



ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS

GENERAL REGULATIONS AND EVENT-SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

Revisions for the **2014-15** Competitive Season are noted in ***bold, italicized, black*** text.

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 (IRB 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.

1. **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. **Basis of Competition** - Contest between two teams, playing what is considered to be the strongest squad on that day, in an effort to determine the 'best' team.
3. **CIPP** - Club and Individual Participation Program. All clubs and players must register before participating in any competition in accordance with the Regulations contained herein.
4. **CIPP Deadline** - Date by which a player MUST be registered in order to participate in any League/Qualifying Match:
 - ▶ October 1st for Women's Premier League (WPL) participants
 - ▶ **April 1** for Men's and Women's Senior Club participants (15s)
 - ▶ July 1st for Men's and Women's Club participants (7s)
5. **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.
6. **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'.
7. **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.
8. **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. The conclusion of the competitive season is defined by the final match of the team's potential competitive 15s season (e.g. the championship match of the fall or spring playoffs, not the date at which the individual player's team was eliminated. Collegiate guest players must have their transfer approved prior to participation in a League/Qualifying match with any senior club.*
9. **Competition** - Unless otherwise specified, a game considered to be between the strongest squads of two teams on that day to determine the 'best' team.
10. **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.
11. **Competitive Region Committee** - Sub-Committee of the USA Rugby Club Strategic Committee with delegated responsibility for determining the clubs that participate according to the structure of USA Rugby Championship Events established, and according to the eligibility and competition standards as determined in the Rules.
12. **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.
13. **Competitive Region Championships** - Any 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 include an earlier Qualifying (Play-In/Repechage) Match scheduled and required by two teams from different CRs by the National Competitions Committee.
14. **Competitive (League/Qualifying/CR) Match** - A match between teams from the same Competitive Region that leads to any post-season/play-off competition which leads to a USA Rugby Championship. Jurisdiction of this competition lies with the Competitive Region Committee.
15. **Competition Schedule** - The teams selected to represent the GU/CR Competition in the Competitive Region/Round of 8' play-offs must be determined on the basis of competition (i.e., rather than allocation by other criteria). 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.
16. **Contest** - Unless otherwise specified, a game considered to be between the strongest squads of two teams on that day to determine the 'best' team.
17. **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.
18. **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 National Championship competed.
19. **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.*



20. **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.
21. **Elite Senior Club:** A team participating in a competition(s) that has been designated as 'elite' by the USA Rugby National Competitions Committee.
22. **Exception** - May be specifically listed within these Regulations, which allows participation in circumstances outside the normal published regulations. Exceptions require the request and receipt of an Eligibility Waiver.
23. **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. The full 28 person Roster for the Event Weekend must be confirmed by the date and time announced by USA Rugby. The Event Weekend is division specific; a player named to the Roster in one division is not eligible to join the Roster for a side in a different division until that Event Weekend has concluded.
24. **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.*
25. **Fifteens Competitive Season** - Governs Fifteens competitions leading to USA Rugby National Championships for men and women. Runs from completion of the prior year National Championship through the completion of the current year National Championship.
26. **Friendly (Social) 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 a USA Rugby Championship. All players must be CIPP registered with USA Rugby (at large or with any club) in order to participate.
27. **Game** - Rugby football played in accordance with the iRB Laws of the Game.
28. **GU** - Geographical Union. Local administrative and organizational governance model for Senior Club rugby.
29. **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.
30. LAU - Local Area Union.
31. **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'.
32. **High School Club** - Teams made up of high school enrolled players from multiple high schools.
33. **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.
34. **High School Team** - Teams made up of high school enrolled players from a single high school.
35. **Laws** - Laws of the Game of Rugby Union as published annually by the International Rugby Board (iRB).
36. **League (Qualifying/CR) Match** - A match between teams from the same Competitive Region that leads to any post-season/play-off competition which leads to a USA Rugby Championship. In the Senior Club division this applies to all matches leading to the earlier of either the USA Rugby 'Round of 8' or any USA Rugby-required Repechage/Cross-CR/Play-In matches which lead to the USA Rugby 'Round of 8.' Jurisdiction for this competition lies with the Competitive Region Committee.
37. **Lower Division Side** - Intended division for less competitive clubs or the developmental squad of larger clubs providing 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.
38. **Match** - A game in which two teams compete against each other.
39. **Match Roster** - List of starting players; may or may not also require possible substitutions to be named. Players on the Match Roster during an USA Rugby Championship Event are locked into that Division for duration of that Event Weekend.
40. **National Competitions Committee** - Sub-Committee of the USA Rugby Club Strategic Committee responsible for determining the clubs that participate according to the structure of USA Rugby Championship Events established, and according to the eligibility and competition standards as determined by USA Rugby.
41. **Non-Resident Player (NR)** - A player who is not a U.S. citizen and does not possess permanent or conditional resident alien status at the time of the competition. In order to have eligibility for USAR Senior Club Championships the player must be residing in the United States by:
 - ▶ *October 1st for Women's Premier League participants*
 - ▶ **April 1st for Men's and Women's Senior Club participants (15s)**
 - ▶ *July 1st for Men's and Women's Club participants (7s)*
40. **Participant** - All persons registered with USA Rugby and the Local Governing Body (i.e. GU/Conference) including clubs, players, coaches, managers, referees, medical support staff, administrators and officials.
41. **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.
42. **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 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 Cross-CR Game or Repechage Game.
43. **Qualifying (League/CR) Match** - A match between teams from the same Competitive Region that leads to any post-season/play-off competition which leads to a USA Rugby Championship. *In the Senior Club division this applies to all matches 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 USAR 'Round of 8.'* Jurisdiction for this competition lies with the Competitive Region Committee.
 44. **Regulations** - Eligibility guidelines relating to the Game and binding on all GUs, LAUs, CRs and Conferences.
 45. **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.
 46. **Repechage Game** - A match between teams of two different Competitive Regions, scheduled by and required by USA Rugby/the National Competitions Committee, 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 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 Cross-CR Game.
 47. **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.*
 48. **Sevens Competitive Season** - Governs Sevens competitions leading to USA Rugby Club Sevens and All Star Sevens Championships. Runs from June 1st through completion of the USA Rugby All Star Sevens Championship.
 49. **Sevens Tournament** - A competition taking place over the course of at least one day between four or more registered sevens teams.
 50. **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 a USA Rugby Championship. All players must be CIPP registered with USA Rugby (at large or with any club) in order to participate.
 51. **Spirit of the Rules (IRB 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.
 52. **Spring Academic Term** - The academic term as defined by the University Registrar as spring - this may be a spring quarter or spring semester.
 53. **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 A-side, 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.
 54. **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 along with approval for the transfer from the former team and consent of the Local Governing Body (GU/Conference).
 55. **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 Competitive Region Committee, the National Competitions Committee, and/or USA Rugby, and which leads to the CR 'Round of 8', and USA Rugby Semi-Finals and Finals.
 56. **Waiver** - Required for any player to be eligible for competition in a particular category, division or gender outside of the regulations contained herein.
 57. **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.

- a) Each GU/LAU/CR/Conference or Association (Approved Governing Body) is deemed to have full knowledge of the content of these Regulations.
- b) 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.
- c) 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.
- d) All updated information on current year deadlines and eligibility requirements will be maintained at 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 participate 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 iRB 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) With the exception of non-contact rugby, no women/girls shall play on a men/boys team and no men/boys shall play on a women/girls team.
- e) USA rugby shall follow the International Olympic Committee and US Olympic Committee policies regarding transgendered athletes.



- f) Player entering the US from any other international union must receive official clearance through his/her home union and USA Rugby in accordance with IRB Regulations.
- g) 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.

- a) 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.
- b) Players younger than 18, or 19 in the case of participating in the front row, are only permitted to participate in Adult Rugby if every condition listed below has been satisfied.
- c) USA Rugby must confirm that the criteria specified have been met. 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.
- d) Under 18 players may not play Adult Rugby during the competitive segment if or when there is an age-appropriate or scholastic program available.

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.

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 Adult 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 Adult Rugby match in the front row unless the following are obtained (excludes rugby sevens):

- 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.

In order for an Under 18 player, or Under 19 in event of a front row player, to be eligible to play Adult Rugby, the club for which s/he wishes to play must:

- a) collect all required consents, confirmations and forms listed as mandatory to fulfill terms of this policy; and



- b) provide 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) maintain, and upon request be able to produce, the written waiver from USA Rugby 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.

Within this policy the following phrases have the following meaning:

- ▶ **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'.
- ▶ **Under 18:** Being under 18 years of age.
- ▶ **Under 19:** Being under 19 years of age.

Introduction.

This policy relates to players who are Under 18 who wish to play in, or be involved in training for, all College matches.

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;
- 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.

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;
- 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 so 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 either paragraphs 2 or 3 above.

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

Introduction.

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.

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;
- 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 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. Club Eligibility.

- a) To qualify for the USA Rugby Senior Club play-offs each team selected to represent the CR must have:
 - i) been determined on the basis of competition (i.e., rather than on basis of allocation);
 - ii) fulfilled their USA Rugby/Competitive Region stated divisional minimum number of contests (or predetermined goal) competed unless a waiver has been granted by USA Rugby; and
 - iii) used the USA Rugby Competitions (CMS) on-line module for all League/Qualifying/CR matches.

Note: Regular-season League/Qualifying/CR matches which lead to the USA Rugby ‘Round of 8’ or to a USA Rugby Play-In/Repechage/Cross-CR competition (as scheduled and required to be competed by the National Competitions Committee/Competitive Region Committee), may be used to meet this contest participation minimum.
- b) Clubs may carry a maximum Roster of 28 players per Event Weekend.

For purposes of this rule:

 - ▶ 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 gender.
 - ▶ The full Roster is locked for duration of Event Weekend.
- c) Clubs must carry a minimum Roster of 20 players per Event Weekend. For purposes of this rule:
 - ▶ 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 gender.
 - ▶ The full Roster is locked for duration of Event Weekend.
- d) The Match Roster may list a maximum of 23 players.
 - ▶ The Match Roster may include up to five (5) non-resident players.
 - ▶ **The Match Roster may include a maximum of three (3) Collegiate Guest players (see 13.5.2-a for definition).**
- e) The Roster for all League/Qualifying/CR contests in addition to the Match Roster for all CR play-off rounds may include up to five (5) non-resident players.
 - ▶ For such events, a nonresident is defined as player who is not a U.S. citizen and does not possess permanent or conditional resident alien status at the time of the competition.
- f) The Event Weekend Roster may include a maximum of ten (10) non-resident players **and a maximum of six (6) Collegiate Guest players (see 13.5.2-a for definition).**
 - ▶ The Match Roster may include up to five (5) non-resident players.
 - ▶ For purposes of this rule, the full Roster is locked for duration of Event Weekend.
- g) All matches shall be governed by IRB Law 3.4, subject to iRB Law 3.14 “Union Specific Variations”, with respect to substitutions and front row replacements. When 22 or 23 players are nominated in a team, there must be sufficient front row players to play at hooker, tight-head prop and loose-head prop who are suitably trained and experienced to ensure that on the first occasion that a replacement in any front row position is required, the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums.
 - USA Rugby allows a maximum of eight replacements/substitutes.
 - The replacement of a front row forward must come from suitably trained and experienced players who started the match or from the nominated replacements (iRB Law 3.14-c):

<u>Number of Players:</u>	<u>Number of Suitably Trained and Experience Players:</u>
15 or less	Three players who can play in the front row
16, 17, or 18	Four players who can play in the front row
19, 20, 21 or 22	Five players who can play in the front row
22 or 23	Six players who can play in the front row

h) Front Row Players Under 19.

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 Adult 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 Adult Rugby match in the front row unless the following are obtained (excludes rugby sevens):

- i) written agreement from the Under 18 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;
- ii) written parental or legal guardian's consent;
- iii) Copy of Under 18 player's birth certificate;
- iv) Copy of USA Rugby Medical History form, or qualified medical assessment, completed and signed by a medical expert/physician; and
- v) 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.

3.2. 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.

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.
 - ▶ **October 1** for Women's Premier League (WPL) competitions.

- b) Non-Resident (NR) players must have entered and be residing in the United States prior to:
 - ▶ **April 1** for Men's and Women's Division I, II, and III competitions.
 - ▶ **October 1** for Women's Premier League (WPL) 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 3.2-(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 3.2-(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 Championship (those contests under the authority and jurisdiction of USA Rugby, and beyond the jurisdiction and control of CR events. 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') except when the club fields teams in more than one division (see 3.3-c):

6 League/Qualifying Matches Played:	Must play in at least two (2) matches.
8 League/Qualifying Matches Played:	Must play in at least two (2) matches.
10 League/Qualifying Matches Played:	Must play in at least three (3) matches.
12 or more League/Qualifying Matches Played:	Must play in at least three (3) matches.

- e) A player must not have played in a League/Qualifying/CR Match for any other Club, regardless of the division of, or the geographical distance between the two clubs, during the Fifteens Competitive Season. **Any exception 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.**
- f) Non-graduating college players, or those with remaining collegiate eligibility, may join senior clubs upon the conclusion of their intercollegiate 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 meet the following criteria:
 - i) The player's collegiate 15s competitive season must have concluded; and
 - ii) The player has received a written release from their College Head Coach approving the transfer; and
 - iii) The player has received a written confirmation of no outstanding disciplinary or financial issues from his/her college Conference/Union; and
 - iv) No more than three (3) Collegiate Guest players may be listed on the Match Roster for any League/Qualifying/CR match.

**For purposes of this rule:**

The conclusion of the competitive season is defined by the final match of the team's potential competitive 15s season (e.g. the championship match of the Fall or Spring Regional or National playoffs, not the date at which the individual player's team was eliminated).

All transfer requests must be initiated with USA Rugby by the CIPP player registration deadline. Once a player has played in a senior club League/Qualifying/CR match he/she shall have no further collegiate eligibility for the remainder of the competitive cycle. **No player registration transfer is required to train with a senior club, or to compete in friendly matches, socials, or club tournaments.**

- g) Non-graduating college players, or those with remaining collegiate eligibility, may receive temporary transfer eligibility with an Elite senior club for an approved competition upon approval by the USA Rugby High Performance Elite Player review committee. Elite 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.
 - ▶ For the 2014-15 competitive cycle the Elite senior club competitions have been identified as the Women's Premier League and the American Rugby Premiership.
- h) 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 iRB Regulations.
- i) Players in the front row under 19 years of age and players in other positions under 18 years of age must meet all of the provisions of Section 2.6 of the USA Rugby General Eligibility Regulations.
- j) *Each Competitive Region/GU is specifically precluded from creating additional and/or tighter eligibility restrictions than the national guidelines.*

See Section 13.5.2 for information about potential senior club waivers.

For purposes of this Rule:

- i) *A League/Qualifying/CR match is defined as a competition, under the authority and jurisdiction of the Approved Governing Body, which leads to any post-season/same-CR play-off competition that leads to a USA Rugby Championship Event.*
- ii) *A USA Rugby Championship Event is defined as those events under the authority and jurisdiction of USA Rugby, including:*
 - o *USA Rugby Playoffs (Competitive Region Play-offs starting with the Play-In/Repechage/Cross-CR play-off competition, as scheduled and required by the National Competitions Committee, and/or the CR "Round of 8"); and*
 - o *USA Rugby Semi-Finals and Finals.*
- iii) *The Fifteens Competitive Season refers to the period of time from the completion of the previous year's USA Rugby National Championship through the completion of the current year USA Rugby National Championship.*
- iv) *Play is defined as actually stepping onto the field either as a starter, reserve, or blood substitution for any length of time.*

3.3. Senior Clubs Fielding Multiple Sides.

The intent of these regulations is to control the movement of players on upper sides to lower sides.

For purposes of this rule, the definition and intent of a Lower Division side:

Intended division for less competitive clubs or the developmental squad of larger clubs providing 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.

For purposes of this rule, the definition and intent of an Upper 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.

- a) Teams competing for a USA Rugby championship 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 non-USA Rugby Championship competitions 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:
 - i) *Up to three (3) players may be listed as a RESERVE PLAYER for the upper division League/Qualifying/CR Match.*
 - ii) *That limit may be increased to four (4) RESERVE PLAYERS if at least one of those players is a front row specialist. Otherwise a player is permitted to play for only one divisional side per weekend.*
 - iii) *The movement of lower division 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 Event Weekend. For purposes of this rule, the full Roster is locked for duration of the Event Weekend.*
- c) To be eligible in the lower division of a senior club fielding teams in multiple divisions, a player must:
 - (viii) *meet the criteria specified within 3.2-(d) for player participation minimums; AND,*



- (ix) played in a minimum of three (3) League/Qualifying/CR matches at the divisional (or lower) level entered into the USA Rugby Championship Event; AND,
- (x) not have played in 50% (or more) games in the higher division of the club based on the total number of League/Qualifying CR games played in by that player. Note: Clubs are required by USA Rugby to use the CMS for all League/Qualifying/CR matches.; AND
- (xi) not have played in 50% (or more) of the total number of games scheduled in the club's higher division of competition.
- d) Any player who has started in at least two (2) or played in three (3) or more of a club's Women's Premier League matches, or has played in the WPL Playoffs during the current competitive season, is not eligible to play in any other division of a USA Rugby Championships.
- e) Using the total number of League/Qualifying CR Matches played by the player, if 50% or more were with the higher division side, that player is no longer eligible to play in a lower division of the USA Rugby Championships. The 50% standard is player-specific. Clubs are required by USA Rugby to use the CMS for all League/Qualifying/CR matches.
- f) Using the total number of League/Qualifying CR Matches played by the player, if 50% or more were with the higher division side, that player is no longer eligible to play in a lower division in any intra-CR cross-over or play-off competitions which lead to the USA Rugby Championships. However upper division contests may still be used by players to meet minimum participation criteria specified in USAR 3.3-(c).
- g) Using the total number of League/Qualifying CR Matches played by the player, if 50% or more were with the higher division side, that player is no longer eligible to play in a lower division in any USA Rugby/Competitions Committee required Play-In/Repechage/Cross-CR or Pathway match(es) which serves as an extension of the USA Rugby Championships (CR Round of 8). Players must have met the minimum participation specified in USAR 3.3-(b) in order to be eligible to compete in the afore-listed rounds of competition.

For purposes of this rule, the definition and intent of a Lower Division side:

Intended division for less competitive clubs or the developmental squad of larger clubs providing 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.

For purposes of this rule, the definition and intent of an Upper 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.

- h) Any player who has played in any USA Rugby Championship Event is not eligible to play for any other division for the remainder of the USA Rugby Championships.

For purposes of this rule, a USA Rugby Championship Event is defined as those events under the authority and jurisdiction of USA Rugby, including:

- i) USA Rugby Playoffs (Repechage, Competitive Region/Round of 8 matches); and
 - ii) USA Rugby Semi-Finals and Finals.
- i) A continuing and/or returning player registering for a senior club fielding multiple sides prior to the Registration Deadline (USAR 3.2-a) but after the conclusion of the League/CR/Qualifying schedule and/or unable to meet the minimum match criteria specified (USAR 3.3-b) may be declared eligible only for the upper division on that club for the remainder of the competitive season.

3.4. Senior Clubs Participating in the Elite Cup Competition.

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.

- a) 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:
- i) Team must be registered in the current year's CIPP, with all dues fully paid.
 - ii) Team must have a registered coach certified by USA Rugby.
 - iii) Team must have a Roster minimum of NINE (9) players for sevens competitions and FIFTEEN (15) players for fifteens competitions.



- b) Each team must be in good standing with the college/university and the conference or regional governing body of which it is a member.
- c) Each team may carry an unlimited number of student--athletes on its Roster.
- d) 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:
 - i) *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,*
 - ii) *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:

- a) 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.
- b) 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.
- c) 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.
- d) 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.
- e) Every student--athlete has seven years in which s/he may compete a maximum of five (5) years:
 - i) *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.*
 - ii) *There are no exemptions or exceptions to this seven-year window for college rugby eligibility.*
- f) 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.
- g) 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.
- h) The student--athlete must play on the team representing the school in which he/she is enrolled.
- i) 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 exception would be for an approved in-season temporary Elite Player transfer.***
- j) 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.

- a) 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 did not exceed the actual and necessary expenses to participate in the event.
- b) 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. This includes per diem offered during participation with recognized USA Rugby national and representative team assemblies and player win bonuses offered during participation with the USA Rugby National Team.

4.3.2 Collegiate Eligibility Grandfather Clause.

These regulations apply to all student athletes participating in USA Rugby's collegiate competition beginning with the 2012-13 competition cycle. However, a student athlete who competed in the 2011-12 competitive cycle as an eligible participant who has his/her eligibility status adversely affected by the new regulations may choose to complete his/her eligibility under the prior eligibility regulation 4.2-(a):

"Student is within five (5) years of the moment the player first enrolled in a university, college or junior college, regardless of when the player started playing rugby or had the ability to start playing collegiate rugby. Any college courses that are taken during high school do not start the eligibility clock."

No other section of the prior eligibility regulations will be considered in determining student athlete eligibility including any eligibility extensions as defined in prior regulation 13.5.2(a).



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 (if any) as may be required by the player's GU or College Conference, or to comply with the 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: players that are 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 SBRO 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 Based 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

- a) 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.
- b) 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. For the purposes of Section 5, a Qualifying Match is defined as regular season league matches as defined through SBRO 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. However, a player is eligible for the National Collegiate All Star Championships if that player meets all other requirements of a collegiate eligible player, 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 Academic 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.

For the purposes of this event, a non-resident player is defined as a person who is:

- a) not a U.S. citizen, does not possess permanent or conditional resident alien status at the time of the competition, and
- b) not a capped Eagle (Eagles are defined as those who have played for the USA in a senior test or "A" team competition).

All matches shall be governed by IRB Law 3.4, subject to iRB Law 3.14 "Union Specific Variations", with respect to substitutions and front row replacements.

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 iRB Regulation 8 a player may only play for the senior USA 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; or
 - iv) Has not played for the senior National Team of another Union; and
 - v) Meets all other IRB standards for National Team Representation.

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 iRB Regulation 8 a player may only play for the senior USAR 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); (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 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 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 iRB Regulation 8 a player may only play for the senior USAR 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.

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.

For purposes of this rule a player is deemed to have played for the senior National Team if:

- a) He or she is selected for such team to play in an International Match against the senior fifteen-a-side National Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Team of another Union (or in a fifteen-a-side international Match against another Union's senior or next senior Touring Squad during an IRB 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 or she is selected to represent a Union's senior Touring Squad on an International Tour which includes an International Match or Matches approved by the IRB 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 or she is selected to represent a Union's next senior Touring Squad on an IRB approved International Tour and during that International Tour he or she 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.

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

Players must meet all of the General Eligibility Regulations and:

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

- a) Concussion: Players suspected of having concussion or diagnosed with concussion must go through a graduated return to play protocol (GRTP: available on http://www.irbplayerwelfare.com/pdfs/IRB_Concussion_Guidelines_EN.pdf)
- b) Heat: *USA Rugby recommends that the Heat Illness Prevention Interventions established by the IRB (www.irbplayerwelfare.com) 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.

- a) 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 Territorial Representative. Appropriate Roster forms can be found at www.usarugby.org.
- b) 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.
- c) All updated information on current year deadlines and requirements will be maintained at 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); (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 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 (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.
- c) Proof of National Team Eligibility can be verified with a geographical/presence test:
- i) Original passport 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 exemption from these Eligibility Regulations must:

- ▶ *be in writing and supported by required documentation; and*
- ▶ *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 exemption.*

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 waiver requests should consider that backlogs of waiver 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.

All waiver requests must be submitted to the following address:

USA RUGBY Attn: Eligibility
2500 Arapahoe Ave., Suite 200
Boulder, CO 80302

Phone: 720.508.8011

Fax: 303.539.0311

Email: eligibility@usarugby.org

13.5.2 Senior Club Exemptions.

The following exemptions may be granted upon careful review of proper documentation by the USA Rugby Eligibility Committee. Please note that no determinations will be provided in less than five (5) business days prior to an event for which eligibility is requested.



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.

Fall Term Graduating College Players seeking a waiver to join a senior club must meet the following criteria:

- i) Only applies to Fall-term graduated college players with no remaining collegiate eligibility. Fall term college graduates seeking to join a senior club must include proof of graduation (copy of Diploma or Final Official Transcripts stamped with date of degree completion) with waiver request.
- ii) All transfer requests must be initiated with USA Rugby by the CIPP player registration deadline (USAR 3.2-a).
- iii) 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 request completed by USA Rugby no earlier than May 1. CIPP Registered college players may join the senior club for training, tournaments and non-League/Qualifying/CR competitions at any time.
- iv) College players seeking eligibility with a senior club on basis of geographic relocation must meet criteria specified in USAR 13.5.2-b.

Collegiate Guest Players seeking a transfer to join a senior club.

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

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

- i) The player's collegiate 15s competitive season must have concluded; and
- ii) The player has received a written release from their College Head Coach approving the transfer; and
- iii) The player has received a written confirmation of no outstanding disciplinary or financial issues from his/her college Conference/Union; and
- iv) All transfer requests must be initiated by the CIPP player registration deadline (USAR 3.2-a).

For purposes of this rule:

The conclusion of the competitive season is defined by the final match of the team's potential competitive 15s season (e.g. the championship match of the Fall or Spring Regional or National playoffs, not the date at which the individual player's team was eliminated).

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

All transfer requests must be initiated with USA Rugby by the CIPP player registration deadline (USAR 3.2-a).

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

No player registration transfer is required to train with a senior club, or to compete in friendly matches, socials, or club tournaments.

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 approve 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:

- Committee will be appointed by the President of Rugby Operations;
- Committee will 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).
- Committee decisions will only be for the listed and approve Elite senior club matches as applied.
- High Performance in-season transfer applications must be accompanied by written release from the player's college Head Coach and only for the specific dates and matches listed on the release.

B. Legitimate Geographic Relocation for Non-Rugby Reasons.

Waiver request must be initiated prior to the CIPP registration deadline (USAR 3.2-a) and be accompanied with documentation of extraordinary circumstances:

- i) Job or military transfer, enrollment in educational program, extraordinary or unusual personal hardship.
- ii) Waiver request must be accompanied by document(s) verifying reason for relocation (military transfer papers; dated offer of employment including terms of employment and start date in the new location; acceptance or admissions notification).
- iii) Waiver request must be accompanied with release from original club.
- iv) Waiver request must be accompanied with confirmation supplied by the appropriate LAU/GU rugby officer of no outstanding disciplinary or financial issues with former territory.



- v) The timing of the request (league standing and remaining schedule of the original club, league standing and remaining schedule of the new club) will factor into waiver consideration.
- vi) The specified event minimum for a player demonstrating legitimate geographic relocation for non-rugby reasons may be waived if all other criteria within USAR 13.5.2-(B) have been satisfied.
- vii) All waiver requests must include approval (release) for the transfer from both the former team and from the former CR/LAU/GU competitions officer.

Exemption 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.

Note: 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 USAR 3.3-b, may be declared eligible only for the upper division on that club for the remainder of the competitive season. Factors such as legitimate geographic relocation shall be taken into consideration by the Eligibility Committee.

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

C. Legitimate Medical Hardship.

Waiver request must be initiated prior to the CIPP registration deadline (USAR 3.2-a) and 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 (USAR 3.2-a) will not be waived on basis of early or unexpected return from an injury or illness.

Exemption 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.

Note: 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 USAR 3.3-b, may be declared eligible only for the upper division on that club for the remainder of the competitive season. Factors such as legitimate geographic relocation shall be taken into consideration by the Eligibility Committee.

No more than five (5) players joining any one club, for any reason, who otherwise meet all criteria specified may receive an exemption 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 from 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. Challenges.

All challenges must be handled at the appropriate governance levels. USA Rugby jurisdiction for challenges shall include:

- a) Challenges arising at or in relation to a USA Rugby Championship Event;
- b) Challenges arising regarding a player or club in a separate territory;
- c) Unresolved differences within one LAU/GU, or between two or more LAU/GUs;
- d) Appeals of decisions at the LAU/GU level. (See appeals section below.)

Procedure for Challenges under USA Rugby jurisdiction shall be as follows:

In the event of challenges during a USA Rugby National Championship Event, the designated USA Rugby Official will collect all pertinent data from the protesting party and the challenged party. This information will be sent to the National Office as soon as possible and no later than start of business on Monday following the event. The challenged player(s) may compete in the event, however, if the allegations of ineligibility are found to be true the match will be declared a forfeit. If the challenged player(s) do not take part in the event, then the match results will stand.

In the event of a challenge regarding 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 Challenge
2500 Arapahoe Ave., Suite 200
Boulder, CO 80302

Phone: 720.508.8011 Fax: 303.539.0311 Email: eligibility@usarugby.org

The challenger must submit a \$50.00 fee per player or club challenged.

13.7 Appeals.

If a club or player has been deemed ineligible by a 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. The appeal must contain the initial written ruling by the LAU/GU or other member of USA Rugby, all relevant documents and written communication regarding the decision, and certification that the Presidents of the 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. The failure to notify the appropriate official issuing the decision may be grounds for denial of the appeal.

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 Eligibility Committee chair or designee shall notify the LAU/GU President or highest-ranking officer of the member organization that issued the decision that such an appeal has been docketed.

All appeals should be directed to:

USA Rugby Attn: Eligibility Appeal
2500 Arapahoe Ave., Suite 200
Boulder, CO 80302
Fax: 303.539.0311

The appellant must submit a \$50.00 fee, which amount is returned if the appeal is found in favor of Appellant.

13.7.1. 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 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.

Such appeal must be made within seven (7) days of the decision of the USA Rugby Eligibility Committee, but no less than five (5) business days prior to an event for which eligibility is being requested. There shall be no exemptions 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 Eligibility Committee.

All written appeals shall be addressed to:

USA Rugby Attn: Appellate Panel
2500 Arapahoe Ave., Suite 200
Boulder, CO 80302
Fax: 303.539.0311

The appellant must submit a \$50.00 fee, which amount is returned if the appeal is found in favor of the Appellant.

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 determinations shall be provided for any reason less than five (5) business days prior to an event for which eligibility is being requested.

APPENDIX I. USA RUGBY DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES.

Effective for all disciplinary matters initiated on or after May 30, 2014

Acting pursuant to Bylaw 10.1, USA Rugby ("USAR") hereby establishes the following Disciplinary Procedures for assessing the seriousness of Foul Play and Misconduct and for imposing sanctions when necessary. All participants in Rugby at all levels within the United States are bound by and shall follow these procedures. All decisions regarding, and all suspensions imposed on, players and other individuals shall be accepted and applied universally by all USAR organizing bodies and their Disciplinary Committees and Officials.

These 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.

IRB REGULATIONS 17, 18, and 20.

Unless otherwise specified by USAR or modified by these Disciplinary Procedures, International Rugby Board ("IRB") Regulations 17, 18, and 20, including but not limited to the Sanctions for Foul Play set forth in Appendix 1 of IRB Regulation 17, as now in effect and as subsequently amended by the IRB, shall apply to all play within the United States, all rugby individuals, and all entities within USAR.



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 USA Rugby. Rugby under USAR jurisdiction is generally divided into play for Clubs, Colleges, Youth, and All Star/Representative sides. Each level of play may be administered by one or more organizational entities, which may include Geographic Unions ("GU"), Collegiate Conferences, and State Rugby Organizations ("SRO"), as well as USA Rugby itself. Match play and results in all these competitions can lead to National Championship Competition. In addition there are periodic matches and tournaments arranged by clubs and other organizations which are not played for national standing (so-called "Friendlies"), which may be organized and sanctioned under the authority of any of these subordinate administrative entities or structured in a friendly "Competition" for purposes play with a governing competition organizer.

Under its current structure, USA Rugby administers the GUs through the USAR Club Strategic Committee ("CSC"); college play is administered through the USAR College Management Committee ("CMC"), and Youth play is administered through the USAR Youth and High School Committee ("YHSC"). All of the foregoing entities, as well as the teams and individuals playing rugby in the United States, are responsible for administering these disciplinary procedures.

LOCAL DISCIPLINE.

Responsibility for the administration of these Disciplinary Procedures and for the initial determination of appropriate disciplinary sanction (if any) is held by the local organizing entity (GU, Conference, or SRO) most immediately responsible for sanctioning a competition. Each local organizing body (GU, Conference, or SRO) shall establish and maintain a Local Disciplinary Committee ("Local DC") with a minimum of 3 members. Each organization operating a Friendly (whether a single match, tournament or continuing competition) shall establish a Disciplinary Committee of at least 3 members for the event, tournament or competition ("Event DC" or "Competition DC"), or, at its discretion, appoint a single, qualified Disciplinary Officer.

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 12 MONTH PERIOD:

Yellow Card: *As used in these guidelines "Yellow card" refers to those temporary suspensions that result from infractions of Laws 10.1 or 10.4, only.*

Competitive regular match play during a sanctioned and administered competition: The player is automatically suspended from all further play until the situation is reviewed by the appropriate Local DC.

Inter-GU/Conference/SRO play: In the event there is a common governing body for both participating teams, the Disciplinary Committee of the common governing body 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 of the player's home area shall have initial jurisdiction of the matter.

For all such matches the DC with initial jurisdiction shall review the player's situation within 4 days of the conclusion of the match and follow the provisions of IRB Regulation 17 to determine if and how to impose further sanctions under IRB Regulation 17 Appendix 1. A written decision shall be promptly issued to all involved, and copies sent to the player's local governing organization, the USAR Disciplinary Committee ("USAR DC"), and the Referee Department of USAR.

For friendly match play: Upon a player's being Ordered Off/Red Card, or receiving 2 Temporary Suspensions/Yellow Cards for foul play during an Event or 3 Temporary Suspensions/Yellow Cards for foul play during a competition, the player is automatically suspended from further play in the Event or Competition until the Event DC or Competition DC reviews the situation and determines if and when the player may play further during the event. The DC with jurisdiction shall follow the provisions of IRB Regulation 17 to determine if and how to impose sanctions under IRB Regulation 17 Appendix 1. For events or tournaments, the decision of an Event DC is final during the friendly event and not subject to further review as to play during the Event. Regardless of the decision of an Event DC or Competition DC, the information regarding the situation and the DC's ruling shall promptly be forwarded to the player's Local DC to determine what further action, if any, it shall take.

APPEALS.

The governing body of each GU/Conference/SRO shall establish a Disciplinary Appeal Committee or designate an Appeal Officer to consider such matters as may come before the body. Appellate procedures shall comply with IRB Regulation 17, especially 17.22.i.

All decisions of a Local DC are subject to a single appeal as a matter of right. The decision of the Local DC with initial jurisdiction over the matter may be appealed in the first instance to the Disciplinary Appeal Committee/Officer of the governing body/executive committee of the GU, Conference, or SRO of the DC which reached the decision.

An appeal may be taken from the decision of a Local DC by the player, the player's club/team/organization, the opposing/victim player(s) or that player(s)' club/team/organization, the GU/Conference/ SRO of either the player or the victim player(s), or USA Rugby. Such parties shall lodge an appeal as soon as reasonably practicable but in any event no later than 72 hours following receipt by the appealing party of the decision. During the appeal, the player remains under whatever sanction, if any, originally imposed by the Local DC.

The Appeal Committee/Appeal Officer may affirm, cancel, alter, diminish, or increase any sanction imposed by the Local DC, following the provisions of IRB Regulation 17. The Appeal Committee/Appeal Officer shall render a written decision within 7 days of the receipt of the appeal to all involved, and send copies to the USAR Disciplinary Committee ("USAR DC") and the Referee Department of USAR.

In the event that the initial disciplinary hearing is held before the disciplinary committee of a GU, Conference or SRO, then the appeal as of right, shall be to the Disciplinary Appellate Committee/Disciplinary Appellate Officer of the relevant governing USAR body, i.e., the CSC, the CMC, or the YHSC. The Disciplinary Appeal Committee/Appeal Officer of the CSC, CMC or YHSC, as the case may be, shall handle the appeal in the same manner as set forth for initial appeals from a Local DC. During the appeal, the player remains under whatever sanction, if any, originally imposed by the DC of the GU, Conference, or SRO.

In the event that the initial disciplinary hearing is held before a Competition DC, the organizers of the competition shall provide for an appellate procedure which handles the appeal in the same manner as set forth for initial appeals from a Local DC. During the appeal, the player remains under whatever sanction, if any, originally imposed by the Competition DC.

Following the decision of the Appeal Committee/Appeal Officer of the GU/Conference/SRO (if one of those institutions considers the appeal as of right) or the decision of the Appeal Committee/Appeal Officer of the CSC, CMC, or YHSC (if one of those institutions considers the appeal as of right), or the Competition DC (if one of those institutions considers the appeal as of right), the player, the player's club/team/organization, the opposing/victim player(s) or that player(s)' club/team/organization, or the GU/Conference/ SRO of



either the player or the victim player(s) or USA Rugby may request further review by the USAR DC which may, in its discretion, choose to accept the matter for further review or decline to undertake further review and action. Such parties shall request an appeal as soon as reasonably practicable but in any event no later than 72 hours following receipt by the requesting party of the decision. If the USAR DC declines to accept the matter for further review, the previous decision and sanctions, if any, stand.

If the USAR DC chooses in its discretion to accept the matter for further review, the decision and sanctions, if any, of the Appeal Committee/Appeal Officer remain in effect pending review. If the USAR DC chooses in its discretion to accept the review, it shall render a written decision within 7 days of accepting review.

If it accepts review, the USAR may affirm, cancel, alter, diminish, or increase any sanction previously imposed, following the provisions of IRB 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.

In the event that the initial disciplinary hearing is held before the disciplinary committee of a governing USAR body, i.e., the CSC, the CMC, or the YHSC, then the appeal as of right, shall be to the USAR DC. The USAR DC shall, in that case, hear the appeal as of right and handle the appeal in the same manner as set forth for initial appeals from a Local DC. In such a circumstance the decision of the USAR DC shall be 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 establish DCs and Appeal Committees/Appeal Officers in compliance with these Disciplinary Procedures and IRB Regulations 17 and 18.

OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.

Should incidents occur regarding play and playing arrangements not in accordance with the circumstances described herein, the general procedures as set forth herein shall still be followed: there shall be a DC at the first level of governing administration of the event, an appeal to the next level of governing body/executive committee or relevant USAR governing body and its Appeal Officer/Appeal Committee, and thence to the discretionary review of the USAR DC.

Where these procedures provide that a disciplinary body is to act by a particular time, it is intended that the body should act by the time specified; however, the failure to act by the time specified shall not bar action by the body so long as substantial fairness is not compromised.

The various DCs, Appeal Committees, and Appeal Officers, of the entities of USA Rugby and USAR DC may reasonably adjust the timing requirements for any particular incident as needed by the particular circumstances, but any previously imposed sanctions still apply regardless of the timing and in no circumstances may the DCs, Appeal Committees, Appeal Officers, and USAR DC fail to follow and apply the substantive provisions of IRB Regulation 17 and 18, especially Appendix 1 to Regulation 17.

Any allegations regarding misconduct by a referee must come from a player/club/local organizing entity, and shall be directed to and handled by a DC of that referee's local referee society or referee organizing body, which shall determine what sanction, if any, shall be imposed on the referee. Thereafter, the referee or his society or referee organizing body may request further review by the USAR Referees and Laws Committee DC, which may in its discretion, choose to accept the matter for further review or decline to undertake further review and action.

The decision of the USAR R&L DC is final. In all instances, any decisions regarding a referee's action shall not affect any decision regarding scores or game results.

CITINGS.

For national competitions, as much as possible USAR shall establish Citing Commissioners and Citing Procedures, and allow citings by teams/clubs, in compliance with IRB Regulation 17, particularly 17.9-17.12 and 17.16.

For other matches, the GUs, Conferences, and SROs are encouraged likewise to establish Citing Commissioners and Citing Procedures, and may allow citings by teams/clubs, in compliance with IRB Regulation 17.

In all instances involving a citation (rather than a referee-imposed sanction), an IRB approved Citing Commissioner, Judicial Officer, or Appeal Officer should be included on, or consulted by, the appropriate DC, Appeal Committee/Appeal Officer, and USAR DC. Where Citing Procedures have been established, member clubs have the right to cite any player, coach, club official, or other person affiliated with the member club to the DC with jurisdiction for foul play or misconduct, which citation shall be made by written notice given to the Chair of the DC with jurisdiction no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the conclusion of the subject match or other incident in question. If a club elects to cite a player, coach, official or other person affiliated with a member club, the club has the obligation to provide evidence that supports the citation and this evidence or a description of the evidence must accompany the citation. Additional evidence may be provided at the D/C hearing.

ANNUAL REPORTS.

By January 31 of each year, the various DCs, Appeal Committees, Appeal Officers, and USAR DC shall 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.

USA Rugby Disciplinary Procedures: Procedure Pathway Diagram and Timeline. ([link](#))

Appendix II. Senior Club Championship Instructions

1. Roster Form.

Please reference USA Rugby General and Event-Specific Eligibility Regulations when filling out this form. These regulations can be found on the www.USARugby.org website under "Club" - "Eligibility." You must be in complete understanding of all regulations and how they apply to both the competition and your team before you can fill out this form.

The firm **deadline** by which the completed Roster Form with required club and CR/GU/LAU Officer signatures shall be clearly communicated by the USA Rugby Championships Event Staff.



2. Completing the Form.

2.a. Player Roster.

Player Name: Type or clearly print each player's **Name**, sorted alphabetically by last name. For the Event Weekend a club may have a maximum of twenty-eight (28) players on the Roster.

Please note that for purposes of this rule:

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. The full 28 person Roster for the Event Weekend must be confirmed by the date and time announced by USA Rugby. The Event Weekend is division specific; a player named to the Roster in one division is not eligible to join the Roster for a side in a different division until that Event Weekend has concluded.

Membership/CIPP #: Fill in each player's current **Membership/CIPP Registration Number** and ensure that it is current (paid in full for the current season) and affiliated with this club. CIPP Information can be located on the USA Rugby Membership website (usarugby.org >> member resources >> view public rosters).

Citizenship Status: Complete the **Citizenship Information** for each of the players on the roster. This must state whether the person is a "US Citizen," "Resident Alien," or "Non-Resident."

You must collect proof of this documentation in the event of an eligibility challenge. If you are challenged and cannot provide the appropriate documentation, it will result in disciplinary action that may include fines, suspension(s), forfeiture of matches, and/or loss of seed(s) for future competitions.

- a. A US Citizen is only a person who possesses a US Passport or a birth certificate indicating a birth within the United States.
- b. A Resident Alien is only a person who possesses a Permanent or Conditional Residence Card, also known as a "Green Card." Resident Aliens do not count against your foreigner allotment.
- c. A Non-Resident is someone who does not possess either of the above proofs of citizenship. For this event you are allowed to have up to five (5) Non-Residents on your roster.
- d. A passport stamp will be utilized to prove arrival date in country to illustrate eligibility for Non-Resident Alien players.

Please note that for purposes of this rule, the criteria specified in USAR 3.2-b must be met:

Non-Resident (NR) players must have entered and be residing in the United States prior to:

- ▶ **April 1** for Men's and Women's Division I, 2 and 3 competitions (15s)
- ▶ **October 1st** for Women's Premier League (WPL) competitions (15s)
- ▶ **July 1st** for Men's and Women's senior club competitions (7s)

* **NOTE:** A Passport or other Proof of Entry into the United States will be required to document this criteria has been met.

CR/GU/LAU Officials Only: Championship Eligible.

Please respond Yes or No to club eligibility requirements. Refer to the USA Rugby Eligibility Regulations, including but not limited to: minimum event requirements, registration enrollment/transfer date, and issues involving senior clubs fielding multiple sides.

2.b. Staff Roster.

Staff Name: Type or clearly print each **Staff Member's Name**, sorted alphabetically by last name. For the Event Weekend a club may have a maximum of eight (8) staff members on the Roster. Please note that a team may have no more than four (4) staff members in the team's technical zone during the championship Event.

Membership/CIPP #: Fill in each Staff Member's current **Membership/CIPP Registration Number** and ensure that it is current (paid in full for the current season) and affiliated with this club. CIPP Information can be located on the USA Rugby Membership website (usarugby.org >> member resources >> view public rosters).

Staff Role: List accurate status: Coach, Administrator, Medical.

CR/GU/LAU Officials Only: Sideline Eligible.

For verification as to whether a staff member is **Sideline Eligible**, please note that coaches and administrators may only be present if they are registered, active members of USA Rugby. Medical personnel will need to show evidence of medical certification upon check-in and/or when asked by event officials.

Club Name. Type or clearly print full and official club name as registered with USA Rugby.

Club Membership/CIPP #: Provide the **Club Membership/CIPP Registration Number** and confirm it is current (paid in full) and that the club is in good standing with the CR/GU/LAU and USA Rugby for the current season.

Coach/Manager (Printed).

Club Contact (if different than Coach/Manager).

Phone / E-mail.

Please provide the current and most accurate **Contact Information** for the team. This is required in the event that USA Rugby Staff must alert the team in advance of the competition for any necessary follow-up information, an emergency, or any last minute changes to the event.

Club Representative Signature.

After reviewing and verifying that all the information provided on the Roster Form is correct and current, the **Club Representative** must sign and date. By signing the club acknowledges responsibility for ensuring that all information is accurate and complete. If any information is found to be inaccurate, forged, or incorrect there will be disciplinary sanctions placed on the team representative or key contact, the player found in violation, and the CR/LAU/GU Official who signed the document. Disciplinary sanctions may include fines, suspension, forfeiture of matches, or loss of seed(s) for future competitions. After signing the Roster Form, it may be faxed or emailed to the appropriate CR/GU/LAU Officer (not affiliated with this club).

CR/GU/LAU Officer (the CR/GU/LAU President or other elected official) Signature.

After verifying that this information is correct, the CR/GU/LAU Officer must sign and date the document. This signature serves as the Officer's confirmation that all information provided on the Roster Form is accurate and that this club has been found to be **Championship Eligible**. If any information is found to be inaccurate, forged, or incorrect there will be disciplinary sanctions placed on the CR/GU/LAU Official who signed the document. Disciplinary sanctions may include fines, suspension, forfeiture of matches, or loss of seed(s) for future competitions. An email directly to the USA Rugby Championships Manager from the CR/GU/LAU Officer who reviewed and approved the Roster will serve as the required signature that this club has been found to be Championship Eligible.

CR/GU/LAU Officer Statement.

If there are any outstanding eligibility, disciplinary and/or other issues related to the participation of this club in the Championships Event, the CR/GU/LAU Officer may use this section to share that information with USA Rugby.

This form must be received in the national office by the deadline provided by USA Rugby which will be clearly indicated on all communications from the USA Rugby Championships Event Staff.

3. SAMPLE USA Rugby Senior Club Championship Roster Form.

PLAYER ROSTER

COLUMN FOR CR/GU/LAU

