

Club Sport Tier Classifications Overview

The tier system is in place for a variety of reasons, including assisting the club sports administration with managing a dynamic club sports program, as well as establishing clear expectations for individual clubs and clearly defining what the club sports administration shall provide to each individual club and the general club membership. It is important to note that all clubs within the program receive priority access (compared to registered campus organizations with CLSI) to department managed facilities, have access to department funding, and have access to department staff including the Recreation Director and Recreation Assistant regardless of tier classification. The Department and its staff serve as the administrator of each club within the club sports program.

The Recreation Department for Club Sports Sport uses a tier classification system to allocate the Club Sports Funds (CSF) among all active clubs. The system consists of five tiers of club membership: Tier I, Tier II, Tier III, Tier IV and Tier V (Conditional Club). A club tier classification is established by level of competition, level of involvement with the campus and department, affiliations with regional/national organizations, number of active student members, annual operating expenses by the club, ability to complete administrative requirements of the Recreation Department and club conduct.

It is important to note that this system is not in place to serve as a status system or to designate which clubs are more or less important; regardless of tier all clubs shall be treated equitably. This system is in place to assist each club with self selecting, based on the desire of the club's membership, the tier that they choose to be at and to clearly identify the expectations of the individual club. The decision to self-select a tier is completely up to the club officers and the club membership.

This system shall be formally reviewed each May by the Club Sport Executive Council (CSEC) and Director of Recreation. Evaluation and classification of each club will determine their tier placement for the following academic year. Club Presidents will be notified by June of their club's tier placement and CSF budget allocation for the upcoming year.

A club must reapply for Tier Classification each year. Please Note: Maximum budget allocations are subject to change from year to year based on funds allocation to the Recreation Department from the university. 2017/2018 updates in RED.

Tier I = up to \$5,000:

This tier is designated for clubs that are highly competitive, compete at the national level by means of being part of a regional conference and national governing body, have a superior leadership operating structure and have a coach or instructor working with the club. These clubs require a high level of commitment from its members for competition preparation and travel. Clubs at this tier must have a recognized gift account to assist in expenses each year and members are expected to pay dues.

- **Criteria:**

- Must be a member of National or Regional Sports Association (example include: USA Rugby, USA Cycling, USA Water Polo, College Squash Association, NY State Club Field Hockey League).
- Must be competing in an intercollegiate regional league or conference that schedules competitions for the club.
- Must have enough active-members to field two full teams for their sport (for example: Club Soccer must have at least 22 active members, Basketball should have 10, Rugby should have 30)
- Must hold organized club practices at least 4 times/week during competitive season.
 - If a club practices less than 4 times/week they must provide an explanation as to why.
- Must have a coach, instructor or advisor of some capacity working with club. Coaches may be volunteers or paid through dues/gift funds (no club sport coaches are funding with CSF)
- Must have at least 8 intercollegiate scheduled competitions.
 - If less than 8 competitions must be able to justify why.
- Club's annual operating expenses exceed \$15,000.00.
- Club's must have a gift account.
- Club must be in good standing with the Department of Recreation and have no more than 5 strikes against them in the current year (see the Administrative Compliance System in the Club Sports Handbook for more details).

- **Annual Requirements:**

- Must have an updated and accurate roster for the club at the beginning and end of each semester outlining the active-members.
- Club Leaders must meet with Director of Recreation at the beginning and end of their competitive season.
- Team members are expected to pay dues annually in the amount determined by the club leaders, coaches and Director of Recreation.
- Must designate a Safety Officer and/or Coach to complete Concussion Training annually.
- Follow Colgate Sport Clubs rules/guidelines and submit all appropriate paperwork on-time (as determined by Director of Recreation).
- Must have representation at Club Sport Leadership Meeting each semester.
- Must have a team website or method of sharing news/updates (i.e. FB page, website, etc).

Tier II = up to \$3,000:

This tier is designated for clubs that are competitive at the national level, have a superior internal operating structure and require a moderate level of commitment from it's members for competition preparation and travel.

- **Criteria:**

- Must be competitive in nature and competing against external institutions.
- Must be a member of National and/or Regional Sports Association or League that schedules organized competitions for the club.
- Must have enough members to field one team for competitions (for example: Basketball must have at least 5 members, Squash must have at least 10 members to fill a ladder for competitions).
- Must have at least 6 intercollegiate scheduled games or competitions.
- Must practice 3 times/week or a minimum of 20 practice sessions during the competitive season.
- Club's annual operating expenses exceed \$5,000.00.
- Club must be in good standing with the Department of Recreation and have no more than 5 strikes against them in the current year (see the Administrative Compliance System in the Club Sports Handbook for more details).

- **Annual Requirements:**

- Must have an updated and accurate roster for the club
- Club Leaders must meet with Director of Recreation at the beginning their competitive season.
- Club members may be expected to pay dues annually in the amount determined by the club leaders and Director of Recreation.
- Must designate a Safety Officer or Coach to complete Concussion Training annually.
- Follow Colgate Sport Clubs rules/guidelines and submit all appropriate paperwork on-time (as determined by Director of Recreation).
- Must have representation at Club Sport Leadership Meeting each semester

Tier III = up to \$2,000:

This tier is designated for clubs that are moderately competitive and may or may not be competing at as part of a regional conference or league (i.e. may or may not be enrolled in a conference or league). This tier is also for moderately competitive clubs who, in generally, compete in close proximity to the Colgate campus and/or the newer clubs that are in the growth and development stage.

- Criteria:
 - Clubs may or may not be affiliated with a conference or league in the region.
 - Must be competitive in nature and competing against external institutions.
 - Must have enough members to field one team for competitions (for example: Basketball must have at least 5 members, Squash must have at least 10 members to fill a ladder for competitions).
 - Must have 4 intercollegiate scheduled competitions or events annually.
 - Must practice one time/week or hold at least ten practices during the competitive season.
 - Team's annual operating expenses meet or exceed \$1,000.00.
 - Club must be in good standing with the Department of Recreation and have no more than 5 strikes against them in the current year (see the Administrative Compliance System in the Club Sports Handbook for more details).
- Annual Requirements:
 - Must have an updated and accurate roster for the club
 - Club Leaders must meet with Director of Recreation at the beginning their competitive season.
 - Club members are encouraged, but not required, to pay dues annually in the amount determined by the club leaders and Director of Recreation.
 - Must designate a Safety Officer to complete Concussion Training annually.
 - Follow Colgate Sport Clubs rules/guidelines and submit all appropriate paperwork on-time (as determined by Director of Recreation).
 - Must have representation at Club Sport Leadership Meeting each semester.

Tier 4 = up to \$500, apply for funding as needed:

This tier is designated for clubs that are recreational in nature and rely on department-managed space to operate. These clubs are generally less competitive or non-competitive in nature. These groups are focused on a particular sport or skill development.

- Criteria:
 - Must have a minimum of 5 active members.
 - Must have at least one event during the academic year.
 - Event may be an internal competitions, tournament, conference or be an on-campus event/program to showcase your recreational sport and enrich the campus or Hamilton community.
 - Must have representation at Club Sport Council Meetings.
 - Follow Colgate Sport Clubs rules/guidelines and submit all appropriate paperwork on time (determined by Director of Recreation).
 - ~~○ Annually expenses are \$500.00 or less.~~
 - Clubs can apply for additional funding for competition-related expenses as part of a demonstrated effort to become more competitive and move into Tier III.
 - Additional funds cannot be requested to cover the cost of conference/league fees. Clubs must demonstrate sustained commitment to competitive status before enrolling in a governing body.
 - Club must be in good standing with the Department of Recreation and have no more than 5 strikes against them in the current year (see the Administrative Compliance System in the Club Sports Handbook for more details).
- Requirements:
 - Must designate a Safety Officer to complete Concussion Training annually.
 - Must have representation at Club Sport Leadership Meeting each semester.
 - Must successfully complete and submit required paperwork to the Recreation Department on time.

Tier 5 (Conditional Tier) = No Funding:

This tier is designated for clubs that are in the infancy stages of official club operations are continuing to strengthen, or that may be in a significant rebuilding process. New clubs are in the conditional phase for one full year before they can apply for tier classification. All funding must be self-generated through dues by members or fundraising efforts.

- Requirements:
 - Must attend annual Club President Meetings
 - President must complete Concussion Training
 - Must successfully complete and submit required paperwork to the Recreation Department on time.
 - Club must be in good standing with the Department of Recreation and have no more than 5 strikes against them in the current year (see the Administrative Compliance System in the Club Sports Handbook for more details).

- Must have an updated roster of the club at the beginning and end of each semester.
- Must meet with the Director of Recreation at the beginning and end of each semester to discuss the club's progress and activity.