
Eligibility and Participation in UTSNZ Events

Introduction

The Eligibility and Participation in UTSNZ Events policy outlines the fundamentals and processes of tertiary institutions and individuals to participate in UTSNZ events. The policy includes:

1. Competitor Eligibility
2. Team Sports and Additional Teams
3. Breaches

Policy

1. Competitor Eligibility

To be eligible to compete in an UTSNZ event, for the duration of the event participants must meet the following five criteria (points 1.1 to 1.6):

- 1.1. Be a currently enrolled student.
 - A student who is enrolled in semester one is eligible to compete in an event falling in semester two of that calendar year.
 - A student under a designated exchange scheme between an overseas institution and a New Zealand tertiary institution is eligible.
 - A student who is enrolled for an award at one institution but is studying at another is said to be doing complementary work at the second institution and is only eligible to represent the institution at which the student is enrolled for an award.
- 1.2. Be enrolled in a certificate or higher award offered by a tertiary institution or by a recognised feeder school of the tertiary institution.
 - A 'certificate' is an award as defined by the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF) and is listed in the relevant legislation of the institution.
 - If a student is enrolled in a feeder school or bridging course that is aiding them to enter their first or second year at a tertiary institution to which the feeder school is associated, they are eligible to compete providing that feeder school /programme or bridging course is conducted by the tertiary institution. The student must have a relevant student identification number.
 - A feeder school is deemed to be a college or a school which has a partnership with a university/tertiary institution, and which offers courses that allow the student to gain minimum university/tertiary education requirements to gain admission to a full degree programme. These students must have an approved student identification number from the tertiary institution.
- 1.3. Be able to prove their identity and must be able to prove their enrolment if requested.
 - Competitors may be required to produce appropriate photographic identification prior to each competition.

- Should a competitor's eligibility be questioned, the competitor and the tertiary institution which this person is representing must be able to produce proof of their enrolment within 24 hours.
- 1.4. Have authorisation from the tertiary institution via the online registration process or eligibility form that the student is eligible to compete.
- When an eligibility form has been received and processed by the organiser of the UTSNZ event, eligibility is deemed to be finalised.
- 1.5. Have signed and submitted the UTSNZ participation agreement.
- All participants (competitors and management personnel) representing a tertiary institution at the UTSNZ event must complete, sign, and submit prior to the commencement of competition a UTSNZ participant agreement. Failure to provide this agreement prior to the commencement of the competition may result in the participant not being permitted to compete or participate in the UTSNZ event.
 - In addition, the organiser of the UTSNZ event may require that a tertiary institution provide details of management personnel (coaches, managers, or sports medicine personnel) and other details of the participants entering the competition.
- 1.6. Must be fully vaccinated against COVID19.
- All participants (competitors and management personnel) representing a tertiary institution at the UTSNZ event must be fully vaccinated against COVID19. It is the responsibility of the tertiary institution to check and confirm vaccination status at the time of registration. Failure to provide proof of vaccination prior to the commencement of the competition may result in the participant not being permitted to compete or participate in the UTSNZ event.

UTSNZ reserves the right to grant dispensation on any of the above criteria on a case-by-case basis and as appropriate. Any dispensations must however be approved prior to event registration. All tertiary institutions and participating teams are to be advised of any dispensations granted.

A person is not considered or ceases to be considered a currently enrolled student for the purposes of participating at a UTSNZ event, if the person:

- Immediately discontinues, suspends, or postpones study, or
- Is an enrolled student who is yet to commence study or recommence study after discontinuing, suspending, or postponing study.

Extenuating circumstances:

UTSNZ recognises that there may be extenuating circumstances where an elite athlete suspends or postpones study due to representing their country on the world stage of sport. An application for special eligibility status for an elite athlete wishing to compete at an UTSNZ regional or national competition may be submitted to the UTSNZ Executive Director by recognised tertiary institution for consideration. The conditions for successful consideration are that:

- The athlete has represented New Zealand.
- The reason for deferment was solely to represent New Zealand.
- There is intention to recommence study in the immediate future.
- The athlete competes in the same sport at an UTSNZ event that they represented New Zealand.
- The application includes a copy of the deferment information.

A completed eligibility or supplementary eligibility form is one which states:

- The gender specific sport for which the eligibility form applies, plus
- Each person's first name, surname and student ID number, course of study, plus
- The total number of persons listed, and
- Is signed/approved by the member institution's Executive Officer or his/her nominee.

2. Team Sports and Additional Teams

2.1. Each UTSNZ member tertiary institution is eligible to enter ONE team per event.

Where this impacts upon the competition draw, UTSNZ reserves the right to offer member institutions (or other non-member institutions tertiary institutions) the ability to field a second team (or team). Offers will be made as follows:

- Event host region will have first rights to field additional teams.
- Following the offer to the host region, if more team entries are required or available UTSNZ will call for Expressions of Interest. Expressions of interest will be collected, and teams will be drawn at random.
 - Expectation that other non-member tertiary institution teams or member 2nd teams consists of high calibre athletes with the ability to compete at the level required in the tournament.
 - Tertiary institutions will be required to name the participants of each team. Participants will only be eligible to compete for their named team, i.e., a participant named in a member tertiary institution's 2nd team will not be able to compete for that institutions 1st team and vice versa. There is no provision for players being allowed to 'play up' in UTSNZ competitions, i.e., 2nd team players cannot also play in their tertiary institution's 1st team.
 - Only athletes in a tertiary institution's 1st team will be available for tournament selection teams and event Shield points.
 - All tertiary institutions will need to enter any additional teams as per the registration requirements on or before the close of entries for each event.

2.2. Maximum squad size will apply to individual events. Quotas for each code are based on the size of the team on the field/court etc. at any one time and will be set in consultation with organisation responsible for each event.

2.3. All individual team members must meet the competitor eligibility criteria above, unless amendments to rules are explicitly stated for that event e.g., criteria may differ for a Tertiary Challenge event vs a National Tertiary Championship event.

2.4. UTSNZ reserves the right to amend the eligibility criteria for the betterment of any UTSNZ competition.

3. Penalties for Breaches of Eligibility

In a circumstance where it is discovered that a competitor within an UTSNZ event is found to be not eligible as outlined in this guideline, the following penalties will be implemented:

3.1. Person not eligible:

- Team sport: If a person listed or not listed on an entry eligibility form / certificate is subsequently found not to be eligible then the team which the person was to compete in, or did compete in, shall be disqualified from the competition.
- Individual sport: If a person listed or not listed on an entry eligibility form / certificate is subsequently found not to be eligible then that person shall be disqualified from the competition.

3.2. Person eligible but not listed on the eligibility form/certificate.

- Team sport with non-quantifiable contribution: If, in a team sport such as basketball, netball, football etc., where the contribution of an individual participant is not quantifiable, the team uses a person who is eligible but not listed on the eligibility form or plays someone using the name of someone else who is listed on the eligibility form, then the team shall forfeit* the game in which the breach was discovered and any other games in which the said player or person's name was recorded on a score/team sheet. * This forfeit will result in the team being relegated to the bottom of the pool.
- Team sport with quantifiable contribution: If, in the team sport such as tennis, squash etc., where the contribution of an individual participant is quantifiable, the team uses a person who is eligible but not listed on the eligibility form, then the team shall forfeit twice the number of rubbers in which the said player or person's name was recorded on a score/team sheet.
- Individual sport: If a person who is eligible but not listed on the eligibility form or a person who eligible but uses the name of someone else who is listed on the eligibility form, competes in a non-team event e.g., athletics, swimming, etc., then this person's result will be null and void and all other competitors will move up one place.

3.3. Intentional breach

- In a circumstance where a participant is not eligible to compete, and where a participant and/or member is believed to have intentionally breached this eligibility guideline, the participant will be disqualified from the competition and if the participant is within a team sport, the team will be disqualified from competition.
- In addition, an intentional breach will be viewed as bringing UTSNZ into disrepute and a breach of the UTSNZ Code of Behaviour may be submitted.

Policy Approval Information:

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