

BYLAWS AND CONSTITUTION OF THE ROCKFORD F.I.R.E.

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1: Name

The name of this organization shall be THE ROCKFORD F.I.R.E. (“Faith, Integrity, Respect, and Excellence”).

Section 2: Purpose

The Rockford F.I.R.E. exists to use sports as a platform for teaching biblical principles of teamwork, perseverance, and grace, while empowering our athletes to become leaders who represent Christ in every aspect of their lives. We believe sports provide an opportunity for athletes to grow in faith, discipline, and discipleship.

Section 3: Mission Statement

The Rockford F.I.R.E. strives to develop homeschool athletes spiritually and physically, while boosting confidence and emphasizing integrity, teamwork, and perseverance. We seek to honor God through athletic competition by promoting character development, good sportsmanship, and a commitment to pursuing excellence. We believe sports provide an opportunity for athletes to grow in faith, discipline, and discipleship.

Section 4: Faith Foundation

All coaches, board members, athletic directors, and volunteers affirm and uphold the organization’s Statement of Faith, which aligns with the historic Nicene Creed and includes the biblical definition of marriage, gender, and sexuality. These core beliefs shape the culture, leadership, and policy decisions of the Rockford F.I.R.E.

ARTICLE II: OFFICERS’ ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1: Board of Directors

The Rockford F.I.R.E. is governed by a board of directors composed of a minimum of three members. These individuals may include but are not limited to coaches, parents, athletic directors, or community leaders. All board members must affirm and uphold the Statement of Faith.

Section 2: Officer Titles and Duties

President: Facilitates board meetings, leads strategic direction, and serves as the official representative of the organization.

Secretary: Maintains meeting minutes, handles formal documentation, and manages records.

Treasurer: Manages the organization’s finances, reporting, and annual budget.

Section 3: Term of Office

Board members shall serve 2-year terms with an opportunity for 1-year renewal increments with existing board approvals. After 4-years of service in a row, a 1-year sabbatical is recommended, and after 5-years of service in a row, a 1-year sabbatical is required at the end of that 5-year term.

Section 4: Selection Process

Board vacancies are filled by a unanimous vote of the existing board members. Term renewal of existing board members are affirmed by unanimous vote of the existing board members.

ARTICLE III: FACILITATORS

Section 1: Athletic Directors, Coaches, and Volunteers

All athletic directors, coaches, and volunteers must affirm and uphold the Statement of Faith and agree to the Rockford F.I.R.E. Athletic Director and Coaches Handbook.

Section 2: Responsibilities

Athletic directors and coaches are responsible for complying with the policies and expectations outlined in the Athletic Director and Coach Handbook..

Section 3: Dismissal

Failure to follow the Athletic Director and Coach Handbook, or participation in activities that undermine the mission of Rockford F.I.R.E., may result in removal at the discretion of the board.

ARTICLE IV: COMMITTEES

Section 1: Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

The board may appoint committees to handle fundraising, events, uniforms, communication, or other support tasks.

Section 2: Oversight

All committees operate under the direction of the Board and must adhere to the organization's purpose and standards.

ARTICLE V: PARTICIPATING FAMILIES

Section 1: Enrollment Process

Families must submit an official application to participate in the Rockford F.I.R.E., including athlete information, agreement to the Statement of Faith, and acknowledgement of the Student Athlete Code of Conduct.

Section 2: Family Expectations

Families are expected to support the mission of the Rockford F.I.R.E., its coaches, and leadership, while upholding all athlete expectations and the family handbook. Families will be required to participate in service or volunteer roles if requested.

Section 3: Disciplinary Action

Violation of the Athlete Code of Conduct may result in a board-led review and possible suspension or dismissal from the program.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS AND ANNUAL PUBLICATION

Section 1: Board Meetings

The board shall meet at least quarterly. Meetings may be called by any officer with ten (10) days notice, unless a shorter notice is unanimously agreed upon by all officers.

Section 2: Annual Publication

An annual publication of finances, vision, and operations will be posted for community members.

Section 3: Quorum

Two-thirds of board members must be present for a quorum and all decisions must be made by simple majority.

Section 4: Parliamentary Authority

When a situation arises that these bylaws do not address, the Board shall follow the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised as its guide for meeting procedures and decision-making. If any conflict exists between Robert's Rules and these bylaws, these bylaws shall take precedence.

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Process for Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws must be approved by a unanimous vote of the board.

ARTICLE VIII: DISSOLUTION

Section 1: Dissolution Clause

If the Rockford F.I.R.E. dissolves, all assets remaining after the payment of debts shall be donated to Hallstrom Homeschool Workshops, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, provided the funds are used to reestablish a homeschool athletic program. If Hallstrom Homeschool Workshops is unable or unwilling to use the funds for this purpose, the Rockford F.I.R.E. Board shall direct the remaining assets to another 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of its choosing.

Adopted March 2026 by the Rockford F.I.R.E. Board of Directors.