

## Candidates for RRRC Competitions Committee - Women's Representative

**Emily Kelson** Nominated by HARC

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### Education

Bachelor of Arts: History, Communication – University of St. Thomas

Masters of Natural Resource Development – Texas A&M University

### Playing Affiliation and Coaching Experience

Houston Athletic Rugby Club (HARC) women's player since 2010

Patrick Henry Middle School coach (Rookie Rugby)

Lanier Middle School coach

### Certifications

Level 1 Referee (USA Rugby)

Level 200 Coaching (USA Rugby)

Rugby Ready (International Rugby Board)

### Accomplishments

- Serving HARC as VP of Player Development
  - Advocated for women's team's promotion from Division II to Division I, following increased growth and improved record
  - Represented HARC during RRRC organization transition
  - Managed needs of coaches for both men's and women's teams
  - Addressed challenges for allocating resources to men's and women's teams
  - Initiated incentives for recruitment and retention
  - Communicated development opportunities to players, e.g. camps
  - Assisted with fundraising planning and other development activities
- Former HARC Women's VP
  - Represented women's team issues to club operating committee
  - Interfaced with geographic union and conference
  - Participated in women's team's progress from social team to Division II
- Represented regional rugby during Houston hosting of three international test matches (USA vs. Scotland, USA vs. Ireland, USA vs. Italy)
- Two regional playoff appearances (Elite 8), one Texas Cup win

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**Allison Lee** Nominated by Valkyries

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I am honored to be nominated for a representative position in the Red River Rugby Conference. I have played rugby for over 10 years now with the majority of them in Texas. I have served as an officer on my college team organizing games and travel itineraries. I help to plan and organize events at the school I work at, and lead my grade level content team in planning/pacing out our curriculum. I would love to be able to give back to the sport that has helped me through so much, from transitioning into college, and the adult life.

**Holly Iker** Nominated by Oklahoma

I am thrilled to be nominated for the RRRC women's representative. As a former player and referee and a current coach and administrator, I can bring my wide-range of experience to the committee. I have 19 years of rugby experience. My number one rugby goal is to expand and grow women's rugby. Rugby is my passion and I can't imagine life without rugby. Even though I am from Oklahoma, I am fully committed to the TRU and RRRC.

**Catrin Watts** Nominated by Austin Valkyries

In 2010 I started out as the secretary for a small struggling university side in Northern Ireland, but by the time I graduated in 2013, I stepped down as president of a thriving competitive club after winning a university blues award for contribution to sport at Queen's University, Belfast. While at QUB I worked as part of the Ulster Women's Rugby committee, their competitions sub-committee, and on an Irish Rugby Football Union-QUB link committee, which enabled me to gain knowledge and experience of rugby organization on many different levels within the structure of the IRFU.

When I moved to Texas in 2013 to start my PhD at UT, I was excited to get involved with the Austin Valkyries and I have been serving on their committee since January 2014; first as secretary, and now as match secretary. I am excited to be a nominee for the RRRC Committee as I am passionate about improving how rugby works in our region so that clubs can do what they do best - play rugby! I endeavor to bring the knowledge and experience that I gained in Northern Ireland to the committee, and to work with the existing members to promote the growth and development of rugby within the Red River conference. My goal is to be a voice for the women's teams and I believe a committee member should work as hard as every player on the field. Thank you for your consideration".