

COLLEGE DIVISIONAL PETITION INFORMATION

2016-17-18

USA Rugby College Governance has developed a time line by which college rugby teams needed to transition to their respective NCAA intercollegiate divisional designation. This requirement will soon be under review by the College Management Council (CMC).

Due to unusual circumstances and/or unique situations on many campuses, the CMC has determined it will accept appeals from teams that wish to compete in a rugby division that does not align with that of the institution's varsity athletics program.

In order for each 'NCAA Division I' team's status to be reviewed for USA Rugby Division II post-season eligibility, rugby programs, identified as candidates to compete in a 'higher' USA Rugby Division, seeking to appeal this requirement must complete and return the attachment as soon as possible.

This petition shall be reviewed by the College Management Committee which will render a determination within ten (10) business days of receiving the form. The CMC will either deny or approve the appeal.

If approved, the program shall only have post-season eligibility in the mandated division for the 2017-18 season UNLESS stipulated otherwise by the CMC. In event of the latter determination, the team will be awarded a probationary status for a specific period. Prior to requiring the team to transition to a higher division, and/or at the mid-point of any extension with this change in status, there shall be follow-up review to determine if progress has been made. Depending on the review at this time, the team shall either be found to be adequately prepared for re-classification after one year or have the exemption extended for duration of the original time frame.

If denied, the program may compete in a conference consisting of teams of a different USA Rugby division (it will not be required to join a conference populated solely by teams of the higher division). However, this team will only be considered for a post-season berth in the appropriate Division as an At Large selection and only if the participation minimums specified in the College Governance Document have been met.

The following criteria are suggested factors which will help the CMC discuss and review each request to extend eligibility to a team competing at a divisional level below institutional NCAA intercollegiate designation:

- * *Undergraduate student population (total, the number of men and the number of women).*
- * *Historical rugby success as evidenced by competitive record over the last three-four years.*
- * *Average roster size (number of participants) over the last three-four years.*
- * *Administrative structure: coaching, faculty advisor, student leaders' responsibilities, adult interaction with school officials.*
- * *Competitive access to (financially/competitively reasonable or geographically isolated situation) conference of like-competitive schools.*
- * *Specific challenges for this institution that the CMC should consider.*