



PLAYER ELIGIBILITY & QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

UPDATED RULES & GUIDELINES – PROVINCIAL COACHES BRIEFING

**LOCAL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT RULEBOOK
SEASON 17 | 2026-2027**



O B J E C T I V E S

WHY THESE RULES CHANGED

SIMPLIFY

- **A STANDARDIZED, EASY-TO-FOLLOW QUALIFICATION PROCESS FOR EVERY PROVINCE.**

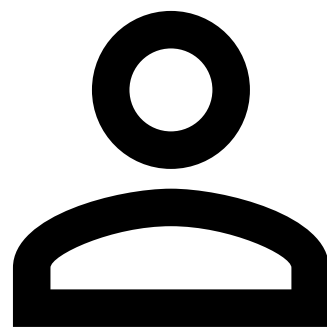
MORE OPPORTUNITY

- **MORE CHANCES FOR TEAMS AND PLAYERS TO COMPETE AND QUALIFY.**

FEWER DISPUTES

- **CLEAR ELIGIBILITY RULES THAT ELIMINATE CONFUSION AND PROTESTS.**

P L A Y E R E L I G I B I L I T Y
**EVERY PLAYER MUST MEET THESE BASELINE
REQUIREMENTS**



AGE REQUIREMENT

PLAYER MUST MEET THE
NBTC AGE CUTOFF FOR
THE DIVISION. (2007)



CURRENTLY ENROLLED

PROOF OF ENROLLMENT SIGNED BY
THE SCHOOL REGISTRAR, OR A
REGISTRAR CERTIFICATION. OUT-OF-
SCHOOL YOUTH (ALS) MUST SHOW
PROOF OF ENROLLMENT TOO.
SY 2026-2027



FILIPINO CITIZEN

PLAYER MUST BE A
FILIPINO CITIZEN.

ELIGIBILITY IS BASED ON SCHOOL LOCATION
NOT HOMETOWN. NOT BIRTHPLACE. NOT RESIDENCE.

**THE PLAYER'S CURRENT SCHOOL LOCATION DETERMINES
HIS REGION.**

LUZON

**SAMPLE:
PAMPANGA
SCHOOLS**

VISAYAS

**SAMPLE:
CEBU SCHOOLS**

MINDANAO

**SAMPLE:
DAVAO SCHOOLS**

NCR

**SAMPLE:
METRO MANILA
SCHOOLS**

HOMETOWN, BIRTHPLACE, OR RESIDENCE DOES NOT DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY.

C U R R E N T U A A P & N C A A P L A Y E R S
JUNIORS AND SENIORS PLAYERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE
FOR LQTS OR REGIONALS

NOT ELIGIBLE

**CURRENT UAAP / NCAA JUNIORS AND SENIORS
PLAYERS CANNOT PLAY IN:**

- **LOCAL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS (LQTS)**
- **REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

*REASON: UAAP AND NCAA SCHOOLS ALREADY RECEIVE DIRECT
REPRESENTATION IN THE NBTC NATIONAL FINALS.*

STILL ELIGIBLE

- **FORMER UAAP/NCAA PLAYERS – PROVIDED
THEY MEET AGE, ENROLLMENT, AND REGIONAL
ELIGIBILITY.**

P L A Y I N G I N M U L T I P L E L Q T S

REVISED RULE: PLAYERS MAY JOIN MORE THAN ONE LQT

PLAYERS MAY PLAY IN MULTIPLE LQTS – BUT ONLY WITHIN THE PROVINCE WHERE THEY ARE ENROLLED.

NO OVERLAPPING SCHEDULES

A PLAYER CANNOT JOIN TWO LQTS WHOSE TOURNAMENT DATES OVERLAP – HE MUST CHOOSE ONE.

PROVINCE-LOCKED

A PLAYER ENROLLED IN ANY CITY WITHIN CAVITE PROVINCE CANNOT PLAY IN ANY CITY WITHIN BATANGAS PROVINCE

NO CAP UNTIL QUALIFIED

NO LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF LQTS A PLAYER MAY JOIN – UNTIL HIS TEAM QUALIFIES FOR REGIONALS.

LOCKED ONCE QUALIFIED

ONCE A PLAYER HELPS A TEAM QUALIFY FOR REGIONALS, HE CANNOT PLAY IN ANY OTHER LQT OR HELP ANOTHER TEAM QUALIFY.

REGIONAL REINFORCEMENTS

TOPPING UP A QUALIFIED TEAM'S ROSTER

3

**MAX PLAYERS A QUALIFIED
TEAM MAY RECRUIT FROM
TEAMS THAT DID NOT
QUALIFY IN THE SAME LQT**

15

**MAX TOTAL ROSTER SIZE
(INCLUDING
REINFORCEMENTS) FOR THE
REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

**APPROVAL
REQUIRED**

**ALL REINFORCEMENTS MUST
SATISFY NBTC ELIGIBILITY
REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIVE
NBTC APPROVAL BEFORE
PLAYING.**

B U Y - I N T E A M S

SAME ELIGIBILITY RULES APPLY – WITH PROVINCE-WIDE RECRUITING

BUY-IN TEAMS MUST MEET THE SAME REQUIREMENTS AS EVERY OTHER TEAM:

Age requirement

Enrollment requirement

Regional eligibility

Not already locked to a qualified team

**BUY-IN TEAMS MAY RECRUIT PLAYERS FROM ANYWHERE WITHIN THEIR ELIGIBLE PROVINCE – BUT
NOT FROM TEAMS IN THAT PROVINCE THAT ALREADY QUALIFIED VIA LQT.**

RELEASING A QUALIFIED PLAYER TO A BUY-IN TEAM

**IF A QUALIFIED LQT TEAM RELEASES A PLAYER, THE BUY-IN TEAM MUST FIRST GET WRITTEN
APPROVAL FROM THAT QUALIFIED TEAM BEFORE THE PLAYER CAN JOIN THEIR ROSTER.**

W I L D C A R D T O U R N A M E N T

NO SCHOOL-ENROLLMENT ELIGIBILITY RESTRICTIONS

AGE REQUIREMENT STILL APPLIES. ENROLLMENT LOCATION DOES NOT.

- **PLAYERS REGARDLESS OF WHERE THEY ARE ENROLLED**
- **FORMER OR CURRENT UAAP/NCAA JUNIOR PLAYERS**
- **TEAM B / DEVELOPMENTAL PLAYERS FROM A UAAP SENIORS TEAM**
- **PLAYERS WITH FILIPINO LINEAGE (MUST SHOW PROOF OF FILIPINO HERITAGE)**
- **GLOBAL TEAMS, AS LONG AS AGE ELIGIBILITY IS MET**

NBTC PASSPORT LITE

REGISTRATION IS NOW MANDATORY FOR EVERY PLAYER AND COACH

Register

1

**EVERY PLAYER AND COACH
MUST REGISTER ON THE NBTC
REGISTRATION PLATFORM.**

Confirm Before Play

2

**THE TOURNAMENT
COMMISSIONER REQUIRES THE
HEAD COACH OR TEAM REP TO
BE REGISTERED BEFORE THE
TEAM MAY PLAY IN THE LQT.**

Or Face Penalty

3

**FAILURE TO REGISTER
RESULTS IN
DISQUALIFICATION OR GAME
FORFEITURE.**

PENALTIES FOR LQT CHAMPION PLAYER VIOLATIONS

PLAYER

A PLAYER WHO PLAYS FOR ANOTHER TEAM AFTER BECOMING AN LQT CHAMPION PLAYER SHALL BE:

- **DISQUALIFIED**
- **POSSIBLY SUSPENDED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE NBTC SEASON, OR FROM ALL NBTC EVENTS**

TEAM

A TEAM THAT KNOWINGLY FIELDS AN LQT CHAMPION PLAYER MAY FACE:

- **FORFEITURE OF GAMES**
- **DISQUALIFICATION**
- **LOSS OF QUALIFICATION**
- **SUSPENSION FROM FUTURE NBTC EVENTS**

KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR COACHES

**ELIGIBILITY FOLLOWS THE SCHOOL, NOT
HOMETOWN OR RESIDENCE.**

**CURRENT UAAP/NCAA PLAYERS CANNOT
PLAY LQTS OR REGIONALS.**

**PLAYERS MAY JOIN MULTIPLE LQTS – SAME
PROVINCE ONLY, NO OVERLAPPING DATES.**

**ONCE A PLAYER HELPS A TEAM QUALIFY, HE
IS LOCKED – NO MORE LQTS.**

**REGISTER ON NBTC PASSPORT LITE BEFORE
YOUR TEAM CAN COMPETE.**

**FIELDING AN LQT CHAMPION PLAYER RISKS
FORFEITURE AND DISQUALIFICATION.**



THANK YOU!

TOGETHER, LET'S BUILD THE BIGGEST NBTC SEASON YET