



## CONSTITUTION OF THE RHODES UNIVERSITY SPORTS COUNCIL & STUDENTS' SPORTS COUNCIL

( Amended 27 Oct. 2009)

### **PREAMBLE**

*Mindful of the previous historical division in Rhodes Sport, The Rhodes University Sports Council (“the Sports Council”) was established in 1987 in order to ensure that everyone who is governed by this Constitution shall have the right to participate in the sports of their choice without pressure being applied on them in any way by any student club, organisation or individual. In support of the Vision and Mission of Rhodes University, this Constitution aims to ensure equity, to embrace diversity and to value mutual respect in all sporting endeavours at the University . It also aims to create opportunities for students to develop their leadership potential through their involvement in sport and their engagement with members of the wider Grahamstown community.*

### **1. NAME**

The name of the body that shall exercise overall control of the policy guiding sport in the University shall be the “RHODES UNIVERSITY SPORTS COUNCIL”.

### **2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 Recognising the historical conditions that determine the nature of the society in which it operates, the Sports Council shall be governed by the principles of non-racism, non-sexism and democracy. In order to achieve equity, all clubs and committees shall take into account the need for equitable representation across race and gender when selecting representatives to serve on any body (see 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2).
- 2.2 The Sports Council shall work closely with the Students Sports Council (see 5) and Rhodes University Sports Administration (“Sports Administration”), and shall provide overall guidance in terms of its strategic directions and policies, including the need to engage with and assist the broader community through its community engagement initiatives.
- 2.3 Sports Administration is responsible for the day-to-day operational functions related to sport at Rhodes University, including the promotion and encouragement of sport and recreation, all aspects of staffing, fund-raising, transformation, resourcing, and provision and maintenance of facilities (in liaison with the Estates Division)

### **3. USE OF SPORTS FACILITIES AT RHODES UNIVERSITY**

All *bona fide* students of Rhodes University, as defined in the University Calendar, members of the University Council, full-time members of the Rhodes University staff, and other persons as the Regulations of the Sports Council may determine, are entitled to use the sports facilities and enjoy the associated privileges, subject to this Constitution and the Sports Council Regulations. Only those Clubs that have been recognised by the Sports Council may seek support from the Sports Council for their activities

Subject to the rules of the relevant tournament organisers, persons who are not *bona fide* students of the University shall not take part in any student tournament which is sanctioned by the National Governing Body of the Tertiary Institutions of Sport and the Sports Council, nor take part in representative sport unless specifically invited by the club concerned, with the approval of the Sports Council.

#### **4. SPORTS COUNCIL**

##### **4.1 COMPOSITION**

- 4.1.1 1 Council representative
- 4.1.2 4 Senate representatives (one with financial expertise, all appointed by Senate's Nominations Committee)
- 4.1.3 Manager and Assistant Manager of Sports Administration
- 4.1.4 1 Sports Administration staff representative elected by the staff of Sports Administration
- 4.1.5 Dean of Students or Representative of the Dean of Students
- 4.1.6 8 Student representatives elected from the Students Sports Council (see 5 below)
- 4.1.7 The SRC Sports representative
- 4.1.7 The Administrative Assistant of Sports Admin shall *ex officio be the* servicing officer of the Sports Council. This person will not have voting powers.

##### **4.2 OFFICE-BEARERS**

The Sports Council shall elect the following office bearers from among its members (no office-bearer may be a member of Sports Administration).

- 4.2.1 Chairperson (a University staff member): to be elected for a 3-year term of office
- 4.2.2 Vice-Chairperson (a University staff member): to be elected for a 2-year term of office
- 4.2.3 Treasurer (University staff member)
- 4.2.4 Assistant Treasurer (a student, who will be the Treasurer of the Student Sports Council)
- 4.2.5 Assistant Secretary (a student, who will be the Secretary of the Student Sports Council)

The Manager of Sports Administration shall *ex officio* be the Chief Executive Officer and Secretary of the Sports Council.

##### **4.3 POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SPORTS COUNCIL**

Subject to the authority of the Council of the University, the Sports Council shall:

- 4.3.1 promote the interests of sport and recreation at the University;
- 4.3.2 promote and monitor the progress of transformation in sport;
- 4.3.3 liaise closely with the Students Sports Council in all its endeavours;
- 4.3.4 encourage student participation in governance, and endeavour to promote student leadership in sport
- 4.3.5 have powers to draft Regulations for the promotion and efficient administration of sport at the University;
- 4.3.6 be responsible for the recognition of clubs affiliated to the Sports Council;
- 4.3.7 have the power to affiliate to bodies and organisations outside the University and to accord and recognize such outside affiliation of clubs;
- 4.3.8 have the power to create sub-committees and to delegate functions to any sub-committee so created, or to the Sports Administration;
- 4.3.9 monitor administration of the funds allocated to Sports Administration and draft Regulations for the proper governance of funds which are made available to the Sports Council or to clubs recognised by the Sports Council;
- 4.3.10 have the power to raise funds;
- 4.3.11 have disciplinary powers in respect of any person, club, committee or any other body falling within the ambit of this Constitution or the Regulations of the Sports Council;
- 4.3.12 have the power to do all such other things as are consistent with the aims and objectives of this Constitution, subject to University policy.

#### **4.4 STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE SPORTS COUNCIL**

Without restricting the number of committees that the Sports Council may establish, the Sports Council shall create the following Standing Committees:

- 4.4.1 Transformation Committee (to be chaired by the Manager of Sport)
- 4.4.2 Finance Committee
- 4.4.3 Awards and Colours Committee
- 4.4.4 Disciplinary Committee

Sports Council shall determine the composition powers and duties of any of committees it establishes.

#### **4.5 GENERAL MEETINGS AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Sports Council shall meet once per term, after the Student Sports Council has met. The minutes of the Student Sports Council shall be a standing agenda item for each meeting. These Sports Council meetings shall be convened by the Manager of Sports

Administration, whilst the Student Sports Council meetings shall be convened by either its Chairperson or Secretary. All minutes of Sports Council shall serve before Student Services Council.

The Annual General Meeting of Sports Council shall happen in October and be preceded by the Annual General meeting of the Student Sports Council. Motions will be entertained at the Student Sports Council AGM where-after it will be referred to the Sports Council AGM for ratification.

Council, Senate and Sports Administration will give indication of its representatives to Sports Council at least two weeks before the Sports Council AGM.

## **5 STUDENT SPORTS COUNCIL**

### **5.1 COMPOSITION**

- 5.1.1 Only *bona fide* registered students may be members of the Council
- 5.1.2 Each Sports Club (duly recognised by Sports Council) shall have TWO representatives on the Student Sports Council: normally ONE shall be either the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson and ONE shall be elected from the Club membership.
- 5.1.3 The SRC Societies and Sports and Societies Officer shall also be a member

### **5.2 OFFICE-BEARERS (STUDENT SPORTS COUNCIL EXECUTIVE)**

The Student Sports Council shall elect the following representatives to serve on Sports Council (see 4):

- 5.2.1 Chairperson
- 5.2.2 Vice-Chairperson
- 5.2.3 Secretary
- 5.2.4 4 additional student members, chosen in order to achieve wide representation across all sporting codes (no code may have more than one representative)
- 5.2.5 The SRC Societies and Sport Officer shall be a delegated member of the Student Sports Council Executive

With the exclusion of the SRC representative, who is a delegated member, an executive member who is absent from two consecutive executive meetings, will have his/her membership suspended. The Student Sports Council Executive will have the right to co-opt a replacement for such suspended executive member.

### **5.3 POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE STUDENTS SPORTS COUNCIL EXECUTIVE**

Subject to the authority of the Sports Council, the Student Sports Council shall

- 5.3.1 promote the interests of sport and recreation at the University
- 5.3.2 initiate strategies aimed to achieve transformation and community engagement in relation to sport at Rhodes
- 5.3.3 propose changes to policy and regulations relating to sport at Rhodes
- 5.3.4 be responsible for the governance and administration of clubs affiliated to the Students Sports Council
- 5.3.5 have the power to raise funds

## **5.4 MEETINGS**

The Student Sports Council shall normally meet in the middle of every term. Sports Council shall normally meet two weeks later, at the end of every term. These meetings shall be convened by the Secretary of the Student Sports Council executive and the Head of Sport respectively.

The Student Sports Council Executive shall meet at least twice a month.

## **6 QUORUM AND VOTING RIGHTS**

- 6.1 The quorum for any meeting of Sports Council, Student Sports Council or any sub-committee of the Sports Council shall be 50% plus one.
- 6.2 Should a quorum not be met, those present may decide to continue with some or all of the business of the meeting insofar as it is feasible, provided that any decision of the non-quorate meeting shall only have force or effect two weeks after the membership have been notified and given opportunity to respond to such decision.
- 6.3 Once a meeting has been declared quorate, it remains quorate, even if representatives leave during the course of the meeting.

## **7 FINANCIAL ISSUES**

The Sports Council shall under no circumstances whatsoever allow funds to be made available for private use or purchase.

The Sports Council shall not be responsible for debts that Clubs incur in respect of sports equipment, outfits or other items, unless the transactions are supported by duly authorised Sports Council order forms.

The Sports Administration will manage clubs accounts in accordance with Sports Council and Rhodes University finance regulations.

## **8 DISCIPLINE**

Should any Club ignore the provisions of this Constitution or of the Sports Council regulations, or act prejudicially to the interests of the Sports Council and other Clubs, the Sports Council shall constitute a Disciplinary Committee within 14 days of receiving written notification thereof, and ensure that the affected party is given at least 7 days notice of the intended hearing to take place.

The Sports Council may, on recommendation of its Disciplinary Committee, which shall have adhered to the rules of natural justice in reaching its decision and formulating its recommendation, withhold funds from a Club, withdraw recognition or suspend such Club from operating during any year or part thereof.

Any Club aggrieved by a decision of the Sports Council in terms of this clause shall have the right to appeal to the Vice Chancellor of the University, whose decision shall be final.

## **9 AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS**

The Sports Council shall have the power to draft and amend Regulations pertaining to the conduct of its affairs.

A notice of motion to amend any Regulation shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Sports Council in writing in sufficient time to enable the Secretary to circulate it to all members of the Sports Council at least seven days before the meeting at which the amendment will be discussed.

Any amendment to these Regulations will come into force when approved by the Vice Chancellor.

Notwithstanding any provision in this Constitution, the University Council may alter, repeal or suspend any Sports Council Regulation.

## **10 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

A notice of motion to amend the Constitution shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Student Sports Council in writing in sufficient time to enable the Secretary to circulate it to all members of the Student Sports Council at least seven days before the meeting at which the amendment will be discussed.

The Student Sports Council may amend this Constitution provided that the proposed amendment has the support of at least two-thirds of its members present and voting.

Any amendment to this Constitution will come into force when approved by the Sports Council AGM (with the support of at least two-thirds of its members present and voting), University Senate and Council.

Notwithstanding any provision in this Constitution, the University Council may alter, repeal or suspend any clause of this Constitution.