

USA Rugby Adult Rugby Eligibility FAQ 2019-20

I want to play for the local rugby club. What must I do prior to participating in any rugby activities of a physical nature?

You must register with USA Rugby prior to participating in any competition or other rugby activity of a physical nature. Please visit <https://webpoint.usarugby.org> and click "Join USA Rugby."

What is required to be eligible for Qualifying Matches with my club?

You must be registered to your club and in good standing with USA Rugby for the current competitive season prior to the deadline (See Regulation 3.4-(a)).

Note: If the USA Rugby eligibility deadline has not been met, as a member of USA Rugby you may participate in practices, social / friendly games, and tournaments with any club.

What is required to be eligible for the USA Rugby National Championships (NCS)?

The complete USA Rugby NCS eligibility criteria are listed in Section 3 of the Regulations. The two most important requirements are to:

- i. be registered to your club and in good standing with USA Rugby prior to the deadline (See Regulation 3.4-(a)); and,
- ii. play in at least two (2) Qualifying Matches with your club prior to the start of the USA Rugby NCS.

What is the registration and/or transfer deadline for participation in Qualifying matches?

See Regulation 3.4-(a):

- The 15s registration/transfer deadline is 11:59pm MT April 1.
- The 7s registration/transfer deadline is 11:59pm MT July 1.
- The WPL registration deadline is 11:59pm MT October 1.

If you do not register or initiate a transfer by the specified deadline, you are not eligible for Qualifying match competition for the remainder of the competitive cycle without a waiver from USA Rugby.

Note: transfer requests received by USA Rugby by the deadline will be considered to have met the deadline even if not processed until later.

What is the minimum match participation requirement for USA Rugby NCS eligibility?

You must play in at least two (2) Qualifying matches prior to the USA Rugby NCS (Regulation 3.4-(d)).

What if I do not meet the minimum match requirements for playoffs due to injury/medical?

If this is due to reasons outside of your control (injury, relocation, etc.), you may submit an [Eligibility Waiver Request](#) to have your situation reviewed. This request must include documentation confirming details in your personal statement.

To have your waiver request considered, you must have registered or initiated a transfer request by the specified deadline (See Regulation 3.4-(a)).

What is the eligibility waiver request process?

See Sections 13.5 and 13.6.

Players must submit the Senior Club Player Eligibility Waiver Request Form with a written personal statement. Any additional documentation listed as required must be provided with the request.

Once submitted the case will be forwarded to the Club Eligibility Committee, who approves or denies the request for a waiver.

What eligibility concerns could affect my waiver request?

- Registration and/or transfer requests must be initiated prior to the specified deadline (See Regulation 3.4-(a)).
- The waiver request must meet criteria listed in the Regulations (See Section 13.5.2).

I want to change clubs during the competitive season, can I?

You must receive a waiver from USA Rugby before you are eligible to play in any Qualifying Matches with a new / different club (click for [Transfer Request Form](#)). For a complete list of criteria see [Section 13.5.2](#).

The request must be completed in full, and include a written personal statement, a written release (approval to transfer) from your former club and a written release (confirmation of no outstanding disciplinary or financial issues) from the Union or Conference to which your former club belongs

Documentation must be provided with the waiver request to substantiate the request. For example, if the change is due to a relocation for new employment, you must attach an official statement from the new employer verifying the terms of the job including the job title, start date, location of employment, etc.

My club fields teams that compete in different divisions. Are there additional eligibility rules?

See [Regulation 3.5](#) for the full set of eligibility criteria for clubs fielding teams in more than one division.

Further eligibility standards include, but are not limited to, minimum requirements for each player:

- must not meet or exceed 50% of personal match participation with the upper division to be eligible in the playoffs with the lower division team.
- may not meet/exceed the match participation limit specified in [Regulation 3.5-\(d\) and 3.5-\(e\)](#) in the upper division to have continued eligibility with the club's lower division team.
- must play in at least two (2) matches at the player's divisional level or lower prior to the USA Rugby NCS.

I graduated from college, and/or my college team completed its fifteens season, during the competitive year. Can I join and play for a senior club?

Yes if the transfer is initiated prior to the deadline specified in [Regulation 3.4-\(a\)](#). Submit the Senior Club Eligibility Waiver Request Form with a personal statement and proof of graduation/completion of fifteens season attached (See [Section 13.5.2](#)).

My eligibility waiver request was denied. What now?

See [Section 13.6](#).

You may file an appeal within seven (7) days of receiving a denial to have a review of the process by which your case was handled.

You may not introduce new evidence and/or new arguments during the appeals process unless it relates to your right to due process. To make an appeal, you must submit your appeal case and \$100.00. If you win your appeal, the \$100.00 will be returned to you.

My current (15s) club does not play 7s, do I need a transfer to play 7s with a different club?

If you wish to play competitive 7s with another club you must transfer to that club by submitting a [Transfer Request Form](#). The 7s registration/transfer deadline is July 1 (See <https://www.usaclub7s.com/player-eligibility.html>).

I am a Youth (Under-18) player and I want to play for a senior club. Can I?

Yes and No.

World Rugby medical guidelines state that U18 players should not normally play adult rugby. USA Rugby will not approve any players younger than 17 years old to participate in adult rugby.

If a 17-year-old wishes to participate with a senior club, the player must submit a waiver of eligibility. A similar waiver must be submitted by any U19 player hoping to participate in the front row for adult rugby clubs (forms located [here](#)).

These waivers require that a physician perform a physical evaluation and provide written consent that the player will not be subject to increased risk when participating against fully developed adults. Should minors require physicals for participation in athletics or return to school, the physical evaluation may be performed at that time.

The waiver must be fully complete, with physician evaluation/consent, to be considered.

How do I contact USA Rugby?

You may contact USA Rugby by e-mail (eligibility@usarugby.org) or phone (303.539.0300).