



Preamble

The Texas Youth Rugby Association has an obligation to ensure that, when given responsibility for young people, coaches and volunteers provide them with the highest possible standard of care.

The Texas Youth Rugby Association will maintain the professionalism and safeguards of good practice which are associated with the game of Rugby.

Texas Youth Rugby Association recognizes the responsibility of all those involved in Rugby Union (professional and volunteers) to safeguard and promote the interests and well being of the children and young players with whom they are working; and provide a framework on the recruitment, selection, suitability and deployment of individuals working with young people.

Scope and Purpose

1. The purpose of the Texas Youth Rugby Association is to increase the number of youth Rugby players and decrease the age of first time participants.
2. To foster the growth and development of the sport of youth rugby at all levels.
3. To assist members, teams, and participants in their various forms of involvement with rugby.
4. To adhere to all laws of rugby as promulgated by the International Board of the Rugby Football Union.
5. To encourage and facilitate national and international youth rugby competition
6. To provide structure and support for competitions and high performance youth rugby.

Guiding principles

1. The game of rugby stands higher than any individuals' or groups' agendas and we will promote increased participation in the sport of rugby in a manner that honors the game and the spirit of competition
2. We will strive to keep the sportsmanship associated with rugby above competing motivations
3. Rugby is for everyone and all participants should be treated with respect and given every opportunity to play
4. We will teach and instruct rugby skills, including the history of the game and the honorable tradition of rugby sportsmanship, which promotes and requires respect for teammates, opponents, coaches and match officials.



Article 1

Name and Affiliation

The name of the organization shall be Texas Youth Rugby Association, hereinafter referred to as the “Association”. *The Association is a full member of the United States of America Rugby Football Union, the Western Rugby Union and the Texas Rugby Union.*

Article 2

Address

The physical address of the Association shall be P.O. Box xxxxx. The electronic address of the Association shall be TexasYouthRugby.org

Article 3

Objectives

The objectives of the Association shall be:

1. To support and foster the development of Youth Rugby in Texas.
2. To advocate adherence to the Laws of Rugby Football as promulgated by the International Board of Rugby Football Union.
4. To deliver programs, services and facilities, which enable Rugby athletes to achieve their maximum potential.
5. To foster state, national and international Youth Rugby competition.

Article 4

Not for Profit

The Association is organized exclusively for one or more purposes as specified in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and enumerated in Article 4 of the Articles of Incorporation and Article 3 of the bylaws.



Article 5

Membership and Dues

Section 1. Membership in the Association shall be open to any person interested in the promotion and development of Youth Rugby and agreeing to conform to the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Association. The General Committee shall have complete authority to set dues structure and additional non voting membership class(es).

Section 2. Voting members

- a) Shall be any TYRA member club that participates in a contact TYRA league. One vote per club.
- b) Shall be any TYRA member club, league or association exclusively devoted to non-contact rugby with non contact players that number in excess of twenty (20). One vote per club, league or association.

Article 6

Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Association shall be a President, South Region Representative, North Region Representative, Central Region Representative, President of the Texas Rugby Union (nonvoting) and Chairman of the Society of Texas Rugby Referees (nonvoting). One Regional representative to be appointed by the Executive Committee as Vice President to step in as interim President should the President stand down at any time for any reason.

Section 2. Term of office.

- (a) Officers shall serve for the interval between Annual General Meetings.
- (b) If an officer is unable to perform his duties, the General Committee shall appoint a replacement provided a 2/3 majority vote at any General Committee meeting.
- (c) The President is limited to three (3) consecutive terms. However, after not serving for a year he maybe elected again for another three (3) terms.

Section 2. Duties

- (a) The president shall be the chief executive officer of the Association. Shall preside over all meetings of the Association. Nominate standing Committee Chairman, and be a member of all committees Ex Officio. The President shall represent the Association to the Rugby community.



- (b) The Regional Representatives shall be responsible for the organization and administration of their geographical region. Including but not limited to: Scheduling, playing facilities, recruitment and retention and all matters that concern youth rugby in their region. The Regional Representative shall be the voice of the individual members to Executive committee, General Committee and other members of the Association. The regional representative shall call all meetings of the region.

Article 7

Committees

Section 1. Executive Committee

- a) The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, South Region Representative, North Region Representative, Central Region Representative, Finance Chair, President of the TRU and Chairman of STRR.
- b) The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Association.
- c) The Executive Committee shall authorize all disbursements under \$2,500.00.
- d) The Executive Committee shall appoint Discipline Committee members.
- e) The Executive Committee shall: (1) provide that all notices are served in accordance with these bylaws or as required by law; (2) be custodian of the corporate records; (3) when requested or required, authenticate any records of the corporation.
- f) The Executive Committee shall contract a Certified Public Accountant to review all Association financial records and distribute this review to members of the Association prior to the AGM.
- g) The Executive Committee shall form temporary Committees as needed to conduct the business of the Association and appoint temporary Committee Chairman.

Section 2. General Committee

- a) The General Committee shall be composed of the Executive Committee and the following standing committee chairs: Finance, Coaching, Refereeing, Non Contact, Fundraising, Marketing, Webmaster, Select Sides, Competitions and Parliamentarian.
- b) The General Committee shall authorized payments in excess of \$2,500.00
- c) The General Committee shall approve all contracts, debts, interest bearing accounts, sponsorship and any arrangement, obligation or commitment that the Association shall have that is in excess of one calendar year in duration.



Section 3. Discipline Committee

- a) The Discipline Committee shall be comprised of three (3) members. One member must currently be a member of Society of Texas Rugby Referees (STRR). Executive Committee members are prohibited from serving on the Discipline Committee.
- b) The Discipline Committee shall adjudicate all matters referred to the Committee by Society of Texas Rugby Referees.
- c) If any business undertaken by the Discipline Committee results in a member ruling on a matter that could be perceived as a conflict of interest, that member shall recuse himself. The Discipline Committee shall produce a list of alternative replacement members to serve during recusal and this list shall be approved by the Executive Committee. The replacement member will only rule in matters resulting in the original recusal. The alternate replacement list shall be three (3).
- d) *The Discipline Committee will be held in abeyance until the the game of youth/HS rugby in Texas us under the auspices of the UIL*

Article 8

Finance Chairman

- a) The Finance Chairman shall have the custody of all monies and securities of the corporation and shall keep regular books of account. The Finance Chairman shall disburse the funds of the corporation in payment of the just demands against the corporation or as may be ordered by the Executive Committee or the General Committee.
- b) The Finance Chairman shall produce detailed month to date and year to date financial statements no later then 20 days after the prior month end on request for any Association member or any member of the public.

Article 9

Meetings



- Section 1. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held between April 1st and Oct 31st of the calendar year. The Executive Committee shall pick the date, time and venue.
- Section 2. The Executive Committee shall meet at the discretion of the President
- Section 3. The General Committee shall meet at the discretion of the President. With the proviso: A minimum of two (2) meetings, with one each to be held: 1) between the AGM and Nov 15th. 2) between January 1st and April 28th.
- Section 4. An emergency meeting of the General Committee may be held at the call of the President provided the test for waiver of notice is met in accordance with Article 10, Section 4 of the Bylaws.
- Section 5. Committee meetings may be held over the Internet provided proper notice is given.

Article 10

Notice

- Section 1. Notice of Club meetings and official Club business shall be by email or US Postal Service.
- Section 2. Notice of the AGM and any special Club meetings shall be at minimum Fifteen (15) days.
- Section 3. Notice of General Committee meetings shall be at minimum seven (7) days.
- Section 4. Waiver of notice for emergency General Committee meeting. Notice may be waived if the following conditions are met.
1. The President calls the emergency meeting and the reason for the meeting is stated in the call. Only business stated in the call shall be addressed.
 2. A minimum of eight (8) General Committee members must be present and concur the need for an emergency meeting. If there are less than eight (8) then the General Committee will be adjourned.
 3. A good faith effort has been made to notify all General Committee members by the Executive Committee.

Article 11

Quorum



Section 1. A quorum for the Annual General Meeting or any special Association meeting provided proper notice is given, shall be those members present.

Section 2. A quorum for any General Committee Meeting provided proper notice is given, shall be eight (8)

Article 12

Elections

Section 1. The President shall be elected by voting members of the Association. A majority vote shall elect. If no one receives a majority on the first ballot then a second ballot will be taken with the top two candidates in a runoff.

Section 2. Regional Representatives shall be elected by their area members prior to the AGM.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall appoint an elections committee of three (3) members. The elections Committee shall oversee and have sole authority over the election of the President.

Section 4. The president may be elected by vote held by email at the discretion of the elections committee.

Article 13

Code of Conduct

All coaches, players and parents must adhere and sign the appropriate code of conduct form before participation in any TYRA capacity.

Article 14

Reserved Powers

The powers, duties and authority not delegated to the Officers, Executive Committee, General Committee, by the Bylaws, are reserved for the General Committee.

Article 15

Annual General Meeting



Section 1. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held between April 1st and Oct 31st of the calendar year. The Executive Committee shall pick the date, time, and venue.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall report the status of the Association at the AGM.

Article 16

Amendments.

The Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 member vote at any Association meeting provided the amendment(s) to the Bylaws are submitted to the General Committee prior to the meeting and approved by a 2/3 majority. The amendment(s) and notice of time, date and place of meeting must be given to Association members no less than fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting as stated in Article 10