

NIU MEN’S RUGBY FC

CONSTITUTION

*Revised: December 2020*

Team Mission Statement

NIU Men’s Rugby is a rugby football club committed to the sport, the success of the team, and the growth of the players. Our success is built on the foundation of hard work and integrity. We are committed to the safety and well-being of all our players. Our goal is to represent our sport well, play high level rugby, and win.

PERSONNEL

A. Player-Officer Positions and Responsibilities

No officer shall hold more than one position with the team. An exception can be made if there is a coach; in this case, a captain can hold one other officer position. There will be regular biweekly officer meetings, and a full team meeting at least once per month.

President/Co-Presidents

The President coordinates the officer team. He is responsible for chairing meetings, and ensuring that all officers are completing their duties. The President is required to understand all officer duties and their current status. The President temporarily takes over an officer’s responsibilities if he is absent, except for the responsibilities of the captains. The President, with the advice of the Coach and/or Captains, shall determine the days and times of team practices and is responsible for making arrangements for such with NIU.

Vice President

The Vice President is responsible for donors/sponsors, recruitment, and marketing. His responsibilities include, but are not limited to, taking attendance at practices and other events, working closely with the Social Media Officer to advertise home games and tournaments, on-campus recruitment, alumni relations, high school recruitment, and youth rugby clinics.

Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for collecting and disbursing money, e.g. any fees and expenses. Any other officer who needs to make a purchase must go through the treasurer.

Match Secretary

The Match Secretary is responsible for scheduling non-conference matches. He reserves referees for matches. He also contacts the referees and other teams in advance of all matches to ensure that they have directions and hotel information.

Social Chair

The Social Chair is responsible for ensuring that the team, as a whole, and all of its members are acting in accordance with the policies of the club and NIU, e.g. NIU’s Off-Campus Social Event Policy.

Equipment Manager

The Equipment Manager is responsible for ordering all apparel and equipment. He is responsible for making sure the ball bag is properly stocked and transported where it is needed. He is responsible for getting water/sports drinks for matches. He is responsible for all other equipment related to practices and matches.

Social Media Officer

The Social Media Officer is responsible for updating the website, Facebook pages, and Twitter accounts. He is responsible for making sure that information, pictures, and video is quickly disseminated to all players and fans. He is also responsible for social media policies being honored.

Academic Chair

The Academic Chair is responsible for ensuring that players are keeping their GPA’s above 2.5. In the event that a player’s GPA is below 2.5, he is responsible for ensuring that action is taken to remedy the situation. He is also responsible for notifying players of career fairs, internships fairs, and other opportunities.

Captain and Vice-Captain

* + 1. In the event that there is no coach, the captain and vice-captain are elected by registered club members and will run practice, select the starting 22, and determine substitutes during matches. In the event a captain is unable to fulfill his responsibilities, the vice-captain shall become temporary captain and there shall be an election to determine a substitute vice-captain.
    2. If there is a coach, captains are selected by the coach and give their input in regard to the selection of the starting 22 for matches.
    3. The captain’s rights and responsibilities as leaders shall be respected on the pitch. However, it shall be understood the captain’s authority is limited to matters on the pitch

B. Non-Player Positions and Responsibilities

Director

The director is the head of the team and has complete and final authority over all matters. He has the power to approve or disapprove of anything the team or players wish to do. He can hire and fire coaches as he sees fit. The director also has the power to penalize players for violations of team rules, immediately, if deemed appropriate or necessary by the director. Any penalty enacted by the director is final; there is no disciplinary hearing held if the director chooses to penalize a player.

Coach

If the club has a coach, he will be responsible for running practice. He will appoint captains. The coach’s responsibilities include, but are not limited to, drills, strategy, selecting a starting lineup, and substitutes during games. The coach has the final say in all practice and game matters that happen on the field.

Non-Faculty Advisor(s)

The Non-Faculty Advisor(s) is appointed by the Director. His responsibilities are determined by the Director.

PLAYER'S RIGHTS

A. The right to play rugby

Any registered, fee-paying member who regularly shows up to and participates in practice has the right to play in matches or tournaments.

B. The right to work

Officers cannot penalize players for working at their jobs.

C. The right to academic success

Officers cannot penalize players for carrying out their responsibilities as students.

D. The right to not be hazed

Hazing in any form is strictly prohibited. Officers and players cannot encourage or participate in hazing. Players who see hazing are required to report it to the appropriate authorities.

E. The right to safety

No one shall put players in any danger past the usual risks associated with sports.

PRACTICE POLICY

A. Attendance

Attendance is to be taken at every practice, normally by the Vice-President, at the beginning of practice. Unexcused absences may be grounds for the loss of playing time.

B. Timeliness

Player must show up to practice on time. Repetitive unexcused tardiness may be grounds for the loss of playing time.

C. Participation

Players are expected to participate in every drill, and give 100% effort at all times. Coaches and captains have full discretion to penalize players with physical training for a lack of effort.

D. Respect

Coaches and captains run practice. Players are to be responsive to their instructions. Players must also respect all their teammates, and the team itself. Captains may call a disciplinary hearing for extreme or repetitive disrespect.

SOCIAL POLICY

A. NIU Off-Campus Social Events Policy

NIU Men's Rugby shall not host parties or other social events that do not fall within the guidelines of NIU’s Off-Campus Social Events Policy.

B. Team Gear

Players shall not wear any NIU Rugby apparel to any parties. Players may not wear their rugby apparel to any bar or nightclub on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday. Being intoxicated in team apparel is not allowed under any circumstances.

C. Rugby Songs

Under no circumstances are rugby songs to be sung in public.

D. Social Media

No postings, pictures, videos, or other media involving alcohol is allowed on any of the NIU Rugby social media sites, including the private Facebook page. The private Facebook page is for rugby business only.

E. Co-Habitation

No more than 4 (four) club members shall live together in any house, apartment, etc. at any one time.

F. Non-Rugby Requirements

Members may be required to participate in community service, social event training, etc., as determined by the officers or director.

G. Elections

The election of officers shall take place at a meeting of the general membership held in the spring. The new officers shall assume office at the conclusion of the spring general membership meeting.

H. Violations

Any alleged violations of the above rules should be reported to the President and will result in a disciplinary hearing. In the event the President is accused of a violation, the report shall be made to the Vice-President.

I. Agreement

Each potential club member must agree to the terms and conditions of membership specified in this constitution, and sign and return to the club the provided letter stating such.

J. Student Government Association Statement

As a student organization recognized by the Student Government Association, we will prohibit discrimination on the basis of age, disability, ethnic origin, marital status, race, religion, political affiliation, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, military/ veteran status or any other identity prohibited by federal or state law or university policy. Accordingly, no student may be excluded from membership or leadership in a registered student organization based on any of the aforementioned identities, unless exempt under Title IX.

DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

A. Court

The court for disciplinary hearings will consist of the President(s), Vice President, and the Treasurer.

B. Process

The individual (player or officer) who reported the incident will recall the incident as he witnessed it. The player in question will have the opportunity to recall the incident as he remembers it. After both sides have spoken, the court will ask questions. Following the questioning, the court will meet alone to discuss whether or not a violation of policy occurred, and, if so, what penalty is appropriate. Appeals may be made the Director.

C. Penalties

Penalties must be proportionate to the violation. In the event of a penalty, corrective and progressive discipline will be used.

ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT

Adoption and amendment of this Constitution shall be by a 75% vote of registered members and the approval of the Director.

Amendments may be proposed by any registered members or the Director.

I, the undersigned, have read the above, and hereby agree to the terms and conditions outlined in this Constitution. I agree to follow all of the policies listed, in word and spirit, and accept the appropriate discipline in the case of a violation.

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