

## 2025-26 Senior Club Regulations.

### Key Changes

For the complete 2025-26 Senior Club Regulations please see <https://usaclub.rugby/resources/>

#### Section 1. Terms and Definitions.

##### **5. Approved Governing Body Playoffs.**

Language clarifying that these are NCS Qualifying matches, may be used by players to meet NCS eligibility requirements.

##### **7. Clearance.**

Added for emphasis: World Rugby and USA Club Rugby requirement for players to have the approval from their home club and local union when moving between clubs within USA Rugby (domestic clearance) and when moving between different national rugby Unions (international clearance).

##### **30. NCS Player Documentation.**

Added for emphasis: documentation required for the NCS (and during the season as requested) is outlined in Section 7.4.

##### **62. Women's Elite Rugby (WER).**

Redefined as an **elite** competition given players were not paid.

#### Section 2. General Eligibility Regulations.

##### **2.4-(c). Club Eligibility: Coach.**

Confirming all clubs must have at least one coach with the USA Rugby accreditations: current coaching course certification, current Safe Sport and Background Check.

##### **2.4.1. International Club / Touring Side Eligibility.**

Added for emphasis: Clubs/teams entering the US from other rugby Unions must have official clearance from their home Union; hosting clubs and match officials are not covered by USA Rugby without this clearance.

##### **2.5-(a). International Player Eligibility.**

Players entering the US from other rugby Unions after September 1 of the current USA Rugby membership season must have an international clearance. Players must be able to produce this documentation as verification this has been met on request. World Rugby (and USA Rugby) policy that players may not be registered to more than one national rugby Union at the same time.

#### Section 3. Senior Club Fifteens Regulations.

##### **3.1.1. NCS/Qualifying Competitions Eligibility: Player Documentation.**

Emphasis: documentation required is specified in Section 7.4.

##### **3.2-(a)(v). Use of CMS.**

For the fourth year, CMS is a requirement for all NCS Qualifying matches: full rosters of both clubs, all substitutions, scoring and any cards. No exemptions to this requirement. It is the responsibility of the approved governing body to confirm all member clubs comply.

##### **3.2-(d). Match Rosters: Minimum number of players.**

A minimum of 15 players per World Rugby; to proceed with any fewer players requires advance approval from the approved governing body.

##### **3.2-(e). Match Rosters: Professional/Elite Players.**

Current match roster limits for professional players applies to elite players (WER): five (5) for Division 1; two (2) for Division 2; one (1) for Division 3.

### **3.3. Club Eligibility: NCS Event Match Roster Limits.**

(h). Event Weekend Roster may include a maximum of five (5) Non-Resident Players.

(i). Event Weekend Roster may include a maximum of five (5) Professional/Elite players for Division 1; two (2) Professional/Elite players for Division 2; and one (1) Professional/Elite player for Division 3.

### **3.4-(d). International Clearance Requirement.**

Added for emphasis. This is a World Rugby and USA Rugby requirement.

#### **3.4.1. Player Eligibility: Approved Governing Body Playoffs.**

Added for emphasis: club eligibility (players, coaches, administrators) must be confirmed by the approved governing body prior to start of the local playoffs.

#### **3.4.3. Recognized Competitive Match.**

Language added to confirm these matches must meet criteria specified by the fifteens competitions committee including use of CMS by both clubs, with both rosters entered along with substitutions, scoring and any cards. Failure to comply will lead to the match not being used for player eligibility.

### **3.5-(d). Player Eligibility: Clubs Fielding Multiple Teams.**

In-Season Upper Division Limit: **four (4) NCS Qualifying matches.** On playing in a fourth upper division match the player is no longer eligible for the lower division team/s after that calendar day.

When In-Season Upper Division Limit Not Met (**See 2025-26 Regulations: Figure 1**).

*On clubs which field NCS pathway clubs in **two** divisions:*

A player is eligible for the lower division team in the NCS IF their total matches played with the lower division team is 50% or more than the number of matches played at the upper division.

*On clubs which field NCS pathway clubs in **three** divisions:*

A player is eligible for the Division 3 team in the NCS IF their total matches played in Division 3 is 50% or more of all matches (Divisions 1, 2 and 3) played for the club.

A player is eligible for the Division 2 team in the NCS IF their total matches played in Divisions 2 and 3 is 50% or more of all matches (Divisions 1, 2 and 3) played for the club.

## **7. General Procedures.**

### **7.4. Player Documentation.**

Clarifies USA Passport/passport card accepted as both identification and verification of US Citizen/Resident status.

Clarifies Enhanced Driver's License accepted as both identification and verification of US Citizen/Resident status (from states of Michigan, Minnesota, NY, Vermont, Washington).

International Clearance added, must be produced on request.

#### **7.5.2. Senior Club Eligibility Waivers.**

F. Waiver category (Professional Player Status) expanded to include Elite (WER) Players.

**Any questions please contact the Senior Club Eligibility Committee: [eligibility@usaclub.rugby](mailto:eligibility@usaclub.rugby)**