

Western Rugby Football Union

Operating Agreement with the Referees Association

Last revised: January 16, 2006

The purpose of this document is to detail the specifics of a new working relationship between the Western Rugby Football Union (WRFU) and the Referees Association (RA).

The following agreement is based on extensive conversations. It is similar in structure to the format employed by the Midwest Rugby Union. Essential to this agreement is that both parties agree to work cooperatively for best interest of the members of the West.

Expectations of the WRFU

1. Organization of championship and league match schedules. The WRFU will collate the match schedules for the WRFU Championships and all league matches, and communicate those to the RA for assignment of match officials.
2. Arrangements and contacts with the Championship hosts and all league match hosts.

Expectations of the RA

3. Assignment of match officials. The RA is tasked with making on-going assignments for both the WRFU Championships, and the WRFU organized competitive leagues. To facilitate this process the WRFU will provide the RA a complete schedule of championship and league matches before the start of the competitive cycle. The RA, through a designated scheduler, will ensure that officials are assigned to all matches, and forward the assignments to the WRFU business office.
 - a. WRFU Championships (Total matches = 74)
 - Men's Collegiate Division I (8 teams - 3 days = 12 games)
 - Men's Collegiate Division II (8 teams - 2 days = 12 games)
 - Women's Collegiate (6 teams - 2 days = 9 games)
 - Men's Club Division I (4 teams - 2 days = 4 games)
 - Men's Club Division II (8 teams - 3 days = 12 games)
 - Men's Club Division III (4 teams - 2 days = 4 games)
 - Women's Club (6 teams - 2 days = 9 games)
 - High School Boys (8 teams - 2 days = 12 games)
 - b. WRFU Leagues (Total matches = 73)
 - Men's Club Division I (Competitive Region II)
 - Northern League (ERRFU, GP, HOA, MO) (5 teams = 10 games)
 - Texas "Premier" League (8 teams = 28 games)
 - Men's Collegiate Division I
 - Western League (ERRFU, RG) (5 teams = 10 games)
 - Central League (HOA, GP, OZ) (6 teams = 15 games)
 - Texas League (5 teams - 10 games)

4. Referee Recruitment and Training

The RA is expected to develop an annual plan to promote the recruitment, training and development of referees within the WRFU. This should include scheduling of referee evaluators, holding referee and touch judge clinics, promoting referee exchanges with other unions, and other activities that promote referee development.

5. Accounting. The WRFU's primary concern is the best interest of our members. To that end, the recruitment, training, evaluation, and development of match officials is critical.

However, since the monies allocated to the RA are from member dues exclusively, it is imperative that the WRFU and the RA agree that timely, accurate accounting records are maintained and provided to the WRFU for each biannual meeting.

Sources of revenue

1. WRFU - The WRFU will provide fiscal support to the RA as part of the union's budget. The WRFU allocations to the RA will be for the purpose of supporting the West Championships, administrative support, and support for activities related to the recruitment, training and assessment of referees within the West. Budget line items will be:

1. Championships. These funds are earmarked for the provision of match officials for the WRFU Championships, as detailed above.
2. Administration and Development. These funds are intended as follows:
 - a. To provide travel assistance so that the RA representative can attend WRFU meetings twice per year.
 - b. To provide activities of the RA related to the development of officials (e.g., support for assessors and evaluators to rate referees, conduct referee and touch judge training clinics, facilitate referee exchanges, and other efforts related to referee development).
 - c. To provide a stipend for the RA scheduler for WRFU Championship and league matches. This is optional and at the sole discretion of the Chair of the RA, who will provide a job description of this role, should it be exercised.

(Note: It is expected that for 2006, the West RA allocation will be approximately \$18,000.)

2. League Match Fees - The RA will also receive match fees for all league matches played, in which RA referees have been assigned. The match fee will be \$150 per match, payable by the designated "home" team. Match fees are to be paid directly to the RA by the clubs. This will generate an income of \$10,950 with which to cover the league matches within the WRFU.

Referee payment.

A "per diem" of \$40 per match has been requested for referees assigned to perform WRFU league or championship matches. Championship matches also utilize assigned touch judge officials (\$15 per match) and #4 officials (\$10 per match).