



Coaches Corner  
Issue #2  
2/12/09



**WHERE IN THE RUGBY  
WORLD IS SCRANTON?**

USA RUGBY, USARFU, MARFU, EPRU, EPRRS

To the uninitiated, the many layers of Rugby Hierarchy and the initialed abbreviations for those organizations can be confusing in their own right, let alone to understanding where the University of Scranton fits in.

First, a primer on the terms: ([Click to view the map](#))

-**UNION** – Describes the various geographic areas in which Rugby Clubs are based

-**USA RUGBY** – The governing organization of all rugby activities in the United States

-**USARFU** – United States of America Rugby Football Union, usually associated with the US National Team when playing International Teams

-**MARFU** - Middle Atlantic Rugby Football Union, one of 7 territorial unions combining local unions in a common geographic area

-**EPRU** – Eastern Pennsylvania Rugby Union – The local union to which University of Scranton is a Member Club. Within the EPRU there are 89 member clubs (plus 44 H.S. boys and 23 H.S. girls) categorized in the following divisions:

**Divisions:**

Men's Division 1 & Division 2 Clubs  
Men's Division 3 Clubs  
Women's Club  
Men's College Division 1  
Men's College Division 2

Men's College Division 3 & Social  
Women's College  
High School Boys  
High School Girls  
U15 Boys

This number of clubs and divisions is fairly typical of the (38) local area unions within the (7) territorial unions.

-**EPRRS** – Eastern Pennsylvania Rugby Referees Society is the organization of Certified Referees assigned to sanctioned matches in the EPRU

## **EPRU MEN'S COLLEGIATE D2**

The University of Scranton Men's Rugby Club is a full member of Men's Collegiate Division 2 (D2) of the EPRU. There are 14 D2 Collegiate teams in the EPRU. There are 35 college men's teams. ([Click to view "Men's College Clubs"](#)).

Competitive, Sanctioned, Union Competition occurs during Fall seasons from September through early November, followed by playoffs to determine division winners within the EPRU; the following Spring the local union winners participate in Territorial Union Playoff competition, in our case the MARFU Playoffs. Winning these playoffs advances clubs onward to National Championship Playoffs.

Clubs who do not play in Spring Regional Playoff Competition generally schedule clubs from other unions in matches with no bearing on standings; these matches are known as "Friendlies".

In the Fall of 2009, The Scranton Norsemen will compete in EPRU Men's Colligate D2 Competition. There will be two 7 team brackets. The champion of each bracket will advance to EPRU Playoffs, with teams 3 thru 6 advancing as well based upon win/loss and point system. The eventual D2 winner will move onto the MARFU Playoffs in spring 2010 ([Click to view "MARFU Clubs"](#))

**IT IS THE GOAL OF THE SCRANTON NORSEMEN TO BE EPRU D2 CHAMPIONS IN FALL 2009 AND TO REPRESENT THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON ON A QUEST FOR THE NATIONAL D2 CHAMPIONSHIP IN SPRING 2010.**

## **EPRU D2 COLLEGIATE MEN'S ELIGIBILITY**

Starting in the Fall of 2009, D2 will be organized into two 7 team brackets. ([Click to view 2009 EPRU D2/D3 Coaches Meetings](#)) Criteria for inclusion in D2 include 5 requirements:

1. Club must have school support ([Click to view rule #1 in USA Rugby Policy](#))
2. Coaching Status – Stable – Full Time USA Rugby Certified
3. Roster Numbers must support (2) full 15 man squads with reserves
4. There are no discipline issues with either the school or the union
5. Team must be consistently competitive

If a Club / Team does not meet these criteria, Club will be delegated to D3 (Generally because of low roster numbers or poor competitive performance) or D4 Social.

The University of Scranton is in compliance with the 5 criteria for D2 Men's Collegiate Eligibility.

## **ATTACHMENTS WITH THIS ISSUE:**

1. EPRU Men's College Clubs Listings (3 pages)
2. EPRU Men's College Club Rules (6 pages)
3. USA Rugby Master Map (1 page)
4. MARFU Member Clubs (2 pages)
5. MARFU Alcoholic Beverages Policy (2 pages)
6. Agenda 2009 EPRU D2/D3 Coaches Meeting (11 Pages)

This is a lot of information; nevertheless it is the background of where The University of Scranton Men's Rugby Club, The Scranton Norsemen, fit within the Rugby world.