

# **RULES OF THE CINCINNATI RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**

## **GENERAL**

1. The Name of the “Club” shall be the Cincinnati Rugby Football Club or simply as the “CRFC”. It is the Men’s Club within the Cincinnati Rugby Football Club, Incorporated (an Ohio not for profit incorporated business), referred to hereafter as the “Organization”.
2. The object of the Club shall be the promotion of and the playing of Rugby Football according to the Rules of USA Rugby and the World Rugby Union.
3. The Colors of the Club’s first side shall be light blue, with a wolfhound, and the playing kit of the Club shall be light blue Jerseys and Black stockings and shorts. From time to time, the Club may decide to change the color of the stockings and shorts. But the main color of light blue shall always be present on the jerseys. The second side and other junior teams may adopt different jerseys, colors, and symbols if they wish, the choice to be approved by the Executive Committee.
4. The Club will have a number of designated Sub-Groups including, but not limited to the following:
  - (i) Active Players, coaches and volunteers that participate in the activities of the A, B and any other named teams on a competitive level.
  - (ii) The Old Boys, commonly referred to as the GrayHounds
  - (iii) The CRFC Hall of Fame.

All Sub-Groups may include both male and female members, as appropriate

## **DEFINITIONS**

**The Club:** The CRFC organization that consists of sub-groups 4 (i), 4 (ii) and 4 (iii) listed in Section 4 above.

**Midwest Rugby Development Foundation:** A separate 501(C) 3 charitable organization affiliated with, but not directly part of the CRFC (See separate Code of Regulations of the Midwest Rugby Development Foundation)

**Club Member:** Any individual that is associated with the sub-groups listed in Section 4 above.

**Playing Member:** The participants that are regularly practicing and playing for the any sides representing the club, as identified in Section 4 (i).

**Full Member:** Participants that are regularly involved in the activities of the club in a non-playing capacity in some way, including coaches, assistant coaches, volunteers, and/or supporters associated with the competitive rugby sides, who are participating under the Club umbrella identified in Section 4 (i).

**Member in Good Standing:** Any member of the Club as identified in Section 4 (i) that has paid all dues that are currently owed at that time, and in addition, to the extent they were associated with the Club over the past 3 years, they have paid all dues owed over those past 3 years.

**Members Eligible to Vote:** Individuals that are Members in Good Standing at the time a vote takes place.

**GrayHound Member:** Any former Playing Member, Full Member, and/or supporter of the GrayHounds.

**GrayHound Member in Good Standing:** Any member of the GrayHounds as identified in Section 4 (ii) that has paid all dues that are currently owed at that time.

**GrayHound Member Eligible to Vote:** Individuals that are GrayHound Members in Good Standing at the time a vote takes place.

**Dues:** An amount approved (annually, semi- annually or at other intervals) by the separate sub-groups listed in Section 4, for those separate sub-groups.

- Club Dues to be paid by Playing and Full Members to the appropriate treasure of the Club and such dues to be the property of the Club. The Executive Committee has full authority to set the cost of Club Dues, and the interval of required payment.
- GrayHound Dues to be paid by GrayHound Members to the Foundation with a note earmarking the GrayHounds.

**Club Assets and Property:** The assets of the Club. Such assets owned or under the control of the CRFC. Such assets specifically do not include any assets that are owned by the Foundation.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Officers**

5. The Officers of the Club shall consist of a President and a Chairman, Captain of the Club, Vice President of Recruiting, Vice President of Fundraising, Secretary, Treasurer, and Fixture Secretary. Other elected positions shall be Social Chairman, Field Chairman, Bar Manager, Clubhouse Manager, and two Selectors.

6. The Director of Rugby or “Director” shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for a one or three year term, at the Committee’s discretion. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to dismiss the Director at any time. The role of the Director within the Club shall be to establish and maintain relationships with any and all rugby governing bodies to which the club belongs, other local rugby organizations at all levels, potential competitors in other regions, and the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky community as a whole. They shall also organize and manage tournaments, tours, and other events which involve the aforementioned other organizations with the consent of the Executive Committee.

### **The Executive Committee**

7. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, the Chairman, VP of Recruiting, VP of Fundraising, the Captain of the Club, the Club Coach, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Fixture Secretary, and the Director of Rugby. The Director shall not have a vote during Executive Committee Meetings.
8. The Executive Committee shall meet during the season at least once a month, and at such other times as occasion may require, five excluding the President and Vice-President, to form a quorum. The Executive Committee shall have power to deal with all the business of the Club. They shall see that correct accounts and books are kept, showing the financial affairs and receipts and disbursement of the Club. Minutes shall be made in proper books, or within a properly maintained electronic data storage system, of all resolutions and proceedings of the Committee and every Minute signed by the Chairman shall be sufficient evidence of the facts therein stated.
9. The Executive Committee shall have power to fill any vacancy which may arise in their number. They may also fill any vacancy which may arise in the Teams Selection Committee and may appoint Chairmen of such sub-committees as may from time to time be necessary. The Chairman of a sub-committee may appoint members to that sub-committee, and shall subsequently report the names of such members to the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall have power to borrow for the purpose of the Club, and the Trustees shall have power, with the authority of the Executive Committee, to pledge the Club’s assets and property as security for such borrowing.

10. The President for the time being at any meeting of the Club or its Committees and subcommittees, shall have the right to exercise a casting vote in addition to his ordinary vote.

### **Teams Selection Committee**

11. The Teams Selection Committee shall consist of the Captain of the club, Captain of each XV, the Club Coach, and two additional qualified and elected Club members.
12. The Team Selection Committee shall meet normally once a week throughout the season, and at such other times as may be necessary, for the purpose of selecting the various teams, and shall record in proper Minute Books or an appropriate electronic medium, the teams selected together with any substitutes chosen to fill vacancies, and every Minute signed by the Captain of the Club, or electronic communication sent from the selection committee to the club shall be sufficient evidence of the facts therein stated.
  - a) A statement of policy for selection will be put forth by the Selection Committee at the beginning of each season.
  - b) The Director shall provide input to the Selection Committee, but shall not have a vote on Selections. The Director shall solicit and record feedback from the Selection Committee for the purposes of Player Development, Player Retention, and recruiting.

### **Trustees**

13. The Club shall elect two (2) Trustees at the May/June General Meeting to serve on the Midwest Rugby Development Foundation's Board of Trustees, hereafter referred to as the "Board", for a one (1) year term. The Trustees shall serve as full members of the Board, and shall represent the interests of the Club on that body.
14. Only Members Eligible to Vote shall be eligible to vote for the two Trustees.

### **MEETINGS**

15. The following Meetings shall be held each year:
  - (i) Two General Meetings -- the first in the months May/June and the second in the months of December/February.
  - (ii) Such Special General Meetings as are convened in accordance with the Rules of the Club.

### **May/June General Meeting**

16. There shall be elected at the May/June General Meeting:
  - a) The Officers referred to in Rule 5.
  - b) The Executive Committee members referred to in Rule 7.

- c) If necessary, not less than two Trustees as provided under Rule 13.
- d) The Captain of the Club shall appoint the Captain of each XV for such period as he sees fit.

### **December General Meeting**

- 17. At the December General Meeting the President and the other Officers of the Club shall report to the members progress of the Club for the year to date, and plans for the Spring Season.
  - a) Two new additional members to the Selection Committee may be elected.

### **Special General Meetings**

- 18. A Special General Meeting may be called at the request of the Executive Committee or on a requisition to the Secretary signed by at least twenty-five full and playing members in good standing of the Club, stating the business to be brought forward, and such Meeting shall be held within four weeks of receipt by the Secretary of the requisition calling the Meeting, and fourteen days' notice shall be given to each member by circular addressed to his place of residence, specifying the place of meeting and the business to be transacted.
- 19. The quorum necessary for General or Special General Meetings shall be forty percent of the full and playing members.

### **Alternate Rules of the Club**

- 20. No new rule or alteration of the General Rules shall be made except at either of the General Meetings as defined by Rule 12 or at a special General Meeting summoned for that purpose. Notice of intention to propose the making of or altering such rule or rules shall, in either case, be delivered to the Secretary of the Club at least fourteen days before the holding of such meeting and shall in the case of a General Meeting be posted by him at all of the Club's premises at least ten days before the date of such General Meeting, and no further notice shall be sent to members.

In the case of a special General Meeting notice of intention to propose the making or altering such rule or rules shall be mailed to each member ten days before the date of such special General Meeting.

No rule shall be made or altered at any of the said Meetings without a two thirds majority of those present entitled to vote and voting.

## **Conditions of Membership**

21. Only Playing Members, Honorary Life Members and Full Members are entitled to vote at General Meetings, as defined by Rule 12. All other classes of members may attend such Meetings but may not vote.

Only Playing Members, Honorary Life Members and Full Members may become Officers of the Club or serve on the Executive Committee.

This rule shall take precedence in respect of interpretation over any statement or implication that may be made now, or by subsequent amendment, elsewhere in the Rules of the Cincinnati Rugby Football Club, Inc.

22. The Annual Subscription of members shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

23. a) Playing members are defined as those persons over 18 years of age who play rugby, or make themselves available to play rugby, for the Club.
- b) Undergraduate students of any University in the Greater Cincinnati area may not become playing members, if their University has a rugby program, unless they are released by the coach of the University Program, or are ineligible to play rugby on the collegiate level due to age or number of years spent in school.
- c) Persons who have played rugby for the Club but no longer wish to play the game are entitled to become Full Members if they so wish.
- d) The Executive Committee have discretion to elect persons as Full Members, having regard to their past or potential future contributions to the game of Rugby Football.

24. The Executive Committee shall have power to elect Honorary Life Members and Honorary Members from time to time as they think fit.

25. Should any member conduct himself in a manner that, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, is derogatory to the Club, that Committee may call on him for an explanation, and if they think fit, remove such person from membership without any obligation to refund him subscription.

26. That as the payment of his subscription will entitle each member to enjoy the benefits of the Club, so it is to be considered as distinctly implying his acquiescence in the Rules of an institution to which he thus voluntarily attaches himself, as well as his submission to the restrictions they enjoy and the penalties they exact.

27. The Club team shall be named the Wolfhounds. A Wolfhound crest should be worn on the Club Jersey. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XV and other junior teams may adopt different names if they wish, the choice to be approved by the Executive Committee. Only the Executive Committee may alter any name subsequently chosen by the 2<sup>nd</sup> or the junior team.

### **Interpretation**

28. In the case of any dispute as to the interpretation of these Rules, the decision of the Executive Committee shall be deemed final.

### **Display of Rules**

29. These rules shall be printed and a copy of them posted on Notice Boards at all of the Club's premises, or in an appropriate electronic storage location available to all Club Members

Dated 5/30/2023