

New Brunswick Rugby Union, Inc.
By-laws

1. Membership Policy

- i) The NBRU requires all individuals participating in the sport of Rugby in the province of New Brunswick to be members of the NBRU.
- ii) Membership is renewed annually and is for the period commencing April 1 and ending March 31.
- iii) Each club playing in any organized competition, sanctioned or otherwise held under the auspices of the NBRU shall ensure that all participating players, replacements, coaches, managers, trainers and medical staff on their team are members in good standing with the NBRU.
- iv) Continuing membership is contingent on the rules outlined in the NBRU Constitution. If any or all of these rules are not adhered to, membership will be canceled.
- v) Membership dues will be set annually at the AGM noting dues for senior and junior players. Dues and membership are based on a per player requirement. The total cost of player registration/membership is subject to NBRU Dues, Rugby Canada Dues and our National insurance programs. Although voted on at the AGM, players and clubs may be subject to increased cost to membership based on any insurance related increases during the course of the season.
- vi) All members in good standing are eligible for the insurance coverage provided through Rugby Canada.
- vii) Membership and registration dates to be based on the National Insurance registration program dates. A players registration is valid from April 1 until March 31 of the next calendar year. See Appendix for registration dates explanation.

2. Game Regulations

The NBRU shall use the most current game regulations and laws of the game as prescribed by the International Rugby Board, except where superseded by regulations issued by the NBRU for specific tournaments and/or events. In addition to the IRB regulations, the NBRU by-laws shall be imposed in conjunction with the NBRU Constitution.

- i) The referee is the sole judge of fact and of law during a match. The referee must apply fairly all the Laws of the Game in every match. All his decisions during a game are binding on the players, teams, coaches, and spectators. During the course of the game, the referees decision shall not be challenged.
- ii) The NBRU will not tolerate referee abuse in any form. Any player, coach, or club official found guilty of the verbal abuse of a game official before, during, or after a game, at the field or elsewhere will face an automatic one (1) game suspension, Disciplinary Review and a club fine of minimum two hundred (200) dollars for a first offence. Anyone found guilty of physical abuse of a game official will be suspended for a period

of at least one calendar year and a club fine of a minimum four hundred (400) dollars.

3. Commencement of Play and Forfeiture of a Match

- i) The game shall commence at the scheduled kick-off time unless there are exceptional circumstances. In such circumstances, the referee may delay the start by up to one hour, provided both captains agree to the delay.
- ii) When two (2) teams have jerseys of similar color, the home team shall be required to wear a set of contrasting color.
- iii) Not less than seventy-two (72) hours before a game, the home team shall confirm with the visiting team and the appointed referee, the date, venue, and time of the game. If the referee is not known, confirmation shall be given by the NB Referee Society.
- iv) A team shall be considered to have defaulted the game, if the team, without extenuating circumstances or without having reached an agreement with the other team to reschedule the game, fails to present itself ready to play at the scheduled venue within thirty minutes of the scheduled kick-off.
- v) A team that is unable to play a scheduled match (offending team) must contact the opposing team (non-offending team) and referee within twenty-four(24) hours of the scheduled kick-off to re-schedule. If the offending team does not make these arrangements within twenty-four (24) hours of the scheduled kick-off, the non-offending team has the right to accept a win by forfeiture or allow the re-scheduling of the game.
- vi) If a team forfeits a match during regular season play, then that club will no longer be eligible for divisional playoffs.
- vii) A Defaulted game, or a forfeit will be recorded as a 4 try (20-0) victory for the non-offending team.

4. Eligibility of Players and Clubs in the Regular Season

- i) A member of a club in the NBRU must not join or play for another club without the written permission of the club of which he/she is already a member. This permission should normally be given if the player is a member in good standing.

Exception: Players chosen to represent their colleges or universities under the auspices of the Atlantic Universities League may still play for an NBRU club team.

- ii) A player cannot be a playing member of two clubs in the NBRU at the same time.
Exception: Clubs in the Aliant League are permitted to use a maximum of two (2) University players, who were already a registered, playing member of that club in the current year, for non-NB Aliant matches.
- iii) No player may change clubs after September 1st without the permission of the Disciplinary Committee. It is the responsibility of the receiving club to seek that permission. University players are allowed to play a maximum of two (2) games for their home club in the month of August before

transferring to their University club, on September 1, for play in the NBRU fall league. For university players who do not plan to play for an NBRU University team this limit does not apply. Refer to ss: i)

- iv) Each club that has both an A level and B level team in New Brunswick must submit a list of eight (8) active A division players two (2) weeks prior to the commencement of the regular fall schedule. These eight players are ineligible for B division play for the duration of the season, inclusive of playoffs.

Exception: Each club with a list of 8 is permitted to make a maximum of four (4) player changes to their restricted listed, up to and not beyond week 6 of B division play. Changes to the list must be presented in writing to the Board no less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to kick off. The Board will then notify all clubs in the B-division of the change.

Once a change has been made, the players involved are not eligible to be changed again during the current season. Example: hooker A is dropped for Hooker B. Hooker B can no longer play in the 2nd Division. Neither hooker A or B can be part of another change to the list of 8.

- v) If a player plays for a another club without the permission of the Disciplinary Committee or is ineligible for play due to any other reason as outlined in the constitution or by-laws of the NBRU, the matches in which he/she played shall be considered defaulted matches.
- vi) Any club in doubt concerning the eligibility of a player should contact the Disciplinary Committee.
- vii) A club that has not paid their dues as per the outlined weekly or monthly invoicing may continue to play their matches but their games will be recorded as a loss (no matter what the outcome of the game). This will continue until such time as the offending club has paid their dues in full. If an account is not paid in full by the end of the regular season, the club will forfeit their playoff position.

5. Determination of Standings and Divisional Playoff Format

i) the procedure for the determination of standings for the regular season of play shall be a Point-bonus point system. Points will be awarded as follows:

- 4pts for winning a game
- 2pts each for a Draw/Tied game
- 1 Bonus point for scoring 4 or more tries
- 1 Bonus point for a loss by 7 pts or less

- ii) The procedure for the determination of standings at tournaments or special events shall be determined by the tournament or special event organizer and must be provided to all participating clubs prior to the commencement of the tournament or event.
- iii) Playoff Format shall be based on regular season seeding.
 - Only the top 4 teams in each division will take part in the playoffs.
 - Mens's 2nd Division the Top 4 teams will compete for the "B" Title and teams 5 thru 8 will compete for the "C" Title.
 - The structure for all Playoffs will be 4@1 and 3@2

Exception: in the event that there are less than 4 teams involved in a division the Playoff structure will be determined by the executive and communicated to the clubs prior to the start of the Regular season.

6. Tie- Break formula- Regular Season and Playoffs

- i) There shall be no overtime for regular season games ending in a tie at full time.
- ii) During the playoffs if a game is tied at the end of regulation time, the teams will play two (2) ten (10) minute periods, separated by a two (2) minute half. This initial overtime will not be sudden death and the full twenty (20) minutes will be played. Kickoff will be determined by a coin toss with both Captains and the Officials. Should the game remained tied at the end of the over time period, the teams shall play as many ten (10) minute sudden death periods as are necessary to break the tie.
 - Sudden death means the team which scores any type of points first wins.
 - All substitution regulations as provided in the Laws of the Game remain in effect for the overtime periods. Players may not sub back in, except where permitted in the Laws for Blood substitutions.
- iii) Should there be a tie in the standings at the end of the regular season the tie breaking formula will be as follows
 - head to head record
 - total differential points for and against
 - total points for
 - total points against
 - number of tries scored in head to head match
 - bonus points gained for 4+ tries
 - the flip of a coin

7. Protests and Defaults

- i) Where a club claims that an opposing team is in default or wishes to protest the result of a game for some other reason, the club shall submit to the Vice-President of the NBRU (with simultaneous copy to the opposing club), a written explanation of the circumstances including all pertinent information. This submission shall be sent by email, registered mail or special delivery and postmarked within three (3) business days of the scheduled date and time of play.
- ii) The captain of the team claiming a default or protest shall inform the referee and the captain of the opposing team of his/her intention to claim the default or protest. Where possible, the game shall be played.
- iii) Upon notice of allegation, the defending club shall submit to the Vice-President written explanation of the circumstances including all pertinent details.
- iv) Immediately upon receipt of the submissions from both clubs, the Vice-President shall consider the allegation, collect such evidence as is considered necessary, and if the allegations are found to be true, assess such penalties as are deemed appropriate.
- v) In the event that time or other circumstances do not allow the procedures outlined in sections 6 (i) or (iii) to be followed, then the Vice-President shall take such steps as he deems necessary to resolve the dispute in the time available.
- vi) All decisions of the Vice-President will be immediately telephoned to the clubs involved and followed up in writing.
- vii) The decision of the Vice-President is final unless there are grounds for appeal as outlined in the by-laws.

8. Appeals

- 1) A club may appeal the decision of the Vice-President only on the grounds that (a) new evidence can be presented that was not available before; or (b) there was a failure to handle the original complaint in accordance with the by-laws.
- 2) The appeal must be sent to the President of the NBRU by email, registered mail or special delivery and postmarked within five (5) days of the date of notification of the Vice-President's decision.
- 3) The appeal must be accompanied by a certified cheque for fifty (50) dollars payable to the NBRU. All, some, or none of this may be returned to the sender at the discretion of the President.
- 4) If the President deems that there are no grounds for appeal, the appeal shall be rejected. If the President deems there are grounds for an appeal, the President may appoint an Appeals Committee.
- 5) The Appeals Committee shall consist of three members of the NBRU. It shall make investigations and hold such hearings as it deems necessary. The

- President shall announce the decision of the Appeals Committee which may uphold or amend the original decision of the Vice-President.
- 6) The decision of the President and/or Appeals Committee shall be final.

9. The NBRU Discipline Policy

It is the duty of the Unions to ensure that the game at every level is conducted in accordance with disciplined and sporting behavior. This principle cannot be upheld solely by the referees; its observance also rests on Unions, affiliated bodies, and clubs. The NBRU will abide by the Rules and Regulations governing the play of Rugby as defined by the IRB and the by-laws established by the NBRU.

- 1) Any player sent off during an NBRU game shall serve an automatic one (1) game suspension. It shall be served in the division in which the player was suspended. Until such a suspension is served, that player shall not be eligible to play in any other division. The suspension shall carry over into the playoffs or into the next season if necessary.
- 2) Teams that play a suspended player shall forfeit all games in which the suspended player was allowed to play.
- 3) Upon the receipt of any report or complaint which recommends any punishment exceeding the automatic one (1) game suspension; or upon the receipt of any report or complaint made by a club that requests disciplinary action for improper conduct under the disciplinary policy; or upon the receipt of any report or complaint regarding multiple violations of the disciplinary policy in a single season; the Vice-President shall convene the Disciplinary Committee and proceed as follows:
 - a) The player involved shall immediately be notified that they are suspended from the game of Rugby until further notice from the committee. Notice to the player shall be in writing and to the President and/or Executive Committee of the club for which they were playing at the time of the alleged incident. In the event that the player is not notified, notice given to the President and/or Executive Committee will be deemed as notice to the player.
 - b) The player involved shall have the opportunity, after notice is given, to present their version of the incident and any other related concerns. The player shall determine whether they wish to be heard in person or whether they choose an alternate method of communication that is acceptable to the Disciplinary Committee. The player's version shall include the date of the incident, the referee's name, and sufficient detail including the names of witnesses and contact information in order to support their version. If presented in person, the player has the right to counsel, to call witnesses, to know the case they have to meet, and to present the case on their behalf.
 - c) The Disciplinary Committee shall have the right to consider all evidence and testimony before rendering a decision on whether to

dismiss the suspension or impose a reasonable penalty as prescribed by the seriousness of the incident.

- d) In deciding on punishment, the Disciplinary Committee may consider any previous incident reports filed against that particular player or club and when a person is suspended for two Red card offences in one season, they shall not be permitted to play Rugby for a period of one calendar year.

4) An official may submit a match report for any yellow card incident occurring throughout a game. Officials are required to submit a match and incident report for any game in which a player has been sent off, including their interpretation of the events. The report is to be sent to the Director of Referees and will be kept on Disciplinary file.

5) All yellow and red cards are to be recorded on the Official game sheet and include the players Name and description of the offence. These reports are then forwarded to the Director of Referees and will be recorded in a Disciplinary file, which may be used in regard to 8.3d

10. Appeal of the Disciplinary Committee's Decision

- i) Appeals of the decisions of the Disciplinary Committee shall be made to the NBRU Board of Directors through the President.
- ii) Appeals may be launched by the disciplined player or club; the club or player against whom the incident took place; or the New Brunswick Referees Society.
- iii) All appeals must be presented to the President within thirty (30) days of the Disciplinary Committees decision and must fall under one or more of the following acceptable grounds:
 - (a) new and pertinent information that was not available at the initial hearing;
 - (b) the question of whether the Disciplinary Committee has exceeded its authority of jurisdiction as defined by this policy; or
 - (c) the appropriateness of the sentence or conditions imposed, provided the suspension is in excess of two games.
- iv) The Board of Directors shall deal with the appeal at its next meeting. In the interim, any sanctions imposed by the committee shall remain in effect.
- v) Board members who have prior involvement in the incident or disciplinary action shall be excluded from the discussion and decision making on the appeal. The parties to the appeal shall not have an automatic right of appearance and all appeals shall be paper appeals with the decisions rendered in writing.
- vi) The decision of the Board relating to any appeal shall be final and binding upon the parties to the matter of the appeal.

11. Divisional Structure-

The divisional structure of the NBRU shall be determined at the AGM each season, subject to applications for and/or continuance of membership as laid out in the Constitution.

Any decision on membership shall be made via a motion to be voted on by the membership.