



NORTHEAST

SEVENS CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

2017 SEVENS CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES RULES

PREFACE

1. Northeast Sevens Championship Series will consist of four tournaments. Each team will compete for a chance to represent the Northeast competitive region at the USA Rugby 7's National Championships. The Overall winner of the series will be determined by the team with the most series points as set out below. The Top two teams will represent the Northeast at the USA Rugby 7's National Championships.

2. All matches will be held in accordance with the laws of the game – as specified by World Rugby and new rules implemented by USA Rugby and the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series – as well as any and all applicable guidelines set forth by USA Rugby and the Northeast Sevens Championship Series. In particular, please ensure your club, team and all players meet the USA Rugby Eligibility Requirements as provided below.

POINTS and ADVANCEMENT

3 . Points will be awarded at each Northeast Sevens Championship Series tournament as follows:

- A. Cup winner (1st place): 22 points.
- B. Cup runner-up (2nd Place): 19 points.
- C. Plate Winner (3rd place): 17 pts.
- D. Plate runner-up (4th place): 15 pts.
- E. Bowl winner (5th place): 13 points.
- F. Bowl runner-up (6th Place): 12 points.
- G. Shield winner (7th place): 10 points.
- H. Shield runner-up (8th place): 8 points.

The final results of each tournament will act as the seeds for the upcoming tournament.

4. Additional points will be awarded for attendance. For each tournament, four (4) points will be awarded automatically when a team checks in on-site. Teams that appear at all of the tournaments will receive an additional four (4) points.

5. When all of the Northeast Sevens Championship Series tournaments are complete, the top two teams with the highest combined points total from both rankings and attendance will advance to the USA 7's National Championships.

6. Foreign or teams from outside the territory will not be allowed to compete in the championship series.

7. A team that forfeits any game on the day will not receive their attendance points.

8. Every Team competing in the Northeast Sevens Championship Series is required to pay a \$500 Fee. The majority of this will be reserved to ensure a panel of Referees is available for the Qualifier series and their accomadations logistics sorted. The remaining will go to Next Level Productions to cover the final tournament of the Series.

Host Tournament Responsibilities – Rules and Regulations

9. Each of the Northeast Sevens Championship Series tournaments shall have a club designated as Tournament Host.

10. The Tournament Host of each of the Northeast Sevens Championship Series is responsible for advertising, planning, and executing the tournament. The Tournament Host must adhere to all USA Rugby rules and requirements. The tournament must be open to all NERFU & EMPIRE GU clubs and entries must be accepted at least until 5 P.M. on the Monday before the tournament is to be held. The Tournament Host is strongly encouraged to require Tournament fees to be paid in advance to avoid last minute cancellations and the associated confusion.

11. The Tournament Host must provide regulation fields, certified high level referees, required safety equipment, required medical staff and equipment, regulation match balls, and all other necessary facilities and equipment.

12. The Tournament Host of each of the Northeast Sevens Championship Series shall designate a Tournament Director who will be responsible for organizing the tournament. The Tournament Director shall determine the format, pools and schedule for the tournament by the Wednesday prior to the tournament, subject to the approval of the Directors of the Northeast Sevens Championship Series. The Tournament Director will be responsible for monitoring all aspects of play, determining which team's progress on to subsequent rounds, settling disputes, and collecting information in the event of protests or challenges and reporting such information to the Directors of the Northeast Sevens Championship Series or a designated representative thereof.

13. The Tournament Director will be responsible for reporting the official scores with trys scored included and order of finish and mailing the rosters of all teams that participated to the Directors of the Northeast Sevens Championship Series or a designated representative thereof no later than 5 PM on the Monday following the tournament.

14. The Tournament Director will be responsible for verifying team and individual eligibility compliance on the day of the tournament.

A. The Tournament Director shall collect a CIPP Roster printed off the USA Rugby website from each team in addition to the standard 12 man roster. All rosters must be forwarded to the Director of the Northeast Sevens Championship Series or a designated representative thereof by 5 PM on the Monday following the tournament.

B. All players on roster must be present on day of tournament. If a player is not present their name is

to be removed from the roster.

C. CIPP Registration is not allowed on the day of the tournament.

D. The Tournament Director shall be responsible for inspecting the following from each player:

i. Original official ID with a picture. A driver's license, government-issued non-driver ID, passport, military ID, or other picture ID issued by a government agency will be acceptable.

ii. Players who will be listed as Resident Players MUST show ONE of the following:

a. U.S. birth certificate OR copy of photo page of U.S. passport

b. Original or certified copy of Permanent (Green Card) or Conditional Permanent Resident Alien documentation (Conditional Green Card). Note: Documentation (i.e. letters of application) in reference to the pursuit of permanent or conditional resident status, in order to facilitate a player's participation in competition, shall not be allowed.

c. Resident Player Status Documentation as provided by USA Rugby

E. All teams and players must follow all USA Rugby Eligibility Requirements. (See section 9 of USA Rugby's Eligibility rules) All players must be CIPP registered with their team before the day of the tournament. There will be no CIPP registering of players on the day of the tournament. Once a player registers with a sevens club and/or competes in a Northeast Sevens Championship Series tournament then the player is committed to that club for the entire season and may not switch to another club for play in Northeast Sevens Championship Series or the USA Rugby 7's National Championship.

F. Each Northeast Sevens Championship Series club may enter up to 2 teams in the Championship Series Tournaments. (Clubs may qualify more than one team for nationals. Please read section 9 from USA Rugby eligibility laws for more details) Please note if your club is trying to qualify more than one team for a National Championship that second team is a totally separate entity. Players are only allowed to play for the squad they are CIPP registered for.

G. If a club enters more than one team in a Northeast Sevens Championship Series tournament, players may play for only 1 team on that day. (Players cannot play for more than one team in a tournament even if from the same club.) However, Players may switch teams within the club for other Championship Series tournaments, provided the club is qualifying only one team for the USA Rugby National 7's Championships. If a club is attempting to qualify two teams for the USA Rugby National 7's Championship, the Directors of the Northeast Sevens Championship Series must be informed prior to the first Northeast Sevens Championship Series qualifying event, and two separate rosters must be maintained throughout the Northeast Sevens Championship Series with no transfer of players between those rosters at any time.

H. Rosters are limited to 12 players for a tournament. Only 2 non-resident players are allowed on the roster for a tournament and they may play at the same time. (Note: all of the preceding rules are dictated by USA Rugby policy.) A player must have played for their club in at least two Northeast Sevens Championship Series tournaments in order to be eligible to play in the USA Rugby 7's National Championships.

19. If a team is found guilty of playing an Ineligible player that team will forfeit all points earned for that tournament.

20. Disciplinary Procedure

A. For persistent or deliberate fouls or other infringements the Referee may issue a Yellow Card to dismiss a player to the Sin Bin for a period of two (2) minutes.

B. If a player in the tournament receives two (2) Yellow Cards, for any reason, during the tournament (i.e. the Yellow Cards could be from different games) they will be deemed to have been given a Red Card and therefore will be dismissed from the field of play for the remainder of the tournament.

C. Should the Referee consider the infringement to be more serious, a player may be issued a Red Card and will be dismissed from the field of play for the remainder of the tournament

Once a Red Card is given the player will be done for the remainder of the tournament and will not be eligible until the disciplinary committee makes a ruling.

21. Championship ties are resolved as specified in the 'Standard Set of Variations Appropriate for the Seven-a-Side Game' in the current Law Book.

Pool advancement is determined by:

- A. Record in pool
- B. Head-to-head competition
- C. Point differential
- D. Tries scored
- E. Converted tries scored
- F. Coin toss

USA RUGBY Eligibility Rules

Section 9. NATIONAL CLUB SEVENS CHAMPIONSHIP 9.1. Club and Sevens-Only Team Eligibility

a) A club and 7's-only team must be in good standing by June 15th. Good standing includes but is not limited to: completed CIPP registration of the club and team with full payment; in good standing with the LAU, and in good standing according to USA Rugby playing requirements. A club or team may be registered solely to play 7's. Clubs already enrolled in the current year's CIPP do not need to re-register to participate in 7's.

b) Each participating club and 7's-only team may carry a maximum Roster of 12 players per event. No limit on number of players used by a club or 7's-only team in multiple Qualifying events.

c) Each Roster must include a minimum of nine (9) players.

d) Each Roster may include a maximum of two (2) players who do not meet the criteria for player eligibility to participate on the National Team of the United States. Per World Rugby Regulation 8 a player may only play for the senior USA National Sevens Team if the player:

i) Was born as a United States citizen

ii) or Has one parent or grandparent who was born as a United States citizen

iii) or Has completed thirty-six consecutive months of Residence in the United States immediately preceding the time of the event or

iv) Has not played for the senior National Team of another Union and

v) Meets all other World Rugby standards for National Team Representation.

For purposes of this rule a player is deemed to have played for the senior National Team of a Union if he or she:

- is selected to represent a Union's senior National Sevens Team in an International Match against the senior National Representative Sevens Team of another Union, and*
- is present at the Match played by that Team either as a replacement, substitute or playing member of that Team, and,*
- at the time of the Match, has reached the age of majority.*

e) Clubs may qualify MORE than one team:

- 1. Each team must register by June 15th as a separate entity (e.g. Boulder #1, Boulder #2).*
- 2. Players must register with, and can only compete in Qualifying tournaments for, one club or 7's-only team.*
- 3. A second team registered by an existing club is considered the same as a new club, and held to all USA Rugby eligibility criteria.*

9.2. Player Eligibility

These regulations are designed to prevent club hopping and the importation of guest players to strengthen teams for the post-season. Players must meet the following criteria in order to participate in this USA Rugby Championships:

- a) Play in at least two sevens tournaments (in sevens Qualifiers or other tournaments), scheduled at least one week apart, prior to this USA Rugby Championship Event for the club. For purposes of this rule a sevens tournament is defined as a competition taking place over the course of at least one day between four or more registered sevens teams. Rosters used to qualify players for the National Championships must be verified and submitted by an event host to USA Rugby.*
- b) Be CIPP enrolled for the club and residing in the United States, through initial enrollment or transfer, prior to the earlier of (i) playing in any match pursuant to a) above and (ii) Wednesday, July 1.*
- c) Players may register with any 7s club but may not play in any Qualifying tournaments for any other team or club during the USA Rugby 7's season. Players who transfer to another club must have approval of their previous club, LAU and TU/GU. Players will be permitted to transfer to a new club for the 7's season unless objected to by their original club for financial reasons or by their original LAU or TU/GU for disciplinary issues only.*
- d) Players may not transfer to another team registered with the same club after either Sunday, July 1 or after the player has participated in a Qualifying tournament.*
- e) Minors under the age of 18 must have signed parental or guardian consent form on file with the club acknowledging assumption of risk while participating in the sport*