

# **MRFU GROUND RULES**

The Missouri Rugby Football Union (MRFU) is the governing body of the game of rugby union football in the metropolitan area of St. Louis. Its general purpose is to promote the game of rugby union football in the best interests of the sport by encouraging the establishment of new clubs and growth of existing clubs, organizing competition among member clubs, facilitating advancements in the quality of play and administration of those clubs and improving the spirit of the game both on and off the field.

These GROUND RULES are meant to supply each member club with information as to general policies and the expectations of individual players and supporters. These GROUND RULES in no way replace the MRFU Rules of Operation but provide an overview of the information. Member club administrators are expected to share these ground rules, and the sanctions, with all players and to help enforce these policies so that the game of rugby may continue to be enjoyed by all. Additionally, each club will be asked to submit prior to each spring and fall season a written notice that these rules have been read and understood.

## **GENERAL**

All individuals under the jurisdiction of the MRFU shall be expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. The MRFU reserves the right to take firm disciplinary action against all individuals and/or clubs who embarrass or discredit the MRFU or Western Rugby Union Football at any time or place. Abusive, intimidating and obnoxious actions or language are prohibited. Each club is responsible for the actions of all its members and supporters whether on the field or the sidelines. Under extraordinary circumstances, the action of any member or supporter of a club may be considered the action of the club as a whole, and appropriate disciplinary actions may be imposed upon the entire club. Whether using the home fields obtained by the MRFU or a club's personally obtained home fields, all club members are expected conduct him/herself professionally and properly and to abide by the provided Ground Rules.

## **FIXTURES**

All member clubs are responsible for turning in a match schedule to the MRFU Match Secretary no later than June 1 for the following fall season and December 1 for the following spring season.

Once the MRFU master schedule is posted on the Union website, the MRFU Match Secretary must be informed of any additions, cancellations or changes in member's schedules at least two weeks prior to the date of the fixture. Failure to convey this information could result in cancellation of the game or discipline by the MRFU.

## **PRACTICE**

All member clubs are forbidden from using the Central Playing Fields for practice sessions from September 1 through May 31 in an effort to help keep down the wear and tear on playing fields.

## **AUTOMOBILES**

All member clubs should be aware that vehicles are not allowed on any grassy area in the park unless permitted by the Parks Department.

## **TRASH**

All member clubs are expected to police their area and the field at the conclusion of play and place all refuse in a trash container. Member clubs hosting out of town teams shall be responsible for making sure that their visitor's areas are policed.

## **RESTROOMS**

All member clubs, spectators and guests are expected to utilize the rest room facilities provided by the park [and/or MRFU](#).

## **NUDITY**

All member clubs and their guests are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate adult manner while at the park. Public nudity of any sort will not be tolerated.

## **LANGUAGE**

All member clubs should be aware that loud, foul or abusive language, especially when directed at the referee or in the presence of spectators, is not acceptable behavior.

## **PLAYER DRESS**

No member club shall be permitted to participate in any match unless all of its players wear appropriate uniforms with the following guidelines:

1. All jerseys match in color and style;
2. All jerseys shall be in good condition, have sleeves of sufficient length and be long enough to tuck into a player's shorts;
3. All jerseys shall be numbered one (1) through twenty-two (22) without duplication.
4. [All other IRB Regulations regarding clothing and banned items shall be followed.](#)

## **RESTRAINT ROPES**

As determined by the MRFU and the MRFU Referee's Society, restraint ropes shall be used on both sidelines at all games. The only people permitted between the ropes and the field are the touch judges, each team's medical personnel [and those players listed on the match report as](#)

substitutes. All others must stay behind the ropes. Failure to do so after a warning by either touch judge, field marshal or the referee shall result in disciplinary action.

### **FIELD MARSHAL**

(What is stated here will depend upon what the committees revision states and will be in line with those duties)

### **REFEREES**

The referee is in complete charge of the game and is the sole judge of fact and law. Players must respect the authority of the referee and must not dispute his/her decisions. All other club members and spectators are expected to do likewise. No abuse of the referee, whether from the sidelines or on the field, either during or after the game will be tolerated. The MRFU has adopted a No Tolerance Policy with which each club member should be familiar.

Per MRFU Rules of Operation Section 5.05, each club is required to provide the MRFU with one certified referee per club side to participate in the MRFU Referee Society. Failure to do so could result in that club's match(es) not being assigned a referee.

### **TOUCH JUDGES**

Each club is required to provide at least two certified touch judges, one of which shall be available for every match. (This terminology is taken from a different version of the ground rules)

### **INFRACTIONS**

All infractions (yellow card / red card) occurring during any match will be reported to the MRFU via the online match report. These infractions will be reported to the MRFU Disciplinary Committee. Any player ordered off the field during any match is automatically suspended from play for two weeks from the date of ejection. Additional sanctions may result if the MRFU Disciplinary Committee deems necessary. Failure to comply with these sanctions may result in additional disciplinary action against the player or club.

### **HOME TEAMS**

Each member club may be assigned as a home team one or more times each season. The home team will be responsible for the following:

1. Setting-up and taking down all field markings (flags, sideline restraints and goal post pads);
2. Ensuring that all field marking kits and equipment are returned intact to the storage facility, placed in their proper location and see that the storage facility is locked before leaving the field;
3. Noting on the list in the storage shed any broken or missing equipment from their filed bags and notifying the MRFU Field Marshal.

4. Ensuring that the entire field area is policed before leaving;
5. Assisting the field marshal and the referee (if asked and needed) in maintaining sideline behavior;
6. Ensuring that the match report is filled out completely, turned into the officiating referee and the match is reported to the MRFU Match Secretary in accordance to the MRFU Match Procedures;

## **DIRECTIONS FOR PROPER FIELD SET-UP AND TAKE-DOWN**

All marking equipment (flags, poles, rope on reels, stakes and hammer) are contained in bags and located in the storage shed at the rear of the rest rooms located on the east side of the fields. There is one bag of equipment for each field. If your club is named as the home team for the field that you are playing on, you will be responsible for all of the field equipment.

### **FLAGS**

Each field requires fourteen (14) flags - seven (7) per side. Two (2) each at the following: the rear of both end-goals; the corners of both try lines; at both twenty-two meter lines; at the half-way line. They flags at the twenty-two meter and half-way lines are located one (1) meter off the touch line. These are the only flags required. No flags should mark the ten (10) meter line.

### **SIDELINE RESTRAINTS**

Each field requires twenty-two (22) restraint poles – eleven (11) per side - two reels of rope and four (4) stakes. The restraining poles inserts are located approximately **five (5) meters** from the touch line and approximately twenty-two (22) feet apart. One (1) is located at the half-way line with five (5) stretching out toward each try line. Once the poles are in place the rope may be unreeled through the t's on top of the poles. This rope is then staked to the ground at both ends. Make sure that the stakes are all the way in the ground to prevent an injury should a player fall on them.

### **GOAL POST WRAPS**

Goal post wraps are available for all the fields and need to be put on both goal posts for player safety.

### **FIELD TAKE-DOWN**

When the fields are taken down all flags, poles, reels of rope and stakes must be placed in the field bag and returned to its proper place in the storage facility. The ropes must be wound back onto the reels and not hand wound or returned in a ball. The home team is responsible for all missing equipment. Each home team is responsible for making sure that the storage facility is in good order and locked after the equipment is returned. All broken or missing equipment should be noted on the board in the storage shed and reported to the MRFU Field Marshal.

## **FIELD BAG CONTENTS**

- 14 flags
- 22 T-sideline Poles
- 2 reels with rope
- 4 stakes
- 1 hammer

## **MATCH PROCEDURES**

All clubs are expected to follow the match procedures set by the MRFU. See “MRFU Match Procedures” for guidelines leading up to and following all home matches.

## **SANCTIONS**

1. Practicing on the field – (?);
2. Vehicles on the field without prior authorization - \$50 per occurrence;
3. Public urination - \$50 first offense, \$100 subsequent offenses;
4. Nudity – (?);
5. Foul and abusive language or actions towards a referee – (?);
6. Failure to take down field and remove trash - \$50 per occurrence;
7. Failure to produce an accurate match roster - \$250 first offense, \$500 subsequent offenses;
8. Failure to produce the Registrar’s Form (collegiate only) - \$250 first offense, \$500 subsequent offenses;
9. Failure to submit the match report by the due date / time - \$50 first offense, \$100 subsequent offenses;
10. Referee failure to submit the match report by the due date / time - \$50 first offense, \$100 subsequent offenses;
11. All other sanctions listing in the Western Rugby Football Union League Regulations and Procedures may be imposed by the MRFU.