

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: October 2012

Introduction

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 (also referred to as players), including non-traditional students. NSCRO recognizes that the presence of non-traditional students attending small colleges and the need for their inclusion. 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, may hold a job and also may commute to school daily from home.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the governing Conference/Union to insure student-athlete compliance of this Policy for matches directly under their control. Compliance verification shall be performed in both semesters and before the spring quarter and after the winter quarter, as applicable, of the school year (starting in August or September).

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".

Each Conference/Union is deemed to have full knowledge of the content of this Policy.

Each Conference/Union must ensure that it complies with this Policy and must further ensure that it takes appropriate action to inform each and every one of its members of the terms of this Policy and the obligation to comply with the same.

A Conference/Union may not impose any more stringent regulations than identified by this Policy.

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 NSCRO national championship event.

Academic Term – An academic session that is a division of the Academic Year. This includes quarter (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer) and a semester (Fall, Spring, Summer).

Qualifying Match – any match in which the result is used to determine official competition standings and/or to determine qualification for the NSCRO playoffs leading to the national championship.

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: October 2012

Policy Regulations

In order to participate in any Qualifying Match or in the NSCRO Playoffs, a student-athlete must meet all of the following eligibility regulations 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.
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.

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: October 2012

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.

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

Policy Compliance - Enforcement

Compliance with this Policy at all Qualifying Matches played under the jurisdiction of the Conference/Union shall be enforced by said Conference/Union with the use of the NSCRO “Player Eligibility Verification (PEV) Form” and any other related Conference/Union documents. For players who are eligible under any of the Exceptions identified in this Policy, additional documentation (dated letter signed by school official) from their school is required to verify compliance as follows:

If a full-time undergraduate student, compliance with NSCRO Regulation 2, Exception a.

If a part-time undergraduate student, compliance with NSCRO Regulation 3, Exception a.

If a full-time post-graduate student, compliance with NSCRO Regulation 3, Exception b.

If the student is not enrolled in this institution, compliance with NSCRO Regulation 4, Exception a.

For Conference/Union league play, the above verification documentation shall be submitted to the Conference/Union as instructed by them, such as via email with a scan of the original letter.

The original signed PEV Form(s) and letter(s) shall be maintained by the club and be available at Conference/Union league and playoffs matches prior to the start of the match as instructed by the Conference/Union and for presentation during Eligibility Check In at all NSCRO playoff matches in accordance with the NSCRO “Regulations for Playoff Matches”.

If the student-athlete began league play in the Fall season, once the school's new semester (or Spring quarter) begins this verification process will need to start over as he/she may no longer be enrolled or their enrollment status may have changed impacting their eligibility.

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: October 2012

Appeals

The aforementioned process is solely for student-athletes who are in compliance with this Policy. For players who are not in compliance that a club feels should be eligible, an appeal shall be submitted to NSCRO. In such cases, the club coach or President shall contact the NSCRO President to determine if the case is appealable. If the case is determined to have merit, NSCRO will advise what specific information and documentation is required.

Failure to Comply

NSCRO reserves the right to take disciplinary action, as it deems appropriate, which may include penalties against the student-athlete, his/her club and the governing Conference/Union for violation of this Policy.