

2021-2022 SCRC Eligibility Policy

Team Eligibility

Each team must be recognized by their Institution and in good standing with the national governing body, the Southeastern Collegiate Rugby Conference, and the academic institution of which they represent. For purposes of this rule, for a college team to be in good standing and eligible to participate in sanctioned competitions:

- Team must be registered with the governing body for the current academic year
- Team must have a registered coach certified by the national governing body.
- Each team must be in good standing with the college/university
- Each team may carry an unlimited number of student-athletes on its Roster.

Player Eligibility

To participate in any conference qualifying match, the student-athlete must meet all the following eligibility criteria at the time of competition:

Full Time Student

The student-athlete must be enrolled full-time as an undergraduate in their first degree and in good standing, as defined by the university or college registrar.

- 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 of confirmation from the registrar. Waiver approval is required.
- 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 still falls within all other collegiate eligibility standards. Additionally, the student athlete must have received his baccalaureate degree from an institution in the United States and remains in good standing with the national governing body, SCRC and with the institution. Waiver approval is required.

Length of Eligibility

Every student has seven years in which he may compete a maximum of five (5) years.

- The seven-year period for College Rugby Eligibility begins in the Academic Year immediately following high school graduation date or the graduation date of his or her class (as determined by the first year of high school enrollment) or based on the prescribed educational path in the student athletes country.
- 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 season to the SCRC Eligibility Committee.
- A student is eligible to receive a waiver to compete in his/her **seventh (7th) year** following high school graduation upon submission of a waiver request, accompanied by official college transcripts and verification of the date of high school graduation prior to the start of each competitive season to the SCRC Eligibility Committee.
- The student-athlete must play on the team representing the school in which he is enrolled.
- The student-athlete must not have played in a Qualifying Match for any other collegiate team or senior Club at any level during the current Academic Year.

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Consortium Agreements

Participation under consortium agreement may be approved by the SCRC Eligibility Committee upon review. Each student-athlete requires a waiver request for consideration.

Consortium agreements between four-year universities

- There must be published evidence of a connectional relationship between the schools offering academic support and multiple social resources. Examples of social services include Greek life, student housing, recreational sports, marching band, career resources.
- The campuses are in immediate geographic proximity.
- Must meet all other qualifications for collegiate eligibility.

Consortium agreements between a four-year university and a junior college

- There must be published evidence of a connectional relationship between the schools offering academic support and multiple social resources. Examples of social services include Greek life, student housing, recreational sports, marching band, career resources.
- The campuses are in immediate geographic proximity.
- Student athlete must be within the first 2 years following high school graduation.
- Must meet all other qualifications for collegiate eligibility.

Amateurism

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

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

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

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

Collegiate Eligibility Military Waiver

A student-athlete whose military service has prevented the individual's ability to compete five years within the seven years since high school graduation will have the ability to apply for an extension of eligibility up to 10 years from high school graduation. To apply for this waiver:

- The student-athlete must meet all other criteria related to full time status
- The student-athlete must apply each academic year to request the Military Waiver

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- The student-athlete is eligible for the Military Waiver for each year of active military service which prevented college attendance.

Collegiate Student-Athlete Players Under 18

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

- written agreement from the student athlete to play college rugby and acceptance of any associated risk
- written parental or legal guardian's consent
- written confirmation of eligibility to participate with the university.

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:

- 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