

NON-COLLEGE ENTRY PROCEDURE INTO AoC SPORT LEAGUE & CUP COMPETITIONS

1. RATIONALE

AoC Sport is the lead organisation for college sport and physical activity with the vision of encouraging every student to participate in sport or physical activity. We have a reputation for delivering high quality sports competitions to all institutions within 16+ education and welcome applications from any institution with the primary aim of delivering study programmes to students in the 16-19 age group. In order to be accepted into AoC Sport competitions non-college applicants must be able to meet all of the following criteria.

2. CRITERIA

- 2.1** All participants in AoC Sport competitions must be recorded on the Individualised Learning Record (ILR) by the institution. They must be on the ILR of the institution which is drawing down funding as a continuing student at the time of the match. Students on the ILR who are registered as completed, withdrawn or transferred are not eligible to play.
- 2.2** Where institutions are being funded by another training provider they must provide a letter of confirmation of this funding partnership.
- 2.3** All participants must be over 16 years of age at midnight on 31 August in the academic year of participation.
- 2.4** All participants in basketball, men's rugby and men's football must be under 19 at midnight on 31 August in the academic year of participation. In Ability Counts football the upper age limit is 24 at midnight on 31 August in the academic year of participation, in women's rugby the upper age limit is 18 and in all other sports the upper age limit is 21.
- 2.5** All participants must be on a study programme on at least band 2 of the National Funding Rates and studying a minimum of 280 hours. Specific leagues require students to be on a full time study programme of at least 450 hours.
- 2.6** Students at institutions in other home nations can compete as long as they meet the requirements of their funding body.

- 2.7 Students on higher education courses can play in AoC Sport competitions as long as they are on the roll of the participating institution and studying a full time programme of 360 hours.
- 2.8 Students on apprenticeship programmes are permitted to play in AoC Sport competitions.
- 2.9 Members of staff who are on the institution's ILR as an apprentice are permitted to play in AoC Sport competitions as long as they are not responsible for the team in which they are playing.
- 2.10 All participants must be on the ILR of the same institution or unless written permission is received from AoC Sport. Learning Federations, Learning Partnerships, Trusts or any institution which operates multiple sites in which the students are on the ILR of any of the partner institutions may request permission for players in the same team to be drawn from across the partnership. Permission will only be granted where evidence of the status of the partnership can be provided and where participation is made possible by this partnership approach.
- 2.11 It may be possible for a student to be on a funded study programme at more than one institution. In such circumstances, the student will play for the institution at which they study more guided learning hours. If this institution does not enter a team in the student's chosen sport, the institution at which the student studies fewer hours must make a written request to the other institution for the student to play in their team.
- 2.12 AoC Sport reserves the right to refuse the application of any institution that it has had to pursue for unpaid debts or where there is evidence that the institution has unpaid debts with any other provider of competitions.
- 2.13 Where there is evidence that an institution has breached the code of conduct or competition rules of AoC Sport or any other competition provider in the previous season the application to enter an AoC Sport competition may be refused.
- 2.14 Institutions competing in AoC Sport football competitions must be affiliated with their County FA prior to the

commencement of the season.

from colleges have been taken into account.

3. PROCESS

- 3.1 All applications to enter must be made on the online entry form.
- 3.2 The AoC Sport competitions administration team will check all completed entry forms to ensure that they meet the criteria set out in section 2 before forwarding a list of qualifying applicants to the Regional Operations Officer.
- 3.3 Applicants who do not meet all the criteria will be contacted by the AoC Sport competitions administration team and provided with reasons for their rejection.
- 3.4 The subsequent decision making on non-college applications to enter regional competitions is delegated to the Regional Operations Groups.
- 3.5 The Regional Operations Group may use evidence from participation in local competitions to determine whether an applicant has met criteria 2.12 or 2.13.
- 3.6 Applications will be considered as long as there is space in a competition once all entries

- 3.7 There should be a presumption of accepting a non-college entry where it creates a viable league (at least 5 entrants in a league).
- 3.8 The acceptance of additional non-college entrants is decided by the Regional Operations Group. Ultimately, all decisions on entry are at the absolute discretion of AoC sport.
- 3.9 Immediately following the decision-making meeting, the Regional Operations Group must provide the AoC Sport competitions administration team with written reasons for the rejection of any non-college applicant. The AoC Sport competitions administration team will contact the team to inform them that they have been unsuccessful with their application.
- 3.10 Once all non-college and college applications for entry have been decided upon the format of the leagues is the responsibility of the Regional Operations Group who may decide to place non-college entrants in separate leagues from colleges.

- 3.11 Decisions on applications to enter the **ECFA Premier League** will be made by the ECFA committee.
- 3.12 Only teams currently playing in category 2 or 3 football can apply to enter the ECFA Premier League
- 3.13 Basketball England will determine which teams will be invited to enter the **EABL, ABL and WEABL** competitions.
- 3.14 AOC Sport will determine which non-college applicants will be permitted to play in the **Premier Leagues** in netball, rugby union and rugby league.

4. **APPEALS**

- 4.1 Non-colleges have the right to appeal the decisions on entry into AoC Sport leagues. Appeals should be made in writing to appeals@aac.co.uk. They will be heard by an appeals committee drawn from the Board of AoC Sport.