

# **Florida Youth Rugby Union Handbook 2011**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>FOR YOUR INFORMATION</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>HIGH SCHOOL AND U-19 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>RULES AND REGULATIONS</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>I. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</b>	<b>7</b>
Duties and Responsibilities of Officers	8
<b>II TEAM/CLUB ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>III REGISTRATION</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>IV RULES OF PLAY</b>	<b>14</b>
A. DEFINITIONS	14
B. PLAY	16
C. PLAYERS, UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT	18
D. HOME FIELD RESPONSIBILITIES	18
F. GAME ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS	19
G. REFEREE REQUIREMENTS	19
H. SUBSTITUTIONS	20
I. COACHES	21
J. GAME DELAYS, CANCELLATIONS, AND FORFEITS	22
K. GAME TERMINATION	22
L. REFEREE'S JUDGEMENT	22
<b>V GAME SCHEDULING</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>DISCIPLINE AND REVIEW</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>FEES AND FINES</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>REFEREES</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>COACHING COURSES</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>APPENDIX</b>	<b>35</b>
COACHES CODES OF CONDUCT	35
PLAYERS CODES OF CONDUCT	36
PARENTS AND SPECTATORS CODES OF CONDUCT	37

## **For Your Information**

### **Florida Youth Rugby Union Handbook**

This Handbook is an effort to communicate the Rules and Regulations of operations for the Florida Youth Rugby Union (FYRU). It is intended to be read and understood by the FYRU Administration, Coaches, Players, Club Officials, Referees, Parents and Spectators. Where this Handbook comes in conflict with USA Rugby policies and guidelines, USA Rugby policies and guidelines will supercede this handbook.

### **Florida Rugby Union Administration**

The FYRU Administration will be posted on the web and will not be duplicated in this hand book.

### **Florida Rugby Referee Association**

The FRRA will be posted on the web and will not be duplicated in this hand book.

### **Bylaws**

The Bylaws will be posted on the web and will not be duplicated in this hand book.

### **Insurance**

**It is a requirement of USAR that ALL participants maintaing Health Insurance of at least \$100,000. It is each clubs responsibility to ensure that players are adequately insured.** There is an effort to obtain primary/supplemental medical insurance thru Comerical travelers mutual Insurance Company that will cost each playe for the six month season. Ask your coach for information regarding insurance.

### **Friendly Games**

No red card suspensions will be served in any friendly/scrimmage/practice games(s). Friendly games are just that, pick-up, non-scheduled scrimmages. Inter-club games must be officiated by an assigned, certified referee, and the players are still subject to being issued cautions and red cards. *Red carded players are still not eligible to play in friendly matches.*

### **Mouth guards**

Players **must** wear a mouth guard for all full contact games. Referees will prevent or remove any player from any competition who does **NOT** wear a mouth guard. This also includes tournaments sanctioned by the FYRU, practices, scrimmages, and training. **No mouth guard - No play.**

**Jewelry**

Watches, bracelets, earrings, rings, body piercing, and hair beads are **NOT PERMITTED** on the playing field. Please, do not ask the referee if it is OK to wear them. These must be removed before play. They cannot be taped or secured with wrappings, tape, etc.

**NO JEWELRY PERMITTED!**

**Volunteers**

Volunteers are the life support system for FRU, FYRU, and the individual clubs. The Director of Youth Rugby, the FYRU board and Club representatives are all volunteers. We always are in need of volunteers, so please ***VOLUNTEER***.

**Age Groupings in Effect**

The Age grouping will be posted on the web and will not be duplicated in this hand book. The players are eligible to play in the age group if they have not yet reached their birthday by the first of September of the competitive season.

## **High School and U-19 Player Eligibility Requirements**

### **High School**

#### **Club Eligibility**

- a) Club must be based on a state - or nationally-accredited school that issues High School Graduation Diplomas.
- b) Club must be represented by a Roster that is limited to: players that are registered students at the High School upon which the Club is based, plus players that have graduated from that High School, plus up to a maximum of two (2) special exemption players.
- c) Special exemption players are students that do not have an otherwise available high school contact rugby program, and are either home-schooled students in the Club high school district, or are students from high schools in districts that are contiguous to, or overlapping, the club district.
- d) Club may carry an unlimited number of players on its Roster.
- e) For the FYRU, the high school clubs can consist of players from a single school or multiple schools to play in the Florida Youth Rugby Union for the State Championships. For the Regional and/or National Championships, the rules and regulations that govern those tournaments may be different.
- f) For high school and U-19, all players must be under the age of 19 by the 1<sup>st</sup> of September for that competitive season.

#### **Player Eligibility**

- a) Players are eligible if they have not reached their nineteenth birthday before the September 1st that occurs at the start of the competitive season.
- b) Players, except those that have graduated, must be attending class full time, as defined by the High School registrar.
- c) Players must have certified High School transcripts either for a semester during the Competition Season, or, for players that have graduated, the final semester prior to graduation.
- d) If the competition season extends beyond the end of school year, then the players may continue to participate in the competition provided that the players were otherwise eligible at the end of the school year.
- e) Players must be within four (4) years of the moment that the players first enrolled in ninth grade regardless of when they started playing rugby or had the ability to start playing rugby.
- f) Players must have played for the club in at least two (2) Qualifying Matches or second-side matches associated with a Qualifying Match during the competitive season at least one week apart prior to participating in a USA Rugby Championship event.

- g) Players must not have played in a Qualifying Match for any other club in a fifteens match during the competitive season, including the Under 19 Club or Senior competition.
- h) Player must meet and remain in compliance with all applicable amateur standards.

### **State and Other Championship Eligibility**

USA Rugby has neither the compelling interest, nor the practical ability, in enforcing eligibility regulations at State High School Championship events. The regulations are more properly determined by the organizer of the State event, be that a State Based Rugby Organization, a Local Area Union, or a Territorial Union. However, USA Rugby recommends that, in determining the requirements, the organizers consider the model that USA Rugby has established for the National High School Championship, but that they also consider the eligibility regulations for championships of other state championships within their state.

However, USA Rugby recommends that, in determining the requirements, the organizers consider the model that USA Rugby has established for the National High School Championship, but that they also consider the eligibility regulations for championships of other state championships within their state.

### **U19 Club**

#### **Club Eligibility**

- a) Club can be represented by players that meet the requirements of Player Eligibility for a U-19 club team provided there is not more than five (5) non-resident players on their Roster for any particular match that may in any way lead to the applicable USA Rugby Championship Event.
- b) Club may carry an unlimited number of players on its Roster.

#### **Player Eligibility**

- a) Players are eligible if they have not reached their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday before the September 1<sup>st</sup> that occurs at the start of the competitive season.
- b) Player must have played for the club in at least two (2) Qualifying Matches or second-side match associated with a Qualifying Match during the competitive season at least a week apart from each other prior to participating in a USA Rugby Championship Event.
- c) The player must not have played in a Qualifying Match for any other club during the fifteens competitive season – including in High School, Collegiate, or Senior competitions.

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The rules, regulations, and operating procedures herein shall govern ALL clubs of the FYRU. Rules and regulations may be amended during any regular or special meeting of the FYRU Board, by a majority of the members present providing a quorum exists. Although each club has the right to modify these rules for intra-club play only, they MUST adhere to these rules and regulations with regards to ALL competition, inter-club recreational, or district tournament games, whether they are scheduled or scrimmage-type games. At the intra-club level the recommended disciplinary actions of Section VI, Discipline and Review Committee, must be followed, at a minimum, for violations and should be used as a guide for hearings, etc.

### **I. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

- A. The FYRU Board will consist of authorized representatives from each team that is a member of the FYRU. The Executive Board will elect a President (who serves a two year term), Vice President (Boys), Vice-President (Girls), Secretary, and Treasurer (who all serve a two year term). The Director of Youth will serve a three year term.
  - 1. The Executive Board will appoint a High Performance Director, a Game Development Director, a Director of Rookie Rugby and a Commercial Director who will be non-voting members of the Executive Board and serve a 2 year term. In addition a Disciplinary Chairman and Master Scheduler will be assigned for an annual term by the Board. Each club in good standing with registered players within the FYRU has one vote on the board.
  - 2. A Quorum, for purposes of voting at a FYRU Board meeting, shall consist of 51% of the eligible votes. The eligible votes consist of one vote for each member club (not including guest clubs).
  - 3. Any action required at a FYRU Board meeting requiring a vote (excluding voting on a By-laws change) shall require a simple majority to pass, providing a Quorum exists at the time of the vote.
- B. Individual clubs shall run themselves in all respects, including handling of funds and purchasing of materials (with noted exceptions). Responsibilities will include:
  - 1 Coach selections Player and coach registrations and team assignments
  - 2 Dissemination of information
  - 3 Field selection and maintenance
  - 4 Intra-club game schedules
  - 5 Scheduling referees for games not covered by FRU or FYRU referee assignors.

### **Duties and Responsibilities of Officers**

#### **President**

The President shall:

Prepare agendas for, and conduct all meetings of the Board. Serve as liaison officer representing the interest of the Union at FRU AGM. Serve as the Vice President Youth of the Florida Rugby Union (FRU).

#### **Vice President Boys**

The VP Boys shall:

1. . Conduct the running of the U19 and High School Boys league competition
2. Propose and form committees as necessary to efficiently conduct Union business.
3. Serve on committees as ex-officio member.
4. Submit an annual operating plan describing the general activities and operations of the Union.
5. Work with the High performance Director on delivering a High Performance program
6. Work with the Game Development and Commercial Directors to widen the appeal and market for youth rugby.
5. Provide FYRU Handbook Input.

#### **Vice President Girls**

The VP Girls shall:

1. . Conduct the running of the U19 Girls league competition
2. Propose and form committees as necessary to efficiently conduct Union business.
3. Serve on committees as ex-officio member.
4. Submit an annual operating plan describing the general activities and operations of the Union.

5. Work with the High performance Director on delivering a High Performance program
6. Work with the Game Development and Commercial Directors to widen the appeal and market for youth rugby.
7. Provide FYRU Handbook Input.

### **Secretary**

The Secretary shall:

1. Record, keep, maintain and report on all official actions of FYRU.
2. Prepare agendas for and conduct all meetings of the Board
3. Send all affiliated clubs and League officers any correspondence pertaining to the business of FYRU such as meeting minutes, special announcements, etc.
4. Compile and maintain a list of all recognized FYRU club representatives.
5. The primary focal point for coordination of the FYRU Handbook.

### **Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall:

1. Maintain records and receipts on all funds received, obligated, and expended or held in trust or savings deposit.
2. Report on the financial status of FYRU at Board meetings or as necessary.
3. Serve as Chairperson of a Budget Committee.
4. Compile an annual proposed budget, in conjunction with Budget Committee (or equivalent) to become effective at the August Board meeting.
5. Submit financial procedures and recommend policies for the collection of, and disbursement of League funds.

### **Youth Director**

1. Serve on committees as ex-officio member.

2. Work with the Executive Board and the Appointed Board members with the focus of promoting Youth rugby throughout the state of Florida.
3. Provide FYRU Handbook Input.

### **Director Game Development**

The Director Game Development is the focal point of the FYRU in developing rugby as an approved club sport within the Florida School Districts, specifically;

1. Developing strategies to promote rugby as a school club activity for boys and girls.
2. Developing strategies to promote girls rugby as a school varsity sport.
3. Provide operational Budget to the Executive for implementation of the strategies.
4. Implement strategies within approved budgets.

### **High Performance Director**

Develop a comprehensive plan on a structured high performance program that will provide;

1. Player Development
2. Coach Development
3. Structured High performance programs for;
  - a. All Star Boys 15's and 7's
  - b. All Star Girls 15's and 7's
4. Provide an annual budget to the Executive
5. Work with the League VP's to implement the program within approved budgets.
6. Recruit coaches to help deliver the program.

### **Commercial Director**

Develop a plan for generating revenue streams for the FYRU to support High performance and Development by maximizing sponsorship opportunities and brand marketing. Develop FYRU brand goods for sale. Specifically;

1. Sponsorship, State wide of League, Rookie Rugby, High performance
2. Media relations, to increase awareness of Youth rugby in Florida
  - a. Press releases
  - b. Media Kits
  - c. FYRU Web Site through the FRU
  - d. Social networking, Face Book, Twitter etc to build brand awareness and support sponsorship opportunities through exposure.
3. Communication with member clubs and FRU to implement/support activities.

### **Director Rookie Rugby**

To develop a Ste wide plan to introduce Rookie Rugby into School Physical Education programs and Parks and Recreation after school programs. Provide a frame work for implementing programs that are budget neutral or budget positive. Specifically

1. Develop a state wide plan for introducing Rookie Rugby (RR) to school districts and eventual acceptance by the School PE Director for Florida to adopt RR.
2. Develop a template for local organizations/clubs to introduce RR as a Parks and recreation after school activity, city leagues etc.
3. Provide an Annual budget to the Executive
4. Liaise with Play Rugby USA and USAR national office in developing and implementing programs.
5. Recruit 'regional helpers' within the state to implement the programs within the agreed budget

### **Disciplinary Chairman**

The Disciplinary Chairman shall:

1. Attend all FYRU meetings and provide a report of activities.
2. Discipline players, coaches and spectators as needed using FLORIDA YOUTH RUGBY UNION Rules and Regulations.
3. Set up appeals using a committee, if possible. Deal with appeals in a timely manner.
4. Record all admonishments and forward to the FRU Discipline Chair.
5. Educate coaches on proper behavior.
6. Assist in education of referees on FYRU rules and expectations.
7. Maintain link of communication with the FRU and the South disciplinary chair as needed.

### **Referee Liaison**

The Referee Liaison shall:

1. Coordinate FYRU referee activities, meetings, etc. with the Florida Rugby Referee Association (FRRRA) Administrator in order to facilitate referee instruction, training, and dissemination of FYRU information.
2. Establish referee guidelines with FRRRA for conducting FYRU games.
3. Establish fee structure for FYRU scheduled games with FRRRA.

4. Work with the FRRA to recruit new referees and Referee Assitants to support FYRU games.  
.

**Master Scheduler**

The Master Scheduler shall:

1. Establish policies and procedures necessary to generate season schedules.
2. Collect information from clubs necessary to generate FYRU season schedules.
3. Generate and distribute season schedules.

## II TEAM/CLUB ORGANIZATION

- A. The organization shall be composed of teams specifically classified as High School club, Youth club, or U-19 club.
- B. Team names shall bear no resemblance to a religion or nationality.
- C. Team composition is specified in Paragraph IV.B.6.
- D. When special circumstances occur, FYRU can alter the number of players per team in any age group. If this is done, the FYRU representatives will notify the teams affected by the ruling.
- E. Club boys/girls teams may register as many players as they want, but only 22 or 23 players are eligible to be on the roster for play in any given FYRU game. Only 22 players are eligible to play in the game. Remaining players can be on the roster for B side games. B games will be considered recreational games.
- F. When 22 or 23 players are nominated in a team there must be sufficient front row players to play at hooker, tight-head prop and loose-head prop who are suitably trained and experienced to ensure that on the first occasion that a replacement in any front row position is required, the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums. Uncontested scrums are ordered as a result of there being no suitably trained and experienced front row replacement for any reason, the team concerned shall not be entitled to replace the player whose departure caused uncontested scrums.
- G.
- H. Each team should submit an individual to be designated as the club referee liaison.
- I. Each team is encouraged to designate an individual as a certified referee. Training will be provided by the Florida Rugby Referee Association (FRRA).
- J. Each team is encouraged to designate two individuals as certified touch judges. Training will be provided by the Florida Rugby Referee Association (FRRA).
- K. Each team's coach is required to be enrolled in USA Rugby's certified coaching program for all contact games and must be CIPP'd for that season.
- L. Each team will elect or appoint one representative who is responsible for representing the club at all FYRU meetings and has voting authority for that club.
- M. Each team shall have someone knowledgeable in basic first aid at all contact games.
- N. Each club shall have established a code of conduct. The minimum requirements are listed in the back of this Handbook. (Reference Appendix A for Coaches, and Appendix B for players.)
- O. Each club has the right to establish and collect player dues.

## III REGISTRATION

- A. For each seasonal year (September 1 - August 31), the player and parent / guardian must be registered with their respective clubs via USA Rugby's CIPP registration system for inter-club games. ***For intra-club non-contact games, each club may control registration as they see fit provided the club has an established liability insurance policy. For any intra-club contact or non-contact rugby, each player is required to be registered through USA Rugby's CIPP registration program.***

- B. Each club can set registration fees for players over and above USA CIPP registration fees and FYRU fees. The club is responsible for the collection of their registration fees.
- C. All players and coaches on teams within the FYRU are required to be registered through USA Rugby's CIPP program for inter-club contact rugby. The assignment or registration of a player to a given team is for the duration of the seasonal year, unless he/she is formally released or transferred.
- D. Boys and girls teams and leagues will be separately formed when possible. In the event insufficient registrations prevent the formation of such a league, or a separate girls team, the following options apply:

girl may girl's team with another club.

- 5. A girl may opt to play co-ed in her own age group, provided that age group is non-contact rugby.
  - 6. She may obtain a full club refund if there is no girls team in her age group.
  - 7. She may play co-ed on any team she qualifies for considering age and ability, provided that age group is non-contact rugby.
- E. Rugby players who attain their age on or after September 1st of each new year for any age group are eligible to play in that age group for the remainder of that seasonal year.
  - F. Falsification of player or team documentation shall be subject to disciplinary action, per FYRU Rules and Regulations. A plea of ignorance to the Constitution By-Laws and the Rules and Regulations is NOT deemed sufficient defense.
  - G. New players registered before August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season, may attend practice. But if an injury occurs, then the player must be registered for the past season (the one still in effect) in order to be covered by insurance.
  - H. A player may not play in any FYRU competition game for two teams from different clubs in the same age group.
  - I. All FYRU Coaches, who teach the contact version of the game, must be CIPP registered with USA Rugby.

#### **IV RULES OF PLAY**

The rules and regulations contained herein shall govern general competition among teams and clubs. The intent and purpose of such regulations is to assure that general rules of play, player equipment regulations, etc., are applied uniformly and consistently within and among FYRU clubs.

Provisions for player registration, team affiliation, player transfer and roster limitation, and age group definition are to be based upon the current Handbook of the FYRU.

##### **A. DEFINITIONS**

1. **TRAVEL TEAM** is any team playing inter-club games (High School or U-19). They must declare their intention to play as a single school or a multi school club before the season begins.
2. **POACHING** shall be defined as the act of attempting to induce or the inducing of a registered player to transfer or otherwise leave his/her current team prior to the end of the seasonal year. Curbing poaching activities will be the **sole responsibility of the team's head coach. The head coach shall be responsible for the actions of any member of his team, including, but not limited to the players, parents, team staff, club representatives, relatives of players, etc. A club found guilty of poaching players from another club shall be subjected to disciplinary action by the Executive Committee formed to hear the complaint.**

**When the poaching is by a senior men's or women's club and the coach considers it unacceptable or detrimental then he shall report the activity to the President who will work with the FRU to stop the poaching activity.**

3. **BAD STANDING** A team or organization (Club) may be considered to be in Bad Standing if coach, player, team or organization (Club) fails to carry out the rules and regulations of FYRU or USA Rugby. Examples include improper/illegal registration, non-payment of fees, poaching, etc. Penalties for this can remove either a team or organization from participation in FYRU operations. This includes any league match leading to a State Championship.
4. **COMPETITIVE LEAGUE**- An inter-club league in which:
  - a. The use of tryouts, invitations through public means (newspaper, newsletter, radio, etc.), or any like process to roster players to any team on the basis of talent and/or ability is permitted; and
  - b. One or more league rules restrict the manner in which players may be rostered to participating teams.
5. **RECREATIONAL LEAGUE**-An intra-club or inter-club league in which:
  - a. The use of tryouts, invitations, or any like process to roster players selectively to any team on the basis of talent and/or skill is prohibited; unless deemed necessary by a school back program that is **formally** considered a Junior Varsity or Varsity program by the school administration. In this instance, the school policy for team selection applies. However, a club team should also be looked
  - b. The club/league administration accept as participants in the league any and all eligible youths (subject to reasonable terms of recreational registration);
  - c. A system of rostering players is employed for the purpose of creating a fair or balanced distribution of playing talent and/or skills among all teams participating; and
  - d. League rules (Paragraph IV.B.11) require that each player play at least one-half (1/2) of each game except for reason of injury, illness, or discipline.
7. **SEASONAL YEAR** The FYRU seasonal year is the annual period from **September 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>**. A period of play consisting of approximately 8-10 weeks of games. The exact dates and number of games for the fall season or the spring season are

given in the FYRU calendar. *The FYRU competitive season starts in January and ends before the National Championships as set forth by USA Rugby.*

8. **DIVISION** A group of teams consisting of a specific category (High School , boys, girls), a specific age (i.e. U-19 & Under) and a specific league type (i.e. competition or recreational).
9. **DUAL REGISTERED:** A player cannot be registered to two teams in a seasonal year. The player may transfer from one club to another through USA Rugby’s registration process.

## **B. PLAY**

1. **Rules of play shall be as specified by the IRB LAWS OF THE GAME except as modified by USA Rugby and/or the Florida Youth Rugby Union. Any inter-club game shall abide by the “IRB Laws of the Game” along with any modification or specifically published Rules and Regulations.**
2. League/Division champions shall be determined by a system devised by the board prior to the start of each season. If league standings are used in any form, then a win will count as three (4) points, a tie will count as two (2) points, a loss will count as one (1) point, and a forfeit will count as zero (0) points. A bonus point will be given for any team score 4 trys or more. A bonus point will also be given to the losing team if they keep the score within 7 points or less.
3. It shall be mandatory to play a regularly scheduled game, unless the opposing club accepts valid reason for non-appearance. Notification of non-appearance **MUST** be given to the opposing Club Coach at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled match time. It shall be the responsibility of the home team, in any case, to notify the club and the FYRU Referee Assignor, and/or the referee of a game cancellation (and reschedule, also). Any re-scheduled FYRU-assigned games are subject to any re-scheduling fees to be paid by Club whose team requests the change.
4. In the case of postponed games, each club has full power to reschedule internal club games. But when two clubs are involved, the rescheduling will occur by agreement of both clubs and coordinate with the Master Scheduler.
5. Coaches, spectators, or any other officials **SHALL NOT** enter the field of play, unless requested by the referee. **Coaches or Medical Trainers may only enter the field of play to attend to an injured player without the referee’s permission. Touch judges, spectators, or reserve players can only enter the field of play with the referee’s permission at a stoppage in play.**
6. The SRRA requires all coaching staff and players to stand behind the crowd restraints. If a coach (head or assistant) is nominated as the designated touch judge, s/he may not make any comments to their team or to the Referee while executing this role.
7. If a coach assumes the role of medical personnel they must stay within the technical zone, relinquish their role as coach and abide by the regulations with respect to communicating with match officials.
8. If the crowd restraints (e.g., restraining ropes) are insufficient for the purpose of keeping the crowd from the Playing Area and interfering with the Match Officials, the Referee should instruct the Match Organizer (home team organizers) the game will not start until sufficient arrangements have been made.

9. In the event that coaches take the field without the permission of the Referee, the Referee is required to report the incident to the Discipline Chair of the FYRU.
10. In the event that any non-playing person enters the Field of Play and touches a player of the opposing team that person should be dismissed from the Playing Enclosure immediately and the Referee is required to report the incident to the Discipline Chair of the FYRU.
11. In the event that a person within the Technical Zone directs comments, criticism or abuse at a Match Official, that person shall be required by the Referee to leave the Technical Zone and the Playing Enclosure and the Referee must report the incident to the Discipline Chair of the FYRU.
- 12. These guidelines are to make sure that the Referee is covered for liability purposes.**
13. A minimum of thirteen (13) players for a team playing fifteen (15) a-side, five (5) for a team playing seven (7) a-side, shall constitute a team for game purposes. **The exception is if there is an agreement made by both coaches before the game starts that a team may start the game with less than the required number.**
14. Inter-club play - use common sense. Teams/clubs should follow all FLORIDA YOUTH RUGBY UNION and club rules for all inter-club games, whether they are regulation, fun, or practice/scrimmage games. Communicate arrangements and changes as soon as possible to all parties involved. Licensed/club referees officiating non-regulation games still have the same authority to issue cards as in league games.
- 15. MERCY RULE - (Youth only, HS and U-19 exempt): A 50 point differential at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> half or secured during the second half shall terminate the game unless the losing coach wishes to continue. It is encouraged that the winning coach shows sportsmanship by modifying his team tactics to avoid this situation.**
- 16. Should the point differential reach 22, and the match has entered the second half, a team may substitute more than the allotted 7 players, however, only after consultation and agreement with the opposition coaching staff. This agreement must be in the presence of the referee.**
17. If the coach is ejected from the game then the assistant coach may direct the team. If the assistant coach or coaches are also ejected (or if there are no assistants) then the team will forfeit the game with a score of 15-0. A game report is mandatory for the referee to file with the disciplinary committee within 48 hours of the end of play.
18. Follow the IRB Laws of the game with regards to injury and substitutions.
19. Except as noted, all Recreational registered players in attendance at FYRU games must participate and play in at least one-half (1/2) of each game attended, excluding overtime. All players registered on a Competitive team in FYRU **should** play in each game attended (excluding injuries and disciplinary actions). FYRU **strongly** encourages Competitive players be allowed to play at least one-half (1/2) of each game or all of a B game.

**C. PLAYERS, UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

1. Where colors of competing teams are identical or similar, the designated home team must effect a change to colors distinct from their opponents (judgment of referee is final).
2. Each club must register it's primary colors with FYRU.
3. The uniforms or jerseys must be distinctly different color from the basic colors of both teams.
4. Player jersey numbers are to be affixed on the back of the shirt. No two players from the same team may have the same uniform number while both are playing on the field at the same time.
5. Players wearing an orthopedic cast of any kind **SHALL NOT** be eligible to participate in any game. Players are allowed to wear protective shin guards (to be worn beneath their game socks) while actively participating in a game, practice game, or team practice. Players are **required** to wear a mouth guard, to protect their teeth. Players are allowed to wear protective padding under the jersey or head gear provided it is IRB/USA Rugby approved. All others are not allowed.
6. Non-cleated soft soled shoes , soft (non-metallic) cleated shoes or hard (aluminum studded) Rugby shoes may be worn. Any player in FLORIDA YOUTH RUGBY UNION or FYRU may wear shoes utilizing the screw-in type cleats. Shoes with studs that extend out the bottom of the shoe at an angle, or have rectangular studs with sharp edges (baseball cleats), shall NOT be allowed on the field of play. REFEREES have the final say, not club officials. **Note: rubber soled football cleats are acceptable. Other football type shoes with a screw in toe cleat should have the toe cleat removed before play.**
7. Additional shirts (under the jersey) and long pants (under the shorts and socks) are allowed for younger players during cold or inclement weather at the discretion of the referee. Hoods, if worn and approved by the referee, must be tucked inside the shirt. If not approved by the referee, the referee shall send the player off the field to remedy the problem. Slider shorts can be worn underneath the uniform shorts, but can't go below the knee, and must be the same color as the uniform shorts.
8. **No jewelry** of any kind shall be worn on the field of play. Please don't have players put tape over earrings. General "rule of thumb" is No Rings, No Watches, No Bracelets, No Necklaces, No Friendship Bracelets (string or rope type bracelets), No Earrings, No Body Piercings, and No HARD Hair Holders.
9. It is the responsibility of each coach to ensure that each of his/her players is wearing proper equipment and uniforms at each game. A referee has the authority to protect players from potentially dangerous equipment conditions.

**D. HOME FIELD RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. The designated home team will be responsible for the condition of the fields and equipment (including goal posts, flags, and personnel barriers/ropes) and proper field markings.
2. Goal posts, goal post pads, flags, and barriers are required for all games. Clubs are responsible to periodically inspect the condition of the field and goal posts.
3. All goals must be securely attached to the ground to prevent goals from tipping over or collapsing.
4. Clubs are responsible for assuring that teams, coaches, fans and spectators conduct themselves in a proper and respectful manner.
5. When assigned referees show up for a scheduled match, and for whatever reason the game is not played, referees will still be paid their fee.
6. Clubs **MUST** provide a certified referee to ALL Inter-club games (including scrimmages or friendly games).
7. ***Referees assigned to competition games by the FRRA referee assignor must be notified no later than three days prior to the scheduled match. The home team coach will convey directions and confirm kick-off time. The referee will convey his match fees to the coach. The referee will be re-assigned to another game if not contacted by the home team coach within three days of scheduled game day.***
8. It is highly recommended, in the spirit of the rugby tradition, a post game social involving both teams, parents, spectators, coaches, and officials be exercised by the home team.

## **F. GAME ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

1. All coaches/captains shall present their USA Rugby CIPP Roster and game roster to the referee prior to the start of each game. The referee SHALL NOT ALLOW any player or coach to participate if;
  - a. ***The referee is notified prior to game time the player/coach is suspended from participating due to disciplinary reasons.***
  - b. ***Should a player or coach who is not properly registered participate in a game, then his/her team shall be subject to disciplinary action by the FYRU and may include forfeit of the contest with a score of 15-0 to the opposing team, depending upon the circumstances of the violation.***
  - c. ***The player does not have a gum shield, otherwise known as a mouth guard.***
  - d. ***The player is wearing unapproved protective equipment. Approved equipment will be stamped as IRB approved.***
  - e. ***The player is out of uniform.***
  - f. ***The player is wearing orthopedic casts, braces containing hard plastic or metal supports, or anything deemed dangerous to others by the referee.***

## **G. REFEREE REQUIREMENTS**

1. The referee shall require that both teams enter all the appropriate information on the roster/game card prior to the start of the game.

2. The referee will allow participation of only those players and coaches whose names appear on the roster form or game card.
3. The referee shall check and make certain that each player's equipment is in proper order and is not considered in his/her opinion to be dangerous to other players.
4. There should be a barrier (typically rope) at least 1 yard from both touchlines for parents and coaches. This distance should be increased with the older age groups to prevent spectator injury.
5. Upon completion of the game (and in the event of a **yellow card, or red card**), the referee shall sign the roster/game report form and e-mail the the infraction, players name, and the player's CIPP number to FYRU Discipline Committee, or other designated recipient, within **48 hours**.
6. In situations where a coach has been ejected, the referee shall include a supplementary report, detailing the circumstances leading to the coach's ejection from the game.
7. The referee shall be licensed, certified thru USA Rugby for all inter-club games, and where appropriate, dressed in approved uniform for all inter-club games, scrimmages, friendly games or practice sessions.
8. **Touch Judges (TJ), whether certified or not, are considered an extension of the referee. The TJ will remain impartial and refrain from any actions contrary to being an impartial participant. The referee has the right to replace any TJ she/he feels is acting not in the best interest of the game.**

## H. SUBSTITUTIONS

1. Substitutions will be as defined in the iRB Laws of the Game unless otherwise noted.
2. Competition and Recreational players 19 & under and High School, may be substituted **ONLY** during a stoppage in the game. Subs enter from the touchline – and only with the permission of the referee.
3. For Recreational play, an unlimited number of substitutions may be made at a stoppage in play, provided the referee permits the substitutions. If deemed time wasting, the referee can refuse the substitutions.
  - a. For Competition, a maximum of 7 substitutions are allowed providing that 2 are front row capable. Once substituted, a player is not allowed to return to the game. ***Unless he is a front row player who may return if a front row player is injured and unable to continue and there is no other substitute who is front row capable and available.***
  - b. Competition and Recreational players in small sided games at any age group, may be substituted anytime the ball is out of play with the permission of the Referee. There is unlimited substitution for **both** teams on; line outs, scrums, try scored, half time or water break, or injury.
4. The coach must notify the referee prior to the game of any player not participating in the game due to disciplinary reasons or an injury or illness. If a recreational game is in progress, and the coach is not going to let a player play a full half of the game for disciplinary reasons, then the referee must also be notified.

## I. COACHES

1. Coaches for any youth team are to have a background check by the appropriate club or organization.
2. Only tactical instructions to the players during the match are permitted.
3. Coaches must always remain off the field during play. (*See exception below*).
4. **All non-participating players, and parents & spectators must remain outside 1 yard or behind the barrier from touchline (3 yards minimum) on their respective sides of the fields. Coaches are permitted inside this area provided there is no infringement of the touch judge.**
5. **Coaching from the spectators is discouraged..**

Player substitutes must remain on the bench, behind the rope, or in the equipment area while the game is in progress.

6. Coaches, players, or spectators may not utilize mechanical devices at any time, such as voice amplifiers.
7. Coaches, players, or spectators, shall NOT use profanity or make insulting or otherwise derogatory remarks or gestures directed to their own team, the opposing team, the referee, or the spectators.
8. Coaches, players, or player substitutes, shall not, by their remarks or gestures in any manner incite disruptive behavior.
9. Coaches must control their own players. If a fight occurs coaches, not referees, should separate their players. Coaches must not touch the other team's players.
10. Coaches, players, or spectators, violating the above rules, will be subject to ejection from the game, as well as further disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the individual club and/or the FYRU Board.
11. Coaches will be asked by the referee to control his/her teams spectators - when out of control - otherwise the game may be terminated.
12. Coaches are required to fill out and provide referees with game reports and player rosters prior to beginning of game.
13. Home team coaches are responsible to insure that there are no conflicts in jersey colors with the visiting team. In event of conflict, home team must change jersey, subject to referee approval.
14. Coaches, spectators, or any other officials, **SHALL NOT** enter the field of play, unless requested by the referee. The exception: Coaches or trainers may enter the field of play in the event of injury, to attend to the injured player.
15. Non-players may enter the field of play during water breaks only to hydrate the players at a stoppage in play, and only with the referee's permission.

**J. GAME DELAYS, CANCELLATIONS, AND FORFEITS**

1. Any team delaying the start of a scheduled game more than 15 minutes without required notification and permission from the other Club Director, as specified in Paragraph IV B.3 above, shall forfeit the game to the opponent by a score of 15-0.
2. In the event both teams fail to appear for a scheduled game (within the 15 minute grace period) without required notification and permission from the proper authority, and the referee rules the ground playable, then both teams will be assessed with a loss. This will be recorded as a double forfeit.
3. Penalties for Game Cancellations: Failure to cancel, postpone or reschedule a game per paragraph IV.B.2, above, shall result in an automatic 15-0 loss and a cancellation fine (see Section VII) which must be paid to the FYRU Treasurer prior to the next FYRU meeting. Failure to pay the fine will result in the team being placed in bad standing by FYRU. The amount of the fine will be credited to the account of the offended club.
  - a. Referees who fail to appear or are responsible for the late start of a game without proper cause or having failed to notify or gain permission from the proper authority as specified in Paragraph IV B.2 above, will be reported to the Referee Liaison.
4. Notification of a game time change must be given to the appropriate referee assignor.
5. In the event of a forfeited game, then the referee must cite the reason for the forfeit and then forward a report to the Disciplinary Chair person within 24 hours of the game.
6. Clubs MUST provide a certified referee for ALL inter-club games (including scrimmages or friendly games).

**K. GAME TERMINATION**

In the event a game is terminated, the FYRU Board has the discretionary power to require that the game be replayed in its entirety. The Board reserves the right to set the time and place of replayed games and to assign officials thereto. Games terminated by the referee for inclement weather conditions will be deemed official and complete if half of the game has been completed.

**L. REFEREE'S JUDGEMENT**

The referee's judgment, with regard to the physical condition of a field and its acceptability to be played on, and to the actual happenings and occurrences relating to the conduct of the game, and to those prerogatives or judgments inherently granted to the referee by the Laws of the Game as published by IRB and these Rules and Regulations, shall not be challenged. However in the event that the field owner decides the field is unsuitable for play, then that decision takes precedence

## V GAME SCHEDULING

### A. GENERAL

1. All dates associated with Game Scheduling are contained in the FYRU calendar
2. Any team scheduled by the FYRU scheduler must play all teams within its scheduled division (unless the division consists of more than 11 teams).
3. Each club shall have **one designated club Contact** to coordinate/ make changes with the scheduler. *This same person will also be the only person in each club allowed to make schedule changes after the final schedules are released.*
4. *Schedules will be posted on the FYRU web site for any inter-club games.*

### B. SCHEDULING PROCESS

1. **PRELIMINARY SUBMITAL:**
  - a. At the specified FYRU Board meeting, all clubs shall submit *preliminary team estimates for all age group divisions.*
  - b. *By a designated date or FYRU Board meeting, all clubs shall provide field information which shall include specific game date/time availability for each of those fields.*
2. **FINAL SUBMITAL:** At the specified FYRU Board meeting, all clubs shall submit completed Team Information forms. This shall be the last day to add a team. The Scheduler shall not add a *non-FYRU* team to schedule after the deadline unless permission to add the team has been granted by the Board. The Board may, at a regular or specially called meeting, *or via e-mail*, allow a *non-FYRU* team to be added any time up to the day the Draft Schedules are distributed. (b) The Scheduler shall confirm the planned dates for scheduling games concurrent with the last add date.
3. **DIVISION FORMATION GUIDELINES:** The Scheduler shall follow the guidelines stated below for determining league Divisions:
  - a. A single league for any Division of 12 or fewer teams.
  - b. Two leagues (oriented North and South) for any Division with 13 to 26 teams.
  - c. Three leagues (oriented North, Central and South) for any Division with more than 26 teams.
  - d. *Four (4)* teams per division shall constitute the minimum number required for league competition, unless waived by the board. Teams in divisions of fewer than *4* teams shall have the following options (there will be no fine associated with any of these choices).
  - e. Other considerations, distance for travel, level of competition, etc. may influence the final overall Division format.

4. **DRAFT SCHEDULES:** The Scheduler shall distribute draft schedules by the appointed date for review by clubs. Clubs shall have until the appointed deadline to submit discovered errors or suggest minor changes. Minor changes shall not include time, day or date preferences other than Byes requested. A major change shall constitute any change that requires the rescheduling of one or more entire leagues.
5. **FINAL SCHEDULES:** The Scheduler shall distribute the Final Schedules by the appointed date. Once the Final Schedules are distributed, any further changes must be agreed on and negotiated between affected teams, *but must also be coordinated with the respective home club contact, who will also update applicable web sites (coaches or club officers will NOT have access to do this). It is the responsibility of the home team coach to make sure that the home club referee assignor is notified (and if within 48 hours, you must follow-up any e-mails with a phone call).*

### C. FEES AND FINES

Clubs shall pay a rescheduling fine for each league *match rescheduled, after the final schedule is approved*, due to a club requested change or a club error. Note that it is possible for a single change to cause more than one game to be rescheduled. The **Board of Directors may**, at their discretion, assign a larger fee for teams added after the deadline, even if they approve the addition. **If member club fails to send an adult representative to the AGM, then a fine of \$144.00.**

## DISCIPLINE AND REVIEW

### A. PURPOSE

1. To provide guidelines and recommendations to FYRU member clubs, who may convene Discipline and Review Committees, to review League By-Laws or Rules and Regulations violations; further, to assure that such hearings are convened under fair equitable circumstances for all parties involved.
2. The line of authority for protests/appeals is provided for in the FRU and FLORIDA YOUTH RUGBY UNION Policies and Procedures and By-Laws.

### B. PROCEDURES FOR GAME PROTESTS

1. All intent to protest must be filed with the referee during or immediately following the game, and must be so noted on the game report/roster. If either is not done, then the protest shall be deemed invalid. The referee, at the time the intent to protest is filed, must fill out a referee report. The opposing coach(es) or representative(s) must also be

notified at this time. No player is to approach a referee off the field of play without a coach present.

2. Protests for intra-club games shall be filed with the respective club director or head referee. These protests will be handled internally at the club level with a written report of the action taken submitted to the FYRU.
3. The Club's Board of Directors has 48 hours in which to notify the FYRU Discipline and Review Committee of the protest. They will review the protest by the next scheduled FYRU meeting (unless it is less than 48 hours away). If any of the FYRU Board members or Discipline and Review Committee are involved in the protest, they will be excused from the protest hearing.
4. Only the head Coach present at the game may file protests in question.

### **C. IMPOSITION OF DISCIPLINE FOR GAME RULES INFRACTIONS**

For commission of certain violations noted below, the Disciplinary Chairman shall impose the stated minimum disciplinary actions. While suspended, teams and players will not be able to travel out of district for tournaments or cup competition. Listed below are a short synopsis of some; but not all; USA Rugby and FLORIDA YOUTH RUGBY UNION. If the SOUTH RUGBY UNION, USA Rugby, or IRB rules impose stricter disciplinary actions, they will be followed at the minimum.

#### **1. Players determined to be guilty of:**

- a) Rules infractions or conduct resulting in ejection (red card offense) from a contest - minimum two (2) game suspension from participation in the next sanctioned game, Cup, or play-off games. Note that tournaments will usually dictate their own rules regarding red card offenses.
- b) Three (3) yellow cards during a season; or after a suspension for one of the reasons listed in this section, and two (2) yellow already received - minimum one (1) game suspension. (Note: multiple red cards carry over as an initial yellow card to the following season.)
- c) Using foul and abusive language: minimum two (2) game suspension.
- d) Using abusive language, directed to other players, club or league officials, coaches, referees, touch judges, or to spectators or threatening other players: minimum four (4) game suspension.
- e) Making threats or threatening gestures against other players, referees, assistant referees, coaches, club or league officials, or to spectators. Minimum four (4) game suspension.
- f) Joining an ongoing fight: minimum six (6) game suspension.
- g) Physically striking or fighting with another player, either before, during, or immediately after a game: minimum four (4) game suspension.
- h) Physically pushing, striking, or spitting on or at any referee, official linesman, coach, club or league official: minimum one (1) year suspension,
- i) Receiving three red cards in a FYRU season shall receive a letter of reprimand and an indefinite suspension with notice to FLORIDA YOUTH RUGBY UNION.

The minimum disciplinary action for second offenses during a given seasonal year will be doubled. If two offenses are committed in the same match and the second offense is not of the same severity as the first, then the punishment for the second offense will be for either (a) the sum of the first and the second offenses, or (b) double the second offense; whichever is less.

2. **Coaches or team managers determined to be guilty of:**

Any offenses listed under 1. a-l above, will receive the same disciplinary action.

b. In addition to the disciplinary action in a";, will receive the following action:

i. **First offense:** Letter of reprimand to the offender and at least six (6) months probation.

ii. **Second offense:** Letter of reprimand and at least one (1) year suspension.

iii. **Third offense:** Letter of reprimand and indefinite suspension with notification to FLORIDA YOUTH RUGBY UNION (to be determined by the Board of Directors and/or Executive Committee).

c. **Fighting:** Coaches or team managers determined to be guilty of striking, pushing, spitting on or at, or fighting with a player, another coach or team manager, club or league official, or with a spectator, shall be suspended indefinitely, the duration of such suspension to be determined by the Board of Directors and/or Executive Committee. Coaches or team managers determined to be guilty of striking, pushing, spitting at or on, or fighting with a referee is an automatic two (2) year suspension.

d. **Document Falsification:** Coaches, team managers, players, club or league officials, determined to have falsified player registration forms, team roster forms, or other official records of this league, will be subject to progressive disciplinary actions, up to and including disbarment, such disciplinary action to be determined in accordance with FLORIDA YOUTH RUGBY UNION guidelines.

e. **Poaching:** 1<sup>st</sup> offense - 6 months suspension for coach, club fine (see Section VII) and cost of hearing. 2<sup>nd</sup> offense - suspended rest of the seasonal year or 6 months, whichever is greater, club fine (see Section VII). 3<sup>rd</sup> offense - minimum 3 year suspension. NOTE: during the period between the end of State Championship finals and November 1<sup>st</sup>, players are free agents. Poaching charges may not be brought by contact made during this period. **All poaching violations will be held in accordance with FLORIDA YOUTH RUGBY UNION guidelines.**

3. **General**

a. **Spectators:** Any spectators guilty of creating any situation which causes the referee, coach or official to terminate a game, fighting, pushing, striking, spitting at or on, or verbal vulgar attacks

shall cause FLORIDA YOUTH RUGBY UNION to temporarily suspend the team and/or club and/or league. Such suspension and/or sanction will remain in effect until such time as a hearing board renders a decision.

b. **Follow through:** Unfulfilled disciplinary action will be carried over into the next season or tournament (whether a youth league, or moving up into adult leagues).

4. **Mandatory Hearings**

A mandatory hearing shall be required for all suspensions greater than four games. The hearing must be held prior to serving the 5<sup>th</sup> game suspension.

**D. PROTESTS AND APPEALS**

A FYRU protest or appeals hearing may be convened by the Disciplinary Chairman (convening authority) for any of the following reasons:

1. Protest of a FYRU scheduled game
2. Appeal of any disciplinary action imposed by the Disciplinary Chairman per VI-C except in the case of disciplinary action greater than four games in which a mandatory hearing was held. In this case appeal is to the Director of Youth Rugby.
3. A dispute between two member clubs for which FYRU rules apply. All other disputes between clubs outside of FYRU league rules shall be appealed to the Director of Youth Rugby. Note that for all non-league issues between two clubs (e.g. poaching), the offended club should first request (in writing) action from the other club's board prior to beginning the appeals process.
4. All protests or appeals involving FYRU action shall be in writing. A check (see Section VII), payable to FYRU, must accompany each protest or appeal. These moneys will be refunded in total if a favorable decision to the player, team, or club is rendered. All protests must be filed with a member of their Club's Board of Directors in writing, within 72 hours of game expiration.

**E. PROTEST AND APPEALS COMMITTEES**

Only violations of this League's By-Laws or Rules and Regulations, or specifically published rules for a cup or tournament or jamboree, or the misapplication of the Laws of the Game or modifications thereof shall be subject to protest.

1. **Composition of Hearing Board or Committee**

a. They shall consist of representatives from a disciplinary hearing pool, consisting of one Member from each FYRU club. Each separate hearing will require a hearing group of 3 Minimum, 5

maximum, drawn from this pool of members by the discipline board chairman. His discretion will be final on choosing an unprejudiced hearing committee for each Dispute.

b. Members should have above-average knowledge of IRB and FLORIDA YOUTH RUGBY UNION Rules and Regulations, By-Laws, and findings of previously convened boards having heard similar cases (Laws of the Game, etc.).

c. One member of this committee shall be designated as the Chairperson.

## 2. **Recommended Procedures**

The Discipline/Protests/Appeals Committee will render a decision based on the facts. The Chairperson will advise the individual(s) involved of the nature of the charges filed or protests/appeals submitted. If a hearing is requested, then the following actions are recommended.

### a. **Hearing Board**

i. The Chairperson of the Hearing Board must notify all parties directly involved with the date/place/ time for the scheduled hearing.

ii. Unless circumstances require an immediate hearing (48-72 hours), it is recommended that such hearings take place with at least 2 weeks advanced notice, and be scheduled at a readily accessible location, and at a date & time convenient to all interested parties.

iii. The Hearing Board will advise the principals or witnesses that they will not be advised of the decision on the date of the hearing; that the Hearing Board will make its recommendation only to the convening authority.

iv. Report and recommendation for action to the convening authority should include:

1. Names of Hearing Board/Members/ Chairperson
2. Date/Place/Time hearing was conducted.
3. Names of principal parties and witnesses.
4. Detailed nature of charges.
5. Minutes of hearing and all written documentation taken as supporting evidence.
6. Written recommendation of Hearing Board (majority decision) along with minority report if requested.
7. Rationale for decisions (specific rules violation of Constitution, By-Laws; precedent from previous decisions made by convening authority, etc.)

### b. **Convening Authority (FYRU or Club)**

- i. Hearing Board members will be copied on all correspondence to the principal parties, notifying them of action taken by convening authority
- ii. Parties will be advised of a right to appeal any decision and appropriate channels for appeal within FLORIDA YOUTH RUGBY UNION.

**c. General**

- i. All concerned parties should understand that hearings of protest and appeals, disciplinary actions imposed, etc., are NOT legal proceedings, and that the FLORIDA YOUTH RUGBY UNION merely provides a procedure for resolving internal disputes or imposing discipline for violations of its By-Laws, Constitution, or Rules and Regulations.
- ii. Parties called before Hearing Boards are not to be represented by attorneys unless and until all avenues of administrative appeal are exhausted within the structure of organized Rugby (from Club through USA Rugby).
- iii. Individuals are normally called before Disciplinary-Protests-Appeals committees and Hearing Boards for specific rules violations or for conduct detrimental to the aims and objectives of the FRU and the FLORIDA YOUTH RUGBY UNION. They deserve a fair and impartial hearing.
- iv. Disciplinary actions recommended by a Hearing Board should be reasonable within the concept of the punishment fits the crime. Excessive disciplinary actions can be expected to result in continuing appeals.
- v. The Chairperson will advise that either party may bring witnesses with them to the hearing that have direct knowledge of the facts pertinent to the subject matter under review. In the case of referee reports, the Chairperson may request a more detailed report of incidents described in a normal referee report, unless the referee is personally appearing at the hearing.

**d. Hearing**

- i. The Chairperson will arrange to record minutes of the hearing proceedings (by tape recorder or by appointing a member of the Hearing Committee), and for the maintenance of all written documentation presented by the parties.
- ii. The individual(s) filing the charge, protest, or appeal will present their issues first, and following ample time for questions and answers from the Hearing Committee, be excused.
- iii. The individual(s) named in the charge, protest, or appeal will present their responses to these issues, and following questions and answers from the Hearing Committee, be excused.
- iv. The principal parties involved will be advised that the Hearing Board will review and evaluate all the testimony and supporting documentation, and will make their recommendation to the convening authority only.

v. The Hearing Board members will deliberate and arrive at a recommendation to be sent to the convening authority in writing within 48 hours, along with any supporting documentation. If a strong minority position (3-2 vote, for example) exists, then the convening authority should be so advised. The Hearing Board members should receive copies of the recommendation to verify its accuracy.

vi. Principal Parties, Witnesses

1. Hearing Boards will not allow contesting parties and witnesses to testify together, or to be in the hearing room together during the proceedings (to eliminate cross-discussion, charges, counter charges, etc.).
2. If a player or minor child gives testimony, it is required that a parent, guardian, or coach accompany him.
3. Following testimony and completion of questions and answers by the Hearing Board, the witness or party is to be excused, and not encouraged to remain at the hearing site.

Post Hearing

1. The convening authority will review the Hearing Board's recommended action, and upon concurrence should notify the principal parties of the outcome and any decision, action, or discipline, etc. that the convening authority determines to appropriate. (NOTE: the convening authority takes such action, not the Hearing Board.)
2. Such notification by the convening authority will be in writing, and include the procedure and appropriate line of appeal within the FLORIDA YOUTH RUGBY UNION organizational structure, should either party wish to appeal further.

**Attention**

**Please note the following proper channels to go through when a problem occurs (whether you are a player, coach, or parent):**

1. Coach
2. Club designated officers
3. FYRU Board (in writing)
4. President (FYRU)
5. Prresident, Florida Rugby Union

**If the problem involves referees:**

1. Club Head Referee
2. FYRU Referee Liaison (in writing)
3. District Referee Administrator (if applicable)
4. Florida Referee Administrator
5. South Rugby Referee Association

**FEES AND FINES**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>When Due</b>
Club fees:	\$50.00 per team	December FYRU meeting
FYRU Bond:	\$150.00 per team	\$50.00 each year or max of \$150.00 is reached.
Failing to attend AGM	\$144.00 per team	Prior to first league game.
Rescheduling fee:		
per rescheduled game	\$3.00	When a change is requested by the club after final delivery of the schedule.
per rescheduled division	\$50.00	
Cancellation Fine :		
Game Day (referee gets ref fees)	\$50.00 plus ref fees	Prior to the next FYRU AGM
Poaching:	\$100.00	Within 10 days of disciplinary action being imposed
first offense	\$250.00	
second offense		
Protest/Appeal fee	\$50.00	With submittal
Website Advertising rates	\$75 - business card \$150 - half page \$250 - full page \$500 - center	FYRU AGM or General Meeting
Red card –		
For violent conduct	\$25 per player	Before suspension is served
For abusive language toward a referee or touch judge	\$25 per player	

**Referees**

Every club affiliated with FLORIDA YOUTH RUGBY UNION is required to use a qualified and certified Referee for all contact games. The FYRU will also conduct a mandatory Referee training

session during the summer (see FYRU Calendar). This session will instruct referees about FYRU, USA Rugby, and IRB Laws of the Game and game reporting requirements.

We all know that Florida has a shortage of certified referees. That unique volunteer is probably the hardest to get trained, experienced, and then retained. Therefore, FYRU is recommending that teams NOT be formed without a referee. Teams cannot play without a coach, thus they should also have/supply a referee.

Clubs are encouraged to establish their own training programs for team/club referees. However, only certified referees are allowed to referee FYRU games or get paid for refereeing games. Every Inter-club game (game between two Clubs) must have a certified center referee. This includes scrimmages as well as Club/FYRU-scheduled games. The FYRU Calendar of events shows when the referee clinics are scheduled, but you should call the FYRU Referee Liaison for confirmation.

### **Referee Fees are based on the Referee's Grade**

**ay scale per game; A - \$75, B1 - \$55, B2 - \$50, B3 -Pay scale per game; A - \$75, B1 -**

The referee fees will be posted on the web with the referee contact information and will not be duplicated in this hand book. Certified Touch Judges will be paid \$10.00 per game.

These fees are for services rendered which include:

- 1) Conducting assigned match in accordance with the rules of the competition described herein,
- 2) Filing required game report with Discipline Committee within required timeframe.

*Failure to provide above services may result in referee fees withheld, suspension from future assignments, and/or possible disciplinary actions.*

## **COACHING COURSES**

Coaching courses have been designed to provide instruction in Rugby coaching for any individual regardless of their coaching or playing background. There are X national and X state level courses. The content of each is arranged progressively with a follow up into the next level course. For beginner or novice coaches, the philosophy is to expose them to coaching and teaching methods, which are both economical and efficient.

Coaching courses might be offered through FYRU Clubs. Contact the Head Coach for your Club to find out what's available. Also, check the FYRU [www.floridayouthrugby.com](http://www.floridayouthrugby.com) or FRU [www.floridarugbyunion.com](http://www.floridarugbyunion.com) Web sites.

## **FYRU CLUBS**

Florida Youth Rugby Union (FYRU) current consists of Clubs from Cocoa to Tampa and Naples to Niceville. We are the only youth Rugby organization in this state with over 400 youth players.

Clubs in FYRU participate in several divisions of Rugby: Recreational (co-ed, all boys, and all girls) and Competitive (all boys and all girls).

The Recreational program is an entry-level program open to all players just getting started in Rugby or needing to develop basic technical and tactical skills. Recreational teams are open to any player who wishes to participate and is guaranteed to play at least half of every game attended (except for disciplinary/illness reasons). You will need to check with your local club to find out more about the recreational programs offered.

The Competitive program is for the serious competitive player who exhibits good technical and tactical sense for the game. These players often have to try out and be selected for placement on a team if a recreational program is offered in your area. If not, all players are permitted to participate on the competition team. Playing time on these teams depend on player skills and commitment.

To participate in any one of these clubs a child must be a minimum of 5 years old by September 1<sup>st</sup> or before the Fall or Spring season begins and no older than 18 prior to September 1<sup>st</sup> for that seasonal year. The Club registration fees are generally higher for the competitive teams because they often times have a higher grade of uniforms and they must also pay higher referee fees. All competitive teams can be expected to travel out of town for almost half of their season's games and tournaments.

It should be the purpose of every FYRU club to provide a youth Rugby program that promotes education in Rugby fundamentals with an emphasis on individual worth, teamwork, and good sportsmanship. We also build leadership skills in the older players by encouraging them be help coach younger teams or to become licensed referees. We also encourage all parents and businesses to get involved and help support each of our local clubs.

There are numerous licensed coach and referee clinics offered during the spring and early summer seasons of each year. Check the calendar in the back of this book for dates and times and ask your FYRU representative or your club head coach or head referee. Also, most of the clubs offer special clinics for the youth players at various times (mostly summer) using national and international instructors.

### **General Policies**

**Tours and Travel:** Any team touring outside of the State and any club hosting a touring side from outside the State must inform the Vice President and/or the Youth Director of its itinerary at least 30 days prior to the scheduled travel. Only those players having reached the age of 18 shall be allowed to drive themselves while traveling to an official event of the club outside the State. Furthermore, anyone 18 years of age that wishes to drive may not transport any club member under the age of 18.

**All Star Teams and Camps:** High school/U-19 eligible players may be selected to be invited to high performance training camps to be run by the Rugby Academy of Florida, The Florida Juice, The Tampa Academy (or other such select side organization) . Team coaches are encouraged to nominate their top athletes to be invited to these camps. The top players will be selected to represent the FYRU. Team coaches may be asked to attend the camps and act as player evaluators.

**All Star Selection:** Evaluation forms are given to a minimum of 5 selectors. After the tryouts the evaluation forms will be given to the head coach of the select side organization, with help from the assistant coaches, the team manager, and one FYRU member, select the top 22 and 6 alternates.

**Communication:** The preferred mode of communication shall be electronic mail and/or postings on the web sites.

**Single/Multi-School Teams:** For South and National Championships, Florida may advance at least one men's single school and/or one U-19 team to the playoffs. If single school, each registered player must be from the same school. Declaration of single or multi-school is done prior to the first game of the season. For women's teams, there is currently no distinction. Advancement to territorial or national championships will be based on this declaration.

**Dissolution of the FYRU:** Upon dissolution of the FYRU organization, all remaining assets must be used exclusively for exempt purposes. 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. This satisfied one of the provisions for IRS form 1023. IRS form 1023 is used to obtain tax exemption as a non-profit organization and requires that we list this either in the By-Laws or the Operating Procedures. The By-Laws and Operating Procedures will be attached to the 1023 form at the time of submission to the IRS. Note: No team has paid into a bond as of 2010. All teams will be required to post a bond of \$50.00 for the first season and each subsequent season until a total bond of \$150.00 is paid to the league.

*(End of FYRU Rules and Regulations)*

**APPENDIX**

**COACHES CODES OF CONDUCT**

1. Rugby is a game to be played for enjoyment.
2. The laws of Rugby should be regarded as mutual agreements, used to promote fair play. The spirit or letter of which, no one should try to evade or break.
3. Visiting teams and spectators are honored guests, treat them that way.
4. No advantages except those of superior skill should be sought.
5. Officials & opponents should be treated & regarded as honest in intention.
6. Official decisions shall be accepted without looking angry.
7. Winning is desirable, but winning at any cost defeats the purpose of the game.
8. Losing can be a triumph when the team has given its best.
9. In Rugby, as in life, treat others as you would have them treat you.

## **PLAYERS CODES OF CONDUCT**

1. Play the game for the game's sake.
2. Be generous when you win.
3. Be gracious when you lose.
4. Be fair always, no matter what the cost.
5. Obey the laws of the game.
6. Work for the good of your team.
7. Accept the decisions of the officials with good grace.
8. Believe in the honesty of your opponents.
9. Conduct yourself with honor and dignity.
10. Honestly and wholeheartedly applaud the efforts of your teammates and your opponents.

## **PARENTS AND SPECTATORS CODES OF CONDUCT**

Parents should remember:

1. Children have more need of example than criticism.
2. To make athletic participation for your child and others a positive experience.
3. Attempt to relieve the pressure of competition, not increase it. A child is easily affected by outside influences.
4. Be kind to your child's coach and field officials. The coach is a volunteer giving of personal time and money to provide a recreational activity for your child. The coach is providing a valuable service to the community, most often without reward other than the personal satisfaction of having served the community.
5. The opponents are necessary friends. Without them, your child could not participate.
6. Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
7. Between the exuberance of the winner and the disappointment of the loser, we find a person called a referee (and linesmen). All of them follow the same creed to watch every move of every player and to call the game to the best of his/her ability. Remember they are volunteers also, just like your coach.
8. Put yourself in the referee's shoes. Do not openly question the referee's judgment, and never the honesty! He/she is a symbol of fair play, integrity, and good sportsmanship.
9. Accept the results of the game.
10. Encourage the child to:
  - a. Be gracious in victory.
  - b. Turn defeat into victory by working toward improvement.
11. Parental evaluation carries a great deal of weight with your child. The attitude shown by parents at games toward their children, the opposing team, the officials, and the coach, influences the child's values and behavior in sports. Criticism and disrespect for officials and opponents by over-anxious or over-protective parents bent on immediate success rather than long-range benefits undermines the purpose of sports. This also brings into the game stresses beyond those of competition. When the player cannot cope effectively with such stress, it contributes to behavior not in keeping with the spirit of the game.

*Be Positive, Encouraging, and a Good Sport!*