

USA Rugby College National Championship

Conference - Automatic Qualification (AQ)

Eligibility Criteria.

A conference must include the following minimum number of eligible teams participating in the conference Regular Season to be eligible to receive an Automatic Qualification status:

- a. six (6) eligible teams for men
- b. six (6) for eligible teams for women

Confirmation of Eligible Conferences.

Each Collegiate Competitions Committee (CCC) shall review and confirm that conferences have met the criteria specified in order to receive Automatic Qualification status to the USA Rugby Championship.

Appeals Procedure.

A conference may appeal the CCC's determination to the CMC. The decision of the College Management Council on such appeals will be final.

Confirmation of Conference Champion / 7s Qualifiers.

Conference competition must be conducted and the conference champion must be determined no later than the date on which participants are selected for the USA Rugby Championship, either by regular in-season competition or a conference tournament. For 2014-15, these deadlines are:

Men's Division II		3:00pm MST - Sunday, November 8, 2015
Women's Division I and II	Fall Regional Participants	3:00pm MST - Sunday, November 8, 2015
Women's Division I, II and III	Spring Regional Participants	4:00pm MST - Sun, March 20 or Sun, March 27, 2016
Men's Division I-AA		4:00pm MST - Sunday, April 10, 2016
Men's Division I and II	College 7s National Championship:	4:00pm MST - Sunday, May 1, 2016
Women's Division I and II/III	College 7s National Championship:	4:00pm MST - Sunday, May 1, 2016

Designated Conference Automatic Qualifier.

The conference may designate its qualifier provided it has established objective competition-based criteria for making that designation and has communicated that information, for consideration and approval, to the Collegiate Championship Committee by the specified deadline.

Eligibility of Participants.

The conference must maintain and actively enforce compliance with eligibility rules applicable to its members. The use of an ineligible student-athlete by a team in a conference that has been granted Automatic Qualification may result in the involved team being denied the right to be the automatic entry in the USA Rugby championship.

Forfeiture of Automatic Qualifier Berth.

If a designated conference champion is ineligible to compete, declines to compete or cannot compete for any reason, Automatic Qualification shall be withdrawn for that year and the remaining conference members shall be considered at large.

Exception: Automatic Qualification for a conference shall not be withdrawn if a conference champion declines to compete in an USA Rugby Championship for reasons related to written religious policies against competition on certain days. Under such circumstances, the conference's second-place team (as determined, on basis of competition, by the conference) shall receive the automatic bid to the USA Rugby championship.

Penalty for Forfeiture.

If a team forfeits (due to failure to satisfy the eligibility requirement or other reason) an AQ after the selections deadline:

- a) the applicable conference shall forfeit its right to be granted an AQ to the National Championship Tournament for the next Playing Season. AND
- b) such team may be declared as ineligible for the National Championship Tournament the next Playing Season.

Notification of Qualifying Teams (AQ and At Large) to the USA Rugby National Championships:

Women's Division II Fall Regional	Sunday, November 1, 2015
Men's Division II Championships	Sunday, November 8, 2015
Women's Division I Elite Fall Regional	Sunday, November 8, 2015
Women's Division I Fall Regional	Sunday, November 8, 2015
Women's Division I Spring Regional	Sunday, March 20 or 27, 2016
Women's Division II Spring Regional	Sunday, March 20 or 27, 2016
Women's Division III Spring Regional	Sunday, March 20 or 27, 2016
Men's Division IAA Spring Regional	Sunday, April 10, 2016
Men's Division I Sevens Championships	Sunday, May 1, 2016
Men's Division II Sevens Championships	Sunday, May 1, 2016
Women's Sevens Championships	Sunday, May 1, 2016