

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Of the

DEEP SOUTH RUGBY UNION

(The Purpose of these rules and regulations is to clarify and disseminate the action of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee regarding the Constitution and By-laws)

REGULATION A - GENERAL RULES

A-1. The Executive Committee shall run and have overall control of all Union activities.

A-2. Notice of all meetings, Executive Committee rulings and decisions, and general memoranda will be sent to a maximum of two contacts for each club listed on the Master Contact List. Clubs are responsible for keeping the Secretary up to date on appropriate contacts. Failure to receive correspondence for lack of accurate contact information will not absolve Clubs from adherence to any policy, rulings or notification therein.

A-3. Clubs more than thirty minutes late to any scheduled meeting of the Board of Governors will be fined \$50 unless written or electronic notice is provided and approved by the Secretary at least seven days in advance of the meeting.

A-4. All club names, abbreviations, colors, patterns, and uniforms must be registered in writing and approved by the Union. The Executive Committee before use by the petitioning club must approve any changes or additions. Failure to obtain advance approval may result in the offending club being prohibited from using such items; in addition, other penalties may be imposed as set forth in the Constitution and By-laws.

A-5. All clubs must have a permanent mailing address, Post office box or email address.

A-6. Rugby matches shall not be played or used solely to promote non-rugby business enterprises.

A-7. The Executive Committee or Board of Directors may declare a match forfeited for violations of the Constitution or By-laws.

A-8. All requests and other submissions to the Union, its officers, committees, and Referee Society shall be effective only upon receipt.

REGULATION B - PAYMENT OF FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

B-1. Dues are set and assessed to each Member to cover Union obligations, including but not limited to dues owed to USA Rugby and TU, as determined by the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting.

B-2. Fines, penalties, and fees may be assessed against any or all clubs, or any club member, for failure to comply with the Constitution, By-laws, Rules and Regulations, and Executive Committee or Disciplinary Committee decisions.

B-3. All fines, fees, and monetary penalties shall be due to the Treasurer within 5 business days after the date of a forfeited match or the imposition of the penalty by the Union. No club may play in any match when financial obligations are in arrears unless

the Treasurer has approved arrangements in advance. Any matches played when such obligations are in arrears shall subject the clubs involved to further sanctions.

B-4. If a club folds, is suspended, or is terminated while having an outstanding financial obligations to either the Union or Referee Society, the players and administrators of that club are responsible for payment of those obligations and are ineligible to play for any Union club or participate in any select side activity until the obligations are met to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee.

B-5. If a club that has folded, been suspended, or been terminated with outstanding financial obligations petitions to rejoin the Union, it must pay all financial obligations owed at the time that it left the Union before being allowed to schedule matches with any Union club. The Executive Committee shall determine if a new club under any name is the same or substantially the same as an old club and is responsible for the former club's financial obligations.

REGULATION C - ELIGIBILITY

C-1. Prior to a clubs first match, all players must be compliant with USARFU, TU and LAU registration regulations.

C-2. A player may transfer to another club according to USARFU Rules and Regulations.

C-3. If a conflict arises regarding to which club a player belongs, it will be referred to the Executive Committee for a final decision.

REGULATION D - MASTER SCHEDULE & SCHEDULE DIVIATIONS

D-1. The Master Schedule will be set and distributed by the Secretary to all Clubs on the Master Contact List, and be posted on the Union web site.

D-2. Changes will be accepted only under the criteria set in the By-laws.

D-3. All teams in all divisions must play the minimum number of matches per year, as set forth in By-laws. Unless established otherwise by the USARFU divisional play format, club standings will be based on records against other division clubs win/loss records. Any team which fails to play the minimum number of required matches will be assessed a forfeiture loss for each match less than the minimum, in addition to any other penalties imposed by the Union, unless excused by the Executive Committee for good cause.

D-4. If clubs schedule more than the required matches during the year, they must agree in advance of the first match(s) which will count for the standings, and shall so notify the Secretary in a written statement signed by both clubs. If the clubs are unable to agree, the Secretary will make a determination in advance of the first scheduled match.

D-5. The winner of the divisional play of the Union shall represent DSRFU according to the rules and regulations for the National and Territorial championships for which they are eligible.

D-6. Matches may be canceled due to weather or field conditions. Once a match has begun the referee may declare the pitch unsafe for further play at any time and halt the

match. If the match is halted it shall be rescheduled.

D-7. Each club is required to provide a competent certified touch judge for the entirety of each scheduled match. Certification shall be in accordance with the National Referee's Training Committee.

D-8. Only the captains are allowed to speak to the referee during the match, and only if allowed by the referee. Verbal harassment or abuse of the referee by any player, captain, coach or spectator before, during, or after a match shall be treated as misconduct and shall be dealt with in the severest terms.

D-9. All matches will be regulation length as set forth by the IRB/USARFU, unless otherwise agreed to by captains of both clubs.

D-10. All matches will begin at the time posted on the Master Schedule. Teams not ready within fifteen minutes of the posted starting time will forfeit the match, with fees and other penalties assessed by the Union. Penalties may be assessed to both teams. If the referee is not ready at the posted starting time, the team will be allowed fifteen minutes after the arrival of the referee to begin play.

D-11. No matches shall be played in this Union on Easter Sunday.

D-12. After the Master Schedule has been published, if a conflict arises with a TU or USARFU event, a club may request in writing at least thirty days in advance rescheduling without penalty. The Executive Committee shall approve or disapprove the rescheduling, and may impose appropriate fees.

D-13. All teams shall report match results promptly in writing to the Secretary in the manner established by the Secretary. Failure to report in a timely fashion shall subject the club to sanctions established by the Secretary.

SECTION E - SELECT SIDE PLAY

E-1. The Union shall sanction any number of select side teams in accordance with the rules and regulations of USA Rugby, which it deems important or necessary to the promotion of rugby. Such select sides may include, but are not limited to;

- a. Senior Select Side
- b. Collegiate Select Side
- c. U-19 Men's Select Side
- d. Women's Select Side
- e. Women's Under 23 Select Side
- f. U-19 Women's Select Side

E-2. Only CIPP registered players on Union clubs in good standing are eligible to participate in select side play.

E-3. The Executive Committee must approve Head Coaches upon recommendation from the Director of Coaching or the Executive Committee for all select sides. Prospective coaches should notify the Executive Committee prior to April 1 for the upcoming season. The Executive Committee shall screen all applicants and choose the coach or coaches for all select sides. Coaching appointments are for one season at a time.

E-4. No coach, player, administrator, manager or other person may make financial commitments on behalf of the Union or the select sides without written authorization from the President and Treasurer. All unauthorized commitments shall be the sole

responsibility of the individuals and shall not be honored by the Union.

E-5. Select side budgets will be set at the Annual General Meeting.

E-6. Select side jerseys and socks may be provided by the Union. They are the property of the Union and shall not be altered in any way by a player, coach, administrator, or manager. They will not be transferred, traded, given as awards, or handed over to anyone for any reason. Individual players are solely responsible for the jersey, socks, and any other equipment checked out to them. Offenders shall be fined \$50 and suspended from select side play for twelve months.

E-7. Selection of players is strictly up to the coaching staff and selectors.

E-8. The Union makes no financial guarantee concerning expenses to the players, coaches, or administrators involved in select side play. If funds are available to defray expenses, the Executive Committee will determine the amount paid.

SECTION F - REFEREES SOCIETY

F-1. The Deep South Referee Society or acting Union Referee Society will determine fees, costs, deposits and other expenses for referee services and shall bill and collect from Clubs as appropriate. Failure to pay obligations promptly will result in referees not being assigned. In addition, the Executive Committee may assess forfeits and other penalties.

F-2. Only matches refereed by a referee from or appointed by the Referee Society shall count for Union standings. If the referee does not appear for a match, the teams may:

- a. Cancel the match and properly reschedule; or
- b. Agree to play the match with a mutually acceptable substitute referee, the result of which shall not count for Union standings, and properly rescheduled the match, or
- c. Agree to play the match with a mutually acceptable referee, the result of which shall count for Union standings.

F-3. Any verbal or physical abuse towards referee before, during, after, or away from the match will be dealt with in the severest of terms.

F-4. The Referee Society shall review any protest from clubs concerning refereeing or interpretation of the Laws of the Game. Its decision is final.

F-5. Each club is required to supply a referee to the Referee's Society for each side the club fields.

F-6. The referee may penalize a team on the field for the misconduct or abuse from the team's players, administrators, spectators or supporters on the sidelines, and may expel from the playing enclosure, as defined by the referee, any individual(s) engaging in misconduct or abuse. Teams are responsible for the conduct of their players, administrators, spectators, and supporters. Failure by a club to police its own misconduct may result in the referee expelling the captain of the offending side from the game, and other sanctions as deemed appropriate by the Union.

SECTION G - PARKS AND PLAYING FIELDS

G-1. All Matches are to be played on fields approved by the Executive Committee.

G-2. Each club shall submit to the Secretary and Referee Society a map to its home field

on Jan. 1 and Aug. 1.

G-3. All park permits required for matches, listed on the Master Schedule, will be procured by the home team. Fees assessed for these permits will be passed on to the individual clubs.

G-4. The Secretary will assign all games and fields. Clubs will be assigned to their traditional home field when available.

G-5. The home club is responsible to insure the pitch is ready for each home match at the scheduled time on the Master Schedule. Minimum requirements shall include adequate goal post pads and sidelines restraining ropes as described in G-7, adequate field markings as outlined in the law book and adequate sideline markers.

G-6. The home club is responsible to protect the condition of the playing field and surrounding area. Pitches that are snow covered, wet, or unsafe for play for any reason shall not be played upon. If this condition is ignored and the field is damaged and requires repairs, the clubs involved will be billed equally for the full cost for the damages incurred.

G-7. Each club is required to install sideline-restraining ropes for all its home matches, unless prevented by preexisting physical restraints of the grounds. These ropes shall be:

(a) thirty to forty inches from the ground;

(b) adequately and safely supported;

(c) on both sides of the playing field;

(d) extending from the dead ball line to the dead ball line; and

(e) placed at least five meters from the touch line. No one shall be

permitted within the restraining area except the touch judges and referee's assistants, designated medical personnel, and others as specifically permitted by the referee. The team captains will be responsible for keeping people out of the area. If a captain does not clear the area when asked by the referee, it will be considered misconduct and subject to penalty according to the Laws. Violators may also be subject to action by the Disciplinary Committee or the Executive Committee.

G-8. Each club is required to insure its home pitch is kept in good repair. Clubs unable to secure a suitable pitch may be required by the Union to travel for all matches and will be responsible for all permits, fees, and expense of the club hosting the matches that would be its home matches.

SECTION H - EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

H-1. All member of a team shall provide uniform properly numbered jerseys, shorts, and socks in good repair.

H-2. Clubs representing the Union in Territorial or National playoffs are required to have identical jerseys, socks and shorts. Jerseys shall be properly numbered.

H-3. All clubs must have two sets of jerseys of contrasting colors available for all matches.

H-4. When two clubs are at a match with like jerseys, the home team shall change.

H-5. No two men's clubs and no two women's clubs shall have like jerseys.

H-6. The Executive Committee must approve all changes in club colors or jersey styles or patterns in advance in writing. This need only be done in cases where a team is

seeking to change to a color scheme which is the same as or substantially similar to one already in use by another club in that division.

H-7. If a conflict in club colors or jerseys arises, the club that established its colors first or petitioned the Union first has priority. The Executive Committee, whose decision is final, will settle any conflicts.

SECTION I - TOURNAMENTS

I-1. Any club wishing to sponsor a tournament of any type must notify the Executive Committee in writing no less than six months before the desired tournament dates.

I-2. The Executive Committee may direct the host club to change the dates of the tournament if it conflicts with previously scheduled local, territorial, or national events or if in the judgment of the Executive Committee it would be detrimental to participation in or attendance at these events.

I-3 All tournament sponsorship and commercial, professional or business affiliation must be approved in advance by the Executive Committee. No club may host a tournament whose benefit or proceeds from are designated to a person or organization whose affiliation would be detrimental to the image of the Union, the club or rugby in general.

I-4. All tournament names, titles, and slogans must be submitted in writing and approved by the Executive Committee prior to the commitment for advertising, t-shirt printing, or registration of clubs.

I-5. The Executive Committee may authorize, organize, or sponsor a post season Union tournament. Any club wishing to host this event must submit a written bid to the Executive Committee no less than six months before the proposed date. The Executive Committee has final approval over the format used for this event.

I-6. Each club-sponsored tournament is the sole responsibility of the hosting club. The hosting club has full responsibility for field reservations, park fees, cleanup, emergency medical care, referees, concessions, licenses, insurance, and police protection.

I-7. All tournaments should be properly organized, funded, advertised and participated in. Organizations, which the Executive Committee feels are unable to fulfill these requirements, will not be given sanction to host an event.

SECTION J - MATCHES VS NON-UNION SIDES

J-1. Any Club wishing to play a non-Union side must submit a request in writing to the Executive Committee a minimum of thirty days in advance. This request will be granted provided there is a pitch and the Referee Society has an available referee.

J-2. Any expenses for permits or referees will be the sole responsibility of the requesting club. If there is not a locally available referee, the Referee Society may arrange for a non-Union referee to be brought in at the hosting club's expense.

J-3. Clubs shall not dishonor an approved match with a non-Union side. Such conduct will be referred to the Executive Committee for action.

REGULATION K – YOUTH & HIGH SCHOOL RUGBY

K-1. Any men's or women's club eligible in a National Championship shall, if possible, support and/or sponsor a youth rugby team in order to qualify. Sponsorship shall consist of providing at least one full time coach or manager for a 15 a-side youth team playing a full spring season.

K-2. Any High School or Youth club playing in this Union shall be members of the Union and shall follow the DSRFU Constitution. In addition, high school and youth members shall follow all Rules and Regulations set forth by the TU and USA Rugby.

REGULATION L - PLAYER REGISTRATION

L-1. Registration will occur as required by the USA Rugby CIPP Program, TU and LAU registration regulations.

L-2. Players wishing to change clubs must adhere to USA Rugby guidelines.

L-3. The club membership rule may be waived for composite teams formed for summer, 7 a side, alumni, and other informal matches, with pre-game approval by both captains, provided that every player has a valid CIPP registration card.

L-4. For matches, which qualify a club to participate in USA Rugby or TU events shall adhere to USA Rugby guidelines.

(These are the Rules and Regulations of the Deep South Rugby Football Union as drafted February 23, 2008)