



CONSTITUTION

Of the

DEEP SOUTH RUGBY UNION

ARTICLE I – NAME, LOCATION, AND NATURE

The Union is and shall be called Deep South Rugby Union (hereafter referred to as the Union). The principal office and place of business of the Union shall be Mobile, Alabama, or such other place as may be designated by the majority of the Board of Directors. The Union shall be composed of individuals, who have banded together with no intention of seeking or receiving payment or material regard, in order to develop and advance the sport of rugby union football within the greater Deep South Region of the United States of America.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTS AND PURPOSES

The objects and purposes of the Union are:

1. To foster and promote the growth and development of rugby in the greater Deep South Rugby Union; to increase the awareness of rugby, its traditions and dedication to amateurism; to adhere to the Laws of the Game and the Regulations Relating to Amateurism as framed by the International Rugby Board and adopted by the United States of America Rugby Football Union (USARFU or USARugby); and

generally to advance interest, education, and participation in rugby nationally and internationally.

2. To promote interest, study and improvement in amateur sports, to provide instruction to the general public; and to hold competitions and exhibitions.

3. To do any other act incidental to or connected with or in advancement of the foregoing purposes, but not for the pecuniary profit or financial gain of the Union's members, directors or officers.

4. To purchase, receive, take by grant, gift, devise, bequest or otherwise acquire, own, hold, improve, employ, use or deal with real or personal property, or any other interest therein, wherever situated; and to sell, convey, lease, exchange, transfer or otherwise dispose of, mortgage, or pledge and of the Union's property and assets or any interests therein, wherever situated.

5. To possess and exercise all the powers and privileges granted by the Alabama Corporations code, any other laws of Alabama, or this Constitution, together with any powers incidental thereto, insofar as such powers and privileges are necessary or convenient to the conduct, promotion, or attainment of the activities or purposes of the Union.

6. To promote charitable, educational, and amateur sports activities, including but limited to receiving contributions and paying them to an organization described in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as now in effect or hereafter amended. The Union shall not attempt to influence legislation by propaganda or otherwise, or to participate in or intervene in political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

7. To promote participation in and development of the game of rugby union football at its highest levels. In the interest of the game, members shall adhere to the following order of priorities: activities and matches sponsored by first, the United States of America Rugby Football Union; second by USA Rugby South, the Territorial Union (TU); and third, by this Union.

8. To support the United States of America Rugby Football Union, its objectives and purposes, in cooperation with other unions, clubs, groups, and individuals in other regions of the nation.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 The Union:

All the persons involved in playing, administering, coaching, and organizing of the sport of rugby union football in the greater Deep South Union region shall be under the authority of the Union and shall adhere to this constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and any other directives of the Union. There shall be Full, Associate, and Local Area Union (LAU) clubs (hereafter referred to as clubs) of the Union.

Section 2 Full Club Memberships

(1) Full members are:

Full club members are those clubs who have been in continuous existence for more than

two years and elected to full club membership by the Board of directors and are in good standings with USA Rugby, Territorial Union (TU) and this Union. If a club folds, is disbanded or otherwise is dissolved, that club shall be required to be readmitted as a new club. A club, who has previously folded, disbanded or otherwise dissolved, and seeks to reapply to the Union may not be recognized as an Associate Club Member.

(2) Election to full club membership shall be by a simple majority vote of Full and Associate Club Members at a scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. If application for a new member falls between scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors a simple majority vote from the Executive Committee may be taken, to be ratified by the Board at the next scheduled meeting. Only Full Club and Associate Members may vote at Board of Directors meeting on any and all Union issues.

(3) Additional competing sides or second XV sides of a team already established, and playing in a separate bracket, division or matrix pool, shall be deemed full club members by the Union.

Section 3 Associate Club Memberships

(1) Associate Club Members are other groups, including newly formed rugby clubs not in existence for more than two years that have not yet been elected to full club membership.

(2) Election to Associate Club membership shall be by a simple majority vote of Full and Associate Club Members at a scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. If application for a new member falls between scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors a simple majority vote from the Executive Committee may be taken, to be ratified by the Board at the next scheduled meeting. Associate Club Members shall be eligible for election to full club membership after having existed, operated and assisted the Union for at least two years. Associate Club Members shall enjoy the same voting rights as Full Club Members.

Section 4 Local Area Union (LAU) Club Memberships

(1) Local Area Union Club Members are other groups, including newly formed rugby clubs or established clubs that have not yet been elected to full club membership. LAU clubs shall compete only within the Union and may not progress or play in any USA Rugby sanctioned championship.

(2) Those individual rugby players who play for an LAU Club Membership team will not be precluded from playing as a Deep South Select-Side representative or upon any of the various Select or Representational sides establish by the South Territorial Union. All other eligibility criteria must be met to be eligible for such play.

(3) Election to LAU Club membership shall be by a simple majority vote of Full and Associate Club Members at a scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. If application for a new member falls between scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors a simple majority vote from the Executive Committee may be taken, to be ratified by the Board at the next scheduled meeting. LAU Club Members have no voting rights.

Section 5 High School/Youth Rugby

(1) The Deep South Rugby Union recognizes USA Rugby's efforts to implement and develop the State-Based Development Model. Each State shall govern and administrate all youth and high school rugby teams within their state's borders. This shall include the collection of team dues, referee fees, and all other organizational costs.

(2) The Deep South Rugby Union shall retain jurisdiction over all issues of discipline, CIPP compliance and player eligibility. Such jurisdiction will apply to member players and teams whose state-based organization falls entirely within the geographical boundary of the Deep South Rugby Union.

(3) The Deep South Rugby Union shall retain the ability to collect and levy fees, fines and assessments against state-based organizations, individual high school and youth rugby players as well as high school and youth rugby teams.

Section 6 Suspension

(1) A Member, Club or Player shall be suspended through a proper meeting of the Disciplinary Committee. If and when the Disciplinary Committee is unable to fulfill its role, duties or obligations to the Union the Executive Committee may intervene. A Member, Club or Player may be suspended by a simple majority vote at a properly scheduled Executive Committee meeting. The suspension shall be in effect until it is reviewed at the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. In addition, the Board of Directors may suspend or terminate any Club, Member or Player by a simple majority vote of Full and Associate Club Members present at any of its scheduled meetings.

(2) Any Member, Player or Club shall be liable to suspension by the Disciplinary Committee, the Executive Committee, or suspension or termination by the Board of Directors, if:

- a. The Member's, Player's or Club's subscription, fees, fines or levies due to the Union are in arrears; or
- b. The Member, Player or Club does not maintain and honor a fixture list to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors; or
- c. The Member, Player or Club participates in activities or behavior which may be deemed detrimental to the image and reputation of the Union and its membership; or
- d. The Member, Player or Club fails to follow the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, or any directive, guideline, or ruling by the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or other committee(s) formed by this Union or any other governing body for which this Union is a part.

ARTICLE IV – ADMINISTRATION

Section 1 The Board of Directors

The affairs of the Union shall be administered by the Board of Directors. The Board's membership shall be composed of one representative from each Full and Associate Club

Member in good standing i.e., not under suspension or under sanction by the Union. The President of the Union is an ex officio member of the Board of Directors.

Section 2 Meetings

(1) The Board of Directors shall hold one regularly scheduled Annual General Meeting in November of each year. Written or electronic notices shall be mailed or sent to each Full, Associate and LAU Club Member not less than twenty-one (21) or more than (30) days in advance of the meeting.

(2) The Union President shall be the chairman of all meetings of the Board of Directors. In the President's absence the Vice President will assume the function of conducting the meeting.

(3) The Union President may call a Special General Meeting of the Board of Directors if the need arises. A Special General Meeting shall be called by the President upon receiving written or electronic requests from one-third of the Full Club Members or upon simple majority vote of the Executive Committee. Such meeting shall be called within not less than twenty-one (21) not more than thirty (30) days.

Section 3 Voting

Each Full and Associate Club Member of the Union shall have a single vote. The chairman of the meeting holds the tie-breaking vote. If the chairman is also serving as a representative for a Full Club Member, the chairman may not vote twice and cannot create a tie vote. All meetings, unless otherwise specified, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of Union business. All votes of the Board of Directors will be decided by a simple majority of the quorum present except for those requiring special majorities as noted in this Constitution. The Union shall allow proxy voting, members must appoint proxies only in writing.

Section 4 Committees

(1) There shall be permanent and temporary committees. Permanent committees will have a continuing existence. Temporary committees will be appointed to handle specific projects to be accomplished in a given period of time.

(2) The nature, responsibilities, and authority of all committees shall be as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws, or resolution of the Executive Committee or Board of Directors. In general, committees may not take any action on behalf of the Union or the Board of Directors unless such action is specifically authorized by the Constitution, the Bylaws, or a resolution of the Executive Committee or Board of Directors.

(3) Among the permanent committees shall be an Executive Committee with the power to act on the behalf of the Board of Directors between meetings of the Board provided that such actions are not in contravention of the Constitution, the Bylaws, or specific directives by the Board of Directors. There shall also be a permanent Disciplinary Committee with authority and powers as set forth in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

Section 1 Titles and Duties

The Officers and Directors of the Union and voting members of the Executive Committee shall be as follows:

- a. **President:** The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Union. The President shall have general and active supervision over the business of the Union and its officers; call and preside over all meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee; and have such other duties, responsibilities, and authority as are conveyed by this Constitution, the Bylaws, and the Board of Directors.
- b. **Vice President:** The Vice President shall have responsibilities and duties, which are conveyed by this Constitution, the Bylaws, the Board of Directors, and the President. The Vice President shall assume the roll of the President if absent or if the President cannot fulfill their duties.
- c. **Secretary:** The Secretary shall keep the minutes of Annual and Special General Meetings, see that all notes are duly taken; be custodian of appropriate Union records: conduct and have charge of relevant Union correspondence; be responsible for coordinating and publishing of the Master Schedule; and in general perform all duties incidental to the office of Secretary with such other duties, responsibilities, and authority as are conveyed by this Constitution, the Bylaws, Executive Committee or the Board of Directors, and the President.
- d. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall have charge and custody of and be responsible for all Union funds; collect dues, deposits, fees, fines, assessments, and other charges owed to the Union and its committees; pay all dues, deposits, fees, fines, assessments, and other debts owed by the Union, make financial statements to be presented to the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting and have such other duties, responsibilities, and authority as are conveyed by this Constitution, the Bylaws, the Board of Directors, and the President.
- e. **Disciplinary Committee Chair:** The Disciplinary Committee Chair shall chair the Disciplinary Committee of the union. The Chair shall conduct all disciplinary matters of the Union. The Chair shall keep all disciplinary records of the Union and report at the AGM the decisions of the Disciplinary Committee since the last AGM. The Chair shall levy fines and dispense suspensions, duties, responsibilities and authority as conveyed by the Constitution, the Bylaws, the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors and the President.
- f. **Chairman of Referees:** The Chairman of the Deep South Rugby Referees Society (DSRRS) is the duly elected official that shall direct the general affairs of the Society. The members of the Society elect the chairman.

g. **Director(s)**: The Director(s) shall be elected by the Board of Directors, and include, but are not limited to: Director of Men's Collegiate Rugby, Director of Men's Senior Rugby, Director of Women's Rugby, Director of Youth/High School Rugby and the Director of Coaching. There may be as many or as few Directors as is deemed necessary to carry out the goals and objectives of the Union as voted on by the Board of Directors.

h. **Team Representatives**: The Team Representative primarily acts as a liaison between the Executive Board, the member organizations, and individual players of their respective segment. Voting as a member of the Executive Board with the overall goal of promoting and advancing the game of Rugby, the union and the clubs of the union. The Board of directors will determine the total number of team representatives, and the list shall come from the following: Men's, Women's, Collegiate Men, Collegiate Women and Youth.

i. **Union Officers**: All officers of the Union shall maintain Club and Individual Participation Program (CIPP) registration through USA Rugby. Officers may qualify by having their CIPP registration as a referee, coach, or player.

Section 2 Election and Terms of Office

a. All Officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors with the exception of the Chairman of Disciplinary Committee, Chairman of Referee Committee, and Chairman of Coaching, at the Annual General Meeting. Officers shall take office after election and shall hold such office for a period of two years. The president may hold no other office; otherwise one person may hold any two offices.

b. The president and secretary shall be elected in even years.

c. The vice-president and treasurer shall be elected in odd years.

Section 3 Vacancy

If an office becomes vacant between meetings of the Board of Directors, the President shall appoint an individual to fill the office to serve out the original term of the vacated office, until the next meeting of the Board of Directors, at which time the Board of Directors will elect a replacement. If the office of the President becomes vacant between meetings of the Board of Directors, the Vice President shall assume the powers and responsibilities of the office of President until the next meeting.

ARTICLE VI – SCHEDULING

There shall be a Master schedule of all rugby events to be held within the Union, which shall be followed and adhered to by all Clubs. The Secretary shall prepare and publish the Master Schedule as set forth in the Bylaws. Penalties shall be assessed against any Club who fails to conform to the Master Schedule as set forth in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII – FINANCES

The Union shall have the power to assess and collect from the members and or clubs dues, fees, fines, and assessments; and to accept, generate, invest and expend Union funds to accomplish the objectives and purposes of the Union. In the event of dissolution, the remaining assets and property of the Union, after necessary expenses, shall be distributed to an organization in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code of 1954 as now in effect of hereafter amended.

ARTICLE VIII– AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution or the Bylaws shall be made at a scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. Amendments to this Constitution must be approved by two thirds (2/3) vote of the membership. Simple majority of those present shall approve revisions to the By-Laws. The full club members shall conduct the vote. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing or electronic means to the President at least sixty (60) days before the meeting at which they are to be considered. The details of any proposed amendments shall be circulated to all Clubs with the notice for the meeting at which the vote is to be taken, not less that twenty-one (21) days or more than thirty (30) days in advance. Upon approval, the Secretary who shall send copies of the amendments to all Clubs and officers shall record amendments in the Constitution or Bylaws.