

GUIDELINES: 2008 MARFU WOMEN'S SEVENS CHAMPIONSHIP

- I. **Committee Members:** A committee will be organized consisting of one member from each union. One of the three union representatives will be elected chairperson of the committee.
- II. **Eligible Teams:** Any MARFU Women's team, club or college.
(Please let the committee members know your club's level of interest [definitely, probably, maybe, probably not, not at all interested]. This is NOT a binding commitment – it just gives the committee an idea of the interest level before the start of the season.)
- III. **Eligible Tournaments:** Any tournament that at least three MARFU teams participate in the may be used in the seedings. If there are multiple brackets to the tournament, then at least three MARFU clubs need to participate in the competitive division. For example, last year at least three MARFU clubs attended each of the following tournaments: North Penn, Severn River, Lehigh Valley 7s, PAC 7's, Ruggerama, and Slug 7's.
 - A. In most cases it does not hurt a team to use every eligible tournament they enter for the seedings because the MARFU 7's Committee will just be using each team's best three finishes in the eligible tournaments throughout the summer when determining each team's points. However, there are two situations where we recognize a team may NOT want /be able to use the tournament:
 1. If a club is trying to qualify two sides for the championship, that club will have to follow the cross-rostering policy. However, if there are some weekends where that club wishes to combine their players/sides, then that club should let the committee know ahead of time that it does not plan to use that weekend as an eligible tourney.
 2. If a club is short players and plans to pick up/add players from another team – that would be another situation that the team would need to let the committee know that they do not plan to use the tournament for their seedings.
- IV. **Format:** The eight MARFU Championship entrants will be determined by the total number of points accrued at *Eligible Tournaments*, as mentioned above.
 - A. **Seeding:** Points will be awarded in the following manner for the following places in a **competitive** division of an *Eligible Tournament*:
 1. 1st Place – 4 points;
 2. 2nd Place – 3 Points
 3. 3rd Place – 2 Points
 4. Participates, but does not place – 1 Point
 - B. At the end of the season each team will receive the points above for their **best three eligible tournament** finishes.
 1. The team receiving the most points for its top three finishes will be seeded first at the MARFU tournament, the team with the second most points will be seeded second, etc...
 2. Any tie in overall points will be decided by
 - a. Head-to-head competition at eligible tournaments
 - b. Point differential at eligible tournaments
 - c. Tries scored at eligible tournaments
 - d. Converted tries scores at eligible tournaments
 - e. Committee vote

3. Each team captain is responsible for collecting tournament results throughout the season if they plan to challenge any of the committee decisions.
4. The top 8 teams will advance to the MARFU Championship Tournament

V. Multiple Sides per Club

- A. Three sides per club are permitted to 'qualify' (e.g. I and II and III are acceptable, no IV sides).
- B. Teams attempting to qualify three sides for example, must enter all three teams in the competitive bracket of the *Eligible Tournaments*.
- C. The following criteria are based on the idea that players cannot play "down," but they can move "up":
 1. After participating in their first Eligible Tournament on a particular side, a player cannot play for a lower side in any subsequent Eligible Tournament in which that club's 2nd or 3rd side is also trying to qualify. Once a player has moved "up," they must remain on the higher side through the remaining Eligible Tournaments." However, all players may return to her original side (or stay on the higher side) for the championship.
 2. If a club is only trying to qualify one side, then that club's players can move freely between its 1st, 2nd or 3rd sides during subsequent tournaments because the committee will only be looking at the club's 1st side.
 3. There is no limit to how many players can be used overall throughout the summer at the eligible tournaments. For example, a team can use 10 players from their club one weekend and 10 players from their club another weekend (as long as all of those players are CIPPED with the club and the club is not trying to qualify multiple sides).

VI. Player Regulations

- A. All teams must follow USA Player Regulation guidelines.
- B. The rule for CIPPING will be in effect.
 1. CIPPING – many teams have college players practicing and playing with their clubs over the summer. Those college players are eligible to play with the club, but they need to transfer their CIPP from their college to the club. This is free of charge to the players and there is a spot on the form for 7's players to be automatically transferred back to their home club after the summer is over. This may continue to be difficult to do online; however, the form can be faxed to the headquarters, the form and fax # can be found at the link below:

<http://www.usarugby.org/membership/forms/transfer.html>

VII. MARFU Championship

- A. The championship will be two pools of three teams with all 6 teams seeded according to their point totals from the *Eligible Tournaments*:
 1. Pool 1: 1,3,6,
 2. Pool 2: 2,4,5,
- B. Following pool play, the First place team in Pool 1 will play the Second place team in Pool 2; the First place team in Pool 2 will play the Second place team in Pool 1. Winner will play winner for #1. If all clubs agree prior to the championship and field space permits then all games will played out to determine the 3rd though 6th place. If in the future there is a Women's 7s National Championship, the semi-final losers will always play for #3.

- C. If field space does not permit to play out all consolation matches then the seedings for 3rd to 6th place will then be determined by:
1. Record in pool
 2. Head-to-head competition
 3. Point differential (rather than points scored)
 4. Tries scored
 5. Converted tries scored
- VIII. **MARFU Women's 7s Championship Venue:** TBD on July 26th. More details as the event nears.
- IX. **What are the Club Captain's Responsibilities?**
- A. Report all scores and results for your team following each *eligible tournament* that your club participates in to the committee;
 1. IV. A. explains that how a tie in Points will be decided for seeding into the tournament. If the club captain does not keep track of the points/games that you leave a tie in points to be determined by the committee. (We haven't really received complaints about this, but if you foresee an issue in leaving it up to the committee, then please make sure that you keep track of your teams games and scores)
 - B. Only If your club is qualifying more than one side, then the club captain must submit its rosters to the committee and each tournament's director prior to the start of each *Eligible Tournament*.
 - C. Ensure that your club is CIPP registered;
 - D. Ensure that each player on your roster possesses health insurance;
 - E. Ensure that each player on your roster is eligible under USA Rugby; and,
 - F. Ensure entire roster (including students home for the summer) appear under a single club USA Rugby roster. ¹

¹ Rosters can now be obtained on-line from the USA Rugby website (<http://www.usarugby.org>). Transfer forms for students are available as well.