

NCRFU Policy - as Approved by the Executive Committee 1/8/18

NCRFU PROMOTION AND RELEGATION POLICIES

These policies only cover Men's Divisions 2, 3A and 3B: As of January 2018:

- Promotion relegation is not required in Women's Competition.
- Promotion from D2 to the current PRP D1 competition with the Southern California RFU is not automatic from D2 as it incurs travel cost and discussion with SCRUFU.

Men Division 2, 3a and 3b

1. The highest finishing two teams of Division 3a are automatically promoted to Division 2 for the following season.
2. The lowest finishing two teams in the Division 2 based on standings are automatically relegated to Division 3A for the following season.
3. The highest finishing two teams of Division 3B are automatically promoted to Division 3A for the following season.
4. The lowest finishing two teams in the Division 3A based on standings are automatically relegated to Division 3B for the following season.
5. Policy covering clubs with teams in contiguous Divisions. In administering promotion-relegation policies every effort must be made to avoid placing two teams from a single club in the same division
 - In the event a D2 team is relegated into D3A in which that club already has a team in then both of that club's teams drop a division to maintain contiguous divisions and not two teams from the same club in the same division.
 - If a team to be promoted to D2 is from a club with a team already in D2, the third finishing team will to be promoted that year.

Explanatory Notes

1. The order of finish for the teams to be relegated is determined by the competition standings per points table on USA Rugby Competition Management System.
2. The order of finish for the teams to be promoted is determined by the competition standings at the conclusion of the NCRFU Playoffs.
3. If a team by choice, or by having been deemed ineligible, does not contest the post season, that team is still subject to promotion to the higher Division. In this case the order of ranked finish is determined not by finish in the post season playoffs but instead by ranked order at the end of the regular season Standings on USA Rugby CMS.

Example: In 2018 should playoff ineligible Fresno finish in 1st or 2nd place in the regular season on the standings then Fresno and the winner of the NCRFU D3 Divisional Finals would be promoted to D2. The 2018 D3 Divisional Finals Runner up would remain in D3a for the following 2019 season. The teams below ineligible Fresno per the Standings would fill every spot in the post season. ie four teams contest the semi-finals. (no byes in the post season)

4. Tie Breakers - In cases where teams' records are equal for purposes of determining promotion or relegation those ties will be settled by:
 - First Tie Break is head to head result
 - Second Tie Break is total seasons Points Differential
5. There is no requirement that Clubs must have teams in Contiguous Divisions.
6. Clubs may be relegated to have teams in both D3A and D3B at the same time.

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Example: As a result of the 2018 finish should the Blackhawks be relegated from D2 to D3a regardless of the finish of the Blackhawks "B" side in 2018 D3b the "B side would remain D3b for 2019.

7. New Member Clubs are to enter D3b unless entry into D3A is approved at a duly noticed Union Membership Meeting with a two-thirds majority of votes cast.
8. Club's "B" sides enter at the D3b Level in the first year unless entry into D3A is approved at a duly noticed Union Membership Meeting with a 2 two-thirds majority of votes cast.

Division Size

As approved by the membership at a Union Special Meeting on October 29th 2017: Maximum division size is 10 teams per Division. Division size of 8 to 10 is recognized as being optimal given calendar playing dates available from January to May, allowing with single round robin in league play with post season playoffs leading to a Divisional Final.

Implementation and Management

- The NCRFU Executive Committee reserves the right, if in the interests of improving competition, to deviate from this policy and promote/relegate multiple teams or alter entire league structures. In this event teams are to be promoted/relegated in order based on the final ranking table from USA Rugby CMS Standings and playoff results of the previous XV's season. Any substantive change to the policy requires approval of two thirds vote of the Union membership at a duly noticed meeting.
- Where a two-thirds vote of the Union Membership approves substantive changes proposed by the Executive Committee, notice to clubs of promotion-relegation provisions is agreed to have been satisfied. Meaning the results that are developed and approved at the Union Membership meeting are understood to change within the duly noticed Union Membership meeting. The agenda may not be able to provide notice of every possible Divisional Variation or Schedule Variation which may arise during the meeting. However, any proposed and debated variations arising from a membership meeting are to be considered duly noticed.

USA Rugby Ratification of Competition Divisions and Schedules

NCRFU Division structures and schedules require the approval of the ACR1 and USA Rugby Committees. Every effort should be made to construct divisions and schedules that are consistent with USA Rugby standards concerning such matters as match minimums, eligibility and related concerns. NCRFU Division structures and schedules must not rely on waivers or exceptions to USA Rugby practices.

Appeals

- Affected clubs may appeal promotion/relegation. Such appeals must be filed at the within 25 days of the NCRFU Divisional Finals.
- Appeals must be in writing detailing rationale for appeal to the Union Secretary and President. Appeal documents must be limited to 5 pages total.
- Any such appeal requires a \$500 appeal filing fee. The full fee will be returned upon a favorable determination for the appellant. A determination against appellant will result in NCRFU retaining the deposit.

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- The Appeal will be heard by the NCRFU Executive Committee within 21 days of receipt of an appeal. Consideration of the appeal will be based on the appeal document provided by the appealing club, as well as any other evidence or testimony be considered relevant by the Executive Committee in its reasonable discretion.
- Appeals submitted after the stated deadlines are considered void/invalid and waive the affected Clubs right of appeal to NCRFU, ACR1 and USA Rugby Committees.