

MARFU Men's Club League Divisional Competition

- **Division I:**
 - o Baltimore-Chesapeake
 - o Maryland
 - o Media
 - o Norfolk
 - o NOVA
 - o Pittsburgh
 - o Raleigh
 - o Schuylkill River
 - o Washington

 - o Division I Notes:
 - The MARFU Championship Division will have nine (9) Division I Clubs based on the results of the 2008/2009 Rugby Year.
 - MARFU's goal is to maintain a minimum of eight (8) Division I Clubs from year to year for the Division I Competition.
 - RSL Clubs wishing to play in the MARFU Championship Division in Fall 2009 will have matches scheduled as appropriate.
 - The results of matches between RSL Clubs and Division I Clubs will be counted towards the MARFU Championship Division Title but will not count towards the Division I Playoff Standings or the promotion/relegation procedures for the following year.
 - Top four (4) Division I Clubs based on Super 14 Competition in Division I Matches only will qualify for 2009/2010 Regional CR4 Playoffs

- **Division II North & South Clubs:**
 - o Blackthorn
 - o Brandywine
 - o Doylestown
 - o Jersey Shore
 - o Reading
 - o Roses Rugby
 - o Wilmington

 - o Frederick
 - o PAC B
 - o Richmond
 - o Rocky Gorge
 - o Severn River
 - o Washington Irish
 - o Western Suburbs

 - o Division II Notes:
 - Division II North and South will have fourteen (14) clubs based on the results of the 2008/2009 and the voluntary promotion of Western Suburbs for 2009/2010.
 - The North and South Divisions will be aligned by MARFU Men's Competition for a balance of seven (7) clubs in each division.
 - Top four (4) Clubs in the North & South based on Super 14 Competition will qualify for 2009/2010 Division 2 MARFU Playoffs.

- **Division III Clubs:**
 - o LAU Division III Clubs will play Divisional format based on Local Area Union competition requirements
 - o Top eight (8) Division III Clubs will advance based on LAU Competitions and Seeding by the MARFU Men's Competition Committee.

- MARFU reserves the right to add additional clubs in any competition in the event imbalances in the leagues occur.

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Promotion/Relegation Procedures:

MARFU Division I and Division II Procedures

- Clubs will be required to play within their level for the full rugby year. Beginning with the 2009/2010 Rugby Year, the Top MARFU Division II club will be promoted to Division I and the last place Division I club will be relegated to Division II for the following Rugby Year.
- Promotion/Relegation of the clubs being considered may be completed between the two clubs per the following considerations:
 - o A Division I club may accept automatic relegation to Division II (no challenge or promotion/relegation match) or may request a promotion/relegation match against the top Division II to defend its position in Division I.
 - Promotion/relegation matches would be played no later than the first Saturday in May at the site of the Division II club in a full 80-minute match with a tie going to the Division I club; the match can be scheduled at an alternate date, assuming both clubs agree.
 - o If a Division II club refuses to accept promotion as required or if a club refuses to play the challenge match, then the club may request an appeal to the MARFU Men's Competition Committee to state its case. All appeals must be filed no later than May 1st so that reviews can be completed by June 1 and the schedules for the following year completed.
 - If a club's appeal is not accepted by the MARFU Men's Competition Committee, the club will not be forced to play in Division 1 the following year. However the club will be scheduled as a Division II club for the fall season but the club will be ineligible to advance to the MARFU and USA Rugby Playoff Competitions the following year.
 - The results of matches between Division II Clubs and an ineligible Division II Club (as described above) will not count towards the Division II Playoff Standings.
- **Forfeitures**
 - o Forfeiture of an A-match will be set at \$500 as well as being barred from the playoffs. A second occurrence in the competitive season will warrant an additional fine AND demotion to the next lower division for the following year.
 - o B-matches will be played by ALL (REPEAT ALL) CLUBS; forfeiture of a B-match will be set at \$300, unless mutually agreed upon by both clubs and with (a minimum) Email documentation to the MARFU Competitions Committee.
 - o Any club which forfeits two or more matches either on the A or B levels during the competitive season will warrant an additional fine AND demotion to the next lower division for the following year AND being barred from the playoffs.

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- In playoff matches: Sunday consolation matches will be played, as part of the spirit of the game. The forfeiture fine will be set at \$200, unless mutually agreed upon by both clubs and with (at a minimum) Email documentation to the MARFU Competitions Committee.
- If a fine were invoked, the offended club would receive the fee.
- The fines are not additive. If a fine was invoked for the forfeit of an A-match, the fine for the forfeit of the B-match would not be invoked.
- A match forfeiture will be counted as a 60-0 league win with 8 tries scored in the standing. Based on the above scoring, the winning club would receive 4 points for the win and 1 point for the try bonus based on the S12 scoring system for the standings.
- Any club forfeiting either an A-side or B-side match in a given season, would be ineligible to be promoted to higher level during the following year.

MARFU Division II and Division III Procedures

- The EPRU Div III North Champ may challenge the last place EPRU club in MARFU Div II II-N.
- The PRU Div III East or West Champ may challenge the last place PRU Club in MARFU Div II-S. Last place is determined by league matches.
- The VRU Div III South Champ may challenge the last place VRU Club MARFU Div II-S club. Last place is determined by league matches.
- Promotion/relegation matches would be played no later than the first Saturday in April at the site of the Division II club in a full 80-minute match with a tie going to the Division III club; the match can be scheduled at an alternate date, assuming both clubs agree.
- **Forfeitures**
 - Forfeiture of any matches will be governed by the Local Area Union as required.
 - Any club forfeiting a match in a given season would be ineligible to be promoted to higher level during the following year.