

OCUA Competitive Alliance FAQ

New changes for 2020, please read carefully.



1. What is the Competitive Alliance?

The Competitive Alliance is a program designed to bring unity, collaboration, and support to all competitive Ultimate clubs representing Ottawa.

2. Why does the Competitive Alliance exist?

Touring to play Ultimate competitively is complicated. Paying for jerseys, tournaments, hotels, and transportation can be challenging. Organizing tryouts, practices, and recruiting players in a fair manner can be difficult. OCUA is here to help clubs form, practice, and perform. OCUA wants all clubs to succeed and attain their goals.

3. How does the Competitive Alliance work?

Interested clubs apply to be part of the Alliance during January-February and work with OCUA to advertise tryouts, book indoor turf, summer practice fields, and get their season organized. Once rosters are set, each member of the club pays an individual membership fee. Once a club's full roster has registered and paid their membership fees - due by May 15 - they receive access to their practice fields for the summer.

Summer practice fields are included as part of the Competitive Alliance fee (May 15 – August 31). Winter, spring, and fall fields are rented out to clubs at cost. If OCUA's online payment processor is used, a 2.5% administrative fee is added to cover the online transaction costs.

All financial transactions between a club and OCUA will be managed through a transparent Google doc. OCUA will communicate with club leaders through a private email group (alliance@ocua.ca).

4. Fee Structure

In addition to [OCUA's general annual membership fee](#), the Competitive Alliance membership fee per player is set at the following rates and covers you for the entire summer:

Summer (May 15 – August 31)	Junior Clubs (u19)	Adult Clubs (18+)
1 practice per week	\$53.10 + tax	\$100.00 + tax
2 practices per week	\$106.20 + tax	\$180.00 + tax
Affiliate club (does not practice)	n/a	\$20.00 + tax

Junior players will have the option to volunteer for OCUA and receive a refund. Adult players that are considered a super-volunteer for the Association are exempt from the fee. Adult players will now have the option to join OCUA's new work pool to help pay for their season's costs.

5. Junior Volunteer

Junior volunteer options will be managed by Dave Brown (dave@ocua.ca) and advertised on OCUA's website. The deadline to complete volunteer hours is October 31. Any volunteer hours completed or submitted after this date will count towards the following year's membership fee.

- Complete at least 4 hours of volunteering per practice night.
- If volunteer hours were completed before May 15, the player can contact Dave Brown (dave@ocua.ca) for exemption of the Competitive Alliance membership fee.

6. What's a Super-Volunteer?

Adult players who volunteer regularly with OCUA or players who actively promote the sport of Ultimate in their local Ottawa community are eligible for exemption. If you are unsure if you qualify for exemption, get in touch with Dave Brown (dave@ocua.ca). Here are some examples:

- Non-playing Coach (youth, junior, competitive, university, high school)
- Up to 3 Captains per Competitive Alliance club (one can be an administrative captain)
- League Coordinator
- Youth & Junior League Convenor
- Member of OCUA's Board of Directors

7. OCUA's New Work Pool

OCUA will create an annual work pool that advertises all of the casual jobs the Association needs help filling. Typically, these jobs will pay \$15/hour and will be open to anyone. Individuals will be capped at a maximum of \$750 per year.

The OCUA work pool will be advertised on the website and managed by Dave Brown (dave@ocua.ca). Examples of work pool casual jobs include:

- No Borders, MGM, and League Playoffs tournament staff
- Outlaw game day staff
- Youth & Junior Festival staff
- Office casual labour (e.g., youth jersey distribution)

8. How is the Comp Alliance membership fee established?

The Competitive Alliance fee aims to break-even on the cost of fields and be in line with recreational league fees. As a reference, below are typical field costs:

Grass field = \$50/hour

Artificial turf = \$160/hour

Indoor field = \$225/hour

Note that extra fields (spring, fall, winter) are always rented to the club at their actual cost.

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

Affiliate clubs – teams that do not practice during the week - will gain access to all of the benefits other than weeknight summer practice fields. OCUA will support all clubs with:

- Promotion of your club on OCUA's website and social media
- Access to discounted jerseys by **BE Ultimate (50% off!!)**
- Financial support; collecting team fees, tryout fees, helping with cash flow
- Administrative support; booking extra fields, paying upfront for tournaments, jerseys
- Insurance; peace of mind when it comes to liability and ability to book private fields
- Fundraiser events; special events, tournaments, raffles
- Exclusive access to in-city fields such as Carleton or uOttawa
- Covering the cost of NCCP training for non-playing coaches
- Organizing scrimmages and tri-meets with other clubs

Not sure if OCUA can help your club with a challenge? Just ask!

10. What are the criteria for eligibility into the Competitive Alliance?

OCUA's support to competitive players 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 at any time. Currently, the following criteria will be enforced:

- Minimum roster size of 14 players, maximum of 28 players
- Follows Ultimate Canada's [roster rules](#) with regard to age restrictions
- Minimum 1 formal practice per week (does not apply to affiliate clubs)
- Minimum 2 tournaments per summer
- Masters clubs must attend [MGM](#)
- Non-masters adult clubs must attend [No Borders](#)
- Tryouts openly advertised to the OCUA membership
- History of good relationship with OCUA and adherence to the Association's [policies](#)