



August 29, 2014

Dear Mr. Tackett,

USA Football requests an official interpretation on Kentucky's eligibility rules as they pertain to our 2015 U.S. National Football Team competitions and the participation of athletes from your state. In particular, USA Football seeks to obtain an official response from your state association whether you will permit athletes between seventh and twelfth grades to play for the U.S. National Team in international competitions sanctioned by the International Federation of American Football and National Team training programs without jeopardizing these athletes' high school eligibility. Contained within this request are worksheets that explain each event and asks for your state association's response.

USA Football's goal in building the U.S. National Team program is to provide athletes with a consistent pathway to train and develop each year with the opportunity to compete on behalf of the United States. As USA Football is building the program, our hope is that athletes can progress throughout the program and compete for the United States on a continual basis. The ideal scenario would be that an athlete tries out for the U.S. National Team at a Regional Development Camp in the spring; trains with USA Football over the summer through the National Team Development program, competes in February against Canada in the International Bowl and then represents the United States in the IFAF World Championship or IFAF America's Championship in July.

As USA Football builds the U.S. National Team program it is our goal to create a four to five year experience for the athletes who participate as opposed to a one-time event. USA Football has worked with many state associations to permit athletes to represent the United States in international competitions and National Team training programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any additional questions you can contact me directly at gshea@usafootball.com or 732-991-9636. I look forward to your response.

Best Regards,

Garrett Shea
Senior Director, U.S. National Teams
USA Football

USA FOOTBALL – U.S. NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM

CONTACT: GARRETT SHEA - FAX: 609-228-5802 - PHONE: 609-619-3214 – EMAIL: GSHEA@USAFOOTBALL.COM

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USA Football Request for Participation

PLEASE COMPLETE PAGES 2 - 6 AND FAX: 609-228-5802 OR SCAN & EMAIL BACK TO GSHEA@USAFOOTBALL.COM

Your Name: _____

Your Email: _____

Your State Association: _____

USA Football utilizes numerous events/programs within the U.S. National Team program. We seek your state association's interpretation of each event as we look towards 2015. The following pages provide a top-level explanation of each event and provides you with the opportunity to provide your state association's response.

Would you like USA Football to check in annually on these questions?

_____ Yes, we would like USA Football to check in each year to revisit their events

_____ No, we do not prefer to have USA Football to check in each year to revisit events that we have granted permission for our athletes to attend. We will inform USA Football if these rules change.

USA Football and the U.S. National Football Team Program

USA Football selects National Teams by age, ranging from Under 14 to Under 19 as well as a Men's National Team (20 and older) made up of current NCAA players and recently graduating NCAA players. These teams represent the United States of America in international competitions sanctioned by the International Governance of American Football, International Federation of American Football (IFAF) and USA Football as the National Governing Body of the sport. The U.S. National Teams program features competitions against national teams from around the world, and World Championship competitions. Players are identified and selected for the U.S. National Teams through a series of camps in the spring and summer. Athletes unable to attend the try-out camps can apply online to be considered for the National Team.

In July 2014, USA Football's Under-19 National Team represented the United States in Kuwait for the 2014 IFAF World Championship. The U.S. Under-19 National Team made up of graduating high school seniors, current NCAA players and coaches captured the Gold Medal for the United States. This was a tremendous program for the international development of the sport and provided the opportunity for our players and coaches to represent the United States on a world stage.

Official International competitions are played under IFAF rules and regulations which are similar to those of the NCAA. Depending on the program, USA Football will either cover the athlete's necessary and actual expenses (housing, transportation, meals, etc.) or charge athletes a registration fee which covers these expenses.

USA Football is the National Governing Body of the sport as recognized by the NCAA, NFHS and IFAF (International Federation of American Football). In December of 2013, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) officially recognized American Football as a sport. Now that the IOC recognizes American football as a sport, the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) is now able to recognize football as a sport and consequently, USA Football as the National Governing Body of the sport. USA Football is currently going through the process to finalize this appointment with the USOC. As football's governing body, USA Football fields and manages the U.S. National Football Team program.

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COMPETITION #1 - 2015 International Bowl – Arlington, Texas

January/February 2015 – U.S. National Team vs. Canada

11th grade and below athletes will be required to pay a registration fee to assist in covering the costs of the event, lodging, food, and apparel. Scholarships or financial aid may be provided for athletes who are in need.

A four-night/five-day event that takes place in January and February, 2015 and offers athletes the chance to train, develop and represent the United States in official International Competition against Canada. Each team features current NCAA coaches and/or HS Coaches. Majority of practices are “Shells” or “Uppers” featuring helmets and shoulder pads. Athletes will learn Heads Up Football (player health and safety program)

Competitions during the week include a Jamboree and official international games at the conclusion of the week. Games and Jamborees will be played at Dallas Cowboy’s AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. Games will be official IFAF and USAFB sanctioned games. Games and Jamborees will be ticketed events.

- **Week 1 – January 27 – January 31, 2015:** Under-18 (11th graders class of 2016); Under-17 (10th graders class of 2017); Under-16 (9th graders class of 2018); Under-15 (8th graders class of 2019); Under-14 (7th/8th graders class of 2020)
- **Week 2 - February 2 – February 7, 2015:** Under-19 (12th graders class of 2015)

Will permit currently enrolled 9th – 11th graders with HS eligibility to have the opportunity to compete on behalf of the United States in official international football competitions?

_____ Yes _____ No

Will permit currently enrolled 7th – 8th graders with to have the opportunity to compete on behalf of the United States in official international football competitions?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ Not Applicable

Explanation if needed: _____



COMPETITION #2 - 2015 North American Challenge – Austin, Texas

January 17 - 21, 2015 – U.S. Developmental Teams vs. Canada or Mexico

Similar to the International Bowl event structure, however the U.S. Teams will be National Development Teams that will compete against teams representing Football Canada. These competitions will allow U.S. athletes the opportunity to compete for their country while continuing to strive to make the official U.S. National Team at their age group. All attendees will be required to pay a registration fee to assist in covering the costs of the event, lodging, food, and apparel. Scholarships or financial aid may be provided for athletes who are in need. Each team features current NCAA coaches and/or HS Coaches. Majority of practices are “Shells” or “Uppers” featuring helmets and shoulder pads. Athletes will learn Heads Up Football (player health and safety program)

Competitions during the week include a Jamboree and official international games at the conclusion of the week. Games will be official IFAF and USAFB sanctioned games. Games and Jamborees will be ticketed events.

Will permit currently enrolled 9th – 11th graders with HS eligibility to have the opportunity to compete on behalf of the United States in official international football competitions?

_____ Yes _____ No

Will permit currently enrolled 7th – 8th graders with to have the opportunity to compete on behalf of the United States in official international football competitions?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ Not Applicable

Explanation if needed: _____



**COMPETITION #3 - 2015 IFAF Under-18 America's Championship – Canton, OH
July, 2015 – U.S. National Team will compete in two games as part of the tournament**

A ten-day program that takes place June 26 – July 4, 2015 featuring four (4) countries (U.S.; Canada; Mexico and TBD). USA Football will field one U.S. Under-18 National Team (Athletes who just completed their 11th grade season and will be Rising 12th graders). The U.S. Under-18 National Team will train and prepare for the 4 country tournament and will play Mexico on July 1, 2015 and the winner of Canada vs. TBD on July 4, 2015 in official IFAF and USAFB sanctioned games. USA Football has not determined if we will be able to cover the costs for the event for players or if we will require athletes to pay a registration fee.

Each team features current NCAA coaches and/or HS Coaches. Majority of practices are “Shells” or “Uppers” featuring helmets and shoulder pads. Athletes will learn Heads Up Football (player health and safety program)

U.S. National Team will compete in two official international games. Games will be official IFAF and USAFB sanctioned games. Games will be ticketed events.

Will permit currently enrolled 10th or 11th graders (Rising 11th and 12th graders) with HS eligibility to have the opportunity to compete on behalf of the United States in official international football competitions?

_____ Yes _____ No

Explanation if needed: _____



COMPETITION #4 – 2016 IFAF Under-19 World Championship

July, 2016 – U.S. National Team will compete in two games as part of the tournament

A twelve-country tournament hosted by IFAF approximately from July 4 - 18. We are anticipating that the event will take place in Mexico, however if Mexico is unable to host the event, it will be hosted in the United States.

USA Football is currently evaluating several possibilities as to the participant age groups, thus we opted to provide all ages that we are considering. The U.S. Under-19 National Team may be made up of athletes rising 12th graders or rather athletes who just completed their 11th grade class year as well as rising college freshmen and potentially rising college sophomores. The event has been hosted in 2009 (Canton, OH), 2012 (Austin, TX) and 2014 (Kuwait City, Kuwait). The U.S. National Team will compete in four (4) games in July against other countries National Teams. Games will be officially sanctioned by IFAF and USAFB.

Each team features current NCAA coaches and/or HS Coaches. Majority of practices are “Shells” or “Uppers” featuring helmets and shoulder pads. Athletes will learn Heads Up Football (player health and safety program)

U.S. National Team will compete in four official international games. Games will be official IFAF sanctioned games. Games will be ticketed events.

Will permit currently enrolled 10th or 11th graders (Rising 11th and 12th graders) with HS eligibility to have the opportunity to compete on behalf of the United States in official international football competitions?

_____ Yes _____ No

Explanation if needed: _____



TRAINING EVENT #1 - 2015 U.S. National Team Development Games (Summer Tackle Football Camp)
July, 2015 – U.S. National Team Tackle Football Camp

A five-night/six-day tackle football camp that takes place in four locations (East, West, Southwest and Midwest) in July, 2015 and offers athletes the chance to train, develop and try-out for the National Team. A registration fee is charged to all athletes who attend. Scholarships or financial aid is offered for athletes who are in need.

Each event features current NCAA coaches and HS Coaches. Majority of practices are “Shells” or “Uppers” featuring helmets and shoulder pads. Athletes are selected to attend based on their participation at Regional Development Camps (2 day non-contact camps) or through an online application process in the event athletes cannot attend the Regional Camps due to geographic restrictions or scheduling issues.

Designed as a developmental camp with the #1 priority being skill development and training; #2 goal is to provide competitions to allow athletes to compete and showcase their skill development; #3 evaluate athletes for the U.S. National Team or Development Teams who will compete internationally. USA Football integrates “games” or competitions throughout the week to inspire competition and showcase the skills the athletes learn. Wednesday Night features 7 on 7; Thursday night Jamboree; and Saturday scrimmages. Scrimmages are modified games that do not feature live special teams and have modified rules to ensure development. Throughout the week athletes are taught Heads Up Football tackling techniques, undergo Impact tests, receive concussion education and are taught how to properly fitted with their equipment.

All practices and “games” are open to the public/parents/family members and no admission is charged for attendance. For jamborees and scrimmages full equipment is used. Based on the attendance numbers at the camp, USA Football staff uses their discretion for the length of the competitions and the rules that will be used based on skill level and attendee numbers with the goal of ensuring that all athletes receive ample competition time. USA Football offers athletes who cannot bring their own equipment the opportunity to use USA Football’s shoulder pads and other equipment.

Will permit currently enrolled 9th – 11th graders with HS eligibility to have the opportunity to compete on behalf of the United States in official international football competitions?

_____ Yes _____ No

Will permit currently enrolled 7th – 8th graders with to have the opportunity to compete on behalf of the United States in official international football competitions?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ Not Applicable

Explanation if needed: _____

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