



## 2013 AGM PROPOSAL

### 1.) Alternating Possession and Held Balls

Submitted by:

Joey Mearig, Northridge

This proposal:

Changes a Rule

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Article 63. Alternating Possession  
Article 72. Held Ball

If current language will be removed, state it here:

Article 63. Alternating Possession

Teams will alternate taking possession of the ball at the start of the second, third, and fourth periods of regulation time; **and following each held ball (Article 72).**

The team that does not gain possession of the ball after the tip-off shall be awarded the first possession under the alternating possession procedure. If a violation of the tip-off led to a team being awarded possession of the ball, the other team shall be given the first possession of the alternating process.

The alternating possession directional arrow shall indicate the direction of play for the next possession under this procedure. After the ball has been legally in-bounded at the start of a period or after a held ball, the arrow shall be switched to indicate the direction for the next alternating possession

Article 72. Held Ball

**The team that has the next possession under the alternating possession process (Article 63) shall be given the ball for a throw-in.**

State the language of the proposal:

***“Article 63: Alternating Possession***

*Teams will alternate taking possession of the ball at the start of the second, third, and fourth periods of regulation time.*

***The team that does not gain possession of the ball after the tip-off shall be awarded possession at the start of the second and third period. The team that gains possession after tip-off will be awarded possession at the start of the fourth period.***

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*The team that does not gain possession of the ball after the tip-off shall be awarded the first possession under the alternating possession procedure. If a violation of the tip-off led to a team being awarded possession of the ball, the other team shall be given the first possession of the alternating process.*

*The alternating possession directional arrow shall indicate the direction of play for the next possession under this procedure. After the ball has been legally in-bounded at the start of a period or after a held ball, the arrow shall be switched to indicate the direction for the next alternating possession*

### **Article 72. Held ball**

*A held ball occurs when:*

- a. two or more opposing players have possession of the ball at the same time (Article 66),*
- b. two or more opposing players simultaneously cause the ball to go out-of-bounds,*
- c. a live ball becomes stuck between two or more opposing players' wheelchairs, or*
- d. a live ball becomes trapped under a wheelchair.*

*When the referee determines that a held ball has occurred, he shall blow his whistle to indicate a stoppage in play, and signal a held ball. **The two players with shared possession of the ball will perform a tip-off following the same rules as Article 62.***

***The 40-second clock will be reset only if the opposing team gains possession following the tip-off. The 40-second clock will resume if and when the original team gains possession.***

***Exception: Held ball rule Part d: "A live ball becomes trapped under a wheelchair." In this case, the opposing team may choose any player to perform the tip-off against that player.***

*A player cannot cause an intentional held ball by placing the ball at the disposal of an opponent without any attempt by the opponent to take possession of the ball, or by intentionally trapping the ball under the wheelchair."*

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

A tip-off creates more variation in ball possession. A tip-off between a high-pointer and low-pointer may be an advantage to a defending team if a player does not protect possession of the ball. Alternatively, the team of the player who tips the ball first does not always gain possession after tip-off so it adds some excitement to the game. The 40-second clock will always favor the defending team, so a held ball will more likely cause a turnover instead of returning possession back to the offensive team based on the alternating arrow.



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Point of Reference: The NBA uses this format for held balls and for possession at the start of each quarter.

**FAILED**



## 2013 AGM PROPOSAL

### 2.) Postseason Withdrawals

Submitted by:

Rules Committee

This proposal:

Amends the Bylaws

The specific provision that will be changed:

Article VI, Section 8

If current language will be removed, state it here:

Any team that withdraws after January 15 will have their membership revoked and be charged a \$500.00 fee **to reinstate their membership and privileges.**

State the language of the proposal:

*“Any team that withdraws after January 15 will have their membership revoked and be charged a \$500.00 fee. Teams that drop out of postseason after January 15 will be eligible for the following year of season play but not postseason. Individual members of affected teams dropping out will not be eligible for postseason play should they transfer.”*

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Teams dropping out of postseason negatively affect the league as a whole. Teams dropping out after the deadline cause added expense to the USQRA and to the tournament host. While we understand that there are certain circumstances that necessitate a withdrawal from postseason play there need to be penalties for dropping out after the deadline.

**FAILED**



## 2013 AGM PROPOSAL

### 3.) Postseason Withdrawal Compensation

Submitted by:

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

This proposal:

Amends the Bylaws

The specific provision that will be changed:

Article VI, Section 8

This proposal only adds language.

State the language of the proposal:

*“Any team that withdraws after January 15 will have their membership revoked and be charged a \$500.00 fee to reinstate their membership and privileges. **They will also be held responsible for any out of pocket expenses incurred by the USQRA and the postseason hosts from their withdrawal.**”*

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Tournament hosts put a great deal of time, money and effort into planning a tournament. When teams withdraw from postseason after the deadline the hosts and the USQRA are stuck footing the bill. For example, after a team dropped out of the Mountain Section unexpectedly this season the tournament was cancelled, leaving the USQRA and the host team faced with flights already booked for referees and classifiers. We now have to pay extra to change those flights. This is not a reasonable use of your team dues and our fundraising.

### **PASSED with friendly amendment:**

*“Any team that withdraws after January 15 will have their membership revoked and be charged a \$500.00 fee to reinstate their membership and privileges. They will also be held responsible for any out of pocket expenses incurred by the USQRA and the postseason hosts from their withdrawal. **This penalized amount is not to exceed \$2500.00 and must be paid by the end of registration.**”*



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### 4.) Postseason Hosts

Submitted By:

Rules Committee

This proposal:

Amends the Bylaws

The specific provision that will be changed:

Article VI, Section 10

If current language will be removed, state it here:

Member teams or interested parties may submit a bid to host a postseason tournament to the Second Vice President and Commissioner prior to October 1. **Any tournament where the Board did not receive an acceptable bid will then be assigned to member teams. Primary consideration for assigning postseason tournaments will be the length of time since that member team hosted a postseason tournament.**

State the language of the proposal:

*“Member teams or interested parties may submit a bid to host a postseason tournament to the Second Vice President and Commissioner prior to October 1. **If a postseason host has not been secured by November 1 a host will be assigned by the Competition Committee in order of the last time a postseason event was held by member teams in a Region and or Section.**”*

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

It is becoming increasingly difficult to secure postseason hosts in a timely fashion. With this amendment we hope to ensure that every team will share the responsibilities of hosting.

*“Any team that withdraws after January 15 will have their membership revoked and be charged a \$500.00 fee to reinstate their membership and privileges. **They will also be held responsible for any out of pocket expenses incurred by the USQRA and the postseason hosts from their withdrawal.**”*

**FAILED**

*Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time*



## 2013 AGM PROPOSAL

### 5.) Proving Player Participation

Submitted by:

Rules Committee

This proposal:

Amends the Bylaws

The specific provision that will be changed:

Article III, Section 5

If current language will be removed, state it here:

In order for all teams and all players to be made eligible for postseason play, **host** teams must submit score sheets to the office of commissioner within fourteen days of play and electronically post scores as directed by the Commissioner in order to register the games.

State the language of the proposal:

*“All tournaments will be hosted (or co-hosted) by a USQRA Member Team(s). The tournament host will be responsible for submitting score sheets to the USQRA Secretary and Commissioner within fourteen days of play, and posting individual game score sheets and final standings electronically on the USQRA website or other approved site. These score sheets and standings will be used for proving that players and teams have met their game and hosting requirements, as well as seeding purposes. Those host teams not meeting these tournament result submission requirements within the fourteen day timeframe will have their membership privileges suspended until compliance.”*

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Score sheets and final standings are needed to prove player participation and verify that players have met the two game requirement on time, as well as for seeding purposes. As currently worded, tournament hosts are required to submit score sheets to the Secretary and the Commissioner within 14 days. However, there are several tournament hosts who are not affiliated with a USQRA member team. The onus for providing proof of play should be on the tournament host teams.

The proposal as submitted would lessen the degree of difficulty for multiple teams to prove their participation in a tournament, when not having direct access to the tournament score sheets.

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Requiring non-member tournaments to be hosted by a USQRA affiliated team would have the added benefit of providing additional opportunities for teams to fulfill their annual tournament hosting requirement.

**PASSED**





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### 6.) Player Transfers and Residency

Rules Committee

This proposal:

Amends the Bylaws

The specific provision that will be changed:

Article III, Section 3

Article III, Section 4

If current language will be removed, state it here:

A transfer shall be defined as a player moving from a rostered team to another rostered team in the current or previous year. Any player in the USQRA may transfer to another team if they wish. However, if a player chooses to transfer both the player and the team they transfer to must agree to the following guidelines:

- a) The proposed transfer must take place prior to October 1st of the upcoming rugby season.
- b) The transferring player must notify the Commissioner and Secretary's office in writing of the proposed transfer no later than October 1st.
- c) A written resignation letter must be given to the current team's coach or representative by September 15th. Written copies of that resignation letter must also be sent to the Commissioner and Secretary's office, and be received no later than October 1st.
- d) The transferring player must take up permanent residence within 150 miles of the city in which the team they are transferring to is located. Furthermore, the transferring player must obtain, and maintain, a valid driver's license or State ID from the state to which they are transferring. **The license must show their new address of record. A copy of the new driver's license must be provided to the Commissioner and Secretary's office by December 15th of the year in which the transfer takes place. If a player does not live within 150 miles of a team, the player must choose one of the two closest teams to play with.**
- e) **By January 15, a team may submit a \$50 protest fee challenging a player's residency by asking for proof of residency consisting of four of the following:**
  1. Address of employment/school/disability check
  2. Vehicle registration
  3. Address on lease/utility bill/home
  4. Credit card or bank statement activity
  5. Driver's license

**If the protest is upheld, the \$50 fee is reimbursed.**



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- f) If a player transfers to a higher-ranked team, the transferring player will not be allowed to play in any USQRA postseason tournaments such as Regionals, Sectionals or Nationals in the first full season of their transfer. If a player transfers to a lower-ranked team, the player can play in postseason play.
- i) If a player transfers to a higher-ranked team, the transferring player may submit a rationale for the transfer to petition for the ability to be eligible for postseason play to the Commissioner and the Board of Directors. A majority vote must be gained by this Board to allow the player to be eligible for play. The Board has discretion to allow an exception to the player transfer rule after reviewing the transfer request. The request must state a clear and convincing rationale for the Committee to allow an exception to the rule. The USQRA Board of Directors will make the final decision.
- g) The transferring player can participate in unsanctioned tournaments with his new team in the first year of play. Results from tournaments where the transferring player has participated may, or may not, be considered when ranking teams or seeding tournaments for the USQRA postseason.
- h) Any player that has transferred to a team in the past must abide by the 150-mile rule, and must also hold a valid driver's license or State ID from the state in which they live. The driver's license must show their current address of record, and can be asked to be presented at anytime by a Board member as proof of compliance. Failure to comply can result in an immediate temporary suspension pending a formal hearing.
- i) A player who transferred to attend an accredited college or university attending as a full-time student as defined by that institution will be eligible for postseason play regardless of transferring up or down. Each player is only allowed to use this exemption one time, and each team may only use this exemption for one player per season. The student athlete is required to submit proof in the form of a class schedule and tuition receipt by September 1, and an official transcript by February 1.
- j) The Commissioner's office must give all transfers final approval.

### Section 4 Player Residence

Rosters shall not contain players whose residence and/or place of employment are more than 150 miles from the team's home city unless:

- a) The Commissioner grants an exception based on a request filed by the player and the team for which he wishes to play; or
- At the time the player began to play no member team existed less than 150 miles from the player's home city and/or place of employment. If a team is later formed nearer the player he/she has the option of rostering with either team.



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- b) A team's home city shall be defined as the location of its primary practice facility as identified in its team registration.**
- c) 150 miles shall be determined on a straight line between the main practice facility and the address of the affected player(s), or if none listed, the city center on stated team's registration to the address of affected player(s).**

State the language of the proposal here:

*"A transfer shall be defined as a player moving from a rostered team to another rostered team in the current or previous year. Any player in the USQRA may transfer to another team if they wish. However, if a player chooses to transfer both the player and the team they transfer to must agree to the following guidelines:*

- a) The proposed transfer must take place prior to October 1st of the upcoming rugby season.*
- b) The transferring player must notify the Commissioner and Secretary's office in writing of the proposed transfer no later than October 1st.*
- c) A written resignation letter must be given to the current team's coach or representative by September 15th. Written copies of that resignation letter must also be sent to the Commissioner and Secretary's office, and be received no later than October 1st.*
- d) The transferring player must take up permanent residence within 150 miles of the city in which the team they are transferring to is located. Furthermore, the transferring player must obtain, and maintain, a valid driver's license or State ID from the state to which they are transferring.*
- e) Players must also show proof of 4 of the 5 following forms of verification by October 1 to receive approval:*
  - 1. Address of employment/school/disability check*
  - 2. Vehicle registration*
  - 3. Address on lease/utility bill/home*
  - 4. Credit card or bank statement activity*
  - 5. Driver's license"*

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

The transfer rules have been the subject of great discussion for several years. It is the belief of the Rules Committee that it is necessary to more strictly enforce player residency while also relaxing the transfer up rules. Anyone should be allowed to play for any team, provided that they legitimately live within 150 miles of that team.

**PASSED**

*Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time*



## 2013 AGM PROPOSAL

### 7.) Time Out Advancement

Submitted by:

Rules Committee

This proposal:

Changes a Rule

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Section VII, Article 57

This proposal only adds language.

State the language of the proposal:

*“Each team has six (6) time-outs that may be taken any time during regulation play. There will be four (4) time-outs of thirty seconds and two of sixty seconds. In the event of overtime, any time-outs remaining at the end of regulation play will be carried over into overtime play. In addition, each team will receive one (1) additional thirty second time-out per overtime period.*

*A request for a thirty-second time-out may be made by a coach or by a player. Only the coach or assistant coach may request a sixty second time-out*

*A time-out requested by a coach will only be granted when the ball is dead. The coach may make his request to the timekeeper at any time; the timekeeper will relay the request to a referee at the next stoppage in play following the request.*

*A time-out requested by a player when the ball is live will be granted only if the player making the request, or a teammate of that player, has possession of the ball. The ball must not be in contact with the floor or with a player from the opposing team.*

*When the referee accepts a request for a time-out he shall blow his whistle, signal that a time-out has been called, and indicate the team that has requested the time-out. This information shall be inscribed on the score sheet.*

*During a time-out, players may remain on the court or return to their bench. Coaches and team staff may not enter the court during a time-out; if players require assistance or wish to converse with a coach or team staff, they must return to their bench.*

*The team that requested the time-out may choose to terminate it and return to play at any time. The other team must resume play immediately.*

*If the full time-out is taken, a warning shall be sounded after 20 seconds for a thirty second time-out and fifty seconds for a sixty second time-out to indicate that teams should return to the court and prepare to resume play. When the time-out has expired, play shall resume with a throw-in.*



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*Following the warning to resume play, players shall be given time to position themselves. If a referee judges that a player or players are delaying, play shall resume as follows:*

*a. If the team taking the throw-in is delaying, the referee will begin the throw-in procedure at the appropriate point, placing the ball on the floor.*

*If the in-bounding player takes his position before a violation of the throw-in occurs, the referee shall place the ball at his disposal and continue the ten-second count.*

*b. If the team not taking the throw-in is late, the referee shall give the ball to the other team for the throw-in and play shall resume.*

***Offensive time outs in the backcourt will automatically advance the ball to half court.”***

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

The movement of the ball to half court would give offensive teams that get trapped in the backcourt a bailout. It would also give a last second goal attempt from the offense more of a chance to score because of the shorter distance to go.

**FAILED**



## 2013 AGM PROPOSAL

### 8.) Banning Stick'em

Submitted by:

Rules Committee

This proposal

Changes a Rule

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Section 4, Article 23

This proposal only adds language.

*“The wheelchair is considered to be part of the player. Each player is responsible for ensuring that his wheelchair meets all specifications for the duration of the game. If a wheelchair does not meet these specifications it shall be barred from the game until it is brought into compliance. **The use of stick'em, harpax, pro grip, firm grip, jelly, tack and spray will not be allowed in USQRA sanctioned tournaments. Athletes will be permitted to tape and reverse tape. Any gloves, tires or chairs that have above sticky material on them will be deemed illegal and not be eligible to play until the sticky material has been removed. Seasoned spoke guards will be legal, however loading spoke guards with sticky substances will result in wheels deemed illegal until the substance has been removed or the wheels changed.**”*

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

The Association continues to lose facilities because of the marks to floors. By setting these reasonable limits we feel all sides can benefit with fair play and expanded use of facilities.

**FAILED**



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### 9.) Reentering the Field of Play

Submitted by:

Rules Committee

This proposal:

Changes a Rule

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Section 8, Article 71  
Section 12, Article 101  
Section 13, Article 108

If current language will be removed, state it here:

#### **Article 71. Substitutions**

Either team may substitute any number of players after a stoppage in play, except after a goal has been scored. If there is an additional stoppage after the goal, substitutions may be made.

Substitutes must report to the substitution area prior to the stoppage in play and give their classification cards to the Scorekeeper. At the next stoppage in play, the Timekeeper will signal the referees that a substitution has been requested. **If the referee determines that a substitution is permitted, he will acknowledge the request and permit the substitutes to enter the court.**

If the players requesting a substitution are not immediately ready to enter the court and play, the referee may deny them permission and proceed with the game.

Substitutes are not permitted to enter the court directly from the bench.

Players leaving the court after a substitution must go to the substitution area and pick up their classification card from the Scorekeeper before returning to their bench.

No substitution may be made for a player who is serving a penalty.

#### **Article 101. Player technical foul**

A player is not permitted to disregard the instructions of the officials, to use unsportsmanlike tactics, or to behave in an unsportsmanlike manner.

The following actions will result in a technical foul:

- e. Using disrespectful or abusive language towards any person.
- f. Placing a hand or hands near the eyes of an opposing player.
- g. Delaying the game unnecessarily.
- h. Preventing the in-bounder from completely returning to the court after a throw-in.
- i. Deliberately falling out of the wheelchair to stop the play.
- j. Failing to proceed directly to the penalty box when directed by a referee.



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- k. Leaving the penalty box prior to the expiration of a penalty **or without being released by the penalty timekeeper or referee.**
- l. Changing player number without the approval of a referee.
- m. Fallen player righting their chair without assistance from bench staff.
- n. Raising the body off the seat of the wheelchair, or using any part of the legs to modify the speed or direction of the wheelchair.

State the language of the proposal:

### ***“Article 71. Substitutions***

*Either team may substitute any number of players after a stoppage in play, except after a goal has been scored. If there is an additional stoppage after the goal, substitutions may be made.*

*Substitutes must report to the substitution area prior to the stoppage in play and give their classification cards to the Scorekeeper. At the next stoppage in play, the Timekeeper will signal the referees that a substitution has been requested.*

*If the players requesting a substitution are not immediately ready to enter the court and play, the referee may deny them permission and proceed with the game.*

*Substitutes are not permitted to enter the court directly from the bench.*

*Players leaving the court after a substitution must go to the substitution area and pick up their classification card from the Scorekeeper before returning to their bench.*

*No substitution may be made for a player who is serving a penalty.*

***Athletes entering the field of play on a substitution need not be waived on to court by a referee.***

### ***Article 101. Player technical foul***

*A player is not permitted to disregard the instructions of the officials, to use unsportsmanlike tactics, or to behave in an unsportsmanlike manner.*

*The following actions will result in a technical foul:*

- a. *Using disrespectful or abusive language towards any person.*
- b. *Placing a hand or hands near the eyes of an opposing player.*
- c. *Delaying the game unnecessarily.*
- d. *Preventing the in-bounder from completely returning to the court after a throw-in.*
- e. *Deliberately falling out of the wheelchair to stop the play.*
- f. *Failing to proceed directly to the penalty box when directed by a referee.*
- g. *Leaving the penalty box prior to the expiration of a penalty.*
- h. *Changing player number without the approval of a referee.*
- i. *Fallen player righting their chair without assistance from bench staff.*
- j. *Raising the body off the seat of the wheelchair, or using any part of the legs to modify the speed or direction of the wheelchair.”*

### ***Article 108. Release from the penalty box***

*A player serving a penalty is released from the penalty box when the time of the penalty has*





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*expired as indicated on the game clock. If the game clock cannot be viewed by the player, the penalty timekeeper shall tell the player when the time has expired.*

*A player must exit the penalty box between the lines as marked on the court. (See Appendix A)*

*A player serving a penalty that is not the result of a disqualifying foul shall be released from the penalty box if the opposing team scores a goal that is not the result of a penalty goal. A player released as the result of a goal will be instructed to return to the court by the penalty timekeeper or the referee.*

*If more than one player on the same team is serving a penalty, they shall be released from the penalty box in the same order that they begin serving the penalties.*

*Athletes entering the field of play from the penalty box need not be waved on to court by the referee.*

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Referees have stopped waiving players on to the court from the penalty box. This rule would recognize that and would encompass players buzzed on to the field of play for a substitution during a dead ball.

**PASSED with friendly amendment**  
**- Removed Article 71 re: Substitutions**



## 2013 AGM PROPOSAL

### 10.) Contact Before the Whistle

Submitted by:

Rules Committee

This proposal:

Changes a Rule

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Section 6, Article 50  
Section 11, Article 92

If current language will be removed, state it here:

#### **Article 50. Penalty Timekeeper**

The Penalty timekeeper has the following duties:

Supervise the penalty box area.

For each penalty awarded, record the following information on the Penalty Record Sheet:

- i. the name of the player who committed the foul, ii. The type of foul committed, and iii. the time of the foul.

#### **Record warnings for contact before the whistle (Article 92).**

Time each penalty using the game clock.

Indicate when penalized players may return to the court.

Inform the referee of any irregularities. This should be done at the first stoppage in play following the irregularity.

#### **Article 92. Contact before the whistle foul**

**A player is not permitted to make flagrant or advantageous contact with an opponent during a stoppage in play.**

**The period for legal contact begins when a referee blows his whistle prior to a tip-off or a throw-in, and ends the next time a referee blows his whistle.**

**Each team will receive one warning per half for contact before the whistle. The second and subsequent incidents by a team will result in a foul.**

**A contact warning given during the second half will continue into all periods of overtime play.**

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

This sport has evolved and one of the areas that is in need of revision is the contact before the whistle rule. Players are constantly complaining "I didn't make contact" and refs are



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always saying there is no advantage gained with contact. By eliminating the contact rule everyone understands that contact is allowed all the time.

We bill ourselves as a contact sport – let's play that way all the time.

**TABLED**



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### 11.) Home Team

Submitted by:

Rules Committee

This proposal:

Changes a Rule

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Section 3, Article 21  
Section 5, Article 33

State the language of the proposal:

#### ***“Article 21. Uniform***

*On each team, all uniform tops must be of the same color and shade. Anything worn under the uniform top that is visible must be of the same color and shade as the dominant color of the uniform top.*

*On each team, all uniform bottoms must be of the same color and shade. The uniform bottom may be a different color from the uniform top. Anything worn under the uniform bottom that is visible must be of the same color and shade as the dominant color of the uniform bottom. On each team, individual players may wear either long or short uniform bottoms.*

*All uniform tops shall bear a number between 1-15, 20-25, 30-35, 40-45 and 50-55 inclusive, on the front and back. Each player on a team must have a different number. The number on the front must be on the left side and must be 10 centimeters high. The number on the back must be in the center and must be between 12 and 20 centimeters high. Both numbers must be visible at all times. Numbers may also be marked on the backrest of the wheelchair. No other numbers may appear on the uniform.*

*For games at **USQRA**-sanctioned tournaments, the team listed first in the program should wear the lighter colored uniform tops. In the event of a clash of color of uniform tops, the Home team shall change. If the game is played on a neutral court, Team A shall change. **Teams listed as the Home Team will be Team A on the score sheet and the Home Team on the scoreboard.***

#### ***Article 33. Designation of teams***

*The Home team shall be listed as Team A on the score sheet **and the Home Team on the scoreboard**. When the game is played on a neutral court, the team appearing first on the official schedule shall be listed as Team A. At IWRF-sanctioned events, all playing venues will be considered as neutral.”*



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State the reason the proposal should be passed:

This is one of those “common knowledge” items that isn’t officially written and isn’t always followed. By including this in the rules we will ensure consistency across events.

**PASSED**



## 2013 AGM PROPOSAL

### 12.) Twelve Second Violation

Submitted by:

Rules Committee

This proposal:

Changes a Rule

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Section 9, Article 76

If current language will be removed, state it here:

#### **Article 76. Twelve-second violation**

A team that has possession of the ball in their backcourt has **twelve** seconds to cause the ball to go into the frontcourt. Failure to do so is a violation.

The ball is in the frontcourt when it touches the floor or a person in the frontcourt.

The **twelve**-second count begins when a player on the court takes possession of the ball in his backcourt. The **twelve**-second count stops if a player from the opposing team takes possession of the ball.

State the language of the proposal:

#### ***“Article 76. Ten-second violation***

*A team that has possession of the ball in their backcourt has ten seconds to cause the ball to go into the frontcourt. Failure to do so is a violation.*

*The ball is in the frontcourt when it touches the floor or a person in the frontcourt.*

*The ten-second count begins when a player on the court takes possession of the ball in his backcourt. The ten-second count stops if a player from the opposing team takes possession of the ball.”*

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Having two numbers that referees have to keep up with (10 second no dribble and 12 second backcourt violation) can be simplified by having one number: 10 seconds.

The sport has become very exciting and part of that excitement comes with the knowledge that teams can create turnovers for hard work. This potential violation would be enhanced by taking just 2 seconds off the current 12 second violation.

**FAILED**



## 2013 AGM PROPOSAL

### 13.) Legal Game

Submitted by:

Rules Committee

This proposal:

Amends the Bylaws

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Article I, Section 2(e)(1)

This proposal only adds language.

State the language of the proposal:

*“For purposes of determining the eligibility of a player to participate in postseason, an official game is defined as follows:*

*1. A player must play on his or her officially rostered USQRA team. **A legal game shall be defined as play between two legal USQRA rostered teams.** The game must consist of four eight minute quarters, must be officiated by at least one certified USQRA official, must have a scorekeeper and a penalty box keeper. Score sheets from the game must be submitted to the Secretary within fourteen days. The games must be with at least one other officially rostered USQRA team. **Teams that have guest players will not be considered as legal games for either team.***

*2. The player must be present, in a legally measured playing chair and in legal uniform for the duration of the game. Team representatives for both teams may be questioned by the Commissioner to confirm official participation.*

*NOTE: A player does not have to physically check into the game in order to officially play in a game.”*

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Legal games should be played only between legal, rostered teams. Everyone enjoys games with guest players but those games cannot be used to determine postseason rankings.

**FAILED**



## 2013 AGM PROPOSAL

### 14.) Legal Game Alternative

Submitted by:

Competition Committee

This proposal:

Amends the Bylaws

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Article I, Section 2(e)(1) Article I, Section 2(e)(3)

This proposal only adds language.

State the language of the proposal:

*“For purposes of determining the eligibility of a player to participate in postseason, an official game is defined as follows:*

*1. A player must play on his or her officially rostered USQRA team. **A legal game shall be defined as play between two officially USQRA rostered teams.** The game must consist of four eight minute quarters, must be officiated by at least one certified USQRA official, must have a scorekeeper and a penalty box keeper. Score sheets from the game must be submitted to the Secretary within fourteen days. The games must be with at least one other officially rostered USQRA team. **Teams that have guest players will not be considered as legal games for the non-compliant team(s).***

*2. The player must be present, in a legally measured playing chair and in legal uniform for the duration of the game. Team representatives for both teams may be questioned by the Commissioner to confirm official participation.*

*NOTE: A player does not have to physically check into the game in order to officially play in a game.”*

*3. **Games played by teams with guest players shall not count toward that teams two game player requirement for post season eligibility, nor benefit them in determining their post season rankings.***

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Legal games should be played only between legally rostered teams. But many teams choose to participate in games with guest players, and those games cannot be used to determine player eligibility for postseason and team rankings for the team with guest players. It is beyond the control of any given team to determine the rosters which other teams bring to a tournament. And many teams are limited (financially, etc.) in the amount

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of tournaments they are able to attend, with the intention of getting in their players two game requirement for post season eligibility. If a team has made the effort and commitment to bring a legally rostered team they should not be penalized by the actions of others. Only teams utilizing guest players should be penalized.

**PASSED**



## 2013 AGM PROPOSAL

### 15.) Profound Deafness

Submitted by:

Craig Mills – Kernan Collision

This proposal:

Amends the Bylaws

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Article V, Section 10

This proposal only adds language

State the language of the proposal:

***“Article V, Section 10 Players with Profound or Severe Hearing Loss***

*After a muscle bench test and classification has been assigned (up to a maximum classification of 4.0 in conjunction with an in-game review) to a player, his/her classification shall be reduced by 0.5 points after a submission of proof of an audiogram proving profound or severe hearing loss. The audiogram must have been performed within the last calendar year by a certified audiologist and will also be required for submission at every reclassification afterwards until permanent classification has been assigned.*

*If a player is in fact classified at 4.0: with the 0.5 deduction applied for deafness afterwards, the USQRA shall deem that player eligible for USQRA in-season and postseason play ONLY. This player will not be eligible for any USQRA national team or sanctioned international play at any time.”*

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

This bylaw should be passed because there are, at times, very unique situations/conditions/disabilities that does not simply fall in line with normal classification procedures, and as such, in my very rare and unique condition, with the combination of my profound deafness, hereditary peripheral neuropathy and diminished muscle function puts me in line with a 3.5 classification. I wish to set some standards for those ultra-rare disabilities and conditions to be also taken into consideration.

I also would like profound/severe deafness to be included for possible classification consideration because it absolutely affects on-court gameplay. I cannot understand anyone just by listening to their speech/voice. I (or any individual with profound/severe

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hearing loss) mostly rely heavily on lip reading, and/or in addition with American Sign Language... the majority of us have success communicating by using face-to-face dialogue. If I try to lip read a teammate's instruction on the court by having to face them or pay focused attention to communicate, that will often take away from/affect gameplay and will likely affect my chair position/transitioning and often at a disadvantage, since chair positioning and transition play is vital in this game. This game also heavily relies on immediate, on-court communication so that everyone is on the same page on offense/defense. I do miss out on that exchange of information and do not have that immediate skill/advantage at my disposal. My communication is primarily one-way from me to my teammates during the heat of the action, and we try to do our best in that manner and use what we can. That disadvantage alone warrants a .5 deduction in my opinion, and I ask for it to be considered as such.

Certain times and certain individuals call for very unique situations, and as a small disabled community that we are, we should welcome all players who reasonably fit into the classification testing and range, if they exhibit other uncommon disabilities in addition to the standard spinal cord and muscle/neurological injuries and lack of muscle function. We need to expand our player pool to a certain point to sustain the sport and keep it fresh and exciting and welcoming, in addition to smashing stereotypes.

**FAILED**

*Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time*



## 2013 AGM PROPOSAL

### 16.) Loss of Vision

Submitted by:

Justin Stark – Tampa Generals

This proposal:

Amends the Bylaws

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Article V, Section 10

This proposal only adds language

State the language of the proposal:

***“Article V, Section 10 Players with Complete and Permanent Loss of Vision***

*After a muscle bench test and classification has been assigned (up to a maximum classification of 3.5 in conjunction with an in-game review) to a player, his/her classification shall be reduced by 0.5 points after a submission of proof that a player has complete and permanent loss of vision in one eye. Impaired vision and/or partial vision loss would not be eligible for the deduction. There must be medical documentation from a physician stating that the player has absolutely no vision in one eye (i.e. total blindness) to receive the deduction.”*

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

This Bylaw proposal may not affect many individuals, but the players who have this added impairment are at a huge disadvantage compared to other players in the same class. The speed of this sport has increased enormously over the past decade, which means that player’s reaction times have also had to increase. Imagine being on the court without the peripheral vision to one of your sides or not having normal depth perception when a ball is coming towards you. For a player that is blind in one eye, they are unable to see a hit coming, picks, players reaching for the ball, the clock, bench area, open players calling for the ball, or incoming passes coming from that blind side. The only way a player can try to compensate is to position themselves so they can see some of the action on court. As we all know, you can’t always choose exactly where you want to be positioned and regardless of how a player positions himself, there is always 50% of the court they are unable to see.

This limiting factor should be taken into account in a player’s classification, just like function is. It forces a player to favor one side of the court (similar to having a



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strong/weak side) or they have to slow down and physically turn their chair to see the action on the court. Both put them at a significant disadvantage on the court. The purpose of the classification system is to equalize the function on the court and by adopting this proposal; by passing the bylaw, we are adhering to that purpose. It would also be recommended that if the bylaw regarding deafness is passed, that a player only be able to claim either the vision or deafness 0.5 exemption, not both for a total of a 1.0 deduction.

**FAILED**



## 2013 AGM PROPOSAL

### 17.) Postseason Competition

Submitted by:

Competition Committee

This proposal:

Amends the Bylaws

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Article VI Section 4

This proposal only adds language.

State the language of the proposal:

#### ***“Section 4 Structure of Sectional Playoffs***

*Qualifying for Sectionals:*

- a) Six teams or less will compete in a round robin format. Teams will play no more than two games in one day unless every participating team from the Section agrees to play a two-day format, with three games maximum in one day. No team shall play games back to back.*
- b) If there are more than six teams then a pool play and crossover format will be followed. Teams will play no more than two games in one day unless every participating team from the Section agrees to play a two-day format, with three games maximum in one day. No team shall play games back to back.*
- c) The top four finishers in the Regional tournaments of that Section will qualify for Sectional play (unless it has been determined to have a larger sectional tournament up to 12 teams.)*
- d) The top four teams from each Section will advance to Nationals which will be seeded by the Competition Committee, Executive Committee and the RACs. Seeds one through eight will advance to Division I and seeds nine through sixteen will advance to Division II for National Championships.”*

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

This language is already used for Regionals and should be included here for consistency.

**PASSED**

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## 2013 AGM PROPOSAL

### 18.) 1.5 Trunk Rule

Submitted by:

Classification Committee

This proposal:

Amends the Bylaws

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Article V, Section 10

This proposal only adds language.

State the language of the proposal:

*“In accordance with IWRF policy, the USQRA follows the 1.5 ‘trunk rule’ during classification.”*

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

The USQRA membership voted at the 2008 AGM to adopt the IWRF Classification definitions and procedures in combination with USQRA Policies. In June 2010, the IWRF voted and passed the addition of a 1.5 trunk classification system. The current USQRA system only gives 0.0, 0.5, and 1.0 values for trunk and therefore differs from the IWRF Classification system. This proposal would maintain the precedent set in 2008, and realign the USQRA/IWRF definitions and procedures.

**PASSED**



## 2013 AGM PROPOSAL

### 19.) 1.5 Trunk Grandfather Clause

Submitted by:

William Komegay

This proposal:

Amends the Bylaws

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Article V, Section 10(a)

This proposal only adds language.

State the language of the proposal:

*“In accordance with IWRFF policy, the USQRA follows the 1.5 ‘trunk rule’ during classification.*

*(a) Players classed as a 3.5 before the 2012-2013 season will be “grandfathered in” and will not be classed out. This will only be effective for regular season play.”*

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Currently, the classifiers have given little explanation as to how the 1.5 trunk rule adoption will affect athletes already classed into the USQRA. This clause will allow current USQRA members to continue to play with their club teams during the regular season only, but not in postseason or international play. The classifiers have told us that it will be only a very small number of people who would be at risk of classing out. Since it won't be a number large enough to have a significant impact, I think it's reasonable to consider not forcing people out.

**FAILED**





## 2013 AGM PROPOSAL

### 20.) Remove Option to Transfer

Submitted by:

Dan Caldwell, Atlantic South RAC

This proposal:

Amends the Bylaws

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Article VI, Section 1(c)

Article VI, Section 6

If current language will be removed, state it here:

Article VI, Section 1(c)

The Executive Committee may transfer teams within a Section.

Article VI, Section 6 Option to Transfer

a) Any team may request an option to transfer to a different section. The team must submit a written request to the Commissioner's office and a \$50 nonrefundable fee by November 7, the last day for registration. The Commissioner's office will notify the requesting team of available options and teams will have thirty minutes to accept or withdraw their transfer. The Commissioner will then move down the list in rank order. There will be a \$250 fee for each team that chooses to transfer Sections.

b) The team with highest national ranking will be given first option to transfer. National ranking will be done by Commissioner and Executive Committee by collecting information on the head-to-head competition.

c) Teams requesting to transfer to a Section with more than 8 teams must qualify at one of that Section's Regional tournaments unless it has been determined to have a larger Sectional tournament.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Our current postseason system is flawed. As long as we have this rule in place to put a Band-Aid on the currently flawed system we will never fix it. If we continue to let the top teams transfer to whatever Section they want to and discourage the new and upcoming teams it is going to hurt our growth as a league. If the transfer rule is removed it will



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force us as a league to come up with a better solution and not discourage our new or developing teams and help grow the sport.

**PASSED**



## 2013 AGM PROPOSAL

### 21.) Sectionals Organization

Submitted by:

Michael Duda – Carolina Crash

This proposal:

Amends the Bylaws

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Add Article VI, Section 4(c)

This proposal only adds language.

State the language of the proposal:

*“Article VI, Section 4 Structure of Sectional Playoffs*

*Qualifying for Sectionals:*

- a) The top four finishers in the Regional tournaments of that Section will qualify for Sectional play (unless it has been determined to have a larger sectional tournament up to 12 teams.)*
- b) The top four teams from each Section will advance to Nationals which will be seeded by the Executive Committee and the RACs. Seeds one through eight will advance to Division I and seeds nine through sixteen will advance to Division II for National Championships.*
- c) When a seven or eight team tournament is needed for Sectionals and pool play is used, the crossovers will be in two stages. Second place of each pool will play the third place of the other pool and first place will play fourth place of the opposite pool. The four winners of these matches move on to Nationals. The winners and losers will then play in the crossover again with losers of the second/third match playing the losers of the first/fourth match, and winners of the second/third match will play the winners of the first/fourth match. The final games will determine the tournament final standings.”*

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Sectionals are designed to move forward the best four teams out of a Section. Due to rankings sometimes teams are put in pools in which they may not match up against teams as well as others. This may prevent them from moving on in postseason if they become third in a pool even if they could beat the second place team in the other pool. This rule

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adds another set of game that will ensure that the best four teams are moving on to the National Championships.

## EXAMPLE: EIGHT TEAM TOURNAMENT SECTIONAL

Pool A
A1
A2
A3
A4

Pool B
B1
B2
B3
B4

Friday	Court 1	Court 2
11:00AM	B1 v B4	B2 v B3
12:30PM	A1 v A4	A2 v A3
2:00PM	B2 v B4	B1 v B3
3:30PM	A2 v A4	A1 v A3

Saturday	Court 1	Game	Court 2	Game
10:00AM	A3 v A4		B3 v B4	
11:30AM	A1 v A2		B1 v B2	
1:00PM	BREAK			
2:00PM	1 <sup>st</sup> Pool A v 4 <sup>th</sup> Pool B	1	1 <sup>st</sup> Pool B v 4 <sup>th</sup> Pool A	2
3:30PM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Pool A v 3 <sup>rd</sup> Pool B	3	2 <sup>nd</sup> Pool B v 3 <sup>rd</sup> Pool A	4

Sunday	Court 1	Game	Court 2	Game
8:00AM	Loser G1 v Loser G4	5	Loser G2 v Loser G3	6
9:30AM	Winner G1 v Winner G4	7	Winner G2 v Winner G3	8
11:00AM	Winner G5 v Winner G6		Loser G5 v Loser G6	
12:30PM	Winner G7 v Winner G8		Loser G5 v Loser G6	

**PASSED**



## 2013 AGM PROPOSAL

### 22.) Classifier Rate Increase

#### Proposal for the USQRA

The Classification Committee is proposing a rate increase effective with the 2013-2014 season. Our current rates have been in place since 2006.

At present, each classifier is paid a straight \$100 per tournament. We propose that each classifier receive \$150, and that the Head Classifier at each tournament receives an increase from \$100 to \$200 to reflect the additional work that position entails.

The USQRRR received a pay increase last year at the AGM and our current rates of compensation are not commensurate.

**PASSED**