**

An Under 18 college student-athlete should not play in any College Rugby match, in positions other than front row (but including all positions in rugby sevens), unless the following are obtained:

- a. written agreement from the Under 18 player to play College Rugby and acceptance of any associated risk with playing with older players who may be stronger and more physically developed;
- b. written parental or legal guardian's consent;
- c. written confirmation from a coach, with an appropriate understanding of the physical attributes required of and the risks to players in College Rugby and to whom the player is known, that the player has the requisite skills and experience to play College Rugby; and
- d. such other consents agreements or confirmations (if any) as may be required by the player's GU or Conference or to comply with the local jurisdiction.

#### **4.5. Collegiate Student-Athlete Front Row Players Under 19.**

An Under 19 college student-athlete should not play in any College Rugby match in the front row unless the following are obtained:

- a. written agreement from the player in writing to play College Rugby in the front row and acceptance of any associated risk of playing with Adults who may be stronger and more physically developed than the player;
- b. if the player is Under 18, written parental or guardian's consent;
- c. written confirmation from a coach with an appropriate understanding of the physical attributes required of and the risks to players in the front row in College Rugby and to whom the player is known that the player has the requisite skills and experience to play College Rugby in the front row; and
- d. such other consents or confirmations as may be required by the player's GU or College Conference, or to comply with local jurisdiction.

### **Section 5. HIGH SCHOOL.**

#### **5.1. Team Eligibility.**

- a. Team must be based on a state- or nationally-accredited school that issues High School Graduation Diplomas.
- b. Team must be represented by a Roster that is limited to registered students at the High School upon which the team is based.
- c. Teams may carry an unlimited number of players on its Roster.

#### **5.2. Player Eligibility.**

- a. Players are eligible if they have not reached their 19th birthday by the September 1st that occurs at the start of the competitive season.
- b. Players, except those that have graduated, must be attending class full time, as defined by the High School registrar.
- c. Players must have certified High School transcripts either for two consecutive semesters including the semester that falls during the Competition Season, or, for players that have graduated, the final semester prior to graduation during the current academic year.
- d. If the competition season extends beyond the end of the school year, then the players may continue to participate in the competition provided that the players were otherwise eligible at the end of the school year.
- e. Players must be within four (4) years of the moment the player first enrolled in ninth grade, regardless of when that player started playing rugby or had the ability to start playing rugby.
- f. Player must have played for the team in at least two (2) Qualifying Matches or second-side match associated with a Qualifying Match during the competitive season at least a week apart from each other prior to participating in a USA Rugby Championship or Invitational Event. For the purposes of Section 5, a Qualifying Match is defined as regular season league matches as defined through SRO or LAU local competition structures.
- g. Players must not play in a Qualifying Match for any other club in a fifteens match, including the High School team or club, College Club, or Senior Club competitions, while those players' High School Qualifying Match season is in progress.
- h. Players must meet and remain in compliance with all applicable amateur standards.
- i. See Section 13.5 for additional information about Waivers.

#### **5.3 State and Other Championship Eligibility.**

USA Rugby has neither the compelling interest, nor the practical ability, in enforcing eligibility regulations at State High School Championship events. The regulations are more properly determined by the organizer of the State event, be that a State Rugby Organization, a Local Area Union, or a Geographical Union. However, USA Rugby recommends that, in determining the requirements, the organizers first consider the model used by the High School Athletic Governing Organization within the state; then consider the model that USA Rugby has established for the National High School Championship or Invitational.

### **Section 6. HIGH SCHOOL CLUB.**

#### **6.1. Club Eligibility**

Club can be represented by players that meet the requirements of 6.2 provided there is not more than five (5) Non-Resident Players on their Roster for any particular match that may in any way lead to the applicable USA Rugby Championship or Invitational Event. Club may carry an unlimited number of players on its Roster.



## 6.2. Player Eligibility

- a. Players are eligible if they have not reached their 19th birthday by the September 1st that occurs at the start of the competitive season.
- b. Players, except those that have graduated, must be attending class full time, as defined by the High School registrar.
- c. Players must have certified High School transcripts either for two consecutive semesters including the semester that falls during the Competition Season, or, for players that have graduated, the final semester prior to graduation during the current academic year.
- d. If the competition season extends beyond the end of the school year, then the players may continue to participate in the competition provided that the players were otherwise eligible at the end of the school year.
- e. Players must be within four (4) years of the moment the player first enrolled in ninth grade, regardless of when that player started playing rugby or had the ability to start playing rugby.
- f. Player must have played for the team in at least two (2) Qualifying Matches or second-side match associated with a Qualifying Match during the competitive season at least a week apart from each other prior to participating in a USA Rugby Championship or Invitational Event. A Qualifying Match is defined as regular season league matches as defined through SRO or LAU local competition structures.
- g. Players must not play in a Qualifying Match for any other club in a fifteens match, including the High School team or club, College Club, or Senior Club competitions, while those players' High School Qualifying Match season is in progress.
- h. Players must meet and remain in compliance with all applicable amateur standards.
- i. See Section 13.5 for additional information about Waivers.

## Section 6A: HIGH SCHOOL ALL STAR EVENTS.

### 6A.1. Team Eligibility.

Each team may carry an unlimited number of players on its roster.

### 6A.2. Player Eligibility.

Players are eligible if they meet all of the criteria outlined in the Sections 5 or 6. However, a player is eligible for the High School All Star Events if that player meets all other requirements of a high school eligible player, even if that player does not play rugby for his high school Team or Club.

## Section 7. NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ALL STAR CHAMPIONSHIPS.

### 7.1. Team Eligibility.

Each team may carry an unlimited number of players on its roster.

### 7.2. Player Eligibility.

- a. Players are eligible if they meet all of the criteria outlined in the National Collegiate Championships section even if that player does not play rugby for his college or university club.
- b. Players must be declared eligible for collegiate play in the Spring Term or Winter Quarter prior to the National Collegiate All Star Championships.
- c. All military collegiate team players must be enrolled in one of the Service academies or be a ROTC cadet with a signed contract to enter the United States Military (i.e. an ROTC rugby player committed to active duty service) and these players can play either for their TU team or the military team.

## Section 8. SENIOR NATIONAL ALL STAR FIFTEENS CHAMPIONSHIPS.

### 8.1. Team Eligibility.

Team must meet all of the General Eligibility Regulations:

- a. Teams may carry a maximum Roster of 28 players per Event Weekend.
- b. The Event Roster may include a maximum of five (5) Non-Resident Players.
- c. The Match Roster may list a maximum of 23 players and include up to five (5) Non-Resident Players.

### 8.2. Player Eligibility.

Player must meet all of the General Eligibility Regulations:

- a. Player must be CIPP enrolled for a club or as an at-large participant within the GU/CR.
- b. Minors under the age of 18 must have signed parental or guardian consent form on file with the club acknowledging assumption of risk while participating in the sport.

## Section 9. NATIONAL CLUB SEVENS CHAMPIONSHIP.

### 9.1. Club and Sevens-Only Team Eligibility.

- a. A club and 7s-only team must be in good standing by June 15th. Good standing includes but is not limited to: completed CIPP registration of the club and team with full payment; in good standing with the GU/CR, and in good standing according to USA Rugby playing requirements. A club or team may be registered solely to play 7s. Clubs already enrolled in the current year's CIPP do not need to re-register to participate in 7s.
- b. Each participating club and 7s-only team may carry a maximum Roster of 12 players per event. No limit on number of players used by a club or 7s-only team in multiple Qualifying events.
- c. Each Roster must include a minimum of nine (9) players.
- d. Each Roster may include a maximum of two (2) players who do not meet the criteria for player eligibility to participate on the National Team of the United States. Per World Rugby Regulation 8 a player may only play for the senior USA National Sevens Team if the player: i. Was born in the United States; or ii. Has one parent who was born in the United States; or iii. Has completed thirty-six consecutive months of Residence in the United States immediately preceding the time of the event (Legal Resident); or iv. Has not played for the senior National Team of another Union; AND v. Meets all other World Rugby standards for National Team Representation (Appendix II).

*For purposes of this rule a player is deemed to have played for the senior National Team of a Union if he or she:*





- is selected to represent a Union's senior National Sevens Team in an International Match against the senior National Representative Sevens Team of another Union, and
  - is present at the Match played by that Team either as a replacement, substitute or playing member of that Team, and, - at the time of the Match, has reached the age of majority.
- e. Clubs may qualify MORE than one team:
- i. Each team must register by June 15th as a separate entity (e.g. Boulder #1, Boulder #2).
  - ii. Players must register with, and can only compete in Qualifying tournaments for, one club or 7's-only team. iii. A second team registered by an existing club is considered the same as a new club, and held to all USA Rugby eligibility criteria.

## 9.2. Player Eligibility.

These regulations are designed to prevent club hopping and the importation of guest players to strengthen teams for the post-season. Players must meet the following criteria in order to participate in this USA Rugby Championships:

- a. Play in at least two sevens Qualifying tournaments (or other tournaments as pre-approved by the NCC), scheduled at least one week apart, prior to this USA Rugby Championship Event for the club. For purposes of this rule a sevens tournament is defined as a competition taking place over the course of at least one day between four or more registered sevens teams. Rosters used to qualify players for the National Championships must be verified and submitted by an event host to USA Rugby.
- b. Be CIPP enrolled for the club and residing in the United States, through initial enrollment or transfer, prior to the earlier of (i) playing in any match pursuant to a) above and (ii) July 1.
- c. Players may register with any 7s club but may not play in any Qualifying tournaments for any other team or club during the USA Rugby 7s season. Players who transfer to another club must have approval of their previous club and GU/CR. Players will be permitted to transfer to a new club for the 7's season unless objected to by their original club for financial reasons or by their original GU for disciplinary issues only.
- d. Players who have not played in any Qualifying tournament with the club to which they are registered, may seek to transfer their registration to another club and have eligibility with the new club as long as the transfer is initiated prior to the July 1 deadline and the original club provides a release.
- e. Players may not transfer to another team registered with the same club after either July 1 or after the player has participated in a Qualifying tournament.
- f. Minors under the age of 18 must have signed parental or guardian consent form on file with the club acknowledging assumption of risk while participating in the sport.

## Section 10. NATIONAL ALL STAR SEVENS CHAMPIONSHIPS.

### 10.1. Team Eligibility.

Teams may carry a maximum roster of 12 players per event weekend.

### 10.2. Player Eligibility.

- a. All players must meet the criteria for player eligibility to participate on the National Team of the United States. Per World Rugby Regulation 8 a player may only play for the senior USA Rugby National Sevens Team if the player:
  - i. Was born as a United States citizen; or
  - ii. Has one parent or grandparent who was born as a United States citizen; or
  - iii. Has completed thirty-six consecutive months of Residence in the United States immediately preceding the time of the event; and iv. Has not played for the senior National Team of another Union.

*For purposes of this rule a player is deemed to have played for the senior National Team of a Union if he or she:*

- i. is selected to represent a Union's senior National Sevens Team in an International Match against the senior National Representative Sevens Team of another Union, and
  - ii. is present at the Match played by that Team either as a replacement, substitute or playing member of that Team, and,
  - iii. at the time of the Match, has reached the age of majority.
- b. Player must be CIPP registered within the GU/CR and residing in the United States, through initial enrollment or transfer, by July 1.
- c. Minors under the age of 18 must have signed parental or guardian consent form on file with the club acknowledging assumption of risk while participating in the sport.

### 10.3. Player Documentation.

The following section is a guide to documentation that should be maintained at all times from the start of the Competitive Season by a responsible club official. This documentation should be made available upon demand and/or prior to registration for GU/CR/Regional championships and USA Rugby Championship Events or any Qualifying Match.

A player may be required to submit documentation to prove as needed (a) identity; (b) citizenship status and /or qualification as a resident (as opposed to a Non-Resident Player); (c) CIPP enrollment; (d) waiver granted by USA Rugby; and (e) high school or college enrollment.

Players unable to provide appropriate documentation will be assigned Non-Resident Player status for purposes of eligibility.

Proof of Identification can be verified with:

- a. Current government issued photo identification.
- b. Official school ID for students.

Proof of Citizenship can be verified with:

- a. Original or copy of U.S. birth certificate OR
- b. Original or copy of photo page of U.S. passport OR
- c. Original or certified copy of Permanent (Green Card) or Conditional Permanent Resident.



- d. Alien documentation (Conditional Green Card, INS “A” Number issued and stamped in passport) AND Copy of Permanent or Conditional Permanent Resident Alien documentation for retention at registration.

**\*\*Note:** Documentation (i.e. letters of application) in reference to the pursuit of permanent or conditional resident status in order to facilitate a player's participation in the competition is NOT sufficient.

Proof of National Team Eligibility can be verified with a geographical/presence test:

- a. Original passport and I-94 Arrival/Departure Form confirming residency in the United States for a period of at least 36 consecutive months with at least 10 months actual physical presence within the United States throughout any qualifying year of the Residency period.
- b. Proof of employment, or of seeking employment, in the United States in the past 36 months, and the name and address of player’s employers. Please provide copies of any contracts of employment.
- c. Proof of home ownership or rental agreement that covers the period of residency. Supplemental proof may be copies of correspondence addressed to player at this address, copies of utility bills in the player’s name at this address.
- d. Proof of a bank account opened within the United States with account activity during the period of residency.

Proof of current CIPP enrollment can be verified with a printout from USA Rugby Website showing valid registration dates. Proof of official waiver from USA Rugby can be verified with waiver letter signed by USA Rugby National Office staff or Eligibility Committee Chair, delivered by fax or electronic mail.

## Section 11. NATIONAL TEAMS.

### 11.1. Player Eligibility.

- a. Player must meet all of the General Eligibility Regulations.
- b. Player must be CIPP enrolled for a specific club or as an at-large participant with USA Rugby.
- c. For senior competitions, player must be at least 18 years of age, unless granted a waiver by USA Rugby Eligibility Committee.
- d. All players must meet the criteria for player eligibility to participate on the National Team of the United States. Per World Rugby Regulation 8 (see Appendix II) a player may only play for the senior USA Rugby National Sevens Team if the player:
  - i. Was born in the United States or
  - ii. Has one parent who was born in the United States; or
  - iii. Has completed 36 consecutive months of Residence in the United States immediately preceding the time of the event (Legal Resident); or
  - iv. Has not played for the senior National Team of another Union; and
  - v. Meets all other World Rugby standards for National Team Representation (Appendix II).

A Player who has played for the senior fifteen-a-side National Team or the next senior fifteen-a- side National Team or the senior National Sevens Team of a Union is not eligible to play for the senior fifteen-a-side National Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Team or the senior National Sevens Team of another Union.

### 11.2. U20, U19, U18, and U17 Player Eligibility.

Players must meet all of the General Eligibility Regulations and:

- a. be under 20 years of age of January 1st in a given year to be eligible for the U20 team in that year.
- b. be under 19 years of age on January 1st in a given year to be eligible for the U19 team in that year.
- c. be under 18 years of age of January 1st in a given year to be eligible for the U18 team in that year.
- d. be under 17 years of age on January 1st in a given year to be eligible for the U17 team in that year.

## Section 12. ARMED FORCES CHAMPIONSHIP.

### 12.1. Club Eligibility.

A club participant in the Armed Forces Championships must:

- a. Not field a player who is a member of another Armed Forces club.
- b. Not field a player who has not played for that club since 1 January of the year of the competition unless he had an injury that precluded him from playing or he signed into the installation on permanent change of station orders.
- c. Not field a player who has already played for another club in the competition.
- d. Each participating members of the clubs must be enrolled in the current year’s CIPP.

### 12.2. Player Eligibility.

The intent of these regulations is that a player participant must be an active bona fide member of the military club on which he is playing. A participant in any military rugby competition or representative team must be:

- a. An active duty member of the US Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, or Navy.
- b. A member in good standing with his or her GU/CR, unless stationed overseas or on a ship.
- c. Enrolled in the current year’s CIPP.

## Section 13. GENERAL PROCEDURES.

### 13.1 Medical.

**Concussion:** Players suspected of having concussion or diagnosed with concussion must go through a graduated return to play protocol (GRTP: available on <http://playerwelfare.worldrugby.org/concussion>).

**Heat:** USA Rugby recommends that the Heat Illness Prevention Interventions established by World Rugby (<http://playerwelfare.worldrugby.org/>) be applied if, during the match, conditions reach a temperature higher than/equal to 86° F with humidity greater than/equal to 60%.

### 13.2 National Championship Event Rosters.



Upon qualifying for a National Championship Event, each Club or Team shall submit to USA Rugby within the time frames requested a roster of the players and a list of the support staff that will be in attendance at the USA Rugby Championship Event. The roster shall designate information specific to player and club eligibility for each Event and must be signed and certified by a responsible club official and CR Representative. Appropriate Roster forms can be found at [www.usarugby.org](http://www.usarugby.org).

All Clubs must also check with their Approved Governing Body officials for any other requirements of documentation that must be retained and/or presented during matches that lead in any way to a USA Rugby National Championship.

All updated information on current year deadlines and requirements will be maintained at [www.usarugby.org](http://www.usarugby.org).

### 13.3 Club Documentation.

The following section is a guide to documentation that should be maintained at all times from the start of the competitive season by a responsible club official. This documentation should be made available upon demand and/ or prior to registration for GU/LAU/CR championships and USA Rugby Championship Events or any League/Qualifying/CR Match.

### 13.4 Player Documentation.

The following section is a guide to documentation that should be maintained at all times from the start of the Competitive Season by a responsible club official. This documentation should be made available upon demand and/ or prior to registration for Conference/GU/LAU/CR championships and USA Rugby Championship Events or any League/Qualifying Match.

A player may be required to submit documentation to prove as needed (a) identity; (b) citizenship status and /or qualification as a resident (as opposed to a Non-Resident player); (c) CIPP enrollment; (d) waiver granted by USA Rugby; and (e) high school or college enrollment. Players unable to provide appropriate documentation will be assigned Non-Resident Player status for purposes of eligibility. Acceptable documentation includes: a. Proof of Identification.

- i. Current government issued photo identification.
  - ii. Official school ID for students.
- b. Proof of Citizenship can be verified with:
- i. Original or copy of U.S. birth certificate OR ii. Original or copy of photo page of U.S. passport OR iii. Original or certified copy of Permanent (Green Card) or Conditional Permanent Resident. iv. Alien documentation (Conditional Green Card, INS "A" Number issued and stamped in passport) AND Copy of Permanent or Conditional Permanent Resident Alien documentation for retention at registration. Note: Documentation in reference to the pursuit of permanent or conditional resident status in order to facilitate a player's participation in the competition is NOT sufficient.
- c. Proof of National Team Eligibility can be verified with a geographical/presence test:
- i. Original passport and I-94 Arrival/Departure Form confirming residency in the United States for a period of at least 36 consecutive months with at least ten (10) months actual physical presence within the United States throughout any qualifying year of the Residency period.
  - ii. Proof of employment, or of seeking employment, in the United States in the past 36 months, and the name and address of player's employers. Please provide copies of any contracts of employment.
  - iii. Proof of home ownership or rental agreement that covers the period of residency. Supplemental proof may be copies of correspondence addressed to player at this address, copies of utility bills in the player's name at this address.
  - iv. Proof of a bank account opened within the United States with account activity during the period of residency.
- d. Proof of high school enrollment and supporting documentation may include:
- i. High School Player Eligibility form (signed and sealed by HS registrar, appropriately dated).
  - ii. Official documentation of GED-enrollment. iii. Official documentation of state or federal sanctioned home school enrollment.
- e. Proof of collegiate enrollment and supporting documentation may include:
- i. Collegiate Player Eligibility Form (signed and sealed by collegiate registrar, appropriately dated).
  - ii. Letter from registrar verifying status as a graduating senior. iii. Official transcripts showing dates of initial enrollment and transfer status.
- f. Proof of current member registration can be verified with a printout from USA Rugby Website showing valid registration dates.
- g. Proof of official waiver from USA Rugby can be verified with waiver letter signed by USA Rugby National Office staff or Eligibility Committee Chair, delivered by fax or electronic mail, displaying player name, club, official dates of eligibility, and regulation waived.

### 13.5 Waivers.

#### 13.5.1 Waiver Request Process.

Request for waiver from these Eligibility Regulations must:

- ▶ *be in writing and supported by required documentation; ▶ include a personal statement from the player; and*
- ▶ *be received by the USA Rugby National Office at least ten (10) business days prior to any match for which the player is requesting an waiver.*

The USA Rugby Staff and Eligibility Committee will have up to ten (10) days from the date of receipt of all required documentation to respond to the applicant. Individuals seeking a waiver should consider that backlogs of requests can occur, and eligibility should be investigated and any waivers requested prior to the beginning of each Competitive Season.



Regular waiver requests are considered and reviewed without charge when received at least ten business days prior to event for which eligibility is requested). Upon payment of a \$50.00 expediting fee, waiver requests may be made within ten (10) days of initial event for which eligibility is requested. The cutoff for consideration is five (5) business days prior to an event for which eligibility is requested. Payment must accompany waiver request.

Players requesting an eligibility waiver from USA Rugby must receive USA Rugby approval of the waiver **BEFORE** participating in any League/Qualifying/CR Match. Submitting a waiver request to USA Rugby does not provide temporary eligibility. The formal waiver from USA Rugby must be received before the player may play for his/her club.

All waiver requests must be submitted to the following address:

USA RUGBY      Attn: Eligibility  
2655 Crescent Drive Suite A, Lafayette, CO 80026  
Phone:                      303.539.0300                      Fax:      303.539.0311                      Email: eligibility@usarugby.org

### 13.5.2 Senior Club Eligibility Waivers.

Requests for a waiver of the Eligibility Regulations contained herein will not be reviewed or considered when submitted to USA Rugby less than five (5) business days prior to a competition for which eligibility is required. The following waivers may be granted upon careful review of proper documentation by the USA Rugby Eligibility Committee:

#### A. College to Senior Club In-Season Transfer.

Non-graduating college players, or those with remaining collegiate eligibility, may join senior clubs upon the conclusion of their intercollegiate schedule for training, social matches or tournaments, but not compete in any League/Qualifying/CR Matches for the senior club.

No player registration transfer is required to train with a senior club, or to compete in friendly matches, socials, or club tournaments. College players seeking eligibility with a senior club on basis of geographic relocation must meet criteria specified in Section 13.5.2-b.

**Fall Term Graduating** College Players seeking a waiver to join a senior club with full eligibility for the remainder of the competitive cycle must;

- i. Include proof of graduation (copy of Diploma or Final Official Transcripts stamped with date of degree completion) with waiver request. And, ii. Be initiated with USA Rugby by the CIPP player registration deadline (see Section 3.4-a).

Note; College players with continuing collegiate eligibility, registered with a collegiate team but seeking to join a senior club for the USA Rugby 7s competitive cycle, will have his/her transfer of registration completed by USA Rugby no earlier than May 1.

#### B. Collegiate Guest Players seeking a transfer to join a senior Club.

The Collegiate Guest player policy will provide college rugby players an opportunity to continue their rugby career at the conclusion of their collegiate 15s season. Non-graduating college players, or those with remaining collegiate eligibility, may join senior clubs upon the conclusion of their 15s schedule and be eligible for League/Qualifying/CR matches with an approved transfer.

College Players seeking to join a senior club with eligibility for League/Qualifying/CR matches must:

- i. Verify that the player's collegiate 15s competitive season has concluded; and, ii. Include written approval for the in-season transfer from college head coach; and
- iii. Statement from the college conference officer verifying the player has no outstanding disciplinary or financial issues with the league; and, iv. Be initiated by the CIPP player registration deadline (see Sections 3.4-a and 9.2-b).

The transfer request may not be submitted, or initiated, prior to the conclusion of the player's collegiate 15s competitive season. The conclusion of the competitive season is defined by the date at which the individual player's team has concluded its regular league schedule and/or has been eliminated from the play-offs.

College players seeking eligibility with a senior club on basis of geographic relocation must meet criteria specified in Section 13.5.2-b.

No more than three (3) Collegiate Guest Players will be allowed on any senior club Match Roster.

#### C. Elite College Players seeking temporary transfer to an Elite Senior Club.

Elite College Players, as identified and approved by an ad hoc Elite Player review committee, may receive a temporary transfer to join an Elite senior club for a high level competitive opportunity while retaining the player's current year collegiate eligibility.

High Performance in-season transfer applications must be approved by the ad hoc Elite Player review committee which shall:

- be appointed by the USA Rugby CEO.
- be comprised of three members: one representative of the collegiate constituency, one member representing the senior club constituency, and one member representing the USA Rugby National Team (i.e. national team coach/player development personnel).
- decide only for individual players and for specific Elite senior club matches.

High Performance in-season transfer applications must be accompanied by written release from the player's college Head Coach and confirm the specific dates and matches for which the temporary transfer is approved.

#### B. In-Season Transfer due to Geographic Relocation.

Players seeking an in-season transfer due to geographic relocation must apply for a waiver prior to the CIPP registration deadline (see Section 3.4-a and 9.2-b). Each request must include the following documentation:

- i. Job or military transfer, relocation for enrollment in educational program by player and/or spouse/family member; and,
- ii. Dated document(s) verifying reason for relocation (military transfer papers; offer of employment including terms of employment and start date in the new location; acceptance or admissions notification); and,



iii. Release from original club; and, iv. Confirmation supplied by the appropriate CR/LAU/GU officer of no outstanding disciplinary or financial issues with former territory.

The timing of the request (league standing and remaining schedule of the original club, league standing and remaining schedule of the new club) and will factor into waiver consideration.

The specified event minimum for a player demonstrating legitimate geographic relocation for non-rugby reasons may be waived if all other criteria within Section 13.5.2-(B) have been satisfied.

A waiver from the participation criteria stated within these guidelines is not guaranteed. This shall be specified within the Waiver confirmation returned by USA Rugby and considered on a case-by-case situation.

A continuing (experienced) and/or returning player registering with a senior club fielding multiple sides prior to the Registration Deadline, but after the conclusion of the League/Qualifying schedule and/or unable to meet the minimum match criteria specified in Section 3.5-b, may be declared eligible only for the upper division on that club for the remainder of the competitive season.

No more than five (5) players joining any one club, for any reason, who otherwise meet all criteria specified may receive an waiver of the USA Rugby minimum participation standards.

### C. Missed Match Participation Requirement due to Legitimate Medical Hardship.

A request to have the match participation minimum specified (Section 3.4-(d)) must be initiated prior to the CIPP registration deadline (see Section 3.4-a and 9.2-b) and must be accompanied with documentation of extraordinary circumstances:

- i. Contemporaneous or other appropriate medical documentation from a physician (a medical doctor) which establishes the player's inability to compete as a result of an injury or illness must be submitted with any waiver request; and
- ii. Document from a Professional Medical Practitioner confirming the player has been cleared to return to full competition; and
- iii. The specified event minimum for a player returning from injury may be waived if medical records substantiate the request; and
- iv. A missed CIPP registration deadline (see Section 3.2-a) will not be waived on basis of early or unexpected return from an injury or illness.

A waiver from the participation criteria stated within these guidelines is not guaranteed. This shall be specified within the Waiver confirmation returned by USA Rugby and considered on a case-by-case situation.

A continuing (experienced) and/or returning player registering with a senior club fielding multiple sides prior to the Registration Deadline, but after the conclusion of the League/CR/Qualifying schedule and/or unable to meet the minimum match criteria specified in Section 3.3-b, may be declared eligible only for the upper division on that club for the remainder of the competitive season.

No more than five (5) players joining any one club, for any reason, who otherwise meet all criteria specified may receive an waiver of the USA Rugby minimum participation standards.

### 13.5.3. REQUIRED Additional Waiver Request Documentation.

Individual circumstances must be thoroughly explained and documented on the "Eligibility Waiver Request Form Cover Sheet" with the following attachments:

- a. Proof of date(s) of enrollment in college or university, i.e. official school transcripts, containing signature and/or seal of the registrar – unofficial or student copies of transcripts will not be accepted.
- b. Any and all applicable military documentation showing specific dates of all deployment and details of military service.
- c. Any and all applicable documentation of official church service, including letter form church officials.
- d. Any and all other documentation relevant to the specific waiver request.
- e. Any and all applicable medical documentation – only considered if medical condition was severe enough to prevent individual's enrollment from college or university for at least one full academic year.

### 13.6. Appeals.

If a club or player has been deemed ineligible by a CR/LAU/GU or other member of USA Rugby, the affected player or club shall have the right to Appeal to the USA Rugby Eligibility Committee.

- a. The Appeal must contain the initial written ruling by the CR/LAU/GU or other member of USA Rugby, all relevant documents and written communication regarding the decision, and certification that the Presidents of the CR/LAU/GU or the highest-ranking officer in the member organization that issued the decision has been provided with all documentation sent to USA Rugby.
- b. The failure to notify the appropriate official issuing the decision may be grounds for denial of the Appeal.
- c. The Appeal must be received by USA Rugby within seven (7) days of the date of the decision appealed. In such an Appeal, the USA Rugby Committee chair or designee shall notify the CR/LAU/GU President or highest-ranking officer of the member organization that issued the decision that such an Appeal has been docketed.

#### 13.6.1. Appeal of Eligibility Determination.

In the event of an Appeal of a determination arising from 13.5.2-(A-C) above, all explanation and relevant data must be submitted, as soon as possible following the event, to:

USA RUGBY Attn: Eligibility  
2655 Crescent Drive Suite A, Lafayette, CO 80026



Phone: 303.539.0300 Fax: 303.539.0311  
Email: eligibility@usarugby.org

**Fee: Individual Player: \$ 500.00**  
**Senior Club: \$1,500.00**

The full fee will be returned upon a favorable determination for the appellant. A determination against appellant will result in USA Rugby depositing the fee in its account for the benefit of the USA Rugby Club Department.

13.6.2. Appeal of Competitive Region Determination.

Any Appeal arising out of a USA Rugby Senior Club sanctioned Competition that leads to a national championship or CR championship shall first be determined by the applicable CR Committee, pursuant for the rules for such matters, not later than seven (7) days after the initial decision.

After the determination by the applicable CR Committee, the party adversely affected may then file an Appeal with the NCC for review. This requirement does not apply to any disciplinary action taken against an individual or organizational member, whether or not arising out of competition.

- a. The Appeal shall be in writing on a designated form and mailed overnight or emailed to the USA Rugby National Office (Club Department), not later than seventy two (72) hours after the determination by the applicable CR Committee, accompanied by (i) player fee of \$500.00, or (ii) Club fee of \$1500.00. If not on a designated form, while not fatal to the right of Appeal, the appellant will be asked to complete the designated form. ONLY the Club players, coaches or administrators directly involved in the matter may Appeal the competition matter directly. If the Appeal is decided in favor of the party filing the fee, the fee shall be reimbursed to that party. The player and/or Club fee(s) will not be used by USA Rugby until a decision has been rendered.
- b. The NCC may speak to the parties involved, or ask for additional information, and shall then render a written decision as expeditiously as possible. An open hearing shall not occur for competitions protests. However, the NCC may, at its discretion, conduct a conference call of all interested parties.

**Fee: Individual Player: \$ 500.00**  
**Senior Club: \$1,500.00**

The full fee will be returned upon a favorable determination for the appellant. A determination against appellant will result in USA Rugby depositing the fee in its account for the benefit of the USA Rugby Club Department.

13.6.3. Appellate Panel.

Any decision of the USA Rugby Eligibility Committee whether based on its original jurisdiction or based on its consideration of an Appeal of a CR/LAU/GU or other USA Rugby member ruling on an eligibility issue, shall be appealable to a USA Rugby Appellate Panel as referenced in the Bylaws of USA Rugby.

With regard to any such Appeal, the Chief Executive Officer or his/her designee shall randomly choose a three-person panel from the Appellate Panel to consider the Appeal. The Panel must act on the Appeal in a timely manner but no determination shall be provided for any reason less than five (5) business days prior to an event for which eligibility is being requested.

Such Appeal must be made within seven (7) days of the decision of the USA Rugby Eligibility Committee, or National Competitions Committee or Club Strategic Committee, but not less than five (5) business days prior to an event for which eligibility has been requested. There shall be no waivers to this timeline.

The National Office staff liaison must provide the Appellate Panel with all documents and relevant communications that were part of the record in the initial consideration by the USA Rugby Committee.

**APPENDIX I. USA RUGBY DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES.**

**Effective for all disciplinary matters arising within the jurisdiction of USA Rugby, in all levels of play, on or after May 1, 2016.**

**PREAMBLE.**

Acting pursuant to USA Rugby Bylaw 10.1, USA Rugby (“USAR”) hereby establishes the following Disciplinary Procedures for adjudicating and assessing the seriousness of Foul Play and Misconduct (as defined by World Rugby [“WR”] Regulation 20.3) and for imposing sanctions when necessary.

All participants in Rugby at all levels within the United States are bound by, and shall follow, these Disciplinary Procedures. All decisions regarding, and suspensions, imposed on, players and persons (including clubs and teams) shall be accepted and applied universally by all “Organizing Bodies” (as hereinafter defined) in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures.

These Disciplinary Procedures are established in order to secure and maintain consistency in the way in which discipline is administered and uniformity in the way in which Foul Play and Misconduct are dealt with at all levels of play of the sport of Rugby within the United States of America as intended by WR in the promulgation of WR Regulations 17, 18, and 20.

“Organizing Bodies” means all governing bodies recognized by USAR for the administration of some aspect of the playing of Rugby in the United States from time-to-time, including, but not limited to, Territorial Unions (“TUs”), Local Area Unions (“LAUs”), Geographic Unions (“GUs”), College Conferences, State Rugby Organizations (“SRQs”), USAR Club Strategic Committee, USAR College Management Committee, USAR Youth and High School Committee, USAR Disciplinary Committee (“USAR DC”), USAR Referees & Laws Committee (the “USAR R&L Committee”), local referee society or referee organizing body, and all other Rugby organizing bodies, and their respective successors and assigns.



## WR REGULATIONS 17, 18, and 20.

Unless otherwise specified by USAR or modified by these Disciplinary Procedures, WR Regulations 17, 18, and 20 (including all appendices thereto), including, but not limited to, the Sanctions for Foul Play set forth in Appendix 1 of WR Regulation 17, as now in effect and as subsequently amended by WR, shall apply to all play within the United States, all Rugby individuals, all Organizing Bodies, and all other entities within USAR. Modifications of WR Regulations 17, 18, and 20 shall apply as and when promulgated by WR without the need for adoption or ratification by USAR; provided, however, the adoption of those modifications of, or alternatives to, WR Regulations 17, 18, and 20 (or any part or parts thereof) which are promulgated by WR for optional adoption by WR members shall become effective only if and when adopted by USAR in accordance with USAR Bylaw 10.1

A summary of Regulation 17 is attached as Schedule 1 for ease of reference.

A copy of Appendix 1 of WR Regulation 17 (which is the table used to set the period of suspension for Foul Play under Law 10.4) is attached as Schedule 2 for ease of reference.

## PLAY WITHIN USA RUGBY.

The phrase "play within the United States," encompasses all levels of play in all forms, including all matches played within the geographic United States or under the jurisdiction of USAR. For the avoidance of doubt, the phrase "play within the United States" includes all play that leads to a National Championship, all so-called "friendly" matches, and all tournaments.

All Organizing Bodies are bound by, and are responsible for administering, these Disciplinary Procedures. Organizing Bodies do not have the power or right to modify or to ignore these Disciplinary Procedures.

## LOCAL DISCIPLINE.

The initial responsibility and jurisdiction for the administration of these Disciplinary Procedures and for the initial adjudication and determination of appropriate disciplinary sanctions (if any) is held by the local Organizing Body most immediately responsible for sanctioning a competition (which currently includes LAUs, GUs, College Conferences, and SBOs,), which, as the same exists from time to time, is hereinafter called a "Local Organizing Body."

Each Local Organizing Body shall establish and maintain a Local Disciplinary Committee ("Local DC") with a minimum of 3 members. If the Local DC does not include a Qualified JO or Qualified AO, the Local DC may consult with a Qualified JO or Qualified AO in the course of conducting its business.

Each Organizing Body organizing any so-called friendly (consisting of a single match, a tournament, or on-going competition of some sort, any of which is hereinafter called an "Event") shall establish a Disciplinary Committee of at least 3 members for the Event ("Event DC" or "Competition DC"). The Local DC may act as the Event DC or Competition DC and shall be deemed to be the Event DC or Competition DC if no Event DC or Competition DC is, in fact, appointed.

Alternatively, (1) a Local Organizing Body may appoint a single "Qualified JO" (as hereinafter defined) to act in lieu of a Local DC, and (2) with respect to an Event, a single Qualified JO may be appointed in lieu of the Event DC.

A "Qualified JO" is an individual who is recognized as a "Judicial Officer" (as the term is used in WR Regulations 17, 18, and 20) by WR. Additionally, individuals recognized by USAR as being competent to administer a disciplinary proceeding under these Disciplinary Procedures shall be recognized as a Qualified JO and shall be eligible for appointment as a Qualified JO by an Organizing Body. Persons wishing to be recognized as a Qualified JO by USAR shall (i) meet the minimum criteria for a Judicial Officer set forth in WR Regulations 17, 18, and 20 and (ii) successfully complete the education requirements as may be adopted by USAR from time-to-time. USAR shall have the right to withdraw recognition of an individual's status as a Qualified JO recognized by USAR at any time.

## PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED WHENEVER A PLAYER IS ORDERED OFF (RED CARD) FROM A MATCH, OR IS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED (YELLOW CARD) FOR FOUL PLAY FROM 3 MATCHES WITHIN A 1-YEAR PERIOD.

**Red Card—Definition.** As used in these Disciplinary Procedures, "Red Card" refers to a player who has been sent off from the field of play in accordance with Law 10.7.

**Yellow Card—Definition.** As used in these Disciplinary Procedures, "Yellow Card" refers to those temporary suspensions that result from infractions of Law 10.4 only.

**Multiple Yellow Cards.** As provided in the Laws of the Game, a second Yellow Card to the same player in a single match results in a Red Card and carries the same consequence as a Red Card. For disciplinary purposes<sup>1</sup>, receipt of a third Yellow Card by the same player within a one (1)-year period carries the same consequences as a Red Card and each subsequent Yellow Card received by that player carries the same consequences as another Red Card for disciplinary purposes.

**Consequences of Red Card.** A player (1) receiving a straight Red Card (as contemplated by Section 5.1) or (2) deemed to have received a Red Card (as contemplated by Section 5.3) is suspended from all play until the resolution of the matter.

**Inter-Local Organizing Body Play.** In the event there is a common Local Organizing Body for both participating teams, the Local DC or the appointed Qualified JO shall be responsible for the initial adjudication of any matter. If there is no common governing body (e.g. for cross GU/Conference/SRO play), the Local DC or the appointed Qualified JO of the player's home Local Organizing Body shall have initial jurisdiction of the matter.

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<sup>1</sup> As noted, the subsequent Yellow Card has consequences within the context of the disciplinary process, but not necessarily a consequence on the field of play. For example, Player X receives two Yellow Cards in Match #1 (which, under the Laws of the Game, means that he received a Red Card). Player X then receives another Yellow Card in Match 2. This third overall Yellow Card means that for disciplinary purposes, it is as if Player X received a Red Card and, as the result thereof, Player X would be the subject of the disciplinary process; however, the referee of Match 2 would not need to send Player X off the pitch as a consequence of such third Yellow Card. If Player X was given a second Yellow Card in Match 2, then (1) Player X would be sent from the field under the Laws of the Game, and (2) Player X would face additional disciplinary process as the consequence of such second Yellow Card in Match 2 as well.



**Initial Review and Written Decision for All Matters** Considered Under WR Regulations 17 and 18. For all matches in which Red Card or its equivalent is given or result, the Local DC or Qualified JO with initial jurisdiction shall adjudicate the subject player's conduct within 4 days of the conclusion of the match, or no later than two days after receiving proper notice, and follow the provisions of WR Regulations 17 and 18 to determine if and how to impose further sanctions under WR Regulation 17 Appendix 1. A written decision issued by the Local DC or the Qualified JO shall be promptly issued to all involved, and copies sent to the player's Local Organizing Body, the USAR DC, and the Referee Department of USAR. A suggested form of decision is attached as Schedule 3.

## APPEALS.

### Initial Appeal as a Matter of Right.

Each Local Organizing Body shall appoint a Disciplinary Appeal Committee consisting of a minimum of 3 members or a "Qualified Appeal Officer" (as hereinafter defined) to consider such matters as may arise from the initial consideration of the matter in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures. The appointed Disciplinary Appeal Committee or a Qualified Appeal Officer is hereinafter called the "Local Appellate." Appellate procedures of the Local Appellate shall comply with WR Regulations 17 (especially WR Regulation 17.22), 18 (especially 18.7 and Appendix 1 thereto), and 20. A "Qualified Appeal Officer" has the same meaning as Qualified JO; however, for the avoidance of doubt, the same individual may not act as both the Qualified JO and Qualified Appeal Officer for the Local Organizing Body in the same matter. If the Local Disciplinary Appeal Committee does not include a Qualified JO or Qualified AO, the Local Disciplinary Appeal Committee may consult with a Qualified JO or Qualified AO in the course of conducting its business.

All decisions of a Local DC or Qualified JO are subject to a single appeal as a matter of right to the appointed Local Appellate. The parties with right to appeal are limited to the sanctioned party and the Local Organizing Body; however, USAR shall have the right to appeal any matter. For the avoidance of doubt, when there is inter-Local Organizing Body play (e.g., play between clubs of different GUs) and the accused player's home Local Organizing Body has initial jurisdiction as provided in Section 5.3, the other Local Organizing Body also has the right of appeal.

Any appeal to the Local Appellate shall be lodged as soon as reasonably practicable, but in any event no later than 72 hours following delivery of the initial decision to the appealing party. Delivery means the emailing of the initial decision to the parties in interest or the posting of the decision on the website of the subject Local Organizing Body. Additionally, as a condition of the appeal, the appellant must post a cash bond<sup>2</sup> (the "Bond") with the Organizing Body. The amount of the Bond is \$50; however, with respect to professional rugby, the Bond shall be \$500. If the appealing party prevails upon appeal, as determined by the Local Appellate, the Bond shall be discharged and returned to the appealing party. Additionally, in all other cases, the Local Appellate has discretion to direct the discharge and return of the Bond to the appealing party. For the avoidance of doubt, USAR and the Organizing Body do not have to post a Bond as a condition of appeal either of them may bring.

During the appeal, the player remains under whatever sanction, if any, originally imposed by the Local DC or Qualified JO.

The Local Appellate may affirm, cancel or modify (in whole or in any part) the decision of the Local DC or Qualified JO (including reducing or increasing any sanction imposed thereby) in accordance with the provisions of WR Regulation 17.

The Local Appellate shall render a written decision within 7 days of the receipt of the appeal to all involved, and send copies to the USAR DC and the Referee Department of USAR. Suggested forms of decision by the Local Appellate are attached as Schedule 4. **Final**

### Discretionary Appeal to USAR DC.

All decisions of a Local Appellate are subject to a single request to appeal therefrom made to the USAR DC; however, the determination whether to consider the matter on appeal by the USAR DC is discretionary. The parties with the right to request an appeal to the USAR DC are limited to the sanctioned party and the Local Organizing Body (but subject however to Section 6.1.2); provided, however, USAR shall have the right to request an appeal with respect to any matter.

Such parties shall request an appeal as soon as reasonably practicable but in any event no later than 72 hours following delivery of the decision by the Local Appellate by the requesting party. Delivery means the emailing of the appellate decision to the parties in interest or the posting of the decision on the website of the subject Local Organizing Body.

If the USAR DC declines to accept the matter for further review, the decision of the Local Appellate (including any sanction) stands.

If the USAR DC chooses in its discretion to accept the matter for further review, the decision of the Local Appellate (including any sanction) remains in effect pending review.

If it accepts review, the USAR DC may affirm, cancel or modify (in whole or in any part) the decision of the Local Appellate (including reducing or increasing any sanction upheld or imposed thereby) in accordance with the provisions of WR Regulation 17.

The USAR DC shall render a written decision within 7 days of the receipt of the appeal to all involved, and send a copy to the Referee Department of USAR. The decision of the USAR DC is final, subject to the provisions of USAR Bylaws X and XII.

## NATIONAL COMPETITIONS.

For national competitions under direct administrative control of USAR (*i.e.*, match play in regional or national pools leading to a national championship), USAR shall appoint:

A Disciplinary Committee ("DC") or Qualified JO; and An Appeal Committee or Qualified Appeal Officer,

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<sup>2</sup> The Bond may be paid in cash, certified or cashier's check, credit card, or PayPal or any other means acceptable to the Organizing Body





in compliance with these Disciplinary Procedures and WR Regulations 17 and 18. Decisions of the DC (or Qualified JO) are subject to appeal as a matter of right to the Appeal Committee (or Qualified Appeal Officer). An Appeal Committee (or Qualified Appeal Officer) may affirm, cancel or modify (in whole or in any part) the decision of the DC or Qualified JO (including reducing or increasing any sanction imposed thereby) in accordance with the provisions of WR Regulation 17. Decisions of the Appeal Committees or Qualified Appeal Officers are subject to a request to appeal to the USAR DC, which may, in its discretion, accept the matter for further review. Any such requests for an appeal to the USAR DC shall be subject to the provisions of Sections 6.2.2 through 6.2.6 hereof. If it accepts review, the USAR DC Appellate may affirm, cancel or modify (in whole or in any part) the appellate decision (including reducing or increasing any sanction upheld or imposed thereby) in accordance with the provisions of WR Regulation 17.

## OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.

Should incidents occur regarding play and playing arrangements not addressed by these Disciplinary Procedures, the general procedures as set forth in these Disciplinary Procedures shall be followed in that (1) the Local DC or Qualified JO will adjudicate the matter initially and render a written decision, (2) the decision of the Local DC or Qualified JO is subject to an appeal of right as a matter of right to the Local Appellate (which shall issue a written decision), and (3) the decision of the Local Appellate is subject to a discretionary appeal to the USAR DC. The provisions of these Disciplinary provisions specifying the parties having the right of appeal shall apply to the matters subject to this Section 8.1.

Any allegations regarding Misconduct by a referee, assistant referee, television match official, or similar match official (as the case may be "Referee") must come from a directly involved player/club/Local Organizing Body or USAR, and shall be directed to, and handled by, a DC or Qualified JO appointed by the Referee's local referee society or referee organizing body, which shall (1) adjudicate whether Misconduct occurred, (2) upon a finding of Misconduct, determine what sanction, if any, shall be imposed on the Referee, and (3) issue a written decision. Thereafter, the Referee, his/her society or referee organizing body or USAR may, as a matter of right, appeal the initial decision to the USAR R&L Committee DC, which will refer the matter to its standing DC (or if no such DC exists, to an ad hoc DC or Qualified JO it may appoint). The decision of the USAR R&L DC or Qualified JO is subject to a discretionary appeal to the USAR DC, which may choose to accept the matter for further review or decline to undertake further review and action. The decision of the USAR DC is final subject to the provisions of USAR Bylaws X and XII. In all instances, any decisions regarding a Referee's action shall not affect any decision regarding scores or game results.

## CITINGS.

For national competitions, to the extent feasible, USAR shall (1) appoint "Citing Commissioners" (as hereinafter defined), (2) establish Citing Procedures, and (3) allow referrals to the appointed Citing Commissioners by teams/clubs, in compliance with WR Regulation 17, particularly 17.9-17.12 and 17.16. A "Citing Commissioner" is an individual who is recognized as a "Citing Commissioner" (as the term is used in WR 17) by WR. Additionally, individuals recognized by USAR as being competent to act as a Citing Commissioner under WR Regulation 17 may be appointed as a Citing Commissioner by an Organizing Body. Persons wishing to be recognized as a Citing Commissioner by USAR shall (i) meet the minimum criteria for a Citing Commissioner set forth in WR Regulations 17, 18, and 20) and (ii) successfully complete the education requirements as may be adopted by USAR from time-to-time. USAR shall have the right to withdraw recognition of an individual's status as a Citing Commissioner recognized by USAR at any time.

For other matches, the Local Organizing Bodies are encouraged likewise to appoint Citing Commissioners and establish Citing Procedures, and may allow referrals of players to appointed Citing Commissioners for foul play by teams/clubs, all in compliance with WR Regulation 17 and these Disciplinary Procedures.

Where (1) Citing Procedures have been established by a Local Organizing Body and (2) a Citing Commissioner has been specifically appointed to a match by the Local Organizing Body, member clubs have the right to refer an on-field act or acts of any player allegedly constituting Foul Play to the appointed Citing Commissioner no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the conclusion of the subject match or other incident in question. One point is worth stressing; the test whether to cite a player for Foul Play is whether the conduct warranted a Red Card. The decision of the Citing Commission whether to cite or not cite on the basis of the referral is in the sole discretion of the Citing Commissioner and is final and is not subject to appeal.

Where (1) Citing Procedures have been established by a Local Organizing Body and (2) a Citing Commissioner has not been specifically appointed to a match<sup>3</sup>, member clubs have the right to cite an on-field act or acts of any player allegedly constituting Foul Play to the Local DC or the appointed Qualified JO no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the conclusion of the subject match or other incident in question, and the Local DC or the appointed Qualified JO shall determine whether or not to uphold the citation. Three points are worth stressing in the situation described in this Section 9.4, (1) the test whether to uphold the citation of a player for Foul Play is whether the conduct warranted a Red Card, (2) the decision of the Local DC or Qualified JO whether to uphold the citation is in the sole discretion of the Local DC or Qualified JO and is final and not subject to appeal; and (3) under WR 17.11.1, if the conduct in question was detected by the referee (meaning that the referee issued a Yellow Card or penalized the player for the conduct), there can be no citation with respect to such conduct.

If a club elects to refer or cite a player affiliated with a member club as provided in Section 9.3 or 9.4, the referring or citing club has the obligation to provide evidence that supports the referral or citation and this evidence or a description of the evidence must accompany the referral or citation. Additional evidence may be provided at any hearing that may follow.

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<sup>3</sup> Appointment to a match means that the Citing Commissioner is appointed to the match by the Local Organizing Body with the expectation that the Citing Commissioner will be present at the match or will review the entire match on video. Therefore, it is not permissible to simply assign a Citing Commissioner as the "duty" Citing Commissioner to cover all, substantially all, or a significant number of the matches on a particular Local Organizing Body's schedule on a particular day or series of days.



**MISCONDUCT CASES.**

With respect to Misconduct cases, refer to WR Regulation 20.9 (hearings) and WR Regulation 20.10 (sanctions). With regard to any allegations of Misconduct under WR Regulation 20 within, or with respect to, the Local Organizing Body, the Local DC or Qualified JO with initial jurisdiction shall review and, if appropriate (as determined as a matter of the reasoned discretion of the Local DC or Qualified JO), adjudicate the matter. A written decision issued by the Local DC or the Qualified JO with respect to (1) any decision not to adjudicate an allegation of Misconduct or (2) the decision arising out of any such allegation shall be promptly issued to all involved, and copies sent to the player’s Local Organizing Body, the USAR DC, and the Referee Department of USAR. The provisions of Sections 6.1 and 6.2 apply to Misconduct cases.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

Local DCs, Event DCs, Qualified JOs, Local Appellate, and Citing Commissioners (collectively, the “Judiciary”) are autonomous and independent of the Local Organizing Body. This means that: (1) Union officials (including officers, board members, and employees of the Local Organizing Body) may not serve in any capacity within the Judiciary and (2) once a matter is before the Judiciary, the Local Organizing Body has no power or right to revoke such jurisdiction, remove a member of the Judiciary with respect to that matter, or to shift responsibility for handling of the matter to another member of the Judiciary.

The USAR DC is autonomous and independent of USAR. This means that: (1) USAR officials (including officers, board members, and employees of USAR) may not serve on the USAR DC and (2) once a matter is before the USAR DC, USAR has no power or right to revoke such jurisdiction, remove a member of the USAR DC with respect to that matter, or to shift responsibility for handling of the matter to another body.

**ANNUAL REPORTS.**

By January 31 of each year, the various DCs, Appeal Committees, Appeal Officers, and USAR DC are requested and encouraged to submit to the Referee Department of USAR a written summary of all matters considered and all decisions rendered in the previous calendar year, in a format previously approved and distributed by the USAR Referee Department.

**Schedule 2 to Disciplinary Procedures.**

**REGULATION 17. APPENDIX 1. WORLD RUGBY SANCTIONS FOR FOUL PLAY.**

Law No.	Description	Entry Point Based on Scale of Seriousness of the Player’s conduct, which constitutes the offending – Lower End (LE), Mid Range (MR), Top End (TE).	Maximum Sanction
10.4(s) 10.4(m)	Verbal Abuse of Match Officials	LE – 6 weeks MR – 12 weeks TE – 18+weeks	52 weeks
10.4(s) 10.4(m)	Threatening Actions or Words at Match Officials	LE – 12 weeks MR – 24 weeks TE – 48+ weeks	260 weeks
10.4(s) 10.4(m)	Physical Abuse of Match Officials	LE – 24 weeks MR – 48 weeks TE – 96+ weeks	Life
10.4(a)	Striking another Player with a hand, arm or fist	LE – 2 weeks MR – 5 weeks TE – 8+ weeks	52 weeks
10.4(a)	Striking another Player with the elbow	LE – 2 weeks MR – 5 weeks TE – 9+ weeks	52 weeks
10.4(a)	Striking with knee	LE – 3 weeks MR – 8 weeks TE – 12+ weeks	52 weeks



<b>10.4(a)</b>	Striking with head	LE – 4 weeks MR – 10 weeks TE – 16+ weeks	104 weeks
<b>10.4(b)</b>	Stamping/Trampling on an Opponent	LE – 2 weeks MR – 5 weeks TE – 9+ weeks	52 weeks
<b>10.4(c)</b>	Kicking an Opponent	LE – 4 weeks MR – 8 weeks TE – 12+ weeks	52 weeks
<b>10.4(d)</b>	Tripping an Opponent with the foot/leg	LE – 2 weeks MR – 4 weeks TE – 8+ weeks	52 weeks
<b>10.4(e)</b>	Dangerous tackling of an Opponent including early or late and including the action known as the “stiff arm tackle”	LE – 2 weeks MR – 6 weeks TE – 10+ weeks	52 weeks
<b>10.4(e)</b>	Dangerous tackling of an Opponent including a tackle or attempted tackle above the line of the shoulders even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders	LE – 2 weeks MR – 6 weeks TE – 10+ weeks	52 weeks
<b>10.4(f)</b>	Holding, pushing or obstructing an Opponent not holding the ball, by a Player who is not in possession of the ball, except in a scrum, ruck or maul	LE – 2 weeks MR – 4 weeks TE – 6+ weeks	52 weeks
<b>10.4(f)</b> <b>10.4(k)</b>	Dangerous charging or obstructing or grabbing of Opponent without the ball, including shouldering	LE – 2 weeks MR – 5 weeks TE – 10+ weeks	52 weeks
<b>10.4(g)</b>	Dangerous charging or knocking down an Opponent with the ball, including shouldering	LE – 2 weeks MR – 5 weeks TE – 10+ weeks	52 weeks
<b>10.4(h)</b>	A player must not charge into a ruck or maul. Charging includes any contact made without use of the arms, or without grasping a player	LE – 2 weeks MR – 5 weeks TE – 10+ weeks	52 weeks
<b>10.4(i)</b>	Tackling, tapping, pushing or pulling an Opponent jumping for the ball in a lineout or in open play	LE – 3 weeks MR – 6 weeks TE – 12+ weeks	52 weeks
<b>10.4(j)</b>	Lifting a Player from the ground and either dropping or driving that Player’s head and/or upper body into the ground whilst the Player’s feet are off the ground	LE – 4 weeks MR – 8 weeks TE – 12+ weeks	52 weeks
<b>10.4(k)</b>	Causing a scrum, ruck or maul to collapse	LE – 2 weeks MR – 4 weeks TE – 8+ weeks	52 weeks



10.4(m)	Testicle grabbing or twisting or squeezing	LE – 12 weeks MR – 18 weeks TE – 24+ weeks	208 weeks
10.4(m)	Biting	LE – 12 weeks MR – 18 weeks TE – 24+ weeks	208 weeks
10.4(m)	Contact with the Eye(s) or the Eye Area	LE – 12 weeks MR – 18 weeks TE – 24+ weeks	208 weeks
10.4(m)	Spitting at Players	LE – 4 weeks MR – 7 weeks TE – 11+ weeks	52 weeks
10.4(m)	Verbal abuse of Players based on Religion, Race, Colour, or National or Ethnic Origin, sexual orientation or otherwise	LE – 4 weeks MR – 8 weeks TE – 16+ weeks	52 weeks
10.4(m)	Any other acts (not previously referred to) which are contrary to good sportsmanship	LE – 4 weeks MR – 7 weeks TE – 11+ weeks	52 weeks
10.4(m)	Hair pulling or grabbing	LE – 2 weeks MR – 4 weeks TE – 6+ weeks	52 weeks

In respect of offences not referred to in Appendix 1 above, appropriate sanctions may be imposed at the discretion of the relevant Judicial Officer, Disciplinary Committee, Appeal Officer and/or Appeal Committee (as the case may be).

Notwithstanding the Sanctions in Appendix 1 and/or the provisions of Regulation 17.19 in cases where the player's actions constitute mid range or top end offending for any type of offence which had the potential to result and, in fact, did result in serious/gross consequences to the health of the victim, the Judicial Officers and/or Disciplinary Committees may impose any period of suspension including a suspension for life.

## **APPENDIX II. WORLD RUGBY REGULATION 8. ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY FOR NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS.**

8.1 Subject to Regulation 8.2, a Player may only play for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team, the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team and the senior National Representative Sevens Team of the Union of the country in which:

- (a) he was born; or
- (b) one parent or grandparent was born; or
- (c) he has completed thirty six consecutive months of Residence immediately preceding the time of playing.

8.2 A Player who has played for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of a Union is not eligible to play for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of another Union.

8.3 For the purposes of this Regulation, a Player is deemed to have played for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of a Union if:

- (a) He is selected for such team to play in an International Match against the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of another Union (or in a fifteen-a-side international Match against another Union's senior or next senior Touring Squad during a World Rugby approved International Tour) and is present at the Match played by that team either as a replacement, substitute or a playing member of that team and has, at the time of the Match, reached the age of majority; or
- (b) He is selected to represent a Union's senior Touring Squad on an International Tour which includes an International Match or Matches approved by World Rugby and is present at any fifteen-a-side Match played on that International Tour either as a replacement, substitute or a playing member of a team selected from the Union's senior Touring Squad and has, at the time of the Match, reached the age of majority; or
- (c) He is selected to represent a Union's next senior Touring Squad on a World Rugby approved International Tour and during that International Tour he is present at a Match against the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National



Representative Team of another Union either as a replacement, substitute or playing member of a team selected from the Union's next senior Touring Squad and has, at the time of the Match reached the age of majority.

- (d) He is selected to represent the Under 20s National Representative Team of a Union which has been pre-designated as that Union's next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team and the Player is part of the team which participates in an International Match as part of the World Rugby Junior World Championships, World Rugby Junior World Rugby Trophy or the Six Nations U20 Championship and is present at the Match played by that Team either as a replacement, substitute or playing member of that Team and has, at the time of the Match, reached the age of majority.

8.4 For the purposes of this Regulation, a Player is deemed to have played for the senior National Representative Sevens Team of a Union if he is selected to represent a Union's senior National Representative Sevens Team in an International Match against the senior National Representative Sevens Team of another Union and is present at the Match played by that Team either as a replacement, substitute or playing member of that Team and has, at the time of the Match, reached the age of majority.

#### **Responsibility, breach and penalties for a breach of Regulation 8.**

8.5 Regulation 8 is a strict liability offence and shall be construed in accordance with the principles of strict liability under English law. It is not, therefore, necessary that fault or intent on the part of a Union be shown in order for a breach of Regulation 8 to be established. Nor is lack of fault or intent on the part of a Union a defence to a breach of Regulation 8. For the avoidance of any doubt (and without limiting a Union's other obligations and responsibilities for the conduct, acts or omissions of its members and Persons under its jurisdiction pursuant to any other Regulation) Unions are responsible and accountable for the conduct of their Players and all Persons under its jurisdiction in relation to compliance with the provisions of Regulation 8 and any breach of Regulation 8 by such Player(s) or Person(s) shall be deemed to be a breach of Regulation 8 by the Union concerned. Each breach of Regulation 8 by a Union, howsoever arising, will result in a minimum fixed fine being imposed on the Union concerned. The minimum fixed fines for each breach of Regulation 8 are as follows:

- a. For a Union that is represented on the Council £100,000 sterling;
- b. For all other World Rugby Member Unions £25,000 sterling. Based on the facts and circumstances of any breach of Regulation 8 the applicable minimum fixed fine as set out above may be increased. In addition, other penalties as set out in Regulation 18.6 may also be imposed on the Union concerned.

8.5.1 In waivable circumstances, a Union in breach of Regulation 8 may make submissions to the relevant disciplinary body appointed under Regulation 18 to adjudicate on the case as to why the Union should not be subject to the applicable minimum fixed fine. For the avoidance of any doubt, however, the relevant disciplinary body shall only be entitled to reduce the applicable minimum fixed fine set out in this Regulation where the Union is able to provide clear and indisputable evidence that truly exceptional circumstances exist and that the Union concerned had taken all necessary steps to comply with Regulation 8.

8.6 To be eligible to participate in the Olympic Games, Olympic qualification events (together "Olympic Events") or other events governed by the Olympic Charter all members of the senior National Representative Sevens Team(s) of a Union or the selected Olympic Sevens Team(s) of a National Olympic Committee shall comply with Regulation 8.1 and must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee which it is representing in such Olympic Events. Regulation 8.2 applies equally to all Players.

8.7 A Player who is a national of the country or Union for which he has been captured under Regulation 8.2 and who holds the nationality of another country or Union, may apply to participate in an Olympic Event to represent his new country or Union subject to the following conditions;

8.7.1 The Regulations Committee shall consider the application of a Player under this Regulation 8.7 which must be submitted with all relevant supporting documentation by the Union for whom the Player wishes to next represent in an Olympic Event (or a Union associated with the Olympic Sevens Team the Player wishes to represent). The application shall be pre-notified to the Player's Union (namely the Union whose National Representative

Team the Player represented);

8.7.2 The Player will be required to observe and demonstrate a stand down period of at least 3 years since the time the Player last represented their former Union and the time the Player first plays for the second Union or country, which must be in an Olympic Event. The Player may not represent the second Union in any other form of the Game until after they have participated in such Olympic Event.

- (a) Solely in respect of the Rio Olympic Games 2016, a stand down period of at least 18 months will be permitted, between the time the Player last represented their former Union and the time the Player first plays for the second Union or country, which must be in an Olympic Event in the Rio Olympic Games cycle, which the Player must observe and demonstrate.

8.8 Where the Player is not a national of the Union for which he has been captured under Regulation 8.2, and he meets the Olympic eligibility criteria (in Regulation 8.6 to 8.13) as determined by the Regulations Committee, he shall be eligible for selection to play for the Union / country of which he is a national, in an Olympic Event, subject to satisfying the applicable stand down period.

8.9 A Player who is eligible or captured for a Union that cannot participate in an Olympic Event because there is no National Olympic Committee solely for the territory of such Union, may, subject to the Olympic eligibility criteria (in Regulation 8.6 to 8.13), be eligible to play for the Olympic Sevens Team of a National Olympic Committee of which he is a national, provided that such team is not associated with any one single Union. In such circumstances the following provisions shall apply;

8.9.1 Where the Player has been captured under Regulation 8.2 for a Union he shall remain captured for such Union notwithstanding the Player's representation for the Olympic Sevens Team of a National Olympic Committee in an Olympic Event;

8.9.2 Where the Player has not previously been captured under Regulation 8.2 and he represents the Olympic Sevens Team of a National Olympic Committee in an Olympic Event he will be deemed to be captured for one of the underlying Unions which support the Olympic Sevens Team of the relevant National Olympic Committee, and the Player must elect which of those underlying Unions he shall be captured by for the purposes of Regulation 8.



8.10 A Player who has represented one Union or Olympic Team in an Olympic Event and who has changed his nationality or acquired a new nationality, may apply to participate in an Olympic Event to represent his new Union or country provided that at least three years have passed since the Player last represented his former Union or country and the approval of the International Olympic Committee, the relevant National Olympic Committee(s) and World Rugby is obtained. This period may be reduced or even cancelled with the agreement of the World Rugby and the National Olympic Committees concerned and by the IOC Executive Board, which takes into account the circumstances of each case.

8.11 A Player may not represent two different Unions or a Union and an Olympic Sevens Team(s) of a National Olympic Committee in the same Olympic Event(s).

8.12 Once the Player has represented the Union of which he is a national, in an Olympic Event, he shall thereafter be tied to that Union for all forms of the Game and in all events.

8.13 Players who participate in the Olympic Events accept and agree that any disputes relating to eligibility shall first be addressed pursuant to the rules of such Olympic Events and the World Rugby Regulations and that all internal procedures (including applicable National Olympic Committee rules/procedures) and/or World Rugby procedures shall be exhausted first. Thereafter, recourse may be had in respect of Olympic Events only (and not in relation to eligibility matters to which Regulation 8.6 to 8.16 does not apply) to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in accordance with the provision applicable before such court and which will resolve definitively the dispute in accordance with the code of sports related arbitration. World Rugby has the right to appear, attend and/or participate as a party in any appeal to CAS involving eligibility considerations for Olympic Events.

8.14 Any Union wishing to obtain clarification around the eligibility of a Player to represent it in the Olympic Games or Olympic Events may do so by referring the matter to the World Rugby Regulations Committee in accordance with Regulation 2 and Regulation 8.7.1 and 8.7.2.

8.15 The list of Olympic Events is set out in Schedule 2 and shall be updated for each Olympic cycle.

8.16 The provisions of Regulation 8.5 apply equally to any alleged breach of the Olympic eligibility provisions.

## **EXPLANATORY GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REGULATION 8.**

**These Explanatory Guidelines must be read in conjunction with the terms of Regulation 8.**

### **1. What is the Rationale/Philosophy of Regulation 8?**

The rationale/philosophy of Regulation 8 is to ensure that Players selected to represent either the senior and next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Teams of a Union or a Union's senior National Representative Sevens Team have a genuine, close, credible and established national link with the country of the Union for which they have been selected. Such a national link is essential to maintain the unique characteristics and culture of elite international sporting competition between Unions. The integrity of International Matches between Unions depends upon strict adherence to the eligibility criteria set out in the Regulations.

### **2. Who establishes the eligibility criteria in Rugby Union?**

World Rugby will continue to establish the criteria by reference to which a Player's eligibility to play for the senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of a Union or a Union's senior National Representative Sevens Team will be determined. Citizenship of a country and/or whether a Player holds a passport of a particular country are not, of themselves, determinative in identifying which Union a Player is eligible to represent. This will be determined solely in accordance with World Rugby's eligibility criteria. In relation to Olympic eligibility criteria see the Explanatory Guidelines on the Implementation of Regulation 8 – Olympic Eligibility.

### **3. What is the eligibility criteria in Rugby Union?**

The existing World Rugby eligibility criteria set out in Regulation 8.1 will be maintained. This is based on the following:

- (a) The country in which the Player was born; or
- (b) The country in which one parent or grandparent of the Player was born; or
- (c) The country in which the Player has completed thirty-six consecutive months of Residence immediately preceding the time of playing. Residence means the place or location in which a Player has his primary and permanent home and Resident shall be construed accordingly; and (d) For Olympic Event participation, the nationality of the Union / country the Player wishes to represent is also required.

### **4. If a Player has dual eligibility, can he play for the senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of more than one Union?**

No, save for those Players that, before 1 January 2000, allowed a period of 36 consecutive months to elapse after they had played for another Union and who played for the second Union before 1 January 2000. The one Union only rule, introduced by World Rugby from 1st January 2000 (as set out in Regulation 8.2), will be maintained. A Player is only entitled to play Rugby Union for the senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of one Union. Accordingly, if a Player is deemed to have played for such a team, even if he is able to satisfy one or more of the eligibility criteria set out in Regulation 8.1, he will not be able to play for any other Union. Consistent with the overall rationale underlying the eligibility Regulations, the one Union only rule is designed to maintain the integrity of the international Game. Once a Player has committed himself to a particular Union, through participation in one of the Matches or Tours identified in Regulations 8.3 or 8.4, he is unable to change his "Rugby Nationality" which becomes fixed.

### **5. When is a Player deemed to have played for the senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of a Union or a Union's senior National Representative Sevens Team?**

As a result of the one Union only rule, in particular, it is essential that Players and Unions understand the situations in which Players will be deemed to have played for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of a Union or a Union's senior National Representative Sevens Team. These situations are set out in Regulations 8.3 and 8.4. Players and Unions shall, at all times, have regard to the full terms of Regulations 8.3 and 8.4, however, by way of a summary only, the situations set out below are covered:

#### **Fifteen-a-side**

- a) Players who participate in International Matches for the senior National Representative Team or the next senior National Representative Team of a Union against the senior or next senior National Representative Team of another Union.
- b) Players selected to represent a Union's senior Touring Squad who participate in any Match played by members of that Union's senior Touring Squad during an International Tour provided such International Tour includes an International Match(es) approved by World Rugby.
- c) Players who participate in a Match for the senior or next senior National Representative Team of a Union against a team made up of Players from a Union's senior Touring Squad during an International Tour which includes International Match(es) approved by World Rugby.
- d) Players, representing a Union's next senior Touring Squad who participate in a Match on an International Tour approved by World Rugby against the senior National Representative Team or the next senior National Representative Team or the next senior National Representative Team of another Union.



- e) Players who play for the senior or next senior National Representative Team of a Union against a team selected from a Union's next senior Touring Squad when such Match is played on an International Tour approved by World Rugby. Seven-a-side Players who play for a Union's senior National Representative Sevens team in an International Match against the senior National Representative Sevens team of another Union.

## 6. How do I know which team is a Union's next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team?

- a) There should be no uncertainty over which team constitutes a Union's next senior National Representative Team. Unions are required to notify World Rugby of the name of their nominated next senior National Representative Team. The team nominated remains the Union's next senior National Representative Team unless the Union notifies World Rugby of a change in this nomination. A Union is entitled to notify World Rugby no more than once per calendar year of a change to its next senior National Representative Team provided that in doing so it shall take account of any Matches such team may be scheduled to play and shall advise the Union of any senior or next senior National Representative Team it is scheduled to play reasonably in advance of such Match. The identity of a Union's next senior National Representative Team can be verified with the Union concerned and/or World Rugby.
- b) Unions must ensure that all persons involved in an International Match (Players and team management including coaching staff) are made aware of the status of their team as the next senior National Representative Team and that of their opposing team where it is the senior or next senior National Representative Team of another Union and what that means from a capturing perspective under Regulation 8. Notwithstanding the Union's obligation to inform the Player and team management it shall be the sole responsibility of each Player to ensure that he is aware of the status of every Match in which he plays and the implications of playing in an International Match involving the senior or next senior National Representative Teams of two Unions.
- c) In addition to (a) and (b) above, Unions who designate their Under 20s National Representative Team as their next senior National Representative Team have a particular onus to clearly make the Team Players aware of the consequences of being captured for that Union at age grade level. Effective 1 July 2014, the Players on any such Team which participates in the World Rugby Junior World Championships, World Rugby Junior World Trophy or the Six Nations U20 Championship (where they are present at the Match played by that Team either as a replacement, substitute or playing member of that Team and has, at the time of the Match, reached the age of majority) will be captured. In this regard the status of the opposition teams in any Match in these named tournaments is not a factor to be considered.

## 7. What is the age of majority?

For the purposes of the Regulations, the age of majority is deemed to be acquired on a Player's 18th birthday.

## 8. Does the eligibility criteria apply to all forms of Rugby?

The eligibility criteria applies to the fifteen-a-side Game at senior and next senior National Representative level and in respect of a Union's senior National Representative Sevens Team.

## 9. Does the eligibility criteria apply to all Unions in membership of World Rugby ?

Yes, all Unions in membership of World Rugby are obliged to comply with the eligibility Regulations.

## 10. How will the eligibility criteria be assessed?

Ordinarily, the task of assessing whether a Player satisfies any of the eligibility criteria set out in Regulation 8.1 is straightforward. However, as a result of professionalism, greater mobility and societal family change this is not always the case. Difficult cases have arisen and may continue to emerge. The responses to the questions set out below are intended to provide further clarification as to how each eligibility criterion in Regulation 8.1 will be applied.

The questions and answers should be regarded as guidelines. They have been prepared on the basis of operational experience to date. It is not possible to anticipate all scenarios that may arise and a degree of flexibility in the application of the Regulations will be maintained. Moving forward, in the event that there is any uncertainty or the need for clarification in relation to the application of the eligibility criteria in particular circumstances, then the Regulations Committee may be asked by World Rugby to make a ruling on a Player's eligibility. In relation to any such adjudication, the Regulations Committee will always have in mind the rationale behind Regulation 8. The aim of the Regulations Committee in each case where clarification may be required, is to establish whether, in all the circumstances, a Player has, by reference to the eligibility criteria in Regulation 8.1, been able to demonstrate a genuine, close and credible national link with the country that the Player wishes to represent. It is anticipated that over time a body of rulings by the Regulations Committee may develop which may, in turn, assist in providing further guidance to Unions in relation to eligibility matters.

## 11. When should any uncertainty over a Player's eligibility be clarified?

It is essential that eligibility issues are clarified before a Player represents the senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of a Union or a Union's senior National Representative Sevens Team. This is particularly important in light of the one Union only rule. Accordingly, if a Union has any doubt over a Player's eligibility status it must take all steps necessary to clarify the position before selecting the Player to play for its senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or its senior National Representative Sevens Team.

## 12. What does place of birth mean?

This should be the most straightforward criterion to apply. A Player's place of birth shall be the country within whose geographical borders he was born. However, difficult scenarios can arise even in relation to this criterion. For example, where a Player was born within the geographical borders of one country, but in a part of that country deemed by the law of the country concerned, to be the sovereign territory of another, or where a Player was born in a military hospital. In such circumstances the matter should be referred to the Regulations Committee for a ruling. The Regulations Committee would need to establish the legal position together with other relevant facts and circumstances. In exceptional circumstances it may be possible for a Player to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Regulations Committee, that he is eligible to play for the Union within whose sovereign territory he was born, even though that sovereign territory may be within the geographical borders of another country.

## 13. What does Parent mean?

The term "parent" in the Regulations is limited to either a blood parent or a parent that has formally adopted a Player in accordance with the applicable legal requirements of the country concerned. Unless a Player has been adopted in accordance with the formal, legal requirements of the country concerned, the application of this criterion will be based on a Player's blood parent. When a Player has been formally adopted in accordance with the applicable legal requirements of the country concerned, the birth place of the Player's blood parent will no longer be relevant for the purposes of establishing the Player's eligibility pursuant to Regulation 8.1(b). The relevant parent will be the parent that has formally and legally adopted the Player. However in such circumstances, the relevant grandparents for the purposes of establishing a Player's eligibility pursuant to Regulation 8.1(b) will be the Player's blood grandparents. It is not possible under Regulation 8.1(b) to assume eligibility via non-blood grandparents even if a Player has been formally and legally adopted. For the avoidance of any doubt, stepparents and fostering parents will not be considered to constitute a Player's parent for the purposes of Regulation 8.1(b).

## 14. How is the Residence criteria satisfied?

Regulation 8.1(c) requires a Player to complete 36 consecutive months of Residence immediately preceding the time of playing. Residence is defined as "the place or location in which the Player has his primary and permanent home" and Resident shall be construed accordingly. In essence, Regulation 8.1(c) constitutes a sporting naturalization procedure, based on a geographical/presence test. As in any naturalisation process, a number of factors will influence the determination of what constitutes a Player's permanent and primary home. Such factors include, but are not limited to, the actual time spent in a country and the purpose of any absences during the qualification period. By being Resident in a country for a period of 36 consecutive months immediately preceding the time of playing for a Union, a Player is deemed to acquire a credible, close and established national link with a country/Union that entitles him to participate in sporting competitions for that Union. Based on the overriding rationale of the eligibility Regulations, in cases where a Player's eligibility is uncertain the Regulations Committee will consider that Player's eligibility by reference to the particular facts and circumstances of his case to establish if the Residency test, in the context of the overall rationale of the eligibility Regulations, has been satisfied. The principles set out in responses to the questions below will act as guidelines to the Regulations Committee when it is asked to consider any cases pursuant to this criterion.

### 15. Whose burden of proof?

In all cases where a Player is seeking to establish eligibility by reference to the Residency criteria in Regulation 8.1(c) (and, indeed, in relation to Regulation (or 8.1(a) and (b)), the burden of proof is on the Player and the Union that he wishes to represent to prove that Player's eligibility. Under Regulation 8.1(c), the Player and his Union must be able to demonstrate that, during the relevant period, the country in which he claims he has been Resident was, genuinely, the country that the Player treated as his home and is clearly the country in which the Player has his primary and permanent home. If a Player has moved from one country to another, and is seeking to establish Residence in that new country, then he must also be able to demonstrate that he is clearly no longer Resident in the country in which he lived previously and that he no longer treats that country as his home. For the avoidance of any doubt, a Player cannot nominate a country as his home without demonstrating that he has satisfied the geographical commitment/presence test enshrined in Regulation 8.1(c). The geographical commitment/presence test will be vigorously upheld and applied to avoid abuse of the Residency criteria. For example, a Player that acquired/leased property in a country and who nominated that property as his permanent and primary home (even though he may only be present at that property and in that Union on a short term/temporary basis) would not satisfy the Residency test.

### 16. Will short breaks interrupt a period of Residence?

Short breaks in Residence, for example, for holidays, attending family/friends in other countries who may be ill etc, are unlikely to change the place/location of a Player's primary and permanent home and are, therefore, unlikely to interrupt a Player's period of Residence. By way of a guideline, however, as a minimum requirement, it is likely that, save in exceptional circumstances, at least 10 months actual physical presence of the Player in the country concerned throughout any qualifying year of the Residency period, will be required to demonstrate that the country is the place where the Player has his primary and permanent home.

### 17. Does the 36 month period of Residence have to immediately precede playing for a Union?

Save in exceptional circumstances, the 36 months Residence will be expected to have been completed consecutively and be achieved immediately before the Player represents a Union. This is designed to create a contemporary national link with the country of the Union concerned. This factor will be particularly significant if a Player has moved to make a "new" country his Residence having been Resident in another country previously. In essence, in such circumstances, the Player, as well as demonstrating his commitment to a new country, must also be (and seen to be) relinquishing his ties with the country in which he lived previously. For the avoidance of any doubt, seeking to rely on short periods of Residence as a child in a particular country, combined with a short period of Residence in that same country prior to playing for a Union, is likely to create a link that would be too tenuous to satisfy the underlying intentions of establishing a contemporary, permanent, national link with a Union. However, each case will be assessed on its overall merits to establish if a Player is able to demonstrate a genuine, close, credible and established national link by reference to the amount of time the Player can demonstrate that he has treated the "new" country as his home and other relevant factors.

### 18. What is the position of students?

As far as students are concerned, particularly those that are not financially independent, being resident, as a full time student, in another country, is likely to be considered as a series of temporary absences from the parental home. It is anticipated that in the majority of cases involving students the parental home is likely to continue to constitute the student's permanent and primary home. Accordingly, attendance at college/university in such circumstances is unlikely to break a Player's consecutive period of Residence. However, as in all matters of eligibility, the overriding concern of the Regulations Committee in assessing any such case will be to ensure that there remains a close, credible and established link with the country in which the Player claims to have retained his primary and permanent home. There could be circumstances in which a student living in another country may be deemed to have interrupted his Residency period.

### 19. Who is responsible for compliance with the eligibility criteria?

In accordance with Regulation 2.1.2, each Union is responsible for ensuring compliance with all Regulations Relating to the Game This includes, but is obviously not limited to, Regulation 8. Accordingly, it is the responsibility of each Union to ensure that all Players it selects are properly eligible within the provisions of Regulation 8 and, in the event of any uncertainty, to ensure that the position is clarified before the Player is selected. Unions must have in place all necessary procedures and internal controls to ensure compliance with the eligibility Regulations.

### 20. What must Unions do to ensure (and demonstrate) compliance with the eligibility Regulations?

Unions must ensure that before a Player is selected for the first time for its senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or its senior National Representative Sevens Team the Player completes the standard form declaration attached to these Explanatory Guidelines at Schedule 1. In addition, before selecting a Player, Unions must ensure that they obtain valid/authentic documentation and such other evidence that may be necessary to prove, definitively, a Player's eligibility to play for that Union. Each Union must notify World Rugby of the names of all Player's selected for its senior and next senior National Representative Team and its senior National Representative Sevens Team on an annual basis. World Rugby shall maintain a database of all such Players. If requested, by the Chairman, or his designee, Unions must supply copies of the completed declaration forms of a Player(s) together with supporting documentation relied on to demonstrate the Player's eligibility. On 1 December each year, each Union must certify to World Rugby that each Player selected to represent the senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of the Union or its National Representative Sevens Team during the past year has completed, in full, the declaration form and that each Player was eligible to represent the Union in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 8.

World Rugby may, through the Chairman, or his designee, of his own motion or on receipt of a complaint undertake an investigation into a Union's compliance with Regulation 8. Unions, Players and officials must provide assistance with any such investigation and disclose such information and documents deemed necessary by the Chairman, or his designee, for the purposes of that investigation.

### 21. What are the consequences of a breach of the eligibility Regulations?

Compliance with Regulation 8 is of fundamental importance in maintaining the integrity of international Rugby Union at senior National Representative level. Any breach of such a fundamental Regulation, howsoever arising, has a detrimental impact on the image and reputation of the sport. Unions must, therefore take all necessary steps to put in place comprehensive review/compliance procedures to ensure that a breach of the eligibility provision does not occur whether negligently or otherwise. Alleged breaches of Regulation 8 may be investigated and handled in accordance with Regulation 18 (Disciplinary and Judicial Matters). However, a breach of the eligibility Regulations constitutes a strict liability offence. This means that a failure by a Union to fulfill its obligations and to comply with the eligibility Regulations will be regarded as a serious breach of the Regulations, howsoever such breach may have occurred. As a reflection of the seriousness with which any breach of the eligibility Regulations will be treated by World Rugby, it has been agreed by Council to establish a minimum fixed penalty to be imposed on a Union that has breached Regulation 8. These minimum fixed penalties will appear in Regulation 8 and, for ease of reference, are also set out below.

8.5 Responsibility, breach and penalties for a breach of Regulation 8 Regulation 8 is a strict liability offence and shall be construed in accordance with the principles of strict liability under English law. It is not, therefore, necessary that fault or intent on the part of a Union be shown in order for a breach of Regulation 8 to be established. Nor is lack of fault or intent on the part of a Union a defence to a breach of Regulation 8. For the avoidance of any doubt (and without limiting a Union's other obligations and responsibilities for the conduct, acts or omissions of its members and Persons under its jurisdiction pursuant to any other Regulation) Unions are responsible and accountable for the conduct of their Players and all Persons under its jurisdiction in relation to compliance with the provisions of Regulation 8 and any breach of Regulation 8 by such Player(s) or Person(s) shall be deemed to be a breach of Regulation 8 by the Union concerned. Each breach of Regulation 8 by a Union, howsoever arising, will result in a minimum fixed fine being imposed on the Union concerned. The minimum fixed fines for each breach of Regulation 8 are as follows: (a) For a Union that is represented on the Council £100,000 sterling; (b) For all other World Rugby Member Unions £25,000 sterling.

Based on the facts and circumstances of any breach of Regulation 8 the applicable minimum fixed fine as set out above may be increased. In addition, other penalties as set out in Regulation 17.6 may also be imposed on the Union concerned.

## Explanatory Guidelines on the Implementation of Regulation 8 – Olympic Eligibility

With the re-introduction of Rugby Sevens into the Olympic Games in Rio in 2016 there are certain rules which participants must adhere to for eligibility purposes. The Olympic Eligibility Regulations (8.6 to 8.16) have been introduced to accommodate the Olympic Charter Rules. To assist in the implementation of these Regulations, the following Guidelines have been developed to address the specifics around Olympic Sevens eligibility which differs from that of World Rugby eligibility requirements in that it is based solely upon a nationality consideration alone. The two sets of rules have been combined to achieve harmony between the objectives and underlying philosophy of Regulation





8 and the requirements of the Olympic Charter in the context of participation with the terms of Regulation 8 and the Guidelines thereto.

in Olympic Events. These Explanatory Guidelines must be read in conjunction

### **1. Who is eligible to play Olympic Sevens?**

Any Player who meets eligibility criteria in 8.1 and holds the nationality of the Union/country they wish to represent in the Olympic Games or Olympic Qualification process (known as the "Olympic Events"). The eligibility rules in the Olympic Charter together with the World Rugby eligibility rules must be complied with by Players who participate in Olympic Events.

### **2. Must a Player have the passport of the Union / country he represents in Olympic Sevens?**

The nationality of the Union/country the Player wishes to represent in Olympic Sevens is a requirement under the Olympic Charter and is therefore necessary for participation in Olympic Events. Nationality is ordinarily demonstrated by the Player holding the passport of the Union / country they wish to represent. All matters relating to the determination of the country which a Player may represent in the Olympic Games shall ultimately be resolved by the IOC Executive Board.

### **3. Who will decide on Olympic Sevens eligibility?**

Ordinarily, the assessment of whether a Player satisfies the eligibility criteria in Regulation 8.1 and 8.6 will be straightforward. However, in all cases where a Player who has been captured under Regulation 8.2 and who holds the nationality of another Union / country and wishes to participate in an Olympic Event(s) for the Union / country of which he is a national, the Player may apply to World Rugby to represent the National Representative Sevens Team of that Union (or the Olympic Sevens Team of a National Olympic Committee), and the case shall be determined in the first place by the World Rugby Regulations Committee. In the event there are other cases of uncertainty or there is the need for clarification a referral may be made to the World Rugby Regulations Committee.

### **4. What is required to be submitted to the Regulations Committee?**

Applications should be submitted to World Rugby accompanied by all relevant supporting documents by the Union (or in applicable cases where there is no Union, the National Olympic Committee ("NOC")) of the country the Player wishes to represent in an Olympic Event. The application shall be pre-notified to the Player's Union (namely the Union who's National Representative Team the Player has previously represented). The Player's Union may make written submissions to the World Rugby Regulations Committee or may be invited to do so.

### **5. Can a Player with dual nationality, or having World Rugby eligibility for one Union but the nationality of another, represent both Unions / countries in the same Olympic qualification process?**

No. A Player may only represent one Union/country in the Olympic Events. For example if a Player played for a Union in the Sevens World Series in the year it was designated as an Olympic Event the Player could not later in the same Sevens World Series play for another Union/country even in circumstances where he was deemed eligible by the Regulations Committee to play for the second Union/country of which he is a national. The principle of Regulation 8.2 applies equally to Olympic Events, such that if a Player, having represented one Union / country in an Olympic Event they may not represent another Union/country thereafter.

### **6. Can a Player switch nationality?**

Nationality is a matter which is governed by nation states. If a Player does switch nationality the effect of this upon their Olympic eligibility would need to be considered taking into account Regs 8.6 to 8.16 and the Olympic Charter Rules: [www.olympic.org](http://www.olympic.org). However, a Player who has represented one Union/country in an Olympic Event(s) and who changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality may participate in Olympic Events for their new Union/country provided that at least three (3) years have passed since Player last represented their former Union/country and the approval of the IOC, the relevant National Olympic Committee(s) and World Rugby is obtained.

### **7. How will the Olympic eligibility criteria be assessed?**

In the early days of Olympic participation the view was taken by World Rugby that the Regulations Committee should assess all cases where a Player who has already been captured for a Union under the one Union only rule (Regulation 8.2) but wishes to subsequently play for another Union/country for which s/he holds nationality in an Olympic Event.

### **8. Is there any stand-down period?**

Yes. The Player will be required to observe and demonstrate a stand down period of three (3) years between the time the Player last played for his Union and the time the Player first represents the second Union, which must be in an Olympic Event. Played, shall mean when s/he played for the senior, next senior or senior sevens National Representative Team of that Union for which s/he is captured. The principles of Regulation 8.3 apply in any assessment of this provision.

### **9. What does 'first represents' mean?**

It means the first occasion when the Player represents the second Union in a Match, Tournament or Series of Matches – which must be in an Olympic Event. The Player would not however, be permitted for example to participate in pre-season Matches or so-called 'friendly' matches or other Matches which are not Olympic Events representing the second Union. Training with the team of the second Union is permitted but the circumstances should not be such that it presents or implies to third parties that the Player is part of the National Representative Sevens Team or Olympic Sevens Team of the second Union / country.

### **10. How will the stand-down period be assessed?**

The onus will be on the Player to demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the Regulations Committee the last occasion upon which s/he played for their former Union and that they have not represented such Union in the three year period before they represent their new Union / country in an Olympic Event.

### **11. Are these Olympic Guidelines to be read with the World Rugby Eligibility Guidelines? Yes, both sets of Guidelines should be read together.**

### **12. What is the position for Unions who do not have a single NOC to represent them?**

Member Unions of World Rugby are not necessarily recognised in their own right with equivalent NOC's, for example the British Olympic Association (Team GB) is the NOC for Great Britain and therefore encapsulates the Unions of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (represented by the all-Ireland body of the IRFU). In such case, Players from the underlying Unions would be eligible (where they comply with Regulation 8.1 and 8.6) to represent the Olympic Sevens Team of the NOC (if selected) in relevant Olympic Events.

### **13. If a Player plays for a combined team in an Olympic Event does it affect his eligibility in relation to World Rugby?**

If a Player plays for a combined team of a country in an Olympic Event (e.g. Team GB) and he was previously not captured for a Union (under Regulation 8.2) then the Player will be deemed to be captured for one of the underlying Unions of the combined team of country he represented. So in the case of Team GB it would mean that the Player would then be free to play for one of England, Scotland, Wales and/or Ireland.

If a Player plays for a combined team of a country in an Olympic Event (e.g. Team GB) and he was previously was captured for a Union (under Regulation 8.2) then the Player remains captured for such Union and their participation in the combined team in the Olympic Event will not affect their status.

### **14. Is there a right of appeal from the decision of the World Rugby Regulations**

Yes. An Olympic Eligibility appeals committee has been established under Regulation 2 to deal with any appeals of decisions by the World Rugby Regulations Committee.

### **15 For the Olympic Games 2016 in Rio, do any special provisions apply?**

Rugby Sevens will enter the Olympic Games for the first time in 2016. The qualification process has been established and all persons eligible to participate must have qualified by 11 July 2016. In terms of eligibility, the three (3) year stand-down period applies. However, given the timing of the clarification of the qualification process and the constitutional review of the eligibility requirements for Olympic Events a shorter stand-down period in respect only of the Olympic Games 2016 shall apply. In this regard any Player who wishes to represent a Union / country for whom s/he holds the nationality and has previously been captured for another Union may do so provided the Player stands down from their current Union at least 18 months before representing the Second Union in an Olympic Event in the Rio Olympic Games cycle.

## **SCHEDULE 1. EXPLANATORY NOTE**



As from 1 January 2000 a player is only entitled to play Rugby Senior National Representative Team of one Union.

Union for the Senior National Representative Team or the next

This means that if a player is deemed to have played for the Senior National Representative Team or the next Senior National Representative Team of a Union that player will be unable to play for any other Union. This is the position even if that player is able to satisfy one or more of the eligibility criteria set out in Regulation 8.1.

It is important that players and Unions understand the situations in which players will be deemed to have played for the Senior National Representative Team or the next Senior National Representative Team of a Union. These situations are set out in Regulation 8.3.

Regulation 8.3 is based on a “selection and participation” test for players who have reached the age of majority [18 or over]. Players and Unions must familiarize themselves with Regulation 8.3. Players should be made aware by Unions of what constitutes that Union's Senior National Representative Team, its next Senior National Representative Team, its Senior Touring Squad and its next Senior Touring Squad and the Matches that will result in a player being committed to that Unions. The following situations are covered by Regulation 8.3.

1. Players who participate in International Matches for the Senior National Representative Team or the next Senior National Representative Team of a Union against the Senior or next Senior National Representative Team of another Union.
2. Players selected to represent a Union's Senior Touring Squad who participate in any Match played by members of that Union's Senior Touring Squad during an International Tour provided such International Tour includes an International Match(es) approved by World Rugby.
3. Players who participate in a Match for the Senior or next Senior National Representative Team of a Union against a team made up of players from a Union's Senior Touring Squad during an International Tour which includes International Match(es) approved by World Rugby.
4. Players, representing a Union's next Senior Touring Squad who participate in a Match on an International Tour approved by World Rugby against the Senior National Representative Team or the next Senior National Representative Team of another Union.
5. Players who play for the Senior or next Senior National Representative Team of a Union against a team selected from a Union's next Senior Touring Squad when such Match is played on an International Tour approved by World Rugby.

Players ARE expected to provide valid copy birth certificates or other relevant formal documentation in support of their declaration. Players may be requested to provide additional documentation as appropriate in support of their eligibility to play for a senior National Representative Team or the next senior National Representative Team of a Union.