



Match Cancellation and Forfeiture Policy

Adopted by the MNRFU Board of Directors on June 5, 2012

- A. **Purpose.** The purpose of this policy is to formalize the procedure for game and match forfeitures for teams within the Minnesota Rugby Football Union (MNRFU).
- B. **Scope.** This policy takes into consideration both league and non-league competitions as scheduled by the Union and/or matches reported to the Minnesota Referee Society. The published Union schedule is paramount and when conflicts arise, the issues revert to the most current union schedule as published. The policy has jurisdiction including, but not limited to, MNRFU members and matches scheduled within the geographic area by: Men's Senior Club, Women's Senior Club, Collegiate Men, and Collegiate Women.
- C. **Implications.** Any club that forfeits a match in the season shall be subject to penalties as determined by the MNRFU. Consequences of forfeiting may include, but are not limited to:
- i. Forfeited matches will be counted as a 28-0 (4 converted tries) win for the non-offending side and will receive the full 5 league points for the aforementioned match.
 - ii. If a league match, the forfeiting club resigns home field advantage for the next season's competition.
 - iii. Any club that forfeits two or more league matches may be automatically relegated to the lower division for the next competitive season.
 - iv. The club will be declared ineligible for playoffs for the current season.
 - v. Forfeiting club is not eligible to schedule another match or be assigned referees for the weekend of the cancelled competition.
 - vi. If cancellation is after the Wednesday prior to the scheduled match and the non-offending club is not able to replace the competition. The forfeiting club may be held responsible through disciplinary measure for costs incurred by the non-offending club. Such financial penalties must be in the form of monies paid, not anticipated expenses, and must be presented to the MNRFU Disciplinarian within 72 hours of the match cancellation. Such expenses may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Referee Fees and travel costs
 - b. Field Rental and Supplies
 - c. Medical Personnel
 - d. After-match Events
- D. **Notification.** The MNRFU Disciplinarian will provide written notification of any decisions reached or penalties imposed to all interested parties as soon as possible to allow for a timely appeal to occur, if so requested.
- E. **Appeal Process.** Appeals of decisions rendered by the MNRFU Disciplinarian shall follow the procedures set forth in MNRFU Disciplinary Guidelines as adopted from the current USA Rugby Disciplinary Procedures and Policies.
- F. **Exemptions.** The following matches are considered *exempt* from this policy:
- i. Matches which take place, but where a team still forfeits in terms of points/standings, due to not being able to field the whole side.
 - ii. Tournament competitions where the forfeiting/cancelling team has already paid an entry fee to compete.
 - a. Teams who cancel from a tournament after the final schedule has been submitted to the Minnesota Referee Society are eligible to have financial disciplinary action as requested by the host club.
 - iii. Special exemptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis should outside influences dictate the cancellation, such as weather related circumstances or reasonable re-scheduling attempts have occurred.