



High Performance Committee Re-organization

Performance Game Board

The defunct High Performance Committee is to be reorganized as a *Performance Game Board* to better support/advise the CEO/Board in the creation and delivery of strategy for performance men’s and women’s rugby in the United States.

“Performance” relates to all players, coaches, administrators, referees, competitions, training environments, academies, and teams that lead to all-star play, national team pipelines, to national programs, and to endeavors that increase the awareness and future success of USA Rugby’s place in World Rugby and the Olympics.

For clarity, current teams/competitions that would be included in Performance/High-Performance are:

Senior Women	Eagles				WPL	
Senior Men	Eagles	Selects	Professional comp		Elite-Men	
Senior 7s	Eagle 7s	Falcons	NDA	Club 7s Nat’ls	Club 7s Qualifiers	
College Women	CAAs			NCAA	Elite-Women	
College Men	CAAs			D1A/VC		
Age-Grade	US U20s			HSAAs	JR NDA	RCT Teams

The Performance Game Board has been created to serve the following purposes:

1. To support/advise the CEO in the creation and delivery of a strategy for performance men’s and women’s rugby
2. To facilitate development pathways between amateur, performance, professional, and high performance levels of the game.
3. To harmonize scheduling structures for the development of performance players and competitions.
4. To protect player welfare as players transition to and between performance levels of the game.
5. To ensure a symbiotic relationship between performance college, performance club, professional club, and high performance / elite programs and competitions.
6. To monitor and make recommendations regarding coaching and training environments for performance players and programs.
7. To instill performance indicators for athletes and programs.
8. To make recommendations to other levels of the game regarding scheduling, standards, and development.
9. To empower representatives and their working groups to manage national and regional competitions at their respective levels, including the rules and regulations of such competitions.

An express goal of the Performance Game Board will be to establish standards for performance competition entry, followed by invitations to programs that both meet the standards associated with and choose to compete in those competitions.





The Performance Game Board shall be composed of a Chair, who shall be the General Manager of High Performance, and s/he will oversee the selection of committee members who will represent all areas of the performance game. The Chair has the authority to co-opt experts to the Performance Game Board on a temporary basis to assist in matters such as Health and Safety, Medical matters and/or other areas where expertise is required, including but not exclusive to national teams coaches, staff, and consultants.

The committee must include 20% international athlete representation as stated in the USA Rugby bylaws. The CEO and/or that person's nominee (i.e. General Manager of Performance) shall be a member of the Performance Game Board and will provide the secretariat.

Each selected representative is to chair a working group of other experts to manage competitions within their designated area. Representatives will work with USA Rugby to populate the membership of the working groups. Working groups should be an odd number of representatives with ideally no more than 5 members.

The Performance Game Board will have a monthly call, and endeavor to meet in person at least once per year.

The chair shall vote in the case of a tie and shall have power to veto decisions and suggestions made by individual working groups. Additionally, a two-thirds majority of the board may override a chair's veto or issue a veto itself.

As such, the Performance Game Board shall include:

1. The Chair (General Manager, National Teams & Performance)
2. A selected representative from women's performance club competitions
3. A selected representative from women's performance college competitions
4. A selected representative from men's performance club competitions
5. A selected representative from men's performance college competitions
6. A selected representative from performance senior Seven-a-side rugby
7. A selected representative from performance high school rugby
8. A selected representative from the USA Rugby Club Strategic Committee
9. One female international athlete
10. One male international athlete

Ex officio:

11. The Senior Events Manager, Competitions (ex officio)
12. The USA Rugby Medical Director (ex officio)
13. The USA Rugby 7s Referee Manager (ex officio)

Advisors:

14. USOC High-Performance Director (Advisor)
15. World Rugby High-Performance Director (Advisor)



Pillar

Elite Women Senior
 Elite Men Senior
 Elite Women College
 Elite Men College
 Sevens
 HP Youth
 Female IA
 Male IA
 National Competitions Committee
 [Interim] Co-Chair
 [Interim] Co-Chair

Game Board Representative

Kitt Wagner Ruiz (WPL)
 Tony Nash (ARP)
 Katie Dowty (NIRA)
 Scott Lawrence (D1A)
 Steve Lewis (MCAA7, Club, NDA)
 Brendan Keane (BHSAA)
 Kelly Griffin (W7, NDA)
 Blaine Scully (MNT, USRPA)
 Margy Dessypris Thomas (NCC)
 Dave Hodges (GM-M15sNT)
 Emilie Bydwell (GM-WHP)

Working Groups for each pillar work with Performance Game Board representative to bring knowledge and issues to the Game Board for further deliberations and to provide cohesion between the pillars.

