
Charter of the University of Texas Rugby Club

Preamble

WE THE MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RUGBY CLUB DETERMINED

To achieve a nationally recognized rugby program

To further the reputation of the University of Texas at Austin

To build character and prepare students for the future

AND FOR THESE ENDS

To become better rugby players

To become productive members of the University of Texas community

To promote the sport of rugby

HAVE RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS

Accordingly, interested students of the University of Texas at Austin have agreed to present this Charter and do hereby establish this sports organization to be known as the University of Texas Rugby Club.

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Chapter I

Purpose and Principles

Article 1

The purposes of the University of Texas Rugby Club are:

1. To achieve and maintain a high level of competition in the sport of Rugby
2. To develop good relations among other Rugby Clubs based on respect for the principles of the game.
3. To develop and maintain good relations with the University and the surrounding community.
4. To be a flagship Rugby program that other Universities desire to emulate.

Article 2

The University of Texas Rugby Club and its members, in pursuit of the Purposes stated in Article 1, shall act in accordance with the following principles:

1. The Rugby Club is based on the principle of the importance of Rugby as a sport.
2. All members, in order, to ensure to all of them the rights, benefits and enjoyment of membership to the Rugby Club, shall fulfill in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the present Charter.

3. All members shall refrain from any actions that are in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the Rugby Club or the University of Texas.
4. Members of the Rugby Club shall ensure that other rugby clubs visiting the University of Texas act in accordance with these Principles so far as may be necessary to ensure the good name and reputation of the University of Texas and the University of Texas Rugby Club.
5. No provisions contained in the present Charter shall authorize the Rugby Club to intervene in matters which are scholastic or of a personal nature or shall require the members to submit such matters to settlement under the present Charter; but this principle shall not prejudice the application of enforcement measures under Chapters III and IV.

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Chapter II

Membership

Article 3

1. Membership in the University of Texas Rugby Club is open to all students of the University of Texas who show interest in rugby and are willing to accept the obligations mentioned in the present Charter.
2. Membership may be contingent upon the payment of annual or semi-annual dues, the amount of which is to be determined by the Club officers.
3. A Member who violates the Principles contained in the present Charter may be expelled from the Rugby Club or punished by the Discipline Council.

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Chapter III

Player Eligibility

Article 4

1. Players on the University of Texas Rugby Club shall follow all United States Rugby Football Union (USARFU) and Texas Rugby Union (TRU) guidelines for eligibility at the collegiate level.
2. Members shall pay any and all applicable league fees and club dues in full to the Club on a schedule as promulgated by the Club officers. This is a requirement in order to participate in Texas Rugby. Those who do not comply with these regulations shall report to the disciplinary committee.

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Chapter IV

Match and Practice Requirements

Article 5

1. No alcohol or drugs shall be allowed on the rugby pitch. All members must comply with Hazing and Alcohol policies contained in the University of Texas at Austin Student Organization Handbook, chapters III and IV.

Article 6

1. The Rugby Club may choose to change divisional and league alignment as required.
2. All players will ensure they are outfitted with proper kits. Proper kits are defined as UT shorts, UT jersey, rugby or soccer boots, mouthpiece and team socks.
3. All players must attend scheduled practices or be dropped to a lower side. Players shall be on time and ready to practice or they may be dropped to a lower side.
4. In order to assure players are ready to compete and to prevent injury, all players must be at the field, wearing proper kit, and ready to warm-up one hour before kick-off of a match for which they are selected. Any player who cannot meet this requirement will not be allowed to start that match, or to enter the match at a later point until he is properly warmed up. Players must be on time to practice for the same reasons.

5. Exceptions may be granted for extenuating circumstances, dependent upon full concurrence of the coaches.

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Chapter V

Officers

Article 7

1. There are established as the principal officers of the Rugby Club: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Club Captain. It is the duty of the Officers, as defined in the Chapters below, to secure adequate membership, funding, facilities, equipment, playing opportunities, and coaching necessary to play competitive rugby.
2. Such subsidiary officers and committees as may be found necessary in accordance with the present Charter.
3. Club Coaches will act as mentors to the Officers to aid in their playing and administrative development within the sport of rugby.
4. All members of the Rugby Club will be expected to participate in the running of the club.
5. Elections shall be held on an annual basis.

Article 8

1. The University of Texas Rugby Club shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of any student, who is in good standing with the club and the University, to participate in any capacity in its principal and subsidiary offices.

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Chapter VI

Duties and Responsibilities of the President

Article 9

1. The duties of the president include accepting overall responsibilities of the team and to act as a link between the Rugby Club and various departments of the university.
2. The Rugby Club shall elect the President during annual elections. He shall be the chief administrative officer of the Rugby Club.

Article 10

1. The President shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Rugby Club and shall perform such other functions as are entrusted to him. The President shall make an annual report to the Rugby Club on the state of the Organization.

Article 11

1. The President may bring to the attention of the Members any matter, which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance and stature of the Rugby Club.
2. The paramount consideration in the employment of the President and in the determination of the conditions of service shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity.
3. Will serve on the Disciplinary Board.

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Chapter VII
Duties and Responsibilities of the Vice President

Article 12

1. The Vice President works closely with the president and the other officers to assess progress toward meeting Rugby Club goals. He will establish and maintain a Club resource file.
2. The Vice President performs duties assigned to him by the President. In any period during which the President is unable or unwilling to act, the Vice President performs the duties of the President.
3. The Vice President automatically succeeds to the position of President upon the retirement or removal of the President.
4. The Vice President will be responsible for all appropriate paperwork is turned into the University and meet the appropriate deadlines.
5. The Vice President will be responsible for turning in CIPPs and Eligibility forms to USA Rugby and meet the deadlines.

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Chapter VIII

Duties and Responsibilities of the Captain

Article 13

The Captain's "Lead by Example" responsibilities are threefold:

1. On the field – at the direction of the coaching staff, the Captain takes control of the players, tactics, and strategy during the playing of the game. It is his/her responsibility to direct the players in implementing the game plan, provide the drive and direction for the players during the game, and represent the team with the referees.
2. Off the field – the Captain is the team representative for post-game functions. Any speeches, exchanging of gifts, direction of his/her team activities at a post-game function are expected of the Captain.
3. At practice – the Captain leads conditioning, stretching, skills, and drills as directed by the coaching staff. Directions given to the Captain are directions given to the team. The Captain must take personal responsibility for the effort and results of training.
4. Will serve on the Disciplinary Board.

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Chapter IX

Duties and Responsibilities of the Treasurer

Article 14

1. The Treasurer assists the President, Vice President and other officers with developing a balanced budget for the fiscal year.
2. Monitor the finances of the Club, including income and disbursement.
3. Give an annual report on the Club's financial position and results of operations.

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Chapter X
Duties and Responsibilities of the Coaches

Article 15

1. The Club shall have at least one USARFU certified coach. The coaching staff shall serve the club for a two-year term. Coaches may terminate the term with 60 days written notice.
2. The Club may dismiss or replace a coach or coaches provided that the Club is in compliance with paragraphs 1 and 4, and the action does not leave the Club with too few coaches to adequately manage practices.
3. The Coaches are responsible to the University and the Rugby Club to develop the club members as players, managers, and administrators within the sport of Rugby. Coaches are foremost teachers. Coaches shall ensure that there is adequate coaching representation at all official practices and matches.
4. All coaches are subject to an annual review upon completion of the 15's season. If the coaches under evaluation have failed to satisfy the needs of the team, the club has the right to terminate the contract with the coaching staff with a two thirds vote of the Officers and a 75% vote of the general membership in good standing.

Article 16

1. The Coaches shall formulate strategy, tactics and practices consistent with the goals of the Rugby Club. The Coaches are responsible for all decisions regarding weekly practices. The

coaches will ensure that the team is informed, understands the criteria and knows what is expected.

2. The Coaches are responsible for all decisions regarding match selections. Criteria for selections may include, but are not limited to: performance, fitness, training attendance, participation in club events, academic eligibility, USARFU eligibility, leadership qualities, promptness, payment of dues, and adherence to Club rules. The coaches will ensure that the team is informed, understands the criteria and knows what is expected. The team captain will be encouraged to submit his opinion before the selections are made.
3. Coaches will be included in officer and team meetings. Their role is to act as mentors and is advisory in nature.

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Chapter XI

Ratification and Signature

Article 17

1. The signatory officers shall ratify the present Charter. The signatory officers are the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Captain.
2. The present Charter shall come into force upon the completion of a majority of signatures by the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Club Captain.

Article 18

1. The present Charter shall remain with the Recreational Sports Department. The President shall also keep duly certified copies thereof.

IN FAITH WHEREOF the officers of the University of Texas Rugby Club have signed the present Charter.

DONE at the City of Austin, Texas the 20 day of July, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine.

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Chapter XII
Duties and Responsibilities of the Discipline Board

Article 19

1. The President, Captain and one Underclassman will serve on this board.
2. There shall be 3 members on this board at all times
3. If any more than one of these positions is held by the same person. A third member will be added in his place. There will be at least one underclassman and one upperclassman on the board.
4. If one of the members on the board must go before the board the Vice President will fill that position.
5. The Disciplinary Board will see that all team and university rules are followed. If a member is in violation, the board will see that the appropriate punishment is applied.
6. The Disciplinary Board is required to make sure all members know the appropriate guidelines and what is expected of them.

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Chapter XIII
Duties and Responsibilities of the Match Secretary

Article 20

1. Obtaining a referee for all home games.
2. Scheduling and securing a field with Rec Sports
3. Attending summer scheduling meeting
4. Making sure proper equipment is a games and practices

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Chapter XIV

Miscellaneous Provisions

Reserved for future provisions that the team will want to add to the charter.

Amended August 1, 2001

These Amendments include the Discipline Board and duties of Match Secretary

Amended April 27, 2002

These Amendments include: coach contract, length of service, and yearly review process.
