

# **Florida Youth Rugby Union**

## **By laws**

### **(September 2014 to Present)**

By-Laws

*The State of Florida Youth Rugby Union will adhere to the By-Laws as stated here and comply with the Rules and Regulations of the Florida Youth Rugby Union and USA Rugby.*

**ARTICLE I.        The By-Laws of the State of Florida Youth Rugby Union are herein described**

These By-Laws set forth the structure by which the State of Florida Youth Rugby Union shall operate. They may be amended and/or repealed at the scheduled meetings of the Union Board, by a **two-thirds** majority of the eligible votes of the members present, providing there is a quorum. If a quorum is not available, the amendment and/or application for repeal shall be tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Union Board. Each member of the Union Board must receive written notice of the proposed change at **least ten (10) days** prior to the meeting at which the proposed action is to be taken. **A quorum shall be 51%** of the total eligible votes. (Eligible voters are described in Article III.)

**ARTICLE II.        PURPOSES and POWERS**

**Section 2.1 GENERAL.** The purpose of the State of Florida Youth Rugby Union, hereafter called the FYRU, *is to be a charitable sports organization formed* to promote the development, participation, and enjoyment in youth Rugby.

The Corporation shall be autonomous in its governance of the sport of rugby in the United States and shall determine and control all matters central to such governance, shall not delegate such determination and control, and shall be free from outside restraint. This provision shall not be construed as preventing the Corporation from contracting with third parties for administrative assistance and support in connection with its purposes.

specifically defined as:

**Section 2.1 PURPOSES.** The Corporation is organized exclusively for the purposes as defined and limited by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (or any corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) and, in furtherance thereof and not in limitation thereof:

- (a) To establish national goals for athletic activities related to the sport of rugby and encourage the attainment of those goals;
- (b) To coordinate and develop athletic activity in the State of Florida directly relating to the sport of rugby, and to foster productive working relationships among organizations active in the sport of rugby;
- (c) To exercise exclusive jurisdiction over the sport of rugby in the State of Florida, in championships and other competitions;
- (d) To promote and support athletic activities in the sport of rugby involving the State of Florida and other States/Countries;
- (e) To promote and encourage physical fitness and public participation in rugby;
- (f) To assist organizations and individuals concerned with sports in the development of rugby training;
- (g) To protect the opportunity of and encourage and provide assistance to any athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official to participate in rugby without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, or physical handicap;
- (h) To establish rules regarding eligibility for participation by individuals in rugby competition on a local, regional, national and international level;
- (i) To provide for the swift and equitable resolution of conflicts and disputes involving athletic competition in the sport of rugby;
- (j) To foster the development of athletic facilities for use by athletes training for competitions in rugby and assist in making such facilities available to the athletes;
- (k) To provide and coordinate technical information on physical training, equipment design, coaching and performance analysis in the sport of rugby;
- (l) To encourage and support research, development, and dissemination of information in the areas of sports medicine and sports safety related to the sport of rugby;

**Section 2.3 POWERS.** In addition to (and not in limitation of) the powers granted to the Corporation under its Certificate of Incorporation and pursuant to the laws of the state of its incorporation, the Corporation shall be empowered to:

- (a) Represent the State of Florida in relations with appropriate national and international sports federations, organizations or committees;
- (b) Serve as the coordinating body for the sport of youth rugby in the State of Florida;

- (c) Exercise jurisdiction over incoming teams and tours activities in rugby and sanction such competition held in the State of Florida and establish rules, procedures, and fees for the sanctioning of any such events;
- (d) Conduct and/or coordinate amateur athletic competition in the sport of youth rugby, all championships, including but not limited to local and regional competitions and championships, in the State of Florida;
- (e) Establish procedures for the determination of eligibility and disciplinary standards for participation in competitions and championships;
- (f) Designate and select individuals and teams to represent the State of Florida in competition in the sport of rugby and certify, in accordance with the rules of USA Rugby and World Rugby, the eligibility of such individuals and teams;

**Section 2.3 WORLD RUGBY RULES.** FYRU shall automatically adopt all Laws of the Game as may be promulgated by the World Rugby from time to time, without any further action required by the Board of Directors, or any officer or committee of the FYRU. The FYRU will timely publicize any such Law changes. Local Union variations may be adopted as presented by committee.

### **ARTICLE III. UNION BOARD**

**Section 3.1. Authority and Powers.** Subject to the rights of the Members and any limitations set forth elsewhere in these Bylaws or the Certificate of Incorporation of the Corporation, the affairs of the Corporation shall be under the general direction of a Board of Directors (also referred to herein as the “Board”), which shall administer, manage, preserve, and protect the property of the Corporation. The role, powers and duties of the Board shall be to make policy for the Corporation as the National Governing Body of the sport of rugby consistent with the goals and objectives stated within these Bylaws, to determine the membership of the Corporation as set forth herein, to recommend all dues and fix all fees to be paid by the members of the Corporation, to raise funds for the use and benefit of the Corporation, and to oversee implementation of policy of the Corporation. Further specific powers and responsibilities of the Board include, without limitation:

- (a) To formulate (in consultation with management) and monitor the implementation of the strategic plan of the Corporation;
- (b) To approve and monitor the implementation of the annual business plan, operational plan, and budgets;
- (c) To appoint, evaluate, and, if necessary, remove the Executive Director.
- (d) To oversee the election of and activities of the standing and ad hoc committees, sub-committees and advisory groups of the Corporation;
- (e) To formulate and implement sound corporate governance practices and to ensure that the Corporation acts ethically and adheres to high standards of corporate behavior;
- (f) To provide for the preservation and effective use of the assets of the FYRU so as to ensure the long-term viability of the organization and the availability of its resources, when needed;

- (g) To ensure that the Corporation's financial statements are true, fair, and compliant with law and to provide for an annual independent audit of the financial statements;
- (h) To ensure that appropriate codes and policy frameworks exist to promote effective governance of USA Rugby through clear, written, and regular review and updating of:
  - (i) The policies of the FYRU;
  - (ii) Strategic and annual operational plans;
  - (iii) Standing orders and terms of reference for committees and special advisory groups;
  - (iv) Procedures and protocols for the operation of any USA Rugby associated entities;
  - (v) Clearly defined and delegated powers/limits of authority for decision making for the Board, committees, management, and employees; and
  - (vi) Risk management and audit policies

**Section 3.2. Number and Qualifications.** The Board shall consist of five (5) voting Directors, including four (4) At-Large Directors, and one (1) Membership Representative Director. The Board shall be composed of persons with a broad matrix of financial, legal, commercial, marketing, sports business skills, international rugby experience, and contacts. Directors shall be elected without regard to race, color, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, or physical handicap. All Directors shall be Individual Members of the Corporation. No paid employee of the Corporation shall be eligible to serve as a Director.

**Section 3.3. Treasurer.** The Treasurer is to be a non voting member of the Board and is to be elected by the members at the Annual general meeting. The process of election and term shall be as for the Membership Representative Director. The Treasurer shall answer to the Board Chairman and provide updates to the members on financial status of the union.

**Section 3.4. Terms.** Each At-Large Director shall serve for a term of four (4) years or until such Director's successor has been duly elected and qualified or until the Director's earlier death, resignation, or removal. The third and fourth Director to be appointed shall serve an initial term of 2 years, after which time their terms shall be 4 years.

The Membership Representative Director shall serve for a term of two (2) years or until such Director's successor has been duly elected and qualified or until the Director's earlier death, resignation, or removal.

**Section 3.5. Nomination and Election.**

- (a) At-Large Directors. The At-Large Directors shall be (a) nominated by the Nominating Committee at least forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting of the Members or other meeting of the members called for the purpose of electing Directors; (b) elected by the members by a simple majority vote at such meeting; The Nominating Committee shall nominate one person for each vacant position or for each position the term of which is due to expire in such year. The Members shall elect or refuse to elect each person nominated by the Nominating Committee, but may not elect any person not nominated by the Nominating

Committee. If the Members do not elect one or more of the nominated persons, the Nominating Committee shall subsequently present to the Members new nomination(s) for such positions for election

- (b) **Membership Representative Director.** The Member Representative Director shall be elected by the Members at the Annual General Meeting or other meeting of the Members called for the purpose of electing Directors by a simple majority of the Members. Nominations for Member Representative Director shall be solicited from the members at least thirty (30) days in advance of the Annual general Meeting.

**Section 3.6. Vacancies.** In the event of the death, resignation, or removal of a Director, such Director shall be replaced by a vote of the persons or body responsible for the election of such Director in the same manner required for the election of such Director. Each Director so elected shall serve for the unexpired portion of the term of the Director being replaced, and until the Director's successor is elected and qualified or until such Director's earlier death, resignation or removal. If such unexpired term is less than one-half (1/2) of the length of a full term, such unexpired term shall not be counted toward the two-term service limit set forth in Section 5.3 of these Bylaws with respect to the Director elected to fill such vacancy. If such unexpired term is one-half (1/2) or more of the length of a full term, such unexpired term shall be counted as a full term with respect to the Director elected to fill such vacancy for purposes of said two-term service limit.

**Section 3.7. Resignation.** Any Director may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Chairman or the Board of Directors. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein or, if no time is specified, at the time of acceptance of the resignation as determined by the Board.

**Section 3.8. Removal of Directors.** The entire Board of Directors or any individual Director with the may be removed from office for cause upon the petition of at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the members of the Union in office and the subsequent vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Union in office. For purposes of this Section 3.7, "cause" shall mean the failure by the Director to carry out his/her duties or responsibilities as a Director or any action or inaction which, in the discretion of the Congress, materially and adversely affects or may affect the Corporation.

**Section 3.9. Compensation.** No compensation shall be paid to any Director for services as a Director but, at the discretion of the Board, a Director may be reimbursed for travel and actual expenses necessarily incurred in attending meetings and performing other duties on behalf of the Corporation.

**Section 3.10. Meetings.** The Board shall meet at least quarterly at dates and times established by the Board. One meeting designated by the Board shall be the annual meeting of the Board. Special meetings shall be called by the Executive Director upon the order of the Chairman or at the written request of a number of Directors constituting a majority of the Directors then in office and entitled to vote.

The Union Board, hereafter called the Board, shall constitute the FYRU governing body. It shall operate within the confines of these By-Laws and FYRU Rules and Regulations, and shall not assume any authority or responsibilities unless these By-Laws and Rules and Regulations are amended by the FYRU membership.

Each club **in good standing with the FYRU** shall have one (1) vote (hereafter called the eligible vote). Votes may only be cast at a meeting by the 'members' present, and not by Proxy. A member may be deemed 'present' by electronic means of phone or e-mail during the meeting.

#### **ARTICLE IV. STANDING OPPORATIONS & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES**

**Section 4.1. Appointed Paid Employees.** The Board of Directors shall appoint and employ an Executive Director to strategically lead and direct the Union's "Executive Office". The Executive Director is to establish and implement goals, strategies, plans and policies at the direction and discretion of the Board of Directors. The Executive Director is responsible for hiring and training new employees to the Executive Office. All new appointments require a final board approval before an employment contract can be enacted.

**Section 4.2. Appointed Volunteer Positions.** At the discretion of the Board of Directors the Executive Director shall appoint all volunteer positions within the Executive Office including but not limited to; The Disciplinary Chairman, Referee Liaison, Director of High Performance Rugby, Director of Coaching and Director of Youth Rugby Development.

**Section 4.3. Elected Committees.** Each membership category shall have an elected Management Committee that is responsible to the members for the execution of the Leagues, Competitions, Rules and Eligibility for that membership group.

Standing Committees will have an elected Chairman and a representative from each member club shall serve on that committee. The Chairman of each committee will be elected by the members present who have a team entered in that Conference.

The Standing Committees are;

- a). Boys High School Conference
- b). Girls High School Conference
- c). Boys Middle School and Youth Conference
- d). Girls Middle School and Youth Conference

#### **Section 4.4. Appointed Committees**

The Executive Director may recommend, and the Board approve, an Ad Hoc committee to formulate policy, execute programs as may be required to execute the Strategic plan. Any

appointment must be a member in good standing of the Union, the Chair may co-opt members to that committee from inside or outside of the membership.

**ARTICLE V. MEETINGS**

FYRU shall hold an annual meeting at a site designated by the Board.

**ARTICLE VI. NEW CLUBS**

The Executive Director can approve a new club to become an Associate Member of the Union and be eligible to participate in league play. However, this club will not be eligible to become full FYRU voting member until they are approved by a simple majority of the eligible votes.

**ARTICLE VII. RULES OF OPERATION**

- A. Each club shall be affiliated with and adopt the Rules and Regulations established by the Florida Youth Rugby Union.
- B. Each affiliated club shall have jurisdiction over its internal affairs, except as herein provided. Each team shall take all precautions necessary to prevent disorder at games. Failure to comply with the World Rugby Charter and World Rugby Regulation #20 on code of conduct shall be referred to the Board of Directors for appropriate action.
- C.
1. Any protests on games played within each club shall be handled by that individual club.
  2. Protests on games played within the FYRU shall be presented to the FYRU's Executive Director and/or Board. No dispute or claim, protest and/or appeal shall be presented to, or defended by, this Union except by the member club's director or designated representative.
- D.
1. Clubs or teams using a suspended or an unregistered player on their roster may be penalized, up to and including suspension from the Union.
  2. Clubs using suspended or unregistered coach(s) on their contact games may be penalized, up to and including suspension from the Union.
- E. Home teams are responsible for providing the field of play.
- F. **FYRU shall establish a funds account to cover expenses generated by Union activities. Approval of the fees will require a two-thirds majority vote from the FYRU Board.**
- G. Teams shall be established in accordance with FYRU Rules and Regulations in order to be eligible to compete with other clubs.
- H. FYRU shall establish a calendar containing the dates for seasons and tournaments involving inter-club play.

- I. Penalties for violation of FYRU By-Laws and FYRU Rules and Regulations shall be determined by a simple majority vote of the FYRU Board.
- J. The Union shall schedule or authorize a scheduling body for all inter-club games, both recreational and competition.
- K. Referees for inter-club play will be assigned by the Florida Rugby Referees Association (FRRA) assignor (except as otherwise designated by the FYRU Board) and any required fees will be paid by the home clubs representative prior to each game.
- L. **All disputes, grievances, disciplinary appeals, etc shall be handled under the rules and procedures of USAR.**

**ARTICLE VIII. CLUB COMMITMENT**

Each club must remain in good standing with the rules and regulations of the FYRU in order to participate.

The Board may approve, by a simple majority of the eligible votes of the members present providing there is a quorum, a club from outside of FYRU to participate in Union *seasonal* play. Unless revoked by a two-thirds vote, the guest club's team(s) remain eligible to participate for the remainder of the seasonal year.

**ARTICLE IX. FYRU DISSOLUTION**

Upon dissolution of the FYRU organization, all remaining assets must be used exclusively as defined by the 501c3 regulations. Each team's bond that is in good standing at the time of dissolution will receive the full bond refund. All remaining assets will go to a charitable sports organization, preferably for the enhancement of rugby, within the state first, or within USA rugby.