



THE DEEP SOUTH RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION CONSTITUTION

It is the purpose of this union to promote the growth and assist in the administration of the game of Rugby as played under the laws of the United States of America Rugby Football Union. This union has jurisdiction over its members in all matters pertaining to the administration of rugby activities to include, but not limited to, scheduling of union games, discipline, application of the laws of the game, and related matters.

ARTICLE I

The name of this union shall be the **DEEP SOUTH RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION**, hereinafter referred to as "the union".

ARTICLE II

The membership of this union shall be the subscribers to this constitution and such additional members as admitted in accordance with this constitution. The area of jurisdiction for the union may encompass as large an area as necessary to include all present and future members of the union as defined herein.

CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

Regular members. Those clubs, which having been elected to membership by the union, pay dues at the full rate established by the union. Regular members shall be entitled to one vote in all union affairs where their representative or an official proxy is present. One club may have regular membership in the club and or/college division and as such are allowed one vote for each division in which dues are paid at the full rate, provided that each side is actively playing in the union.

Associate members. Those clubs which are eligible to join the union and are awaiting election to the regular membership. Associate members shall not be eligible for regular membership until the end of a complete year of play following their declaration of intent to join the union. Approval of associate membership shall be decided by a majority vote of those union members present at a properly convened meeting. Associate members shall pay dues to the union at the rate established by the union. Associate members shall be entitled to one vote in union affairs. Associate membership may be waived by unanimous vote of those union members present at a properly convened meeting.

Affiliate members. Such membership may be granted to any club, organization, or individual by majority vote of union members present at a properly convened meeting. Affiliate members have no vote in union affairs and pay no dues. Affiliate members may be tasked by the union to act as agents of the union as necessary.

Regular, associate, and affiliate members shall abide by this constitution.

Any member may withdraw at any time by so notifying the president or secretary in writing. Unless otherwise specified in the notice of withdrawal, such withdrawal shall take effect upon delivery of such notice. A withdrawing member shall be liable for financial obligations to the union accrued or accruing through the end of the current calendar year.

Regular and associate membership in the union shall terminate upon a member's ceasing to satisfy the requirements of its class of membership, or upon failure to field a rugby team for two successive calendar years. Any membership may be terminated for cause upon unanimous vote of union members present at a properly convened meeting (member in question is not allowed a vote). Terminated members shall be liable for financial obligations accrued or accruing through the end of the current calendar year. Any club whose membership has terminated may rejoin the union under such terms as the union may prescribe.

Each Division I member club shall provide at least one person affiliated with that club to be considered for union referee status. The person so named shall not be on the referee roster as of the date of the adoption of this constitution. Division II and collegiate division members are also encouraged to provide competent referees.

ARTICLE III

MEETINGS OF THE UNION

Place of Meetings

Annual general and special meetings of the union shall be held at such place within the union boundaries as may be fixed from time to time by the executive committee and promulgated to the union.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The annual general meeting of the union shall be held as stated above for the purpose of electing officers, approval of the annual budget for the following year and the transaction of such business as may properly come before the meeting.

Special Meetings

A special meeting of the union may be called at any time and for any purpose by the president or by the request of at least one-third of the member clubs of the union.

Notice of meetings

Notice of the place, date, time, and purpose of any union meeting shall be given verbally or in writing by mail to the president and/or secretary of each member club at least 21 days in advance of the meeting. The attendance of a member at a meeting, in person or by written proxy, shall constitute a waiver of notice. Members are responsible for keeping the union informed of current addresses and phone numbers of their officers.

Quorum

At all meetings of the union, unless otherwise stated, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the union.

Voting

Each regular and associate member of the union, as defined herein, shall have one vote. Any action or policy, except as otherwise specified herein, shall be authorized by a majority vote of the members present. Members may appoint proxies only in writing. A director may not vote except as the representative of his member club.

Financial Affairs

The executive committee shall submit the following year's budget to the members at least 30 days prior to the annual general meeting. Approval of the budget at that meeting will be held by a majority of the members present. Dues will then be established for the following year based on that budget.

ARTICLE IV

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The executive committee shall consist of the following officers, who shall be elected for terms of two years duration: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Eastern Director, Western Director, and Collegiate Director. Any officer may resign at any time by delivering written notice to the president. Unless otherwise specified, such resignation shall take effect upon delivery. Any officer may at any time be removed for cause by a majority vote of the members present at a properly convened meeting. Meetings of the executive committee shall be held as may from time to time as may be determined by the president.

President

The president shall be elected in even years. It shall be the duty of the president to:

- a. Act as the chief officer of the union and as such have general charge of the business, affairs, and property of the union. He shall speak on behalf of the union and cause all orders and resolutions to be carried out.
- b. Preside over meetings of the union and executive committee.
- c. Cast the deciding vote in the case of a tie at meetings of the union.
- d. Appoint committees, and their chairmen, as may be necessary from time to time to carry out business of the union.
- e. Appoint a person to fill the unexpired term of office in the event of any officer's resignation, removal, or inability to serve.
- f. Authorize expenditures of union funds. Such expenditures shall not exceed \$1000.00 without the prior approval of a majority of the members present at a properly convened meeting of the union.
- g. Maintain liaison with the Deep South Referee's Society.
- i. Encourage membership in the union.
- j. Ensure that all members comply with the provisions of this constitution and that its articles are properly carried out.

Vice President

The vice president shall be elected in odd years. It shall be the duty of the vice president to:

- a. Serve as the president pro tem, in the absence of the president, in the execution of the president's powers and duties as set forth in this constitution.
- b. Succeed the president in the event of his resignation, removal, or inability to serve, for the duration of the expired term.
- c. Assist the president in the execution of his duties.
- d. Administer the annual union championship format for all divisions.

Secretary

The secretary shall be elected in even years. It shall be the duty of the secretary to:

- a. Provide notice of meetings of the union to members in accordance with the terms of this constitution and issue agendas.
- b. Keep minutes of meetings of the union and provide transcripts to members within 30 days of each meeting.

- c. Maintain a list of members of the union including addresses and phone numbers of their officers.
- d. Be responsible for correspondence between the union and members, other sub-unions, USA Rugby-East, and the USARFU and for whatever additional correspondence as may be necessary for the business of the union, as directed by the president or members of the executive committee.
- e. Maintain records of all union correspondence.

Treasurer

The treasurer shall be elected in odd years. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to:

- a. Maintain financial records of the union.
- b. Prepare and administer the annual budget for the union.
- c. Bill and collect dues, as determined under the terms of this constitution.
- d. Maintain such accounts as necessary to receive and expend funds in the business of the union.

Eastern Director

The eastern director shall be elected in even years. It shall be the duty of the eastern director to:

- a. Maintain communication with all member clubs in his division. Coordinate between these clubs and the union with all problems and/or questions. His division will consist of those senior clubs in his geographical eastern area as determined from time to time by the union.
- b. Serve as a member of the executive committee and attend meetings of same. He shall ensure all directives of the executive committee are carried out in his division.
- c. Serve as a member of the disciplinary committee. Attends its meetings when they are called. He shall be responsible for receiving and referring all infractions of discipline as reported to him by the referee or any other individual. He shall be responsible for gathering information on all infractions and for ensuring the enforcement of disciplinary action as taken by the committee.
- d. Promote and encourage participation in select side and championship play. He will also promote the growth of new clubs and their entry into the union.

Western Director

The western director has the same duties as the eastern director except for member clubs in the western division as determined from time to time by the union. The western director shall be elected in odd years.

Collegiate Director

The collegiate director shall have the same duties as the senior side directors but for those clubs who qualify as collegiate competitors as outlined by USA Rugby-East.

ARTICLE V

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

The Deep South Rugby Union disciplinary committee procedures shall conform to USA Rugby-East procedures in force.

The committee shall consist of the Eastern, Western, and Collegiate directors as permanent members of the committee. Two at-large members will be selected by the chairman on a random basis from a pool of six members selected by the president. The pool of members will be divided evenly between the Eastern and Western divisions. The chairman of the committee may be either the Eastern or Western director selected or appointed by the president for a two year term.

The committee shall receive and decide on infractions of the laws of rugby involving the ordering off of a player or players from a match by a referee under Law 26, discipline of players and clubs, and other matters referred to them by officials of USA Rugby-East or other sub-unions. The committee shall meet in full whenever possible and hand down a decision within seven days after receipt of the complaint. If the committee cannot meet, the chairman shall render an interim decision. Any player dismissed from a match by a referee under Law 26 is automatically suspended for eight days or the next scheduled match. There is no appeal for the eight day suspension. The committee shall decide on each case either absolving, warning, suspending, or disqualifying for periods of up to one year. For periods in excess of one year, a majority vote of members of the union at a properly convened meeting is required. The records of the disciplinary committee are private and will contain as complete documentation as can be obtained. The published results shall contain only those names and punishments as are necessary. Other records will only be divulged to USA Rugby-East.

Appeals to any committee action in excess of the automatic eight day suspension will be reviewed on an individual basis. The chairman will determine a site for the appeal based on those appealing and available committee members.

The referee involved in any disciplinary action under Law 26 will report within one day by telephone to the chairman of the referees society or to the discipline chairman. The referee will submit a sendoff report to the discipline chairman, referees society, and send a copy to the USA Rugby-East discipline chair.

The discipline committee will send published copies of its decisions as necessary to:

- a. The club which the player or players (the club is responsible for notifying the players).
- b. The referees society
- c. USA Rugby-East discipline chair.
- d. The union with which the player is affiliated if not from the Deep South Rugby Union.

Member clubs shall ensure the enforcement of all rulings by the committee or be subject to disciplinary action.

ARTICLE VI

REPRESENTATIVE SIDES

One or more representative sides shall be selected from among players of member clubs. The union's executive committee shall appoint the representative side director. This director shall be responsible for scheduling trials, practices, and matches. He will appoint, with the executive committees' approval, all coaches, selectors, and managers necessary to produce a successful program. He will provide a schedule of all select side activities each year (Jan. 15) to the union's executive committee.

ARTICLE VII

UNION CHAMPIONSHIP

The Deep South RFU representative to the USA Rugby-East Group IV playoffs will be determined as follows:

- a. Division I - the winner of the DSRFU division I matrix will represent the DSRFU in the Group IV playoffs. The runner-up will represent the DSRFU in the USA Rugby-East Group IV wild-card playoffs.

b. Division II - the winner of the DSRFU division II matrix will represent the DSRFU in the USA Rugby-East Group IV, Division II playoffs. If there is a Group IV, Division II wild-card playoff, the DSRFU Div. II runner-up will represent the DSRFU.

c. Collegiate - the winner of the DSRFU Collegiate matrix will represent the DSRFU in the USA Rugby-East Group IV collegiate playoffs. The runner-up will play in the wild-card playoffs.

Only those clubs that are members in good standing of the DSRFU, as determined by its treasurer, will be eligible for DSRFU competition and representation.

Under the DSRFU matrix, each club will be required to play each other club within its division, once, during the matrix season with home/away venues alternating each year.

1. Points will be awarded for competition matches as follows:

- a. Win ----- 2 points
- b. Tie ----- 1 point each club
- c. Loss ----- 0 points

2. Division standings will be determined by the cumulative points total for each club at the conclusion of the matrix season.

a. In the event of a tie in standings, the result of the matrix match between the tied clubs will determine the winner (actual final standings). If that match was a draw, a match or matches will be played to determine the winner. If this match is tied after regulation time, an overtime period of 2, 10 minute halves will be played. If still tied, a "kickoff" will determine the winner. The referee will determine the exact method.

3. In division match play, a win by forfeiture shall be awarded when one club is unwilling or unable, for whatever reason, to commence the match within thirty minutes of scheduled kickoff. To win by forfeiture, the other club must have 15 players on the pitch ready to play. The starting time may be waived by agreement among the two clubs involved and the referee. Any club forfeiting a match forfeits the two standing points to the opposing club.

4. Each club may be permitted to change the playing date of one match, with the agreement of the opposition's Match Secretary. The Match Secretary of the club initiating the change must have the change approved by the DSRFU Vice President at least 2 weeks prior to the matrix scheduled date or the requested change date, whichever is earlier, and must confirm details of the change in writing with the DSRFU Vice President prior to the approved date for the change. Each deviation from the matrix will count as a change for both teams involved, regardless of which team initiated the change.

Under extraordinary circumstances, the DSRFU Executive committee may consider limited exceptions to the above rule upon receipt of a written request submitted through the Vice President.

Competition match play shall be governed by the laws of the of the game of Rugby football.

- a. Duration of play shall be as for international play (Law 5 (2) two periods of 40 minutes each).
- b. Replacements shall be allowed as per Law 3 (3)(a).

It shall be the responsibility of each club to report to the DSRFU Vice President the results of any matrix match within 24 hours of its completion.

a. The Deep South Referees Society shall verify those same results within one week of a match being played.

Only club members of good standing may play for a club in matrix. This requirement cannot be waived by the opposing club since it may affect the other clubs in the matrix. If a club

cannot field a full side, it must either play short or forfeit the official match. No individual shall play for more than one club in matrix matches during the course of the matrix season. Captains of each club shall be required to certify to the referee prior to each matrix match that all players for the club are club members in good standing and have not played in matrix matches for any other club during the current matrix season. Should a club be determined by the DSRFU Executive committee to have violated this paragraph, it shall be eliminated from the matrix competition, all of its matches shall be forfeited for the current matrix season, and the club will be placed on a one year probation during which it shall not be able to represent the DSRFU in any competition. If a club captain willfully misrepresents or fails to disclose the true status of a player, the captain will be ineligible to play in matrix or select side matches for one year.

In addition to the foregoing, Collegiate clubs are required to comply with USA Rugby-East restrictions concerning collegiate player eligibility.

The last place club in Division I shall replace the first place club in Division II the following matrix season and the first place Division II club shall replace the last place Division I club.

The host club responsible for confirming attendance of a DSRFU referee at least two days prior to the scheduled match. If a DSRFU referee cannot be available, the host club shall immediately notify the visiting club. In the absence of a DSRFU referee, the clubs have the option of rescheduling the match (which would not count as an allowed scheduled change) or playing the match with a referee agreed upon by both clubs prior to starting the match. If the host club did not notify the visiting club of the unavailability of a DSRFU referee at least 2 days prior to the scheduled match, the visiting club will have the option to reschedule the match at its home pitch. Once a match has begun with an agreed non-DSRFU referee, there can be no appeal to have the match not count in the matrix on the basis of the style or quality of the referee. The agreed to referee shall have the full authority vested by the laws of the game and may subject players to disciplinary actions on behalf of the DSRFU.

ARTICLE VIII

REPEAL AND AMENDMENT

This constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of members present at a properly convened meeting. A copy of a proposed amendment shall be included in the notice of the meeting at which it will be considered.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DSRFU CONSTITUTION:

1988: AGM - Jackson, MS. Article V, Disciplinary Committee.
Entire amendment rewritten and submitted as is.

1992: AGM - Mobile, AL. Article VII, Union Championship.
Paragraph #7;

"The last place club in Division I shall replace the first place club in Division II the following matrix season and the first place Division II club shall replace the last place Division I club."

This paragraph is deleted for a period of one year and shall not be honored unless amended or repealed at a special meeting of the union.