

INDEX

[3.1 Membership](#)

[3.2 Clubs](#)

[3.3 Applications by New Clubs](#)

[3.4 Incorporation of Existing Unincorporated Clubs](#)

[3.5 Suspension and Termination](#)

[3.6 Subscriptions](#)

[3.7 Club Names and Team Names](#)

[Appendix 1 - Declaration](#)

GRFU Regulation 3 - Membership of GRFU

Acknowledgement: This Regulation was adapted for Ghana from the corresponding RFU Regulation.

3.1 Membership

The GRFU Board has designated two categories of members:

- (a) voting members which are Clubs that are in membership of the GRFU and therefore entitled to the privileges of membership of the GRFU set out in the GRFU's Rules;
- (b) non-voting members which are clubs not meeting the criteria for voting membership of the GRFU but being clubs having separate status and identity and in membership and approved by its Constituent Body (e.g. casual clubs, work teams, student clubs, service clubs), schools, leisure rugby organisations and other organisations.

3.2 Clubs

Voting Members

Membership of the GRFU is personal to the club in membership and cannot be transferred or assigned. Any applicant for membership must comply not only with GRFU Rule 5.6, but also the criteria set out below.

3.3 Applications by New Clubs

Each application by a club applying for voting membership of the GRFU must demonstrate the following matters:

- (a) the club has a written constitution acceptable to the GRFU containing the provision that one of the main objects of the Club is the playing of Rugby Union Football in accordance with

GRFU Regulation 3 - Membership

the Laws of the Game, the IRB Regulations relating to the Game, and the GRFU Rules and Regulations.

(b) the club has been a fully paid-up member of its Constituent Body for not less than one Season immediately prior to the date of the application and will remain so as a condition of being a Voting Member.

(c) the club must be recommended for membership of the GRFU by its Constituent Body;

(d) the club must have a senior adult XV which takes part and plays in a league, operated by or on behalf of the GRFU as their principal league system ('the Ghana Rugby Club Championship') or a merit table or other competition approved by the GRFU or which has had and will have for its senior XV a fixture list for and has played no fewer than 12 matches against at least four other Voting Clubs in the Season immediately prior to the application;

(e) the club must provide the previous year's financial statements to its Constituent Body (or where requested to the GRFU) and they must be acceptable to its Constituent Body (or the GRFU as appropriate);

(f) management and ownership of the club is acceptable to the GRFU.

3.4 Incorporation of Existing Unincorporated Clubs

3.4.1 Any existing unincorporated Club that incorporates shall automatically cease to be a member of the GRFU. The new entity created shall be a member of the GRFU in its place provided that: (a) all liabilities of the existing unincorporated Club are taken on by the new entity; (b) its membership is the same before and after the incorporation; and (c) the provisions of paragraphs (b), (d), and (e) of Regulation 3.3 were complied with by the previous unincorporated Club and the provisions of paragraphs (a), (c) and (f) of Regulation 3.3 have been complied with by that new entity.

3.4.2 Any Club that (a) incorporates but for which the membership of the Club is not the same before and after the incorporation; or (b) for any Club which does not take on all the liabilities of the previous Club on incorporation, in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation 3.3 above, the Club must satisfy the conditions set out below:

(a) the Club is to provide at the same location the same facilities and similar playing level and range of rugby of the Old Club with a similar and in any event not lower number of teams;

(b) the Old Club has agreed to cease to be a Member;

(c) the grant of membership of the GRFU to the Club is for the benefit of the members of the Old Club and for the purpose of promotion, encouragement and extension of the game of rugby football in the locality and generally;

(d) the grant of the GRFU membership to the Club is not to the detriment of other rugby clubs in the locality or playing in the same competition(s) or league as the Old Club;

(e) the Club can and will as a continuing condition of membership of the GRFU meet and discharge such additional terms and conditions as the GRFU may in its absolute discretion impose upon the Club. For the avoidance of doubt such terms and conditions may include an obligation to discharge or guarantee all or part of the Old Club's liabilities and/or indemnify the GRFU and such other persons as the GRFU may decide against any claim by any third party arising from the grant of GRFU membership and the Old Club ceasing to be an GRFU member.

3.4.3 For any Club at Level 1 or Level 2 that incorporates, or for which a new legal entity is created, the Club directors and any shadow directors and any person holding or controlling directly or indirectly 30% or more of the Club's shares for those must each supply a declaration to the GRFU in the form of the declaration set out at Appendix 1 of GRFU Regulation 3 before the entity shall be granted membership of the GRFU. The GRFU reserves the right to direct that a Club must not have as a director or member any person who will not or cannot complete the required declaration. Any person who is found to have signed or submitted a declaration containing false information may be subject to such sanctions as the GRFU Head of Discipline may impose.

3.5 Suspension and Termination

In addition to the GRFU's powers under Rule 5.12, a Club shall be liable to suspension or termination of its membership or privileges as the GRFU Governance Committee may determine if it should fail to satisfy the criteria and conditions of membership set out in Regulation 3.3, or fails to provide evidence to the satisfaction of the GRFU Governance Committee that it meets the criteria and conditions of membership set out in Regulation 3.3(d) above, save that for the purposes of Regulation 3.3(d) for existing voting members of the GRFU, the liability to suspension or termination of membership shall only apply if they fail to fulfil the criteria set out in that Regulation for two consecutive seasons.

3.6 Subscriptions

The annual subscription determined by the GRFU Board is GHS120. This will be determined annually by the Board.

3.7 Club Names and Team Names

Club Names

3.7.1 A Club cannot be accepted into membership of the GRFU until its name has been approved in writing by the GRFU.

3.7.2 A Club may not change its name without the prior written consent of the GRFU to the new name.

3.7.3 Where two or more Clubs are proposing to merge to form a new Club, the name of the Club must be approved in writing by the GRFU before the new Club can be accepted into membership of the GRFU.

3.7.4 Any application for the approval for a Club name, or change of Club name, must be made in writing to the GRFU President and must be supported by the Club's Constituent Body.

3.7.5 Whilst an application for approval for a Club's name shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, the GRFU shall have power to reject any name that is confusing, offensive or liable to bring the Game into disrepute.

3.7.6 The GRFU shall have the right to determine the date that the name change becomes effective.

3.7.7 A Club shall not be allowed to change its name between 1st September and 31st May, except in exceptional circumstances.

3.7.8 A Club must apply to change its name by 31st May for the following season, so as to ensure that the application can be considered and the new name, if approved, included in the following season's published fixture lists and other documentation.

3.7.9 The Club shall be notified in writing of the decision of the GRFU.

3.7.10 If the application to change its name is refused, the Club will be notified in writing of the reason(s) for the refusal and shall have the right to appeal to the GRFU Council. Such appeal must be submitted in writing to the GRFU President within 21 days of the date of the notification of the rejection of the application.

Team Names

3.7.11 A Club may not change the name of its First XV or that of any of its other teams if they participate in the League, without the prior written consent of the GRFU to the new name.

3.7.12 Any application for the approval to change the name of a team must be in writing and sent to the GRFU President and must be supported by the Club's Constituent Body.

3.7.13 Whilst an application for approval to change the name of a Club's First XV (or any of its teams covered by Regulation 3.7.11) shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, the GRFU shall have power to reject any name that is likely to cause confusion, prejudice or embarrassment to the GRFU.

3.7.14 A Club shall not be allowed to change the name of its First XV (or any of its teams covered by Regulation 3.7.11) between 1st September and 31st May except in exceptional circumstances.

3.7.15 A Club must apply to change the name of its First XV (or any of its teams covered by Regulation 3.7.11) by 31st May for the following season, so as to ensure that the application can be considered and the new name, if approved, included in the following season's published fixture lists and other documentation.

3.7.16 The Club shall be notified in writing of the decision of the GRFU.

3.7.17 If the application to change the name of its First XV is refused, the Club will be notified in writing of the reason(s) for the refusal and shall have the right to appeal to the GRFU Council. Such appeal must be submitted to the Chairman of the GRFU Governance Committee within 21 days of the date of the notification of the rejection of the application.

3.7.18 Clubs are allowed to change the names of their lower sides (mens, ladies, youth & mini), which do not participate in the League, without seeking the approval of the GRFU, but power to require a Club to change an unsuitable name shall be delegated to the Club's Constituent Body. The Club shall have the right of appeal to the GRFU Governance Committee if it believes that the Club's Constituent Body has acted unreasonably.

Commercial Agreements

3.7.19 The GRFU shall be permitted to enter into contracts, which may restrict the names that a Club/Clubs may use. If such a contract exists approval for a name change may be refused even though the proposed name is not offensive, confusing or liable to bring the game into disrepute. For the avoidance of doubt the GRFU shall have no power to force a Club to change a name from that in use before the contract came into effect.

Overriding Power

3.7.20 The GRFU Board of Directors may upon receipt of a recommendation from the GRFU Governance Committee, and having regard to any representations from the Club, may require a Club to change the name of its Club or its First XV notwithstanding that approval for the name being used had been previously applied for and granted, but shall not have the power to impose a new name on the Club or on any of its teams.



GRFU Regulation 3 - Membership

Appendix 1 - Declaration

Full Name:

.....

Full Home Address:

.....

.....

.....

Date of Birth:.....,.....

Date of Completion of this Declaration:.....

Date Qualified as a Director of Club named below:

As a Serving Director of

.....

.....

(please insert full company name and number of Club), I can confirm that

- (i) I am not subject to any disqualification as a director of a Ghana registered company under the Company Directors' Disqualification Act;
- (ii) I have not been banned by a sports governing body from involvement in the administration of that sport;
- (iii) I have not been made subject to a Bankruptcy Order, Interim Bankruptcy Restriction Order or a Bankruptcy Restriction Order in the last 5 years;
- (iv) I am not (and have not been) a Director or a shadow director of a rugby club or a holding or subsidiary company connected in any way with a rugby club that has entered into an Insolvency Event whilst I have been a Director of the rugby club two times during three year period commencing on or after the date of completion of this Declaration.

I certify that the above information is correct and I acknowledge and agree that the GRFU is entitled to undertake such checks as may be necessary to verify the information contained within this declaration. I acknowledge that if I provide a false declaration then I am liable to such penalties as may be imposed by the GRFU.

I also acknowledge that, having submitted this Declaration, in the event that I become unable to satisfy any of the conditions (i) to (v) shown above, I must notify the GRFU immediately, and I will be unable to act as a Director of a Club from this time.



GRFU Regulation 3 - Membership

Signed

.....
Director

.....
Print Name

.....
Date

I hereby confirm on behalf of

.....
(insert full company name and number of Club) that to the best of my knowledge and belief the above information is correct. I acknowledge that if the Club gives a false declaration then it is liable to such penalties as the GRFU may impose which may include points deductions or expulsion of membership

Signed

.....
Director

.....
Print Name

.....
Date

For and on behalf of the board of

.....
(insert full company name and number of Club)

Authorised Signatory