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 Collegiate Coordinator's Report
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During the fall season there were 94 league matches scheduled by the ORU. This includes the D3 semi's and finals for the men and women.

The ORU advanced two teams to the MW D2 collegiate playoffs. The University of Cincinnati Men advanced as the ORU D2 Champion, and Ohio University Men advanced as the ORU D2 Runner-up. Both teams traveled to Michigan to play in the first round of the MW D2 collegiate play-offs. Unfortunately, neither team advanced to the final four.

In the D3 leagues, Wittenberg Men & Women claimed the title to ORU D3 Champions.

The format and schedule for the Fall 2005 season is finished. The competitive format is unchanged; however, there was some movement among teams and divisions. The league structure for 2005 is as follows:

2005 & 2006 Fall "League" Format			
<u>ORU D2 Men</u>		<u>ORU D2 Women</u>	
Kent State University - Men	1	Kent State University - Women	1
Marshall University - Men	2	University of Kentucky - Women	2
Miami University - Men	3	Miami University - Women	3
Ohio University - Men	4	Ohio University - Women	4
University of Cincinnati - Men	5	Denison University - Women	5
University of Dayton - Men	6	University of Dayton - Women	6
<u>ORU D3 Men - North</u>		<u>ORU D3 Women - North</u>	
Ashland University - Men	1	Ashland University - Women	1
Denison University - Men	2	Wooster College - Women	2
Ohio Wesleyan University - Men	3	Ohio Wesleyan University - Women	3
Ohio State University C-side	4	Oberlin College - Women	4
Ohio Northern University - Men	5	Ohio Northern University - Women	5
John Carroll University - Men	6	John Carroll University - Women	6
Kenyon College - Men	7	Kenyon College - Women	7
Hiram College - Men	8	Hiram College - Women	8
Cleveland State University - Men	9	Bye	9
<u>ORU D3 Men - South</u>		<u>ORU D3 Women - South</u>	
Eastern Kentucky University - Men	1	Eastern Kentucky University - Women	1
Ohio University C-side	2	Marshall University - Women	2
Wittenberg University - Men	3	Wittenberg University - Women	3
Xavier University - Men	4	Xavier University - Women	4
Wright State University - Men	5	Wright State University - Women	5
University of Kentucky - Men	6	Antioch College - Women	6
Bye	7	Muskingum University - Women	7

The league structure includes teams that are questionable. Kenyon & Hiram men have been perennial shadow-teams. Similarly, there are a few women's teams that have had organizational and rugby-commitment problems. To cure these problems, the following policy is in effect: **Any collegiate team that knowingly plays ANY non-CIPP compliant club will be removed from the competitive format.** There is a process for teams to properly affiliate to USA Rugby and the local and territorial governing bodies. All teams must follow this process. **No exceptions.**

The league schedule is drawn up on a 2-year cycle. Each team will play opponents in its division/conference once. If a team hosts during year one, they travel to the same team in year two. Over the two-year cycle, the number of home games v. away games balances.

The following format information is provided. These matrices outline a 6-team and 8-team conference, respectively.

Odd Year Schedule		Odd Year Schedule	
1	H-A-H-A-H	1	H-A-H-A-H-A-H
2	A-H-A-H-H	2	A-A-H-A-A-H-H
3	H-H-A-H-A	3	H-H-A-H-A-H-A
4	A-H-A-A-H	4	A-H-A-H-A-H-H
5	H-A-H-H-A	5	H-H-A-H-H-A-A
6	A-A-H-A-A	6	A-H-A-H-A-A-H
		7	H-A-H-A-H-H-A
		8	A-A-H-A-H-A-A

In order to assure safe and fair play, all collegiate teams must have a **minimum of 20 CIPP compliant PLAYERS** on their roster. All D2 collegiate teams must have a minimum of **25 CIPP compliant PLAYERS**. These athletes **MUST** be enrolled and attending classes during the fall season. **Failure to meet these roster requirements will disqualify a collegiate team from play-off competition.** This policy is in place to ensure player safety.

USA Rugby requires a minimum of 15 CIPP compliant members to create a team. The more stringent requirement of the ORU is based upon my years of experience working with collegiate rugby programs. Players get injured and/or have other responsibilities the take priority over rugby. Nonetheless, teams have obligations to play all scheduled fixtures. By forcing teams to recruit more than the USA Rugby minimum, the likelihood of forfeited matches and/or playing short is reduced.

However, there will be occasions when teams do travel short. Therefore, for any league match, a team must field its own players, and the minimum number of players required to start a collegiate league match is twelve (12). Any team that plays a non-CIPP compliant athlete, or that plays an athlete affiliated to another club **automatically forfeits the match.** This shall include B-side matches.

The practice of "borrowing" players may occur **only** if both teams agree that the official match score is 5-0; the team borrowing players must forfeit. Teams should be aware that points scored for, points scored against, and point differentials are metrics used to determine playoff seeding. All decisions must be made **before** the start of play, and these decisions are final.

Collegiate teams should be aware that CIPP-compliance violations during non-league play will result in the same sanctions. The playing of ineligible and/or non-registered players is a

violation of legal and safety policies established for the benefit of all rugby participants, and these violations will be dealt with severely.

Another area of concern is referee abuse. There were several incidents of referee abuse with the ORU collegiate community as well as elsewhere in the Midwest. As a result of these indiscretions by players, coaches, and spectators, the following ORU collegiate policy is established:

Incidents of referee abuse will be dealt with harshly. Referees are tasked with managing a rugby match in a safe and fair manner. In accordance with the laws of the game of rugby, the "...referee is the sole judge of fact and of Law during a match." (Law 6.A.5 (a)) Further, Law 6.A.6 states, "All players must respect the authority of the referee. They must not dispute the referee's decisions." By extension, these Laws apply to coaches and spectators. Therefore, if a player, or coach, or spectator is abusive in any manner toward a referee, the following MINIMUM sanctions shall be imposed:

- 1. For the first incident, the infringing team shall be placed on competitive probation for a minimum of nine months and shall be ineligible for post-season play (play-off advancement).**
- 2. For a second incident, the infringing team shall be placed on competitive probation for a minimum of 18 months, and during this period, shall be ineligible for post-season play (play-off advancement).**
- 3. For a third incident, the infringing team shall be suspended from play for a period of 30 months. The team will be excluded from all collegiate rugby programs in the ORU. Further, the team will be not-in-good-standing, and therefore ineligible to leave the ORU and attempt to join another Union.**

Incidents of referee abuse shall be investigated by the ORU Disciplinarian. Any team being investigated for referee abuse is automatically placed on competitive probation, but no sanctions shall be imposed until after the ruling of the ORU Disciplinarian.

In this instance, teams are guilty until proven innocent. Too often, referees are verbally abused, harassed, and harangued because individuals do not like the decisions of the referee. This must stop. All teams are guilty of this behavior, and within the ORU collegiate community, it will not be accepted. The measure of offensive behavior lies within the judgment of the victim. No two referees are the same; that one referee may choose to tolerate abusive conduct does not make the conduct acceptable.

ORU collegiate policies are being updated, and will be posted on the ORU website. Feel free to contact me with questions, concerns, or requests for additional information.

Finally, the ORU will sponsor a men's collegiate All-Star team. The goal is to take 30+ collegiate men to Nash Bash and 25 collegiate men to the MW collegiate All-Star tournament. The following dates are provided:

February 2005 – specific dates TBD: Training weekend(s) in Columbus, Ohio
March 2005 – specific date TBD: Scrimmage v. OSU Men
March 31 – April 2, 2005: Nash Bash, Nashville, Tennessee
April 8-10, 2005: MW LAU All-Star Tournament, Location TBD.