



2014 Middle School Division Policies & Procedures

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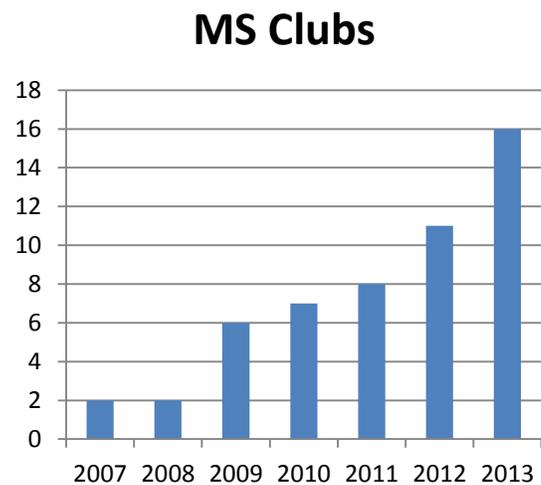
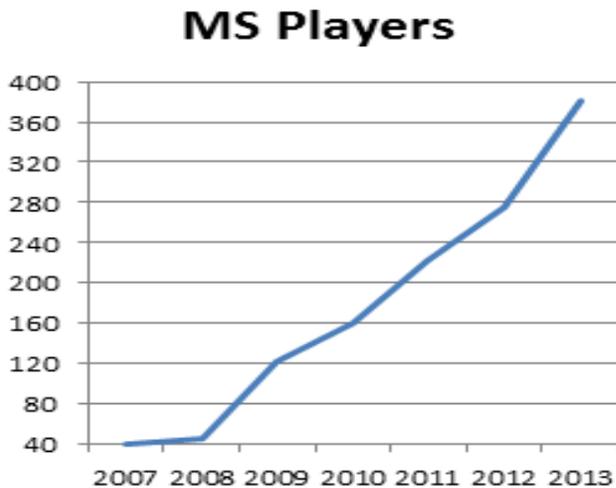
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The iYRA Middle School Division was formed for the 2009 spring season. It is a developmental league in the sense that its purpose is to develop rugby players for the iYRA High School Leagues. We do keep track of scores and maintain standings, but our focus must remain on developing young athletes as rugby players. **All coaches are expected to assist any player regardless of club affiliation.**

The iYRA Middle School Division has enjoyed strong growth:



We hope to continue this growth in the upcoming 2014 spring season.

2014 MS Division Festival Format

The key to our division's growth has been our use of the Festival Format. We bring all of our clubs together on a weekend day to the same venue. Matches are then played according to a specific, published schedule over the course of the day. Parents & players know when their club is scheduled to play. Should we find we have an odd number of teams, we'll play in a three halves format (e.g. one full half each: A vs. B; A vs. C; B vs. C).

Players may arrive early or stay late in order to play additional matches (in whole or in part) while helping clubs without full sides fulfill their fixtures. With this structure and a culture that encourages players picking up additional playing time with other clubs, we have been able to accept new clubs into our leagues even when these clubs don't have full sides. We also maximize playing time for our players even when their own club has many reserves that might reduce a player's minutes on the field with their own club.



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iYRA Middle School Junior & Middle School Senior Leagues

In 2011, iYRA created the Midi Rugby Program to accommodate the many younger or smaller players that joined our Middle School Clubs. It was intended to allow these younger & smaller players to get playing time against similar sized opponents until they have grown large enough to join their regular Middle School side. It was a tremendous success. In 2012, these players competed in their own league (referred to as the Elementary). In the 2013 season, this league was renamed Middle School Juniors. The Middle School Senior League is for 7th & 8th grade players and larger, more gifted younger players.

Coaches & clubs in our division are discussing a three league format for 2014:

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| • Middle School Seniors (gr. 7-8) – Competitive | proposed new league |
| • Middle School Seniors (gr. 7-8) – Developmental | existing league |
| • Middle School Juniors (gr. 5-6 or younger) – Developmental | existing league |

If we add the new competitive league, we will do so before April 1, 2014.

MS Junior League - How it works

The iYRA MS Junior League is intended to allow smaller & younger players to participate and learn the sport in a safe manner. Coaches, parents & players are expected to carefully decide on how best to proceed in the best interests of all players (including opponents). Physically mature players should not participate in this league regardless of their age.

A player may play in both a MS match and a MS-Junior Rugby match. Players should not be required to play in two matches during any one day.

The decision to assign a player to a MS-Junior Rugby Squad rather than a regular MS side will be made by the individual coaches, parents & player.

iYRA MS Junior League participation is recommended for players that:

- 1) are younger than 12 years old;
- 2) are not yet in the 7th grade,
- 3) Weigh less than 110 Lbs (50 Kgs; 7.8 stone).

In order to discourage coaches putting larger, stronger and more mature players into MS Junior matches, we do not record scores. We do not maintain standings. There is no MS Junior Championship.



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Periodic Online Division Coaches Meeting

As our club count has grown, it has become difficult to meet face-to-face when addressing division issues. We have found a partial solution by using the Anymeeting.com website for online meeting/conference calls. The service is free although the dial-in number for those not using an internet connection is a call to the west coast.

MS Club Development & Recruitment

Our division does not publish a detailed “club v club” schedule until April 1st in order to accommodate new clubs and existing clubs that may need to field multiple sides in either league. In general, if a club has 8 players, then they are a fully participating club. The Division Coordinator will try to “marry up” clubs without full sides in order to allow the players of each club to become familiar with each other. We also will reduce to equate and/or borrow players on a case-by-case basis to play full matches.

The iYRA MS Division does not require new clubs to host a Festival in their first season. A new club may do so, but these are large events that can challenge even the largest and most organized of clubs.

In addition, new clubs are not required to pay for match officials during their first year of participation. Clubs may also receive a waiver for match official costs in subsequent years if they experience hardship. Clubs seeking a waiver should contact the division coordinator.

Many MS clubs form as an off shoot of existing HS clubs. Many others formed independently. Of these independents, some (but not all) have since added a HS side for their graduating players. There does not appear to be “best practice” about how to decide to start a new club.

The iYRA MS Division will always accommodate new clubs/additional sides. The iYRA website has some good information for new clubs: <http://www.iyra.org/parents-coaches/how-to-start-rugby-team/>

2014 iYRA Middle School Division Seasons

iYRA MS clubs have competed only in the spring season since our founding. Some clubs have participated in a few exhibition or experimental matches in the summer & autumn seasons. In 2014, we will field Middle School Olympic 7s Rugby sides in a limited summer season. iYRA has no plans for an autumn season.



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Annual Preseason Administrative Requirements

- 1) Each calendar year, every club participating in iYRA matches must register with the iYRA at <http://www.iyra.org/parents-coaches/new-renew-memberships/>
- 2) Advise the MS Div. Coordinator (Alan Burton, alanwburton2@hotmail.com) of names, email & telephone contact information for your clubs administrator(s) and coach(es).
- 3) At least one club administrator or coach should join the iYRA Yahoo Groups email list: http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/iYRA_Coaches/info
- 4) Every adult that comes into contact with our youth players in an official capacity (Coach, administrator or match official) must sign the iYRA Code of Conduct. It need only be done once (it does not expire), but it needs to be done. Please mail the signed copies to: Illinois Youth Rugby Association, 17 E. Monroe St., #336, Chicago, Illinois 60603 OR email a scanned copy to secretary@iyra.org. This form is available online at: http://www.iyra.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Code_of_Conduct_2008.pdf
- 5) At least one club administrator or coach should join the iYRA MS Division [Remind 101](#) free text message /email service. It is an opt-in service designed for school teachers. Its double-blind design means that no one sees anyone else's text number/email address. Instructions on subscribing are:
 - 1) Text @palmsrfc to (847) 348-8042, or
 - 2) send an Email to: palmsrfc@mail.remind101.com

United States Rugby Foundation (USRF) Grants

There are equipment & coaching grants available through the United States Rugby Foundation (USRF). Lead times can be significant.

Coaching grant: <http://www.usrugbyfoundation.org/site/pp.asp?c=9fLHJVOxHmE&b=275516>

Ball grant: <http://www.usrugbyfoundation.org/site/pp.asp?c=9fLHJVOxHmE&b=275549>

Startup kit grants: <http://www.usrugbyfoundation.org/site/pp.asp?c=9fLHJVOxHmE&b=275550>

iYRA You Tube Channel & Player Media Waivers

iYRA plans to create a You Tube channel that will include video clips or some MS matches. Each club is encouraged to maintain a file of signed media waivers from their players.



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2014 iYRA Middle School Spring All League Scrimmage

The Sycamore Spartans will host the division on Sunday April 13, 2014 at [Sycamore Middle School](#), 150 Maplewood Dr, Sycamore, IL 60178-1225. **All clubs are expected to participate.** Please park in the school lots and not on the street. The fields are just South of the school. There is parking in front and behind the school. Our hosts will have food & beverages available at the fields. Please support our hosts by purchasing a snack.

- Sessions are held on a half field - attacking side from the center line toward the try zone.
- Each team will have two 30 minute sessions on the pitch & will face two different teams.
- During each session, teams will have 10-15 minutes each as the attacking & defending side
- Coaches will be on the field to assist and direct players.
- Coaches may stop & restart play.
- Sessions will end on time, even if they started late.
- Athletic trainers will be present.
- There may or may not be goal posts on the field. We will not be goal kicking.
- Scores will not be recorded by the Division – these are scrimmages, not matches

2014 iYRA Middle School Spring Festival Schedule

Generally, all of our clubs gather at the same venue for our scheduled MS Rugby Festivals. As our player & club counts have increased, we have required hosts to provide multiple fields. We have also experimented with splitting the division and hosting to festivals on the same day at different venues.

In 2014, our growth may require that we hold multiple festivals. As yet, no clubs have volunteered to host any of our five (5) scheduled festivals:

Sat Apr 19	iYRA MS Festival #1	Arlington & Palatine (TBC)
Sun Apr 27	iYRA MS Festival #2	St. Charles Predators
Sun May 4	iYRA MS Festival #3	Glen Ellyn Stingers
Sat May 10	iYRA MS Festival #4	Need a Host
Sun May 18	iYRA MS Festival #5	Chicago Wapiti

Festival Host Clubs:

- 1) set the time & date of their Festival as well as the order of matches
- 2) provide a full size rugby pitch (or two if required) with crowd barriers & post pads
- 3) provide an athletic Trainer for each minute of each match
- 4) will have printed directions to the nearest hospital available at the pitch
- 5) are encouraged, but not required, to provide food/drinks at the Festival as a fundraiser for themselves and a benefit for our players & their families.

NOTE: The iYRA MS Division will coordinate certified match officials for each Festival.



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Club vs. Club Friendly Matches & Scrimmages

iYRA encourages Club vs. Club matches & scrimmages outside of the MS Festival schedule. This division exists to provide players with playing experience in advance of their HS rugby career. Home teams are responsible for arranging & paying a USA Rugby certified referee & an athletic trainer.

2014 iYRA MS Division Match Official Fees

Each returning MS club will be invoiced \$200 on or about April 1, 2014 to cover match officials. These initial invoices are due at the All League Scrimmage. Clubs should be prepared to receive an additional invoice prior to the MS State Tournament in the event that the initial payments are not sufficient to cover 100% of the cost of providing match officials (see: **iYRA MS Division Club Invoicing** on page 20).

Newly formed clubs & those determined to be in hardship do not pay for match officials.

2014 iYRA Middle School State Tournament

The spring season concludes with the iYRA Middle School State Tournament on the first Sunday after Memorial Day. The iYRA High School State Tournament is always held on Memorial Day. Our division participated in the High School tournament until 2013 when our growth required a separate tournament just for the middle school division.

The Middle School State Tournament will be held from 9 am to early afternoon on Sun Jun 1, 2014 at Sportscore 2, 8800 E Riverside Blvd, Loves Park, IL 61111 (<http://goo.gl/maps/Rceho>). Players and coaches will be admitted to the tournament grounds for free. Families, supporters and other spectators should expect to pay an entrance fee. Parking is free.

MS Senior teams will be sorted into multiple brackets similar to the format used for Olympic 7s Rugby Tournaments: Cup, Plate, Bowl & Shield. Each bracket will have four teams. All tournament matches will have 15 min halves (for a 30 min match). Every competing side will play two (2) matches.

MS Junior teams will compete at the tournament as well. The format of the MS Junior competition will be determined during the season.



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Most Skilled Rugger Competition at the 2014 iYRA Middle School State Tournament

In 2013, we ran a competition for individual players to demonstrate their rugby skills. It was a highlight of the day and we will hold the Most Skilled Rugger Competition again in 2014. There will be individual prizes and age-based categories for each skill.

4th annual iYRA High School Boys Select Side Corn Bowl

We are honored to host our iYRA High School Boys Select Side team, the Tornados, at our tournament (<http://www.iyra.org/boys-rugby/tornados/>). The Tornados will hold their 4th Annual Corn Bowl featuring players from the South of the state vs. players from the North of the state. Our Tornados draw players from High School clubs throughout Illinois.

Overtime Protocol for Middle School State Tournament Matches

If a match is tied at Full Time, the referee will meet with the head coaches and flip a coin:

- The higher seed will call the coin
 - o Winner of the coin flip to receive choice of goal OR order of kicks
 - o Loser of the coin flip decides the other option.
- The referee to record three (3) points for each successful kick.
- Five (5) Kickers from those players on the field at Full Time will attempt kicks at goal:
 - o All kicks to be taken at the same set of posts.
 - o Teams will alternate kick attempts
 - o Each Kicker to receive 1 minute to attempt a kick
 - o Kicks to be taken from the 22 or behind - anywhere (Left/Center/Right – Kicker’s choice).
 - o Kicks may be taken from a kicking tee or as a drop-kick.
 - o Each Kicker to attempt one (1) kick
- If still a tie after the set of Five (5) Kicks:
 - o “Sudden Victory” kicks will be taken – each team receives the same number of kicks (i.e. if the first team to kick makes it, the other team has one (1) chance to match the kick)
 - o Kicks to be taken from the 22 or behind- anywhere (Left/Center/Right – Kicker’s choice).
 - o Each coach may choose any of the players on their own club’s MS CIPP roster to kick
 - o Kickers may repeat (e.g. one the original five (5) kickers may return and take all remaining kicks)
- The referee is the final arbiter of all disputes
- No protests will be allowed. Referee decisions are final.



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USA Rugby Coaching Level 200 Certification Classes

iYRA sponsors a USA Rugby Coaching Level 200 class at least twice a year:

- 1) the last Sat in January at Brother Rice High School, 10001 S Pulaski Rd, Chicago, IL 60655; and
- 2) the 4th Sat in August at Luther North College Prep, 5700 W Berneau Av, Chicago IL 60634.

The next is scheduled for Sat 23 Aug 2014

Chicago Area Rugby Football Union (CARFU) Referee Society

The 2014 [Chicago Area Rugby Football Union Referee Society](#) U19 Assignor is:

Eric Bangeman

ebangeman@me.com

T: (773) 405-2411

iYRA MS Select Side – Hurricanes (MS Seniors Players) & Squalls (MS Junior Players)

Mission Statement: To provide an opportunity for players at all levels of the Middle School Division to train and compete at the highest level of rugby available.

Interested players should register online at: <http://www.iyra.org/boys-rugby/hurricanes-squalls/>

Please see the iYRA MS Select Side report from the Dec 7, 2013 Winter AGM:

http://www.palatinerugby.com/iYRA_MS/iYRA_Dec_2013_AGM-MS_Select_Side.pdf

Our 2014 iYRA MS Select coaches are:

Dan Bartlett	Head Coach	danbart06@gmail.com	Tel: (847) 504-6487
Alfredo De La Vega	Team Administrator, Coach	caho_dlv@yahoo.com	Tel: (815) 219-9462

Select side Schedule

Practice #1	Wed May 7, 2014	Need a Host	Non-contact Practice
Practice #2	Wed May 21, 2014	Need a Host	Non-contact Practice
Practice #3	Tue Jun 3, 2014	Need a Host	Practice w/contact
Practice #4	Thu Jun 5, 2014	Need a Host	Practice w/contact
“Probables” vs. “Possibles” Match	Sun Jun 8, 2014	Lake Forest Jr. Harriers	(TBC)
Practice #5	Tue Jun 10, 2014	Need a Host	Practice w/contact
Practice #6	Thu Jun 12, 2014	Need a Host	Practice w/contact
Midwest All-Star Challenge Tournament	Sat Jun 14, 2014	Moose Grounds, Elkhart, IN	
Highland Games Exhibition Match	Fri Jun 20, 2014	Itasca, IL	
2014 Challenge Cup RAST	Jun 21 -22, 2014	Founders Field, Pittsburgh, PA	



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2014 iYRA MS Olympic Rugby (7's) Season

The MS Division has never competed in an Olympic Rugby 7s season. We will accept mercenary players at two 2014 7s tournaments (and possibly a 3rd), then build sides at each tournament. Two clubs have committed to field full sides as well. We hope to compete with at least four sides in total in 2014.

2nd Annual Palatine Midsummer 7s	Sat Jun 28, 2014	Palatine, IL
Great Lakes 7s*	Sat July 5, 2014 (TBC)	Lemont, IL (TBC)
IL Olympic Rugby 7s State Championship	Sat July 12, 2014 (TBC)	TBA

* We may add this tournament if we have player interest, our targeted events are Jun 28 & Jul 12.

iYRA Middle School Club Demographic Reporting

Each iYRA MS club will be asked to provide their player counts by school grade twice in the spring:

Preliminary Data	Prior to April 1, 2014	For use in preparing schedules.
Final Data	Prior to June 1, 2014	We have tracked this data since 2009.

The preliminary data will be used to help schedule safe, fair & fun club v club matches. For example, ideally a club with primarily 8th graders won't face a club with primarily 6th & 7th graders.

iYRA Middle School Club Fields

These are some of the locations that have hosted our Festivals over the last few years. We may add others and we may not use one or more of these locations in 2014:

Busse Woods, Golf Rd & Rt 53, Rolling Meadows, IL (Golf Rd entrance)	http://goo.gl/maps/mvmkR
Chicago Blaze Facility, 13011 West Smith Road, Lemont, IL 60439	http://goo.gl/maps/HH2F9
Campton Hills Road & Peck Rd, St Charles, IL 60175	http://goo.gl/maps/eGe1N
Commissioners Park, 111th St, Naperville, IL 60585	http://goo.gl/maps/hEEei
Grassy Ridge Meadow, 1280 W Central Rd, Hoffman Estates, IL 60192	http://goo.gl/maps/Oi4WE
Lake Forest Recreation Center, 400 S Hastings Rd, Lake Forest, IL 60045	http://goo.gl/maps/zdNmK
Maple Park, 316 N Winston Dr, Palatine, IL 60074	http://goo.gl/maps/bS868
Oak Park, 455 N. Clark Dr, Palatine, IL 60074	http://goo.gl/maps/zXEty
Primrose Farm Park, Bolcum Rd & Crane Rd, St Charles, IL 60175	http://goo.gl/maps/y0sdE
Sportscore 2, 8800 E Riverside Blvd, Loves Park, IL 61111	http://goo.gl/maps/Rceho
Sycamore Middle School, 150 Maplewood Dr, Sycamore, IL 60178-1225	http://goo.gl/maps/xXDzq



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iYRA Middle School Division Rules & Laws Variations

- 1) All coaches, players & match officials must be properly registered with USA Rugby (i.e. CIPP'd).
- 2) We allow boys and girls in grades up to eighth (8th) grade (inclusive) to participate. We allow each coach & parent to decide whether their player(s) are large / mature enough to play safely.
- 3) **All players must wear a mouth guard.** Protective headgear is not required by the Division, but may be required by individual clubs for their own players.
- 4) We play on a standard pitch when possible. We may reduce the field size on occasion (e.g. to accommodate the Festival Host; or when playing less than 15 v 15; or for MS-Junior matches).
- 5) Our MS-Senior sides play with a size 5 rugby ball. Our MS-Junior sides use a size 4 rugby ball.
- 6) We play 15-a-side rugby whenever possible. We will Reduce to Equate and/or allow Players on Loan whenever necessary per coaches agreement.

Note: Coaches are encouraged, but not required, to consider a player's natural size, skills and gifts when assigning positions.

- 7) We play 2 x 25 min halves with a running clock due to the constraints of our Festival Format. Matches should always start on time, even if this ends a preceding match early.
- 8) We allow unlimited substitution. The referee's permission is not required.
- 9) Ties are allowed in Festival Play.
- 10) **Conversion Kicks** (rule 9.B.1 (b))
 - a. MS-Sr. matches take conversion kicks from the place of the try.
 - b. MS-Jr. players will
 - i. take the kick from the 15 whenever the try is scored between the touchline & the 15
 - ii. tries scored in the middle of the field (i.e. between the 15's) will continue to be taken from the place of the try.
- 11) **MS Junior Rugby Only:** Penalty quick taps and Quick Kick-Offs are not allowed.



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iYRA Middle School Division Rules & Laws Variations (continued)

12) Line-outs

- a. Line-outs are contested.
- b. Lifting/Supporting (rule 19.10 (d)) – There is no lifting or supporting allowed.
- c. Incorrect throw-in (rule 19.7 (a)) – If a throw-in is incorrect (e.g. not straight), the opposing team will attempt a throw-in. If the throw-in is again incorrect, then the original team to attempt a throw-in will get a scrum at 15 (i.e. If a Red throw-in is incorrect; then there will be a blue throw-in, if it is incorrect; there will be a red scrum).

13) Scrum

- a. Scrum are uncontested. Forwards push only enough to keep the scrum stable.
- b. Binding (rule 20.3 (a)) – front row binding is required; all members of the scrum remain bound until the ball is out.
- c. MS Junior Rugby Only: The Defending Scrum-half may not follow the Offensive Scrumhalf past the tunnel.

14) Dangerous &/or High Tackles

- a. We ask our referees to assist our coaches in training good tackling habits in these younger players by using verbal warnings during play.
- b. Should a Dangerous Tackle occur, the offending player should receive a Yellow Card and not be replaced during the “Sin Bin Period” (5 min).
- c. Multiple players may receive Yellow Cards throughout a match. There is no incremental penalty. There is no limit to the seating capacity of the Sin Bin.
- d. A second occurrence by the same player will result in an ejection. There is no further sanction or suspension for this player. The ejected player may be replaced.

15) Yellow Cards result in a player being sent off the field for 5 minutes in the “Sin Bin” to discuss the issue with the coaches. The player may only return with the referee’s permission.

16) Red Cards may still be issued at the referee’s sole discretion for dangerous or foul play. A Red Carded Player may be replaced (e.g. a Soft Red) **and may face further disciplinary action**.



2014 Middle School Division Policies & Procedures

iYRA MS Division Lightning Protocol

The iYRA Middle School Division adheres to all iYRA policies regarding player safety, including policies regarding lightning delays. Where conflicts arise, our division defers to the relevant iYRA policy.

When lightning is (1) detected by a local municipality, park district or school district lightning detection system; **or (2) seen** by a participant (defined as match officials, medical staff, coaches, players, parents or other spectators), **all play will cease**. All participants will be directed to an appropriate shelter. If no safe structure is available, participants will be instructed to shelter in their vehicles.

Neither warm-ups nor play will resume until (1) the “All Clear” is sounded by a local municipality, park district or school district lightning detection system; or (2) 30 minutes has passed following the last sighting of lightning. Note that the 30 minute countdown restarts at each lightning sighting during the countdown.

Any given MS match will be delayed a maximum of two (2) separate times (i.e. countdown restarts do not qualify for this point). A third (3rd) delay will automatically cancel the match. If a match is not actively being played 90 minutes following the scheduled start, it will be cancelled.

The Head Match Official (i.e. referee) has the primary responsibility to enforce this protocol. The iYRA MS Division Director and the Festival Host (or home team coach if not a MS Festival event) should consult and coordinate with the Head Match Official.

Player safety is the sole consideration with regard to lightning delays or cancellations.

If a match is cancelled anytime past the 5 minute mark of the second half, it will be considered a Full Match and the score at that time will stand. We are a developmental league. Lightning cancelled matches may or may not be rescheduled. Each match at a MS Festival will be considered separately. For example, the second (2nd) match of the day may be cancelled and subsequent matches may be played.

For additional information on the dangers of lightning at outdoor events, please see:

http://ihsa.org/documents/sportsMedicine/IHSA-Severe_Weather_Safety_Guidelines.pdf



2014 Middle School Division Policies & Procedures

iYRA Match Official Development Program

Purpose

iYRA seeks to increase the number of certified, trained and involved rugby match officials. To do so, we will encourage HS players to begin officiating in the MS Division. The goal is for many of these HS players to continue officiating after they grow up and out of iYRA as players.

Goals

1. To train & certify at least five (5) new referees each spring season.
2. To train & certify at least ten (10) new touch judges each spring season.
3. To train at least three (3) referees each summer season in the specifics of Olympic Rugby (7's).
4. To retain at least three (3) referees for a second season after their initial certification.
5. To retain at least five (5) touch judges for a second season after their initial certification (including those that move up to referee certification).

Training Classes

Referee Training classes are coordinated and run by the [CARFU Referee Society](#).

Level 1 Officiating - Introduction to Officiating

Date: Sun Mar 23 8 am – 5 pm

Location: Chicago Blaze Facility

Estimated Cost: \$ 75 per student

The iYRA MS Division will attempt to secure funding for scholarships to cover these course costs. We wish for any interested player to be able to take these courses regardless of their ability to pay.

iYRA Middle School Division Match Official Compensation Rates

The 2014 iYRA MS Division compensation offer for our Match Officials will be:

- Touch Judge
 - Basic Level \$ 5.00 per Rugby Union match
 - Intermediate Level \$ 10.00 per Rugby Union match
 - Advanced Level \$ 15.00 per Rugby Union match
 - All levels \$ 10.00 per hour (i.e. 3 matches) at Olympic Rugby Tourneys
- Referee
 - Introductory Level \$ 25.00 per Rugby Union match
 - Basic Level \$ 30.00 per Rugby Union match
 - Intermediate Level \$ 40.00 per Rugby Union match
 - Advanced Level \$ 50.00 per Rugby Union match
 - Mentor / Trainer \$ 50.00 per Rugby Union match
 - All levels \$ 15.00 per Olympic Rugby (a.k.a. 7's) match



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iYRA MS Division Touch Judge / Assistant Referees – Minimum Requirements

Basic Level – Touch Judge

1. be USA Rugby Registered (i.e. CIPP'd)
2. not be under any disciplinary obligation from USA Rugby, iYRA or other SBRO, TU, etc.
3. have participated in rugby in some capacity for a minimum of 1 year
4. have graduated from 8th grade

Intermediate Level – Touch Judge

All of the above and

5. have taken & passed the online IRB law exam (www.irblaws.com/EN/)*
6. have taken & passed the online IRB rugby ready online modules* (www.irbrugbyready.com/)

Advanced Level - Touch Judge & Assistant Referee

All of the above and

7. have taken and passed the USA Rugby Level 1 Officiating - Introduction to Officiating
8. have taken & passed the online PCA course “double goal coach, winning for life lessons”

iYRA MS Division Referees for Rugby Union matches – Minimum Requirements

Introductory Level – Referee

1. be USA Rugby Registered (i.e. CIPP'd)
2. not be under any disciplinary obligation from USA Rugby, iYRA or other SBRO, TU, etc.
3. have participated in rugby in some capacity for a minimum of 1 year
4. have graduated from 8th grade & be at least 14 years old
5. have taken and passed the USA Rugby Level 1 Officiating - Introduction to Officiating

Basic Level – Referee

All of the above and

6. have completed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention online course: Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports (http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online_training.html)
7. have completed the USA Rugby Rookie Rugby online course

Intermediate Level – Referee

All of the above and

9. Have completed the iRB Rugby Ready Online Course (www.irbrugbyready.com/)
10. Have completed the PCA Double Win Course: (<http://shopping.positivecoach.org/Store/Courses/Double-Goal-Coach>)



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iYRA MS Division Referees for Rugby Union matches – Minimum Requirements (continued)

Advanced Level – Referee

All of the above and

11. have taken and passed USA Rugby Level 2 Officiating - Developing Officiating Skills
12. be over 16 years old

Mentor / Trainer

Designated by the iYRA Middle School Coordinator: based on years of experience &/or standing in USA Rugby recognized Referee Societies.

iYRA Match Official Advancement – In General

The iYRA Middle School Coordinator may certify on a temporary basis (one time only per match official per requirement) that individual minimum requirements have been met based on years of experience &/or standing in USA Rugby recognized Referee Societies. Such temporary certifications will remain in place until the next regularly scheduled MS Division Coaches meeting where each temporary certification must be considered individually and must be voted upon by the MS division coaches. A simple majority of clubs voting is required for such temporary certifications to be accepted permanently.

Match Officials may not move “backward” (e.g. from Advanced to Intermediate) except:

- upon the expiration of a temporary certification by the iYRA Middle School Coordinator (i.e. the MS clubs do not accept that individual minimum requirements have been met based on years of experience &/or standing in USA Rugby recognized Referee Societies).
- should the individual not take & pass the designated online courses annually.

Match Officials may only move “forward” (e.g. from Intermediate to Advanced) based upon a temporary certification by the iYRA Middle School Coordinator followed by a vote of the MS clubs at meeting of the MS clubs or directly by a vote of the MS clubs at meeting of the MS clubs.



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iYRA Match Official Advancement – New Referees to Basic Level

Newly certified referees will be shadowed on the field for at least their first three (3) matches by an experienced referee (Intermediate, advanced or mentor/trainer).

After three (3) separate experienced referees (Intermediate, advanced or mentor/trainer) advise the iYRA MS Division Coordinator that an Introductory Referee is safe to officiate solo on the field, the Introductory Referee will be **coached from the sidelines for at least another three (3) matches** by separate experienced referees (Intermediate, advanced or mentor/trainer), who may or may not have shadowed the Introductory Referee.

After three (3) separate experienced referees (Intermediate, advanced or mentor/trainer) advise the iYRA MS Division Coordinator that an Introductory Referee is safe to officiate solo on the field without supervision from the sidelines, the iYRA MS Division will certify that the Introductory Referee has become a Basic Level Referee.

iYRA MS Division Match Official Uniforms

Touch Judges

iYRA MS Division has purchased T-Shirts in neon green for our TJ's to wear.

We have 6 shirts in each size from Adult Med. to 3 XL. TJ/AR's should wear them over their jackets during cold weather and simply as a T-Shirt in warmer weather.

The iYRA MS Division will launder and maintain these T-Shirts.

Referees

There is no specific iYRA MS Division uniform for referees yet. iYRA MS Division has purchased T-Shirts in bright orange for our referees to wear if they prefer. The iYRA MS Division will launder and maintain these T-Shirts.

During the 2014 spring season, we will look into developing a proper kit for our match officials.

right chest, approx. 3.5" l to r

left chest, approx. 3.5" l to r

**MATCH
OFFICIAL**



back print, 12" l to r

**TOUCH
JUDGE**



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Match Official Assignment – Touch Judges

iYRA MS Division TJ's choose which MS Festivals they want to work. The iYRA MS Div. Coordinator will solicit TJ commitments two (2) weeks prior to each Festival. Match Assignments will be on a first requested- first assigned basis and **will be confirmed on the Monday prior to each Festival.**

TJ's generally work a min. of two (2) matches and a max. of four (4) matches per MS Festival.

Match Official Assignment – Referees

Referees choose which MS Festivals they want to work. The iYRA MS Div. Coordinator will solicit referee commitments two (2) weeks prior to each Festival. Match Assignments will be on a first requested- first assigned basis and **will be confirmed on the Monday prior to each Festival.**

The iYRA MS Division is fortunate to have a number of USA Certified Referees as members: either as club coaches or parents of players. Some of these referees are active within their local Referee Society.

Interaction with local Referee Societies

The iYRA MS Division welcomes referees from the local Referee Societies and suggests that these societies consider assigning referees to MS Division matches in at least these situations:

- **Newly Certified Referees looking to gain confidence & experience**
 - The MS Division players are young and used to interacting with adults respectfully
 - The MS Division is developmental, so errors in law or judgment that “change the outcome” of the match do not matter
 - The MS Division All-League Scrimmage is designed to provide two (2) mini-matches per side so there are upwards of 30 matches on three pitches at one venue. It is an excellent opportunity to cover many matches in short order.

- **Experienced Referees recovering from injury**
 - MS Div. matches move at a slower pace than Adult, Collegiate or upper Tier HS matches.
 - Referees returning from injury may use these matches as part of their recovery plan.

- **Experienced Referees considering retirement, but unwilling to stop participating yet**
 - The slower pace of MS Division matches may allow an experienced referee considering retirement to extend their career a bit



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- The opportunity to help introduce young players into the sport & culture of rugby may help reinvigorate more senior referees.

iYRA MS Division Club Budgeting

In 2014, each club should **budget** \$ 50.00 per rugby union (i.e. 15's) match to cover Match Officials.

Min match cost is \$ 35 Introductory Referee (\$25) and two Introductory TJ's (2 x \$ 5.00)

Max match cost is \$ 100 Intro Ref (\$25), Mentor (\$50) and two Advanced TJ's (2 x \$ 12.50)

The Final Season Club Fees will be less than the maximum budgeted costs – likely much less:

- The 2011 Final Season Club Fee was \$ 175.00.
- The 2012 Final Season Club Fee was \$ 160.00.
- The 2013 Final Season Club Fee was \$ 200.00.
- **The 2014 suggested budget amount for the Season Club Fee is \$ 250.00.**

The reduced actual fee vs. the budgeted fee is due primarily to donated match compensation from our many dedicated iYRA Match Officials. These generous donations are an important factor in the rapid growth of the iYRA Middle School Division. **As a division, we recognize and are very grateful for these donations.**

iYRA MS Division Club Invoicing

- Preliminary Season Club Fees:
 - Are set at the rate of the prior season Final Season Club Fees for the division
 - will be invoiced two weeks prior to the All-League Scrimmage and are due there
- Final Season Club Fees are determined:
 - After each Match Official designates their Personal Match Fee Distribution
 - One (1) week after the iYRA State Championship Tournament, iYRA assumes no further donations by iYRA Match Officials will be made
 - Should (a) Match Official(s) designate their Personal Match Fee Distribution(s) to be donated in whole or in part after the invoicing deadline, then the appropriate club(s) will be credited as appropriate for the following season(s).
 - By totaling the full season iYRA MS Match Official Costs and allocating equally by club
- Final Season Clubs Fees, less the preliminary season club fees payments, are due two weeks following the iYRA State Championship Tournament
- Should Final Season Clubs Fees be less than the Preliminary Season Clubs Fees already paid, the credit balance will be applied to the following year.

Clubs in these categories will NOT be charged for Match Officials (costs paid by the MS DIV as a whole):



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- newly formed clubs (1st year of competition in the division)
- clubs designated as experiencing Hardship (fewer than 15 CIPP'd players)

Match Official Compensation Process

The iYRA Middle School Division will attempt to pay all match officials at the field on the day of competition. This may not always be possible. The iYRA Middle School Division reserves the right to pay match officials at a later date, either at the match official's request or for the convenience of the iYRA Middle School Division. All Match Official Compensation should be paid no later than two weeks following the iYRA State Championship Tournament.

iYRA Match Officials (Referees and Touch Judges) are encouraged to accept their full match compensation. iYRA Players, Coaches and Administrators highly value the talent, time and dedication of our match officials. The provision for donating match official compensation should NOT be taken as official encouragement to do so.

iYRA Match Officials (Referees and Touch Judges) are given the option of donating their match compensation, in whole or in part, in one or more of the following ways (each individual Match Official to designate their own distribution):

1. to newly formed club(s) in any given season
2. to club(s) designated as In Hardship in any given season
3. to one or more specific clubs (iYRA Match official to designate distribution)
4. to the iYRA MS Division as a whole
 - a. for use in general, or
 - b. for use in a specific capacity, or
 - c. to reduce the overall division match official costs
(this to be the default option if not otherwise designated).

iYRA Middle School Division Match Official Development Program Intent

Youth Rugby in Illinois is growing rapidly. As we recruit additional players into our sport, we are encountering shortages of certified & trained individuals in key support roles: administrators, coaches and match officials. This program is intended to help recruit capable, enthusiastic young players into rugby officiating.

We will do so by demonstrating that officiating can be fun & lucrative. We will develop these players into confident & competent match officials within a supportive environment.

Ideally, our young iYRA Match Officials will continue officiating youth matches mid-week when they join their collegiate / adult clubs or will continue officiating even if they choose to cease playing actively.



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iYRA By-Laws

The iYRA By-Laws are posted online at <http://www.iyra.org/explore/iyra-bylaws/>.

iYRA Governance

iYRA holds two general meetings each year. These are:

The iYRA Summer AGM	Sun 27 Jul 2014	Last Sunday in July
The iYRA Winter AGM	Sat 6 Dec 2014	First Saturday in December

Every iYRA club must send at least one representative to each AGM. iYRA holds elections at the Summer AGM. Officers serve a 1-year term. iYRA approves an annual budget at the Winter AGM. AGM's are usually held at the Athletico headquarters, 709 Enterprise Drive, Oak Brook, IL 60523-8813.

iYRA Executive (EC) & Competition (CC) Committees

President*	David Hall	(708) 846-0829
Treasurer*	Bill Gannon	(847) 650-4366
Secretary*	Adrienne Cortes	(630) 258-1666
Compliance Officer*	Paul Bergman	(847) 845-4982
Vice President	Tom Peroulas	(312) 476-9125
Disciplinary Chairperson	Warren Taylor	(630) 308-1221
High School Boys League - Division 1 Coordinator	Vinnie Lapiana	(847) 409-5691
Division 2 Coordinator	Bryce Elliott	(630) 854-1050
Division 3 Coordinator	Rob Copland	(847) 875-4396
F/S Division Coordinator	unfilled – Vinnie Lapiana is covering	
High School Girls Coordinator	Anne Schwaab	(773) 807-3784
Middle School Coordinator	Alan Burton	(847) 338-1587
New Club Coordinator	unfilled – Rob Copland is covering	
Olympic Rugby (7s) Coordinator	unfilled – Rob Copland is covering	

* EC member, but not a CC member

The EC meets at 8 am on the first Sunday of each month, usually at The Donkey Inn, 923 S Plum Grove Rd, Palatine, IL 60067 (map: <http://goo.gl/maps/eogwg>).

Please see <http://www.iyra.org/contact/> for additional contact information.



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Hurricanes & Squalls

Dan Bartlett

Alfredo De La Vega

iYRA Middle School Select Sides

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caho_dlv@yahoo.com

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Aztecs

Margot DePaepe

Mariano Azuela Aztecs Middle School Rugby Club

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(847) 293-6834

Barbarians

Phil Clarke

Scott Sanda

John Weyer

West Suburban Barbarians Rugby Club

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Crusaders

Brandon Bortoli

John Chevalier

Elliot Hershik

Graeme Jackson

Naperville Youth Rugby

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Gators

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Quest Middle School

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(309) 229-9035

Junior Harriers

Tom Gaye

Lake Forest Youth Rugby Club

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Lions

Steve Euker

Mike Rickerson

Nick Wills

Crystal Lake Lions Rugby Club

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mrickerson@sbcglobal.net

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nicholas.wills15@d155.org

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Mountain Lions

Brandon Hellwig

Andrew Schmitz

KIPP Ascend Mountain Lions

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(262) 751-3222



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Ospreys

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Mike Marcucci	mikemarcucci1114@gmail.com	(630) 788-0421
Mike Steno	msteno@juno.com	(773) 415-2507
Dave Zdenovec	stenofamily@gmail.com	(630) 788-8813

Ospreys Middle School RFC

Penguins

Rocky Dellamano	rdellamano@yahoo.com	(815) 351-1615
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Lincoln-Way Area Middle School Rugby Football Club

Pioneers

Alan Burton	coach@palatinepioneers.org	(847) 338-1587
Nate Hanks	nate.d.hanks@gmail.com	(847) 899-1493
Vince Lorig	vlorig33@yahoo.com	(847) 846-4443
Warren Taylor	WarrenTaylor@bctus.com	(630) 308-1221

Palatine Middle School Rugby

Predators

Lance Wojcik	riptog@yahoo.com	(630) 723-4437
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Saint Charles Youth Rugby Football Club

Ravens

Kestrel Felton	kchfelton@gmail.com	(815) 608-4590
Terri Felton	terrihf@aol.com	(815) 988-0439

Rockford Ravens Youth Rugby Club

Rhinos

Jim Carlberg	jimc@liquidrugby.com	(217) 341-3291
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Springfield Rhinos Rugby Football Club

River Rats

Rob Copland	rcopland237@yahoo.com	(847) 875-4396
Lauren Harris	rugbyfiend@hotmail.com	(847) 913-2186

Elgin Middle School RFC

Spartans

Tom Petit	tjp3bear@gmail.com	(815) 757-8669
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Sycamore Middle School Rugby



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Stallions

Arlington Stallions Middle School Rugby Club Inc.

Paul Bergman	ptbergman@comcast.net	(847) 845-4982
Mark Derry	Mark.Derry@att.net	
Dylan Farmer	dylanfarm@comcast.net	(773) 983-2753

Stingers

Glen Ellyn Youth Rugby

Mike Melinder	mike_melinder@hotmail.com	
Matt Murphy	mjmurph67@gmail.com	
Martin Russell	marussell@deloitte.com	(312) 919-1649
Penny Russell	penrussell@live.com	

Wapiti

Chicago Wapiti Youth RFC - Boys & Girls

Roy Hays	roy.hays@chicagowapitirfc.com	
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Warthogs

Warrenville Warthogs Rugby Club

Mike Dalan	drdalan@sbcglobal.net	(630) 605-6960
Rob Hammerschmidt	robert@lemont.k12.il.us	(630) 957-7544
Dave Orr	daveeorr@gmail.com	(630) 947-3187

iYRA on Facebook

Illinois Youth Rugby Association <https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisYouthRugbyAssociation>

Illinois Tornados 2013 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/108058837441/>

Illinois Youth Rugby - Hurricanes & Squalls 2014

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2014.iyra.hurricanes/>

iYRA e-Newsletter

iYRA publishes an electronic newsletter via email subscription. It is free and very informative. Subscribe on the iYRA website: <http://www.iyra.org/news/>

iYRA on Twitter

Follow the Illinois Youth Rugby Association on Twitter:

@IL_Youth_Rugby