



November 12, 2007

Dear Member,

In August 2007, the Texas Rugby Union Executive Board [EB] voted unanimously to sever its relationship with STRR since it was proving impossible

- to obtain financial accountability over the use of your dues money and
- to advance the TRU initiatives in regards to recruiting and retention of referees.

As you are a member of the Texas Rugby Union, it is important for you to be fully apprised of why this initiative was taken by your union and the role the future referee model [the TRU R&L] will have in Texas rugby.

The Texas Rugby Union Referees & Laws Committee (TRU R&L), which is modeled exactly on the new USA Rugby R&L Committee, is designed for the express purpose of:

- creating a partnership with the referees
- establishing accountability for monetary expenditures and ensure fiscal responsibility
- developing a program-based budget and expenditure system
- establishing a per diem payment/reimbursement system for all referees
- improving cooperation and communication between the TRU, its member clubs, and the referee community
- organizing a referee development program that will attract more referees, particularly those of collegiate age

As indicated above, the TRU R&L Committee is modeled on USA Rugby's R&L Committee and as such all funds for referee per-diem, referee training/certification and referee development will be provided by the TRU through the R&L Committee. Texas is fortunate to have quality rugby referees, who are stewards of the game and who ensure fair competition and safety on the pitch while educating its players. However we need more referees of a younger age and it is in the TRU's best interest to attract and develop those individuals interested in the same goals. This R&L Committee will allow for a more fiscally responsible organization and provide for fiscal oversight and budgeting of your dues money, while relieving some of the strains associated with the burdens referees

endure to ply their trade. The TRU will not provide funds to any other organization for such referee services –all refereeing funds will be dedicated to the TRU R&L.

All officials [except those on exchange visits or those who have flown from out-of-state for tournaments] who wish to referee TRU sanctioned matches and/or tournaments must be members of the TRU R&L Committee and will be required to abide by the Operating Rules and Procedures of the TRU R&L Committee, which have been derived directly from those of the USA Rugby's R&L Committee. What does this mean to STRR members? Nothing! Membership in the TRU R&L should in no way conflict with anyone's affiliation with STRR and rest assured, all match assignments will conform to all USA Rugby standards.

One significant improvement for TRU R&L referees is the establishment of a per diem system for regular matches for all referees and for all rugby tournaments held in Texas. This per diem will be increased annually over the next three years. Per diem payments will be made directly to the referee immediately upon the referee filing the match report and any disciplinary report via the TRU website – please note that no expense reports will be required for such per diem payments.

As defined under Law 6.A.1, the TRU is the designated Match Organizer for all rugby matches played within the Texas Rugby Union. Accordingly, the TRU R&L will be responsible for Match Assignments for all referees at TRU sanctioned matches and events. The TRU R&L will also promote and organize development, training, and recruitment of referees. The Texas Rugby Union is currently in discussions with Ed Todd and Davie Pelton, both representing USA Rugby, over this initiative.

The TRU Executive Board is confident that the formation of the TRU R&L is an evolutionary step in the continued development and growth of rugby in the State of Texas. The Texas Rugby Union is already recognized as one of the best organized and most successful Local Area Unions in USA Rugby. This step will put us at the top.

Yours truly,

The TRU Executive Board.