

**COLLEGIATE GOVERNANCE DOCUMENT
FOR
CONFERENCE FORMATION AND OPERATION**

Men's and Women's Competitions

2012-13

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ARTICLE 1: STRUCTURE

1.1 GENERAL.

The United States of America Rugby Football Union ("USAR") has granted authority over the college game to the USA Rugby College Management Council (CMC). The Operating Policies set forth the policies and procedures adopted to promote the principles of USA Rugby.

1.2 DEFINED TERMS. The following underlined terms shall have the following meanings:

- a) **"Act of God"** – unavoidable circumstances beyond the control of a team, including but not limited to, weather or natural disasters. Such Acts of God, may make playing field playing surfaces unplayable or unsafe or travel conditions hazardous. These condition/s could also make unsafe, the circumstances of players, coaches, referees and other rugby officials. Other Acts of God include, but are not limited, to worker strikes, war, civil unrest or acts of terrorism.
- b) **"Act of Institution"** - a decision by the team's sponsoring academic institution, or an unaffiliated third party that controls access to a playing field, or has jurisdiction over the game, to not allow a contest to proceed due to conditions or concerns of the institution or third party.
- c) **"Automatic Qualifier" ("AQ")** - a National Championship Tournament seed that is given automatically to a conference champion.
- d) **"Code of Conduct"** - the Code of Conduct of USAR (attached at end).
- e) **"Collegiate Regions"** - four geographical regions of the United States, loosely defined as Central, East, South, and West.
- f) **"Eligible Team"** - a team that meets all requirements of USA Rugby and their Conference to advance to a National Championship Tournament.
- g) **"Playing Season"** - the Regular Season in any year and any post-season play following such Regular Season.
- h) **"Registered Non-Conference Game"** - an official 80 minute game between two teams in different conferences, or involving an USA Rugby approved Independent team, that will be taken into account by the relevant College Competition Committee in determining at-large bids for the National Championship Tournament. Both teams must register the game using the appropriate documentation, and have it approved, by their respective conferences commissioner (or commissioner designee or USA Rugby) for it to be considered "registered".
- i) **"Registered Cross-Divisional Conference Game"** - an official 80 minute game between two teams in different Divisions within the same Conference that will be taken into account by the relevant College Competition Committee in determining at-large bids for the National Championship Tournament. Both teams must register the game using the appropriate documentation, and have it approved, by the respective conference commissioner (or commissioner designee) for it to be considered "registered".
- j) **"Regular Season"** - the period when conference competitions are held between September 1 and the commencement of the relevant USA Rugby National Championship Tournament.
- k) **"Roster Verification"** - the eligibility and information verification, in the forms determined by USAR to be submitted by each team to their respective conference administrators prior to each Playing Season and again to USA Rugby prior to any post season play. Roster verification can be requested at any time by any team, or any team's conference administrators or USA Rugby. Such roster verification should be submitted again at the request of the Conference Commissioner or USA Rugby College Director(s) or Associate Director should there be a challenge to the eligibility of said team or any of its players.
- l) **"Rules Acknowledgement"** - the rules acknowledgement, in the form(s) determined by USA Rugby, when requested, to be submitted by each team and player prior to each Playing Season and each National Championship Tournament.
- m) **"Sanctioned College Competitor"** - conference or USA Rugby approved competition.
- n) **"USA Rugby Website"** means www.usarugby.org or any replacement website.

1.3 COLLEGE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL.

- a) The College Management Council (CMC) shall consist of 11 voting members and five non-voting ex-officio members that will represent all levels of college rugby. The CMC will direct the implementation of USA Rugby collegiate operating policies, supervise compliance with said operating policies and liaise with the Rugby Committee on all intercollegiate issues.
- b) The CMC's 11 voting members shall comprise members selected to ensure geographic, gender and divisional balance. The five non-voting ex-officio members include one male and one female International Athlete, the Director(s)/Associate College Rugby Director, and the USA Rugby Board of Directors liaison.
- c) A chair shall be a voting member and selected by the other voting Council members. The chair's term shall be determined by the voting Council members.
- d) Conference Commissioners shall vote on the prospective representatives from their region; women's/men's conference commissioners elect their respective representatives.
- e) Each elected representative shall hold a three year term with all members of the CMC having staggered terms. No men's or women's representative from the same region will have their terms end at the same time.
- f) At-large representatives shall be selected by the USA Rugby College Director(s) and/or Associate Director, to balance the geographical and/or divisional representation of the CMC.
- g) Nominations and voting shall be initiated and completed by the USA Rugby College Director(s) and/or Associate Director immediately after January 1st of each year.

1.4 COLLEGE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEES.

a) COLLEGE ELIGIBILITY.

- I) The College Eligibility Committee (CEC) shall report to the Collegiate Management Council and shall consist of five (5) individuals, with the USA Rugby Collegiate Director(s) or Associate Director acting in an ex-officio capacity (ideally: one chair, two women's and two men's collegiate division representatives, conference commissioners or conference commissioner's designees which may include coaches from that conference).
- II) The CEC will be responsible for all aspects of eligibility of teams and players and will decide any issues on eligibility of teams and players. A decision of the Eligibility Committee can be appealed to the CMC (**see Article 4. APPEALS**).
- III) The selection process shall be initiated and completed by the USA Rugby Collegiate Director(s) or Associate Director, immediately after January 1st of each year.

b) MEN'S AND WOMEN'S COLLEGIATE COMPETITION (MCCC & WCCC).

- I) The Competition Committees shall report to the Collegiate Management Council. Each committee shall consist of not more than nine (9) individuals, one of whom will serve as the chair, that represent all levels of USA Rugby postseason competition with two from each collegiate USA Rugby region:
 - a) One Division 1 and one Division II or Division III representative from each USA Rugby region.
 - b) Not more than one member from a USA Rugby region can represent a varsity rugby program.
 - c) Each chair will also serve as an ex-officio member of the CMC.
- II) Each committee shall:
 - a) develop a body of criteria by which teams, seeking approval to compete as Independents, may qualify for consideration for an At-Large berth;
 - b) establish a formal selection process, including criteria for teams under consideration for an At-Large berth; and
 - c) oversee the qualification, selection, seeding and operation of their respective USA Rugby National Competitions.
 - (i) Men's Division I
 - (ii) Men's Division II
 - (iii) Women's Division I
 - (iv) Women's Division II

c) ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES.

The CMC reserves the right to establish additional ad hoc committees or other advisory groups as needed.

1.5 SEASON.

Teams may compete in the Fall or Spring, or both, with the 7's Championships competed in the Fall and the 15's National Tournament held in the Spring.

1.6 CONFERENCE / MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS.

a) USA Rugby sanctioned play shall be divided into conferences. Conferences must submit their competition plan for approval by the appropriate USA Rugby College Competitions Committee by June 1 each year. Teams must compete in a division based on the designation its school's athletic department (as determined by the institutional self-disclosure in the EADA report) in order to be eligible for National Championship Tournament play. Teams will remain eligible if they compete in a higher division than their institution's athletic department designation. Each member institution may sponsor only one eligible men's team and one eligible women's team.

(i) USAR Division I

- NCAA Division I-A (men/women)
- NCAA Division I-AA (women)

(ii) USAR Division II

- NCAA Division I-AA (men)
- NCAA Division I-AAA (women)
- NCAA Division II (men/women)

(iii) USAR Division III (men/women)

- NCAA Division III
- NAIA
- NJCAA
- No affiliation
- First-year programs
- Programs within three years of initial existence

b) Each conference will remain autonomous in its management, except that no conference may adopt or maintain any policy or procedure which conflicts with the Bylaws, Operating Policies or other rules and regulations of USA Rugby. Each Conference shall adopt by-laws and operating policies (or similar documents) (collectively, the "Conference Documents") and provide a copy of the Conference Documents to the College Director(s) to be kept on file with USA Rugby. Conferences have the right to obtain independent sponsorships and commercial endorsements that do not conflict with the regulations of either the member institutions or USA Rugby.

c) Conferences shall be responsible for:

- (i) establishing a defined legal structure (non-profit corporation; LLC; corporation; unincorporated association, etc.);
- (ii) collecting dues from member teams for conference operations;
- (iii) selecting and maintaining a Commissioner to represent the conference at USA Rugby meetings and to serve as a communication link between the conference, the College Management Council and committees, and USA Rugby;
- (iv) ensuring that the teams within such conference comply with the eligibility and scheduling requirements set forth herein (and such other policies as the conferences may establish);
- (v) establishing general policies to govern the teams within such conference;
- (vi) establishing policies with respect to assigning officials to conference games in consultation with USA Rugby Referee Department;
- (vii) establishing policies and procedures with respect to disciplinary issues;
- (viii) following all USA Rugby policies related to player safety, ethical conduct, sportsmanship and crowd control;
- (ix) reimbursing Commissioners for expenses to attend required meetings;
- (x) notifying the College Management Council and relevant committees, through its conference Commissioner, of compliance and/or disciplinary issues among its teams;
- (xi) managing conference awards and championships; and
- (xii) other duties as assigned or agreed to by the conference members and USA Rugby.

1.7 TEAMS.

USA Rugby participation shall be open to all intercollegiate teams that are recognized organizations at their academic institutions. To participate in USA Rugby, a team must:

- a) be in good standing with other institutions, associations, conferences or governing bodies of other leagues;
- b) be a member of, and in good standing with, a USA Rugby sanctioned conference or a team competing as an Independent recognized by USA Rugby ; and
- c) be in good standing with USA Rugby and comply with USA Rugby Bylaws, Operating Policies and Code of Conduct, including, meeting all USA Rugby administrative deadlines and financial obligations.

ARTICLE 2: APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION

2.1 TEAMS.

- a) To participate in a Division 1 USA Rugby-sanctioned college competition, teams must belong to an approved conference or compete as a USA Rugby recognized Independent.
- b) To participate in all other Divisions of USA Rugby, teams must apply to an individual conference for inclusion in such conference or to compete as a USA Rugby recognized Independent. The respective Competitions Committees will review all requests to compete as an Independent (**form online at usarugby.org - college resources**).
- c) Refusal of an application for membership in a conference must be for good cause.
- d) Teams may request to transfer to a new or different conference for the following season using the appropriate document as provided by USA Rugby. Transfer requests must be submitted using the approved USA Rugby form, and will be approved by the respective Competition Committee pending approval of the members of the new/receiving conference and if the team seeking the transfer has no pending financial or disciplinary issues with the former conference.

2.2 CONFERENCES.

- a) Applications to be sanctioned as a new USA Rugby conference will be considered by the College Management Council following the conclusion of each season. New conferences will only be formed as a result of the growth of, and necessary splitting of, existing conferences. Each request will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the CMC. During the first three years of conference formation, new conferences will be sanctioned with less stricture by USA Rugby. This leeway encourages late-joining or newly created teams to become unified or affiliated with a conference.
- b) New conferences seeking sanction by USA Rugby must submit a written proposal to the USA Rugby College Management Council no later than June 1 each year. The proposal must include all of the following:
 - i) a list of committed member teams;
 - ii) names of individuals who will comprise the conference Commissioner(s), along with signed letters from those individuals confirming their intent to act in the positions represented in the proposal;
 - iii) a description of each proposed member team's past history and previous conference affiliation and why they desire to switch conferences;
 - iv) a statement of purpose; and
 - v) copies of proposed Conference Documents.
- c) The minimum number of members to form a men's or women's Recognized Conference is five (5) eligible teams.
- d) Conferences with change in membership for the following year must submit an updated set of Conference Documents to the respective Competition Committee for review and approval.
- e) Each conference shall require all teams, players and coaches be CIPP registered members with USA Rugby before participating in any rugby activity in a Playing Season.

ARTICLE 3: COMPETITION

3.1 LAWS.

All USA Rugby games, other than scrimmages, will be played under current USA Rugby and IRB laws.

3.2 SCHEDULING.

a) General.

- i) Each team is responsible for scheduling games for each Regular Season on or before the August 1st (Fall season) or January 2nd (Spring season) immediately preceding the respective season. Once complete, each team shall submit its schedule to its Conference Commissioner or such other person as a conference may designate. Once the Conference Commissioner, or such other person as the conference may designate, has verified the schedules of the teams in the conference, s/he shall submit the schedules to the USA Rugby Collegiate Director(s) or Associate Director.
- ii) Teams that wish to schedule Registered Non-Conference Games and/or Registered Cross-Divisional Conference Games, must submit those games, using the appropriate documents, to their Conference Commissioner. After ensuring eligibility, the Commissioner must forward all documents to the USA Rugby College Director(s) prior to August 1st (for games taking place in the Fall) or January 2nd (for games taking place in the Spring). Each conference shall be responsible for tracking the schedules of the teams in their conference and shall be responsible for enforcing the change and other policies set forth herein.
- iii) Conferences may be sanctioned by USA Rugby if they fail to enforce the policies set forth herein. The type and amount of the sanction is in the sole discretion of the USA Rugby Collegiate Disciplinary Committee.

b) Changes / Cancellation.

- i) General. Each team shall be responsible for keeping the other team, conference, and officials informed of any potential game changes.
- ii) Changes at team's request. Any schedule change requests after the schedule cut-off must be approved by the Commissioner of the conference in which the game is being played, or, in the case of a Registered Non-Conference Game or Registered Cross-Divisional Conference Game, the teams' conference Commissioner(s).
- iii) Act of God/Act of Institution. Upon the occurrence of an Act of God or Act of Institution that would cause a game to be cancelled or postponed from its agreed time, the team shall notify their conference Commissioner and opposing team immediately upon learning of such Act of God or Act of Institution. The affected teams shall use good faith efforts to reschedule any game cancelled as a result of an Act of God or Act of Institution.

3.3 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT.

a) Date/Location.

The dates for each National Championship Tournament will be determined by the respective College Competition Committee. Site selection is determined by written proposals or personal presentations to the National Office Event Staff in coordination with the College Director(s) and the College Competition Committees. Solicitation of bids shall be advertised on the USA Rugby website.

b) Field/Seeding.

The National Championship Tournament field shall be made up of a number of teams (as determined by the College Competition Committee). The teams participating in the National Championship Tournament are seeded by the applicable section of the College Competition Committee.

c) Qualifying.

To be eligible to compete in the National Championship Tournament, a team must:

- i) play a specified minimum combined conference, Registered Non-Conference, or Registered Cross-Divisional Conference Games:
 - (a) six (6) for men
 - (b) five (5) for women; and
- ii) be in good standing with USAR and its conference.

d) Automatic Qualification (AQ).

AQ berths are awarded each year to teams that otherwise satisfy the eligibility requirements set forth in clause (i) above and are designated the champion of their conferences. A conference must include the following minimum number of teams participating in the conference Regular Season to be eligible to receive an AQ:

- i) seven (7) for men
- ii) six (6) for women

e) Forfeiture of AQ Berth.

Only the designated, eligible, conference champion may receive the conference's AQ. If a team receiving an AQ cannot participate in the National Championship Tournament, that conference's AQ is forfeited and becomes an at-large bid to be selected by the applicable section of the National Tournament Selection Sub-Committee. If a team declines or loses (due to failure to satisfy the eligibility requirements or other violation) an AQ:

- i) the applicable conference shall forfeit its right to grant an AQ to the National Championship Tournament for the next Playing Season; and
- ii) such team shall be ineligible for the National Championship Tournament the next Playing Season.

f) At-Large Bids.

After the AQs have been awarded, the field for the tournament shall be filled with at-large bids selected by the applicable College Competition Committee. To qualify for an at-large bid, conference teams must play a minimum of 2 (two) Registered Non-Conference Games or Registered Cross-Divisional Games. Teams approved by USAR to compete as an Independent must play a minimum six Registered Non-Conference Games (men) / five Registered Non-Conference Games (women). If a team selected for an at-large bid cannot participate in the National Championship Tournament, its bid will be awarded to the next highest alternate selected by the applicable section of the College Competition Committee until such time as the tournament field is full. There is no limit to the number of at-large bids that can be awarded to teams in a conference or to USA Rugby approved Independent teams. If a team accepts an at-large bid to participate in the National Championship Tournament and subsequently fails to participate or withdraws from the tournament prior to the completion of all of its games, such team shall be ineligible for the National Championship Tournament the next Playing Season.

g) Player Eligibility.

Teams must provide the following documents to the Tournament Coordinator as part of registration:

- i) Copy of CIPP Roster;
- ii) Proof of Collegiate Player Eligibility Form signed and stamped by the institutional Registrar and dated within the current academic term.

ARTICLE 4: APPEALS

If a player or club has been deemed ineligible by the respective college conference and/or the USA Rugby Eligibility Committee, the affected player or club shall have the right to appeal to the USA Rugby College Management Committee. Such appeal must be made within ten (10) days of the decision returned from the conference or USA Rugby College sub-committee

The appeal must contain the initial written ruling by the conference commissioner or respective USA Rugby sub-committee, all relevant documents and written communication regarding the decision, and certification that the conference commissioner or the chair of the subcommittee that issued the decision has been provided with all documentation sent to USA Rugby College Management Committee. The failure to notify the appropriate official issuing the decision may be grounds for denial of the appeal.

In such an appeal, the USA Rugby College Director(s) or Associate shall notify the conference commissioner or the chair of the USA Rugby College Eligibility Committee which issued the decision that such an appeal has been docketed.

All appeals should be directed to:

USA Rugby
Attn: College Director

**2500 Arapahoe Ave., Suite 200
Boulder, CO 80302
Fax: 303-302-0239**

The appellant must submit a \$50.00 fee, which amount is returned if the appeal is found in favor of Appellant.

With regard to any such appeal, the College Director and/or the Associate shall choose a three-person panel comprised of members from the College Management Committee with no conflict of interest in the matter, to consider the approval. The Panel must act on the appeal within ten (10) days of receiving the request.

In the event the Member filing the grievance is not satisfied with the proposed resolution of the matter by the CMC, the Member may request a hearing before a three member Appellate Panel to hear evidence, make findings of fact, and adjudicate the issues raised. Such a hearing shall be convened as expeditiously as possible at a time and place to be determined by the Chairman or CEO of USA Rugby.

This Appellate Panel, established in accordance with the applicable rules and by the criteria outlined in the USA Rugby Bylaws, shall be responsible for deciding any appeals of decisions of the Board or committees, as well any other decisions referred to it by the Chairman. No member of the three-member Appellate Panel shall have an interest in the subject matter, grievance, or complaint.

At any hearing conducted pursuant to USA Rugby Bylaw: Section 12.5, all interested parties shall have the right to counsel, to present evidence in support or in opposition to the grievance, to examine and cross-examine witnesses, and to present such factual or legal claims as will support their positions. A summarized record of the proceedings shall be made by the hearing panel. The rules of evidence shall not be strictly enforced. The hearing may be conducted by telephone if all parties agree thereto. The Appellate Panel shall expeditiously conduct the hearing and report its findings of fact and recommendations to the Board and all interested parties. The burdens of proof and of going forward shall be on the complainant.

ARTICLE 5: DISCIPLINARY

Major or intentional violations of the laws and/or the USA Rugby competitions guidelines shall be referred to the USA Rugby Collegiate Disciplinary Committee, an independent panel which will be selected by the CMC on an as-needed basis.

COLLEGE RUGBY QUICK REFERENCE SHEET
Guide to the College Rugby operating policies and procedures.

Conference Requirement.

Minimum to Form a Conference:

Men's	Five (5) Eligible Teams
Women's	Five (5) Eligible Teams

Minimum to Receive an Automatic Qualifier for 2012-13 Season:

Men's	Seven (7) Eligible Teams
Women's	Six (6) Eligible Teams

National Championship Tournament Qualification - Minimums.

Conference and/or Registered Non-Conference Games and/or Registered Cross-Divisional Conference Games against different eligible Division I, II, or III teams:

<i>Men's</i>	Six (6)
<i>Women's</i>	Five (5)

Automatic Qualification.

Champion of USA Rugby-recognized conference that has been awarded an Automatic Qualifier.

At-Large Bid: Conference Teams.

Must compete at least two (2) Registered Non-Conference and/or Registered Cross-Divisional Conference Games against two (2) different opponents.

At-Large Bid: USA Rugby Approved Independent Teams.

Must compete at least six (6) Registered Non-Conference Games (men's) or at least five (5) Registered Non-Conference Games (women's) against at least three (3) different opponents.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

2012-2013

- Division I Men & Women Must compete in division (or higher) based on school's athletic department affiliation in order to be eligible for playoff competition.
- Division I Women Conferences must have autonomous administrative structure in place.
- Division I Men AQ requires 7 (seven) eligible teams.
- Division I Women AQ requires 6 (six) eligible teams.
- Div II Men & Women Move to a conference system.

2013-2014

- Div II Men & Women Conferences must have autonomous administrative structure in place.
- Div III Men and Women Move to a conference system.

COLLEGIATE CODE OF CONDUCT

"Student athletes and coaches who participate in collegiate rugby represent their colleges and are ambassadors of collegiate rugby in the United States.

As such, collegiate rugby players and coaches are expected to behave with dignity both on and off the field, and should not tolerate or indulge in behavior which would reflect negatively on the college, USA Rugby, or the image of collegiate rugby.

Sportsmanship.

Individuals affiliated with a member institution to administer, conduct or coach college rugby, and participating students, shall act with honesty and sportsmanship at all times so that USA Rugby as a whole, the member institutions and they, as individuals, shall represent the honor and dignity of fair play and the generally recognized high standards associated with wholesome competitive sports.

It is inherent that opponents respect each other and admire the effort made fairly in pursuit of victory. Member teams shall adhere to the standards set forth by USA Rugby and require ethical conduct worthy of the educational stature and the standards of the respective institutions. Players, coaches, and all others associated with college rugby programs and events should adhere to such fundamental values as respect, fairness, civility, honesty and responsibility.

Non Discrimination.

USA Rugby promotes an atmosphere of respect for and sensitivity to the dignity of every person. It is policy to refrain from discrimination with respect to its governance policies, educational programs, activities and employment policies, including on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, national origin, race, religion, creed or sexual orientation.

Role of Coaches.

The coach's behavior influences that of the players and the fans. The coach has a responsibility to educate student-athletes concerning their obligations to the coach, the institution, college rugby, and themselves. Respect for an opponent can most effectively be conveyed to the student-athletes by the manner in which the coach speaks of and act toward the opponent. A coach shall be fully responsible for assuring that no derogatory public comments on officiating are made by any student-athlete on his or her team.

Role of Players.

College rugby players must uphold the responsibilities which accompany the privilege of representing a college by adhering to USA Rugby and conference sportsmanship guidelines. Students are expected to treat opponents with respect. They must be aware significant penalties will be applied for fighting, taunting an opponent, or other unethical conduct.

Role of Officials.

Although each game official has a demanding and difficult job to officiate the contest, he/she also will be directed to apply without hesitation or reservation the rules governing conduct and sportsmanship during each College competition. When doing so as directed, the official will have the support of USA Rugby, each member institution, and its administrators and coaches.

Crowd Control Policy.

USA Rugby has assigned a high priority to assuring its college games are conducted in a safe and enjoyable atmosphere. It is the responsibility of the home team to provide such an environment, and specifically, to control the actions of the crowd insofar as possible. It is the responsibility of the coaches to control the actions of their players prior to, during, and after the game. Coaches, players, and sidelines personnel shall avoid actions which could incite the crowd during the contest. Proper conduct also is essential to crowd control, to which the Conference has assigned a high priority to assure that attendance at college rugby contests is a safe and enjoyable experience.

Any breach of this Code of Conduct will be forwarded to the appropriate disciplinary committee for action."

USA Rugby College 7's National Championship - Qualification Process

WOMEN'S DIVISION

Women's college teams may contend for a berth in the 2012 7's National Championship via either Automatic Qualification or At-Large Qualification. Automatic Qualification is gained by winning a 7s Tournament designated as a "Qualifying Event" during Fall 2012. Once the Automatic Qualifier teams are determined, teams seeking At-Large Qualification must make application to USA Rugby for one of the At-Large spots. Teams may enter a Qualifying Event in the following manner:

- USA Rugby Women's Collegiate Division I Conferences and/or Leagues may schedule a 7's Tournament during the Fall, which includes at least four member teams, and designate such as a "Qualifying Event."
- Teams competing in a Division I Conference and/or League not hosting a 7's Qualifying Tournament, as well as institutional teams from other Divisions of USA Rugby and NSCRO, may schedule a 7's tournament. Tournament directors must request Qualifying status for this Event from the Competitions Committee with the understanding that the Event winner will receive consideration for an At-Large berth. Such tournaments must include at least four different institutional teams.
- The number of At-Large berths will be communicated after the number of approved Qualifying Events have been organized and the participants confirmed. In any case, at least 25% of the tournament slots will be reserved for At-Large Qualifiers.
- The date and list of participants, along with Qualifying Tournament contact information, shall be forwarded to the College Director/Associate College Director as soon as the information is confirmed.
- The Women's Collegiate Competitions Committee will review each tournament to confirm criteria met and approve as a Qualifying Event. At this point information will be listed on the USA Rugby College website. The schedule of Qualifying Tournaments, including contact information, shall be updated as additional Events are approved.
- Teams competing in a Division I Conference and/or League not hosting a 7's Qualifying Tournament, as well as institutional teams from other Divisions of USA Rugby and NSCRO, who wish to qualify for the 7's National Championships, may join the field of an approved Qualifying Event with approval of the tournament director.

MEN'S DIVISION

Men's college teams may compete in a Sanctioned USA Rugby Qualifying Tournament for one of the 24 berths in the 2012 7's National Championship via either Automatic Qualification or At-Large Qualification.

Division 1A/1AA Teams

- USA Rugby Sanctioned Conference 7's Tournaments with a minimum of seven (7) teams to receive Automatic Qualification Status, or
- Non-USA Rugby Sanctioned Conference 7's Tournaments which must have a minimum of eight (8) Division IA or Division IAA teams to receive Automatic Qualification Status.

To request USA Rugby Sanctioning for a 7's tournament which meets one of the two guidelines listed above:

- The date and list of participants, along with 7's Tournament contact information, shall be forwarded to the College Director/Associate College Director as soon as the information is confirmed.
 - The Men's Collegiate Competitions Committee will review each tournament to confirm criteria met and approve as a Qualifying Event. At this point information will be listed on the USA Rugby College website. The schedule of Qualifying Tournaments, including contact information, shall be updated as additional Events are approved.
 - Division IA/IAA teams in a Sanctioned Conference and/or League not hosting a 7's Qualifying Tournament, as well as any USA Rugby approved Independent Division IAA teams who wish to qualify for the 7's National Championships, may join the field of an approved Qualifying Event with approval of the tournament director.
- *Automatic Qualification and At-Large Qualification will be communicated once the Men's Competitions Committee has confirmed the number of Qualifying 7's Tournaments competed and the participating schools in these Events.

Division 2/NSCRO Schools

There will be no 7's Collegiate National Championships for the Div. 2/ Div. 3 NSCRO schools for 2012. The Competitions Committee would like to see a number of Conference and/or Non-Conference Div. 2 tournaments held in 2012 to lay the groundwork for a possible Div. 2/3 National Championship in 2013.