

# Society of Iowa Rugby Referees Bylaws

## Mission Statement

The Society of Iowa Rugby Referees (aka the Society, aka SIRRS, aka SIRRrs, aka SIRR) is committed to ensuring a safe and enjoyable environment for the game of Rugby Union. The Society's members acknowledge that they participate in an organization that provides a service to the Iowa Rugby Football Union (IARFU) or any neighboring union that requests its services, and pledge to referee each match fairly and impartially within the laws of the game. The Society also pledges to recruit, develop and promote referees through clinics, meetings, certification courses, peer, coach and player feedback, as well as formal evaluation and coaching. The Society's goal is to encourage referees to promote the game of rugby in a positive way by their actions on and off the field.

## Article I. Name

The name of the organization shall be Society of Iowa Rugby Referees.

## Article II. Officers

(a) The elected officers of the Society are the President, Secretary, Appointments Officer and Treasurer.

- (b) Together with the immediate past president they are the Board.
- (c) Board members are elected to serve one (1) two year term.
- (d) The election of the President, Secretary and Appointments Officer will occur in the odd year. The election of the Appointments Officer and Treasurer will occur in the even year.
- (e) Board members may resign by notifying the Board in writing.
- (f) The Board may fill vacancies as needed.

## Article III. Duties of Officers

- (a) The President is the chief executive officer of the Society and shall preside at all meetings of the Society and Board. He/She is the Society representative in referee territorial matters. He/She is an ex-officio member with the right to vote on all committees of the Society.
- (b) The Secretary shall be responsible for the minutes of the Society and the Board. In the absence of the President he/she will chair any meeting.
- (c) Appointments Officer (AO) shall chair the appointments committee and be responsible for assigning referees to matches convened by the IARFU.
- (d) The Development Officer (DO) shall chair the development committee of the Society. In 2006 the Referee and Laws Committee of USA Rugby committed to the mission, as expressed in the USA Rugby Strategic Plan, of making rugby the best experience in American sport. The committee recognizes the critical role referees and match officials must play to insure the realization of this ideal.

Fundamental to the mission is the strategy of "developing new pathways to manage the progression of referees at all levels". The DO continually conducts a research and analysis process to identify, evaluate and develop referees with potential at all levels. This process requires the involvement and partnership of the local and territorial trainers, coaches, evaluators, and managers associated with these referees.

(e) The Treasurer shall keep record of the Society budget and prepare financial reports as needed. He shall pay bills subject to [Article VIII](#).

(f) The immediate past president serves as an advisor to the Board and has voting rights.

## Article IV. Membership

(a) The Society requires all members who accept assignments as match officials to be currently registered with USA Rugby through the CIPP program. It is the responsibility of each individual referee to register. CIPP membership forms can be downloaded from the USARFU web site (<http://www.usarugby.org>).

(b) Annual membership dues are set by the Board at the AGM. The amount applies for that year's dues. A majority of the members at the AGM must approve any change to the current dues. All members are expected to pay dues by January 31 of each year unless they have chosen to have it withheld from match reimbursement. Members who have not paid by January 31 may be ineligible for certain Society benefits. Membership dues should be paid by check made payable to the Society of Iowa Rugby Referees unless they have chosen to have it withheld.

(c) Individuals who have registered as Referee via the CIPP program and have refereed the minimum number of matches are considered members of the Society. These Active members have voting rights.

(d) At times, the SIRRS may offer Honorary membership to certain individuals they see fit. Individuals who have been nominated or named as an Honorary member do not have voting rights are a member in name only.

(e) All Active members eligible for appointment as a match official must be IRB Level 1 Certified.

(f) Members are subject to the discipline of the Board and may be suspended by 2/3 vote of the Board.

## Article V. Meetings

(a) The Society Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held as early as practical each calendar year but not later than the last weekend in March.

(b) The Board may call a special general meeting.

(c) The Board shall meet at least three times per year. Board meetings are open to the general membership and may be conducted in this most reasonable manner available, including Online, over the phone, or in person.

(d) Agendas for all meetings shall be provided to the board members at least one week in advance.

## Article VI. Board & Membership Voting

(a) A majority of Board members constitutes a quorum at a Board meeting.

(b) In absence of a quorum at a Board meeting, no formal action can be taken.

(c) A majority of members constitute a quorum at a Society meeting.

(d) Passage of a motion at an AGM or special meeting requires a simple majority (one more than half the members present).

## Article VII. Conflict of Interest

Any member of the Board who has a financial, personal, or official interest in, or conflict (or appearance of a conflict), with any matter pending before the Board, of such nature that it prevents, or may prevent, that member from acting on the matter in an impartial manner, will offer to the Board to voluntarily recuse himself/herself.

## Article VIII. Fiscal Policies

(a) The fiscal year of the Society shall be January 1 through December 31.

(b) Dues. See Article IV, (b).

(c) Members expenses, incurred on behalf of the Society, must be approved by the Treasurer in order to obtain reimbursement.

(d) The Treasurer may request additional documentation from Society members, in addition to the reimbursement form when amounts are greater than \$300.

## Article IX. Society Benefits

The most important benefit of membership in the Society is the continued enjoyment of the game of rugby. Active members of the Society are eligible for a variety of benefits. An active member is defined as a referee who, in a calendar year, accepts assignment by the society to five sanctioned matches.

- (a) Reimbursement of match expenses.
- (b) Referee tools, including but not limited to whistles, touch flags, scoring cards
- (c) Exchanges with other referee societies on a case-by-case basis.
- (d) Active referees can expect access and financial assistance for continued training and development on a case-by-case basis and in conjunction with Midwest Referee Society
- (e) Access to Society established uniforms when available.

## Article X. Amendment

These by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the members at any time.

[source](#)