

01 May 2004

**POLICY MEMORANDUM #3**, Change 2

From: Executive Committee, OPSU  
To: Distribution

Subj.: **Head Coach's Policy**

Encl.: (1) Equipment Requirements

1. This memorandum provides the general and specific policies relating to the senior men's team of the Olympic Peninsula Sports Union. It is the policy of the OPSU to develop rugby in Kitsap County. The primary focus of this is sponsoring a team within the Senior Men's Third Division of the Pacific Northwest Rugby Football Union.
2. While the Executive Committee reserves the right to separate any player from the team, the coach will be given wide discretionary authority for disciplinary action during practices and games. These actions will be in compliance with Pacific Northwest Rugby Football Union Policy Memorandum #4 and the OPSU constitution. Players may appeal any disciplinary action given by the coach to the Executive Committee. Final appeal of Executive Committee decisions can be made to the OPSU President.
3. Most disciplinary actions will fall under the term unsportsmanlike conduct. It is recognized that Rugby is a full contact sport where physical domination is an accepted tactic. The line is crossed when an activity becomes assault, verbal or physical (assault consummated by battery). Assault is a crime perceived by the victim as having a legitimate fear of life or limb. A good solid arm tackle is physical domination; a clothesline tackle is misconduct and cause for disciplinary action. Rucking an individual away from the ball is within the laws, while stomping and kicking are not. The limits of behavior are defined by the Laws of the Game of Rugby. Behavior outside the Laws will not be condoned against either opponents or teammates. Players are responsible for family and guests who attend practices and games.
4. The senior men's team will not use the option of the formal selectors' process presented in the OPSU Constitution. The Head Coach will make match selections. The Coach, with input from the Captain, will base his selection on the desire for victory, the development of individual players, and the advancement of rugby in Kitsap County. For league fixtures, only players registered with the USA Rugby CIPP program will be selected to play.
5. Every season, approximately one half of the games are outside of Kitsap County with the primary drivers being the players themselves. Generally, the team will meet before starting travel. This meeting is used to account for all players, ensure all players have transportation, and pass out maps.
6. Like any sport, Rugby has specialized equipment requirements. See enclosure (1) for the personal equipment requirements.
7. Players will be expected to be kitted out and ready at the start of practice. Personal stretches, getting kit on, and individual medical attention will be done before the start of practice.
8. Rugby is different from many other US sports with respect to the coach. Unlike US basketball, baseball, and football, a rugby coach prepares his team for play and then becomes an observer for the match, except for a brief halftime when he can help make adjustments. It is the responsibility of the team captain(s), not the coach, to call plays, to

make penalty decisions, and to organize and motivate players during the match. Players must recognize the authority of the team captain(s) during matches.

9. Rugby cannot be played without a referee. He is the sole judge of fact and law. Arguing with a referee is foolish (he won't change his decision) and disrespectful. Players (and spectators) must not verbally abuse referees. If you care enough to complain, you should be ready to correct the situation by volunteering your services as a referee, after you pass the test.
10. Point of Contact is the Head Coach, David Schneegas E-mail

Copy to:  
All Players  
Executive Committee  
Website

## **Enclosure (1)**

1. Uniform
  - a. Practice:
    - (1) Winter: Heavyweight long sleeve sweat shirt; Summer: Lightweight long sleeved shirt. In both cases it is better to wear Rugby jerseys.
    - (2) Winter: Sweatpants; Summer: Rugby shorts
    - (3) Rugby Boots (see below)
    - (4) Mouth piece
  - b. Game: Team jersey owned by the team
    - (1) All Black Rugby shorts, with no exposed buttons or back pocket
    - (2) All Black socks, over the calf. Tie downs are good, tube type socks are not.
    - (3) Rugby Boots (see below)
    - (4) Mouth piece
2. Rugby boots are a specialty footwear. Most football and soccer shoes are unacceptable because:
  - (1) toe studs are not allowed, even on molded turf shoes
  - (2) screw on cleats with male screws on the sole are not allowed
  - (3) metallic studs lack the safety stud insignia and plastic studs with metal tips are not allowed

Generally, rugby boots, and acceptable soccer shoes, have:

- (1) 6-8 front studs and 2 rear
  - (2) female screw in on the sole
  - (3) aluminum safety studs
3. Rugby Shorts are not soccer shorts. Generally, players should wear NZ style shorts, they tend to be less expensive and sturdier. Shorts should be made of heavy weight cotton twill and have:
    - (1) a drawstring
    - (2) two front pockets
    - (3) no rear pockets or exposed buttons

There is a tendency for manufacturers to make long legged shorts similar to "jams". These are not very comfortable for the forwards, especially the tight five.

4. The mouthpiece is required for youth players, and strongly advised for the rest of the club. Universal mouthpieces are acceptable but the best are one's form-fitted to player's teeth. Form-fitted mouthpieces allow some communication without having to be taken out. Use of a mouthpiece could have a major impact during a line of duty determination for active duty players. A player should have several mouthpieces, in case of loss.