



## D1A College Rugby Player Eligibility Regulations

### 2019-2020 Season

- I. **Seasons of Competition: Five-Year Rule.**
  - A. A student-athlete shall not engage in more than five seasons of D1A competition.
  - B. An institution shall allow a student-athlete to represent their institution in a D1A competition under the following guidelines and time periods specified below:
    1. **Five-Year Rule.** A student-athlete shall complete his seasons of participation within five calendar years from the beginning of the semester or quarter in which the student-athlete first registered for a minimum full-time program of studies in a collegiate institution, with time spent in the armed services or on official religious missions being exempted (as noted below). For international students, service in the armed forces of the student's home country or on an official religious mission is **not** considered equivalent to such service in the United States.
      - a) **Determining the Start of the Five-Year Period.** For purposes of starting the count of time under the five-year rule, a student-athlete shall be considered registered at a collegiate institution when the student-athlete initially registers in a regular term (semester or quarter) of an academic year for a minimum full-time program of studies, as determined by

the institution, and attends the student's first day of classes for that term. If a student athlete is not enrolled and playing at a club the clock starts.

b) **Exceptions to the Five-Year Rule.** Time spent in the armed services or on official religious missions are exceptions to the application of the five-year rule. A maximum of five years of active military service and two years of an official religious mission may be exempted from the five-year rule.

(1) **Elapsed Time/Service to Enrollment.** If a student-athlete enrolls in a regular term of a collegiate institution at the first opportunity following completion of any one of the commitments, the elapsed time (the exact number of calendar days) between completion of the commitment and the first opportunity for enrollment may be added to the exact number of days served on active duty in the armed services, with foreign aid services or on official religious missions and will not count toward the student-athlete's five years of eligibility. It is not permissible to extend the five-year period by any additional time beyond the first opportunity to enroll (the opening day of classes of the first regular term at the institution in which the student-athlete enrolls as a regular student immediately following the termination of the active-duty commitment).

(2) **Delayed Enrollment-** A student-athlete who does not play rugby and does not enroll in a collegiate institution as a full-time student in a regular academic term during a one-year time period after his high school graduation date or the graduation date of his class whichever occurs earlier, shall be charged with one season of intercollegiate eligibility for each academic year

after the one-year time period (the next opportunity to enroll after one academic year has elapsed) and prior to full-time collegiate enrollment.

## II. **Requirement for Competition**

To be eligible for competition, a student-athlete shall be enrolled in at least a minimum full-time program of studies, which shall not be less than 12 semester or quarter hours.

### III. **Exceptions.** The following exceptions to the minimum 12-semester or 12-quarter-hour enrollment requirement are permitted:

- A. **Final Semester/Quarter.** A student-athlete may compete while enrolled in less than a minimum full-time program of studies, provided the student is enrolled in the final semester or quarter of the baccalaureate program and the institution certifies that the student is carrying (for credit) the courses necessary to complete degree requirements.
- B. **Semester Institutions.** A student-athlete who attends a semester-system institution and who graduates at the end of the winter semester may compete in the D1A championship that occurs during the same academic year following the completion of the spring semester.
- C. **Quarter Institutions.** A student-athlete who attends a quarter-system institution and who graduates at the end of the winter quarter may compete in the D1A championship that occurs during the same academic year following the completion of the winter quarter.
- D. **Post Bach or Graduate Program.** A student-athlete may compete while enrolled in a full-time graduate program or post bachelors program as defined by the institution provided that the student-athlete has time left on their five year clock.
- E. **Transfer Students.** A student-athlete may transfer institutions into full-time baccalaureate program or post bachelors program as defined by the institution provided that the student-athlete has more than one year left on their five year clock and before the competitive cycle begins.

1. Student-athletes must be in good-standing as defined by the university

#### IV. **International Students**

- A. **Amateur Status.** All international student athletes must be vetted to meet amateur standards prior to competing.
- B. **Post Graduate.** International Students who have received baccalaureate degrees from international institutions are not eligible for participation.
- C. **Transfers.** Qualifying international students who have not received degrees, have more than one year of eligibility and who meet amateur standards shall be granted waivers.

#### V. **Temporary Hardship Waiver Policy** A student-athlete may be granted an additional year of competition in D1A by the eligibility committee. This procedure will only be in place for the 2019-2020 playing season, after that time no waiver process will be available.

- A. **Waiver Criteria.** This waiver is designed to provide a student-athlete with the opportunity to participate in their last season of D1A competition, if they have exhausted their eligibility under the new 5-year eligibility rule. This waiver may be granted, based upon objective evidence, for reasons that would cause a hardship or due to conditions beyond the control of the student-athlete and the institution. The following items will be taken under consideration when looking to grant a waiver:
  1. Years of rugby competitions participated
  2. Anticipated date of graduation
  3. Financial hardship
  4. Medical hardship
- B. **Application for Waiver.** To apply for the waiver the following items must be submitted to the Eligibility Director Lucy Zugshwert at [eligibility@d1arugby.com](mailto:eligibility@d1arugby.com) by October 15, 2019 for Fall eligibility and February 15, 2020 for Spring eligibility:
  1. Institution must write a letter to D1A Rugby for review by the eligibility committee and must include the athletes date of birth, anticipated graduation date, a timeline of every year after they have graduated from High School, and the specific reason for the waiver request.

2. Provide a statement from the SA describing the facts and circumstances surrounding this request, including the impact of any mitigating circumstances (e.g., personal hardship) that may occur if the waiver was not granted.
3. In addition to the statement, SA needs to submit any and all supporting documents.

These policies are in effect in all matches and games played by members and participants in D1A, to include but not limited to, friendly matches, scrimmages, tournaments of any kind and all sanctioned events.

#### VI. **Amateurism**

- A. A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur athlete is one who participates in the activities of his/her sport for the purpose of deriving the physical, mental and social benefits organized sports competition has to offer and not for any present or future pecuniary or commercial gains. Since the student is considered an integral member of the student body, a clear line of distinction between educationally based athletics and professional sports must exist and be maintained at all times. It shall be the shared responsibility of school personnel, the athletes and their parents to maintain this clear line of distinction.
- B. An athlete forfeits amateur status, and thus interscholastic athletic eligibility, if any of the following standards of amateurism are violated:
  1. Competing for money or other remuneration. Allowable travel, meals and lodging expenses may be accepted provided that these expenses are not conditioned on the individual's or team's place finish or performance or given on an incentive basis and such expenses are provided to all participants in the competition. EXCEPTION: If a student, who is competing in the amateur division within a competition where prize money is available, signs a Request for Retention of Amateur Status written declaration prior to the competition in which the student agrees that he or she will not accept any prize money, the student may accept allowable travel, meals and lodging expenses provided that these expenses are not contingent upon the student's individual or a team's finish or performance or given as an incentive to achieve a specific goal

or performance. Receipt of expenses received by the athlete shall be reported to the D1A Rugby Eligibility Director, so as to determine whether or not the expenses are in excess of those reasonable amounts for travel, meals and lodging.

- a. Capitalizing on the athlete's fame by receiving money, merchandise or services of value. An athlete "capitalizes" on his/her "athletic fame" by accepting money, merchandise or services of value based in whole or in part upon the notoriety the athlete received through his/her athletic skills and achievements. This includes using the athlete's skill, directly or indirectly, for pay in any form in that sport. "Pay" includes, but is not limited to, any direct or indirect remuneration, gratuity or other economic benefit in either the present, future, or any division or split of surplus (bonuses, games' receipts, etc.). Scholarships to institutions of higher education are specifically exempted;
- b. Signing a contract or making a commitment of any kind to play professional athletics, regardless of its legal enforceability or any payment received. This prohibits signing a contract during the interscholastic athletics season that is dated after the completion of the athlete's interscholastic athletic eligibility;
- c. The faux signing of a contract or making an oral or written commitment of any kind to play professional athletics, regardless of its legal enforceability or any payment received. This includes social media posts and or any online/print publication claiming professional status.

(1) Receiving, directly or indirectly, a salary, reimbursement of expenses, merchandise or services or any other form of financial assistance or benefits from a professional sports organization based upon athletics skills or participation. EXCEPTION: An athlete may receive reimbursement of expenses as per item

- (2) for a professional tryout;
- (3) Competing or practicing with any professional athletics team, even if no pay or remuneration for expenses was received; or
- (4) Entering into an agreement with a sports or marketing agent (O.R.C. §§4771.01 et seq.).
- (5) 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 USA Rugby collegiate eligibility.

The following activities do not jeopardize amateur status:

- A. Accepting a fee for instructing, supervising or officiating in an organized youth sports program or youth sports recreation
- B. Receiving school-sponsored membership or participation fees in youth serving agencies, athletic clubs, community recreation centers, instructional programs or camps, etc. provided such fees are paid directly to the University or college;
- C. Receiving an award, playing equipment or prize of monetary value which does not exceed the award amount authorized by the Association;
- D. Receiving all non-monetary benefits and awards provided to members of an Olympic team beyond actual and necessary expenses, including entertainment, equipment, clothing, long distance telephone service, Internet access, and any other item or service for which it can be demonstrated that the same benefit is available to all

members of the nation's Olympic team or the specific sport Olympic team in question;

- E. Accepting funds that are administered by the United States Olympic Committee pursuant to its Operation Gold Program; or
- F. Participating in member school, charitable or educational promotions or fund-raising activities that involve the use of athletic ability by student-athletes to obtain funds (e.g., swimathons, lift-a-thons, shoot-a-thons) from donors, provided the student-athletes receive no compensation or prizes for their participation.

A high school student who loses amateur status/athletic eligibility may apply to the Association for reinstatement in the interscholastic program. Such appeals shall be handled by the Commissioner in accordance with the bylaws. If a student-athlete in one sport violates a provision of the amateur bylaw as detailed above, the student-athlete may represent the member school in a different sport.