

From: President PNRFU

To: Distribution

Subj.: AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNION POLICY

1. It is the policy of the Pacific Northwest Rugby Football Union (PNRFU) to support the growth of rugby and try to minimize obstacles to for this growth. Traditionally the organization of the Union was directed specifically to clubs that actually played rugby. The constitutional organization of the Union did not take into account the possibility that organizations other than the clubs themselves would be affected by and provide input to the operation of the Union. To that end, the Union has established a third class of membership within the Union. This is the affiliate member.

2. Affiliate member organization will generally fall into one of three areas.

a. Organizations directly affiliated with the Union and provide specialized benefits to the Union. This would include the Referee Society, whose current status within the framework of the constitution is unclear, and the Washington Youth Rugby Association before it was integrated into the Youth Division.

b. Organization with a specific area of interest that does affect the entire Union, but needs to be able to represent the Union for that specific area. This would include committees or groups set up to work with local metropolitan areas to develop and schedule fields.

c. Other organizations desiring to be affiliated to the Union due their own requirements. It is anticipated that this provision would most likely be used initially for collegiate programs that go Varsity, but still must be recognized by USA Rugby as a club.

3. Affiliate membership will be made on a case by case basis. The executive committee will determine the requirements for memberships into the Union.

a. As a general rule, an organization desiring affiliate membership will have some sort of governing document and structure best suited for its purpose, and will provide a liaison point of contact to the Union.

b. Affiliate members whose charter/purpose effects the entire whole Union will be accepted for membership by the vote of the Full Members in Good Standing at the AGM.

c. Affiliate members whose charter/purpose effects only certain members of the Union will be accepted for membership by the vote of the Full Members in Good Standing at the AGM by those who are directly effected.

d. Purely commercial or political organizations will not be accepted as affiliate members of the Union.

4. Application for membership:

a. The liaison contact for the organization will contact the executive committee. The liaison will provide the executive committee with information regarding the organization, structure, and the leadership. Additionally, the liaison will provide the justification/rationale for joining the Union as an affiliate member. Notification should be in writing (e-mail is acceptable), and a copy of any such notification will be kept on file with the Secretary.

b. Based on the information provide, a majority vote of the Executive Committee will establish the specific requirements for Affiliate Membership.

5. PNRFU maintains jurisdiction of affiliate members in matters that affect the membership of the Union. Affiliate members are expected to run their organizations in accordance with their governing documents. It is expected that affiliate members are providing a service to address specific needs of the Union, and are beyond what the Executive Committee can provide. Affiliate members can make no rule that is in direct contradiction to the Union Constitution or by-laws. All conflicts shall be resolved by the Executive Committee of PNRFU.

6. Point of Contact is Mike Ferris, PNRFU Secretary, E-mail [pnrfusecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:pnrfusecretary@yahoo.com)

7. Revisions

a. Revision A: Update the Presidents signature, the union webpage and the point of contact E-mail.

J. Shelton  
PNRFU President  
Copy to: Union Website & Executive Committee