

UNDERWATER SOCIETY OF AMERICA
UNDERWATER RUGBY COMMITTEE RULES
as of September 26, 2020

The sport of Underwater Rugby is one of several underwater sports governed by the Underwater Society of America (referred to hereafter as the USOA), administered through the office of the Director of Underwater Rugby (referred to hereafter as the Underwater Rugby Director) and designed for USOA-affiliated Councils and/or Clubs in good standing (referred to hereafter as the Councils/Clubs).

ARTICLE I
UNDERWATER RUGBY COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

1.1 The USOA Underwater Rugby Committee is composed of the Underwater Rugby Director, the appointed Assistant Director, the appointed secretary and one representative from each official USOA Underwater Rugby club.

1.2 After January 1st yearly, each Underwater Rugby club must submit a completed USOA Status Form indicating the club contact and representative for the calendar year.

1.2.1 Change in club representation has to be sent in writing by the club's executive.

1.2.2 The club representative may delegate his/her rights to a different member of his/her club.

1.3 The Underwater Rugby Committee is chaired by the Underwater Rugby Director.

1.3.1 The Director is elected in odd years as per USOA Bylaws: Section 5.4.4 Election Rotation.

1.3.1.1 The UWR Committee elects a Chair at the January Committee Meeting via a simple majority of the UWR Club Representatives.

1.3.1.2 Only USOA UWR official club representatives vote in election for the UWR Committee Chair.

1.3.2 The Underwater Rugby Director serves a two-year term. S/he shall hold office from thirty days after the election until thirty days after the next election. If the position is vacant, then the term begins immediately.

1.3.3 Proxy votes among the UWR club representatives are allowed.

1.3.4 Voting is by secret ballot with results made public.

ARTICLE II
UNDERWATER RUGBY APPOINTED DIRECTORS

2.1 The Underwater Rugby National Director appoints, with Committee approval, the assistant director, a secretary and additional directors including but are not limited to the following:

2.1.1 Assistant Director shall act in the absence of the National Director at any meeting and/or official event.

2.1.2 Secretary shall take, produce and distribute the proceedings of all meetings of the Committee as well as notes from all other relevant meetings.

2.1.3 Chief Referee shall manage the USOA Underwater Rugby referee program, consults regularly with CMAS on rule changes and interpretations, keeps the Committee and all USOA players up to date on world rules and any changes and represents the USOA at international rules meetings.

2.1.4 National Coaches shall oversees the selection and training of the national teams (men, women, junior) as directed by the Committee and section VIII.

2.1.5 National Competitions Director shall facilitate the annual national championship tournament and manage the schedule of all USOA Underwater Rugby teams (men, women, junior).

2.1.6 National Team Manager shall initiate the selection process for each of the national teams as directed by the Committee and coordinate logistics of entries, travel and lodging for World Championships

2.1.7 Development Director shall manage the development of USOA Underwater Rugby in the United States. This office may be held by no more than two persons, each with a specific title and responsibility

2.7 All appointed officers must be USOA members in good standing.

2.8. The term for each appointed director is at the pleasure of the Director. Reappointment is allowed.

2.9. National team coordinators and national coaches should be appointed at least a year before a major event involving a national team and hold the position until 30 days after the event. Reappointment is possible.

**ARTICLE III
UNDERWATER RUGBY COMMITTEE AUTHORITY AND DUTIES**

3.1 The USOA Underwater Rugby Committee shall manage all aspects of USOA Underwater Rugby. They shall manage the development of USOA Underwater Rugby in the United States, and coordinate the annual calendar of Underwater Rugby events and competitions.

3.1.1 The USOA UWR Committee shall receive annual reports from all responsible to the committee. An annual report is considered the minimum performance in any position,

3.1.2 The USOA UWR Committee shall report annually to the USOA Board of Directors and support, abide by and enforce the USOA Bylaws and USOA Standardized Competitive Rules.

3.2 The USOA Underwater Rugby Committee members shall develop goals and objectives for USOA Underwater Rugby. Goals and objective may be both long term. Members shall attend all meetings of the committee, serve on subcommittees as needed, and provide advice and expertise as needed.

**ARTICLE IV
COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

4.1 An Annual Meeting of the USOA Underwater Rugby Committee is usually held at the National Championships, but an alternate site may be chosen by the National Director and the Committee.

4.1.1 At the annual meeting of the Committee, all Underwater Rugby players are welcome.

4.1.2 An agenda for the annual meeting shall be sent out 30 days in advance of the meeting. Agenda items are invited from all concerned.

4.2 The Underwater Rugby Committee shall meet quarterly in January, April, July and October.

4.3 Meetings may be conducted in person, virtually and/or by conference call. All meetings shall allow opportunity for discussion of any topic proposed by all.

4.4 Notice of meetings shall be as follows:

4.4.1 A minimum of 30 days notice shall be given for a meeting of the committee membership.

4.4.2 A minimum of 30 days shall be provided for mail/email vote.

4.5 A quorum for committee meetings is 50% of the members.

4.6 A simple majority is 51% of present votes.

ARTICLE V RULES OF PLAY

5.1 Rules of Play and their amendment procedure are as specified by the International Governing body for Underwater Rugby by the World Underwater Federation (CMAS).

ARTICLE VI REGULATIONS GOVERNING REGIONAL/MAJOR COMPETITIONS

6.1 There are a variety of events, time frames and competitions in USOA Underwater Rugby. Additional general rules, not set forth in the Standardized Rules, are as follows:

6.1.1 All USOA sanctioned events shall be hosted by a USOA member council or club, and are open to all USOA members and/or teams,

6.1.2 All players and staff must sign the USOA Statement of Understanding, Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability waiver and the USOA Safety Guidelines.

6.1.3 The USOA Underwater Rugby Chief Referee shall be the chief referee in these events or appoint the chief referee in his/her absence.

6.1.4 A face to face referees meeting is required before and at each event.

6.1.5 A face-to-face captains' meeting is required prior to the start at all events.

6.2 Competitions may be organized for teams or potluck events.

6.2.1 A team consists of a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 15 players

6.2.2 Potluck events invite individual players to participate. Once at the event, teams are formed from those attending with the intent to create equal ability teams.

6.3 International players/teams are welcome to participate in any USOA scheduled event excepting the National Championships.

6.4 All players at USOA Underwater Rugby National Championships must be citizens or legal permanent residents excepting:

6.4.1 Due to the limited numbers of players in the sport and the desire to grow, improve and expand the sport participation, non-residents/guests may be allowed to participate at the discretion of the Director and the Committee and according to the current SCRs.

**ARTICLE VII
MAJOR TOURNAMENT BID REQUIREMENTS**

7.1 In addition to the requirements listed in the USOA Standardized Competitive Rules, the bid requirements for hosting MAJOR tournaments shall include but not be limited to the following:

7.1.1 The tournaments/major events shall normally be two-day events.

7.1.2 Court size and depth should match world rules as much as possible, given that all underwater sports are at the mercy of the available venue.

7.1.3 Bid information must include the following items: Dates of event, name and address of the venue, accommodation possibilities and cost, entry fee, hours of play, website, size/depth of court, number of courts, and maximum number of teams.

**ARTICLE VIII
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

8.1 National Championships in Underwater Rugby should be an annual event open to all USOA members and/or teams.

8.2 To allow and encourage participation, all efforts should be made to find a host club a year in advance of the Championship year.

**ARTICLE IX
REFEREEING**

9.1 USOA Underwater Rugby is played by World Rules and follows those rules in refereeing. The USOA Underwater Rugby Chief Referee is in charge of the education, updating and program for referees. In addition, the following rules apply:

9.1.1 The Chief Referee is in charge at all USOA Underwater Rugby events; in the Chief's absence, the Chief Referee will appoint a substitute.

9.1.2 There will be a referee meeting prior to the beginning of each event.

9.1.3 English is the official language, and all referees and team captains at USOA Underwater Rugby events will speak English.

9.1.4 Every effort will be made to encourage financial support for qualified referees.

9.1.5 It is strongly suggested the entry fee for such events include an extra fee for referee support.

9.1.6 A minimum of one supported/dedicated referee is suggested per court of play.

ARTICLE X
USA NATIONAL TEAMS FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

10.1 USOA Underwater Rugby may send men's, women's and junior National Teams to international and/or world championships as appropriate.

10.2 Team(s) selection:

10.2.1 Team selection should begin at least 12 months to the first day of play of the associated event.

10.2.2 A team manager is appointed by the Committee as well as a coach for each team.

10.2.3 The appointed National Coach shall conduct tryouts, camps, clinics and selections.

10.2.4 Candidates selected for international teams are required to make a minimum participation guarantee to be determined by the Committee.

10.3 Eligibility

10.3.1 International team eligibility is set by the International Governing Body, the World Underwater Federation (CMAS) as stipulated in the CMAS Obligations and Procedures Manual.

10.3.2 All team participants must be USOA members in good standing.

10.3.3 All team members, managers, and coaches must sign the USOA Statement of Understanding, Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability waiver and the USOA Safety Guidelines prior to the selection process.

ARTICLE XI
UWR DEVELOPMENT FUND

11.1 The Underwater Rugby Committee has established a development fund. The Rules, Polies and Management of the fund shall be as established in the USOA UWR Development Fund document.

ARTICLE XII
AMENDMENTS

12.1 Amendment to the Underwater Rugby Committee Rules shall be made as prescribed in the USOA Standardized Competitive Rules.