



NCR Automatic Qualifier Regulations

Revised 3.12.2021

Conference - Automatic Qualification (AQ)

Eligibility Criteria

A conference must include the following minimum number of eligible teams participating in the conference Regular Season to be eligible to receive an Automatic Qualification status:

- a. six (6) eligible teams for men
- b. four (4) for eligible teams for women

Confirmation of Eligible Conferences

Each Competitions Committee (CC) shall review and confirm that conferences have met the criteria specified in order to receive Automatic Qualification status to the National Collegiate Rugby Championship.

Appeals Procedure

A conference may appeal the CC's determination. The decision of NCR's Management Council on such appeals will be final.

Confirmation of Conference Champion/7s Qualifiers

Conference competition must be conducted and the conference champion must be determined no later than the date on which participants are selected for the National Collegiate Rugby Championship, either by regular in-season competition or a conference tournament. For 2021, these deadlines are:

Men's 15's - TBA

Women's 15's - TBA

Men's 7's - TBA

Women's 7's - TBA

Designated Conference Automatic Qualifier

The conference may designate its qualifier provided it has established objective competition-based criteria for making that designation and has communicated that information, for consideration and approval, to the Collegiate Championship Committee by the specified deadline.

Eligibility of Participants

The conference must maintain and actively enforce compliance with eligibility rules applicable to its members. The use of an ineligible student-athlete by a team in a conference that has been granted Automatic Qualification may result in the involved team being denied the right to be the automatic entry in the National Collegiate Rugby Championship.

Forfeiture of Automatic Qualifier Berth

If a designated conference champion is ineligible to compete, declines to compete or cannot compete for any reason, Automatic Qualification shall be withdrawn for that year and the remaining conference members shall be considered at large.

Exception: Automatic Qualification for a conference shall not be withdrawn if a conference champion declines to compete in an NCR Championship for reasons related to written religious policies against competition on certain days. Under such circumstances, the conference's second-place team (as determined, on basis of competition, by the conference) shall receive the automatic bid to the NCR Championship.

Penalty for Forfeiture

If a team forfeits (due to failure to satisfy the eligibility requirement or other reason) an AQ after the selections deadline:

a) the applicable conference shall forfeit its right to be granted an AQ to the National Championship Tournament for the next Playing Season AND b) such team may be declared as ineligible for the National Championship Tournament the next Playing Season.

Notification of Qualifying Teams (AQ and At Large) to the National Collegiate Rugby Championships:

Men's 15's - TBA

Women's 15's - TBA

Men's 7's - TBA

Women's 7's - TBA