



Olympic Peninsula Sports Union

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13 Feb 2001

POLICY MEMORANDUM #3,

From: Executive Committee, OPSU
To: Distribution

Subj.: **Senior Men's 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 Executive Committee. Final appeal from the Executive Committee decisions will be made to the OPSU President.

3. Most disciplinary actions will fall under the term "unsportsmanlike conduct" by both the players on the field and the spectators. It is recognized that Rugby is a full contact sport where intimidation is an accepted tactic. The line is crossed when intimidation 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 intimidation; a clothesline tackle is misconduct and cause for disciplinary action. The limits of behavior are defined by the Laws of the Game of Rugby. Behavior of this nature will not be condoned against either opponents or teammates.

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 will base his selection on the needs of the team and input from the Captain. 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 at either an appropriate restraint, or ferry terminal, prior to 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 prior to the start of practice.

8. Point of Contact is Morgan Roehl, OPSU Secretary-home
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Deane A Shephard

Copy to:
All Players
Executive Committee
Website

Enclosure (1) Equipment Requirements

1. **Uniform**

a. **Practice:**

- (1) Winter: Heavyweight cotton long sleeve sweat shirt (no short sleeve T-shirts), Summer: Lightweight long sleeved cotton shirt. In both cases it is better to wear Rugby jerseys
- (2) Winter: Sweatpants (youth players will not practice in just shorts), Summer: Rugby shorts
- (3) Rugby Boots (see below)
- (4) Mouth piece

b. **Game:** Team jersey: owned by the team

- (1) All Black Rugby shorts, heavy weight twill with neither exposed buttons nor back pocket
- (2) All Black socks, over the calf, tie downs are good ideas, 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 that do not have the safety stud insignia, and plastic studs with metal tips are not allowed
- (4) Generally Rugby boots, and acceptable soccer shoes, have the following:
 - a. 6-8 front studs and 2 rear
 - b. female screw in on the sole
 - c. aluminum safety studs

3. **Rugby Shorts** are not soccer shorts. Generally, players should wear the NZ style shorts, they tend to be less expensive and sturdier. Shorts should have the following:

- (1) a drawstring
- (2) two front pockets
- (3) no rear pockets, or exposed buttons
- (4) made of heavy weight cotton twill

There is a tendency for shorts' manufacturers to make long legged NZ 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, and should be form fitted to the player's teeth. Use of a mouth piece could have a major impact during a determination of "line of duty" injury for active duty players. A player should have a stash of three or four mouth pieces.