

Lafayette Men's Rugby Club

Lafayette College
CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Lafayette Men's Rugby Club.

ARTICLE II: Purpose and Scope

Section 1: Purpose Statement

The purpose of this club is to provide the opportunity to compete, play, and develop in the sport of rugby for all students.

Section 2: Goals/Objectives

In pursuit of this general purpose, the Lafayette Men's Rugby Club will aim to:

- A. Building an inclusive community for anyone who wants to learn about and enjoy the sport of rugby.
- B. Grow and develop members' sense of community on campus and responsibility within the Lafayette Community.
- C. To promote the sport of rugby as a great method of stress relief and exercise for all members of the Lafayette community

Section 3: Relationship & Policy Agreement

As a recognized Lafayette College student organization, the Lafayette Men's Rugby Club will have access to advising and resources through the Division of Student Life and the Lafayette College Student Government, however, the Lafayette Men's Rugby Club's activities are not supervised by Lafayette College staff or Student Government Representatives. The members of the organization itself are responsible for following all College policies and state laws and for ensuring the safety, security, and appropriate and lawful behavior of the membership as well as any students involved in activities sponsored by the organization.

Section 4: Affiliation

The Rugby Club participates as a member of the MARC League, under the national governing body of USA Rugby.

ARTICLE III: Membership

Section 1: Nondiscrimination

In keeping with Lafayette College's policy of nondiscrimination, membership in Lafayette Men's Rugby Club is open to all students of Lafayette College, regardless of race, color, national or ethnic origin, disability, religion, age, military or veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital or familial status, pregnancy, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Section 2: Active Members

Active membership in the Lafayette Men's Rugby Club shall be limited to students who are currently enrolled at Lafayette College. Active membership entails regular attendance at meetings, events, practices, and games. Students studying abroad may still be considered active members. Membership shall be retained until the student severs relations with Lafayette College whether by graduation, leave of absence, voluntary or involuntary separation from the College. Membership will be retained during the vacation and recesses of the College; however, per College policy, if a student is on an official leave from the College due to suspension or involuntary separation, they are not permitted to participate in the organization. Members must register via the <http://dosportseasy.com/lafayetteclubs/> web site. Active members are eligible to vote and hold office. Other members of Lafayette College such as faculty, staff, and alumni may participate but only as non-voting associate or honorary members.

Section 3: Selection of New Members

To obtain active member status, prospective members can join after attending at least three practices and playing in at least one game. There is no formal application or interview required, only registration on the DSE site. To maintain active membership, see **Section 2**.

Section 4: Hazing

Lafayette College requires that no student participate in and that no student organization allow any of its prospective members, new members, members, or others to participate in any ceremony or practice that involves mental or physical exhaustion or abuse, or in any way interferes with the students' mental or physical ability to perform their work at Lafayette College. These rites must not reflect unfavorably upon either the group or the College or be of a dangerous, rude, or demeaning nature. Hazing, whether it occurs on or off campus, is prohibited and will be subject to sanctioning through the conduct process.

Section 5: Voluntary Member Withdrawal

Any member can, at any time, voluntarily withdraw their membership from the organization.

Section 6: Non-Voluntary Member Withdrawal

A member can be removed from the organization by...

- A. The membership may request that an active member be removed if their conduct violates the College's Code of Conduct in a manner warranting disciplinary action from the College. The Organization Advisor should serve as a non-voting mediator for these proceedings. The removal of an Executive Officer is described in Article 6, Section 6.
- B. The active member should be given notice of concerns raised by the membership (verbal and in writing) by the Executive Officers with the Advisor present.
- C. A second meeting should be held between the active member, Executive Officers, and Advisor to discuss the concerns and determine the outcome.

ARTICLE IV: Organizational Leadership

Section 1: Officers

The officers of the Lafayette Men's Rugby Club shall be the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer, and the Secretary, which will serve as the Executive Committee. All officers shall be registered undergraduates in Lafayette College who are in good academic standing. The acting Vice President will serve as the primary safety officer and/or risk manager. The Coach shall be a part of the executive board and will have the ability to vote, power of roster selection, and will be an acting safety officer. Team Captains will be a part of the executive board, with voting rights, and will have a say in roster selection.

Section 2: The President shall:

- Serves as the chief executive officer of the organization
- Serves as the primary contact and external liaison for the organization
- Presides over all organization meetings
- Supervises all organization activities
- Serve as the acting League Coordinator

Section 3: The Vice-President shall:

- Assists the President with oversight of the organization
- Assumes the duties of the President in the event of the President's absence or removal from office
- Coordinates organizational recruitment and retainment efforts
- Serves as Parliamentarian
- The acting Vice President will serve as the primary safety officer and/or risk manager.
- Serve as the acting Diversity Officer

Section 4: The Secretary shall:

- Keeps a record of all members of the organization
- Keeps a record of all activities of the organization

- Creates and distributes agendas for each meeting of the organization
- Notifies all members of meetings
- Keeps and distributes minutes of each meeting of the organization
- Prepares the organization's calendar of events
- Handles all official correspondence of the organization

Section 5: The Treasurer shall:

- Keeps all financial records of the organization
- Prepares and submits budget requests
- Is familiar with accounting procedures and policies

ARTICLE V: Advisor

Section 1: The Lafayette Men's Rugby Club will be advised by a Lafayette College faculty, staff, or a full-time employee.

Section 2: The organization is free to select any eligible employee to serve as the advisor to the organization. Upon selection, the advisor must be approved by the Director of Student Involvement.

Section 3: The Advisor shall:

- Provide guidance and support
- Advise the group on College policies and procedures and risk management
- Attend meetings and major functions of the Lafayette Men's Rugby Club

ARTICLE VI: Officer Terms and Election Procedures

Section 1: Term

The terms of all officers of the Lafayette Men's Rugby Club shall be one calendar year. Officers may serve multiple consecutive terms.

Section 2: Election Timeline

All officers shall be elected on or before the last day of the fall semester, with their term effective beginning the first day of the spring semester.

Section 3: Officer Criteria

All officers shall be elected from the active members. Any student seeking to hold office must have and maintain good academic and judicial standing.

Section 4: Election Process

- The President will announce that elections will be occurring and communicate the process and timeline to the active members.
- A quorum (simple majority) of active members must be present for all meetings where nominations or elections take place.
- Any member may nominate any active member for a position, including themselves. All nominations must be accepted by the nominee in order to be considered.
- Nominations will be closed by the President after all nominations are accepted for each office.
- In the event that only one individual accepts a nomination for a position, they will assume the position for the coming year. If two or more individuals accept the nomination, it will be put to a vote.
- Voting shall occur by a secret ballot distributed to each active member in attendance at the meeting. The ballots shall be tabulated by any officer not on the ballot and/or the Advisor. A majority is required to elect Executive Officers.

Section 5: Officer Resignation

Any officer can, at any time, voluntarily resign from their position with proper notice given to the other officers and Advisor.

Section 6: Officer Impeachment

Officers can be impeached by

- A. The membership may request that an Executive Officer step down from their duties for failing to complete the duties of their office or if their conduct violates the College's Code of Conduct in a manner warranting disciplinary action from the College. The organization's Advisor should serve as a non-voting mediator for these proceedings. The impeachment hearing must occur while classes are in session. The Executive Officer should be given notice of concerns raised by the membership (verbal and written communication) at a regular meeting at which two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the active members are present.
- B. At the next regular meeting, two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of active members must be present in order for the impeachment hearing to begin. The moderator of the impeachment hearing will be the President unless they are being impeached, in which case it will be the Vice President. The moderator cannot be the Officer being impeached. Each side will be given the opportunity to present their case and the active members may ask questions.
- C. The membership upon hearing the case shall vote. A two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) affirmative vote of all present members is required to remove the Executive officer from office.
- D. Both coaches and team captains may also be impeached for failing to complete the duties of their office, or if their conduct violates the College's Code of Conduct in a manner warranting disciplinary action from the College. The organization's Advisor should serve as a non-voting mediator for these proceedings. The impeachment hearing must occur while classes are in session. The Executive Officer should be given notice of concerns raised by the membership (verbal and written communication) at a regular meeting at which two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the active members are present.
- E. At the next meeting of the executive board, the entirety of the executive board must be present in order for the impeachment hearing to begin. The moderator of the impeachment hearing will be the President. Each side will be given the opportunity to present their case and all parties will be allowed to ask questions.
- F. The executive board upon hearing the case shall vote. A simple majority (over half) of the executive board is required to remove the coach or team captain from their position.

ARTICLE VII: Meetings and Programs

Section 1: The first meeting of the fall semester shall be within two weeks after classes start.

Section 2: At least one business meeting should be held per month. A business meeting is defined as an official publicly advertised meeting with quorum present and minutes recorded.

Section 3: Quorum: A simple majority of the membership is required to conduct business (half plus one).

Section 4: Robert's Rules of Order shall govern meetings in all cases except when in conflict with this constitution and with general College regulations.

ARTICLE VIII: Constitutional Amendments

Section 1: Amendments to the Constitution must be proposed in writing by an active member of the Lafayette Men's Rugby Club at any regular meeting at which two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the active members are present.

Section 2: Proposed amendments shall be voted upon only after two regular meetings following the introduction of the proposal and discussion period.

Section 3: Proposed amendments will become effective following a three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) affirmative vote of the active members.

ARTICLE VIII: Constitutional Amendments (SPORTS CLUBS - ADDITIONAL SECTION)

Section 1: Injuries

- A. The Lafayette Men's Rugby Club is required to have both athletic trainers and ambulances present at home tournaments, and through regulations of the MARC League, athletic trainers must be present at all tournaments/games.
- B. Members, if injured, are required to go to proper medical services, such as the Bailey Health Center, immediately after the injury takes place.
- C. Safety Officers are required at every practice and game, and are mandated to provide necessary assistance to any injured player.

Section 2: Finances

- A. The Treasurer of the Lafayette Men's Rugby Club is to follow every procedure laid out by the governing body regarding budgetary matters as to avoid any possible instance of financial fraud.
- B. The Treasurer is also responsible for reporting the organization's finances to the acting president, as to ensure no risk of deviation from the allotted budget.

Section 3: Hazing

- A. Hazing policy: Lafayette College and Pennsylvania State Law requires that no student participates in and that no student organization allows any of its new members, members, or others to participate in any pre-membership ceremony or practice that involves mental or physical exhaustion or abuse, or in any way interferes with the students' mental or physical ability to perform their work at Lafayette College. These rites must not reflect unfavorably upon either the group or the College or be of a dangerous, rude, or demeaning nature. The President is responsible for ensuring that members understand this policy and that (1) members will be held responsible for violations of this policy and (2) the student organization itself may face charges for violating this policy. For a more comprehensive list of examples of hazing, refer to the Student Handbook.*
- B. Any active member or non active member will be immediately removed from the organization and reported to the proper authorities given any instance of hazing.
- C. All members are to be notified of the strict, anti-hazing policies of both the campus and the Lafayette Men's Rugby Club listed in clause A, and instructed to adhere to all rules and regulations.

Document History
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