



OPERATIONAL POLICIES

February 1, 2025

APPROVAL

Changes to the previous version of these operational policies were voted on by Stakeholders (clubs) and approved by the Executive Committee on February 1, 2025

Brent Meier

President / Executive Director
Utah Youth Rugby

OPERATIONAL POLICIES OF UTAH YOUTH RUGBY

ARTICLE I — MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 — Eligibility: Membership will be granted to Utah youth and high school rugby clubs who can demonstrate that the club has or will likely meet the following minimum membership eligibility criteria:

- a. The club has at least fifteen (15) eligible players;
- b. The club has at least all coaches L1 certified;
- c. The club will enter at least one (1) team into one (1) competitive season administered by UYR; and
- d. The entered team will complete at least fifty percent (50%) of the scheduled conference matches for that team.

Clubs may apply for membership before meeting the above criteria and will be given Provisional Membership status until the above criteria have been met.

If it becomes evident to the Registrar that the club cannot meet the above criteria by the last day of the competition year, the Registrar will notify the Executive Committee of the club's non-compliance, terminate the club's Provisional Membership status with UYR and terminate the club's membership with USA Rugby.

Section 2 — Applications for Membership: Membership applications, together with the prescribed annual membership fee, must be submitted to the Registrar by no later than July 31st to be eligible to enter teams in UYR administered competitions in the next membership year (September through August) or no later than December 31st to be eligible to enter teams in the Utah Youth Rugby Spring 15s League (March through May). Applications for membership will be reviewed by the Executive Committee at the next scheduled Executive Committee meeting. The Executive Committee will notify the applicant of the decision of the Executive Committee within seven (7) days of the Executive Committee meeting at which the membership application was reviewed.

Section 3 — Duration of Membership: Membership will commence on the day the application is approved by the Executive Committee and terminate on August 31st of each year.

Section 4 — Voting Privileges: Voting privileges are reserved for members in good standing. Good standing requires all of the following:

- a. Full payment of UYR dues and fees;
- b. Active club membership with USA Rugby;
- c. An assignable referee (USA Rugby Level 1 certified);
- d. At least one USA Rugby certified touch judge available for all matches;
- e. All coaches affiliated with the club must be at least USA Rugby Level 1 certified and hold a current USA Rugby membership card;
- f. Submission of a signed UYR Code of Conduct statement from every adult leader affiliated with the club;

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- g. Full compliance with UYR Bylaws, Rules, Policies and Procedures, including Executive and Disciplinary Committee decisions;
- h. Maintenance of up-to-date contact information for three (3) club officials with the Secretary;

ARTICLE 2 — GENERAL TEAM AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Section 1 — USA Rugby and UYR Policies: UYR adheres to all applicable USA Rugby policies and regulations as published by USA Rugby. Where a conflict is found between USA Rugby and UYR policies and regulations, the USA Rugby policy or regulation takes precedence over the UYR policy or regulation except in instances where the UYR policy or regulation is more stringent than the USA Rugby policy or regulation.

Section 2 — USA Rugby CIPP Registered: Teams must be USA Rugby CIPP compliant before any contact practices may take place. All players must be registered with UYR through the registration and eligibility system hosted by UYR before they are eligible to participate in contact practice or match play, including friendlies. In addition, cleared and eligible players will be issued a UYR player badge of which is required to be worn on the sidelines. Failure to display badge will result in expulsion from the team technical zone.

Section 3 — Player Code of Conduct: Players must sign the Players Code of Conduct upon registration with UYR. Any violations, particularly those involving harassment of the referee, assistant referee or 4th official which is deemed in violation of either the code of conduct or Laws of the Game, are subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in the Disciplinary guidelines. At a minimum, any verbal attack against a referee, assistant referee or 4th official deemed in violation of policy will result in a Red card for coach and / or player with duration outlined in the Disciplinary Guidelines.

Section 4 — Age and Enrollment: Teams will adhere with the USA Rugby policy on age, that is, the player is eighteen years of age or less on September 1st of the academic year in question. Further, the player must be enrolled in high school at some point in time during the academic year of the season being considered. Students in their fifth year of high school are not eligible to play for a UYR Member club.

Section 5 — Ineligible Players: A player is considered ineligible if the player is:

- a. Not registered with UYR via the standard registration system;
- b. Currently serving a red card suspension;
- c. Registered with another team in UYR AND the opposing coach is not informed; or
- d. Deemed ineligible under the provisions of Article 4 Section 2 or Article 5 Section 2.

If a player is caught playing in an ineligible status, the team will be fined \$250 and will be ineligible for post season play. The player will also be considered a persona non-grata and will be banned from UYR for a period not less than one (1) year.

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Section 6 — Age Divisions: Players may participate on teams entered in the various division of UYR administered competitions subject to the following restrictions:

- a. Varsity is open to all registered players in 9th through the 12th Grades of High School. 8th Graders may not play on Varsity teams under any circumstances. 9th Graders and players enrolled in High School who are under the age of fifteen (15) must provide the member club with a waiver before participation on the Varsity team;
- b. JV is open to all registered players in the 9th and 10th Grades of High School. 8th Graders may not play on JV teams under any circumstances. 9th Graders and players enrolled in High School who are under the age of fifteen (15) must provide the member club with a waiver before participation on a JV team;
- c. Middle School is open to all registered players in the 7th and 8th Grades. 6th Graders and below must provide the member club with a waiver before participation on a Middle School team; and
- d. If a Member club has entered more than one side in league competition within UYR, no player that has taken the field in any seeded or playoff match for one side may take the field in any seeded or playoff match for the other side during the competitive season. Doing so will result in forfeiture of the match in which the ineligible player took the field.

Section 7 — Certified Coaches: All teams must have all coaches certified with an L1 level certification and must have an active USA Rugby Membership as well as a UYR issued coaches badge. A Certified Coach MUST attend ALL practices and ALL matches to ensure the liability insurance is in effect. In addition, a coach that fails to display a UYR issued badge will be removed from the team technical zone.

Section 8 – Coaches Code of Conduct: All coaches must be registered with UYR and are required to sign the Coaches Code of Conduct before actively coaching with the Member club. Any violations, particularly those involving harassment of the referee, assistant referee or 4th official which is deemed in violation of either the code of conduct; Laws of the Game or any UYR policies, are subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in the Disciplinary guidelines. At minimum, any verbal attack against a referee, assistant referee or 4th official deemed in violation of policy will result in a Red card for coach and / or player with duration outlined in the Disciplinary Guidelines.

Section 9 — Contact Matches: UYR Member club teams are not permitted to play contact rugby against College or Adult teams. This includes contact rugby games, contact practices or scrimmages in sevens, fifteens, or any other denomination of rugby. This is for the safety of the players and is not allowed under any circumstances.

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Section 10 — Minimum Practice: UYR Registered players must participate in a minimum of four (4) practices, with coached supervised tackling prior to playing their first match.

Section 11 — Mixed Gender Teams: There will not be any mixed gender high school or middle school teams allowed to compete in any high school or middle school match in Utah. Mixed gender teams are allowed in the Utah Youth Rugby Little Leagues and in the Utah Youth Rugby Rookie Leagues.

Section 12 — Amateur Status: Players must meet and remain in compliance with all applicable amateur standards per the Utah High School Athletic Association handbook.

Section 13 — Club, Team and Player Participation Restrictions: In order for clubs and teams to properly form, prepare for and participate in competitive seasons administered by UYR, clubs, teams and players are required to adhere to the following Club, Team and Player Participation Restrictions during the competition year:

- a. A player may only play for one team within any single season. The player's USA Rugby Membership number (aka CIPP Number) is attached to that team for the duration of the season and may not be transferred to or from that team within the following competition season dates:
 - a. High School Fall 7s – September 1st through the 2nd Saturday of November;
 - b. High School Spring 15s – February 1st through the 2nd Saturday of May;
 - c. Middle School Spring 15s - February 1st through the 2nd Saturday of May;
 - d. Middle School 7s – 3rd Saturday of May through the last Saturday of June;
 - e. Little League 7s - 3rd Saturday of May through the last Saturday of June.
- b. Academy or Motley teams may receive and include players during the open season period. During this season a player may participate on an Academy or Motely team, but the player's USA Rugby Membership number remains attached to the player's home club. The open periods for such teams are as follows:
 - a. From June 1st through August 31st; and
 - b. From the 2nd Sunday of November to January 31st.
- c. In any single competition year, a player may only play with one club. For players where a sevens (7s) team is not provided by their home fifteens (15s) club, an exception is made, and they may play for a UYR organized "Barbarians" team which will compete as an equal member of the sevens (7s) season pool of teams. Such players will register with UYR under their home club.

In accordance with the official published pathway which was established by USA Rugby, and consistent with UYR's mission statement and purpose, any team officially sponsored by USA Rugby such as the High School All American team, HSAA camps, tryouts, and Stars and Stripes games is exempted from any restriction with respect to UYR seasons. Similarly, and to remain consistent and true to the purpose and form of the USA Rugby established high performance pathway.

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ARTICLE 3 — GENERAL MATCH AND SIDELINE MANAGEMENT

Section 1 — Coaches, Managers, Photography and Ancillary Personnel: A team must have all coaches L1 certified on the sideline for every match. In addition, the team may have no more than six (6) USA Rugby certified coaches on the sideline during matches. These Coaches must be in team standard kit and displaying UYR issued badge. Standard team kit is defined as same coach's shirt, similar colored pants or shorts, same color team hat or visor if worn. The standard kit requirement is applied to team managers as well. Coaches must be able to produce on request a USA Rugby membership card and/or UYR badge which includes the coach's photograph. If the USA Rugby membership card does not include a photograph, coaches must provide a picture ID with the USA Rugby membership card. All coaches must stay within the determined technical zones during all matches and have UYR issued badge on full display. Failure to do so will result in removal from team technical zone.

There may be one (1) team manager who may act as statisticians and/ or support person. The team manager must be in team standard kit and must display a UYR issued badge. Team managers must be able to produce on request a USA Rugby membership card which includes the team manager's photograph. If the USA Rugby membership card does not include a photograph, team managers must provide a picture ID with the USA Rugby membership card.

There may be one (1) team photographer. The team photographer may roam the opposite sidelines as long as they are not interfering with the assistant referees or blocking the view of the spectators. Team photographer will be identified by a brightly colored bib or a Utah Youth Rugby field pass.

Section 2 — Conference League and Championship Match Team Rosters: A team may have up to thirty (30) UYR registered players on the match team roster for Conference and Championship matches. All rostered players on the team sideline must be dressed in team standard kit. Players not dressed in team standard kit must be wearing a brightly colored bib. All rostered players must be able to produce a school picture ID card upon request. All rostered players must stay within the determined technical zones during all matches.

Teams must provide a match team roster with jersey numbers to the match official before the start of the match. Substitutes must report to the match official before entering the match to enable the match official to record the substitution.

Middle School and JV teams may make up to twelve (12) rolling substitutions during season and championship matches. All Varsity teams may make twelve (12) non-rolling substitutions for season and championship matches. After a team has used all twelve substitutions, only a previously a substituted player may return to the match to play when replacing:

- a. an injured front row player;
- b. a player with a blood injury;
- c. a player removed from the match with a suspected concussion; or

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- d. a player who has been injured as a result of foul play.

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Section 3 — Required Team Documents: Before any player steps on the pitch, the coach must have in their possession the following forms:

- a. Copy of team roster with assigned jersey numbers and CIPP registration numbers;
- b. Emergency Local Contact Numbers for players;
- c. Individual Insurance Policy numbers;
- d. Parental Consent to Treat Form; and
- e. School issued picture ID.

Section 4 — Match Pitches: Matches must be played on UYR approved fields (USA Rugby field specifications as located on the USA Rugby website). Teams must comply with the following pitch protocols:

- a. Prior to the start of the game, coaches and referees must check athletic grounds for hazards (rocks, holes, water, etc.). Also, consider current and potential weather conditions (e.g. lightning);
- b. Players and coaches need to be on separate sides of a sideline. There will be ropes to separate the respective teams at mid-field in technical zones, allowing room for the 4th official and substitution check in. One side of the field, when at all possible, will be reserved for spectators; and
- c. All pitches must be properly lined, flags posted, goal post padded and have crowd restraints on both sides of the field.

Section 5 - Kit Requirements: Proper equipment is required for all matches. In addition to the following policies, teams should consult the USA Rugby website for up to date restrictions on clothing and equipment.

- a. Mouth guard is required;
- b. Rugby boot or soccer/football cleats without the front “Spike” is acceptable;
- c. Scrum head gear, mittens, and shoulder pads must have the IRB / World Rugby approval stamp;
- d. Jewelry must be removed;
- e. Kits must match and be clean with no tears in shirts, shorts, and socks. Short, or cut, sleeves must be hemmed and must at least cover the player’s biceps. No clothing may show below Rugby shorts (no boxer shorts); except for spandex shorts. Failure to comply will result in removal of player from the pitch;
- f. Numbers on jerseys are mandatory for numbers 1-25;
- g. Clubs cannot have any reference to alcohol or tobacco related products or companies displayed on any part of their kit;
- h. All coaching staff should have matching outfits to provide a more professional look and feel; and
- i. It is encouraged that all players not dressed out for a match adhere to good taste and decency in clothing. References to drugs or alcohol on non-dressed players is restricted.

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Section 6 — Teams Withdrawing or Absent from Competition: Any team that withdraws or is a no-show after the start of any competition (league or State Championship) will be assessed fine of the greater of \$250 or the cost of reimbursement of expenses incurred by the offended team. This fine must be paid in full to the offended Club before the offending Club will be eligible to be a Member of UYR and or any team of the offending Club plays in any UYR matches. The offended Club will be liable to reimburse Utah Youth Rugby for any costs incurred by Utah Youth Rugby as a result of the cancellation.

Teams have the may reschedule a match, as reasonably agreed upon by both head coaches of the teams, if it is determined that an unforeseen and justifiable situation occurred that would prevent one or both teams from being able to field a team. Notification must be given by the team requesting rescheduling to the opponent no later than 72 hours prior to the schedule game time. Teams failing to give notification in a timely manner will be assed the fine as described above. Rescheduled games must be played at the first available date, including during the week if necessary. Any disputes will be resolved by the Division Commissioner. Any appeals against a ruling issued by the Division Commissioner will be heard by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee's decision will be final and binding on both teams.

Section 7 — Prior to Match Day Protests: All grievances shall be submitted in writing to the Division Commissioner for resolution within seven days of submission. Unresolved grievances shall be referred to the Executive Committee (either by the Division Commissioner or the originator of the grievance) and presented before the Executive Committee for resolution. In all cases, grievances shall receive adjudication from UYR leadership within fourteen days of the original grievance submission. Issues of UYR Member Club compliance with Association requirements shall be adjudicated by the Executive Committee.

Section 8 – Match Day Protests: The Team Captain or Coach must advise the Referee **BEFORE KICKOFF** that their team wishes to register a protest and give the reason. The Referee must notify the opposing Team Captain that the game is going to be played "under protest" and for what reason. The Referee should give the offending team a reasonable amount of time to correct the circumstances of the protest. If the circumstances are not corrected, the Referee and protesting team **MUST** notify the Division Commissioner, in writing, within 72 hours of the circumstances of the protest. The Division Commissioner will review the protest and the teams involved will be notified of the decision. If a team protests an ineligible player, the game will not be played and the Division Commissioner will be notified within 24 hrs. If a violation occurs, every effort should be made to rectify the situation with the referee. If that cannot be accomplished, the team may post a protest with the Division Commissioner within 24 hrs. If an ineligible player is found, the team with the ineligible player will forfeit the match and be subject to any additional punishment the Disciplinarian deems appropriate. If the player is found to be eligible, the protesting team will forfeit the match.

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ARTICLE 4 — SCHOOL RED CONFERENCE (15s) (Single School)

Section 1 — Team Eligibility: Teams desiring to enter in a UYR administered competition in a Red Conference must comply with the following eligibility policies:

- a. Team must be based on a state or nationally accredited school that issues High School Graduation Diplomas;
- b. Team must be represented by a Roster that is limited to players in the 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th Grades that are registered at the sponsoring High School;
- c. Team must be represented by a Roster that is limited to players in the 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Grades that reside in the boundaries of the sponsoring High School. Players in the 9th Grade who can demonstrate that they are permitted to play a sanctioned high school sport at a different high school may request to play for that different high school team; and
- d. Teams may carry an unlimited number of players on its Roster.

Section 2 — Player Eligibility: Any player who is registered at a school or resides in the boundaries of a school that has a rugby club team can ONLY play for that club other than a player who resides in the school boundaries but is registered at another school that has a rugby club.

Players who are already members of another club and are registered students at a school that starts a rugby club, will be allowed to stay with the club they were last registered with.

Players wishing to be on a roster of a team entered in a UYR administered competition in a Red Conference must comply with the following eligibility policies:

- a. Players must be eligible as described in the opening paragraph of this section;
- b. Players have not reached their 19th birthday by the September 1st that occurs at the start of the school year containing the competitive season;
- c. Players, except those that have graduated, must be attending class full time, as defined by the High School registrar;
- d. Players must have certified US School transcripts either for two consecutive semesters including the semester that falls during the Competition Season, or, for players that have graduated, the final semester prior to graduation during the current academic year;
- e. If the competition season extends beyond the end of the school year, the players may continue to participate in the competition provided that the players were otherwise eligible at the end of the school year;
- f. Players must be within four (4) years of the moment the player first enrolled in the 9th Grade, regardless of when that player started playing rugby or had the ability to start playing rugby;
- g. Players must not play in a Qualifying Match for any other club in a fifteens match, including the High School age team, College Club, or Senior Club competitions, while those players' High School Qualifying Match season is in progress;

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Section 3 — Conference Committee: The Division Committee, comprising at least one representative from each club entering a team in the conference and chaired by an elected representative from the committee, determines the policies relating to league play and state championships for the conference. Such policies are subject for final approval by the Executive Committee.

Section 4 — Conferences Standings: During the season teams will play matches against teams from within and outside of their own conference. Teams will receive points only for matches within their conference. The total conference points earned will determine seeding for the State Championships.

Ties will be broken by head to head, best aggregate average points difference from conference games, number of tries scored, converted tries first, unconverted second. Conference points will be awarded as follows:

- a. Four (4) points will be awarded for a win;
- b. Two (2) points will be awarded for a draw;
- c. One (1) point will be awarded to a team that loses a match by seven (7) points or less;
- d. One (1) point will be awarded to a team scoring four (4) tries or more in a match; and
- e. Five (5) points will be awarded to a team unable to play a match due to a forfeit by the opposing team. Forfeits will be recorded as a 30-0 score unless the match was played and a more beneficial outcome occurred for the team awarded the win by forfeit.

Section 5 — Conference and State Championship Match Durations: Match durations will be as follows:

- a. Varsity matches will consist of two 35-minute halves;
- b. JV Grade matches will consist of two 30-minute halves; and
- c. Middle School Grade matches will consist of two 25-minute halves.

For Clubs that have teams entered in both the Varsity and JV Grade divisions may allow a JV Grade player to play in both Varsity and JV Grade matches on the same day subject to the following restrictions:

- a. Affected players must take a mandatory 60-minute rest break between matches commencing at the conclusion of the first match;
- b. Affected players may only play a combined match play time of 90 minutes for the day;
- c. Accurate and official time of play must be kept by a match official; and
- d. All pertinent coaches must have a copy of the match substitution records reflecting the time played by the affected player.

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If no play time records have been kept in the first match the affected player lays in, the affected player will be deemed to have played 90 minutes in the first match the affected player plays in.

Section 6 — State Championship Qualification: Conferences must have a minimum of four teams to hold a State Championship. The top four teams qualify for the State Championships.

Section 7 — Championship Matches: There are no ties. If the score is tied at the end of regulation, and additional 10 minute, golden point (sudden death) will be added. If at the end of the additional 10 minute period the score is still tied, match will revert to kicks with the coach selecting five players who were on the pitch at the end of the sudden death period to take turns kicking (drop or place kick) at goal from the center 22-meter mark, the team who makes the most kicks is the winner. If still tied, there will be a sudden death kick off with the remaining 10 players, per side, on the field.

ARTICLE 5 — BLUE / WHITE CONFERENCES (15s) (Multi-School)

Section 1 — Team Eligibility: Teams desiring to enter in a UYR administered competition in a Blue / White Conference must comply with the following eligibility policies:

- a. Team must comprise players who are otherwise not eligible for teams entered in a Red Conference; and
- b. Teams may carry an unlimited number of players on its Roster.

Section 2 — Player Eligibility: Players wishing to be on a roster of a team entered in a UYR administered competition of a Blue / White Conference must comply with the following eligibility policies:

- a. Players must be eligible as described in Article 5 Section 1;
- b. Players have not reached their 19th birthday by the September 1st that occurs at the start of the school year containing the competitive season;
- c. Players, except those that have graduated, must be attending class full time, as defined by the High School registrar;
- d. Players must have certified US School transcripts either for two consecutive semesters including the semester that falls during the Competition Season, or, for players that have graduated, the final semester prior to graduation during the current academic year;
- e. If the competition season extends beyond the end of the school year, the players may continue to participate in the competition provided that the players were otherwise eligible at the end of the school year;
- f. Players must be within four (4) years of the moment the player first enrolled in the 9th Grade, regardless of when that player started playing rugby or had the ability to start playing rugby;
- g. Players must not play in a Qualifying Match for any other club in a fifteens match, including the High School age team, College Club, or Senior Club competitions, while

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those players' High School Qualifying Match season is in progress;

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Section 3 — Conference Committee: The Division Committee, comprising at least one representative from each club entering a team in the conference and chaired by an elected representative from the committee, determines the policies relating to league play and state championships for the conference. Such policies are subject for final approval by the Executive Committee.

Section 4 — Conferences Standings: During the season teams will play matches against teams from within and outside of their own conference. Teams will receive points only for matches within their conference. The total conference points earned will determine seeding for the State Championships.

Ties will be broken by head to head results, best aggregate average points difference from conference games, number of tries scored, converted tries first, unconverted second. Conference points will be awarded as follows:

- f. Four (4) points will be awarded for a win;
- g. Two (2) points will be awarded for a draw;
- h. One (1) point will be awarded to a team that loses a match by seven (7) points or less;
- i. One (1) point will be awarded to a team scoring four (4) tries or more in a match; and
- j. Five (5) points will be awarded to a team unable to play a match due to a forfeit by the opposing team. Forfeits will be recorded as a 30-0 score unless the match was played and a more beneficial outcome occurred for the team awarded the win by forfeit.

Section 5 — Conference and State Championship Match Durations: Match durations will be as follows:

- d. Varsity matches will consist of two 35-minute halves;
- e. JV Grade matches will consist of two 30-minute halves; and
- f. Middle School Grade matches will consist of two 25-minute halves.

For Clubs that have teams entered in both the Varsity and JV Grade divisions may allow a JV Grade player to play in both Varsity and JV Grade matches on the same day subject to the following restrictions:

- e. Affected players must take a mandatory 60-minute rest break between matches commencing at the conclusion of the first match;
- f. Affected players may only play a combined match play time of 90 minutes for the day;
- g. Accurate and official time of play must be kept by a match official; and
- h. All pertinent coaches must have a copy of the match substitution records reflecting the time played by the affected player.

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If no play time records have been kept in the first match the affected player lays in, the affected player will be deemed to have played 90 minutes in the first match the affected player plays in.

Section 6 — State Championship Qualification: Conferences must have a minimum of four teams to hold a State Championship. The top four teams qualify for the State Championships.

Section 7 — Championship Matches: There are no ties. If the score is tied at the end of regulation, and additional 10 minute, golden point (sudden death) will be added. If at the end of the additional 10 minute period the score is still tied, match will revert to kicks with the coach selecting five players who were on the pitch at the end of the sudden death period to take turns kicking (drop or place kick) at goal from the center 22-meter mark, the team who makes the most kicks is the winner. If still tied, there will be a sudden death kick off with the remaining 10 players, per side, on the field.

ARTICLE 6 — GIRLS (15s)

Section 1 — Team Eligibility: Teams wishing to enter in a UYR administered competition in a Girl's Division must comply with the following eligibility policies:

- a. Team must comprise players registered at a state or nationally-accredited school that issues High School Graduation Diplomas; and
- b. Teams may carry an unlimited number of players on its Roster.

Section 2 — Player Eligibility: Players wishing to be on a roster of a team entered in a UYR administered competition in a Girl's Conference must comply with the following eligibility policies:

- a. Players are eligible if they have not reached their 19th birthday by the September 1st that occurs at the start of the school year containing the competitive season;
- b. Players, except those that have graduated, must be attending class full time, as defined by the High School registrar;
- c. Players must have certified US High School transcripts either for two consecutive semesters including the semester that falls during the Competition Season, or, for players that have graduated, the final semester prior to graduation during the current academic year;
- d. If the competition season extends beyond the end of the school year, the players may continue to participate in the competition provided that the players were otherwise eligible at the end of the school year;
- e. Players must be within four (4) years of the moment the player first enrolled in the 9th Grade, regardless of when that player started playing rugby or had the ability to start playing rugby; and
- f. Players must not play in a Qualifying Match for any other club in a fifteens match, including the High School team or club, College Club, or Senior Club competitions, while those players' High School Qualifying Match season is in progress;

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Section 3 — Conference Committee: The Division Committee, comprising at least one representative from each club entering a team in the conference and chaired by an elected representative from the committee, determines the policies relating to league play and state championships for the conference. Such policies are subject for final approval by the Executive Committee.

Section 4 — Conferences Standings: During the season teams will play matches against teams from within and outside of their own conference. Teams will receive points only for matches within their conference. The total conference points earned will determine seeding for the State Championships.

Ties will be broken by head to head result, best aggregate average points difference from conference games, number of tries scored, converted tries first, unconverted second. Conference points will be awarded as follows:

- a. Four (4) points will be awarded for a win;
- b. Two (2) points will be awarded for a draw;
- c. One (1) point will be awarded to a team that loses a match by seven (7) points or less;
- d. One (1) point will be awarded to a team scoring four (4) tries or more in a match; and
- e. Five (5) points will be awarded to a team unable to play a match due to a forfeit by the opposing team. Forfeits will be recorded as a 30-0 score unless the match was played and a more beneficial outcome occurred for the team awarded the win by forfeit.

Section 5 — Conference and State Championship Match Durations: Match durations will be as follows:

- a. Varsity matches will consist of two 35-minute halves;
- b. JV Grade matches will consist of two 30-minute halves; and
- c. Middle School Grade matches will consist of two 25-minute halves.

For Clubs that have teams entered in both the Varsity and JV Grade divisions may allow a JV Grade player to play in both Varsity and JV Grade matches on the same day subject to the following restrictions:

- a. Affected players must take a mandatory 60-minute rest break between matches commencing at the conclusion of the first match;
- b. Affected players may only play a combined match play time of 90 minutes for the day;
- c. Accurate and official time of play must be kept by a match official; and
- d. All pertinent coaches must have a copy of the match substitution records reflecting the time played by the affected player.

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If no play time records have been kept in the first match the affected player lays in, the affected player will be deemed to have played 90 minutes in the first match the affected player plays in.

Section 6 — State Championship Qualification: Conferences must have a minimum of four teams to hold a State Championship. The top four teams qualify for the State Championships.

Section 7 — Semi & Championship Matches: There are no ties. If the score is tied at the end of regulation, and additional 10 minute, golden point (sudden death) will be added. If at the end of the additional 10 minute period the score is still tied, match will revert to kicks with the coach selecting five players who were on the pitch at the end of the sudden death period to take turns kicking (drop or place kick) at goal from the center 22-meter mark, the team who makes the most kicks is the winner. If still tied, there will be a sudden death kick off with the remaining 10 players, per side, on the field.

ARTICLE 7 — FALL AND SUMMER 7s

Section 1 — Team Eligibility: Teams wishing to enter in a UYR administered 7s tournament must comply with the following eligibility policies:

- a. Team must comprise players registered at a state or nationally-accredited school that issues High School Graduation Diplomas; and
- b. Teams may carry an unlimited number of players on its Roster.

Section 2 — Player Eligibility: Players wishing to be on a roster of a team entered in a UYR administered 7s tournament must comply with the following eligibility policies:

- a. Players are eligible if they have not reached their 19th birthday by the September 1st that occurs at the start of the school year containing the competitive season;
- b. Players, except those that have graduated, must be attending class full time, as defined by the High School registrar;
- c. Players must have certified US High School transcripts either for two consecutive semesters including the semester that falls during the Competition Season, or, for players that have graduated, the final semester prior to graduation during the current academic year;
- d. If the competition season extends beyond the end of the school year, the players may continue to participate in the competition provided that the players were otherwise eligible at the end of the school year; and
- e. Players must be within four (4) years of the moment the player first enrolled in the 9th Grade, regardless of when that player started playing rugby or had the ability to start playing rugby.

Section 3 — Tournament Committee: The UYR Executive Committee determines the policies relating to tournament play. Such policies are provided to teams before each tournament.