

Date: April 23, 2014

To: RRRC Senior Men's and Woman's Sevens Teams

From: Filip Keuppens, Chair RRRC Sevens Committee

Subject: RRRC 2014 Competition Rules and Regulations

1. RRRC Tournaments

The RRRC has designated a min of three (3) tournaments as RRRC Qualifiers per USA Rugby Competition guidelines. . Each of these appointed events shall have a Qualifying Division for both Senior Men's and Women's teams incorporated into the tournament format. The structure and format must be reviewed and approved by the RRRC Sevens Director before the start of the event. For the purpose of these rules, a sevens tournament is considered to be a competition taking place over the course of a least one day between four or more registered sevens teams meeting USA Rugby eligible requirements.

2. Qualifying Events

The RRRC will be divided into three separate competitive regions. Each region will host one Men's and Women's RRRC appointed by the RRRC Committee. Men's and Women's competitions will be held concurrently at the same site and hosted by the same host. Regions will be defined as follows:

North	Tulsa/OKC/Little Rock/Dallas/Ft. Worth
Central	Austin
South	Houston

The awarding of the RRRC Qualifier tournaments hosts will be awarded by the RRRC Sevens Committee and approved by the RRRC Committee. All applications for hosting shall be turned in not later than May 7th. (Appendix A_Hosting Requirements Document)

Based on the above stated criteria, the following events shall be deemed to have Qualifier status for 2014.

Central	Austin, TX	June 28, 2014
North	Tulsa, OK	July 12, 2014
South	Houston, TX	July 26, 2014

Entry fee for each of these regional events shall be \$250 per entering team. Any team in the RRRC in good standing wishing to enter a team must be allowed participation as long they meet the entry fee deadlines as outlined below. **Failure to submit your entry fee prior to posted dates may result in your team being ineligible to compete in the event.** The RRRC Sevens Director will settle any disputes in a team's eligibility to compete. Entry Fees for each event shall be received by the host club on or before the posted deadline to meet eligibility.

North 1	Fee deadline June 14, 2014
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North 2 Fee deadline June 28, 2014
South Fee deadline July 12, 2014

3. Points System

Points Awarded will be as detailed below. Teams are required to attend all three (3) RRRC Qualifiers to be eligible to qualify for Nationals. Points for each RRRC Qualifier will be awarded as follows:

First Place	6 Points
Second Place	4 Points
Third Place	2 Points
Fourth Place	1 Point

Note:

- (1) Each of the designated RRRC Qualifiers will be required to schedule a match for 3rd and 5th place to determine places 1 thru 6. This is necessary in the event of any post match discrepancy or disciplinary actions.
- (2) If one of the teams fails to play in this match, they will be regulated to the lower position. If both teams agree to not play, both teams shall be regulated to the lower place position. In the event of a 3rd place match not being played by mutual agreement of each team then no points will be awarded for 3rd place giving each team only 1 point.
- (3) If there is a "non-RRRC" team that finishes in the top 4 spots, the next highest finishing RRRC teams will earn points according to the structure noted above. (for example, if a "non-RRRC" team places 2nd place then the winner of 3rd place would be awarded the 2nd place points(4), 4th place finisher will be awarded 3rd place points (2), and the 5th place finisher will be awarded 4th place points(1).)
- (4) The RRRC Sevens Director is the only person that can determine if a Qualifier bracket doesn't need to host a 5th vs. 6th place match.

Updated points table will be published every Wednesday following each RRRC Qualifier Tournament by the RRRC Sevens Director to the RRRC and GU's

4. Governing Rules / Procedures

Club Requirements:

Each Club, advancing to National Club Sevens, **must play in a minimum of three designated RRRC Qualifier events** in order to be eligible to advance as a representative from the RRRC Rugby Football Union. There is no limitation on the number of RRRC Qualifiers a Club may enter.

Teams must be registered as Sr. Men or Women's teams within the TRU to be eligible to garner points and meet all Cipp and transfer rules in accordance with the eligibility guidelines set forth by USA Rugby.

All teams participating in any national pathway tournament (RRRC Qualifiers) will be assessed a one time administrative fee of \$250 (above and beyond tournament entry fees) to assist in paying for referees and event staffing. This fee will be due on the date of the final qualifying tournament but will be waived for any team that competes in all three qualifying tournaments.

In order to allow enough time for the RRRC Sevens Director to validate a player's eligibility information prior to each Qualifier tournament, please note the following policies and guidelines.

For those teams entering any tournament with the intent of garnering points towards qualifying for the USA Rugby Club Sevens Championships, the respective teams must:

1. Submit a preliminary pool roster of no more than 15 players for eligibility verification for each Qualifier to the RRRC Sevens Director by **no later than 6pm CST the Wednesday before each respective event via email to the RRRC Sevens Director.** For further information please reference the player eligibility requirements from USA Rugby Eligibility Regulations. The RRRC Sevens Director has the right to request further information as needed for validation. Failure to submit teams preliminary pool roster for verification before deadline will result in a \$50 fine for you club per occurrence.
2. Each respective team must submit their final roster with a limit of 12 players **no later than 10am CST the Friday before the respective event via email to the RRRC Sevens Director.** **Failure to enter your final roster of 12 players prior to the event shall exclude that team from garnering points, regardless of order of finish.**
3. Each player is required to have a signed copy of the "USA Participation Agreement and Waiver and Release of Liability" form for each respected event.

The rosters shall include the (a) player names (b) CIPP information and (c) resident status. The Clubs shall also provide the same roster to the respective tournament director at team check-in and provide photo identification of each player accordingly. Teams shall only be allowed to use players on their stated roster. Player movement from an "A" squad to or from a "B" squad shall not be allowed once the rosters are submitted on the Friday prior to match day. The failure of a club to submit satisfactory documentation at an event shall be reported to the RRRC Sevens Director.

Clubs are required to be aware of and follow USA Player Eligibility Guidelines. Failure to comply may cause forfeiture and/or other sanctions from the Program Director or RRRC as applicable.

USA Eligibility Rules for Club Sevens will govern all eligibility issues. Issues include: Cipp Registration, CIPP Registration Date, Transfer Date, Foreigner Roster Limits, Etc. It is the responsibility of the respective club and its appointed officials (Sevens Coach / Sevens Captain) to understand and follow all applicable rules.

- Teams will be required to wear proper Rugby attire (socks, shorts, jerseys with sleeves, etc).
- Jerseys shall be of the same color and pattern or of a reasonable match.
- Teams are required to have an alternative (color) set of Jersey's

- Any conflict of Jerseys shall be resolved between the two competing Captains. If the conflict can't be resolved mutually than the higher seed team will select their jersey and opposition must use alternate set of jersey's. RRRC Director will settle all disputes.
- Players shall wear Jerseys with numbers. The number need not be sequential or ordered 1-12 and may not contain any duplicate numbers.
- Players shall wear the same Number during the course of the day that corresponds with that set of jerseys. If a change of jerseys is required due to color conflict then the same number per person shall be worn accordingly when using each respective set..

5. Host Requirements:

Host club to provide full size rugby pitches for all qualifying matches with NO conflicting field lines and proper rugby goal posts (temporary goal posts must be constructed out of acceptable gauge metal – use of PVC will not be approved, posts must be sunk directly into earth and may not be fastened to existing structures such as soccer goals). This field must meet IRB regulations and approved by the RRRC Sevens Committee.

Tournament hosts will be required to send the RRRC Sevens Director a draft format of their tournament brackets. Brackets and seeding will be reviewed and approved or subject to change by the RRRC Sevens Director or other designated RRRC Representative. The hosts will be required to submit their brackets **by no later than 5pm CST on the Wednesday prior to the event.**

Any subsequent changes to the format shall be left up to the tournament Director with approval of the on-site RRRC Representative (as applicable). Hosts are strongly encouraged to have a pool of eight (minimum) teams with a target of 12 teams. If there are less than eight teams, the tournament director shall use one of the approved RRRC Brackets. Post RRRC review changes will only be allowed when a material format change is required due to adding/deleting of teams on the morning of the event. Again, the tournament director shall consult with the on-site RRRC Representative (as applicable).

After the event, the Host shall be required to submit a detailed tournament report with all match scores (pool and knock-out phases). Scores, foul play, and eligibility issues shall be sent to the RRRC Sevens Director **by no later than Noon, on the Wednesday following the event.**

Tournament Hosts shall be reminded to follow the existing RRRC guidelines for Event Hosting.

6. Determination of National Representatives

In determining which Clubs are to qualify for the USA National Club Sevens Championships, the following guidelines and tie breakers will be applied:

1. Compliance with the minimum requirement of attending three Super Regional qualifiers
2. Points Awarded for Eligible Tournaments (All three Super Regional's)
3. Head to Head (wins vs. losses)
4. Head to Head (delta points – total points for less total points against in head to head matches)
5. Gross Points Scored in all appointed Super Regionals

6. Net Scored Points in all appointed Super Regionals (delta)
7. Coin Flip conducted RRRC Director with all parties present

7. Miscellaneous

For all other matters that are not covered or need clarification, they shall be reviewed by the RRRC Sevens Director who will rely on existing guidelines, rules, regulations and prior practices to resolve any disputed matters.

8. RRRC Sevens Director Contact

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9. RRRC Sevens Committee: Filip Keuppens (Chair), Gregg Jarvis, Wendy Young, Kirk Tate, Greg Varnell

2014 RRRC Qualifier Tournament Rules and Regulation

General Provisions:

- Each team will be required to check in with the RRRC Sevens Director or RRRC Representative with the required USA Rugby credentials (Section 9 – USA Eligibility regulations) and photo identification prior to their first match.
- Players may only play for one club in the tournament. A team that uses an ineligible player will forfeit that match and will be disqualified from tournament and subject to further disciplinary actions.
- A match shall be played by no more than seven players in each team on the playing area. A player may be replaced on account of injury or substituted. A team cannot nominate more than five replacements/substitutes; up to five players may be replaced or substituted per game. Temporary replacement for a blood injury to a player is permitted only at the referee discretion. A player who has been replaced through injury may not resume play in the same match except if temporarily replaced for a blood injury. A player who has been substituted may not resume play in the same match except as a temporary replacement for a player with a blood injury. No replacement or substitution may be made except with the permission of the Referee, and only during a stoppage in play. Violation of the 5 substitution rule will result in disqualification for that match.

- Only players, the referee, touch judges and medically trained persons in order to tend to an injured player may enter the playing area. During the interval coaches, water boys and camera crews may enter the playing area but they must leave it before resumption of play and must not do anything to delay the punctual resumption of play.
- A player sent off (red card) during any match is ineligible for the remainder of the tournament. Two yellow cards in a match is a red card. Three yellow cards in the Tournament is a red card.
- Any team arriving more than 5 (five) minutes after scheduled kick-off will forfeit the match. {At the discretion of the non-offending captain, the remaining time may be used to play an abbreviated match, but the result will remain a forfeit.}
- Teams are responsible for the behavior of their sidelines and are asked to pick up after themselves.

Brackets and Seeding

Brackets for all RRRC Qualifiers must be approved by the RRRC Sevens Director and following one of the pre determined formats (8 Team, 10 Team, etc...) Seeding will be done as follows:

- The first tournament of the competition season will be based on previous years finish in the RRRC. Teams with no previous history in the competition will be seeded on a best effort basis by the RRRC Sevens Director.
- The following tournaments will be seeding based of the last tournaments results. Teams with no previous history in the competition will be seeded on a best effort basis by the RRRC Sevens Director.

Pool Play (round robin) Matches

Play in the phase of the tournament will consist of matches between teams in the same pool on a round robin basis. (Pool Play) No extra time will be played in pool matches. Points will be awarded for these matches on the following basis

Win = 3 points
Draw = 2 points
Loss = 1 points
No show = 0 points

If a Team willfully refuses to play, or willfully abandons a Match in progress, without the prior consent of the Match Referee, then, subject to confirmation by the Disputes Committees, that Team will be expelled from the Tournament.

If a Team has been expelled from the Tournament, for whatever reason, then that Team shall be deemed to have been awarded no pool competition table points and to have scored no tries or points in the pool Matches; and for the purposes of determining standings in the pool competition table, all Match results against such Team shall be deemed null and void. This means that all pool competition table points awarded in Matches against the expelled Team and tries and points scored or conceded in Matches against such Team will not be taken into account in determining standings in the pool competition table.

Determining Pool Table Standings

Position in the pool competition table shall be determined by competition points as set out above with the highest to lowest points ranked in each pool. In case of two or more teams having the same point total the following tie breaker rules shall apply:

(Head to Head) If at the conclusion of the pool stage two Teams are equal on competition points for any position in the pool, such position in the pool competition table will be determined on the result of the Match between the two equal Teams. The Team that won that Match shall be deemed to have finished higher in the pool competition table. If the Head to Head match is a draw or multiple teams are equal in Head to Head competition then the following process shall be used to determine the placing.

(Head to Head – Delta Score) The margin of points scored for and against a Team in only those matches between the tie breaker teams shall be considered. The Team with the highest positive margin of points shall be ranked higher in the pool competition table: If the tie remains unresolved then:

(Head to Head – Delta Tries) The margin of tries scored for and against a Team in only those matches between the tie breaker teams shall be considered. The Team with the highest positive margin of tries shall be ranked higher in the pool competition table: If the tie remains unresolved then:

(Head to Head – Total Points Scored) The Team that has scored the highest number of points in only those matches between the tie breaker teams shall be ranked higher in the pool competition table: If the tie still remains unresolved then;

(Total Tries Scored) The Team that has scored the highest number of tries in ALL their pool Matches shall be ranked higher in the pool competition table: if the tie still remains unresolved then:

(Total Score) The Team that has scored the highest points in ALL their pool Matches shall be ranked higher in the pool competition table: if the tie still remains unresolved then:

The tie will be resolved by the toss of a coin between the Team Managers concerned by the RRRC Sevens Director or RRRC Representative.

Qualifier Bracket (Knock Out) Round

During the Knock-out Competitions, in the event of a Match being drawn at the end of normal time, extra time will be played until a winner is determined. Extra time will be in periods of five minutes. After each period the Teams will change ends without interval. In extra time the Team which scores first will immediately be declared the winner without further play.

The Team that first kicked off will do so again in the first period of extra time, and subsequent kick-offs will alternate between the two sides.

The duration of all matches, other than the Qualifier finals, will be seven minutes each half with a two-minute half time interval. The duration of the Qualifier finals **MUST BE** 10 minutes each half with a two-minute half time interval.

Abandonment of a match (unwillfully)

Apart from the willful abandonment of a match and subsequent expulsion, in the event of a Match having to be stopped after its commencement under the provisions of the Laws of the Game, then subject to confirmation by the Disputes Committee, the following procedure shall apply:

Pool Matches:

Where a pool Match has been abandoned either at half-time or at any time in the second half the result and any points and tries scored by each team in the match shall stand.

Where a pool Match has been abandoned during the first half the result shall be declared a draw.

Where a pool Match has been declared a draw then for that Match each Team will be awarded two Match points and any points and tries scored will count towards the total points and tries scored by each Team in all their pool matches

Knock Out Matches:

Where a Match has been abandoned either at half time or at any time in the second half the result shall stand. If both Teams are tied then the Team having scored the most tournament points shall be declared the winner. If this does not produce a winner then the team with the best overall record will be declared a winner. If a winner is still not determined, the winner will be decided by coin flip. However, if one of the Teams participated in a Pool where a Team was expelled, for whatever reason, then the matter will be referred to the Disputes Committee which shall decide the most appropriate method for determining the winner of the tied knock out Match.

If a Match has been abandoned during the first half the result shall be declared a draw and the winner shall be declared based on the team that has scored the most tournament points followed by overall tournament record (wins-losses) followed by a coin flip. However, if one of the Teams participated in a Pool where a Team was expelled, for whatever reason, then the matter will be referred to the Disputes Committee which shall decide the most appropriate method for determining the winner of the tied knock out Match.