

2023 MWRU D2 Meeting

Hosted by Teagan Hughes and Clare Feneley

<https://www.midwest.rugby/rules-of-competition/>

<https://www.midwest.rugby/mwrfu-bylaws/>

Midwest Women's Contacts

D2 West Coordinator: Teagan Hughes, teaganphughes@gmail.com

D2 East Coordinator: Clare Feneley, clarefeneley@gmail.com

D1 Coordinator: Brooke Schraffenberger, bschraffenberger@gmail.com

D3 Coordinator: Beth Wilson, s14ewilson@gmail.com

MWRFU Administration: Bill Marnell, admin@midwest.rugby

MWRFU Discipline: Megan Braun, vpdiscipline@midwest.rugby

Playoff Structure

WOMEN'S D2 PLAYOFFS				
<i>Quarterfinals</i>	<i>Semifinals</i>	<i>Championship</i>	<i>Semifinal</i>	<i>Quarterfinals</i>
10/28	11/4	11/11	11/4	10/28
Upstate NY #1				Chicago Area #1
<i>Quarterfinal A</i>	Quarterfinal A Winner	Eastern Conference Champion	Quarterfinal C Winner	<i>Quarterfinal C</i>
Greater Ohio #2	Semifinal A - Eastern Conf. Championship (Higher Seed)	Midwest Championship (Chicago, IL)	Semifinal B - Western Conf. Championship (Higher Seed)	Northern #2
Greater Ohio #1		Western Conference Champion		Northern #1
<i>Quarterfinal B</i>	Quarterfinal B Winner		Quarterfinal D Winner	<i>Quarterfinal D</i>
Update NY #2				Chicago Area #2

Club Eligibility

- Must be an approved club within their Local Area Union (LAU) and registered with USAR
- Must have at least one 200 Level coach on the roster
- Must have 15 active players listed on the roster
- Must be in good standing with MWRU, LAU and USAR
- If any of the above are knowingly violated it could result in disciplinary action

Player Eligibility

[USAR Eligibility Requirements](#)

- Players must be registered and compliant with USAR requirements. Clubs who play an individual who is not registered are subject to disciplinary action
- Clubs are encouraged to request identification of players before and/or after the match
- Clubs may report a player or club to the disciplinary committee if violations are found

Divisional Eligibility

Sample Player NCS Eligibility Matrix (on Clubs Fielding Multiple Sides)				
Number of Div 1 NC Qualifying Matches Played	Number of Div 2 NC Qualifying Matches Played	Number of Div 3 NC Qualifying Matches Played	NCS Eligibility?	Regulation(s)
3	3	n/a	Div 1 Only	3.5.2-(a)
3	2	n/a	Div 1 Only	3.5.2-(a)
1	1	n/a	Div 1 Only	3.5.2-(a), 3.5.2-(c)
2	3	n/a	Both D1 & D2	3.5.2-(a), 3.5.2-(b)
0	2	n/a	Both D1 & D2	3.5.2-(b), 3.5.2-(c)
n/a	4	4	Div 2 Only	3.5.2-(a)
n/a	3	5	Both D2 & D3	3.5.2-(a), 3.5.2-(b)
n/a	3	2	Div 2 Only	3.5.2-(a)
n/a	1	1	Div 2 Only	3.5.2-(a)
n/a	2	3	Both D2 & D3	3.5.2-(a), 3.5.2-(b)
n/a	0	2	Both D2 & D3	3.5.2-(b), 3.5.2-(c)
3	1	1	Div 1 Only	3.5.2-(a)
2	2	2	D1 & D2 Only	3.5.2-(a), 3.5.2-(b)
1	3	2	D1 & D2 Only	3.5.2-(a), 3.5.2-(b)
1	1	4	All (D1, D2, D3)	3.5.2-(b), 3.5.2-(c)
1	1	2	D1 & D2 Only	3.5.2-(a)
0	0	2	All (D1, D2, D3)	3.5.2-(b), 3.5.2-(c)

Field Dimensions and Technical Zones

If the field does not meet the minimum dimensions, the hosting team must notify the away club and coordinator in writing at least 72 hours before the match with the actual field dimensions. Failure could result in disciplinary action.

- Length: Minimum 90 Meters (295.3 Ft)
- Width: Minimum 60 Meters (198 Ft)
- In-Goal: Minimum 8 Meters (26.2 Ft)

-Technical Zone USAR Guidelines

- Both teams should review at least 30 mins before kickoff
- Clubs cannot agree to waive the technical zones
- Issues should be brought to the referee and included in the MWRU match report. Reports will be reviewed by MWRU.

League Points and Tie Breaking Procedures

-Win = 4 points

-Tie/Draw = 2 points

-Loss = 0 points

-Loss by 7 match points or less = 1 bonus point

- 4 or more tries scored in a match = 1 bonus point

-Forfeits are entered as 28-0, winning team receives 5 points, forfeiting team loses 1 point.

Tie breakers go in the following hierarchy if played same number of matches,

1. Standings points
2. Number of wins
3. Head-to-head number of wins
4. Head-to-head point differential
5. Head-to-head tries differential
6. Head-to-head points for
7. Head-to-head tries for
8. Overall points against
9. Overall tries allowed
10. Coin flip

If played different number of matches,

1. Average standing points/league points earned per game
2. Average points allowed per game
3. Average tries allowed per game
4. Coin Flip

Overtime

Overtime is only played during playoff matches, and should adhere to the following,

1. Immediately following the conclusion of regulation the teams will be given a 5 minute water break. During this break a coin toss will determine kicking/defending teams.
2. Overtime period will be two 10 minute periods with a 2 minute break in between.
 - a. Teams switch sides and re-kick to start the second period.
 - b. Both periods must be played in full, regardless of scoring.

Match Communication

Clubs are required to communicate in the following manner regarding match day logistics. The Local Referee Organization has the right to fine any club that does not communicate in a timely manner.

- Communications must go to the Local Referee Organization, at least one official from both clubs (match secretary) and your division coordinator.

-The home club must initiate an email to the above parties NO LATER than the Tuesday before the match, which must include,

- Pitch address and kickoff time.

- Away teams must be able to make it to the field 90 mins before kickoff without traveling before 6am.

- If any other games are being played on the field that day.

- If another women's side is playing that day the lower divisional game must be played first unless an exception is granted.

Match Management and Reporting

-Before the match,

-Each club will provide their opponent with an updated printed version of the roster on an approved MWRU form. Teams are encouraged to ask for player identification before and after the match.

-During the match,

-Teams will document the activity of the game. Approximate the minute when points are scored, cards are issued, and player substitutions are made.

-After the match,

- Club officials and referee come to a consensus on the recorded events. If there is no CMS, club officials and referee must sign a paper MWRU match report.

-NO LATER THAN 48 HOURS AFTER THE MATCH,

-Reports must be submitted into Rugby Xplorer or to your coordinator. Teams are encouraged to double check the opponents information inputted is correct.

-Coordinators will be locking the reports Monday night at 11:59pm. Any clubs that have not input their information may have an administrative forfeit applied to the match.

-Failure to properly report issued cards may result in a deduction of 2 standings points.

Match Forfeits

Forfeits must be properly documented in Rugby Xplorer. Certain forfeits affect promotion/relegation decisions, and may incur fines.

Administrative forfeits - Are imposed on a club for a policy violation (eligibility or match reporting) even though the game was played. These are not taken into consideration for promotion/relegation. Score will be input 28-0 with the forfeiting team losing 1 standings points.

Match forfeits - When a team is unable to field a side for a scheduled match. This will be taken into consideration for promotion/relegation. Score will be input 28-0 with the forfeiting team losing 1 standings points.

-Any team that believes they will have to forfeit needs to let the referee, coordinator and opposing team know by Wednesday at 5pm before the match. If this is not done there will be fines imposed on the offending team.

Played Forfeits - Match is considered a played forfeit if the game is played with at least 10 players (anyone registered with USA Rugby) and at least 60 minutes. A team who would like to do a played forfeit must notify the appropriate parties by Wednesday at 5pm (same as a match forfeit)

Multiple Side Forfeits

-If a team fields multiple Women's sides and the Upper Divisional side has to forfeit, the Lower Divisional side will forfeit automatically. This forfeit would not have point deductions or affect playoff eligibility.

-If a club can demonstrate their teams rosters are completely separate to the league coordinator, MWRU will consider avoiding the lower side forfeiture.

Forfeiture Consequences

1st Forfeit - Offending team gets a written warning

2nd Forfeit - Offending team's Club President must be present at the next MWRU Competitions Committee to explain how they will remedy the situation.

-Further offenses will be sent to the disciplinary committee. Failure to comply to the above is grounds for sanction of the offending club.

-Match forfeits during league play may result in the club being disqualified from playoffs.

Match Cancellations and Rescheduling

-Matches can be canceled for a valid reason, even if it has been rescheduled. Score will be reported as 0-0. MWRU competitions committee will communicate with the clubs to determine if it classifies as a cancelation.

-Matches may be rescheduled as long as both clubs agree. Rescheduling should be done well before the original match date, unless something happens in which it has to be rescheduled on short notice.

-If a match has to be rescheduled on short notice, the home club must make all efforts to have the match on the same day within 30 miles of the original location. If this is not done by 5pm, the match will be rescheduled by the competition committee.

-If a club does not agree to rescheduling, the coordinator will mediate the rescheduling. Only valid reasons will be considered for a reschedule. Lack of players does not count as a valid reason.

Match Abandonment

Matches can be abandoned due to severe weather or by the referee. Amount of game time that has been played dictates how the game will be restarted or counted.

-If the match has been played less than 40 minutes, the match will be rescheduled and start anew.

-If the match has been played between 40 and 60 minutes, the game may resume at a later date where it left off.

-If the match has been played for 60 minutes or more the score at the point of abandonment will stand.

Protests and Appeals

- Member clubs, individual players, and other appropriate parties aggrieved by a decision or ruling from MWRU committee or any MWRU policy has the right to file a complaint.
- Complaints are submitted to the VP of Discipline and Compliance
- Before submitting a complaint, be sure the Rules of Competition have been interpreted correctly. Feel free to reach out to your coordinator if you are unsure.
- Match protest must be made in writing within 3 business days of the date of the protested match.
- MWRU decision complaint must be made within 10 business days of the date of notification.
- Complaints must include a factual summary of the protest, a copy of the rules, any regulations that are pertinent, a description of all the relevant evidence, and description of the relief the affected individual or club is requesting.
- MWRU will have 10 business days from the date of receipt of the protest of hearing (whichever is later) to render a written decision.
 - Failure of MWRU to respond within 10 business days does not automatically grant the requested relief.