

Rugby

Sport's Governing Bodies: [National Intercollegiate Rugby Association](#) and [USA Rugby](#).

Season of competition: Fall (15s), many programs play sevens in the spring.

SPORT SPONSORSHIP BY DIVISION

	2023-24 SPORT SPONSORSHIP	2024-25 PROJECTED SPORT SPONSORSHIP
DIVISION I	10	10
DIVISION II	9	12
DIVISION III	8	9
TOTAL	27	31

Note: Sport sponsorship numbers as of October 2024 are derived from data submitted by NCAA member schools each year and are only as accurate as the information provided. The data are refreshed each fall and will remain static until the next annual release.

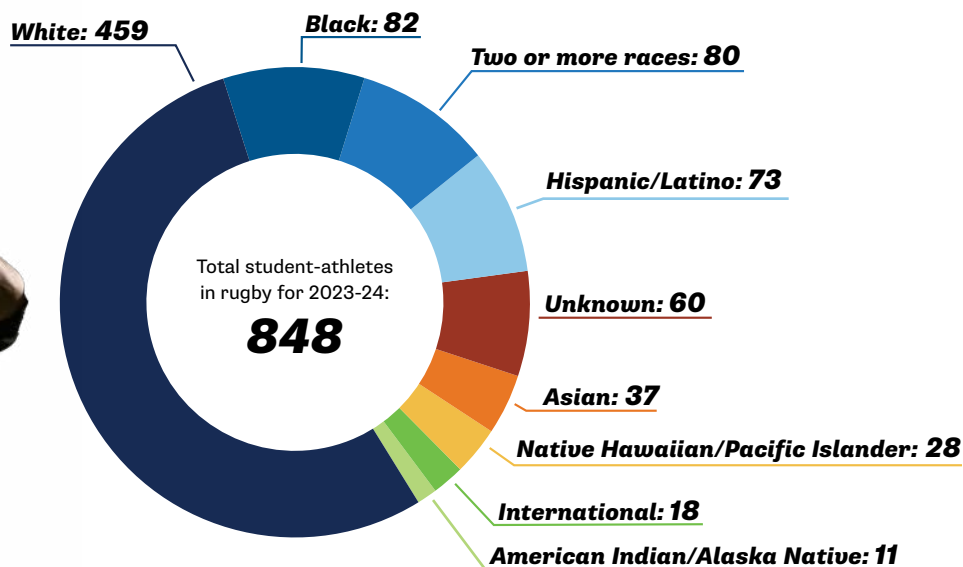


AVERAGE ROSTER REPORTED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY

The average roster sizes vary by division:

- Division I: 38.1 student-athletes.
- Division II: 33.6 student-athletes.
- Division III: 20.6 student-athletes.

STUDENT-ATHLETE DEMOGRAPHICS



Student-athlete demographics as of October 2024 are submitted by NCAA member schools to NCAA research.

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COMPETITION FORMAT

- Fifteens (15-a-side) is the World Cup format played primarily as a fall championship format.
- Sevens (seven-a-side) is the Olympic format, which is optionally played in the nonchampionship spring segment.

CHAMPIONSHIP STRUCTURE

- The top four teams in each division advance to the semifinals, with the highest seed hosting the tournament.
- Divisional winners are awarded at the joint divisional championships.

FACILITIES NEEDED

- A rugby field with synthetic turf is acceptable, but natural turf is preferred.
- For player welfare, a 5-meter runoff from the touchline is needed on the field.

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES

- Girls youth and high school participation saw a 12% year-over-year increase (2022-23 to 2023-24).
- Rugby prospects include student-athletes whose primary sport is rugby, along with those who also compete in soccer, basketball, football and wrestling.

Rugby is an NCAA Emerging Sport for Women. For more information about the program, visit ncaa.org/emerging-sports-for-women.

To learn more about rugby, visit nira.rugby and usa.rugby.



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