



2022 COMPETITION GUIDELINES

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I. COVID-19

A. USA Ultimate Statement

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues into 2022, USA Ultimate activities and programs for the year will be evaluated and planned with the health and safety of our members and the broader community as the top priority. In collaboration with its Medical Advisory Working Group, along with guidance from other medical experts, public health officials and sports organizations, USA Ultimate will work during 2022 to provide opportunities for safe and healthy ultimate and ultimate-related activities that are in line with its [COVID-19 Protocols and Procedures](#) and all applicable state and local health and safety regulations.

Guidelines for programs and events will be developed and published with the goal of clear communication and transparency, as well as an understanding of the need to plan far enough ahead to create viable opportunities while remaining flexible to allow for necessary adjustments to the structure and/or timing of activities. USA Ultimate's goal is to offer safe opportunities to play that continue to build on the high-quality events and programs the community has come to expect, and to tailor these programs to fit the evolving health and safety situation over the course of the year.

Contingency plans will be implemented in the case of a resurgence of COVID-19. Those will be announced as early as possible and include but are not limited to event size reductions, event cancellations, and/or alteration of any of the following guidelines.

B. Guiding Principles for the 2022 Triple Crown Tour Season

The 2022 Triple Crown Tour (TCT) season will have some adjustments from prior seasons, with a focus on a safe return to high-level play and getting back on track for ultimate's sustainable and equitable growth. The principles guiding any return to play as well as contingency plans are as follows:

- No team, regardless of flight or ranking, will be required to attend any regular season events.
- All teams that earned a flight status in the 2019 post-season or in the 2021 post-season will be invited to tournaments based on the highest flight that they earned in either 2019 or 2021.
- Wait lists for events will be based on a combination of 2019 season finish and rankings as well as the 2021 season finish (no rankings in 2021), with priorities based on the goals of the various flight-specific events. [Click here for event wait lists.](#)
- Without required events, there will be no byes to regionals. All teams participating in the series will be required to begin at sectionals.
- To allow players and teams the time to host tryouts and establish rosters on a timeline they and their community are comfortable with, players will have the flexibility to play on multiple rosters from the start of the regular season until Tuesday July 5th. After the July 5th cutoff, players may switch rosters but not return to a roster after playing an event with a different team. The rule after July 5th is the same as prior years.
 - Example: Player A can play with Team X and Team Y interchangeably until July 5th. If Player A attends a sanctioned event with Team X on July 9-10, then an event with Team Y in August, that Player may NOT return to play any sanctioned event or the series with Team X. Doing so will result in disqualification from the event, games not counting, and potential suspensions for the Player and Team.

II. COMPETITION GUIDELINES

A. Overview & Updates

This document defines the guidelines and regulations for the USA Ultimate Club Season. These guidelines cover the USA Ultimate Triple Crown Tour (TCT), including Regular Season and Postseason competition.

The dates, registration and tournament rules/definitions of the TCT in this document supersede any other information.

Please ensure you read and understand **all** of the guidelines in this document and reach out to your National Director or USA Ultimate directly with any questions. Below are high level updates between the 2021 and 2022 guidelines for ease of reference - these are merely changes and not a comprehensive summary of all important information:

- a) The Pro-Elite Challenge, U.S. Open, and Pro Championships will utilize, for mixed teams, WFDF's Rule A for on-field personnel ratios, with the goal to eventually have all mixed events transition to the new "prescribed ratio" rule in the coming years.
- b) Updated to reflect the new "2022-2023 Official Rules of Ultimate" which will be used for all USA Ultimate competition. This applies to all USA Ultimate-owned and sanctioned events. The new rules are available at usaultimate.org/rules in HTML and PDF formats, along with supporting documentation highlighting and explaining the changes from the 2020-2021 Edition.
- c) Rankings will be reinstated with the same requirements from prior years (10 game minimum to earn series bids).
- d) There will be early season roster flexibility with players being allowed to switch teams multiple times before July 5th.
- e) Final standings from the 2022 season will directly affect a team's status for 2023.
- f) Team season roster caps will be reinstated but increased to 32 for Pro, Elite, and Top Select teams. Select and Classic teams will not have a season roster cap.
- g) Coaching requirements have changed as of December 2021.

There have been many changes in the recent seasons, so please read through this year's guidelines in their entirety to ensure you are aware of the changes that are specific to the 2022 season as well as any changes that have been instituted in prior seasons that remain in these guidelines.

1. Glossary

- I. Triple Crown Tour (TCT) – The TCT encompasses both the Regular Season and the Postseason for USA Ultimate club teams. The TCT includes Major TCT (mTCT) events run by USA Ultimate, and any event which is a Sanctioned Regular Season or Postseason event. Winning the Triple Crown refers to winning the U.S. Open Club Championships, the Pro Championships and the National Championships.
- II. Regular Season – All official Sanctioned Regular Season events or match-play games that occur between the first weekend in June and last weekend in August, with the addition of Labor Day weekend for teams attending the Pro Championship.
- III. Regular Season Rankings – Regular season games will be factored into the USA Ultimate Regular Season rankings algorithm. Rankings are published weekly starting the last Wednesday in July, with Final Regular Season Rankings posted at the end of the Regular Season.
- IV. Postseason Championship Series – The national tournament following the regular season comprises geographic-based qualifying events (Sectionals, Regionals) and concludes at the National Championships. Also referred to as the "Postseason" and "Championship Series."
- V. National Championships – The third leg of the Triple Crown Tour and culminating event of the postseason and the TCT, where the USA Ultimate National Championship winning teams are crowned in the men's, mixed and women's divisions. Also referred to as "Nationals."
- VI. Major TCT (mTCT) Event – The following tournaments are considered Major TCT Events: Pro-Elite Challenge, Select Flight Invite-West, Select Flight Invite-East, U.S. Open Club Championships, Elite-Select Challenge and Pro Championships.
- VII. Bid Allocation – Each section is awarded a specific number of bids to their respective regional tournaments. Additionally, each region is awarded a specific number of bids to the national tournament. These are both referred to as bid allocations.
- VIII. Pro Flight – Top eight* teams (1st through 8th) based on performance at either the 2019 or 2021 National Championships.
- IX. Elite Flight – Next eight* teams below the Pro Flight (9th through 16th), based on performance at either the 2019 or 2021 National Championships.
- X. Select Flight – 32* teams. Next highest finishing four teams in each geographic region, after Pro and Elite teams, based on performance in either the 2019 or 2021 Regional Championships.
 - Top Select teams are Select Flight teams that were the highest finishing Select team from each region (eight* total) from either the 2019 or 2021 Regional Championships. The Top Select team is the team that lost the "game-to-go" to Nationals.
- XI. Classic Flight – All other teams participating in the Regular Season or Postseason of the TCT.

*Note that for the 2022 season these numbers may be higher or lower due to the use of performance in the 2019 and 2021 seasons.

2. Spirit of the Game (SOTG)

Spirit of the Game is a set of principles which places the responsibility for fair play on the player. Highly competitive play is encouraged, but never at the expense of mutual respect among competitors, adherence to the agreed upon rules or the basic joy of play.

All players are responsible for knowing, administering and adhering to the rules. The integrity of ultimate depends on each player's responsibility to uphold the Spirit of the Game, and this responsibility should remain paramount.

It is assumed that no player will intentionally violate the rules; thus there are no harsh penalties for inadvertent infractions, but rather a method for resuming play in a manner that simulates what most likely would have occurred absent the infraction. An intentional infraction is cheating and considered a gross offense against the Spirit of the Game. Players are morally bound to abide by the rules and not gain advantage by knowingly committing an infraction, or calling one where none exists.

For more information on Spirit of the Game, click [here](#). To read more about the work USA Ultimate is doing to limit implicit bias within the SotG structure, click [here](#).

3. Competition Authority

Major TCT Events – Event formats, game rules, seeding and the use of Observers will be determined by USA Ultimate.

All other Sanctioned Regular Season Events – Event formats, game rules, seeding and the use of Observers are all at the discretion of the regular season event organizers, provided they meet event guidelines outlined in the USA Ultimate sanctioned-event agreement and in these guidelines as specified within this document.

Postseason – All aspects of competition will be determined by USA Ultimate, including but not limited to, registration, eligibility, event formats, game rules, seeding and the use of Observers.

4. Definition of a Team

The following rules will define a team from year to year, for the purpose of determining its flight status and eligibility for competing in the Triple Crown Tour. Note that the purpose of the flight system is to not only reward teams based on their performance and create meaningful playing opportunities for those teams, but to incentivize consistency in team organization, branding, location and participation from year to year. The 2022 season will focus the definition of a team based on the roster composition from both the 2019 and 2021 seasons.

A team will be defined primarily by its name and home location (city, state).

- For consistency between seasons, If a team has at least seven (7) returning players from the 2019 or 2021 season, they are considered that same team and are expected to retain the team's name and home location.
- If two teams have seven (7) or more returning players from one team that participated in the 2019 or 2021 season, the team with more returning players will have priority in retaining team name, branding, etc. as well as the team's spot on invitation lists for mTCT events.

- If a Pro, Elite or Top Select team is returning the next year, a "new" team in the same division may not have more than seven players from that team's roster the prior year, in order to be eligible for the postseason. An exception may be granted if the new team plays at least 10 regular season games.
- To change either a team's name or its home location, and still retain the team's flight status and spot on any mTCT invitation list, the team must present an appeal to USA Ultimate describing its rationale. Appeals must be submitted to the corresponding National Director.

a) Name/Logo/Uniform Guidelines

USA Ultimate reserves the right, at any time, to prohibit, alter or require a team to alter a team name, player or coach nickname, team logo, jersey graphic, sponsor name/graphic or uniform, and/or suggest alternatives at any point should USA Ultimate personnel determine that the existing name, logo, graphic or uniform is in conflict with or might hinder the mission of the organization or the goals of a specific USA Ultimate program or event. This includes, but is not limited to, sexual references, profanity, drug references and any discriminatory language or graphics. Alterations must be approved by USA Ultimate.

b) Uniform and Attire Requirements

(1) Players

- For all USA Ultimate run events (mTCT, Sectionals, Regionals, Nationals), all participating players for a given team must wear jerseys of identical color and design.
 - Tank tops, short sleeve jerseys and long sleeve jerseys may all be worn during the same game as long as styling is consistent between all options.
 - Base layers must be black, white or a matching color to the jersey.
- Teams must have two jerseys of distinctly different color, one predominantly white and one predominantly dark. A jersey that is not white does not automatically qualify as a dark. Any color that may be described as light does not qualify as a dark jersey (e.g., yellow, pink, light blue, etc.).
- Jerseys must have numbers on the back and front of the jersey. The numbers on the back must be at least six (6) inches high, be one or two digit Arabic numerals, be solid and in **clear contrast with the jersey**. Numbers on the front of the jersey must be at least four (4) inches high, be located above the waist and clearly visible if tucked in. The front of the jersey is anything on the chest or abdomen; numbers on the front of the sleeves do not fulfill this requirement. No two players on a given team may use the same number or numbers with the same value (e.g., 00 and 0, 01 and 1, etc.).

- Uniform bottoms (shorts) worn by players on the field must be of identical color and design. Teams are not required to have numbers on their uniform bottoms. However, if teams opt to include numbers, they must be on the front left or right leg of their shorts. Number placement must be the same for the whole team. The numbers must be at least two (2) inches high, match the number on the back of their jersey and be in visible contrast with the jersey. Pants and skirts are not allowed as part of the on-field uniform without the pre-approval of USA Ultimate.
- Uniform accessories, including tights, undershirts, compression sleeves and hats, must be either solid black or coordinated with one team uniform color. Socks that are mid-calf or lower must be black, white or coordinating with one team color. Socks that sit above mid-calf must abide by the tights requirement.
- USA Ultimate reserves the right to suspend players or fine teams who fail to meet the uniform requirements. For more information please review the USA Ultimate Triple Crown Tour Guidelines section entitled "Violations and Sanctions."
- For broadcast games, USA Ultimate reserves the right to increase requirements to comply with broadcast partner standards and requirements. In light of this potential, it is recommended that teams and players prepare for the possibility of additional requirements, such as hats, socks and under-layers, that match across all players.
- Teams participating in events with broadcast games should not have spray-painted and/or cut-off jerseys.
- Examples of style decisions to avoid:



Not a solid color. Difficult to see from a distance.



Not a contrasting color



Not a contrasting color



Not a contrasting color



Difficult to read font

- Examples of style acceptable jerseys:



(2) *Coaches*

- B. For all USA Ultimate run events (mTCT, Sectionals, Regionals, Nationals) all coaches must wear either a uniform of identical color and design as the team, or professional coaching attire as defined below.
- C. Professional coaching attire is defined as any combination of the following:
 - (i) The team jersey or a sleeved shirt/polo is matching the team uniform colors.
 - (ii) Business casual attire.
 - (iii) Closed toe shoes such as cleats, flats or athletic shoes.
 - (a) Flip flops, open toed sandals and bare feet are **not** considered professional coaching attire.
- Coach jerseys and shorts are not subject to the number requirements for players.
- It is recommended that uniform accessories, including weather-related gear, tights, undershirts, hats and socks, be of identical or coordinated style and color.
- USA Ultimate reserves the right to remove from the sideline and/or fine coaches who fail to meet these requirements.

4. Coaching

b) Coaching Requirements

To coach any club team at a USA Ultimate sanctioned event, a coach must be a member of USA Ultimate and have completed at least the Foundational Coach training. The steps to complete the Foundational Coach training can be found [here](#).

Coaches who previously had the USA Ultimate coach membership have been grandfathered into the Foundational Coach training; they will need to make sure that their background checks and SafeSport training are current.

c) Coaching Sideline Access Policy

During games at TCT events where field access is restricted (ex: US Open, Nationals), sideline access will only be granted to players, USA Ultimate Foundational Coaches that are

designated by the team, USA Ultimate event staff and credentialed media*. All other non-player support staff with player-level or limited field access, including coaches, must read, sign and agree to abide by the USA Ultimate [Coaching Code of Ethics](#) and [Spirit of Coaching Statement](#). The limit on the number of coaches and team support personnel, all of whom must comply with the above policy, is as follows:

- Coaches (5) – may have player-level access to sidelines/field
 - Coaches must be listed on the team’s online event roster prior to the event in order to have sideline access, which means coaches must have an active USA Ultimate membership and have satisfactorily passed the coaching and rules test.**
- Team Support (2) – must remain in team tent/bench area during points

* Media must contact the USA Ultimate media manager for credentials and event media waivers.

** Teams must ensure that their coach is an active member of USA Ultimate, and has completed all necessary coaching requirements, including the SafeSport training and obtaining a "Green Light" on a NCSI Background check. Background checks take an average of 10 business days to complete and can be started on the coach’s USAU membership dashboard once they login. Coaches who have lived outside of the United States in the last five (5) years should expect a longer turnaround time and a higher cost for their background checks.

6. Observers

All use of Observers will be subject to the guidelines and practices of the [USA Ultimate Observer Program](#).

Only USA Ultimate Certified Observers are permitted to officiate at USA Ultimate sanctioned events, including Sanctioned Regular Season Events and the Postseason Championship Series.

Sanctioned Regular Season Events must be played in accordance with the guidelines for USA Ultimate sanctioned events. Experimental changes in officiating responsibilities (i.e., those outside of the current edition of the [USA Ultimate Observer Manual](#)) may be permitted, but must be communicated in detail during the sanctioning application process and must be pre-approved by USA Ultimate.

If observers are used during the postseason, their duties must be in line with those described in the USA Ultimate Observer Manual. Any changes to these duties must be pre-approved by the Competition Working Group. Any experimental changes authorized by USA Ultimate for use during the postseason will be outlined in this section of the guidelines and communicated to team and event organizers prior to the start of the regular season.

7. Violations and Sanctions

Failure to abide by any of the Triple Crown Tour guidelines may result in sanctions through the USA Ultimate [conduct process](#). Such sanctions may be imposed on a team or individuals associated with a team deemed to be in violation of the guidelines and may include, but are not limited to, suspension or disqualification from USA Ultimate competition.

Disqualification may include not only elimination of the team from the current season, but also limitations on participation of players during the remainder of the current season, and limitation on participation of the team (and its players) in subsequent seasons.

In order to help teams follow Triple Crown Tour guidelines and avoid violations, USA Ultimate will continue to work to improve registration procedures and communication of information pertaining to the USA Ultimate Triple Crown Tour. As these improvements are made by the organization, teams will continue to be held more fully responsible for following procedures and understanding information.

Because consistency in holding all participants to the same administrative and competitive standards is vital to the integrity of the TCT, because many violations lead to unfair advantages in competition, and because it is often difficult to determine intent, guideline violations will result in serious repercussions. Such repercussions will provide an incentive for players and teams to understand the guidelines fully, follow the guidelines carefully and avoid intended or unintended violations in the future.

B. Triple Crown Tour

1. Overview

The Triple Crown Tour (TCT) for USA Ultimate's club men's, mixed and women's divisions has existed since 2013. TCT teams are normally divided into four (4) flights based on their performance in the previous year's TCT. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all flight requirements have been waived, and Major TCT event invitations will be based on a combination of the 2019 and 2021 season placements and rankings; teams will be invited to Major TCT events based on the highest flight level earned through their 2019 or 2021 performance. Teams at all levels are encouraged to participate in the TCT's regular season and postseason.

The TCT regular season typically runs from June through August with the Postseason Championship Series starting in September with local sectional tournaments. Teams advance from sectionals to regionals, and then from regionals to nationals where a champion in each division is crowned. Registration for the Postseason Championship Series will be open to any teams that want to compete.

2. Regular Season

a) *Timeline*

The TCT Regular Season is scheduled to run from June 4, 2022 through August 28, 2022.

b) *Registration*

Teams competing at Sanctioned Regular Season Events will be required to [register their team and submit their event roster](#) for that event through the USA Ultimate online rostering system by **5pm MDT on the Wednesday prior to the event**.

c) *Rules*

(1) 2022 Rules

All USA Ultimate sanctioned events must use the "2022-2023 Official Rules of Ultimate" which are available at usultimate.org/rules in HTML and PDF formats along with [supporting documentation highlighting and explaining the substantive changes from the 2020-2021 Edition](#).

(2) Game Length Minimums

All games at sanctioned USA Ultimate events must meet the minimum point and time-based requirements (each game must have been initially set to be, at minimum, to 11 points and 60 minutes in length). Games under the minimums are subject to USA Ultimate and Competition Working Group review.

- **NEVER** report an inaccurate score. Doing so will result in game disqualifications and other appropriate sanctions.
 - If a game is a forfeiture (see forfeit rule below), do NOT put the score in as 13-0 or 15-0. You must inform the TD and report a W/F on the USA Ultimate reporting app.
- Requests to shorten any game must be approved by the event manager/TD and should still meet the minimum requirements mentioned above. Captains may not simply agree to play to a lower number or for a certain amount of time. This will result in consequences for both teams and captains.

(3) Forfeit Rule

As a general rule, USA Ultimate prohibits the forfeiting of scheduled games during the regular season. Teams are expected to play out their entire schedule of games at events they have chosen to enter. The competition format of an event and the season as a whole rely on scheduled games being played. All teams entering an event should expect that their opponents will play their scheduled games. These rules apply regardless of the caliber of the opponent or the stage of the competition in which a game is scheduled.

- Any team that declines to finish a scheduled game or games, or attempts to decide a match by any manner other than playing ultimate on the field, will forfeit those

games. Should both teams in a match choose not to play, then it will be considered a double forfeit.

- If one team is not ready to play at game-time, points may be assessed at a rate of one (1) point per five (5) minutes. Under these conditions, if the score of the game reaches 8-0, the team that has failed to signal readiness will technically forfeit the game.
- A team will be considered to have forfeited any game where the number of players that can safely participate falls below the minimum requirement set by the competition minimums above.
- Reporting false scores will be treated with significant sanctions. If a game is forfeited, teams must report the forfeiture. If a game is not finished, scores and game length are to be reported as they are. Teams may not manipulate the final score to reach the game minimum. Violating this rule will incur sanctions for both teams involved. See the sanctions section below for more information.

(a) Exceptions

The safety of athletes is a top priority and must be considered when determining whether a game should be played and under what conditions.

Consideration should be given if a team misses the first game of the first day because of travel problems.

Tournament formats and event schedules must fall within the guidelines set forth for sanctioned events, and must be published at least two (2) business days prior to the event.

Games that are the last of an event for both teams may be forfeited, provided the tournament director and both teams are in agreement.

(b) Sanctions

USA Ultimate reserves the right to sanction teams that forfeit games during the regular season. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, disqualification from the regular season and/or series, rankings and/or bid allocation penalties, team and/or player/coach suspensions, financial penalties and team and/or member conduct hearings. Game forfeits will be dealt with on a case by case basis, taking into account all pertinent facts and perspectives.

d) Eligibility

Teams participating in any sanctioned regular season event or game must do so only with players who are on the team's season roster AND event roster for that event or game.

(1) Season Roster Changes

For the 2022 season, to allow players and teams the time to host tryouts and establish rosters on a timeline they and their community are comfortable with, players will have the flexibility to play on multiple rosters from the start of the regular season until Tuesday July 5th. After the July 5th cutoff, players may switch rosters but not return to a roster after playing an event with a different team.

- EX: Player A can play with Team X and Team Y interchangeably from the start of the regular season until July 5th. If Player A attends a sanctioned event with Team X on July 9-10, then an event with Team Y in August, that Player may NOT return to play any sanctioned event or the series with Team X. Doing so will result in disqualification from the event, games not counting, and potential suspensions for the Player and Team.

(2) Geographic Eligibility

At least 50% of the players on a team's Season Roster must reside in the section in which that team will compete.

At least 75% of the players on a team's Season Roster must reside in the region in which that team will compete.

A team can roster no more than five (5) out-of-region players at any Regular Season Event in which the team will be competing. Additionally, a team may not roster more than seven (7) out-of-region players during the Regular Season.

"Residence" is defined as meeting **both** of the below criteria:

- Location where the person is living for the majority of September and October, **and**
- Location where the person is living for the majority of either the three months prior to September 1 or immediately following October 31.

If the above definition means that a player does not have a region as their "residence," then the player is considered to be an out-of-region player and counts towards a team's out-of-region limits (maximum of five out-of-region players and no more than 25% of the roster).

If a regional boundary divides a metropolitan area, a team based in that metropolitan area may request an exception for players living in that metropolitan area to count as in-region for that team. In order for an exception to be granted, a player and team must establish that the player is part of the local community in which the team is based. In order for teams to be in compliance with the geographic guidelines throughout the season, players must receive exception approval prior to

participation with the team at a regular season event. To request this exception, email your National Director and copy the Manager of Competition and National Team Programs clubmanager@usultimate.org.

Sectional and Regional boundaries are available on the USA Ultimate [website](#).

(3) Gender Division Eligibility

USA Ultimate will not discriminate on the basis of gender identity, regardless of sex assigned at birth, or any other form of gender expression for whether an athlete matches up against a woman-matching or man-matching player of the opposing team during any given point.

We affirm that people of all gender identities should have the freedom to participate in USA Ultimate sanctioned or championship series events in the division in which they feel most comfortable and safe based on their gender identity and should be recognized, respected and included at every level of the sport.

Teams that are found to have violated the letter or spirit of the rules mentioned here, or whose behavior undermines the competition structure (e.g. misrepresenting the composition of a team at a specific event, misrepresenting the composition of a team over the course of the season, intentionally playing with ineligible players, intentionally misrepresenting gender for mixed on-field personnel ratio, etc.) will be subject to ramifications as outlined in "Violations and Sanctions." Roster violations should be reported to the Manager of Competition and National Team Programs at clubmanager@usultimate.org.

- In their USA Ultimate membership account, every athlete should select the gender identity option that best aligns with their gender identity. When registering for a USA Ultimate sanctioned or championship series event, athletes should select to participate in the division in which they feel most comfortable and safe based on their indicated gender identity.
 - Players who select Man (cis or trans) as their gender identity option are eligible to compete in men's divisions or as a man-matching player in mixed divisions.
 - Players who select Woman (cis or trans) as their gender identity option are eligible to compete in men's or women's divisions, or as a woman-matching player in mixed divisions.
 - Players who select the Non-Binary or Prefer to Self-Report gender identity option are eligible to compete in the division in which they feel most comfortable and safe, as per USA Ultimate's Gender Inclusion Policy (approved 11.2020).

- *Note: For those who select Prefer to Self-Report, there will be a fill-in option to provide any additional information regarding your gender identity. This is for internal educational purposes only and will not be shared.*
- On-field personnel ratio rules for the mixed division are described in the Mixed Division On-field Personnel Ratio section of the Competition Guidelines.

For more information about USA Ultimate's Gender Inclusion Policy, [click here](#).

(4) Mixed Division On-Field Personnel Ratio

The personnel ratio for the mixed division of the Triple Crown Tour regular season and postseason will be 4/3 (four man-matching and three woman-matching or four woman-matching and three man-matching).

For more information about USA Ultimate's Gender Inclusion Policy, [click here](#).

Determining the ratio -

Games at the Pro-Elite Challenge, US Open, and Pro-Championships will use the "prescribed ratio" rule (also known as Rule A in the official [WFDF Rules of Ultimate 2021-2024 - APPENDIX v1.0](#)). In each of the games played at these events, an additional disc flip after the initial flip, where the winner will decide the personnel ratio for the first point. For the second and third points the ratio must be the reverse of the first point. For the fourth and fifth points the ratio must be the same as the first point. This pattern of alternating the ratio every two points repeats until the end of the game (half time has no impact on the pattern).

For all other sanctioned games, including games at Elite-Select Challenge and Select Flight Invites, at the start of each game after the first disc flip, an additional disc flip happens with the winner selecting which end zone is the "genzone." At the start of each point, the team that is at the genzone must choose the gender ratio. This process applies for the entire game (the "Genzone Decides Rule").

For all Mixed games, if a team cannot match the on-field personnel ratio of all seven players on the team determining the personnel ratio for the point, then it must play with fewer than seven players, matching the personnel ratio with as many players as possible.

Injury timeouts - In the event of an injury timeout where a player leaves the field, the replacing player must maintain the same personnel ratio as was with the injured player.

If a team replaces players, the opposing team has the option of substituting a like number of, or fewer players.

- The replacing player(s) must maintain the same personnel ratio as was with the player(s) they replace.
- If a team calls an injury timeout but does not have a replacement player to maintain the same personnel ratio as was with the injured player, it may not replace that player and must play fewer than seven players.

(5) Roster Maximums and Minimums

(a) Maximums

Pro, Elite, and Top Select Flight teams:

Pro, Elite and Top Select Flight teams may roster a maximum of 32 total individual players on regular season event rosters for the entirety of the regular season.

Pro, Elite and Top Select Flight teams may roster a maximum of 26 players on any given event roster.

All other teams (below the Top Select designation; Select and Classic Flight teams):

Do not have a cap on the number of players that can be used for the regular season on event rosters.

May roster a maximum of 26 players on any given regular season event roster.

(b) Minimums

Event	Men's	Mixed	Women's
Pro-Elite Challenge (PEC) US Open Elite-Select Challenge (ESC) Pro Championship	All teams - Must roster and dress (on site) a minimum of 20 players.	All teams - Must roster and dress (on site) a minimum of 20 players; with a minimum of eight (8) woman-matching and eight (8) man-matching players.	Pro and Elite Flight teams – must roster and dress (on site) a minimum of 18 players. Select and Classic Flight teams – must roster and dress (on site) a minimum of 16 players.
Select Flight Invite (SFI) - East and	Pro/Elite/Top Select teams - Must roster and	Pro/Elite/Top Select teams - Must roster and	Pro and Elite Flight teams – must roster and

West	<p>dress (on site) a minimum of 20 players.</p> <p>Select/Classic teams - Must roster and dress (on site) a minimum of 10 players.</p>	<p>dress (on site) a minimum of 20 players; with a minimum of six (6) woman-matching and six (6) man-matching players.</p> <p>Select/Classic teams - Must roster and dress (on site) a minimum of 12 players; with a minimum of six (6) woman-matching and six (6) man-matching players.</p>	<p>dress (on site) a minimum of 18 players.</p> <p>Top Select teams – must roster and dress (on site) a minimum of 16 players.</p> <p>Select and Classic Flight teams – must roster and dress (on site) a minimum of 10 players.</p>
All Other Events	<p>All teams - Must roster and dress (on site) a minimum of 10 players.</p>	<p>All teams - Must roster and dress (on site) a minimum of 10 players; with a minimum of five (5) woman-matching players and five (5) man-matching players.</p>	<p>All teams - Must roster and dress (on site) a minimum of 10 players.</p>

(c) Sanctions

Minimum roster number violations – USA Ultimate reserves the right to sanction teams that fail to meet the roster minimums for designated TCT events. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, disqualification from the regular season and/or postseason, ranking and/or bid allocation penalties, forfeiture of game results, team and/or player/coach suspensions, forfeiture of bye to regionals, financial penalties and team and/or player conduct hearings. Violations will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

(d) Exceptions

The goal of the roster minimum requirements is to ensure the safety of all athletes participating throughout the regular season. Exceptions to roster minimums may be considered for special circumstances. Please contact clubmanager@usultimate.org at least four weeks prior to the event roster deadline to request an exception.

e) Team Flight Status

Teams will be awarded the higher of two flights based on their 2019 or 2021 final season standing and receive event invitations based on that flight status. This results in expanded flights for the 2022 season. Click the gender division link below for a full list of teams in Pro,

Elite, and Select flights. Any team not included in the tables will be considered a Classic team for 2022. If you have any questions or concerns with the lists below, please contact clubmanager@usultimate.org.

- [Men's Flight Status 2022](#)
- [Mixed Flight Status 2022](#)
- [Women's Flight Status 2022](#)

f) Events

(1) Pro, Elite and Select Flight Events

USA Ultimate will work with local organizers to put on tournament events for teams in the Pro, Elite and Select flights throughout the regular season. These events are referred to as Major TCT events (mTCT) and are invitation only. Rules, seeding, formats and guidelines for these events will be set by USAU.

Event	Date	Location	Invitation Priority
Pro-Elite Challenge Waitlist	July 9-10	Aurora, CO	<p>Initial Invitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro & Elite Flight teams (flight based on highest finish in either 2019 or 2021, order based on 2019 final rankings. <p>Waitlist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest ranked Select Flight teams based on 2019 final rankings. • Highest ranked Classic Flight teams based on 2019 final rankings.

Select Flight Invite (East) Waitlist	July 23-24	Fredericksburg, VA	<p>Bid Priority – Elite (4 Max)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer to Elite Flight teams based on Nationals finish • Offer to Pro Flight teams based on Nationals finish (If bids are still available, use bid priority for Select bids) <p>Bid Priority – Select</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top Select Flight teams • Offer remaining bids in order to Select Flight teams based on final rankings. • Offer remaining bids in order to Classic Flight teams based on final rankings
Select Flight Invite (West) Waitlist	TBD	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elite bids (4): Bid priority to Elite Flight teams, followed by Pro, Select, and then Classic Flight teams. • Select bids (8): Bid

			<p>priority to highest ranked Select, then Classic Flight teams</p>
<p>U.S. Open Waitlist</p>	<p>Aug. 5-7</p>	<p>Blaine, MN</p>	<p>Initial Invitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro Flight teams <p>Waitlist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest ranked Elite Flight teams • Highest ranked Select Flight teams based on final 2019 rankings. • Highest ranked Classic Flight teams based on 2019 final rankings.
<p>Elite-Select Challenge Waitlist</p>	<p>Aug. 20-21</p>	<p>Indianapolis, IN</p>	<p>Initial Invitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Elite Flight teams • Top Select Flight teams <p>Waitlist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro Flight teams (in reverse order) to fill declined invitations from Elite Flight bids as needed • Highest ranked Select Flight teams based on 2019 final rankings.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highest ranked Classic Flight teams based on 2019 final rankings.
Pro Championships Waitlist	Sept. 3-5	Raleigh, NC	<p>Initial Invitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pro Flight teams <p>Waitlist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highest ranked Elite Flight teams Highest ranked Select Flight teams based on 2019 final rankings Highest ranked Classic Flight teams based on 2019 final rankings.

(2) Team Invitations

Invitations to mTCT events will be decided based on a combination of the 2019 final standings and rankings and the 2021 final post season standings. Flexibility on invitations may be afforded to the National Directors and Local Organizing Committees as needed if there are vacancies within four (4) weeks of the event.

- National Directors will begin inviting teams in April 2022 and will communicate deadlines for each event via email.
- Invitation lists, including confirmed committed teams, will be available [here](#).

Without flight requirements, any flight vacancies for the season will be left vacant.

Invitations to any other regular season events are at the sole discretion of the event organizers.

(3) Flight Specific Requirements

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2022 there are no requirements to attend specific TCT events for any teams.

(4) All Other Sanctioned Regular Season Events

USA Ultimate-sanctioned event organizers will be required to do the following:

- Submit or verify the results of games through the USA Ultimate's online score reporting system by the end of the day following the event/game.
- Comply with all requirements for USA Ultimate-sanctioned event organizers outlined in the USA Ultimate Tournament Director's Certification Program and the sanctioned event agreement.

USA Ultimate will be progressively increasing the minimum standards which tournaments/events will be required to meet to receive sanctioning approval. USA Ultimate will not sanction an event if it believes that the event or event organizer is not aligned with the best interests of the sport, the Triple Crown Tour, other USA Ultimate programs or the mission and policies of USA Ultimate.

(5) Sanctioned Match Play

Individual games may be sanctioned at the discretion of USA Ultimate in order to provide flexibility for teams in planning their seasons and scheduling playing opportunities. Match play sanctioning may require earlier sanctioning application deadlines, will be subject to the review of USA Ultimate staff and may require additional oversight and/or structure to ensure the integrity of the competition. Click [here](#) for more information on event sanctioning.

(6) Prize Money

For each division, prizes will be awarded with the following values for each mTCT event:

- Pro-Elite Challenge - \$750 (1st place)
- U.S. Open Club Championships - \$2,000 (1st place) and \$1,000 (2nd place)
- Elite-Select Challenge - \$500 (1st place)
- Pro Championships - \$1,500 (1st place) and \$500 (2nd place)
- National Championship - \$2,000 (1st place) and \$1,000 (2nd place)
- Triple Crown (wins U.S. Open Club Championships, Pro Championships and Nationals) - \$2,000

Any prizes at non-mTCT regular season events are at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director.

(7) Team Registration Requirements

All teams that compete in the regular season must submit an online *event* roster by the event-specific, rolling deadline (Wednesday prior to event). Teams are required to do the following:

- Notify the event organizer of their intention to compete in the event, acknowledge understanding that the team will be considered a regular season team and receive confirmation that the team has received a bid to the event.
- Once confirmed, use the online rostering system to submit the team's event roster for the event.
- Complete team's event roster by 5pm MDT on the Wednesday prior to the event.
- Ensure that USA Ultimate membership dues and individual waivers are submitted by every participant before they are added to an event roster. Players must be added to the event roster by 5pm MDT on the Wednesday prior to the event in order to participate.
 - Any player found to play in a sanctioned event without being on a team's *event* roster will face sanctions along with any other culpable parties, including, but is not limited to the Team Manager, teammates, other teams and the event organizers. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, ejection from the event, fines and/or suspensions.

g) Rankings

The Regular Season Rankings are used to determine bid allocations for the Postseason. The rankings will be based on games played between eligible teams at Sanctioned Regular Season Events.

The regular season rankings algorithm will be run, and the rankings will be published weekly starting July 27, 2022.

Teams must compete in a minimum of 10 regular season games to be included in the Final Regular Season Rankings, which impact bid allocation to Regionals and Nationals.

To support roster consistency between the regular season and postseason for Classic and Select Flight teams, at least 50% of a team's postseason roster must consist of players that competed for the team during the regular season for the team's regular season ranking to count in the postseason bid allocations.

(1) Rankings Eligibility

Regular season rankings are tentative, pending eligibility verification. At the end of the regular season, any eligibility-based adjustments will be made to finalize regular season rankings. Results of sanctioned regular season events will not count if:

- The event does not meet the USA Ultimate definition of ultimate.
- The competition rules of the event designate the number of players on the field for a team to be any number other than seven.

- Games do not meet the minimum point and time-based requirements (each game must have been initially set to be, at minimum, to 11 points and 60 minutes in length).
- An inaccurate score is reported.

NOTE: Games suspended or modified due to inclement weather or other unavoidable reason may be counted if a team has reached at least half the minimum point total or half the minimum game length, at the discretion of USA Ultimate.

If a team competes in a sanctioned regular season event with ineligible players, the team will be treated as ineligible and its results will not count for the event. Any eligible opposing team that competes against the ineligible team at the event will receive credit for competing in the game (i.e., game will be included in the team's regular season game count), but the results of the game will not be included in the regular season rankings.

USA Ultimate reserves the right to disallow regular season results for any reason, if they are determined not to be in line with the goals of the USA Ultimate Triple Crown Tour or the mission and policies of USA Ultimate.

Teams are not allowed to split to add additional teams to an event after the July 5th cutoff. If an event is in need of another team, the event organizer must find an additional team rather than split an existing team into multiple teams. Deliberate misrepresentation of a team registered for the regular season in order to influence regular season rankings will be considered a roster violation and may be subject to ramifications as outlined in the section titled "Violations and Sanctions." In addition to those sanctions, if such deliberate misrepresentation of a team is discovered, USA Ultimate reserves the right to assign a game result to whichever team it deems appropriate.

3. Postseason (Championship Series)

a) Series Progression and Timeline

Club Series events will once again have the flexibility to host on two available weekends. There is a strong preference for events to take place on the earlier of the two options and a requirement for there to be a gap weekend between any sectional and regional event. Any bid for a sectional or regional event that does not allow for a gap weekend may not be awarded without explicit approval from that division's National Director and the Club Competition Manager.

Sectionals ->	Regionals ->	Nationals
September 10-11 OR September 17-18	September 24-25 OR October 1-2	October 20-23
Team registration deadline is FRIDAY AUGUST 26, 2022	Teams that earned a bid to regionals will have <u>their team and roster</u> rolled over to their respective regional event by USAU	Teams that earned a bid to nationals will have <u>their team and roster</u> rolled over to the final event by USAU
Postseason event roster deadline is WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2022	Postseason event roster deadline is WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2022	Postseason event roster deadline is WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2022
All teams, including Pro, Elite, and any new teams, must start the Postseason at sectionals. Teams participating in sectionals must have met all team and player requirements, including having all players with a current membership and signed waiver. There is no additional qualifying process for sectionals.	You CANNOT add players to your regional event roster after the postseason event roster deadline (September 7, 2022)	You CANNOT add players to your nationals event roster after the postseason event roster deadline (September 7, 2022)

b) Registration

(1) Team Registration

In order to participate in the postseason, teams must be created via the online rostering system - or rolled over from a previous year (to roll a team over from 2019 or 2020 you may have to roll it over multiple times) - and registered for their appropriate postseason event with a valid event roster (10-player minimum) by Friday, August 26 at 5pm MDT/7pm EDT.

There is ONE postseason roster that is rolled over from Sectionals to Regionals to Nationals depending on team qualification. You CANNOT add players to your Regionals or Nationals event roster after the postseason event roster deadline (September 7, 2022).

- If your sectional event has a player fee and your team has players that will not be attending, but do plan to attend Regionals upon qualification, please discuss with the

Tournament Director to ensure accurate charges. ALL players must be on the series roster before Sectionals.

Using the links below, Team Managers can create their team in the online rostering system, register their team for the series, add players to the team's personnel (AKA Season roster) and create a Postseason *event* roster:

- [Create a Team and Add Personnel](#)
- [Rollover a team](#)
- [Event Registration and Rostering Participants](#)

(2) Roster Additions

After the August 26 team registration deadline, teams can make event roster adjustments until the final event roster deadline for the Postseason (Wednesday, September 7 at 5pm MDT/7pm EDT). Teams must maintain a minimum of 10 players on their event roster and can have a maximum of 26 players on their event roster.

- After the Final Postseason Roster Deadline on September 7, teams *may not* add anyone to the event roster. All players who may compete with you at sectionals, regionals or nationals must be on your Final Postseason Roster by September 7.
 - I.e. if a player will not be attending sectionals but would play with your team for regionals or nationals if your team earns an invitation, they **MUST** be on your series roster by the deadline prior to sectionals.

c) Bid Allocation

(1) Sectionals to Regionals

USA Ultimate reserves the right, based on the number of teams registered in a section, to combine sections or require teams to migrate to another section.

MEN'S AND MIXED DIVISIONS - The number of bids to Regionals will be set based on the size of the region (see table below). Regional bids will be allocated to sections using a combination of automatic and strength bids. Initial Sectional bid allocations to Regionals will be announced following the conclusion of the Regular Season and announced by Friday, September 2. Any changes (teams dropping, rankings issues) may impact bid allocations until the Final Bid Allocation on Tuesday, September 7.

Size of Regionals	Number of Registered Teams
8 teams	16 or fewer teams
10 teams	17-20 teams
12 teams	21-24 teams
16 teams	25 or more teams

Auto bids - The number of auto bids per region is equal to 50% of the total bids available after regional scaling. If there are an odd number of bids, there will be one more auto bid than strength bids. All sections with at least one team registered for the Postseason will receive at least one auto bid to Regionals. Regional auto bids will be awarded first to the section with the greatest team count based on the Team Registration Deadline. The next bid will be awarded to the section with the second highest team count and so on until all auto bids have been awarded.

Strength bids – The number of strength bids per section is equal to 50% of the total bids available after regional scaling. If there are an odd number of bids, there will be one more auto bid than strength bids.

- Team Strength Bids - Team Strength bids to Regionals will be awarded to the section with the "next" highest ranked team that is participating in the postseason, based on regular season rankings for results through Sunday, August 28, where "next" describes one more bid than the section has already been awarded up to that point. (For example: a section with four bids and a section with two bids will compare their fifth and third ranked teams, respectively, for a Team Strength Bid).
- Sections may earn more than one Team Strength Bid. All strength bids will be awarded as Team Strength Bids unless the region does not have enough ranked teams.
- Sectional Strength Bids - If all ranked teams have been assigned Strength Bids and there are still additional bids to be assigned, average power rating of the ranked teams who are participating in the Postseason will be considered.

Wait List Bids – If, after all Sectionals have been completed, a team turns down its bid to Regionals, the bid will be offered to another team from the region as follows:

- The next highest finishing, non-qualifying team from each section will be compared to one another. The team with the highest final regular season ranking will be awarded the next bid. This process will be repeated until all bids have been awarded.

For further clarification, see the below scenarios:

If...	Then...
The next highest finishing, non-qualifying team in a section is an unranked team	That team will take on the ranking of the next highest finishing ranked team below it.
There are no ranked teams left in a section,	Wait list bids will be awarded to teams from other sections.
Bids are still available and there are only unranked teams in the section	Bids will be awarded in order of average section strength (highest to lowest) until all bids have been awarded.
A team drops out less than one week prior to the tournament	The Regional Coordinator may accelerate the above process by shortening response times and immediately contacting all potential replacement teams.
The vacant bid has not been filled five days prior to the tournament	The Regional Coordinator may award the bid or reduce the size of regionals at his/her discretion with the approval of the division's National Director.

WOMEN'S DIVISION ONLY

In an effort to provide more valuable playing opportunities for women's division teams, for the women's division in regions with up to 16 teams, all teams will be invited to the regional tournament. For regions with more than 16 teams, 16 teams will be invited.

(2) Regionals to Nationals

16 bids will be available in each of the men's, mixed and women's divisions. Bids will be allocated to regions as outlined below using a combination of automatic and strength bids.

- Auto Bids – Each region will receive one automatic bid.
- Strength Bids – After auto bids have been awarded, remaining bids will be based on the ranking of teams in each region in the final Regular Season Rankings, as outlined below:
 - Team Strength - All Strength Bids will be awarded to regions with the "next" highest ranked team that is participating in the postseason, where "next" describes one more bid than the region has already been awarded up to that point. For example, a region

with two bids and a region with three bids will compare their third and fourth ranked teams, respectively, for a Team Strength Bid.

- A region may earn multiple Team Strength Bids.

d) Rules

(1) 2022 Rules

All games will be played using the current edition of the [USA Ultimate Official Rules of Ultimate](#). Any changes to these rules must be pre-approved by the USA Ultimate Competition Committee. Any experimental changes authorized by USA Ultimate for use during the postseason will be outlined in this section of the guidelines and communicated to team and event organizers prior to the start of the regular season.

Teams participating in the National Championships will be required to have a representative from their team take and successfully pass a rules quiz. The quiz will cover basic rules questions, cap rules and observer applications. Completion of this quiz is mandatory for all teams attending the 2022 National Championships.

(2) Game Length Minimums

All games at sanctioned USA Ultimate events must meet the minimum point and time-based requirements (each game must have been initially set to be, at minimum, to 11 points and 60 minutes in length).

NEVER report an inaccurate score. Doing so will result in game disqualifications and other appropriate sanctions.

- If a game is a forfeiture, do NOT put the score in as 13-0 or 15-0. You must inform the TD and report a W/F
- As a general rule, USA Ultimate prohibits the forfeiting of scheduled games during the regular season. Please see the section on Forfeit Rules for more information.

Games under the aforementioned minimums are subject to USA Ultimate and Competition Working Group review.

Requests to shorten any game must be approved by the event manager/TD and should still meet the minimum requirements mentioned above.

(3) Forfeit Rule

A team must play all its games at a "qualifying" tournament in order to advance to the next tournament in the Postseason Series:

- A team that forfeits a postseason game is disqualified for the remainder of the postseason.

- Any team that declines to finish a scheduled game or games, or attempts to decide a match by any manner other than playing ultimate on the field, will forfeit those games. Should both teams in a match choose not to play, then it will be considered a double forfeit.
- At the discretion of the events USA Ultimate coordinator, consideration may be given to situations that might warrant an exception being made, provided it does not affect the fairness or integrity of the competition.
- Consideration should be given if a team misses the first game of the first day because of travel problems.

If one team is not ready to play at game-time, points may be assessed at a rate of one (1) point per five (5) minutes. Under these conditions, if the score of the game reaches 8-0, the team that has failed to signal readiness will technically forfeit the game.

A team will be considered to have forfeited any game where the number of players that can safely participate falls below the minimum requirement set by the competition minimums above.

Exceptions: In the following cases, outlined in the [Formats Manual](#), a scheduled game at a Postseason event may be left unplayed.

Case 1

- It is the last game of the tournament for both teams.
- Both teams are guaranteed to advance to the next stage of (or have already been eliminated from) the postseason.
- Neither of the teams wishes to play the game.

If ALL of the above conditions are met, then the game may be left unplayed. The final placement of the teams will be determined based on their current standing in the format.

Case 2

- It is the last game of the tournament for both teams.
- The teams have played twice already in the tournament and one team has a 2-0 record against the other team.
- Either one of the teams does not wish to play the game.
- The team with the 2-0 record will be placed above the other team in the final tournament rankings.

e) *Eligibility*

(1) Geographic Eligibility

At least 50% of the players on a team's roster must reside in the section in which that team will compete.

At least 75% of the players on a team's Season Roster must reside in the region in which that team will compete.

A team can roster no more than five (5) out-of-region players on its Postseason (Championship Series) roster.

"Residence" is defined as meeting **both** of the below criteria:

- Location where the person is living for the majority of September and October, **and**
- Location where the person is living for the majority of either the three months prior to September 1 or immediately following October 31.

If the above definition means that a player does not have a region as their "residence," then the player is considered to be an out-of-region player and counts towards a team's out-of-region limits (maximum of five and no more than 25% of the roster).

If a regional boundary divides a metropolitan area, a team based in that metropolitan area may request an exception for players living in that metropolitan area to count as in-region for that team. In order for an exception to be granted, a player and team must establish that the player is part of the local community in which the team is based. Players must receive exception approval **prior to participation with the team at a regular season event**. To request this exception, email your National Director.

Sectional and Regional boundaries are available on the USA Ultimate [website](#).

(2) Gender Division Eligibility

USA Ultimate will not discriminate on the basis of gender identity, regardless of sex assigned at birth, or any other form of gender expression for whether an athlete matches up against a woman-matching or man-matching player of the opposing team during any given point.

We affirm that people of all gender identities should have the freedom to match up on the field and participate in USA Ultimate sanctioned or championship series events in the division in which they feel most comfortable and safe based on their gender identity and should be recognized, respected and included at every level of the sport.

Teams that are found to have violated the letter or spirit of this policy, or whose behavior undermines the competition structure (e.g. misrepresenting the composition of a team at a specific event, misrepresenting the composition of a team over the course of the season, intentionally playing with ineligible players, intentionally misrepresenting gender for mixed on-field personnel ratio, etc.) will be subject to

ramifications as outlined in "Violations and Sanctions." Roster violations should be reported to the Manager of Competition and National Team Programs at clubmanager@usultimate.org.

- In their USA Ultimate membership account, every athlete should select the gender identity option that best aligns with their gender identity. When registering for a USA Ultimate sanctioned or championship series event, athletes should select to participate in the division in which they feel most comfortable and safe based on their indicated gender identity.
 - Players who select Man (cis or trans) as their gender identity option are eligible to compete in men's divisions or as a man-matching player in mixed divisions.
 - Players who select Woman (cis or trans) as their gender identity option are eligible to compete in men's or women's divisions, or as a woman-matching player in mixed divisions.
 - Players who select the Non-Binary or Prefer to Self-Report gender identity option are eligible to compete in the division in which they feel most comfortable and safe, as per USA Ultimate's [Gender Inclusion Policy](#).
 - *Note: For those who select Prefer to Self-Report, there is a fill-in option to provide additional information regarding your gender identity. This is for internal educational purposes only and will not be shared.*
- On-field personnel ratio rules for the mixed division are described below in the Mixed Division On-field Personnel Ratio section of the Competition Guidelines, and will be held to the same policies of gender inclusion.

(3) Mixed Division On-Field Personnel Ratio

The personnel ratio for the mixed division of the Triple Crown Tour regular season and postseason will be 4/3 (four man-matching and three woman-matching or four woman-matching and three man-matching).

Determining the ratio - At the start of each game after the first disc flip, an additional disc flip happens with the winner selecting which end zone is the "genzone." At the start of each point, the team that is at the genzone must choose the gender ratio. This process applies for the entire game (the "Genzone Decides Rule").

If a team cannot match the on-field personnel ratio of all seven players on the team determining the personnel ratio for the point, then it must play with fewer than seven players, matching the personnel ratio with as many players as possible.

Injury timeouts - In the event of an injury timeout where a player leaves the field, the replacing player must maintain the same personnel ratio as was with the injured player.

If a team replaces players, the opposing team has the option of substituting a like number of, or fewer players.

- The replacing player(s) must maintain the same personnel ratio as was with the player(s) they replace.
- If a team calls an injury timeout but does not have a replacement player of the same to maintain the same personnel ratio as was with the injured player, it may not replace that player and must play fewer than seven players.

(4) Roster Maximums and Minimums

Maximums – Teams may have a maximum of 26 players on their postseason event roster.

Minimums – Teams must have a minimum of 10 players on their postseason event roster.

- For mixed teams, the event roster must include at least five woman-matching and five man-matching players.

Competition Minimums – Competition Minimums are set for the safety of our teams. A team must have seven players to start a game, and a team must have five to continue playing at any point. If a team cannot field five players, the game is a forfeit.

f) Formats

Sectionals and Regionals - Formats will be determined by coordinators using USA Ultimate guidelines in the USA Ultimate [Formats Manual](#), with updates provided by the Formats Working Group in alignment with guidance from the Medical Working Group. Any variations must be approved through the National Division Director. Contact your [Sectional or Regional Coordinator](#) for information.

Nationals - Formats will be determined and announced by USA Ultimate, and will be based on competitive, promotional, and logistical considerations. Additional changes may be made if determined by USA Ultimate to be necessary to meet goals for the event.

g) Seeding

Seeding for Sectionals, Regionals and Nationals will be done by the event coordinator using the following information: results prior to the postseason (e.g., head to head, common opponents, etc.) with an emphasis on official regular season results and regular season rankings, input solicited from all the captains of participating teams, results of the prior year's season, and other applicable information.

Regionals will additionally be held to the following guideline: no team that finishes ahead of another team at sectionals may be seeded behind that team at regionals.



The Nationals Championships will additionally be held to the following guideline: the order of finish at regionals will be strongly considered in determining seeding for nationals, but will not be binding.

Seeding for any postseason event must be approved by the next coordinator in the chain of command. If the USA Ultimate coordinators for the event and their immediate supervisor are affiliated with the same team (player, coach, alum, etc.) seeding must be approved by the next highest unaffiliated USA Ultimate coordinator or staff.

-END-