

Mid-America Rugby Football Union

Rules of Operation

Table of Contents:

- [1. Introduction](#)
- [2. Application Process.](#)
- [3. Club Requirements](#)
- [4. Eligibility](#)
- [5. Refund Policy](#)
- [6. Rules of Conduct](#)
- [7. Match Day Procedures](#)
- [8. Match Cancellation](#)
- [9. Results Reporting](#)
- [10. Leagues](#)
- [11. League Standings](#)
- [12. Non-Union Hosted Tournaments](#)
- [13. Referee Association](#)
- [14. Penalties and Fines](#)
- [Appendix A:](#)
- [Appendix B](#)
- [Appendix C.](#)

1. Introduction

- a. These regulations and procedures are to be utilized for all rugby clubs which are members of the Mid-America Rugby Football Union. Unless specifically mentioned, the regulations are the same for all clubs and league competitions under the auspices of the Mid-America Rugby Football Union. Additional competitive programs and regulations may be added by USA Rugby and the MARFU Board.
- b. Members must comply with all of the requirements set forth in the By-Laws, these Rules, and such other resolutions that may be adopted by the Board.
- c. All regulations and procedures adopted by the United States of America Rugby Football Union (USARFU) and National Collegiate Rugby in the areas of eligibility, appeal processes, discipline regulations and procedures, and any other regulations applying to competitions are considered part of these regulations.
- d. Subject to the right of the Board to suspend a person, team, or club, a

Member shall be entitled to participate in all regularly scheduled events conducted by the Union. Following the initial acceptance of a club as a Member of the Union, the acceptance of dues from a Member shall be evidence that the Member is in good-standing, subject to all Union policies and regulations, and entitled to all rights and privileges accorded to Union Members.

2. Application Process.

- a. All applications for New Club membership shall be submitted to the corresponding Union Division Director, either Men's or Women's Union Administrator.
- b. Applications shall include:
 - i. The proposed name and colors of the club,
 - ii. Club history and past record (if applicable),
 - iii. Classification of membership desired,
 - iv. A complete roster of club members including
 1. The name, residential and business addresses and telephone numbers, email address, and previous rugby experience and certifications of each club officer and coach.
 2. Interested players
 3. An affidavit stating that the club, its teams, and members will abide by the By-Laws, these Rules and such other resolutions that may be adopted by the MARFU and USA Rugby Board of directors.
 4. For Changes in League affiliation – notice must be sent by June 1st to MARFU board (if applicable). Exceptions will be handled on a case by case basis. Social clubs can apply at any time and will be considered on a case by case basis.

3. Club Requirements

- a. *REFEREES*: Every club, regardless of gender or division, is required to have one (1) certified referee who must also be a member of the Mid-America Referee Society.
 - i. College teams are required to have a certified referee on their team roster. This ref is not required to be available to ref regularly, but can make themselves available and is there in case of unforeseen circumstances with the teams assigned ref.
 - ii. All Senior Club teams are required to have a certified referee on their team roster. Referees of senior clubs
 1. Clubs with more than 20 rostered members referees must be

available to ref at least two weekends a month to be considered active and full-time. (If they are not scheduled to referee but have provided their availability, it is seen as being compliant.)

2. Clubs with fewer than 20 rostered members referees are not required to be available to ref regularly but can make themselves available and are there in case of unforeseen circumstances with the teams assigned referee.
- iii. A member club which is unable to provide a certified referee to the Society may still be able to schedule and participate in matches but must work with the Committee in order to fulfill this requirement in a timely manner or be subject to the following:
 1. Will not receive referee assignments.
 2. Will be ineligible to advance to championship play, and will forfeit all league matches, until the referee is provided.
- b. *CONTACT INFO*: All clubs are required to submit the names, current phone numbers and email addresses for at least three club officials to be posted on the MARFU website in order to allow each member club to be contacted, if necessary, for rugby matters.
- c. *DUES*: All clubs are responsible for paying dues at the beginning of the new competitive cycle. Dues will be collected via the USA Rugby online registration system and will be in addition to any dues or fees collected by USA Rugby. Teams must be registered with USA Rugby along with players, coach, and referee in order to be compliant.
- d. The MARFU Dues Schedule is (does not include USA Rugby Dues):
 - i. Senior Men and Women: \$40
 - ii. Collegiate Men and Women Teams affiliated with MARFU: \$20
 - iii. Team Dues: \$275

4. Eligibility

- a. Players must meet all requirements for eligibility as set forth in the USARFU Eligibility Rules.
- b. All players, regardless of gender or league, must be registered with the club they are representing and they must be listed on the club's CIPP roster as of the day of and before the start of the league match.
- c. If a player is playing in a friendly, they must be CIPP'd with USA Rugby as of the day of and before the start of the match. There are absolutely no exceptions to this regulation.

- d. *Illegal use of Player* -The use of any player in any league match who does not meet this criterion will result in an automatic forfeit loss to the offending team. A \$100 fine per player, per game to the offending club will be assessed for any game using an unregistered player and, in addition, the club may be dismissed from further league competition for the remainder of that competitive cycle.
- e. *Roster Check* - Clubs can ask to verify rosters as long as it is done in a timely manner before the match. Refusal to do a CIPP check will result in an automatic forfeiture of a match and any costs accrued by the non-forfeiting team can be submitted in the form of invoices to be reimbursed by the forfeiting team upon approval of the board. The invoices must be submitted within 10 days of the forfeited match. The forfeiting club is considered in bad standing with the union until the fine is paid.
- f. Club Compliance for League Competition - All clubs, regardless of gender or league, playing in any match, league or otherwise, must have a current and valid club membership in the USARFU membership system (CIPP), a minimum of 15 registered players, a referee, and a certified coach according to USA Rugby Guidelines.
 - i. If a club does not have a full side to play a game but would still like to hold a match, they must contact their opposition and the Division Director stating this and what type of match will be played (10's, combined with another team, or assistance from opposition) no later than seven days before the match to ensure that a referee is assigned to the match. *If it is a league match, USA Rugby policies must be followed in regards to reduced players (must have a minimum of 5 in the scrum.)*
 - ii. Clubs without valid club membership in the USA Rugby membership system or who do not have at least 15 registered players and have not made arrangements with the MARFU Board who play in violation of the above mandate; May be fined up to \$250 payable to the Union per match played, will result in forfeiture of all matches played, including league matches, until such time as the club becomes compliant.
- g. Any Member and/or person who fails to comply with the eligibility requirements inclusive, shall be deemed not-in-good-standing, and further, while Not-in-good-standing Status:
 - i. shall not play any rugby matches or use Union fields;
 - ii. shall not be assigned Union referees;

- iii. any league matches played or scheduled by a Member while Not-in-good-standing status, shall be deemed a forfeiture loss in favor of its opponent;
- iv. shall not reschedule any such forfeited rugby matches; and
- v. may be subject to further disciplinary action by the Board.

5. Refund Policy

- a. You ARE eligible for a refund if:
 - i. The request is within 7 days of the transaction and you have NOT played in any match (scrimmage, friendly, competitive, tournament etc.)
- b. You are NOT eligible for a refund if:
 - i. You have played in any match, tournament, or organized play or the transaction date is more than 7 days ago
- c. By refunding/canceling your membership, you understand that:
 - i. You are NOT eligible to utilize USA Rugby's Accident Insurance Policy
 - ii. You are NOT eligible to practice, compete or participate in USA Rugby activities and you are being refunded only the USA Rugby membership fees, NOT any regional fees, nor processing fees. Regional fees will need to be refunded from the region/union/SRO directly.
- d. Active Duty Military members may request a refund that will be reviewed by the GU Board

6. Rules of Conduct

- a. All individuals under the jurisdiction of the Union shall be expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. The Board reserves the right to take firm disciplinary action against all individuals and clubs who embarrass or discredit the Union or Rugby Union Football, at any time or place. Abusive, intimidating, and obnoxious actions or language are prohibited. Under extraordinary circumstances, the action of any member or supporter of a club may be considered by the Union to be the action of the club as a whole, and appropriate disciplinary actions may be imposed upon the entire club.
- b. *Ground Rules. - Participation Agreement* Member conduct shall adhere to local facility policies and conduct themselves in a manner which reflects

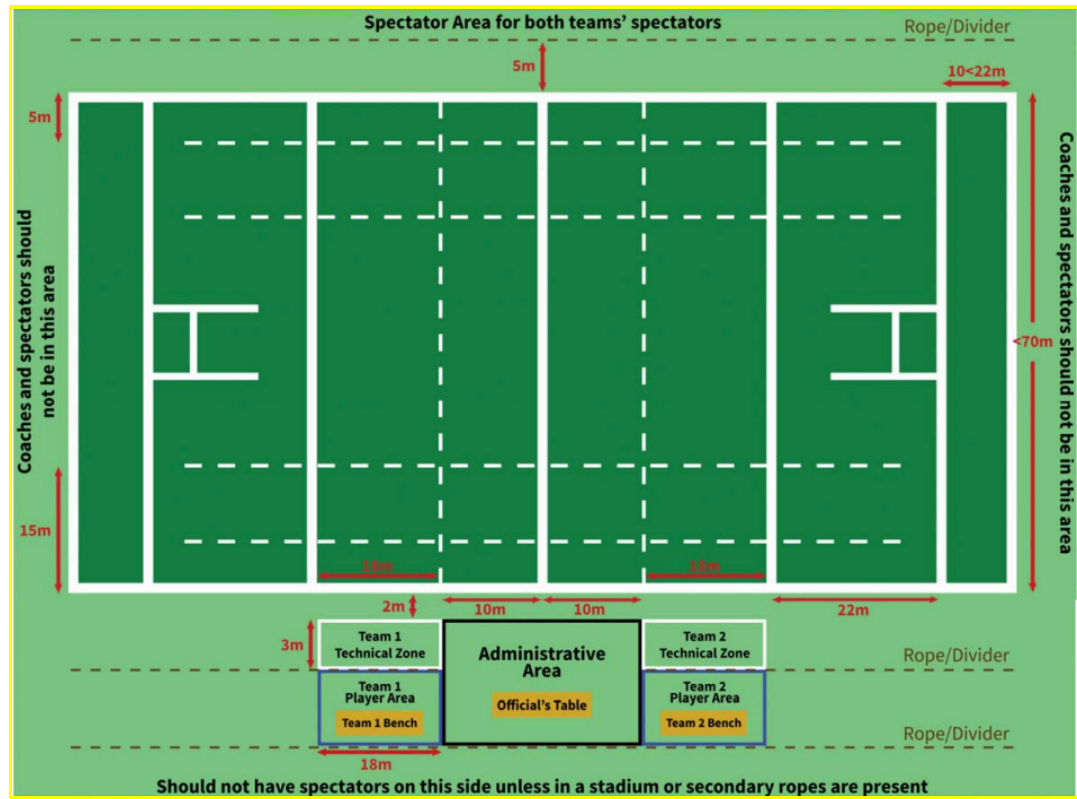
positively on their team, fans, MARFU, and USA Rugby.

c. *Inclement Weather*

- i. In non-league matches conducted under the auspices of the Union, sweat pants and/or gloves may be worn if the temperature is less than 20 °F (-7 °C) or if the referee determines the conditions warrant.
- ii. The MARFU Board or its designee may, in times of inclement weather, declare unplayable conditions to protect player safety and health and prevent damage to fields.
- iii. See Appendix A

7. Match Day Procedures

- a. All clubs are required to produce an accurate match roster for the use of the opposing team and the referee prior to the start of any match on a schedule acceptable to both teams.
- b. Teams may request an I.D. check in order to verify validate of CIPP register and match roster. This must be done in a timely manner prior to the match kick-off. Refusal to participate in I.D. check will result in a forfeit and other possible sanctions.
- c. All collegiate clubs in any league are REQUIRED to adhere to the rules of their College Conference in regards to college eligibility procedures.
- d. It is inappropriate for a team to ask the opposition to allow the use of non-CIPPed player or the use of ineligible players. If a team allows the opposition to use ineligible players in a league match, they will be subject to penalties, as well.
- e. Home clubs are responsible for securing a suitable venue for playing matches. The playing field size requirements are noted in the laws of the game.
- f. The home club is responsible for marking the field in accordance with the requirements detailed in the laws of the game.
- g. The home team is also required to provide field flags, goal post pads, and a 5 meter crowd control barrier (on both sides of the field, if only one side is marked, the non-marked side must be closed to players and spectators) that meet the requirements as noted in the laws of the game and other regulations. Clubs are strongly encouraged to consult the latest version of the USA Rugby Handbook and Laws of the Game, as well as the current version of Game Management Guidelines for applicable laws, procedure and comment on field conditions and requirements. See below for the diagram.



- h. For each instance of failure of the home team to properly mark the field, provide suitable field flags, goal post pads, and crowd control barriers, as determined by the assigned referee, the home club may be fined \$75 .
- i. The referee has the discretion to not allow the match to take place if there are safety issues related to the playing facilities, or if the above requirements for pitch setup are not in place. If teams have concerns, they are encouraged to consult the Committee.

8. Match Cancellation

- a. If any club cancels a match with another club, the opposing club must be notified no later than 5:00 p.m. the three days prior to the match or the canceling club can be fined up to the sum of \$250 and payable to the opposing club for any costs they may have incurred due to the late cancellation.
- b. The fine will only be enforced and collected if the opposing club so chooses. A game may be canceled due to extenuating circumstances (weather, acts of god, deployment, etc) if approved by the area field

marshal and or referee.

- c. If a club desires to collect the fine from the opposing club, they must inform the MARFU Board within 10 days of the canceled event.

9. Results Reporting

- a. To provide accurate and timely league standings both participating clubs are required to submit a match report through the Union website containing the results of every match played or through the USA Rugby Reporting system if your league is utilizing this tool.
- b. The form will require the names of every player in the match, the score of the match, the number of tries scored by both teams, the kick off time, the conditions of the field, any discipline activity during the match, and other information about the match.
- c. The referee for the match, whether appointed by the Association or procured by the home team if no appointment is available, will submit a match report as well.
- d. For all matches, regardless if played on Friday, Saturday or Sunday, the match report forms, from both teams and the referee, must be submitted by 11:59 pm the Monday following the match.
- e. Any club who fails to timely submit match results as detailed above for any match played may be fined a maximum of \$25 per match for the first offense and \$50 for the second and subsequent failures during a competitive cycle.

10. Leagues

The Mid-America Rugby Football Union will host leagues under the umbrella of USA Rugby, and its national championship competitive structure.

- a. Competitions overseen
 - i. *Men's Division II Club League--*
 - ii. *Men's Division III Club League –*
 - iii. *Women's Division II Club League*
- b. Competition for the MARFU Championships shall be divided into the following Divisions:
 - i. *Men's Division Club League--*The clubs are encouraged to play home and away against each team in their conference during the course of the league season. The top two based on a

- point-based system at the end of the season will play each other to determine the league champion.
- ii. *Women's Division II College League* –The clubs will play a home or away schedule during the course of the league season.
 - iii. *College Teams* may choose to affiliate with any collegiate leagues operating under the USA Rugby competitive structure.
 - iv. *Boys High School League* –The State Rugby Organizations will organize the competitions.
 - v. *Girls High School League* –The State Rugby Organizations will organize the competitions.
 - vi. The league season for all Men's Club, Men's College, Women's Club, and Women's College leagues overseen by MARFU will commence on September 1 of each year, through April 30th or two weeks before play-off competitions commence.
 - vii. If any club forfeits and/or cancels *more than one* league match, they may be removed from the league competition. Said club will be on probation until the beginning of the next competitive cycle, at which time their status will be reviewed by the MARFU Board Competitions Committee. Clubs competing in the same league structure will not be required to play league matches against clubs put on probation, but are encouraged to schedule friendly matches.
 - viii. *Scheduling of Matches*
 - 1. The MARFU will maintain a master schedule with all matches for all member clubs.
 - 2. The MARFU reserves the right to schedule league matches for clubs that fail to meet the requirements for completing match schedules.
 - 3. Clubs participating in the leagues are required to submit their complete league match schedule to the Administrator and MARRS Chair by the date set by the competitions committee for both fall and spring season.
 - 4. Match schedules must, at a minimum, provide the date, match time opponent, and venue of all required league matches. Failure to submit a match schedule will result in that club receiving lowest priority referee assignments for that season and could result in a fine up to \$50.
 - ix. Clubs participating in the leagues may schedule other participant

clubs more than the number of times determined by the league. However, both clubs must clearly note on their submitted schedule, which matches are to be included in the league standings/results.

- x. *Change in Match Schedule* – By mutual agreement by the two clubs involved in any league match, a match may be rescheduled to a different date or venue. Such changes must be communicated to the MARFU Board at **least two weeks before the original match scheduled or one month before the proposed new date**. Any cost incurred in the change will be borne by the club requesting the change of date or venue.

11. League Standings

- a. The Union will post the updated and current league standings after each weekend of league and playoff activity play. Union will compile the results received from the results reporting process described below. Leagues utilizing USA Rugby's Competition management system will have their standings updated and maintained through the system. A link will be provided on MARFU website to league standings.
- b. Point-Based System - Standings within each league will be based on a point system outlined below.
 - Win = 4 points
 - Tie = 2 points
 - Loss by less than 7 points = 1 point
 - Loss by more than 7 points = 0 points
 - Scoring four or more tries in a match = 1 bonus point
 - Defaulting on a Match = loss of one point
 - Forfeiting a match = loss of one point
- c. In the case of a tie at the end of the season see Appendix C

12. Non-Union Hosted Tournaments

- a. Any member wishing to host a tournament within the geographical jurisdiction of the Union must have the prior approval of the Board.
- b. The tournament must be sanctioned by USA Rugby at least three weeks before the date of the event.
- c. Before such approval will be granted, the host member must submit the tournament application to the Union Administrator no later than two (2) months before the proposed date of the tournament.
- d. Hosts will work with MARFU Referee society on services.

13. Referee Association

- a. The Mid America Rugby Referee Society (MARRS) shall be responsible for providing qualified referees for matches played under the auspices of the Union, and for disseminating information regarding the Laws of the Game and for other such functions as the Board deems appropriate. The Referee's Association may also work with the College Conferences and SRO competitions to provide referees for matches.
- b. Any person who has at any time refereed a game which was part of a regularly scheduled season of competition conducted by the Union shall be eligible for membership. Membership in the Society shall be obtained by submitting a request to the Head Referee and by compliance with all other reasonable qualifications established by the Referees' Association.
- c. The Referees' Association may:
 - i. Adopt reasonable By-Laws, which shall be in writing, and which may include provisions imposing reasonable qualifications for membership and for providing for officers of the Association to serve in addition to the Head Referee,
 - ii. establish apprenticeship programs for new referees,
 - iii. hold training and information conferences for members, players, and others,
 - iv. adopt a social program, and
 - v. do all other things within the general scope of its authority and not inconsistent with the Articles of Incorporation, the By-Laws of the Union, and the Rules of Operation.
- d. All officials for all matches, regardless of gender or division, will be assigned by the Society. Assignments will be posted on the website and master schedule.
- e. Home clubs are required to contact the assigned referee no later than noon three days before each home match to confirm match time and location. Should no contact be made from the home club to the referee three days prior, no referee will be guaranteed.
- f. In the event an assigned referee is not available a replacement official will be appointed by the Association.
- g. If the Association is unable to appoint a referee the home club may find and appoint its own referee so long as that referee is certified, registered with USA Rugby, and not otherwise engaged with an appointment assigned by the Society. The home club shall notify the Society of the appointment prior to the match being played.
- h. Should a club use a referee who is not certified and registered with USA Rugby, that club may be fined \$100 and forfeit the match played whether

- a league match or otherwise.
- i. All clubs using referees assigned by MARRS must adhere to MARRS' referee abuse policy found in Appendix B.
- j. All clubs/organizations hosting matches/events in which MARRS referees are assigned must adhere to MARRS field setup policy. This includes having established technical zones for ALL matches. The field setup diagram can be referenced above in 6e.

14. Penalties and Fines

- a. The MARFU will communicate a general reminder to all clubs participating in any league or division, prior to the commencement of a season, of any outstanding dues, fines, penalties, referee fees, etc. by electronic means with a 3-6 month grace period for compliance, and a notice on the website. Ignorance of any arrearage by any club is no excuse for non payment as it is the club's responsibility to seek out that information from the union.
- b. The MARFU will assess penalties and fines for failure to abide by the Regulations and Procedures as follows:
 - i. Failure to Provide a Match Schedule. Should a club fail to provide a match schedule by the above mentioned due date, they will be fined up to \$50.
 - ii. Failure to Follow the Mandated Match Schedule. Should a club schedule or play a league match on a non-approved date, the home club shall forfeit the match and both clubs shall be fined up to \$100 each.
 - iii. Use of Ineligible Players. The use of any ineligible player in any league match will result in an automatic forfeit loss to the offending team and up to a \$100 fine per player to the offending club payable to the union. Players must meet all requirements for eligibility as set forth in the USARFU Eligibility Rules. Clubs using ineligible players in a league match are fined up to \$100 per match per player in which the offending player participated, payable to the union, and, in addition, the club is dismissed from further league competition for the remaining competitive cycle. Clubs must provide a match roster and CIPP register to the referee and opposing team before the game. Failure to do so will result in the game not being played.
- c. Ineligible Clubs. Clubs without valid club membership in the USA Rugby membership system or who do not have at least 15 registered players and

who have not submitted an action plan on what they are doing to become compliant to the Committee, who play a match will be fined up to \$250 to the union per match played, will result in forfeiture of all matches played, including Merit Table matches, until such time as the club becomes compliant. In addition, any club in bad standing or in arrears with the USARFU, MARFU, another union or Society, in any amount, whether the amounts owed are dues, fines, penalties, match fees, etc., is ineligible to play matches of any kind unless and until the amounts owed are paid in full. If a club in arrears plays a match, of any kind, before satisfying its debt, it shall be fined up to \$250 per match played.

- d. Submission of Match Results. A club that fails to timely submit match results as detailed above for any match will be fined a maximum of \$25 per match for the first offense and \$50 for the second and subsequent failures during a competitive cycle.
- e. Use of Ineligible Referees. Should a club use a referee who is not certified and registered with USA Rugby, that club shall be fined up to \$100 and forfeit the match played in the league.
- f. Late Cancellation. Should a club cancel a match after the two days prior deadline, the canceling club can be fined up to \$250 payable to the opposing club for any costs they have incurred due to the late cancellation. The fine will only be enforced and collected if the opposing club deems necessary.
- g. Clubs who fail to notify the assigned referee or MARRS of a match cancellation or change of match location, time, etc. will be responsible for reimbursing MARFU for Match Official fees and mileage.
- h. Field Conditions. For each instance of failure of the home team to properly mark the field, provide suitable field flags, goal post pads, and crowd control barriers, as determined by the assigned referee, the home club will be fined \$75.

Appendix A:

MARFU Competitions Weather Policy

For Mid-America Rugby sanctioned events, the tournament/event director or the senior on-site referee is empowered to suspend play during adverse or predicted unfavorable weather conditions. The tournament/event director and/or the senior on-site referee will decide whether to resume play. Ideally, the decision would be made jointly, but either individual has the authority to cancel the proceedings.

Lightning Policy :

As we all know, thunderstorms are likely to strike within the Mid-America region at any time, but more during the summer, early fall and spring months. If a storm develops and is felt to be dangerously close, you have a duty to postpone your practice, match, or event for safety reasons until the storm has passed. A safe location to wait out the storm is any fully enclosed, substantial building (e.g., locker room, classroom, office building). If a fully enclosed building is not available, a fully enclosed vehicle with a metal roof and the windows completely closed is a reasonable substitute. Do not touch any part of the metal framework while inside the vehicle. Once it is felt that the storm has safely passed, the local event coordinator will inform everyone that the teams can return to practice/event activities.

1. The “flash to bang” count of 30 seconds is what we will be using to make a decision to discontinue activity. The NCAA uses this as a guideline for discontinuation of play. If any participant has seen a lightning flash and the ensuing thunderclap can be heard at a count of 30 seconds or less, a storm is dangerously close.
2. Essentially, a 30 second flash-to-bang means that the storm is 6 miles away {the distance is determined by dividing 5 into the number of seconds, in this case 30). It neither has to be raining nor extremely cloudy for a lightning strike to occur in the area where you are standing.
3. Even though a storm center passes miles to the right or left of where you are located, it does not mean that you and those with you are not in potential danger. Lightning has and does strike when a storm is seemingly not a threat. Lightning has been observed striking 10 miles from the storm center.

4. Any practice/match/event that is delayed due to a thunderstorm may resume 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder is heard. This is considered to be a safe period of time for any storm to clear the area and no longer be a threat. The storm is equally threatening on the back end as it is on the front end or sides.

Match Abandoned Due to Weather

If a match is abandoned because of weather conditions when 60 or more minutes have been played, then the score at the moment of abandonment will be deemed the final score of the match. If the match is abandoned before 60 minutes have been played, the match will be replayed in its entirety from opening kickoff. The Referee's decision will be final as to the match being abandoned due to weather conditions as well as the time of the abandonment.

League Play

Matches canceled due to weather

If a match is canceled due to weather or other acts of god, teams must reasonably work to find a mutually agreeable date and location. If teams are not able to find a date and location, the Competitions Committee will work with the local GU to set a date. If no such date can be found, the match will be recorded as a draw.

Regional Play-Offs

Match Commissioner's Role (see Match Commissioner Roles Document)

Verify weekend rosters, ensuring on USA Rugby team report and any date deadlines

Check-in teams, verifying identification and citizenship

Collect match rosters, game tracking, and other paperwork after completion of matches

Address any safety issues related to field, persons, or facilities

Work with host committee on any issues that may arise

Delay - What does this look like (time frame, how long)

Tornado Warning - games delayed until warning is cleared or lifted
Severe Thunderstorm Warning - games delayed until warning is cleared or lifted

Tornado or Severe Thunderstorm Watch - games proceed unless lightning occurs or conditions are changed from Watch to Warning

Lightning - 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder is heard or the last lightning was seen (whichever came last)

Teams will be asked to remain in a safe location that permits them to be at the pitch in no more than 15 minutes after being notified.

The decision of canceling or delaying a match will be made based on: scheduled time of kick-off, number of games following the match, amount of probable daylight remaining (unless lights are available.)

Priority of matches and Team(s) moving on

If weather is an issue, evaluation of match priority will be made by Match Commissioner and all available competitions committee members (in person or by phone- majority needed with representation from both GU's)

Ideally all matches will be played. If they can not be played on the weekend assigned, and there is the ability to play during the following week and/or weekend, they will be rescheduled.

If matches are not played, the highest seeded team will move on. If the semi-finals have been played, the highest seeded team (based on the bracket) will move on.

If there is not time permitted to play games and only one match can be played, the top two seeded teams will compete.

Appendix B

MARRS Referee Abuse Policy

USA Rugby policy outlines a zero tolerance policy of referee abuse by players, coaches, team staff and spectators. In addition to USA Rugby's policy in regards to referee abuse, MARRS has instituted additional policy and procedures:

Abuse by players on field

If the center referee or another match official witnesses referee abuse by a player on the field the following actions will be taken:

1. On the first instance of referee abuse, the center referee will penalize the offending player, and advance the mark of the penalty 10 meters forward. If the abuse occurs during a stoppage in play, the referee will advance the mark of the penalty 10 meters forward.
2. If a second instance of abuse occurs by the same player, the referee will penalize that player, show that player a yellow card, and advance the mark of the penalty 10 meters forward.

Abuse from Clubs

If any match official sees or hears an instance of referee abuse by a coach, team substitute or other team staff the following actions will be taken:

1. On the first instance of referee abuse, the center referee or another match official will inform the offending person(s) that they are under a warning and request the behavior to stop.
2. If, after being warned, the abusive behavior continues, the center referee or another match official will EJECT the offending person(s) from the grounds.
3. If the offending person(s) refuse to leave, the center referee will request assistance from the offending team's captain.
4. If the offending person(s) still refuse to leave the grounds, then the center referee may abandon the match. In the event of the match being abandoned, the host team/organization will still be charged the full MARRS match fee.

Abuse by Spectators

If the center referee or another match official witnesses referee abuse by any spectators the following actions will be taken:

1. If the center referee or another match official witnesses referee abuse, the center referee will stop the match, notify both teams and request both coaches address the situation with their spectators.

2. If the warning is not heeded, and the abusive behavior continues, the center referee or another match official will ask the offending person(s) to leave the venue.
3. If the offending person(s) refuses to leave, the center referee will request assistance from the offending team's coaching staff.
4. If the offending person(s) still refuse to leave the venue, then the center referee may abandon the match. In the event of the match being abandoned, the host team/organization will still be charged the full MARRS match fee.

Field Marshals

In an effort to help curb referee abuse, MARRS recommends that host clubs/organizations put a Field Marshall in place for all matches. The Field Marshall's responsibilities would be to monitor both teams for issues, assist in enforcing technical zones, report any referee abuse and help mitigate any issues that arise during the match. If a Field Marshall is assigned by a host club/organization he or she should introduce themselves to the visiting team's coaches and the center referee.

MARRS reserves the right to place a qualified individual at any match to observe potential abuse and assist the referee team. This person will not be affiliated with either team, and will have no interest in the outcome of the match.

Sanctions for instances of referee abuse

Upon receiving a report of referee abuse, MARRS, along with the associated club's governing body, may suspend the assignment of referees and/or assess suspensions on players, coaches, clubs and club administrators. The sanctions outlined below are the minimum sanction. MARRS, in conjunction with a governing bodies (MAGU, NCR, MYRUGBY, KYRUGY) disciplinary committee may see fit to escalate the sanctions based on the severity of the reported abuse.

1st offense: Written and/or verbal warning sent to the offending person(s) and club notifying them of the reported abuse and possible sanctions if any further reports of abuse are received.

2nd offense: Minimum suspension of offending person(s) of 1 match OR the removal of assigned match officials for the minimum of the club's next match.

3rd offense: Minimum suspension of offending person(s) of 3 matches or the removal of assigned match officials for the minimum of the club's next 3 matches.

4th offense: Automatic suspension of match officials to that club's matches for a minimum of 6 weeks.

Appendix C.

USA Club Rugby Competition Policies *Tiebreaking Procedures*

USA Rugby does not have a tiebreaking policy that is mandatory for all Club competitions. However, if a competition does not have a published set of tiebreaking procedures, the following guidelines will act as policy.

IF TWO TEAMS ARE TIED:

Tiebreaking Procedures – Unbalanced Schedules

These procedures are to be followed for any competition that is not double round-robin. This includes competitions that are single round-robin; competitions where all teams do not play each other; and competitions where teams play some opponents a differing number of times than other opponents.

1. Standings Points (PTS)
2. Number of Wins (W)
3. Points Differential (PD)
4. Tries Differential (TD)
5. Points For (PF)
6. Tries For (TF)
7. Coin Flip

Tiebreaking Procedures – Balanced Schedules

These procedures are to be followed for any competition where all teams play a balanced schedule, such as single-pool, double round-robin (e.g. all teams play each other home and away).

1. Standings Points (PTS)
2. Number of Wins (W)
3. Head-to-Head Standings Points (PTS)
4. Head-to-Head Number of Wins (W)
5. Head-to-Head Points Differential (PD)
6. Head-to-Head Tries Differential (TD)
7. Head-to-Head Points For (PF)
8. Head-to-Head Tries For (TF)
9. Overall Points Differential (PD)
10. Overall Tries Differential (TD)
11. Overall Points For (PF)
12. Overall Tries For (TF)
13. Coin Flip

IF MORE THAN TWO TEAMS ARE TIED:

Tiebreaking Procedures – Unbalanced Schedules

These procedures are to be followed for any competition that is not double round-robin. This includes competitions that are single round-robin; competitions where all teams do not play each other; and competitions where teams play some opponents a differing number of times than other opponents.

1. Standings Points (PTS) – in all league matches
2. Number of Wins (W) – in all league matches
3. Points Differential (PD) – in all league matches
4. Tries Differential (TD) – in all league matches
5. Points For (PF) – in all league matches
6. Tries For (TF) – in all league matches
7. Coin Flip

Tiebreaking Procedures – Balanced Schedules

These procedures are to be followed for any competition where all teams play a balanced schedule, such as single-pool, double round-robin (e.g. all teams play each other home and away).

1. Standings Points (PTS) – in all league matches
2. Number of Wins (W) – in all league matches
3. Head-to-Head Standings Points (PTS) – between remaining tied teams
4. Head-to-Head Number of Wins (W) – between remaining tied teams
5. Head-to-Head Points Differential (PD) – between remaining tied teams
6. Head-to-Head Tries Differential (TD) – between remaining tied teams
7. Head-to-Head Points For (PF) – between remaining tied teams
8. Head-to-Head Tries For (TF) – between remaining tied teams
9. Overall Points Differential (PD) – in all league matches
10. Overall Tries Differential (TD) – in all league matches
11. Overall Points For (PF) – in all league matches
12. Overall Tries For (TF) – in all league matches
13. Coin Flip