

**CONSTITUTION & MISSION STATEMENT  
GYPSY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB  
Adopted - 1 AUGUST 2005**

**Mission Statement of the Gypsy Rugby Club**

The Gypsy Rugby Club endeavors to play, develop, support and promote the sport of rugby for all age groups. GRC will assist players in reaching their full potential both on and off the field. GRC strives to teach the values and traditions of rugby in a non traditional way for a very traditional sport. This mission, though never complete, holds us close to the values and principles upon which the club was founded.

**CONSTITUTION**

The constitution of the Gypsy Rugby Football Club has been created for the purposes of (a) drawing upon and creating necessary organizational and operational efficiencies and (b) giving this organization an opportunity to develop an organizational identity which reflect the strong tradition and history of Gypsy Rugby.

**ARTICLE I: Name and Purpose**

- A. The name of this organization shall be the Gypsy Rugby Football Club
- B. The Club shall be a non-profit organization whose purpose is to further the game of Rugby Union Football. To that end, it may take the following actions or engage in the following activities: teaching and promoting the game of rugby at youth, school, collegiate and club levels; promote and encourage social, civic educational and athletic activities; to establish and maintain a place for holding meetings and for playing rugby matches; to acquire, rent or own such real and personal property as may be necessary or convenient for the furtherance of these purposes; to do any and all things connected with, incidental or convenient to the attaining, furthering and maintaining of any of the purposes specified herein and to have an exercise all of the rights, powers and privileges which may now or hereafter be conferred by the laws of Connecticut as its state of residence upon corporations founded under General Laws. None of the income or net worth of the Club shall in be donated to an organization of similar purpose and in no event shall any property be distributed to members of the Club without appropriate compensation.
- C. In support of its purpose, the Club shall maintain itself as a member in good standing of the United States of America Rugby Football Union (USARFU), and the appropriate territorial and local rugby unions.

**ARTICLE II: Membership & Status.**

- A. Any person who wishes to support the game of rugby and is willing to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Club, upon invitation by a founder, is eligible for full membership upon payment of Club dues as set in the by-laws.
- B. Members in good standing, as determined by the Founders and Executive Committee, may train with and play on Club sides, participate in Club meetings and activities, vote on matters before the membership including election of officers, and hold a Club office. They must also accept appointment to not more than one standing or ad-hoc committee each year, as may be required by the Executive Committee.

- C. Membership in the Gypsy Rugby Football Club shall be in the following levels: Founder, Participating Member and, if approved by the executive committee, social members. Founder(s) are those individuals who have had direct responsibility for creating, establishing and maintaining the club. A “Member” is defined as any individual who has attended and played in at least two (2) gypsy tours. Social members, once approved, are only responsible for fees but not participation.
- D. There shall be a category of Social membership for persons who wish to support the Club but not participate in its activities. Persons shall be eligible for Social membership upon payment of Social dues as set in the by-laws. Social members are not eligible to play on club sides, vote or hold Club office.
- E. Persons maybe elected to the level of Founder or may be offered honorary membership by vote of the at least two thirds of the Founders present at any meeting during a tour. This is done in recognition of extraordinary services rendered. Honorary members are not eligible to play on club sides, vote or hold Club office.
- F. A Club member, social member or honorary member shall be considered a member in good standing unless disciplinary action is taken by the Executive Committee in accord with either of the following provisions.
  - 1. membership may be suspended by reason of the member’s failure to pay the required dues subscription in a timely manner, as determined by the by-laws.
  - 2. the Executive Committee shall have the power at any time to suspend or cancel the membership of any member who in the opinion of the Executive Committee has been guilty of conduct detrimental to the Club, either on or off the field; or who has failed to play in at least one Gypsy sanctioned tournament per year. A two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee is necessary to approve suspension or cancellation of membership.
- G. All members, (founders, members and social members) will be currently registered with the United States Rugby / CIPP.

### **ARTICLE III: Officers and Executive Committee**

- A. Officers in the Gypsy Rugby club can only be held by founding members thus creating the executive board of the organization. The officers of the club shall consist of the President, Vice President, a Secretary/Clerk, a Treasurer the remaining founders not holding executive positions vote on significant issues that affect the existence of the Gypsy Rugby Club as well as the AGM. Executive officers are elected to a three year term and are voted on triannually at the last tournament played at the end of the term. The general duties of each of the officers are as summarized below:
  - 1. President: preside at meetings of the Founders and the Club membership; oversee with the cooperation of the vice president and treasurer, the operation of all administrative and organizational components of the Club; ensure that the Club meets its external responsibilities with regard its corporate status and the requirements of the governing body(ies).
  - 2. Vice-President: preside at meetings or represent the club in the absence of the President, perform other tasks from among those identified for Executive Committee members.
  - 3. Secretary/Clerk: keep the minutes of all Executive Committee and Club membership meetings; handle all official club correspondence; establish and maintain a complete club roster with names, addresses and phone (fax, e-mail) numbers; ensure that an annual corporate report is filed with the Secretary of State.

4. Treasurer: Prepare annual operating budget for the Club; manage the Club's operating and savings (investment) accounts; bill for and collect Club and Social dues, maintain the financial records of the Club, including an annual financial report for the Annual General Meeting, prepare any financial reports necessary for corporate filings.
  5. Executive Committee Members: As agreed upon by the full Executive Committee or assigned by the President, the Vice President and the three Executive Committee members shall individually have responsibility for one or more of the following scheduling, planning and conducting appropriate social events including: fund-raising activities, obtaining and, to the extent possible acquiring good condition practice and playing fields, scheduling and preparing for any and all needs of the club.
  6. Each elected board member shall be considered a founder for the length of their term.
- B. The four officers shall constitute the Executive Committee which is the governing body of the club and shall have complete responsibility for management of its property and affairs. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of President or any three member but not less than bi-monthly, beginning in the month after the officers are elected.

#### **ARTICLE IV: Elections, Filling of Vacancies, Removal from Office**

- A. Elections will be held tri -annually, at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the founders in November or December (last tournament of the year). The term of elected officers will commence at the adjournment of the AGM and will last for three years.
- B. Nominations for officers may be made from among any founding member in good standing by any at the time of the AGM. Voting will be done without the presence of the general membership and will be done either by hand vote or by secret ballot, for individual offices, with a simple majority of those present and voting required to elect. The type of vote taken is determined by a simple majority of the founding members present. In the event that one or two persons are nominated for an office and none receives majority, the candidate with the lowest number of votes will be dropped and another vote taken. The process will be repeated until one candidate receives a majority of votes cast.
- C. If an office becomes vacant, the Executive Committee of the founders shall select a replacement, except that if the office of President becomes vacant, the Vice President will become President and a replacement for Vice President will be selected. Such replacements shall serve only the balance of the term until the next scheduled AGM.
- D. Any officer may be removed from office for due cause by either of the following, provided that such action is taken only after giving the officer concerned sufficient opportunity to justify his conduct.
  1. a two-thirds vote of the entire Executive Committee
  2. a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at a Special Meeting of the Club membership provided the removal action is specified in the Notice of the Meeting provided the removal action is specified in the Notice of the Meeting.

In either event, the officer against whom the action is taken may not vote on the removal action.

## **ARTICLE IV: Captains and Selection Committee**

- A. A club Captain shall be elected yearly by the playing founders in good standing at the AGM to lead the first side in matches and at practice and to set the example for all of the playing members, for a term of one year.
- B. Captains shall be elected or selected for second, third and all other playing sides according to the By-laws, for a term of one year.
- C. There shall be a Selection Committee composed of the Club Coach, Club Captain, Second side captain, and a Selector-at-Large to be named by the Executive Committee, for a term of one year. These individuals shall attend practices and matches to review and evaluate the performance of players in making selections for all club matches. In the event that there is a disagreement over selections which results in a tie vote by committee members, the selections of the Club Coach will prevail.
- D. Dues / tour fees shall be determined by the President and Treasurer.

## **ARTICLE V: Meetings of the Membership**

- A. There shall be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) for all members of the Club between November and December each year. The agenda for special meetings shall include the election of officers; the election of captains; a presentation by the treasurer on club finances; a written presentation by the secretary including the minutes of the last AGM and the most recent corporate filings of the Club; and the presentation of the annual By-laws for a vote of approval by the Club membership.
- B. Special General Meetings may be called by a majority of the Executive Committee or by written request of 50% percent of the Club members in good standing.
- C. A quorum of not less than one-third of Club members in good standing shall be required in order to hold an Annual or Special General Meeting. Proxy voting will not be allowed at any General Meeting.
- D. Notice of meetings, including an agenda, shall be sent to all members not less than fourteen or more than twenty-eight days before the meeting. No action shall be taken at a Special General meeting on any item which is not on the agenda.
- E. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order: Revised will govern the meetings of the Club and the Executive Committee in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with the Constitution and By-laws of the Club.

## **ARTICLE VI: By-Laws and Amendments to the Constitution**

- A. The Executive Committee shall prepare a set of By-laws each year for the approval of the Club membership at the AGM. These By-laws shall contain such rules and procedures as are necessary for the effective day-to-day operation of the Club and which are not covered in the Constitution.
- B. By-laws shall include but not be limited to, the amount of seasonal or annual dues for each category of membership; the establishment of standing committees or special club offices (e.g. tour secretary, the assignment of specific responsibilities to the Executive Committee; and any requirements established by the governing bodies of Rugby Union football.
- C. The By-laws shall be subject to approval by a majority vote of the entire company at the AGM. Amendments to individual proposed By-laws may be made at the AGM and voted upon.
- D. The Executive Committee may call a Special general meeting for the purpose of amending the By-laws if it is deemed necessary for the operating needs of the Club. Such a meeting shall comply with the provisions of Article V.

E. The Constitution may only be amended at the Annual General Meeting each November or December. Notice of proposed amendments must be included in the Agenda and must be submitted by an individual Club member. Changes to Amendments may be made from the floor only if accepted by the member proposing the Amendment. Amendments to the Constitution must be approved a two-thirds vote of members present at the AGM and that total must not be less than one third of the number of Club members in good standing in order for the Amendment to be enacted.