



MCTAVISH CUP ELIGIBILITY RULES

Last update: September 2026



1. PURPOSE

This document establishes the eligibility framework for the McTavish Cup – the Canadian University Men's Rugby Championship Tournament. It governs university and student-athlete eligibility, including academic requirements, maximum years of eligibility, exemption requests, participation exceptions, documentation and certification, and the authority of the CUMRC Board to interpret, administer, and enforce these rules.

This document does not govern student-athlete eligibility for regular season or Region play, nor does it dictate future eligibility requirements should Men's Rugby 15s become a U SPORTS sport. It may be updated periodically by the CUMRC Board.

2. DOCUMENTATION AND CERTIFICATION

2.1. ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE

Each team must submit an Eligibility Certificate signed by the University Registrar (or designate) confirming that all players on the roster meet the maximum length of eligibility requirements in Section 3.1 and the academic requirements in Section 3.2. At a minimum, the Eligibility Certificate must list the following for each player: student ID, first name, last name, year of study, year of eligibility, and academic program.

For student-athletes competing under Section 3.4, the Eligibility Certificate must be issued by the Registrar (or designate) of the institution where the student-athlete is enrolled.

2.2. PROGRAMS WITH LIMITED INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Where a program does not have access to formal Registrar certification, alternative documentation must be submitted for review and approval by the CUMRC Chair, and at a minimum, will require signed letters by the participating team's Head Coach and Manager attesting to both student-athlete eligibility and the program's lack of access to institutional certification support. The alternative documentation must contain the same player information required on an Eligibility Certificate.

2.3. ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The Eligibility Certificate must be submitted by the long list deadline in the Playing Regulations, unless the Championship Bulletin sets a different deadline for that year.

3. STUDENT-ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

This section details student-athlete requirements to compete at the McTavish Cup if their university earns a berth through its Region. These requirements also apply to student-athletes who compete under any university-led participation exceptions detailed in Section 3.4.

3.1. MAXIMUM LENGTH OF ELIGIBILITY

3.1.1. APPLICABILITY

This rule:

- Applies only to the McTavish Cup and the participating teams at the tournament
 - Eligibility for regular season or conference play is determined by each respective region.
- Applies only so long as Men's Rugby 15s is not a U SPORTS sport

3.1.2. MAXIMUM YEARS OF ELIGIBILITY

A student-athlete may compete for a maximum of **five (5) years**, including the current Championship year, subject to meeting the academic requirements outlined below.

3.1.3. YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY

A year of eligibility is consumed when any of the following has occurred:

- The student-athlete competed in the regular season and/or playoffs that qualify for the McTavish Cup
- The student-athlete competed at the McTavish Cup
- The student-athlete competed for a professional rugby union or rugby league team in North America or overseas, excluding Major League Rugby (MLR)
- The student-athlete competed in non-Canadian university or college-level rugby (e.g., NCAA)

For the purposes of this section, professional means a student-athlete who competed for a professional rugby union or rugby league team if, at the time of competing, they were under a contract or other arrangement with that team under which rugby was their primary source of income. The payment or reimbursement of reasonable travel, accommodation, meal and equipment expenses do not by themselves make an athlete professional. Competing for, or being contracted by, Rugby Canada in any national team or program does not make an athlete professional. Student-athletes must disclose any previous or current contract or arrangement described in this clarification to their university.

3.1.4. CLARIFICATIONS

- Student-athletes who have only played Men's 7s do not consume a year of Men's 15s eligibility
- No eligibility was consumed in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic
- A student-athlete who sits out a complete year as a red shirt or due to injury does not consume eligibility
- Student-athletes who did not meet academic eligibility requirements but competed only in exhibition matches will not be deemed to have used a year of eligibility; however, the student-athlete must meet all academic requirements to compete in the current year's McTavish Cup, including academic good standing in the previous year

3.2. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

3.2.1. COURSE LOAD REQUIREMENT

In accordance with U SPORTS Eligibility Rules (40.10.3.2), a student-athlete must meet the current semester or term course load requirement of:

- Three (3) courses; or
- Nine (9) credit hours (i.e., be a full-time student)

3.2.2. ACADEMIC STANDING REQUIREMENT

In accordance with U SPORTS Eligibility Rules (40.10.3.3), a student-athlete must be in good academic standing by successfully completing, in their most recently completed academic year:

- Three (3) full courses; or

- Six (6) half courses; or
- Eighteen (18) semester credit hours

3.2.3. STUDENTS ENTERING FROM HIGH SCHOOL OR CEGEP

In accordance with U SPORTS Eligibility Rules (40.10.5.1), a student-athlete entering university directly from high school or CEGEP is eligible to participate immediately provided that they have achieved a minimum 60% average (or equivalent) on the courses utilized to determine university admission.

3.3. EXEMPTION REQUESTS

A student-athlete or their university may request an exemption from the year of eligibility consumption rules outlined in Section 3.1.3 or the academic requirements outlined in Section 3.2 where exceptional circumstances exist.

Requests must be submitted in writing to the CUMRC Chair at info@cumrc.com and must include sufficient information to clearly describe the circumstances giving rise to the request. The CUMRC Board reserves the right to request additional information following the submission of a request.

Exemption requests should be submitted as early as reasonably possible and no later than two (2) weeks before the roster deadline in the Playing Regulations. Requests may be submitted before a team qualifies. Late requests will be considered at the sole discretion of the CUMRC Board.

All decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

3.4. UNIVERSITY-LED PARTICIPATION EXCEPTIONS

Men's Rugby 15s programs that are:

- Non-varsity; and
- Drawing from a student population of fewer than 10,000 students

may apply in writing to the CUMRC Chair at info@cumrc.com for an exception to allow student-athletes from designated nearby post-secondary institutions to compete with their program. Such requests must have the support of the Region. Applications must be submitted before the start of the Region's regular season. Approvals remain in effect until revoked by the CUMRC Board. The university must notify the CUMRC Chair of any change in the circumstances on which approval was based.

Such exceptions will:

- Be considered on a case-by-case basis
- Be approved at the sole discretion of the CUMRC Board
- Not permit partner institutions to qualify independently

The university remains the only eligible institution for competition at the McTavish Cup.

Current Exceptions:

- University of Prince Edward Island with Holland College

3.5. ADDITIONAL REFERENCE

U SPORTS Eligibility Documents:

- Main Link: [U SPORTS Bylaws, Policies and Procedures - U SPORTS - English](#)



- Policy Name: Policy 40.10.1 to 40.10.6 – Eligibility Rules

4. UNIVERSITY ELIGIBILITY

This section details a university's eligibility to compete at the McTavish Cup if it earns a berth through its Region.

Only universities are eligible to compete at the McTavish Cup.

4.1. U SPORTS MEMBER UNIVERSITIES

Men's Rugby 15s programs at U SPORTS member universities are automatically eligible to compete at the McTavish Cup on condition they are a member of one of the five participating regions, which are currently:

- BC: Coastal Cup
- Prairies: Prairies University Men's Rugby Championship
- OUA: Ontario University Athletics
- RSEQ: Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec
- Atlantic: Atlantic University Men's Rugby Championship

4.2. NON-U SPORTS MEMBER UNIVERSITIES

Men's Rugby 15s programs at non-U SPORTS member universities may apply for eligibility to compete at the McTavish Cup with the support of their recognized region. Applications must be submitted in writing to the CUMRC Chair at info@cumrc.com, for decision by the CUMRC Board, and must outline the program structure, competitive environment, and rationale for participation. Applications must be submitted before the start of the Region's regular season. Approvals remain in effect until revoked by the CUMRC Board. The university must notify the CUMRC Chair of any change in the circumstances on which approval was based.

Such exceptions will be:

- Considered on a case-by-case basis
- Approved at the sole discretion of the CUMRC Board

Current Exception:

- None

5. INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Each participating university is responsible for ensuring that all student-athletes on its Championship Roster meet the eligibility requirements outlined in this document. This includes certifying eligibility and submitting all required documentation.

The participating university bears institutional responsibility for any eligibility violations, regardless of whether the violation was known at the time of competition.

6. APPLICATION AND AUTHORITY

6.1. APPLICABILITY

These rules apply only to the McTavish Cup and do not replace Region eligibility rules.



6.2. AUTHORITY

The CUMRC Board retains full authority to:

- Interpret these eligibility requirements
- Grant, deny, or revoke eligibility
- Amend this document

6.3. VIOLATIONS

Where an ineligible student-athlete participates, the CUMRC Board may impose sanctions on the participating university and the student-athlete, including:

- Forfeiture of matches
- Removal from the tournament
- Adjustment of standings
- Forfeiture of results, titles, medals and awards
- Ineligibility of the student-athlete for future Championships

All decisions are final and not subject to appeal.