

New Member Club Policy

New clubs are accepted into NCRFU Membership in an effort to expand player opportunities, to build strong clubs and to foster strong competitions.

New clubs will receive favorable consideration where the applicant:

- Is active in a new geographic area
- Is attracting new players rather than drawing players away from existing clubs
- Demonstrates a strong leadership team of administrators, coaches, and players

In order to be considered to become a probationary member of the NCRFU and receive full benefits of that membership, an applicant must submit a new club application to the NCRFU Competition Chair/Scheduling Secretary at least 60 days before the NCRFU Annual General Meeting.

Such application must include the following required documentation

- Club Constitution/Bylaws
- List of Team Officers/Team Structure
- USA club CIPP registration
- List of Active USA Rugby Registered (CIPP) Members (at least 25 person roster)
 - No more than 5 players may have been CIPP registered with an NCRFU club within the last three (3) years
 - No more than 2 players may have been CIPP registered with a single NCRFU club within the last three (3) years
- List of USA Rugby Certified Coach registered with team
- List of 2 USA Rugby Certified Referees
- List of Certified trainer(s)
- Secured field plan and directions
 - Contract or lease agreement for Match field
 - Contract or lease agreement for Practice field (if different)
- Written proposal detailing:
 - a. Why is a new club needed in your area? Please include:
 1. Are there any current clubs within 35 miles or within 45 minutes (google maps driving time, no traffic) of your proposed club
 2. If this proposed club was previously a member of the NCRFU was it in good standing with the NCRFU the last five years of its membership?
 3. Is this team filling a need not being met by a current NCRFU member club?
 - b. Where will you be recruiting/drawing players from?
 1. From what geographic region will you be drawing players?
 2. Specifically, which universities, high schools, and youth clubs will you be targeting for recruiting relationships?
 - c. Will you have a youth program affiliated with your club?
 - d. How many of your players have rugby experience? What is that experience?
 - e. How do you plan to host visiting teams for post match activities?

- f. What is your expectation of the level of rugby you wish to play (i.e competitive, social, elite)
- g. Do you have at least one set of jerseys?
- h. What is your club's 5-year plan for sustainability and growth?
 - 1. Include business plan with team budget.
 - 2. How will you raise and maintain funds?
 - 3. Plans for retention and recruiting member players.
 - 4. Include any long-term agreements with social hosts, field providers or sponsors.

Once all required documentation has been submitted, the application will be sent to the NCRFU Competitions Committee for formal review. Once the application has been reviewed, the initial application will be approved or denied. If approved, the applicant will be notified to appear before the NCRFU AGM for a membership vote.

The applicant must then present its application to become a new club to the annual NCRFU AGM for approval by 2/3 majority vote of the membership. If approved by the membership, the probationary club must submit a signed copy of a probationary participation agreement and review of NCRFU bylaws and guidelines.

Guiding Principles

It is important to note that the guiding principles of club membership into the NCRFU is to support the development of rugby in Northern California through strong clubs, strong competitions, and access to quality rugby for all members.

New clubs will initially be accepted on a probationary basis before becoming full NCRFU members. This is to ensure their incorporation in the NCRFU will promote these guiding principles.

In addition, as deemed appropriate by the competitions committee and existing NCRFU membership, new clubs will enter the union in the lowest division. The competitions committee has the right to propose a new probationary club enter competition at a higher division should information and circumstances indicate this club should be playing at a higher level. The probationary club will be then subject to the NCRFU Promotion Relegation policies to move between divisions.

Probationary membership will extend for three years at which time the general membership will again vote to approve full membership. The vote on full membership needs to only be approved by a simple majority. Should the probationary team not meet the conditions of probation at any time during their probation period, their membership may be revoked or extended. This will be done by a vote of the executive committee or general membership.