

## **2011 – 2012 Proposed Realignment for Texas Rugby Union**

**Recommended and Presented by, Board of Directors, TRU**

**June 15, 2011**

On Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> 2011, the Board of Directors held an all day meeting regarding Competitions and matters that specifically relate to the playing of rugby within the Union.

All TRU organized competitions were reviewed for historical structure and performance, current state as it relates to end of season performance, results of competitions as it relates to existing Promotion & Relegation Policies, and future development of the game with the intent to structure our competitions for the betterment of the individual participants, member clubs, partner organizations and championship pathways.

The Board reviewed several operating policies and have made the following changes:

1. The minimum fine for a “non-played” forfeit of a league match is \$500. The forfeiture of the “next home match” shall still apply but will be up to the Clubs to monitor and notify the Union as is reasonable and/or practical.
2. The minimum fine for cancellation of a schedule match, outside of established or reasonable guidelines is \$250. The timeline for adequate notice, short of unforeseen and/or uncontrollable circumstances shall be increased from 5 to 15 days.
3. Failure to adhere to the minimum published guidelines of the Field Barrier Policy will result in a Warning for the first offence. A second offence will be a \$500 fine. Said fine will be used towards the purchase and shipment of adequate equipment for the offending club. Continued offenses will be an additional fine of \$500 per occurrence.

Additionally, the Board is keenly aware of the need and desire to establish and maintain a level playing field in all competitions. The Board has tried to balance the wishes and desires of the Players, Clubs, Coaches and Administrators as it relates to advancement to Local, Territorial and/or National Championships. The Board will continue to see tools and methods to ensure that these principles are upheld.

After review and discussion of issues, problems and other challenges experienced during the prior competitive cycle, the Board has made the following changes as it relates to (A) Scheduling and (B) Divisional Alignment.

- (A) The Board has deemed it necessary that it return to a previously used policy of “master / coordinated” scheduling for all Clubs. Per TRU Procedure and Notice policy, “Each club shall have 21 days (July 6, 2011) in which to submit a written waiver to appeal regarding the division in which any of its sides have been placed. The TRU Executive Board will rule on any appeals and notify all clubs of their final divisional alignment than August 1<sup>st</sup>”.

During this 21 day time period, the Board is requiring all clubs to send the Union their “Blackout / Special Request Dates”. Thereby, all requests should be submitted to the Union by no later than close of business, Wednesday, July 6, 2011.

- (B) The Board is making the following recommendations for Divisional realignment with any division/league for the 2011-2012 competitive season , with annotations:

**Mens Division One:** Austin Rugby Club, Austin Huns, Dallas Harlequins, Dallas RFC, Fort Worth, HARC, The Woodlands Exiles

- Home and Away competition with League results (points) used for advancement
- The Woodlands Exiles have applied as a D1 participant, confirmation is pending Board review.

**Mens Division Two:** Bay Area, Dallas Athletic Rugby Club, Frisco, Shreveport, St. Thomas, Woodlands, Austin II

- Home and Away competition with League results (points) used for advancement
- Austin II was promoted based on Promotion & Relegation policy
- DARC was promoted based on Promotion & Relegation policy
- St. Thomas was promoted based on competition review
- Shreveport was relegated for deficiencies and forfeiture

**Mens Division Three:**

- A. Arlington, Denton, Diablos, Fort Sill, Midland, OK Crusaders, Texas Islanders
- B. Alamo City, Corpus Christi, Galveston, McAllen, San Antonio, UT Grads, West Houston
- C. Huns II, Harlequins II, Dallas II, Fort Worth II, HARC II

- Home and Away divisional competition with League results (points) used for advancement
- A quarterfinal playoff format will be implemented with 3 teams from Division “A”, 3 teams from Division “B” and 2 teams from Division “C”.

- Playoff matches will be played in a manner that ties to the D1 and D2 league schedule, through its completion so that there is little, or no, overlap of all competitions
- Dallas Harlequins II was relegated based results, per policy
- San Antonio was relegated for deficiencies and forfeiture

**Mens Collegiate Division One aka Southwest Conference:** Baylor, Rice, Sam Houston, Texas Christian Univ., Univ. Texas, Texas State, Univ. Houston, Univ. North Texas

- Per USA Rugby, the teams in this division have formed their own competition with in USA Guidelines are hereafter referred to as “Southwest Conference”. Per meeting with TRU President, Mr. McPhail and Southwest Conference Commissioner, Mr. Jewett, both have agreed in principal to certain fundamental agreements and responsibilities of both parties. Mr. Jewett needs to finalize and affirm these agreements with his Board of Directors.
- The SWC will determine its League Schedule, in coordination with the Union, and will determine their winner for advancement

**Mens Collegiate Division Two:** Univ. Dallas, Stephen F. Austin, Angelo State, St. Edwards, Texas A&M II, Texas Tech

- Home or Away competition with League results (points) used for advancement
- St. Edwards promoted based on competition review
- Proposed league schedule has been submitted by Collegiate Director Roberson

**Mens Collegiate Division Three:** Midwestern State Univ., St. Mary’s, Univ. TX San Antonio, SMU, Sul Ross, Lamar Univ.

- Home or Away competition with League results (points) used for advancement
- Lamar’s application for admission into Division Three has been accepted.

**Senior Women Division One:** Austin Valkyries

- No changes, competes in West/USA competition

**Senior Women Division Two:** HARC, Dallas Diablos

- No changes, competes in USA competition
- Texas Stars will need to formally apply for admittance to the competition
- If a third team is added, a league format will be created with home and away matches

**Collegiate Women Division One / Two:** Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Univ. Texas

- Teams will play home and away competition in the Spring to determine league winner and runner up who will advance to West as TRU D1 and D2 representative
- If a fourth (or more) team is added to the competition, the Divisional structure will be reevaluated accordingly
- The President has requested that a “three year plan” be formulated for use as supplemental Promotion and Relegation policy specifically for the Women’s Game.

**Collegiate Women Division Three:** To be confirmed

- The Union will formulate a “Sevens” style league and championship to be played in the fall by Clubs choosing to commit to the finalized schedule.
- The Union will re-confirm team’s viability to compete in a spring only 15’s league.
- If the league is viable, a league structure and state championship will be declared/played