



USA RUGBY

National Sevens Referee Program



prepared by

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GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Standardize And Institute IRB-Approved Sevens Refereeing Practices Across The United States

2012 SEASON ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2011 Sevens Referee Handbook posted for download on USA Rugby website, with links on the UR7s.com website.
- Maintained the USAR Sevens users group on Vimeo (currently with 58 subscribers), including video clips from recent IRB Sevens referee course.
- Wrote weekly email during domestic Sevens summer season. Total email list has over 175 subscribers—referees, players, coaches, and tournament organizers.
- Arrived at the point where the National Sevens Referee Program needs to expand our capabilities and resources from USA Rugby.



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GOALS FOR 2013

Update and revise the Sevens Refereeing Handbook. Work with USA Rugby to copyright the Sevens Handbook(s) and trademark the National Sevens Referee Program logo.

Develop more administrators and technical teams for Sevens tournaments. Future tournaments with radio communication systems and video replay capabilities will be better managed, and promote improved referee performances and higher quality play.

Identify, Train And Manage Referees Based On Sevens Rugby And Target Those Individuals With Potential For Future Development

2012 SEASON ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The expanded National Sevens Referee Oversight Committee (Jerry McLemore, Patrick McNally, Peter Simpson, Ed Sorensen, Josh Tameifuna, and Kat Todd-Schwartz) provided better Program management through expanded coverage of our referees and the shared benefit of the committee members' experience.
- The second National Collegiate Sevens Rugby Championship at Texas A&M University was preceded by a series of Sevens Qualifier tournaments. This new fall Sevens season offered more opportunities for Sevens referee development and emphasized our responsibility to meet the increased need for competent Sevens match officials.
- Trained and appointed women Sevens referees to meet the demand generated by the expansion of women's brackets at National Club, All-Star, and Collegiate Championships. These new competitions provide additional entryways for women Sevens referees, but should not limit them to only women's Sevens matches.
- International Sevens appointments — Leah Berard to Hong Kong IRB 7s, NACRA 7s, Singapore 7s, and Dubai IRB 7s; Mike Kelly AR at Tokyo IRB 7s, refereed at NACRA 7s, appointed to 2013 Wellington IRB 7s and Las Vegas IRB 7s; Brian Zapp appointed to the Canadian National University 7s Championships. Hosted Japan RFU referees Taizo Hirabayashi, at the US National Club Sevens Championships in San Francisco, California, and Mayumi Takahashi at National Collegiate 7s at Texas A&M University. Hosted Canada RFU referees Bryan Arciero and Karen Lozada at National Collegiate 7s.

GOALS FOR 2013

Establish a National Sevens referee panel and formalize structures within our Program to create clear pathways for promotion and development of elite Sevens referees.

Coordinate with the four Zone Chairs to promote cross-territorial Sevens referee exchanges.

Work with our High Performance Referee Manager to identify more International Sevens referee exchanges and opportunities.

Start a Sevens referee camp in May to identify and prepare promising young Sevens referees for the summer club and fall collegiate Sevens seasons.

Work with large, established Sevens tournaments to help develop Sevens referees and match officials locally and regionally (i.e., Philadelphia-CRC, Denver-Denver 7s, Serevi Rugbytown 7s, US Military Championships, Texas-National Collegiate 7s, IRB Houston Women's SWS).

Contact And Work With The Sevens Coaching Community

2012 SEASON ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Invited Al Caravelli, former USA National 7s team coach, to be one of three referee performance reviewers at the 2012 College Rugby Championships (CRC). His coach's perspective in evaluating referees' performances was well received by all participants.
- Sought the qualified opinions of leading Sevens team coaches on individual referee performances. Devoted time at competitions to solicit feedback from Sevens team coaches on game management and law interpretation.



Nancy Trent

- Offered an open invitation for all Sevens team coaches to attend Sevens pre-tournament referee briefings to clarify current law interpretations and avoid misunderstandings during the course of the competitions.
- Expanded list of coaches on weekly summer Sevens referee email list and USAR Sevens Vimeo subscribers.

GOALS FOR 2013

Continue dialogue in person, via email, and by telephone with the Sevens coaching community to monitor perceptions and identify strengths and weaknesses of overall referee performances.

Invite accomplished Sevens team coaches to be referee performance reviewers at future Sevens tournaments—where they do not have a team participating. Bridge the gap in understanding between what teams try to accomplish and the challenge referees face each match.

Encourage and facilitate face-to-face conversations between Sevens team coaches and referees after matches. Cultivate long-term relationships with Sevens team coaches and players that will carry through from season to season.

Manage The National Club Sevens Championship, The National All-Star Sevens Championship and the National Collegiate Sevens Championship, and Attend As Many Territorial Sevens Tournaments As Possible

Attendance by National Sevens Referee Oversight Committee members at as many major Sevens Tournaments and Territorial Sevens Championships as reasonably possible, and effective management of the National Sevens Championship Tournaments remain continuing goals of our Program. Travel to the many Sevens tournaments and territories provides opportunities for hands-on referee coaching, scouting new referee talent, and personal interaction with Sevens coaches. We will continue our efforts to meet these goals.

2012 US SEVENS SEASON

February 7th-10th

Las Vegas Invitational – Las Vegas, Nevada
Collegiate Rugby Championship Qualifier
Men's Open Elite International Sevens
Women's International Sevens

June 2nd-3rd

College Rugby Championship –
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Invitational Collegiate Sevens Tournament

June 23rd-24th

Best of the West Sevens –
Fort Lewis-McChord, Washington

June 23rd

Firehouse Sevens – Chicago, Illinois
Midwest Territorial National Sevens Qualifier

June 30th

Lakefront Sevens – Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Midwest Territorial National Sevens Qualifier

July 7th-8th

Cape Fear Sevens – Wilmington, North Carolina

July 14th

Sunsplash 7s – Long Beach, California
Southern California Territorial National Sevens Qualifier
Rock and Roll 7s – Cleveland, Ohio
Midwest Territorial National Sevens Qualifier

July 21st

Denver Sevens – Denver, Colorado
West Territorial National Sevens Qualifier
Mid-Atlantic Club Sevens Championship –
Norfolk, Virginia
MARFU Territorial National Sevens Qualifier
OMBAC 7s – San Diego, California
Southern California Territorial National Sevens Qualifier
Hell Gate Sevens – New York City, New York
Northeast Territorial National Sevens Qualifier

July 21st (continued)

Pacific Coast Club Sevens Championship –
San Francisco, California
Pacific Coast Territorial National Sevens Qualifier

August 4th-5th

National Club Sevens Championships –
San Francisco, California

August 11th

Serevi Rugbytown Sevens – Glendale, Colorado

August 17th-18th

National Men's and Women's All-Star Sevens Championships – Chula Vista, California

August 17th-19th

International Defense Sevens and US Military Sevens Championships – Glendale, Colorado

August 25th-26th

North American Caribbean Rugby Association (NACRA) Sevens Championships
2015 Rugby World Cup 7s Qualifier – Ottawa, Canada

October 6th

West Coast Sevens Invitational– San Luis Obispo, California

October 13th

Stanford Sevens Invitational– Palo Alto, California

November 3rd-4th

Pacific Twelve Sevens – Los Angeles, California
National Collegiate Sevens Tournament Qualifier

November 10th-11th

California Sevens – San Luis Obispo, California
National Collegiate Sevens Tournament Qualifier

November 24th

New York Sevens – New York City, New York

November 30th - December 1st

National Collegiate Sevens Championships – College Station, Texas

Work With The Men's And The Women's US National Sevens Team Programs And International Sevens Competitions

2012 SEASON ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Worked closely with Alex Magleby (Men's National Sevens Team coach) and Ric Suggit (Women's National Sevens Team coach) at National team camps at the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, California. Continuing this interaction will allow us to work with our elite Sevens referees and train and coach our developing referees.
- Assigned young and promising referees to junior match official positions at the USA Sevens, to introduce them to IRB International referees and expose them to the standards required for elite Sevens refereeing.



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GOALS FOR 2013

Our participation in the USA Sevens Tournament in Las Vegas still provides our best opportunity to participate in a world-class rugby event that teaches and informs us every season. The addition of Houston on the fledging Women's Sevens IRB circuit in 2013 will present a chance to expand elite opportunities to a larger circle of American Sevens referees.

Maintain our relationship with the National Sevens teams and continue to build on it in the coming years. Quality refereeing opportunities, participation at National Team Camps, feedback on referee training and training materials, and demonstration of coaching principles are but a few of the many benefits of this relationship.



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Continue to work with Paul Golding, US Men's National Sevens Team Video Analyst, and continue to share and distribute film of tournament games (both domestic and international), clinics, seminars, etc., with the National Sevens teams.

2012 Special Events

USA SEVENS (IRB SEVENS WORLD SERIES TOURNAMENT)

- Third year in Las Vegas; managed a total of forty-eight match officials.
- Hosted IRB Officials; managed IRB team scrimmages.
- Coordinated expanded Las Vegas Invitational (LVI) Tournament over three days:
 - Collegiate Tournament (CRC) Qualifier.
 - Women's International Sevens.
 - Men's Open Elite International Sevens.
- Helped recruit over one hundred thirty volunteer referee/match officials.
- Worked with LVI referee managers/coordinators.
- Received favorable performance review from the International Rugby Board (IRB).

COLLEGIATE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP (CRC)

- Second year in Philadelphia; broadcast live nationally on network television.
- Managed a total of thirty match officials.
- 16 teams – 39 matches.
- Coordinated event with NBC Television, USA Sevens LLC.

NATIONAL MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CLUB SEVENS CHAMPIONSHIP

- Managed over forty match officials.
- 32 teams – 95 matches.
- Hosted referee exchange with Japanese RFU.

NATIONAL ALL-STAR MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SEVENS CHAMPIONSHIP

- Managed over thirty match officials.
- Second year at Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista – home for USOC sponsored program for National Sevens team athletes.
- 16 teams – 48 matches.

USA RUGBY COLLEGIATE RUGBY SEVENS CHAMPIONSHIP

- Second year at Texas A&M University.
- Managed a total of forty-two match officials.
- 40 teams – 108 matches.
- Further evidence of explosion of growth in Collegiate Sevens in the US.



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NATIONAL SEVENS REFEREEING PROGRAM PRINCIPLES

COMMUNICATION

- Be direct, open and clear in all communications—with referees, players, coaches and administrators.
- Remain accessible—respond as quickly as possible. Work to maintain a strong, extensive network.

RESPONSIBILITY

- Be accountable—by being honest with the players, coaches and with one's self. Stay flexible enough to learn and make adjustments as progress is made with the development of the Program.

PROFESSIONALISM

- Have integrity. Show clear progress towards stated goals. Recognize people for their hard work and achievements. Build a Program in which people take pride and want to participate.

