

Texas Rugby Union Participation Agreement

2011-12 Season - Formal Acceptance of the Team

As conditions for participation in the Texas Rugby Union (TRU) we, the Team noted below, affirm that:

1. The Team accepts the responsibility for participation in the Texas Rugby Union (TRU) in accordance with the appropriate rules, regulations, and guidelines of USA Rugby, the West Territory RFU, and the TRU.
2. The Team Representative, noted below, affirms that she/he has read and has understood the attached TRU Operating Procedures for the 2011-12 competitive season and accepts responsibility for conveying and enforcing those procedures, rules, regulations, and guidelines to all players, coaches, and administrators, as appropriate.
3. The Team will participate in all scheduled matches and will adhere to all game-day provisions described in the TRU Operating Procedures and/or as updated via TRU website as well as any requirements made by West RFU and USA Rugby.
4. By virtue of its acceptance of the opportunity to play in this Union, the Team affirms that all players and coaches are USA Rugby CIPP registered and agreed to abide by all requirements of the CIPP waiver and agreement.
5. The Team accepts responsibility for ensuring that all team members are eligible to participate in the TRU matches in accordance with USA Rugby Eligibility Rules and Regulations located at <http://www.usarugby.org/default.asp>.
6. The Team accepts responsibility for informing all players, coaches, administrators, and supporters of the responsibility to display sportsman-like conduct and appropriate behavior ON and OFF the field.
7. The Team affirms that this agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the rules, regulations, and guidelines of USA Rugby, the West RFU and TRU.
8. The Team accepts that the failure of any member to honor this agreement may place the member, the Team, the TRU, and/or the West TU in jeopardy of sanctions and disciplinary proceedings, including, but not limited to, disqualification from competition, monetary fines, and/or additional related sanctions.

Team: _____

Team Representative Name & Title (Print): _____

Signature of Representative: _____

Date: _____

Contact Email: _____

Contact Phone: _____

TEXAS RUGBY UNION

POLICY & OPERATING PROCEDURES



(Last Revision August 2010)

TEXAS RUGBY UNION POLICY & OPERATING PROCEDURES

(Last Revision August 2010)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	USA RUGBY UNION GENERAL ELIGIBILITY POLICY	pg. 3
2.0	TEXAS RUGBY UNION GENERAL ELIGIBILITY POLICY	pg. 3
2.1	Player Eligibility	
2.2	Club Eligibility	
2.3	Match Reports	
2.4	Challenges to Eligibility	
2.5	Divisional Competition	
2.6	Scheduling of Matches	
2.7	Forfeiture of Matched	
2.8	Field Preparation	
3.0	MEN’S AND WOMEN’S COLLEGIATE ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES	pg. 8
3.1	Player Eligibility	
3.2	Club Eligibility	
4.0	CLUB SEVENS ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES	pg. 9
4.1	Player Eligibility	
4.2	Club Eligibility	
5.0	SELECT SIDE GUIDELINES	pg. 9
6.0	UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT GUIDELINES	pg. 9
7.0	ADVERTISING AND LOGO GUIDELINES	pg. 10
8.0	Sideline Policy and Field Barriers	pg. 11
8.1	Mandatory	
8.2	Teams on one sideline	
8.3	Teams on opposite sidelines	
8.4	Details	
8.5	Fines	
8.6	Game Day Procedures	
8.7	Appeals	

Any sections or sub-sections of this document are subject to any current or future directives of the Western Rugby Football Union and/or USA Rugby.

All questions or disputes relating to these operating procedures should be referred to the Texas Rugby Union Executive Committee for review and resolution.

1.0 USA RUGBY GENERAL ELIGIBILITY POLICY

- 1.1 As the National Governing Body, USA Rugby has the sole right to establish minimum rules under which the game is played in the United States. The rules for the players and club eligibility, use of logos, uniforms and equipment as contained in the "USA Rugby Eligibility Rules" (published on the USA Rugby website – www.usarugby.org) apply to any match which in any way leads to any US Championship. These are the minimum guidelines which must be applied by all Territorial and Local Area Unions.

2.0 TEXAS RUGBY UNION GENERAL ELIGIBILITY POLICY

The Texas Rugby Union (TRU) is a Local Area Union (LAU) and a member of the Western Union Rugby Football UNION (WRFU). The WRFU is a Territorial Union (TU) and a member of USA Rugby. The TRU Operating Procedures contained in the document are based on the minimum guidelines published in the "USA Rugby Eligibility Rules."

2.1 Player Eligibility

- 2.1.1 All Players must be in good standing with their Club, the TRU, the WRFU, and USA Rugby in order to participate in National Championships and all events leading up to the Championships, including TRU Championships and WRFU Championships.

2.1.2 Definitions:

- 2.1.2.1 *TRU Division – Organization of the TRU member clubs into competitive leagues for purpose of determining a TRU champion and/or representatives for WRFU championships which lead to USA Rugby National Championships.*
- 2.1.2.2 *TRU League Match- any match which leads to a TRU Division Championship for the purpose of advancing in a USA Rugby National championship.*
- 2.1.2.3 *TRU competitive season – September 1 until the final game of the TRU Championship.*
- 2.1.2.4 *TRU may run multiples levels of the game throughout the year. The TRU, as a Union, runs on the USA CIPP Cycle which is Sept 1 through Aug 31 of each year.*

- 2.1.3 To be in good standing the participant must, at a minimum:

- 2.1.3.1 Be enrolled in the current year's Club and Individual Participation Program (CIPP).
- 2.1.3.2 Be a bona fide member in good standing with their Club, the TRU, the WRFU and USA Rugby. Good standing implies that the player has no outstanding disciplinary actions, dues, fines, assessments, and/or other debts to their Club, the TRU, the WRFU, and USA Rugby.
- 2.1.3.3 Meet all the other standards currently required by or that may be imposed by their Club, the TRU, the WRFU, and USA Rugby.

2.1.4 Additional Standards:

- 2.1.4.1 To participate with a club in a TRU Championship, a player must have played in at least two (2) league matches on behalf of that club during the competitive season immediately preceding the TRU Championship.
 - 2.1.4.2 Within a competitive season, a player may only play for one Club in competitive matches leading to a TRU Championship unless otherwise allowed by these operating procedures.
 - 2.1.4.3 A player may change clubs if he does so between competitive seasons. The player must leave the former Club as a member in good standing to be eligible to participate in any matches with the new club.
 - 2.1.4.4 In order to change clubs within a competitive season, a player must submit a waiver request to the USA Rugby Eligibility Committee. Details on the waiver request procedure are available on the USA Rugby website (*Eligibility/Waiver Requests*).
 - 2.1.4.5 Transfer requests and approvals from USA Rugby must be sent to the TRU Director of Competitions prior to that Player competing in a League match for the new Club.
-
- 2.1.5 For all TRU League and/or Championship matches which in any way lead to any USA Rugby Championship, no club or team may have more than prescribed number of non-resident aliens upon its team roster. No team shall have more than five (5) non-resident aliens on any match roster, i.e., a maximum of five (5) non-resident aliens may play in any match. The restriction on non-resident aliens applies only to matches leading to a USA Rugby Championship.
 - 2.1.6 No players who are under suspension by their Club, the TRU, the WRFU, or USA Rugby may play in any match during that period of suspension. Violations may result in additional sanctions for both player and club as allowed by the TRU Disciplinary Code.
 - 2.1.7 Any challenge to the good standing of a player by his former club or another club should be made immediately in writing to the TRU Director of Discipline) for investigation and substantiation.

2.2 Club Eligibility

- 2.2.1 TRU member Clubs must be a member in good standing and remain eligible to play in a TRU League match or a TRU Championship.
- 2.2.2 TRU approval – a Club must be formally approved as a member club by the TRU membership.
- 2.2.3 CIPP enrollment – a Club must be enrolled in the current year's CIPP.
- 2.2.4 Good Standing – a Club must be in good standing with the TRU, the WRFU, and USA Rugby. Good standing implies that the club has no outstanding disciplinary actions, dues, fines, assessments, and/or other debts to the TRU, the WRFU, or USA Rugby.
- 2.2.5 Other Standards – a Club must meet all other standards required or that may be imposed by the TRU, the WRFU, or USA Rugby.
- 2.2.6 In addition to being ineligible for TRU League and Championship matches, an ineligible club may not participate in any official TRU Meeting.

- 2.2.7 It is a violation of the TRU Disciplinary Code for a club to knowingly violate any of the above listed eligibility criteria. Such violation may result in fines and /or sanctions for the offending club and/or individuals

2.3 Match Reports

- 2.3.1 All TRU competitions that lead to a USA Rugby National Championship will be implemented on the USA Rugby Competition Management System (CMS). For all TRU League matches each club must complete the following procedures:
- 2.3.2 Prior to the match, enter their preliminary match roster in the CMS web-site and provide a copy of that roster to an opposition representative. Any changes to the actual game-day roster, including potential reserves, must be indicated on the preliminary roster submitted to the opposition. The preliminary roster will indicate name, CIPP#, position, jersey number, front-row eligibility, and citizenship/eligibility.
- 2.3.3 Prior to the match, each club shall provide to the opposition club an eligibility file or notebook which will include for each player listed on the CMS preliminary roster:
- 2.3.4 Photo-copy or original of valid photo ID (i.e., driver's license, passport page, military ID, college ID)
- 2.3.5 For non-US citizens, photo-copy or original of proof of citizenship/eligibility.
- 2.3.6 Prior to the match, each of the two teams will conduct a photo ID check of ALL of the players on the opposition roster. Any player without a valid photo ID is ineligible to play in the match.
- 2.3.7 An authorized representative of each club shall verify, by signature on both preliminary rosters, that he has read the information contained in the opposition club's roster and that he has examined the opposition club's eligibility file and conducted the Photo ID check. This process of verification neither constitutes nor implies a waiver of the right to future challenge of the eligibility of players or the validity of the match roster. It simply verifies that the representative has examined the opposition's Match roster, the opposition's eligibility file, and conducted a Photo ID check of the players on the roster.
- 2.3.8 Within 72 hours after the match both clubs shall edit the preliminary match roster on the CMS web-site and shall enter all appropriate match information for their club in the post-match report including:
- 2.3.9 Final match roster
- 2.3.10 Scores – type, time, and player
- 2.3.11 Substitutions – type, time, and player
- 2.3.12 Disciplinary action – as applicable
- 2.3.13 Failure to comply with any or all of the above requirements or refusal to provide the required information is sufficient grounds for sanctions for the offending club including match forfeiture, disqualification, and/or monetary fines.

2.4 Challenges to Eligibility

- 2.4.1 The following guidelines shall apply to challenges to the eligibility of player(s) and/or to the validity of a CMS Match Report or roster

- 2.4.2 Pre-match roster exchanges, cipp roster presentation, photo ID and nationality verification are required before every match.
- 2.4.3 Pre-match Challenges as it relates to roster exchanges and player eligibility should be made to the match referee prior to kick off.
- 2.4.4 If teams, by mutual consent agree to waive the pre-match roster verification process, no challenges to eligibility will be allowed.
- 2.4.5 Challenges may be made after the match has been played.
- 2.4.6 Challenges may be made by a Club, by a TRU officer, or by the appropriate Division Secretary.
- 2.4.7 Challenges must be made to the Division Secretary having jurisdiction over the match within five (5) days from the discovery of a player's ineligibility or the invalidity of a CMS Match Report or roster. Any and all challenges must be made at least seven (7) days prior to a TRU Championship in order to give the Division Secretary sufficient time to conduct an investigation and submit a ruling before that Championship.
- 2.4.8 It is the sole responsibility of the challenged club to prove, by submittal of appropriate documentation, the eligibility of its players and/or the validity of its TRU Match Report rosters. In the event of a challenge, all requested documentation must be provided to the Division Secretary no later than five (5) days after written notification of challenge.
- 2.4.9 If the Division Secretary rules that a challenge has been confirmed (i.e., ineligible player, more than two non-resident aliens, etc.), then the challenged match will be ruled a forfeit by a score of 28-0. Forfeiture in this case does not mean that the challenged club has not met its commitment to play the match.

2.5 Divisional Competition

- 2.5.1 The TRU organizes competitions in order to promote the game of Rugby, in general, to promote the highest standard of play possible and to provide the best teams as representatives to WRFU Championships with the ultimate goal of securing USA Rugby Championships.
- 2.5.2 Purpose – The TRU's Divisional Championship format is organized:
 - 2.5.2.1 To promote the highest standard of play at all levels within the TRU.
 - 2.5.2.2 To insure the best competition within a Division by organizing competitions with similar playing levels.
 - 2.5.2.3 To provide a method of promotion and relegation between Divisions to reward the highest standards and to guard against stagnation and complacency.
- 2.5.3 Championship – The TRU may hold a championship tournament at the end of each competitive season to determine the champions of each Division and to determine the promotions and relegation of Clubs between Divisions.
 - 2.5.3.1 The following rules will serve as the Tie-Breakers for determining the order of finish within the Division for purposes of championship seeding:
 - 2.5.3.1.1 Win-Loss record in all League matches.

- 2.5.3.1.2 Win-loss record in Head-to-Head matches
- 2.5.3.1.3 Points Differential in Head-to Head matches.
- 2.5.3.1.4 Point Differential in all League matches.
- 2.5.3.1.5 Coin –flip.

Note: a loss by administrative forfeiture counts as 1.1 losses in computing the win-loss record. Teams that forfeit matches due to failure to field a competitive side will not be allowed to advance.

- 2.5.4 Promotion and Relegation – The TRU Policy governing the promotion and relegation of clubs between levels of play is documented in the Appendix and is posted on or published to the TRU Website.

2.6 Scheduling of Matches

- 2.6.1 Scheduling Meetings –the TRU may hold an annual scheduling meeting. If held, this meeting will be scheduled on a date after the TRU Championships but no later than August 1 of the upcoming season.
- 2.6.2 Master Schedule – Clubs shall submit their completed schedules to their respective TRU Secretary as soon as possible after the scheduling meeting but no later than August 15. A master schedule will be compiled by the appropriate Divisional Secretary and distributed to all TRU member Clubs and to the TRRA. These schedules will be posted to the TRU website and ref assignments will be made for all League matches. Friendlies will be scheduled on a best case effort based on availability and resources.
- 2.6.3 Schedule Changes – Any changes to a match that is on the Master Schedule must be made no later than noon on the Tuesday before the match. Notification of changes must be made by the home club to the appropriate Division Secretary, to the opposing club, and to the local referee coordinator responsible for the home club’s area. All parties must confirm the requested changes in a timely manner.
- 2.6.4 Schedule conflicts: Every attempt to resolve schedule conflicts should be made by the clubs involved. If not agreement can be reached, the conflict shall be forwarded to the Division Secretary and the TRU Director of Competitions for conflict resolution.
- 2.6.5 Cancellation of Matches:
 - 2.6.5.1 Club Notification – The canceling club must give the opposing club, the appropriate divisional secretary, and the referee at least five (5) days notice of cancellation prior to the date of the scheduled match, unless cancellation is mutually agreed upon by both clubs within that five days or unless the cancellation is caused by verifiable governmental intervention, law or ordinance, or by an act of God. Otherwise the match will be considered a non-playing forfeiture for the canceling club.
 - 2.6.5.2 Referee Notification – The TRRA must be notified of match cancellations immediately. Reimbursement of any reasonably incurred expenses shall be made by the canceling club to the TRU/TRRA based on costs incurred.

2.6.5.3 Enforcement: The Division Secretary and TRU Director of Competitions will review any extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis for a resolution of a dispute over match cancellation. The decision of the Division Secretary and/ or TRU Director of Competitions is final.

2.6.6 Rescheduling of cancelled matches

2.6.6.1 If a match has to be rescheduled due to weather conditions then the match will be rescheduled at the original match venue.

2.6.6.2 The rescheduling of cancelled League matches shall take precedence over all other matches.

2.6.6.3 Unresolved and unplayed League matches will result in a forfeit by both clubs.

2.7 Forfeiture of Matches

2.7.1 Non-playing forfeiture – A non-playing forfeiture means that a club has not met the obligations to play a scheduled match that was not cancelled within the guidelines set forth in Section 2.6.5.

2.7.2 Playing forfeiture- A playing forfeiture means that a Club has met the obligations to play a scheduled match, but that a forfeiture has resulted because of a violation of player, club, and/or roster eligibility.

2.7.3 Fines for Non-playing Forfeiture- A non –playing forfeiture of a scheduled match shall be an automatic fine of \$100.00-\$50.00 payable to the TRU and \$50.00 payable to the other club. The fine is in addition to payment of expenses incurred by the TRRA (see section 2.6.5.b)

2.7.4 Venue – A club that has incurred a non-playing forfeiture in a League match must play its next two (2) League matches against the club it forfeited to at the club’s chosen venue.

2.7.5 Automatic Relegation – Two non-playing forfeitures of scheduled League matches in a season shall result in an automatic relegation to the next lower division for the following season. Clubs in a division where they cannot be relegated to a lower division may face suspension from TRU championship play. This shall be determined on an individual basis by the TRU Board of Directors at the next scheduled General Meeting as is applicable.

2.8 Field Preparation

2.8.1 Field: The Home Club must provide a properly marked field for all matches in accordance with the Laws of the Game AND as detailed in the Sideline Policy stated below. Marking materials should be an insert, non-caustic, material for player safety. The field should be the maximum allowed by the laws where space permits. The field must contain no obstructions or obstacles that might pose a danger to or otherwise affect the safety of the players.

2.8.2 Field Barriers – The home club is responsible for suitable sideline barriers to prevent spectators from approaching within five (5) yards of the playing enclosure. Both sidelines shall have barriers from goal line to goal line. The

home club is responsible for keeping supporters, players, staff, and selected side in order and behind the barriers as needed.

- 2.8.3 Goal Post Pads – the home club is responsible for providing appropriate goal post pads to a minimum of two (2) inches thickness and five (5) feet height.
- 2.8.4 Rugby Balls – the home club shall provide a sufficient number of properly inflated rugby balls so as to carry on the match without substantial delay.
- 2.8.5 Complaints – A Club may lodge a complaint with respect to Field Preparations in writing to the Division Secretary in the case of League matches and the TRU Director of Competitions for all matches.
- 2.8.6 Enforcement - Penalty for failure to conform to these guidelines fall under Category 6 of the Disciplinary Code for Non-Playing Violations.

*Note: Effective October 1, 2010, the TRU has added a mandatory Sideline and Barrier Policy listed below.

3.0 MEN'S AND WOMEN'S COLLEGIATE ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

3.1 Player Eligibility

- 3.1.1 Players must meet the minimum required guidelines as published by USA Rugby and other further restrictions as published by the WRFU or TRU.

3.2 Club Eligibility

- 3.2.1 Each participating college club must meet the minimum required guidelines as published by USA Rugby and other further restrictions as published by the WRFU or TRU.

4.0 CLUB SEVENS ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

4.1 Player Eligibility

- 4.1.1 Eligibility criteria for the TRU Club Seven's competition are the same as those for the Player Eligibility minimum required guidelines as published by USA Rugby and other further restrictions as published by the WRFU or TRU.

4.2 Club Eligibility

- 4.2.1 Each participating Club must meet the minimum required guidelines as published by USA Rugby and other further restrictions as published by the WRFU or TRU.

5.0 SELECT SIDE GUIDELINES

- 5.1 The President of the TRU shall coordinate the provision of coaching, managing, training, selection, and match scheduling for representative sides for the Union by selecting a TRU High Performance Director.
- 5.2 Each participating player must be a member of a TRU sanctioned club and be in 'good standing' with his/her Club, the TRU, the WRFU, and USA Rugby.
- 5.3 Each player must be enrolled in the current year's CIPP.
- 5.4 Each player shall meet all other standards currently required by or that may be imposed by their Club, the TRU the WRFU, and USA Rugby.

6.0 UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT GUIDELINES

6.1 Jerseys

- 6.1.1 Sturdy Cotton and synthetic material and blends are permitted.
- 6.1.2 Must be of a sturdy material (not able to tear away), of full length (being tucked into shorts or hanging natural), with sleeves of at least 2" when measured from the inset seam. Body and sleeve must be hemmed or banded.
- 6.1.3 May be of any color or pattern, but the jerseys of all players must be of the same or approximately matching color and pattern.
- 6.1.4 Must be clean and in good repair and free from holes, tears, and rips.
- 6.1.5 Must be numbered 1-15 in not less than 4" size numbers assigned to the proper position, in contrasting color, located in mid-center back. Jerseys worn by reserves must be numbered in a sequential manner if available.
- 6.1.6 "Mesh" jerseys (open weave) will not be allowed
- 6.1.7 No tear-away jerseys will be allowed.
- 6.1.8 No cut up or altered jersey will be allowed at the shoulder or waist areas.

6.2 Shorts

- 6.3 Must be cotton or cotton blend of at least 50%.
- 6.4 May be of any color or length between 2" and knee length, but the shorts of all players must be of the same or approximately matching color, pattern, and length.
- 6.5 Must be clean and in good repair and free from holes, tears, and rips.

6.6 Stockings

- 6.7 Cotton, wool, synthetic materials, and blends permitted.
- 6.8 Must be at least over-the-calf length.
- 6.9 Any color or pattern permitted, but the stocking of all players must be of the same or approximately matching color and pattern. Different colors may be worn on each leg provided all players do so.
- 6.10 Must be clean and in good repair and free from holes, tears, and rips.

6.11 Underlying and additional garments and accessories

- 6.12 Players may wear any clothing beneath jerseys and shorts as they so choose, provided it otherwise conforms to the laws and no portion extends beyond the sleeve or shorts hem (e.g., Under Armor type underwear is allowed).
- 6.13 In exceptional and extraordinary climate conditions, for player safety, additional garments or accessories may be authorized by the referee, but such authorization shall be rarely given.
- 6.14 Medical devices, otherwise conforming to the laws, may be worn to protect existing injury.
- 6.15 Law (5) specifically prohibits head bandannas.
- 6.16 Personal jewelry including earrings is not prohibited and deemed unsafe.

7.0 ADVERTISING AND LOGO GUIDELINES

- 7.1 The TRU, following USA Rugby guidelines, shall conform to IRB regulations on advertiser's and manufacturer's logos as stated below, and to the further restrictions implemented by USA Rugby as also included below:
- 7.2 At the clubs choice, a registered logo or registered trademark of the manufacturer (or which the name of the manufacturer may be incorporated) and only the registered logo or registered trademark of an advertiser may appear on the following items of a player's or match official's and attendant's apparel or equipment. While in line with 7.0.13 below:
 - 7.2.1 Jerseys
 - 7.2.2 Shorts
 - 7.2.3 Socks
 - 7.2.4 Boots
 - 7.2.5 Tracksuits
 - 7.2.6 Medical Cases
 - 7.2.7 Rugby Balls
- 7.3 The term "player" includes replacement. The term "match official and attendants" is this regulation includes: the referee and the touch judges, the coaches, the medical officers, the first-aid personnel, ball boys, physiotherapists, and any other designated union official.
- 7.4 Apart from the manufacturer's registered logo or registered trademark, registered logos and/or other registered trademarks are not permitted on any other items of a player's or match official's and attendant's apparel or equipment.
- 7.5 This regulation does not prohibit a Union or Club's logo from appearing on any item of a player's and/or matches officials and attendant's apparel or equipment.
- 7.6 Each player upon the side fielded must wear matching logos and advertisement.
- 7.7 Manufacturer's logos for which no remuneration is paid to the club shall not be deemed as advertiser's logo, but shall otherwise conform.
- 7.8 No remuneration for wearing of advertisement shall be paid or benefit any player individually.
- 7.9 Advertiser's logos shall be located only upon the left or right front short leg on shorts, provided the location shall be uniform on all players' kit.

7.10 Any form of logo, trademark or advertising is prohibited on:

7.10.1 The Playing Area as defined in Law 2 of the Laws of the Game.

7.10.2 No advertisement or material is allowed on the cross bars of pitches used in a match (friendly, cup, league, or tournament).

Note: the prohibition in respect of goal posts does not apply to padding and protector up to a height of two meters from the ground.

7.11 The name of an advertiser or manufacturer, as distinct from, the registered logo or trademark, may not appear except as stated herein.

7.12 The TRU, the WRFU, and /or USA Rugby shall retain the right to prohibit and require the removal of any advertiser logo deemed offensive, inflammatory, or not in the best interests of promotion of the sport of Rugby.

7.13 Complaints: Any Club Officer may initiate a complaint in writing to the TRU Director of Competitions.

7.14 Enforcement: Penalty for failure to conform to these procedures falls under Category 5 of the Disciplinary Code for Non-playing violations.

8.0 Sideline Policy and Field Barriers

****EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2010 FOR ALL TRU MATCHES (League and friendly) and TOURNAMENTS***

8.1 MANDATORY – BOTH OPTIONS

8.1.1 Sideline Barriers/Ropes required—minimum 5m off touchline, try line to try line; preferred dead ball line to dead ball line;

8.1.2 ONLY ONE (1) Coach/Rep inside rope;

8.1.3 Coach/Rep is responsible party to enforce rules and ensure their Players & Club Members honor barrier/rope and will be held accountable;

8.1.4 Coach/Rep must remain within close proximity (arm's length) to barrier/rope and within the 22m lines;

8.1.5 Being allowed inside the rope is a privilege and ALWAYS subject to Match Official's discretion (ANY dissent in opposition to a Match Official on this issue will be subject to Disciplinary Committee review and sanction, if deemed appropriate);

8.1.6 Assistant Referee (Touch Judge) should be approached and addressed ONLY to advise of intended substitution. Any interference in the performance of the Assistant Referee's duties will be subject to sanction and disciplinary review.

8.2 OPTION ONE – TEAMS ON ONE SIDELINE

8.2.1 Players & Club Members of BOTH teams on opposite side of spectators;

8.2.2 Teams are separated at 50m;

8.2.3 Teams to remain on their respective sides of the 50m;

8.2.4 No one inside 22m lines

8.3 OPTION TWO – TEAMS ON OPPOSITE SIDELINES

- 8.3.1 Players & Club Members on opposite sidelines;
- 8.3.2 One Coach/Rep inside ropes between 22m lines;
- 8.3.3 No one inside 22m lines

8.4 OTHER ITEMS

- 8.4.1 Should a Club have a specific question as it relates to their home pitch and their ability to comply with the TRU's policies; the Club can discuss and determine proper field protocols with the TRU Director of Competitions.
- 8.4.2 The pilot field-barrier program policy was tested in the 08-09 & 09-10 competitive cycles at various venues, divisions and tournaments with positive results. These Options have been refined based upon Club & Referee inputs to give Clubs options that can accommodate their respective field facilities. The host club is responsible for determining which Option they employ and must advise the visiting club of the Option employed.
- 8.4.3 It has been found that close proximity of the spectators to the reserves & coaches fosters problems beyond safety. Separating the spectators from the coach(es) and reserves allows the spectators to enjoy the match without the input from the participants. Additionally, it allows the Match Official (Referee) to keep better control of the sidelines.
- 8.4.4 Remember, there are fairly strict rules regarding who can and cannot be on the field of play. Coaches are NOT permitted to enter the playing area during a match except by invitation of the referee at half time, or other extraordinary occasions. [Ref: law 6C.2, 3]. This policy applies to ALL matches, including youth matches.
- 8.4.5 Water carriers and medical personnel may enter the playing area by prior arrangement, or at the specific invitation of the referee. Referees are urged to be vigilant in applying this law to coaches masquerading as water carriers or trainers or to coaches entering the playing area uninvited at stoppages for injury, conversion kicks, and the like, and to enlist the aid of the relevant captain in curbing such infringements. Penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct may be applied.
- 8.4.6 This requirement is mandatory effective October 1, 2010 and Match Officials (Referee) will have authority, at his/her sole discretion, to post-poner the match if the field is not properly roped, marked or prepared for play in compliance with TRU requirements. Referee match reports will be the primary method utilized to monitor compliance. Visiting clubs are encouraged to report non-compliance, post match for TRU to address with Host club.

8.4.7 The existing requirements to have Goal Post Pads, Field Flags and properly marked fields shall continue to be in effect and failure to meet these will also have the same penalties imposed.

8.5 FINES

8.5.1 Failure to meet the minimum required policies will be tracked on a rolling twelve (12) month basis and are set forth below, with the following sanctions:

8.5.1.1 First Offense: \$50 fine (possibly probated, if compliance thereafter is verified)

8.5.1.2 Second Offense \$100 fine and loss of One (1) League Point as applicable

8.5.1.3 Third Offense: \$150 fine, loss of One (1) League Point and loss of next home match as applicable

8.5.1.4 Fourth Offense: To be reviewed by TRU Discipline Director

8.5.1.5 Fines shall be due and payable within 10 business days of notification by the TRU.

8.6 GAME DAY PROCEDURES

8.6.1 The following procedures should be followed on game day and/or in the case of a citing:

8.6.1.1 Both coaches should review the assigned team areas at least 30 minutes prior to kick off.

8.6.1.2 If both coaches cannot agree to a suitable resolution, the respective coaches must notify the referee before kickoff. Coaches can NOT agree to waive the stated policy requirements by mutual consent.

8.6.1.3 Primary reporting of the Field Barrier Policy shall continue to be made via Referee Match Reports which should be submitted with 48 hours of the match or as is reasonable.

8.6.1.4 The TRU will review all match reports and notify the respective clubs within 48 hours or as is reasonable.

8.7 APPEALS

8.7.1 Appeals shall be submitted to the TRU Discipline Director within 48 hours of notification or as is reasonable

= End of Document =

Texas Rugby Union Field Policy

FOR ALL TRU MATCHES/TOURNAMENTS (LEAGUE & FRIENDLIES)-MANDATORY

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 15, 2010

It is **MANDATORY**, that Sideline Barriers or Ropes are to be required a **minimum 5m off touchline, Try line to Try line**; preferred dead ball line to dead ball line; Sideline Barriers or Ropes are to be when there will be Coaches, Players or Fans on that sideline. If only one side is utilized by all parties, only one barrier or rope is required;

ONLY ONE (1) Coach/Representative (Rep) inside barriers or ropes;

Coach/Rep is responsible party to enforce rules and ensure their Players & Club Members honor barrier/rope and will be held accountable;

Coach/Rep must remain within close proximity (arm's length) to barrier/rope and remain between the 22m lines;

Being allowed inside the rope is a privilege and ALWAYS subject to Match Official's discretion (ANY dissent in opposition to a Match Official on this issue will be subject to Disciplinary Committee review and sanction, if deemed appropriate);

Assistant Referee (Touch Judge) should be approached and addressed ONLY to advise of intended substitution. Any interference in the performance of the Assistant Referee's duties will be subject to sanction and disciplinary review.

1. OPTION ONE – TEAMS ON ONE SIDELINE

- Players & Club Members of BOTH teams on opposite side of spectators;
- Teams are separated at 50m;
- Teams to remain on their respective sides of the 50m;
- No one inside 22m lines.

2. OPTION TWO – TEAMS ON OPPOSITE SIDELINES

- Players & Club Members on opposite sidelines;
- One Coach/Rep inside ropes between 22m lines;
- No one inside 22m lines.

Should a Club have a specific question as it relates to their home pitch and their ability to comply with the TRU's policies; the Club can discuss and determine proper field protocols with the TRU Director of Competitions.

The pilot field-barrier program policy was tested in the 08-09 & 09-10 competitive cycles at various venues, divisions and tournaments with positive results. These Options have been refined based upon Club & Referee inputs to give Clubs options that can accommodate their respective field facilities. The host club is responsible for determining which Option they employ and must advise the visiting club of the Option employed.

It has been found that close proximity of the spectators to the reserves & coaches fosters problems beyond safety. Separating the spectators from the coach(es) and reserves allows the spectators to enjoy the match without the input from the participants. Additionally, it allows the Match Official (Referee) to keep better control of the sidelines.

Remember, there are fairly strict rules regarding who can and cannot be on the field of play. Coaches are NOT permitted to enter the playing area during a match except by invitation of the referee at half time, or other extraordinary occasions. [Ref: law 6C.2, 3].

This policy applies to ALL matches, including youth matches.

Water carriers and medical personnel may enter the playing area by prior arrangement, or at the specific invitation of the referee. Referees are urged to be vigilant in applying this law to coaches masquerading as water carriers or trainers or to coaches entering the playing area uninvited at stoppages for injury, conversion kicks, and the like, and to enlist the aid of the relevant captain in curbing such infringements. Penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct may be applied.

This requirement is mandatory effective October 15, 2010 and Match Officials (Referee) will have authority, at his/her sole discretion, to post-pone the match if the field is not properly roped, marked or prepared for play in compliance with TRU requirements. Referee match reports will be the primary method utilized to monitor compliance. Visiting clubs are encouraged to report non-compliance, post match for TRU to address with Host club.

The existing requirements to have Goal Post Pads, Field Flags and properly marked fields shall continue to be in effect and failure to meet these will also have the same penalties imposed. The primary monitoring of these existing requirements shall be done by the TRRA assigned Referee and will be documented in the Referee's post match report to the TRU.

Failure to meet the minimum required policies will be tracked on a rolling twelve (12) month basis and are set forth below, with the following sanctions:

1. First Offense: \$50 fine (possibly probated, if compliance thereafter is verified)
2. Second Offense \$100 fine and loss of One (1) League Point as applicable
3. Third Offense: \$150 fine, loss of One (1) League Point and loss of next home match as applicable
4. Fourth Offense: To be reviewed by TRU Discipline Director

The following procedures should be followed on game day and/or in the case of a citing:

- Both coaches should review the assigned team areas at least 30 minutes prior to kickoff.
- If both coaches cannot agree to a suitable resolution, the respective coaches, must notify the referee before kickoff.
- Coaches can NOT agree to waive the stated policy requirements by mutual consent.
- Primary reporting of the Field Barrier Policy shall continue to be made via Referee Match Reports which should be submitted with 48 hours of the match or as is reasonable.
- The TRU will review all match reports and notify the respective clubs within 48 hours or as is reasonable.
- Appeals shall be submitted to the TRU Discipline Director within 48 hours of notification or as is reasonable.
- Fines shall be due and payable within 10 business days of notification by the TRU.