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PROVISIONAL AFFILIATION POLICY FOR STATE AND UNION TERRITORY RUGBY ASSOCIATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Article 2.4 of the Articles of Association of Indian Rugby Football Union ("IRFU") provides that any entity wishing to become a Permanent Member must be approved and admitted to membership by the Board, subject to its satisfaction of membership eligibility criteria as notified by IRFU from time to time. Article 2.8 provides that applications for membership shall be made in the form prescribed by the Board, and that the Board may accept or reject an application in accordance with the membership and affiliation criteria provided by IRFU from time to time on its website.
- 1.2 Accordingly, this Policy is adopted by the Board by resolution passed on 14th August 2026 and comes into force on its publication on the official website of IRFU. It may be cited as the IRFU Provisional Affiliation Policy for State and Union Territory Rugby Associations.
- 1.3 **Purpose.** The objectives of this Policy are to:
- (a) promote the organised growth and development of Rugby throughout India;
 - (b) facilitate the establishment of new State and Union Territory rugby associations in accordance with the Articles;
 - (c) establish transparent and objective criteria for the grant of provisional affiliation and for admission as a Permanent Member; and
 - (d) ensure that every affiliated body maintains appropriate standards of governance, administration, financial accountability and rugby development.
- 1.4 A State or Union Territory rugby association affiliated under this Policy holds status as a "**Provisional Affiliate**". A Provisional Affiliate is not a Member of IRFU. Article 2.2 of the Articles confines membership of IRFU to four (4) classes of Members only, namely Founder Members, Associate Members, Permanent Members and SOM Members, and provisional affiliation is not among them. Provisional affiliation under this Policy is accordingly an affiliation without membership, and does not entitle the Provisional Affiliate to have its name entered in the Register of Members maintained under Article 2.7.



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- 1.5 Under Article 2.2(c) of the Articles, only one (1) State level association or federation from each State may be a Permanent Member, and it must be the sole controlling authority in respect of Rugby in that State, having a minimum of fifty per cent (50%) of the district level associations in that State affiliated to it. Where more than one body from a State applies, the Board shall assess each application against this Policy and prefer the applicant which better satisfies it, recording its reasons in writing.
- 1.6 This Policy is subordinate to the Articles, to the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 and the rules made thereunder, and to the regulations of World Rugby and Asia Rugby. In the event of any inconsistency, the Articles and that Act and those rules and regulations shall prevail.
- 1.7 Capitalised terms used herein but not defined shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Articles and, failing that, in the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 and the rules framed thereunder.

2. CRITERIA FOR GRANT OF PROVISIONAL AFFILIATION

- 2.1 An applicant for provisional affiliation shall satisfy each of the requirements in this Regulation. On the grant of provisional affiliation by the Board, the applicant shall hold status as a Provisional Affiliate.
- 2.2 **Constitution and standing.** The applicant shall:
- (a) be registered or incorporated as a legal body or entity, by whatever name called, whether as a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or under the Societies Registration Act of a State, a not-for-profit company incorporated under section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013, or a trust created under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 or under the Trusts Act of a State;
 - (b) have as its sole object the development of sport, and be the sole controlling authority in respect of Rugby in the State concerned;
 - (c) be registered as an affiliate unit of IRFU with the National Sports Board, or be eligible for and undertake to complete such registration, and shall furnish the information and documents required for that purpose by IRFU or the National Sports Board;
 - (d) furnish its certificate of registration or incorporation;
 - (e) furnish its constitution, memorandum of association or trust deed, as applicable, together with its rules or articles;

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- (f) furnish its Permanent Account Number; and
- (g) furnish details of its bank account, held in its own name.

2.3 Information. The applicant shall furnish:

- (a) a list of its current office bearers and details of its executive committee, by whatever name called, identifying the President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer, which shall consist of individuals who have a demonstrated track record of involvement in the sport of Rugby;
- (b) a proposed annual calendar of activities; and
- (c) a four (4) year development plan for Rugby in the State.

2.4 Administrative and technical structure. The applicant shall appoint, and notify to IRFU:

- (a) an Administrator, responsible for day-to-day coordination with IRFU; and
- (b) a Technical Person, responsible for overseeing the development of Rugby in the State.

2.5 Compliance declaration. The applicant shall undertake in writing to comply with:

- (a) the Articles and every regulation made under them, as applicable to affiliated bodies;
- (b) the Laws of the Game and the Tournament Rules;
- (c) the regulations of World Rugby and Asia Rugby, including those concerning anti-corruption and betting, eligibility, discipline and judicial matters, and the World Rugby Disciplinary Practice and Procedures;
- (d) the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 and the rules made thereunder;
- (e) the National Anti-Doping Act, 2022 and the rules made thereunder, and the anti-doping rules applicable to Rugby; and
- (f) the Code of Ethics and the Safe Sports Policy of IRFU.

2.6 Every document furnished under this Regulation shall be current and certified as a true copy by the applicant's Secretary General or President. The Board may seek verification of any document or information and may require the applicant to furnish further particulars within a stated period.

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2.7 The grant of provisional affiliation shall be by resolution of the Board.

3. RECOGNITION OF EXISTING RUGBY ACTIVITY

- 3.1 IRFU recognises that organised Rugby activity may have existed within a State before the formation or registration of the body presently seeking affiliation.
- 3.2 Where an applicant demonstrates that Rugby has been actively conducted within the State before its registration, and the Board is satisfied that such activity has been substantial, the Board may conduct an accelerated review for admission as a Permanent Member. However, such accelerated review can only happen after completion of one year as provisional affiliate.
- 3.3 No reduction, waiver or recognition under this Regulation shall extend to the conditions concerning governance, financial accountability, constitutional compliance, safeguarding, integrity or anti-doping compliance, which remain mandatory for every applicant.

4. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF A PROVISIONAL AFFILIATE

- 4.1 A Provisional Affiliate shall be entitled to:
- (a) participate in competitions and tournaments conducted by IRFU, in accordance with the Tournament Rules;
 - (b) participate in the development programmes of IRFU;
 - (c) receive technical and administrative support from IRFU;
 - (d) be eligible for such development grants as the Board may approve;
 - (e) host national competitions or other events, as the Board may permit; and
 - (f) attend general meetings of IRFU as an observer, where invited to do so by the Board.
- 4.2 A Provisional Affiliate shall not be entitled to:
- (a) vote at any general meeting of IRFU;
 - (b) contest or vote in elections to the Board or to any Sub-Committee;
 - (c) move or second any resolution, including any resolution to alter the Memorandum or the Articles; or
 - (d) nominate a candidate for any elected office of IRFU.

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- 4.3 For the avoidance of doubt, a Provisional Affiliate holds none of the rights conferred on a Permanent Member by Article 6.1 of the Articles, and attendance as an observer under this Regulation confers no right to speak or to vote.
- 4.4 A Provisional Affiliate shall be bound by this Policy, by the Articles to the extent applicable to affiliated bodies, by the Laws of the Game and the Tournament Rules, and by the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 and the rules made thereunder.

5. DURATION OF PROVISIONAL AFFILIATION

- 5.1 Provisional affiliation shall ordinarily remain valid for a period of three (3) years from the date of the resolution of the Board granting.
- 5.2 The Board may extend that period by not more than one (1) additional year where reasonable progress has been demonstrated, recording its reasons in writing.
- 5.3 Where a Provisional Affiliate has not satisfied the conditions in Regulation 6 within four (4) years of the grant of provisional affiliation, its provisional affiliation shall stand withdrawn.

6. CONDITIONS FOR ADMISSION AS A PERMANENT MEMBER

- 6.1 Within the period specified in Regulation 5.1, a Provisional Affiliate shall, in addition to continuing to satisfy every requirement in Regulation 4 and any criteria that may be notified by the National Sports Board from time to time, comply with the Affiliation Policy for Permanent Members that shall be prescribed by IRFU from time to time.
- 6.2 On the expiry of the period of provisional affiliation, or on an application made by a Provisional Affiliate which has satisfied the conditions on a consistent basis, IRFU shall undertake a compliance review. Admission as a Permanent Member shall be by resolution of the Board under Article 2.4 of the Articles, and may be granted only where the Board is satisfied that the Provisional Affiliate satisfies all criteria in the Affiliation Policy for Permanent Members.
- 6.3 Where the Board declines to admit an applicant as a Permanent Member, it shall record its reasons in writing and communicate them to the applicant, identifying the conditions which remain unsatisfied.

7. ANNUAL REPORTING, MONITORING AND INSPECTION

- 7.1 Every Provisional Affiliate shall submit annually to IRFU its audited financial statements, an annual development report, its competition calendar, its

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membership register, and its registers of clubs, coaches and referees, together with such further documents as IRFU may require for compliance purposes.

- 7.2 IRFU may conduct inspections, audits or verification exercises at any time to determine compliance with this Policy, and an affiliated body shall provide access to such records as are reasonably required for that purpose.
- 7.3 The submission of false, misleading or fraudulent information shall constitute a ground for suspension or withdrawal of affiliation under Regulation 8.

8. SUSPENSION AND WITHDRAWAL

- 8.1 The Board may suspend or withdraw the provisional affiliation of a Provisional Affiliate where it:
- (a) ceases to conduct Rugby activity;
 - (b) fails to comply with the Articles or the regulations of IRFU;
 - (c) fails to maintain the governance standards required by this Policy;
 - (d) fails to submit any report or return required under this Policy;
 - (e) furnishes false, misleading or fraudulent information; or
 - (f) acts in a manner prejudicial to the interests or reputation of IRFU or of the game of Rugby.
- 8.2 No provisional affiliation shall be suspended or withdrawn unless the Provisional Affiliate has first been given written notice of the alleged non-compliance and a reasonable opportunity to respond, which shall not be less than fifteen (15) days from receipt of the notice.

9. GENERAL

- 9.1 Every Provisional Affiliate shall communicate to IRFU any change in the information furnished under this Policy within thirty (30) days of the change, so that IRFU may comply with its obligations in respect of the registration of affiliate units with the National Sports Board.



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- 9.2 This Policy may be amended only by resolution of the Board, and any amendment shall be published on the official website of IRFU.