

Bylaws of Missouri Youth Rugby

Article 1 – Name and Affiliation

Section 1

The name of this organization shall be Missouri Youth Rugby, hereinafter referred to as MYRugby. MYRugby is organized under and shall be affiliated with the United States Rugby Football Union (USA Rugby). It shall operate in the state of Missouri of the United States of America.

Section 2

MYRugby shall take all steps necessary to obtain and maintain status as a charitable not for profit organization under the provisions of Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Article 2 – Purpose and Objectives

Section 1

MYRugby is organized under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or any corresponding section of any future Federal tax code, exclusively for the following purposes:

- a. To foster national amateur rugby competition;
- b. To conduct national amateur rugby competition; and,
- c. To support and develop amateur athletes for that competition.

Section 2

In an effort to achieve the purposes stated in Article 2, Section 1, the following are the objectives of MYRugby:

- a. Promote and support the growth of high school rugby and youth rugby;
- b. Educate the public, as well as any participants, on the laws of the game of rugby as played under the laws of the International Rugby Board;
- c. Expand high school and youth rugby competition throughout the state of Missouri.

Article 3 – Membership

Section 1

In order to be considered for membership in MYRugby, a league must apply to the MYRugby Executive Board using an application form provided by the Executive Board. Upon completion of the application by the prospective league, the Executive Board will either approve or decline the addition of a new league to MYRugby.

Section 2

Each league member will belong to either the East or West region, as determined by the Executive Board.

Section 3

- a. Each league is responsible for setting its own guidelines for accepting new club applications and the process for approving or declining membership. Any dispute between the league and a prospective club regarding acceptance of the prospective club into the league can be referred by the prospective club to the MYRugby Executive Board for a final determination. Either the league or the prospective club may appeal the Executive Board's decision at the Annual Meeting using the process outlined in Article 7.
- b. New clubs will be considered associate members of their prospective league for the first year of their membership.
- c. A club becomes a full league member after competing for a full season in its league.

Article 4 – Leagues

MYRugby shall consist of the following leagues, which are subject to change by approval of the Executive Board:

- a. High School Boys 15's – Includes all single-school teams and club teams in Missouri comprised of males enrolled in high school. Matches in this league are played in accordance with the International Rugby Board's (IRB) Laws of the Game. All players in this league must meet the high school eligibility standards set forth in Article 5.
- b. High School Boys 7's - Includes all single-school teams and club teams in Missouri comprised of males enrolled in high school. Matches in this league are played in accordance with the International Rugby Board's (IRB) Laws of the Game seven-a-side variation. All players in this league must meet the high school eligibility standards set forth in Article 5.
- c. High School Girls 15's – Includes all single-school teams and club teams in Missouri comprised of females enrolled in high school. Matches in this league are played in accordance with the International Rugby Board's (IRB) Laws of the Game. All players in this league must meet the high school eligibility standards set forth in Article 5.
- d. High School Girls 7's - Includes all single-school teams and club teams in Missouri comprised of females enrolled in high school. Matches in this league are played in accordance with the International Rugby Board's (IRB) Laws of the Game seven-a-side variation. All players in this league must meet the high school eligibility standards set forth in Article 5.

Article 5 – Player Eligibility

Section 1

All players in all leagues must be in good standing with USA Rugby and MYRugby. Those players not in good standing with both MYRugby and USA Rugby shall not be allowed to compete for any MYRugby member club in a MYRugby league match.

Section 2

In order for a player competing for a MYRugby member club in one of the High School Leagues described in Article 4 to be in good standing with MYRugby, the following must be met:

- a. A player shall not have reached the age of nineteen (19) prior to July 1 of the academic year in question.
- b. A player must be enrolled in an actual high school (grades 9 – 12), or the home-school equivalent, during the academic year in question.
- c. Players shall have four (4) years of eligibility, which begins once the player first enrolls in the ninth grade. Students in their fifth year of high school are not eligible to play in a MYRugby High School League.

Section 3

In order for a player competing for a MYRugby member club in one of the High School Leagues described in Article 4 to be in good standing with USA Rugby, the following must be met:

- a. A player must be listed on their club's USA Rugby CIPP Roster.

Section 4

For High School Leagues, as described in Article 4, the following shall determine the MYRugby Member Club for which a player shall compete:

- a. If a MYRugby member club is affiliated with a high school, as defined by the MYRugby Executive Board, then a player enrolled in that high school shall compete for that MYRugby member club.
- b. If the high school in which a player is enrolled is not affiliated with a MYRugby member club, as defined by the MYRugby Executive Board, then that player may compete for any MYRugby member club the player so chooses.
- c. If a player begins his or her four (4) years of eligibility competing for a MYRugby member club, and thereafter enrolls in a different high school which is affiliated with a MYRugby member club, as defined by the MYRugby Executive Board, then that player shall compete for the MYRugby member club which is affiliated with the player's new high school.
- d. If a MYRugby member club becomes affiliated with a high school, as defined by the MYRugby Executive Board, then any players enrolled in that high school and currently

competing for a different MYRugby member club shall have the option of either continuing to compete for the player's current MYRugby member club or competing for the MYRugby member club thereafter affiliated with the high school in which the player is enrolled. Once this decision is made, the player will not be allowed to compete for any other MYRugby member club unless he or she enrolls in a different high school or the MYRugby member club which the player is competing for ceases to be a member of MYRugby.

- e. For purposes of determining eligibility under this Section, players who are enrolled in the home-school equivalent of a high school, as discussed in Section 2.b of this Article, shall be considered enrolled in the public high school he or she would have been if he or she were not home-schooled.

Article 6 – Executive Board Officers

Section 1

MYRugby's Executive Board shall be comprised of the following five (5) officers – President, Treasurer, East Representative, West Representative and Referee Representative. The Executive Board shall have the power to make all decisions regarding the operation and maintenance of MYRugby, the enforcement and interpretation of the bylaws of MYRugby, any and all disciplinary issues, the location of State Tournaments, and any other subject matter not specifically stated in these bylaws as being delegated to the members of MYRugby in good standing with voting rights as described in Article 9.

Section 2

The duties of the Executive Board shall be as follows:

a. **President**

1. Work to achieve and maintain USA Rugby's recognition of MYRugby as a state-based rugby organization;
2. Enforce the bylaws of MYRugby;
3. Preside over all MYRugby meetings; and,
4. Represent MYRugby to the rugby community.

b. **Treasurer**

1. Maintain accurate and current financial reports for MYRugby;
2. Pay all organization bills in a timely manner; and,
3. Collect and track the payment of all dues.

c. **East Representative**

1. Advocate on behalf of clubs and leagues from the eastern portion of the state.

d. **West Representative**

1. Advocate on behalf of clubs and leagues from the western portion of the state.

e. **Referee Representative**

1. Advocate on behalf of the referee's society.

Section 3

- a. In addition to the duties listed in Section 2 of this Article, other ministerial duties shall be performed by either the East Representative or West Representative. These duties are as follows:
 1. Assist the President in presiding over any meetings by:
 - i. Taking roll;
 - ii. Leading discussion;
 - iii. Tallying any votes; and,
 - iv. Creating an accurate record of the proceedings;
 2. Maintain accurate and current archives of all necessary documents, including but not limited to:
 - i. Documents related to affiliation with USA Rugby;
 - ii. Documents related to MYRugby's status as a charitable not-for-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;
 - iii. Records of meeting minutes;
 - iv. Official correspondence;
 - v. Records related to MYRugby member leagues and clubs; and,
 - vi. Documents related to the management and operation of MYRugby.
 3. Assist the President in achieving and maintaining USA Rugby's recognition of MYRugby as a state-based rugby organization.
- b. The responsibility of performing these duties shall begin with the East Representative, and thereafter will rotate between the East Representative and the West Representative each year beginning and ending with the Annual Meeting. Should either the East Representative or West Representative not be re-elected while their respective position is responsible for the performance of these duties, the individual shall continue to perform these duties until the end of the Annual Meeting in which they were not re-elected to the position. Thereafter, the newly elected Representative shall assume these duties until the next Presidential election.

Section 4

Upon a determination by at least three (3) of the five (5) Executive Board officers, or by motion of a MYRugby member in good standing with voting rights as described in Article 9, an Executive Board officer may be removed from their respective position at any time by following the procedures described in Article 7 related to the challenge of a decision by the Executive Board. However, a three-fourths (3/4) vote in favor of removal will be required for removal of an Executive Board officer.

Article 7 – Meetings

Section 1

The following shall apply to the meetings of MYRugby:

- a. An Annual Meeting of MYRugby members shall be held at least once a year.
- b. All MYRugby Executive Board officers will attend a regularly scheduled Annual Meeting. If an officer cannot attend the regularly scheduled Annual Meeting, that officer will elect a proxy to attend the meeting and vote in their stead. The proxy must be an active member of MYRugby in good standing.
- c. At least one representative from all league members and club members with voting rights will attend the regularly scheduled Annual Meeting.
- d. Any member of the Executive Board may call an Emergency Meeting, provided that at least fifteen (15) days notice is given to all other Executive Board officers and MYRugby members.
- e. A quorum shall exist of greater than half of the voting member clubs and at least three members of the Executive Board in order to conduct any business at a MYRugby meeting.
- f. All MYRugby Annual Meetings or Emergency Meetings will be open to any member of MYRugby in good standing.
- g. A special session shall be held at every meeting in which any active member of MYRugby in good standing, or any prospective club as discussed in Article 3, Section 2, may appeal a decision of the Executive Board. All appeals will conform to the requirements of Section 2 of this Article.
- h. For all other business conducted during a MYRugby meeting that is not done during the special session discussed in Section 1(f) of this Article, any discussion that commences between the MYRugby members in good standing with voting rights as described in Article 9 will be lead by the President, or if the President chooses so by either the East Representative or the West Representative as determined by Article 6, Section 3 of these bylaws. Whichever officer leads the discussion shall have the authority to end the discussion and call for a vote on the matter in question, or call for a decision by the Executive Board if the matter in question is not one which the voting members have the authority to decide.

Section 2

Any appeals of a decision of the Executive Board shall be brought during the Annual Meeting or an Emergency Meeting and follow these requirements:

- a. All members of the Executive Board shall be notified in writing (by mail or email) of all appeals of a decision of the Executive Board within fifteen (15) days of an Annual Meeting or an Emergency Meeting.
- b. The notice to the Executive Board of the appeal shall consist of the following
 - i. The name of the persons appealing the decision, their contact information, and the MYRugby league and club members the persons are affiliated with;

- ii. The decision of the Executive Board that the persons are challenging;
 - iii. The reasons for the appeal; and,
 - iv. A statement of the persons' desired outcome in lieu of the Executive Board's decision.
- c. All appeals shall be heard during the special session described in Section 1(g) of this Article. Any persons appealing a decision of the Executive Board shall be given a total of thirty (30) minutes to present their case to the voting members. The Executive Board may, at their election, be given an additional thirty (30) minutes to respond.
 - d. All appeals shall be voted on by all members of MYRugby with voting rights as described in Article 9, and a two-thirds (2/3) vote is required in order to overturn any decision of the Executive Board.

Article 8 – Elections

The following shall apply to the election of members of the Executive Board:

- a. The President and Treasurer shall be elected in even years at the Annual Meeting by a vote of those members in good standing with voting rights as described in Article 9.
- b. The Referee Representative shall be elected in odd years at the Annual Meeting by a vote of those members in good standing with voting rights as described in Article 9.
- c. The East and West Representatives shall be elected in odd years at the Annual Meeting by a vote of those members in good standing from their respective portion of the state and with voting rights as described in Article 9.
- d. If a position has two candidates, a vote shall be held and the candidate who receives the majority of the votes shall win the election.
- e. If a position has three or more candidates, a preliminary vote shall be held.
 - 1. If a candidate receives more than half of the votes, then that candidate shall win the election.
 - 2. If no candidate receives more than half of the votes, then the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be placed in a runoff election.
 - 3. The candidate who receives the majority of the votes in the runoff election shall win the election.

Article 9 – Voting Rights

The following shall determine the voting rights of all league and club members of MYRugby:

- a. Any MYRugby member, whether an individual, club, or league, that is not expressly granted voting rights in subsections (b) through (d) of this Article shall have no voting rights in MYRugby.

- b. For purposes of this Article, “non-contact leagues” refers to those leagues that do not allow contact between opposing players during a match, while “contact league members” refers to those leagues that allow contact between opposing players under the International Rugby Board’s (IRB) Laws of the Game.
- c. For purposes of this Article, “club” shall only include those club members that are “full league members” as defined Section 3(c) of Article 3.
- d. Only those clubs and leagues in good standing with MYRugby shall have any voting rights, even if voting rights are granted to them by the remaining subsections of this Article.
 - 1. In order for a league to be in good standing with MYRugby, it must have timely paid all of its dues to MYRugby and submitted all of the necessary paperwork to MYRugby and USA Rugby.
 - 2. In order for a club to be in good standing with MYRugby, it must have timely paid all of its dues to MYRugby, be in good standing with its respective league, as determined by the league, and submitted all necessary paperwork to MYRugby and USA Rugby.
- e. Non-Contact Leagues
 - 1. Only those non-contact leagues with twenty-one (21) or more players shall have voting rights.
 - 2. Each non-contact league with twenty-one (21) or more players shall have one vote, which will be decided by a simple majority of the clubs in the respective league. If there are no clubs in the respective league, then the vote shall be decided by the highest-ranking officer, official, or organizer of the league. If there is an even number of clubs in the respective league, and the clubs cannot come to a majority vote, then the Representative on the Executive Board for the region in which the league belongs shall cast the tie-breaking vote.
- f. Contact Leagues
 - 1. All contact full league members shall have voting rights in some manner.
 - 2. All club members of the “High School Boys 15’s” and the “High School Girls 15’s” leagues shall have one vote each, giving each club member an individual vote to be decided by the ranking official, officer, coach or organizer of the respective club.
 - 3. For all contact leagues not included in subsection f(2) of this Article, each league shall have one vote, which will be determined by a simple majority of the clubs in the respective league. If there is an even number of clubs in the respective league, and the clubs cannot come to a majority vote, then the Representative on the Executive Board for the region in which the league belongs shall cast the tie-breaking vote.
- g. Executive Board Members

1. Executive Board officers shall have one vote each for any general organizational vote.
2. Executive Board officers shall not have a vote during the election of new officers, unless either the East Representative or West Representative must cast a vote in order for the clubs in a league to come to a majority as described in subsections e(2) and f(3) of this Article.

Article 10 – Amending the Bylaws

Section 1

These bylaws may only be amended at a MYRugby Annual Meeting, or via electronic voting as described in Article 10, Section 2. Notice of the proposed amendment, as well as notice of time, date and place of the Annual Meeting as described in Article 7, shall be given to the President and distributed to all MYRugby members at least fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) “in favor” vote of general member clubs in good standing, with voting rights, and in attendance shall be required for approval of an amendment to the bylaws. Proxy votes shall be allowed, provided the proxy has a signed letter from the person for whom the proxy is voting granting such power.

Section 2

In the event that an electronic vote to amend the bylaws is to take place, a two-thirds (2/3) "in favor" vote of all member clubs and leagues in good standing and with voting rights shall be required to pass an Amendment. The proposal will be distributed electronically to all MYRugby members for a two-week period of discussion, which will be followed by either an electronic vote or a proposed amendment to the original change as approved by the Executive Board. The proposed change will then be distributed to the membership for a second two-week period of discussion, upon which an electronic vote will be taken.

Section 3

At any point after initial notice has been given of a proposed amendment to the bylaws under Section 1 of this Article, the person proposing the amendment may modify said amendment. If the modification of the amendment does not occur at an Annual Meeting, then notice of the proposed modifications to the amendment, as well as notice of time, date and place of the Annual Meeting shall be given to the President and distributed to all MYRugby members as quickly as possible. If the modifications to the amendment are proposed at the Annual Meeting before voting on the amendment has occurred, then adequate discussion time shall be given to all MYRugby members with voting rights in attendance. The Executive Board, by a simple majority vote, shall have the discretionary authority to end discussion and call for a vote on the modified amendment. No modifications may be made to an amendment after voting on the amendment has occurred.

Article 11 – State Tournaments

The location of State Tournaments shall be decided in accordance with the following provisions:

- a. State Tournaments shall be held at least once every year in either the St. Louis area, the Kansas City area, or in mid-Missouri. The location of State Tournaments will rotate every year between these three regions. No region will host a State Tournament for the same member league two consecutive years in a row.
- b. Clubs located in the region that is hosting the respective State Tournament shall submit a “Host Application” to the Executive Board if they wish to host the Tournament.
- c. The location of each State Tournament shall be decided by the Executive Board with a simple majority vote.
- d. Only those club members that have submitted a “Host Application” are eligible to host a State Tournament.