



2008-9 USA Rugby Men's Club Division 1 Competition

1 Introduction

The USA Rugby Men's Club Division 1 Competition structure was approved by the Board of Directors in June, 2008 to commence in the 2008-9 competitive cycle.

2 Organization and Structure of the Competition

The competition is organized into two Conferences based on the geography of the seven Territorial Unions (TU) that comprise USA Rugby. The East Conference includes four TUs - Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, and South. The West Conference includes three TUs - Pacific Coast, Southern California, and West. The West TU is further divided into two regional competitions - West-North and West-South. This division serves to balance the competition in the West Conference (i.e., four TU-level competitions) and takes into account the disproportionate size of the geographical area included in the West TU.

The TU's are responsible for organizing the Div.1 competitions within their respective area and advancing teams to fill playoff berths in the National Championship structure described below.

The National Championship Playoff structure is illustrated in the Appendix. It includes five rounds of matches in three weekends of play.

- Weekend 1 - May 2, 2009
 - Round 1 (Round of 32)
 - Four teams qualify from each TU-level competition
 - Cross-over matches between TU-level competitions as shown in the figure at the end of this document.
 - The higher seeded team hosts the match, i.e., #4 at #1 and #3 at #2
- Weekend 2 – May 16-17, 2009
 - Round 2 (Round of 16) and Round 3 (Round of 8)
 - Each Conference involves two pools of four teams
 - Each pool advances one team to Weekend 3
 - Single venues in each Conference
- Weekend 3 – May 30-31, 2009
 - Round 4 (Semi-finals) and Round 5 (Consolation and Final)
 - Two pool winners from the East Conference play cross-over matches against two pool winners from the West Conference

3 Rules of the Competition

To qualify for the USA Rugby Men's Club Div.1 playoffs each team must play at least six competitive matches against at least three different opponents from within their TU. The teams selected to represent the TU in the "Round of 32" playoffs must be determined on the basis of competition (i.e., rather than on the basis of allocation).

4 Responsibilities

4.1 TU level competitions

The TU's are responsible for organizing TU-level competitions including the assignment and payment of referees and the selection of venues. Each TU-Level competition must have competition-based method to advance four teams to the USA Rugby playoffs.

4.2 Round of 32

The TU of the home teams are responsible for venue assignment, eligibility checks, and the assignment and payment of referees for the Round of 32 playoffs (R32).

4.3 USA Rugby Playoffs

USA Rugby is responsible for playoff venue assignment, placement, and eligibility checks and the assignment and payment of referees for all playoff rounds after R32.

5 Current Structure of the TU-level Competitions

5.1 Pacific Coast TU

Contact – John Coppinger (John@donahue.com)

Competition: six teams in Northern California and four teams in Utah play round-robin leagues within their LAU Div.1 competition. The top four teams in the NorCal standings and top three in the Utah standings advance to a PC playoff match on April 18.

PC#1 – NorCal#1

PC#2 – winner of NorCal#4 playing at Utah#1

PC#3 – winner of Utah#3 playing at NorCal#2

PC#4 – winner of NorCal#3 playing at Utah#2

NorCal#1 and the winners of these three matches advance to the R32 playoffs.

5.2 Southern California TU

Contact – Kain Cross (kaincross@hotmail.com)

Competition – seven teams play in a round-robin league. The top four teams in the standings advance to the R32 playoffs.

5.3 West TU – North Region

Contact – Geoff Blue (gnblue@gmail.com)

Competition - five teams, each team playing seven league matches. The top four teams in the standings advance to the R32 playoffs.

5.4 West TU – South Region

Contact: Kirk Tate (hunscoach@yahoo.com)

Competition: seven teams (six Div.1 teams and one RSL) play in a round-robin league, home and away, for a total of 12 league matches. The top four teams in the standings advance to the R32 playoffs (note - the RSL team does not advance).

5.5 Midwest TU

Contact – Graeme Leask (graeme.leask@charter.net)

Competition: Two conferences, East & West. Each Conference plays a home and away schedule resulting in 6 games + a game each against the Lions and the Griffins for as total of 8. At the end of League play there is a TU Playoff with the format below.

#1 East v #1 West

#2 East v #2 West

#3 East v #3 West

The Winner of the #1 v #1 game will be Midwest #1.

The Winner of the #2 v #2 game will challenge the loser #1 v #1 game for the Midwest #2 seed.

The winner of the #3 v #3 game will challenge the loser of #2 v #2 game for the Midwest #3 and #4 seeds. Midwest #1-#4 advance to the R32 playoffs.

5.6 USA Rugby South TU

Contact – Dominic Duffy (dominicduffy@hotmail.com)

Competition – Nine Div-1 teams played in two regional leagues (South and North) with the top four teams from each league playing cross-over matches on Saturday March 14th. The winners advance to the South TU playoffs on April 4th and 5th to determine the seeding of the four teams advancing to the R32 playoffs.

5.7 Mid-Atlantic TU

Contact – David Chapman (davidc@rugby.org)

Competition – Nine Division-1 teams play in a league with the top four teams in the standings advancing to the R32 playoffs.

5.8 Northeast TU

Contact: Lance Dickinson (vpmen@northeastrugby.com)

Competition – New England LAU has seven Division-1 teams playing in a round-robin league. Met New York LAU has five Division-1 teams playing in a round-robin league. The top four finishers in each LAU league play cross-over matches (NE4 at MNY1, NE3 at MNY2, MNY3 at NE2, MNY4 at NE1) followed by Northeast Semi-finals and Finals to determine Northeast TU #1-#4 to advance to the R32 playoffs.

5.9 List of Division-1 Teams for 2009

Southern California	Pacific Coast (2008)	West-North	West-South
Belmont Shore	<i>Northern California</i>	Glendale Raptors	Austin Blacks
OMBAC	Diablo Old Gaels	Gentlemen of Aspen	Dallas Harlequins
Santa Monica	Hayward Griffins	Denver Highlanders	Houston Athletic
Santa Barbara	San Mateo	Kansas City Blues	Woodlands
Unicorns	Olympic Club	Boulder	Austin Huns
Las Vegas	Sacramento Lions		Shreveport
Los Angeles	Sacramento Capitols		Dallas
	<i>Utah</i>		
	Park City Haggis		
	Provo Steelers		
	St. George		
	Utah Saints		
Northeast	MARFU	Midwest	South
<i>New England</i>	Baltimore-Chesapeake	<i>East Conference</i>	<i>North Region</i>
Albany Knickerbockers	Maryland Exiles	Detriot Tradesmen	Atlanta Old White
Amoskeag	Media	South Side Irish	Atlanta Renegades
Boston Irish Wolfhounds	Norfolk Blues	Buffalo	Life University
Connecticut Yankees	NOVA	Cincinnati Wolfhounds	Nashville
Mystic River	Pittsburgh Harlequins	<i>West Conference</i>	<i>South Region</i>
New Haven	Raleigh	Pearl City	Miami
Worcester	Schuylkill River	Palmer	Miami Tridents
<i>Met-New York</i>	Washington	Metropolis	Ft Lauderdale
Old Blue		Wisconsin	Naples
White Plains			Boca Raton
Long Island			
NY Manhattan			
Union			

2009 Div.1 Playoff Structure

