

OCUA Competitive Alliance FAQ



1. What is the Competitive Alliance?

The Competitive Alliance is a program designed to bring unity, economies of scale, collaboration, and support to all competitive Ultimate clubs playing out of Ottawa, Ontario. The program is administered by OCUA to the intended benefit of all competitive-level players in the city.

2. Why does the Competitive Alliance exist?

Touring to play Ultimate competitively can be an expensive and complicated endeavour. Paying for jerseys, tournament fees, hotels, and flights can really add up and players are often looking for ways to lower the cost of their season. On the flip side, OCUA is always seeking volunteers to help coach Ultimate, assist with events, and more. The mutually beneficial program took off in the early 2000's.

OCUA offered free summer practice fields to clubs in exchange for volunteer hours. The program was seen as beneficial to both parties and as time went on, OCUA started offering more administrative support to the competitive clubs, such as team fee collection and booking tryouts.

3. How does the Competitive Alliance work?

Interested clubs apply to be part of the Alliance during the winter ([link](#)) and work with OCUA to help advertise their club tryouts, book facilities, and get their season organized. Once rosters are established, each member of the club pays a Competitive Alliance membership fee that covers them for the year. Once a club's full roster has registered and paid their membership fees, they will receive access to their summer practice fields.

4. Fee Structure for 2017 and how does one get their fees back by volunteering?

The fee for 2017 is set at \$60 per player (HST included) multiplied by the number of practice nights your club has selected. For example, if your club has two practices per week, each member of that club will pay a \$120 membership fee.

To receive a refund of your fee, a player must volunteer for OCUA or at OCUA-sanctioned events. All volunteer opportunities are listed through OCUA's volunteer management software ([link](#)) and hours must be approved in the software to be eligible. The deadline to complete your hours is October 31. Any volunteering done after this date will count towards the following year's membership fee.

- Complete at least 4 hours of volunteering multiplied by the number of practice nights your club has chosen (i.e., 4 hours for 1 practice, 8 hours for 2 practices).
- If the minimum hours have been completed prior to May or the player is a regular volunteer, the player will have their membership fee waived and will not be required to pay anything.
- It is optional to volunteer and receive a refund. Rest assured that all membership fees go towards the promotion of Ultimate and development of higher quality playing opportunities in Ottawa.

5. Is the Competitive Alliance subsidized by OCUA?

Despite charging a membership fee, the Competitive Alliance is still a subsidized program. Each member of the Competitive Alliance should recognize the reciprocal relationship between recreational leagues and competitive play and that by working together, the sport of Ultimate will continue to grow.

OCUA Summer Coed League

COED LEAGUE 2 teams per field 15 players per team \$1,500 per team per summer \$3,000 per field per summer \$100 per player per summer (no option to volunteer)

*Competitive Alliance
players receive a ~50%
discount compared to
league players for access
to the same field.*

OCUA Competitive Alliance

COMP ALLIANCE 1 team per field ~25 players per team \$1,500 per team per summer \$1,500 per field per summer \$60 per player per summer * volunteer at \$15/hr *

6. What are the other benefits to being in the Competitive Alliance?

In addition to weekly practice fields, competitive clubs can book UPI on the weekends for training camps. Aside from fields, Competitive Alliance members can also advertise their clubs to the largest source of new competitive players – the league! Advertising through OCUA’s website, social media, and e-newsletter are all possibilities.

Additionally, OCUA can act as the administrative arm and support your club by:

- Collecting team fees and/or tryout fees through OCUA’s website and online payment processor
- Paying for invoices (tournament fees, jerseys) and supporting your club’s cash flow
- Booking tryouts, indoor space, and fall practice fields
- Providing access to fundraising events

7. Are there any changes for 2017?

There was a financial surplus from 2016 so for 2017, two pilot projects will be launched and if successful, will be repeated in future seasons. Details to follow.

1 – OCUA will cover the cost of up to 6 hours of outdoor tryouts for your club. If your club chooses to have indoor tryouts, a subsidy of \$500 will be provided instead.

2 – ‘Comp Tune Up’, 1-day outdoor tournament early May that is only available to Alliance members.

8. What are the criteria for eligibility in to the Competitive Alliance?

OCUA’s support to competitive members is limited by the size of its recreational leagues. For this reason, OCUA may limit the number of clubs supported through the Competitive Alliance or change eligibility requirements. For 2017, the following criteria will be enforced:

- Minimum roster size of 15 players.
- Minimum 1 formal practice per week.
- Minimum 3 out-of-town tournaments (OUC & CUC can be included regardless of location).
- Attendance at No Borders (July 22-23, 2017).
- Open tryouts advertised to the OCUA membership.