



CUMRC Eligibility Rules

Revised May 21, 2023

This document describes the eligibility criteria to compete at the Canadian University Men's Rugby Championship (CUMRC) Tournament. Its purpose is to clarify:

1. University Eligibility
2. Student-Athlete Eligibility

This document is not intended to provide student-athlete eligibility requirements that each conference must follow during regular season play nor do they dictate the future eligibility requirements if Men's 15s is accepted into U SPORTS. This document will be updated periodically by the CUMRC Board.

UNIVERSITY ELIGIBILITY

This section details a school's eligibility to compete at the CUMRC Tournament if they earn a berth through their respective conference.

U SPORTS Member Universities

- Men's 15s Programs at U SPORTS Member Universities are automatically eligible to compete in the CUMRC Tournament on condition they are a member of one of five participating regions: BC, Prairies, Ontario, Quebec, and Atlantic.

Non-U SPORTS Member Universities

- Men's 15s Programs at non-U SPORTS Member Universities may apply in writing to the CUMRC Board for an exception to compete in the CUMRC. Such exception will be considered and approved on a one-by-one basis at the sole discretion of the CUMRC. Current Exception:
 - o ETS – École de technologie supérieure (affiliate of Université du Québec)

Non-U SPORTS Member Students

- Men's 15s Programs that are non-varsity and are drawing from a student population of less than 12,000 students may apply in writing to the CUMRC Board for an exception to allow students from nearby designated post-secondary institutions (Colleges, Universities or Technical Schools) to compete with their program. Such exception will be considered and approved on a one-by-one basis at the sole discretion of the CUMRC. Current Exceptions:
 - o University of Prince Edward Island w/ Holland College
 - o Mount Royal University w/SAIT, St. Mary's University and Ambrose University.
 - o University of British Columbia – Okanagan w/Okanagan College in Kelowna

STUDENT-ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

This section details student-athlete requirements to compete at the CUMRC Tournament if their school earns a berth through their respective conference. These requirements also apply to student-athletes who compete under any of the exceptions above.

Maximum Length of Eligibility (Effective April 1, 2022)

Applicability

This rule supersedes the previous rules with respect to the maximum age. It only applies to the CUMRC tournament and the 8 participating teams, not the region or conference a men's rugby 15s team plays in for their regular or conference playoff games. This rule only applies so long as Men's Rugby 15's is NOT a U SPORTS sport.

Maximum Years of Eligibility

A player on a Men's 15s team roster at the CUMRC may compete for a maximum of 5 years, including the current year of the CUMRC championship tournament, subject to meeting the academic requirements described elsewhere.

Year of Eligibility

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

- a) The student athlete competed at the CUMRC
- b) The student athlete competed in the regular season and/or playoffs to qualify for entry to the CUMRC
- c) The student athlete competed for a professional rugby union or rugby league team in North America or overseas, but excluding Major League Rugby (MLR).

Until 2025 coaches and programs without University Athletic Department and/or University Registrar's support will use their reasonable best efforts to ensure all players meet eligibility requirements. Beyond that time, we require that such teams will make arrangements for official student eligibility certification.

Clarifications

- a) Student athletes who have only played Men's 7's do not consume a year of Men's 15s eligibility.
- d) No eligibility was consumed in 2020 during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic when most or all university Men's Rugby 15s seasons were cancelled.
- e) A student athlete who sits out the complete year as a red shirt or due to injury does not consume eligibility.
- f) Student athletes who have competed in any non-Canadian university or college-level sport who has used their full eligibility (for example 4 years of NCAA eligibility) will be deemed to have consumed their maximum 5 years of eligibility for CUMRC purposes.
- g) Student athletes who did not meet academic eligibility requirements in the past but competed in exhibition games with their university team will be deemed not to have consumed a year of eligibility in that case; however, to compete in the current CUMRC they must now meet all academic requirements including academic good standing in the previous year.

Transition Year 2022 (not applicable for 2023 and beyond)

For 2022, to accommodate student-athletes who were previously subject to an age-25 maximum in 2021 in their conference or region, and are still under that age as of January 1, 2022 but who have exceeded the new maximum 5 years of eligibility, one additional year of eligibility will be granted. This is a one-time exception for 2022.

Current Course Load Requirement:

- In accordance with U SPORTS Eligibility Rules - *40.10.3.2 Course Load Requirements*, a student-athlete must meet the current semester or term course load requirement of 3 courses or 9 credit hours (i.e., be a "full-time" student).

Academic Standing Requirement:

- In accordance with U SPORTS Eligibility Rules - *40.10.3.3 Academic Standing*, a student-athlete must be in good academic standing by successfully completing a minimum of three full courses, or 6 half courses, or 18 semester hours during their most recently completed academic year. NOTE: This requirement for enrolment in 2020-2021 was waived by U SPORTS for the 2021-2022 year and was waived for the 2021 CUMRC as well.
- In accordance with U SPORTS Eligibility Rules - *40.10.5.1 Students Entering Directly from High School or CEGEP*, a student-athlete entering university directly from high school or CEGEP is eligible to participate immediately provided that they have achieved a minimum of 60% average or equivalent on those courses utilized to determine the student athlete's university admission.

Documentation required to compete at Championship Tournament:

A letter from the University Registrar or designate attesting to the fact that all players on the roster to compete at the CUMRC Tournament meet the requirements above.

Additional details on U SPORTS Eligibility Rules referenced above:

U SPORTS Eligibility Package: <https://usports.ca/hq/eligibility/eligibility-package>