

NATIONAL SMALL COLLEGE RUGBY ORGANIZATION LLC

In Support of the Best Student-Athletes Playing the Best Sport in the World

www.nscro.org

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY POLICY

ISSUED: August 2012

In keeping with its goal to raise the profile of small college rugby as well as helping its growth and development, the NSCRO has prepared its Player Eligibility Policy to insure fairness in competitive league and playoff matches and to allow flexible participation of student-athletes, including non-traditional students. NSCRO recognizes that many small colleges tend to have more non-traditional students enrolled than larger colleges. Traditional students are those who typically graduate high school, start college and attend for four to five years full-time and earn a degree. Non-traditional students include those who start college right after high school and may have to stop attending or who start years after finishing high school. Generally this happens due to military service, meeting family needs, etc. and such students attend college often part-time, work nearly full-time and commute to school daily from home.

This Policy is applicable to student-athletes who participate in any matches leading to and including the NSCRO Playoffs. This includes both "local" Union / Conference run leagues and playoffs that are used as a basis for entry by a team into the NSCRO Playoffs, such matches shall be referred to as a Qualifying Match.

It is the responsibility of the "local" Union / Conference to insure student-athlete compliance for matches directly under their control. Eligibility at all NSCRO Playoff Matches shall be verified for compliance by an appointed Representative and shall be done in accordance with NSCRO's "Regulations for Playoff Matches".

Policy Criteria

In order to participate in any Qualifying Match or in the NSCRO Playoffs, a student-athlete must meet all of the following eligibility criteria at the time of match:

1. Be a CIPP-registered member of USA Rugby.
2. Be within five years from the date the student-athlete first enrolled in a university, college or junior college, regardless of when the student-athlete 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.

Exception:

- a. Student-athletes may participate past their five years of collegiate eligibility if they are enrolled full-time pursuing their first undergraduate degree.

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3. Be enrolled full-time and in good standing, as defined by the university or college Registrar, and an undergraduate student-athlete seeking his/her first bachelor's degree.

Exceptions:

- a. A student-athlete within his/her final two Academic Term 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.

An Academic Term includes a quarter (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer) and a semester (Fall, Spring, Summer).

- b. 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 attending the same institution they received their first undergraduate degree from and the student-athlete still falls within his/her five years of collegiate eligibility.
 - c. A student-athlete competing for an institution utilizing the quarter system is eligible through the National Championships of that year if he/she completed the requirements to graduate during the winter quarter. That student-athlete must be a graduating senior and this exception requires a letter from the registrar confirming such status. This exception may only be used once in a student-athlete's career and once used that student-athlete loses all future collegiate eligibility.
 - d. A student-athlete who is enrolled part-time is eligible if he/she is within their five years of collegiate eligibility and is also permitted to participate on the rugby club as determined by their school.
4. Play on the team representing the school in which he/she is enrolled.

Exception:

- a. Full-time student-athletes attending a "nearby" college or university that does not have a rugby club may be eligible to participate if both schools provide NSCRO with written permission. Such documentation is to be submitted to the NSCRO President for review and approval no later than ten days prior to participation.

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5. Not have played in a Qualifying Match for any other club during the Fifteens Competitive Season.

Enforcement of Eligibility Policy

For any student-athlete who is 23 years of age or older as of September 1 of the start of the competitive year, this includes Conferences/Unions that may not start their league play until the Winter/Spring season of the following year, additional documentation from their school is required to insure full compliance with this Policy. This documentation must be submitted to the NSCRO President for review and approval no later than ten days before the student-athlete's participation in a Qualifying Match or NSCRO Playoff Match for consideration for that match. Please contact the NSCRO President accordingly to insure proper documentation is submitted.

For participation in a Conference/Union Qualifying Match, such documentation shall be submitted to the Conference/Union in parallel with submittal to NSCRO.

Any student-athlete who participates in a Qualifying Match or NSCRO Playoff Match without receiving prior NSCRO approval if they are age 23 or older as previously stated or violates this Policy in any way is subject to disciplinary actions as deemed appropriate by the Conference/Union his/her club belongs to as well as the NSCRO. This disciplinary action may include penalties against the student-athlete, his/her club and the governing Conference/Union.

Documented proof of eligibility in accordance with this Policy for any player may be requested by the governing Conference/Union and NSCRO at any time.