

**RICE UNIVERSITY CLUB SPORTS MANUAL**  
**2022-2023**



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## CONTACTS

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Chris Watkins: Assistant Director for Competitive Sports  
 cwatkins@rice.edu

Cara Caspersen: Coordinator for Competitive Sports  
 ccaspersen@rice.edu

Office of Student Activities  
 sact@rice.edu

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## CLUB SPORTS OVERVIEW

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A club sport is a special interest group organized to engage in and promote interest in a recreational physical activity. These groups are formed primarily to increase individual and team skills and to augment knowledge through a continuing instructional and competitive program. All students who are enrolled at Rice University are eligible to participate in the program. Faculty and staff members are also eligible to participate in the club sports program unless the league to which a particular club belongs limits involvement to students. Under the supervision of the Recreation Center, the University makes its facilities and services available to participating clubs.

The Assistant Director for Competitive Sports and Competitive Sports Coordinator are responsible for leading and administering all aspect of the Club Sports Program. All policy related decisions, as well as program matters not covered in this manual, will be made at the discretion of the Competitive Sports Staff.

All club sports participants are expected to represent Rice University by practicing good sportsmanship on the field as well as behaving responsibly during club related activities. Any individual or club guilty of inappropriate behavior may have his/her/their participation rights revoked.

## CLUB SPORTS COMMITTEE

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The Club Sports Committee (CSC) includes four permanent members and five student members who are selected for two-year terms. Staff members (the Assistant Director for Competitive Sports, the Competitive Sports Coordinator, the Campus Risk Manager, and an additional faculty/staff member) maintain their membership for the length of their employment at Rice University. New student committee members must be members of at least one Club Sport team. Applications for these positions are available online and are emailed to club presidents each year. The current committee members select new members during the spring semester.

The primary responsibility of the CSC is the allocation of the Club Sports Budget. The CSC works with each club sport to assess and review their budget needs, provide advice for fundraising and fiscal responsibility, and to allocate funds to each team. Student representatives spend a considerable amount of time at the beginning of the fall semester meeting with team representatives to explain the budget process, review club budgets, and provide non-partisan recommendations for allocation of the club sports funds. Secondary responsibilities of the CSC include, but are not limited to, selecting end of the year participant awards, choosing new members during the spring semester, petitioning the administration for reasonable budget increases, approving new club sports and changes in status of existing clubs, providing input on changes in Club Sport policy, and, in some cases, deciding appropriate punishments for clubs or club members who violate Club Sport regulations. The committee meets several times throughout the year, especially during the fall during budget allocation.

Each club is assigned to one of the five-committee members. The committee member is the club's contact within the Club Sports Committee. Members will contact club presidents and treasurer at the beginning of the fall semester to offer their assistance with budget preparation.

## AUTHORIZATION TO FORM A STUDENT CLUB

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Clubs desiring to be officially authorized by Rice University must seek recognition through the Clubs Office. According to the Clubs Manual, in order to operate as an official club at Rice University, an organization must meet the following requirements, as excerpted from the Student Association Constitution, the Graduate Student Association Constitution, and the Student Handbook issued by the Office of Student Affairs:

1. All undergraduate student organizations shall follow the Student Association Bylaws with regard to their establishment and organization. All graduate student organizations will likewise follow the Graduate Student Association Bylaws.
2. No organization may discriminate in policy or action on the grounds of race, religion, color, sexual orientation, national origin, or sex.
3. Members of the Rice community must comprise at least 50% of the membership.
4. Principal officers and spokespersons must be currently registered Rice students.
5. The club's constitution must be approved by the Student Association or the Graduate Student Association.
6. All clubs are required to have a faculty/staff sponsor.
7. Clubs must register every year with the Office of Student Activities.
8. Clubs officially sanctioned by the Student Senate may avail themselves of the services offered by the Club Sports Program.

\*\*\*Club Registration/Renewal Documents may be found at the [Student Activities Website](#)

## STUDENT CLUBS INTERESTED IN CLUB SPORTS DESIGNATION

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Current clubs recognized by Rice University are eligible for Club Sport Status. Please read this manual thoroughly and make particular note of the requirements of a Club Sport listed below. If your club meets the requirements, send an email to the Club Sports Office at [clubsports@rice.edu](mailto:clubsports@rice.edu) listing the purpose of your club, its current members, and its officers.

First year clubs are only eligible for Conditional Club Sport status. If, however, an existing Club Sport splits into two teams (i.e. from one team into men's and women's sides) the two new clubs may maintain the Club Sport Status of the original team provided that this team was in good standing throughout the previous year.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL CLUB SPORTS

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1. Have a minimum of ten active student-members that are all members of the Gibbs Recreation Center.
2. Hold annual elections of officers, including a president and treasurer. (The same person cannot fill both the office of the president and the treasurer unless approved by the Club Sports Office.)
  - The President is responsible for:
    - a. Serving as official liaison between the Club and the Assistant Director for Competitive Sports
    - b. Informing club officers and club members of all guidelines and requirements for acquiring, maintaining, and renewing Club Sports status
    - c. Attending all Club Sport meetings called by the Club Sports Office in addition to the [general requirements](#) for all student organizations through student activities.

- d. Ensuring that all necessary forms are turned in to the Club Sports Office by the appropriate dates.
  - Presidents and treasurers from each club must meet individually with the Club Sports Office during the course of the year to discuss issues related to their specific club if this meeting is deemed necessary by the Club Sports Office or is requested by the club officers.
3. Ensure that a current list of club members and officers with corresponding participation agreements (including contact information) is on file with the Club Sports office via OwlNest.
4. Have appropriate members in attendance at all mandatory meetings.
5. Comply with Club Sports Guidelines as well as the policies and procedures of the Recreation Center of Rice University, including the alcohol policy.
6. Have a relevant constitution for the Club Sport when applying for Club Status, and ensure the Club's current constitution is on file with the Club Sports office.
7. Ensure all publications and promotional materials (e.g., newsletter, posters, flyers, etc.) are approved by the Club Sport office prior to printing and circulation.
8. Request and reserve (Recreation Center) facility use through the Club Sports office and the appropriate forms (found online).
9. Meet all financial obligation incurred by the Club.
10. Ensure supervision of all Club activities by qualified personnel.
11. Ensure that each participant, prior to participating in the Club's activities, has signed a participation agreement in which he or she assumes the risks of participating and agrees to release Rice University from any possible claim arising from loss or injury attributed to participation.
12. Comply with emergency response procedures of the Recreation Center for activities held therein.
  - a. Each club will have two designated "safety officers" for the duration of each academic year. Safety officers will be responsible for attending all trainings to learn and apply appropriate risk management practices for all club activities.
13. Ensure that accidents/injuries are appropriately documented by completing the Club Sport Accident Report Form.
14. Sustain Club Sport status by (i) ensuring that Rice University student club status is renewed each year through application to the Office of Student Activities, and (ii) applying to the Club Sports office for renewal of Rice University Club Sports status
15. All coaches/instructors (either paid or volunteer) must sign a Coach/Instructor Agreement and be vetted by the Club Sports Office.

Clubs not complying with the above-mentioned requirements may forfeit the use of facilities and/or budget monies and the club may be placed on probation.

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## TYPES OF CLUB SPORTS

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1. *Conditional Club Sports* are generally clubs in their first year of activity or existing clubs that have been experiencing a decline in student interest. Conditional clubs have one year to demonstrate stability in terms of club leadership, student interest, and support in terms of club members. Financial assistance from the Rice University Club Sport Office is available in limited amounts to assist new clubs with promotional activities.

**Criteria:**

- Club leadership
- Continuing interest from active members
- Ability to operate at the lowest priority for facility reservations
- Complete self-support

Upon successful completion of the Conditional status, a club will be automatically elevated to Recreational status or may apply for Competitive status.

2. *Recreational Club Sports* are clubs that focus on instruction and recreational activities, primarily on campus. Financial assistance from the Rice University Club Sports Office is available in limited amounts to assist Recreational clubs with special needs.

**Criteria:**

- Demonstrated effective club leadership for one year or longer
- Complete self-support
- In good standing with the Club Sports Office

If an existing recreational club wishes to be elevated to competitive status due to a change in club direction or motivation, it may apply to the Club Sports Office for Competitive status.

3. *Competitive Club Sports* are clubs that travel and compete against other teams and/or individuals from other amateur organizations, colleges, and universities. Competitive Club Sports should also be registered members of an organization and have at least ten members competing regularly.

**Criteria:**

- Demonstrated strong club leadership
- Complete self-support
- In good standing with the Club Sports Office
- Primarily competitive activity is demonstrated by involvement with a league and/or governing association

## FACULTY/STAFF SPONSORS

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Each club sport must have a current Rice University faculty or staff member to sponsor the club. The sponsor assists in the day-to-day operation of the club and should be kept current with all club issues throughout the year. All clubs must have their sponsor approve semester and year end reports before submitting them to the manager or director.

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## CLUB MEMBERSHIP/ REGISTRATION

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All Clubs govern their own requirements for membership within their own club constitution and in accordance with the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct. All members must register through OwlNest for the club they want to join as well as the Club Sports OwlNest page. (No Exceptions). Once approved to join, each member will log into the Club Sports OwlNest page and electronically submit their Club Sports Participation Agreement Including Assumption of Risk and Release from Liability (Club Sports Waiver) form, before their first club practice or event.

Each club must have their active roster updated by the deadline in September and should include all participants who have completed a participation agreement and are active members of the club. Inactive members should be included as well, but noted as such. These members can become active as soon as they submit participation agreements. The Membership List should be updated throughout the year as members join or leave the club.

## COACHES AND INSTRUCTORS

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All clubs are eligible to receive coaching or instruction from expert adults. Coaches/instructors may work on a volunteer basis or be paid from a club funds. All coaches/instructors must sign a contract that states his/her commitment and responsibilities at the start of each year, regardless of whether or not they are paid by the club. Coaches/instructors are not paid staff of Rice University and are not entitled to benefits. Additionally, coaches and instructors may not be paid through allocated funds from the Club Sports Committee (A1 funds). Clubs are allowed to have one (1) coach or instructor enter the Recreation Center facility at no charge for club practices or games, but if additional coaches and instructors are present, they will need to pay the Recreation Center guest fee if they do not have a Recreation Center membership.

## FACILITIES

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The Recreation Center will provide support in the use of University facilities. Use of the facilities during periods other than normal hours of operation will necessitate special arrangements. At the beginning of each semester, a space request form (available online) and a game schedule must be submitted with other registration forms to the Club Sports Office. Any changes to this schedule must be made more than one week in advance in order to provide adequate time for department personnel to prepare fields. An attempt will be made to honor schedule changes, but these changes are not guaranteed. All lining and fieldwork requests should be sent to [clubsports@rice.edu](mailto:clubsports@rice.edu).

Facilities will be reserved for registered club sports use per space availability. Due to the large number of programs administered by the Intramural Sports program and the Recreation Center, field and gymnasium space may be limited. Depending on availability, Club Sports teams may not have priority over other groups, including intramural programs and fitness classes. Within the Club Sports program, however, preference will be given to clubs that have an established program, are registered as a club sport, and have demonstrated facility need. For all programs, scheduled games will be allotted space in preference to practice times. When submitting practice time preferences, your club is not guaranteed to get your choice of time(s) and should list several options in order of preference.

\*Please see *Visiting Teams* and *Change in Community Participants* on page 21 & 22

Outside of the regularly scheduled practice and game times club sports members do not have priority in use of recreation center space, including fields and gym areas. Under no circumstances may you use your club sport affiliation to displace other patrons using these spaces.

#### Indoor Facilities

Please return all equipment to its proper location and be sure to remove all trash and personal items at the end of the practice or match. Contact the Operations Desk to report any missing or broken equipment.

If other patrons are using space reserved by your club during a practice or game time please be courteous and ask them politely to leave. If you do not feel comfortable approaching the group you may have a Facility Attendant make this request.

#### Outdoor Facilities

When fields are unplayable due to weather, available indoor facilities are first come, first serve. They cannot be reserved and are limited to the available space. Clubs are advised to have preplanned "rain schedules" for club activities.

In most cases, if fields are unplayable club presidents will receive an email the day before or the day of a scheduled event. If, however, you get to a field and there is standing water on a significant portion of the field, it is unplayable. If clubs play on unplayable fields, this may result in field closure as well as fines on that club's account. Please use common sense and stay safe. Fields played on during unplayable conditions will be damaged and will therefore have to be closed for maintenance.

If trash is left on the field **your club will be charged a \$250 cleaning fee**. This money will, in most cases, come out of your club sports budget. This is used to pay the grounds crew to clean up during non-working hours.

Driving is not allowed on fields at any time. Additionally, clubs must follow university parking procedures. No parking in service road behind the rec center)

The club is responsible for replacing all equipment.

Fields are occasionally closed for pesticide treatments, irrigation, and fertilization. Please contact [clubsports@rice.edu](mailto:clubsports@rice.edu) if your field is in need of service, and please be patient when fields are closed for treatment.

In the event of enduring inclement weather over several days or weeks, the club practice schedules may be adjusted by the club sport office to accommodate for other programs. For a complete list of intramural games, clubs may view game schedules at [IMleagues.com/rice](http://IMleagues.com/rice). The club sport office will do it's best to notify and club of changes to practice schedules.



## FINANCES

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The University Club Sports Fund (A1) is intended to assist club teams in covering a portion of necessary expenses. The University Club Sports Fund (A1) will provide funding for each club's league fees, membership fees, select tournament entry fees, and officiating costs based on the previous year's totals. All clubs should expect to supplement this funding through their own resources, including mandatory membership dues. Additional revenue received by each club usually comes from the following sources:

- Fundraising activities
- Donations
- On-campus sale of promotional materials
- Off-campus solicitation is permitted only in special circumstances and requires permission of the Assistant Director of Competitive Sports as well as the Director of Student Activities

Once the funding for each club's league, membership, tournament, and officiating costs are disbursed, the remaining Club Sports funding from the University Club Sports Fund (A1) is distributed to individual clubs according to each club's demonstrated need and level of compliance with the Point System (outlined below) in the preceding academic year. The Club Sports Committee will calculate each club's need based on the budget proposals created by each club and available funding from the club sports fund. Elements such as additional fundraising attempts and the collection of significant dues will be considered by the Club Sports Committee as positive signs of a club's level of commitment and will be taken into consideration in the assessment of a club's need. Fifty percent of the calculated need, as determined by the Club Sports Committee, will automatically be allocated. The remaining fifty percent of the calculated need will be allocated according to each individual team's compliance with the point system. Teams with 100% compliance will have their entire calculated need covered. Teams with only 95% compliance will have 95% of this calculated need covered, and so on. Teams with high levels of compliance in previous years will be eligible to receive a portion of any leftover funds, should they exist.

Nominal financial assistance will be provided for the following expenditures within budgetary limitations:

*Competitive clubs* are collectively allocated 90% of the total money allotted for all club sports. For competitive clubs funding is available for:

- Travel
  - Transportation
  - Hotel
- Supplies (Medical, etc.)
- Equipment
  - Funding will not be allocated for equipment that individuals will possess (i.e. individual uniforms, individual sports equipment, etc.)

*Recreational clubs* are collectively allocated 8.5% of the total money allotted for all club sports. For recreational clubs funding is available for:

- Equipment that benefits the entire club<sup>i</sup>
  - Funding will not be allocated for equipment that individuals will possess (i.e. individual uniforms, individual sports equipment, etc.)

For *conditional clubs* funding is allocated as a set rate depending on the amount of funding available to all club sports. Conditional clubs collectively are allocated 1.5% of the total money allocated for all club sports.

Note: Funding is allocated to all clubs at each level, and then the committee will move down to the next level until funding runs out. The Club Sports Committee reserves the right to alter allocation percentages.

Clubs are responsible for funding:

- Coaching and instruction
- Promotion and publicity
- Food while traveling or hosting
- Awards
- Club uniforms for individuals
- Other/ miscellaneous

Procedure for receiving university funding as a club sport:

- Registered clubs submit a budget to the Club Sports Office
  - Proposed budgets not turned in on time will not be considered, and will not receive any money from the Club Sports Committee.
- A Club Sports Committee Meeting is held to discuss allocations and department policies.
- Funds are awarded to each club for the academic year.
- Before funds can be allocated, all club sports must have completed the following:
  - Club Sport Registration Form
  - Budget Proposal Form with Equipment and Supplies Wish List
  - Accurate Membership List updated via OwlNest
  - Participation Agreements for each active member via OwlNest
  - Motor Vehicle Record Checks for all potential drivers
  - Coach/Instructor Contract (if applicable)
  - Fall Space Usage Request Form
  - Copy of Fall Schedule
- Club accounts can be frozen at any time for failure to comply with any Club Sport regulations or procedures.

Mandatory Club Membership Fee

All members of clubs are required to pay a mandatory club membership fee to demonstrate their level of commitment to the club, and to support the various expenses of the club that are not covered by university funds. The mandatory club membership fee will vary in amount based on whether a club is listed as Competitive, Recreational, or Conditional. Here are the amounts each member of a club is required to pay each school year:

- Competitive = \$50
- Recreational = \$25

- Conditional = \$20

Mandatory club membership fees are due in two installments. Half of the mandatory club membership fees will be due by the last day of the fall semester. The last half of the fees will be due by the Friday before spring break in the spring semester. Members that have not paid their fee will not be eligible to participate with the club (meetings, practices, games, tournaments, etc.).

### Scholarships for Mandatory Club Membership Fee

While each member of a club is required to pay a membership fee, the Recreation Department understands that not all individuals will be able to meet their financial obligation. To ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to participate in the club sports program, the department has created a scholarship system wherein individuals can apply for funding to defray the costs associated with club membership. Funding will be allocated on a sliding scale system, with those whose needs are greatest receiving the most support. Scholarship applications can be found in the forms section of the Club Sports OwlNest page.

### Types of Accounts

A1 – allocated funding from the University Club Sports Fund at the beginning of each year. Student funding primarily used for travel, lodging, event registration and general equipment

“Club” account that the club has fund raised by own activities (hosting tournaments) & membership fees.

- Coaches may be paid out of this fund (maybe G fund if donors ok that)
- Food reimbursements if a club chooses to

“Gift” account that donors have given to. These may be earmarked for certain items the club must use funding for. It is recommended that each club confirm the giving process with the Club Sports before any donor gives.

### Reimbursement Procedure

#### Travel

**\*\* NOTE: A Travel Form ([available online](#) or via OwlNest) must be completed at least one week before a trip and a Driving Log (also [available online](#) or via OwlNest) must be submitted within one week of travel in order to be eligible to receive reimbursements. \*\***

- Treasurers are responsible for collecting all original receipts from team members and completing a reimbursement form (available via OwlNest). Dates on receipts must match dates of trip.
  - Airline receipts: save the passenger coupon and e-ticket.
  - Hotel receipts: ask for a detailed summary (not a credit card charge copy).
  - Gas receipts: again not the credit card charge copy but an actual receipt.
- Please fill out and submit the online travel form.

- Travel reimbursements must be for the person who has accrued the expense. If more than one person will need reimbursement for the same trip, individuals need to submit their name, email, phone #, and Rice ID #.
- Receipts must be turned in for reimbursement via OwlNest, no later than five (5) business days after the trip ends.
  - Provide the name, Rice ID # (if applicable), email, and phone # of the person(s) to be reimbursed.
  - Provide funding source (A, C, G, or H) for reimbursement.

#### Purchases of Equipment, Etc.

- Provide original receipts.
- Fill out a reimbursement form.
- Non-travel reimbursement can be made out to the club or an individual team member. Provide the name, student ID, and direct deposit information of the person to be reimbursed.

#### Club Purchasing Card

- Cards for travel may be signed out with the Assistant Director for Competitive Sports or the Coordinator for Competitive Sports. **ONLY** the treasurer has access to the club purchasing cards and he or she should email Chris Watkins ([cwatkins@rice.edu](mailto:cwatkins@rice.edu)) or Cara Caspersen ([cc112@rice.edu](mailto:cc112@rice.edu)) to ensure eligibility of purchases, and to arrange a time to pick up. Students will not be permitted to use the purchasing card without previously scheduled appointment.
  - Students must also schedule a time to return the card and drop off of appropriate documents with Chris Watkins or Cara Caspersen.
- All purchases made in the state of Texas must be tax exempt (form available in forms section under OwlNest, forms section on our recreation website).
- Clubs may utilize the university purchasing card by placing a phone order and/ or online orders from the Recreation Center Office. Receipts must be saved and turned in. Using the purchasing card up front means that funds do not have to come out of your pocket and is preferred method of larger purchases.
- Equipment request forms should be completed and brought with you to the competitive sports staff.

#### Payment of Invoices, Check Requests, Etc.

- Invoices may be brought to the Competitive Sports Staff for direct payment (i.e. for league dues, etc.). Requests for checks to be sent directly should be accompanied by a statement of expense. Anything \$3,000 or over will have to be paid by a purchase order.
- Paying for a tournament registration?
  - Registration fees should be paid for with the Pcard (presuming the club is in good standing)
    - If paying by check, club must provide a w9 and invoice (**Note: address on W9 and invoice must be the same**)

- Schedule a time with Chris Watkins or Cara Caspersen to pick up card and use in office
- Submit all tournament receipts at conclusion of purchasing process

### Payments to Officials/Contracted Individuals

- All individuals paid through Rice University funds must have a completed W-9 form before payment can be made. Rice University will not reimburse the club sport for their payment to an official, and will ONLY pay the official directly as salary upon receipt of the W-9 form. W-9 forms are available from the Office of Student Activities or can be downloaded online at:  
[https://professor.rice.edu/uploadedFiles/Professor/Finance/Controllers\\_Office/Blank%20W-9\\_12.11.pdf](https://professor.rice.edu/uploadedFiles/Professor/Finance/Controllers_Office/Blank%20W-9_12.11.pdf)
- Try to avoid hiring any current Rice employee (student or otherwise) due to internal payment complications.

### Directions for Officials/Contractors:

- Complete the W-9 form (the address of the official, plus the social security and a signature).
- Type up an invoice to accompany the W-9 form, stating team and opponent, date of game, number of hours officiated, amount of payment, invoice #, etc.
- Return W-9 and invoice to the Club liaison (president or treasurer) for processing.
- Rice University will process payment (may take up to 3-4 weeks).

### Donations

Clubs may solicit and receive donations if the following procedures are followed:

- All donations and donors must be directed to the Rice Development office or Club Sports office.
- If donors wish to use a credit card, they should be directed to :  
[http://donate.rice.edu/recreation\\_center](http://donate.rice.edu/recreation_center)  
\*\*\*Donors list the name of club and purpose of gift (Example: Men's Ultimate Frisbee, Travel Expenses) in the "Comments "section at the end of the online form. \*\*\* If the gift is a general donation with no designated purpose, donors must still put the name of the club.

Please make sure anyone using this site is aware that detailed information is needed to assure the correct club receives funding.

- Clubs taking cash donations must keep detailed records of the donation, deposit the cash to the Recreation Center Administration office, and submit all records pertaining to the donation.
  - IMPORTANT: Cash and check donations must be specified as G-Fund deposits.

### CLUB SPORTS SAFETY OFFICERS

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Club Sports Safety Officers are mandatory for all Club Sports for Rice University. The Safety Officer will ensure that all practice and game spaces are safe to use, monitoring the equipment being

used for the team, turning in necessary forms to the Club Sports Office, as well as being CPR/First Aid and Concussion training certified. Each club is required to have two (2) Safety Officers. At least one Safety Officer must be present at all club related events such as practices, games, tournaments, etc.

### Role

The safety officer is responsible for the following:

- Making sure the club is following proper policies and procedures in regards to practice, competition, travel, and other club events.
- Checking playing surfaces for any hazards or potential dangers that could lead to injury.
- Acting as the first responder to club participants.
- Having knowledge of emergency protocol.
- Making sure only certified drivers are driving for club events as well as obtaining turning in the necessary forms.
- Making sure all participants have signed the waiver before participating.
- Turning in all injury/accident reports to the Club Sports Office the next business day following the injury/accident.
- Helping the club President make decisions about canceling practices, games, or competition as it relates to weather/field conditions.

### Paperwork

The safety officer is responsible for filling out and submitting the following paperwork:

- Travel Request Form (online)
- Driving Logs (all individual drivers must complete online)
- Accident Reports
- Motor Vehicle Record Check

### CPR/First Aid

Safety Officer CPR/First Aid training can be obtained from either the American Heart Association or the Red Cross. Rice University EMS offers low-cost CPR/First Aid training to Rice students. The fees to become certified are to be paid by the individual or club.

### Athletic Trainers

The Rice University Club Sport program has a partnership with Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) to provide athletic trainers for home games or tournaments. The athletic trainers are paid out of the Club Sport general endowment fund to provide access to them at no cost to the clubs. Clubs must request athletic trainers from BCM by emailing [sportsmed@bcm.edu](mailto:sportsmed@bcm.edu) no less than two (2) weeks before a scheduled home game or tournament. This ensures that BCM is given enough time to schedule an athletic trainer for the event. Once you have received confirmation from BCM that a trainer has been scheduled for your game or tournament, you must forward the confirmation to [clubsports@rice.edu](mailto:clubsports@rice.edu). The following clubs are required to have an athletic trainer at all home games and tournaments:

- Men's and Women's Basketball
- Men's and Women's Lacrosse
- Men's and Women's Soccer
- Men's and Women's Rugby
- Men's and Women's Ultimate

- Men's and Women's Volleyball
  - All other Club Sports are not required to have an athletic trainer, but it is highly recommended to have at your home game or tournament.

### Concussion Training

The Rice University Club Sports Program has a responsibility to educate its participants of the signs and symptoms of mild traumatic brain injuries; otherwise known as concussions. Safety Officers are required to complete the provided online training course and return a copy of a certificate of completion to the Club Sports Office. Other officers, captains, and coaches (if applicable) are not required, but recommended to as take the online training course as well. It is imperative that any participant that may be suffering from a concussion seek treatment, report to a physician, and be cleared by a medical professional before returning to competition.

If any club officer, captain, or coach knowingly allows a participant that displays signs of a traumatic brain injury to continue competing, the individual and/or club will be subject to disciplinary measures, ranging from recertification to suspension from competition.

There are two comprehensive available options for online training, both free of charge.

#### **NFHS**

<http://nfhslearn.com/courses/61037>

#### **World Rugby**

<http://playerwelfare.worldrugby.org/?documentid=module&module=21>

Simply create an account, select the course, and complete the program. Upon completion, submit a copy of the certificate, and turn in to the Club Sports office.

### Know the 5 R's

Rice Club Sports policy requires that ALL participants, staff, parents, referees, volunteers, and even fans follow these five basic steps when dealing with suspected concussions:

1. **Recognize** – Learn the signs and symptoms of a concussion so you understand when an athlete might have a suspected concussion.
2. **Remove** – If an athlete has a concussion or even a suspected concussion he or she must be removed from play immediately.
3. **Refer** – Once removed from play, the player should be referred immediately to a qualified healthcare professional who is trained in evaluating and treating concussions.
4. **Recover** – Full recovery from the concussion is required before return to play is authorized. This includes being *symptom-free*. Rest and some specific treatment options are critical for the health of the injured participant.
5. **Return** – In order for safe return to play in rugby, the athlete must be symptom-free and cleared in writing by a qualified healthcare professional who is trained in evaluating and treating concussions. Rice Club Sports strongly recommends that the athlete complete the GRTP (Graduated Return to Play) protocol.

## HEALTH INSURANCE

The University provides no physical examinations for participants in any club sports program. The Club Sports Committee recommends that all participants get a physical examination from their doctor prior to playing in any club sports program. All participants are required to complete a participation agreement each year (on OwlNest). Rice University and its employees and agents shall not be liable for injury to persons or loss or damage of personal property arising from or in any way resulting from participation in the Club Sports Program. Participation agreements can be filled out when a player registers for a club on OwlNest.

## POINT SYSTEM

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The points system is intended to measure and reward the level of compliance of individual club sports with university regulations. Higher point totals result in greater funding in the subsequent year (see preceding section). Points are awarded to clubs based on several categories including attendance at mandatory training and meetings, completion of required forms, and collection of dues, and deducted based on failure to complete auxiliary forms and violations of facility usage and university rules. Teams can earn supplementary points through activities such as fundraising attempts, which, though encouraged, are not mandated under the point system. These extra points will not substitute for points lost through any type of non-compliance with the point system, but will instead be taken into account in the allocation of any leftover funds, should they exist.

### Points Awarded

#### Attendance at mandatory training and meetings:

- President (or proxy, to be approved beforehand) attends fall general meeting
- Treasurer (or proxy, to be approved beforehand) attends fall general meeting
- Safety (or proxy, to be approved beforehand) attends fall general meeting
- General (or proxy, to be approved beforehand) attends spring general meeting

#### Completion of Required forms:

- Program Registration
- Budget Proposal Form
- Membership List (Accurately corresponding to completed Participation Agreements and updated throughout the year as need be)
- Participation Agreements Completed (All Participation Agreements must be completed prior to participation in any games or training sessions.)
- Motor Vehicle Record Check Forms (A MVRC Form must be submitted by every potential driver of a personal or leased vehicle BEFORE the club participates in any activities that require travel.)
- Coach/Instructor Contract
- Fall Field/Space Usage Request Form



- Spring Field/Space Usage Request Form
- Copy of Fall Schedule
- Copy of Spring Schedule
- Fall Semester Report
- Spring Semester Report
- Travel Cover Sheets
- Transition Document

Collection of Dues:

- Dues Charged (All clubs are required to charge dues.)

Points Deducted

Failure to Complete Auxiliary Forms:

- Travel Cover Sheets (each occurrence)
- Travel Cover Sheets for Off Campus Travel (each occurrence)
- Driving Logs each occurrence)
- Accident Report Forms (each occurrence)
- Visiting Teams Roster (each occurrence)

Violations:

- Facility Usage Violation (Point deductions are based on the assessed gravity of the violation.)
- University Code of Conduct Violations (Point deductions are based on the assessed gravity of the violation.)
- Failure to reply to communications with the Club Sports Office in a timely manner (Point deductions are based on the assessed gravity of the specific situation.)

Barring extenuating circumstances, clubs will lose 20% of the points given for a certain criteria (i.e. 2 points for a 10 point item) if the initial deadline is missed and 60% if this requirement is not met within a week of the deadline. After two weeks no points will be awarded for that item. Teams should note that continued failure to meet a certain requirement may also result in loss of space usage rights, access to previously awarded funds, and/or forfeiture of club status.

Supplementary Points:

- Additional Fundraising Attempts (points awarded based on time commitment and significance of funds to overall team finances)
- Other Activities (Points will be awarded at the discretion of the Club Sports Office for other activities deemed to be beneficial to the individual club, the club sports program, and/or the university as a whole)

Clubs Below 50% Point System Completion:

Clubs attaining below 50% on the point system will automatically be dropped to conditional club status for the following year. Conditional clubs will stay at this status for a year to show the Club Sports

Office they have their affairs in order and are back on the right track. Clubs that cannot move past conditional status may be dropped as a Club Sport if voted on by the Club Sports Committee.

## DEADLINES

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In general, deadlines for club sports requirements will be identical for all club sports, regardless of schedule. Membership/Roster must always be updated as the Club Sports staff will use the roster on each club's OwlNest page as the final roster. **All participants must have signed the Club Sports waiver (on OwlNest) BEFORE participating.** Clubs must seek approval from the Competitive Sports Staff if an extension is needed for deadlines. If clubs do not contact and receive approval from the Competitive Sports Staff, they will be subject to the original deadline and will lose points if they fail to meet this deadline. Clubs who do receive approval for the secondary deadline should also be aware that they are expected to submit all other forms at the normal deadline and to turn in the secondary forms within a week of their first meeting, regardless of the secondary deadline. It is the responsibility of the club to know and follow procedures outlined in the club sport handbook.

## TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

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In general, travel will be restricted to destinations that will involve limited overnight stays. Travel to more distant destinations will be, in general, at the expense of the club or individual member.

### Travel-Related Forms

1. Travel Cover Sheet – This must be completed at least one week prior to any match occurring off of Rice University campus (in other words, yes, you do have to fill it out if you travel to the University of Houston for a match). It can be submitted online through OwlNest.
2. Travel Cover Sheet for Off Campus Practices – This form must be completed before any practices that will be occurring at an off campus location. It can be submitted online through the OwlNest.
3. Driving Log – A driving log must be completed for any club related trip that requires travel outside of the Houston area (matches, practices, governing body meetings, etc.) It is found online on OwlNest and must be turned in either online or on paper to the Club Sports Office within a week of travel.
4. Receipts – These must also be turned in within a week of travel to the Assistant Director for Competitive Sports or the Coordinator for Competitive Sports in the Recreation Center Office if reimbursement for gas, hotels, flights, etc. is desired. Reimbursements will NOT be granted if receipts are not turned in within a week after the return from a trip.

NOTE: The appropriate forms must be completed for all team travel off of Rice campus, regardless of whether or not you team intends to seek reimbursement for trip expenses.

### Driving Records

Each department must provide the Risk Management office with a list of prospective drivers. This list should consist of drivers who will be driving University owned, leased, or rented vehicles. Driving performance will be monitored throughout the driver's career using information obtained from motor vehicle records (MVRs). Each driver must give his or her permission before a motor vehicle record check can be requested. A list of approved drivers will be maintained in the Risk Management

office. An acceptable driving record is one that does not have any DUI, DWI, or similar alcohol or drug related offenses within the past three years.

Other serious offenses that should not be on the driving record within the past three years include:

1. Failure to report an accident.
2. At fault in a fatal accident.
3. Conviction for reckless driving.
4. Driving after suspension or revocation of license.
5. Having two or more moving violations for running a red light or stop sign.
6. Having two or more moving violations for speeding.

### Driver Performance

1. A driver must have a valid driver license.
2. The driver must be alcohol and drug free.
3. The driver and all passengers must wear seatbelts.
4. The vehicle must be driven at speeds appropriate for the road conditions.
5. During competition drivers must limit their driving to a total of four hours per day.
6. Total driving time for all other activities must not exceed eight hours per day.
7. Two approved drivers are required for trips where travel time exceeds two hours per day.
8. Whenever possible driving must be limited to daytime hours.
9. The driver must be qualified to operate the type of vehicle he or she will be driving.

### Vehicle Use

Private automobiles are the principal means of transportation for club sports members when going to and from events. The owners of these automobiles must verify that adequate insurance coverage is maintained. Rice University does not provide insurance coverage for privately owned vehicles or their drivers.

1. University Owned and Leased Vehicles
  - A. Passenger Cars - Employees or students authorized by their supervisors will be permitted to operate a passenger car. No one under the age of 21 will be permitted to operate the vehicle.
  - B. Commercial Vans and Trucks - Employees or students with the appropriate driver license will be permitted to operate a van or truck. No one under the age of 21 will be permitted to operate the vehicle.
2. Personal Vehicles on University Business
  - A. Employees or students who drive their personal vehicles on school business are responsible for:
    - i. Maintaining automobile liability insurance in accordance with state law.
    - ii. Maintaining current state vehicle inspections when required.
    - iii. Maintaining their own vehicle in safe operating condition.
    - iv. Having submitted a Motor Vehicle Record Check at the beginning of the year.
3. Rental Vehicles
  - A. Rental vehicles should be rented from a reputable vendor.

- B. Property damage and liability insurance should not be purchased for domestic rentals. The university is already insured for this exposure.
- C. Purchase rental insurance from the rental car agency for international travel.

### Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance

Vehicles should be routinely inspected prior to use whether University owned or personal. Vehicle maintenance is an important component of a fleet safety program. The most effective control is preventive maintenance. Preventive maintenance (PM) is performed on a mileage or time basis. Typical PM includes oil/filter changes, lubrication, tightening belts and components, engine tune-ups, trace work, tire rotation, brake checks, hose inspection/replacement and radiator maintenance.

### Procedures for Reporting Accidents

#### 1. Domestic Travel

- A. Notify the Risk Manager as soon as possible if you are involved in an accident while operating an owned, leased, or rental vehicle. Do not admit liability to the third party involved in the accident. The Risk Manager will review and process the claim.
- B. If city police are called to investigate, obtain a case number and submit an incident report to the Risk Manager complete with the case number and a description of the accident.
- C. Attach a Citizens Exchange of Accident Information Form to the incident report when submitting your report to the Risk Manager.
- D. You will need to complete a First Report of Injury or Illness Form (DWC-Form1) and send it to the Risk Manager for processing if you are injured while traveling on University business.

#### 2. International Travel

- A. You should purchase automobile insurance from the rental company located in the country you are traveling.
- B. If you are involved in an accident while traveling in a foreign country report the accident to the rental company as soon as possible.
- C. As a matter of record, submit an incident report to the Risk Manager when you return to the United States.
- D. You will need to complete a First Report of Injury or Illness Form (TWCC-1) and send it to the Risk Manager for processing if you are injured while traveling on University business.

### General Information

#### Automobile Insurance

Insurance Agent: John L. Wortham & Son  
 Claim Reporting: 713.348.4751 (Rice University Risk Management)  
 713.346.1276 (Wortham Claim Office)  
 Insurance Carrier: Travelers  
 Policy Number:

#### Workers Compensation

Insurance Carrier: Travelers

Claim Reporting: 713.348.4751 (Rice University Risk Management)  
713.348.5082 (Rice University Risk Management)

## VISITING TEAMS

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The following guidelines should be sent to all visiting teams before they come to play at Rice University. It is up to the Rice University club sports teams to advise the Club Sports Office in writing that a team will be visiting. The club should include the name of the visiting University or group, the sport they are playing and a list of all visiting players and staff. The written notice should be sent (e-mailed) to the Club Sports Office at [clubsports@rice.edu](mailto:clubsports@rice.edu) no later than two (2) weeks before the scheduled contest.

Visiting Club Sport teams will not use the shower/locker rooms in the Rec Center, unless given special permission under the following conditions:

1. All visiting team members are required to act in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Recreation Center. If for any reason an individual does not, they will be escorted out of the facility and a report will be filed against their institution.
2. All visiting team members must have either their institutions' student identification card or a driver's license to gain access to the facility and have use of a towel. Any person claiming to be a visiting team member without proper identification will not be able to access the facility. The visiting team may use no area other than the shower/locker rooms.
3. The visiting team must furnish a list of all players who may use the Rec Center at Rice University
4. The visiting team may use no area other than the shower/locker rooms.
5. The locker/shower rooms must be left in the condition they were found in upon entering the facility.
6. All muddy shoes/cleats must be left outside the facility but not obstructing either entrance or exit.
7. Each team member may use one large and one small towel free of charge.
8. The related team from Rice University will be responsible for any additional cleaning or repair needed due to the visiting teams' use.
9. If there are any situations that the staff of the Recreation Center feel are inappropriate, the institution will lose access to the facility permanently for future visits and the institution's Club Sport Director will be contacted.

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS

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### Club Sports Recreation Passes

Club Sports recreational passes for community members are not available. Participants must be members of the Recreation Center to practice or compete with Club Sports.

### Recreation Member Guests

All current Recreation Center members are allowed to sign in one visitor as a guest for \$10 per day. Visitors must sign a waiver.

- This DOES NOT entitle a guest to participate in Club practice or competition.

## WEB SITE AND EMAIL

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All clubs are entitled to an email account: club\_name@rice.edu. Each club will be added to the Recreation Website's list of clubs. Clubs should also contact student activities to be added to their list of clubs as well. Clubs are encouraged to utilize social media and personal websites for their club functions. Remember to keep the content professional and appropriate as a representative of Rice University. The Club Sports office reserves the right to monitor and request any changes needed to these additional sites in the best interest of the Club Sports Committee.

## INTERNET RESOURCES

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### Club Sports Home Page

<https://recreation.rice.edu/clubsports/>

### Registration and Member Information

<http://owlnest.rice.edu>

### All Club Sports Forms

<https://recreation.rice.edu/clubsports/forms/>

### Rice University Recreation Home Page

<http://recreation.rice.edu/>

### Office of Student Activities

<http://studentactivities.rice.edu/>

### Starting a Club at Rice University

<http://studentactivities.rice.edu/newclub/>

### Additional Funding Opportunities

<http://studentactivities.rice.edu/financial/#FundraisingGrantsSolicitation>

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**Appendix A**  
**Citizens Exchange of Accident Information**

Rice Driver: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Accident: \_\_\_\_\_

Drivers  
License #: \_\_\_\_\_ License Plate No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Type: \_\_\_\_\_

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Other Driver: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Type: \_\_\_\_\_ License Plate No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Drivers  
License No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance  
Policy No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

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Witnesses: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

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