

Southeastern Collegiate Rugby Conference

Eligibility Regulations

Approved: May 04, 2022

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 remain in good standing with the national governing body, SCRC and with the institution. **Waiver approval is required.**

Length of Eligibility

Every student has five (5) years from their high school graduation year which he may compete.

- The five-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 athlete's country.
- A student is eligible to apply for 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 apply for 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.
- A student is eligible to apply for a waiver to compete in his/her **eighth (8th) 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 8th year of eligibility following high school graduation will only be considered for Military Service. (*)
- 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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Eligibility Waiver Qualifications (*)

The following conditions will be reviewed in consideration of gaining a 6th, 7th, or 8th year of eligibility. Specific documentation must be provided to regain eligibility for the additional year. Waiver requests must be for undergraduate students pursuing their first degree. Only Military Service will be considered for an 8th year of eligibility after high school graduation. No other conditions will be considered.

- Religious or Service Organization Mission
Student may have an academic record of in person or online classes (provided the student was not full time) during the year to be recovered but must provide documented evidence of full-time service during that same period.
- Gap Year
Student must not have an academic record that includes in person classes with any college or university during the year to be recovered.
- Academic Internship / Fellowship
Student must provide evidence of academic internship / fellowship during the entire academic year to be recovered.
- Military Service
Student may have an academic record during the year to be recovered but must provide evidence of full-time military service during that same period (DD214). Only available for undergraduate students.

Examples of situations that do not qualify for a waiver include: injury, attending a college or university that does not offer rugby, attending a college or university that offers rugby but student chose not to or was unable to participate.

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. **Waiver approval is required.**

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.

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- 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.
- Compensation received by the student athlete that originates from a Name, Image and Likeness agreement shall not be a violation of this policy. (*)

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 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