

# Rugby Indiana

## Player Eligibility

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Rugby Indiana

Policy: Player Eligibility

Number: TBD

Updated: 01 October 2021

Effective: 01 October 2021

This policy supersedes all previous versions of the policy.

## Player Eligibility

### All Players

- All players **MUST** be registered with Rugby Indiana and have a CIPP registration with USA Rugby before they are eligible to practice or play.

Players must play for their school or community team. If no school or community team exists, players are permitted to join another nearby (closest) team. Any player wishing to register to play with a club other than their home club **MUST** submit a petition request in writing, stating their reason for that request to the Executive Director (next closest team still applies). The Petition should be submitted before the player has registered. Submission after season registration may negatively impact the petition. The Executive Director may approve such requests only under exceptional circumstances. Careful consideration will be given to both the player and the effect his/her leaving would have on the home club. The Executive Director may share the petition with the Administrator of the affiliated team and receive their input before the Executive Director makes a determination. In the case of a petition's reason being in the "SafeSport Spectrum," the Executive Director will state that as the reason to protect the player.

*Players wanting to play for another team for higher competition or performance is NOT an exceptional reason.*

- **Form:** Petition For Exception On Home Team Eligibility Requirement
- **Due Date:** Petition must be submitted prior to team's/player's first practice.
- **Last Date to Submit Petition:** 1-week before any games (*scrimmages, tournaments, or regular season matches*)
- **Expiration:** All petitions, granted or not, only apply for the current season and year. Petitions must be re-submitted for each new season and year.
- Players **MUST** participate in a minimum six tackle practices (which include tackling, being tackled, and rucking), with coached supervised tackling, prior to any match they will play in.
- Players participating in the Scrum **MUST** participate in a minimum of two scrum

practices, with coached supervised scrumming, prior to any match they will play in.

- Players must provide current identification (school ID for high school) upon request to opposing coach and/ or referee. Player will not be eligible for play if identification cannot be produced.
- Player must meet and remain in compliance with all applicable amateur standards.

### **High School Players**

- Age requirements:
  - 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, including the summer following that school year.
  - Players must be at least 15 years old to participate in High School Rugby.
    - Players that are 14 and enrolled in high school must complete the 'Under 15 Waiver' to participate in High School Rugby. A copy of that waiver must be on file with Rugby Indiana before the player participates in practices and matches. 14-year-old players must not participate in the front row of fifteens or 10s contact high school rugby matches.
- Players, except those that have graduated, must be attending class full-time, as defined by the High School registrar.
- 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, excluding freshmen entering high school for their first semester
- Players graduating midterm are eligible for the spring season as long as they are not enrolled in college.
- Home school players are eligible as long as they meet the age requirements and are not enrolled in college.
- If the competition season extends beyond the end of school year, then the players may continue to participate in the competition provided that the players were otherwise eligible at the end of the school year (Play during the summer for RCTs, Camps, Tournaments, etc)
- Players must not play in a Qualifying Match for any other club in a rugby 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.
- Players who play in College, College Club, or Senior (adult) Club matches are ineligible.
- Players must be within four (4) years of the moment the player first enrolled in ninth grade, regardless of when that player started playing rugby or had the ability to start playing rugby.
- Players must meet and remain in compliance with all applicable amateur standards.

## Youth Players

- Youth Players should play in the age/grade level based on the grade they are enrolled in.
  - Flag – Grades 2, 3, and 4
  - Coed Tackle – Grades 5 and 6
  - Boys 7/8 Tackle – Grades 7 and 8
  - Girls 7/8 Tackle – Grades 7 and 8
- Youth Playing Up: World Rugby’s standard is youth players be within 2-years of age/grade bands. If there are no appropriate age/grade bands or if a player has the skills ability/size they may play within 3-years with a signed waiver.
  - Youth players may play up 1 grade levels depending on their size and skills abilities. Completing the Rugby Indiana Play Up Waiver is required and must be on file with Rugby Indiana before any player may “Play Up.”
  - No player may play up into high school.