

2021-22 LEAGUE AND CUP COMPETITION RULEBOOK

RULE 2: ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS

- 2.1 All participants in AoC Sport competitions must be recorded on the Individualised Learning Record (ILR) by the institution (subject to rule 2.10). 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 Students on the ILR who are registered as completed, withdrawn or transferred are not eligible to play.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 All participants in AoC Sport competitions must have reached 16 years of age before midnight on 31 August in the academic year of participation (birth date on or before 31 August 2005).
- 2.3 The upper age group for sports is as follows:
- Men's and women's rugby union – under 18 (birth date on or after 1 September 2003)
 - Men's football, men's futsal, men's and women's basketball – under 19 (birth date on or after 1 September 2002)
 - Badminton, cricket, women's football, women's futsal, golf, hockey, netball, volleyball – under 21 (birth date on or after 1 September 2000)
 - Pan Disability football – under 25 (birth date on or after 1 September 1996)
- 2.4 All further education participants must be on a study programme on at least band 2 of the National Funding Rates and studying a minimum of 280 hours.
- 2.5 Students competing in all premier leagues and football championships must 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 enrolled with the participating institution, included on the HESA return and studying a full-time programme of 360 hours.

- 2.8 Students on apprenticeship programmes are permitted to play in AoC Sport competitions. However, this does not include students on Scholarship programmes funded by League Football Education.
- 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 or HESA return of the same institution 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 In hockey, rugby union and women's football, with written permission from AoC Sport, teams can be made up of students from more than one institution where it would have been impossible for the individual institutions to raise a team.
- 2.12 Where such arrangements exist, the institutions must nominate one member of staff to take on the role of Club Administrator.
- 2.13 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.
- 2.14 Players can only play for one institution in a season unless written permission is obtained from AoC Sport for the player to compete for the new institution.
- 2.15 Any institution submitting false information or playing an ineligible player(s) may forfeit the match.