

**Constitution of the Rutherford Student Government Association
(Revised May 2008)**

ARTICLE I: NAME AND BODY OF ORGANIZATION

SECTION I: NAME

This organization shall be named the Rutherford Student Government Association (RSGA).

SECTION II: ORGANIZATION

This organization shall be composed of three bodies:

- A. Inter-Club Council (ICC)
- B. Executive Board
- C. Leadership Class

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE AND INTENT

SECTION I: PURPOSE

The purpose is to provide democratic representation for the students, hear student desires, and to recommend new policy and change in policy to the administration. It will also support educational endeavors of the school that will continuously lead to progress and success for its students. In addition, it shall also recommend change in educational areas where need is indicated by the students.

SECTION II: INTENT

The intent of the RSGA will be to preside over all clubs and organizations and take action where deemed appropriate.

SECTION III: MISSION

It is the mission of RSGA to create opportunities that will involve all students, enhance life on campus and in the community, represent student interests to the administration, and uphold standards of high honor and integrity in everything that we do.

ARTICLE III: THE INTER-CLUB COUNCIL (ICC)

SECTION I: MEMBERSHIP

Members of the Inter-Club Council (ICC) shall consist of the Executive Board, the presidents/captains of the school clubs and organizations or those appointed to serve as the proxy and the presidents of the classes.

SECTION II: QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP (Excluding the Executive Board)

To be eligible to become a member of the Inter-Club Council (ICC), the student shall be the president-elect of an approved club or the approved proxy of that club. The student shall have a 2.0 weighted GPA before the date of appointment and maintain this throughout the time he holds office.

SECTION III: ELECTIONS

Elections in school clubs and organizations shall be held prior to the September RSGA meeting with each club/organization aware that the selection as president/captain of an organization means election to the Inter-Club Council (ICC).

SECTION IV: POWERS AND DUTIES

The principal shall delegate all powers of the Rutherford Student Government Association (RSGA). Therefore, the principal has the right to veto any action of the Rutherford Student Government Association (RSGA) or recall any powers delegated to the Association by him/her.

The duties of the Inter-Club Council (ICC) shall be to:

- A. Hear student desires and recommendation
- B. Recommend new policy and change in policy to the administration when deemed necessary.
- C. Regulate school activities
- D. Establish and maintain a favorable working relationship with the faculty
- E. Report business transacted by the Inter-Club Council (ICC) to the student body
- F. Support educational endeavors of the school which continually lead to progress and success for the students
- G. Recommend changes in educational areas and curriculum where need is seen
- H. Assist and support progress and services concerning school public relations
- I. Promote activities to raise necessary operational funds for the Rutherford Student Government Association (RSGA)
- J. Formulate all operational funds for Rutherford Student Government Association (RSGA)

SECTION V: MEETINGS

The Inter-Club Council (ICC) shall meet no more than once a week as a body. Exceptions can be made by the principal and/or the Rutherford Student Government Association (RSGA) sponsor when deemed necessary.

SECTION VI: FILLING VACANCIES

The Vice-President or next highest officer in each organization shall fill a vacant seat as long as he meets the requirements for eligibility.

SECTION VII: WORKING QUORUM

One more than half the total active membership of the Rutherford Student Government Association (RSGA) must be present to pass legislation at scheduled meetings. In addition, the RSGA sponsor or representative of the RSGA sponsor must be present in order for council to pass legislation.

SECTION VIII: REMOVAL FROM THE INNER CLUB COUNCIL

Members of the Inter-Club Council (ICC) may be removed by:

- A. The principal
- B. A majority of the Executive Board with the advisor's approval
- C. The club's sponsor

Note: The principal will make the final decision regarding removing a elected student officer from his/her position.

Members can be removed for the following reasons:

- A. Failure to maintain a passing grade in each subject during the grading periods for which is served. **NO PROBATION PERIODS ARE PERMITTED.**
- B. Failure to attend council and/or committee meetings
- C. Failure to carry out duties prescribed in this constitution and/or assigned by the Executive Board.
- D. The committing of any action or actions, deemed detrimental to the welfare of the Rutherford Student Government Association (RSGA).

ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION I: ORGANIZATION

The Executive Board of the Rutherford Student Government Association shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, and a Publicist.

SECTION II: QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

- A. To be eligible for nomination for President a student must:

1. Be passing with an average of at least a 2.5 weighted GPA at the time of nomination.
 2. Qualify as a prospective senior for the year for which he/she will serve
 3. Have been a student at Rutherford High School for one year.
 4. Have had no in-school detention or out of school detention during the current school year
 5. Have positive teacher recommendations
- B. To be eligible for nomination for Vice President a student must
1. Be a prospective junior or senior with the same qualifications as the President
- C. To be eligible for nomination for Secretary, Treasurer, Historian or Publicist a student must
1. Be a prospective junior or senior with the same qualifications as the President
- D. To be eligible for the office of Parliamentarian a student must
1. Be a prospective junior or senior
 2. Have the highest score on the Parliamentary Procedure Exam
 - a. If there is a tie for the highest score, the RSGA advisor and outgoing parliamentarian will interview the candidates and select one for the position.
- E. All RSGA officers are required to be in the Leadership Class

SECTION III: NOMINATION AND ELECTION

- A. The endorsement of all the candidates is required. This endorsement is each teacher's signature on the qualification form.
- B. The campaign and election will be held in April.
- C. All voting will be done by secret ballot.
- D. Only perspective sophomores, juniors, and seniors may vote. Graduating seniors may not vote.
- E. If an officer position does not have a qualified candidate, the outgoing RSGA officers will each nominate a candidate who meets the requirements for running for the unfilled position. The RSGA advisor will then choose the nominee who will fill the position.

SECTION IV: PRESIDENT'S DUTIES

- A. Preside at all Rutherford Student Government Association (RSGA) meetings
- B. Attend all the Student Advisory Council meetings or appoint a proxy to attend
- C. Appoint all committees, chairpersons and co-chairpersons.

- D. Plan the agenda for each joint Rutherford Student Government Association (RSGA) meeting.
- E. Set good examples at all times for the school and community.
- F. Make arrangements with the vice-president to represent him/her on any important occasion which he/she cannot attend. (With the sponsor's approval.)
- G. Anchor for WRAM

SECTION V: VICE-PRESIDENT'S DUTIES

- A. Carry out duties of President in the President's absence.
- B. Perform duties assigned by the President.

SECTION VI: SECRETARY'S DUTIES

- A. Keep accurate, detailed minutes of all business transacted and discussed during Inter-Club Council meetings.
- B. Read all minutes and correspondence at all RSGA meetings
- C. Maintain updated and accurate contact names and numbers of the leadership class member, the club point system, and constitution and club registration forms

SECTION VII: TREASURER'S DUTIES

- A. Keep accurate records showing all disbursements of the Rutherford Student Government Association (RSGA) funds.
- B. Make a treasurer's report at the RSGA meetings when necessary.
- C. Preside over all RSGA and leadership fundraisers

SECTION VIII: PUBLICIST'S DUTIES

- A. Must be a member of the Inter-Club Council.
- B. Must keep pictures, news articles, and so forth of all publicity concerning the Rutherford student body.
- C. Must write to the Rampage or the News Herald (Publicists) at least once a month

SECTION IX: THE PARLIAMENTARIAN'S DUTIES

- A. Responsible for ensuring correct use of parliamentary procedure during meetings
- B. Assist the President in maintaining order
- C. Responsible for ensuring that the RSGA's constitution and by-laws are upheld.

SECTION X: THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board may carry on business between meetings, prepare the agenda, and make recommendations to be considered by the Inter-Club Council (ICC).

SECTION XI: REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

An officer may be removed by:

- A. The principal
- B. A majority vote of the Executive Board with the principal's and/or sponsor's approval
- C. The following reasons:
 - a. Failure to maintain a passing grade in each subject during the grading periods for which he/she serves.
 - a. Failure to attend meetings.
 - b. Failure to carry out duties prescribed in this constitution and/or assigned by the Executive Board.
 - d. Committing of any action or actions that are deemed detrimental to the welfare of the Rutherford Student Government Association (RSGA).

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES

SECTION I: STANDING COMMITTEES

The publicity committee shall be the only standing committee.

SECTION II: CHAIR OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The publicist of Rutherford Student Government Association (RSGA) shall serve as chairman. The president shall appoint other committees as the need arises.

ARTICLE VII: SCHOOL ELECTIONS AND CLASS OFFICERS

SECTION I: ELECTIONS

All elections in Rutherford High School organizations will be decided by a plurality of votes cast. This includes any office or position of honor.

- A. In the event that an officer position is not filled, the outgoing RSGA officers will each nominate a candidate who meets the qualifications for the office. The RSGA advisor with the assistance of the appropriate class sponsor will then select the nominee who will fulfill the position.

SECTION II: CLASS ORGANIZATION

- A. The principal will appoint a teacher to be sponsor of the freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior classes
- B. Officers of the sophomore, junior, and senior classes will be elected in April
- C. Freshmen officers will be elected in September.
- D. Requirements are as follows:

1. Must have attended Rutherford High School a semester of the preceding year with the exception of the freshmen.
2. Officers must have a minimum of 2.5 at the time of nomination
3. Officers of all four (4) class levels must maintain a 2.5 average each grading period while in office.

SECTION III: ROLES AND DUTIES OF CLASS OFFICERS

The class sponsor and the RSGA are responsible for roles and duties for the various student government positions. Below is a general outline of the roles and duties for the various offices. At any time, the class sponsor, RSGA advisor, or the principal may add to the duties of a class officer.

A. Class Presidents

1. Responsible for representing the class at all RSGA and SAC meetings.
2. Responsible for creating agendas for all class and class officer meetings.
3. Responsible for letting the Vice-President know in advance if the Vice-President will have to go to a meeting as a proxy.

B. Class Vice-Presidents

1. Responsible for attending Florida Association of Student Council meetings.
2. Responsible for filling in for the President if the President is unable to attend a meeting.
3. Will assume the duties of the President if the President is relieved of his/her office.

C. Class Secretary

1. Responsible for taking accurate minutes at all class and class officer meetings.
2. Responsible for filing the minutes for each meeting with the RSGA secretary.

D. Class Treasurer

1. Responsible for keeping accurate records regarding the funds of the class.

E. Class Historian

1. Responsible for taking pictures of all projects and activities undertaken by his/her class.
2. Responsible for publicizing upcoming events.

F. Class Chaplain (Senior Class Only)

1. Responsible for delivering the invocation at class and RSGA events.

G. Class Lawyer (Senior Class Only)

1. Responsible for writing class wills.
2. Responsible for helping tabulate the results of votes.

H. Class Parliamentarian (Senior Class Only)

1. Responsible for upholding parliamentary procedure at officer meetings.
2. Responsible for assisting the lawyer in the compilation and writing of class wills.

SECTION V: REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

An officer may be removed by:

- A. The principal
- B. A majority vote of the officer team with the principal's and/or sponsor's approval
- C. The following reasons:
 1. Failure to maintain a passing grade in each subject during the grading periods for which he/she serves.
 2. Failure to attend meetings.
 3. Failure to carry out duties prescribed in this constitution and/or assigned by the class sponsor.
 4. Committing of any action or actions that are deemed detrimental to the welfare of the Rutherford Student Government Association (RSGA).

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

SECTION I: REQUIREMENTS

This constitution may be amended whenever deemed necessary upon a 2/3 majority vote of RSGA and club sponsors and when approval is given by the principal.

ARTICLE IX: RATIFICATION

SECTION I: REQUIREMENTS

Ratification of this constitution shall depend on approval of the principal and 2/3 majority vote of the RSGA and club sponsors.

ARTICLE X: CHARTERING CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

SECTION I: PETITION FOR NEW CLUB

Any group in the school desiring to organize a club shall seek the approval of the administration. Upon approval of administration, they must apply in writing to the RSGA for a charter. The RSGA will grant a charter by a 2/3 vote.

SECTION II: RECOGNITION BY THE RSGA

Upon acceptance of charter, the newly formed club must present a constitution and registration to the RSGA after the second club meeting. The club will be recognized by the RSGA only after they have submitted their constitution and registration.

ARTICLE XI: HOMECOMING

SECTION I: PROBATION

Clubs and organizations that are on probation (having less than fifty club points at the end of the previous school year) will not be permitted to have a homecoming candidate. Clubs on probation may still participate in all other homecoming activities.

SECTION II: NEWLY CHARTERED CLUBS

No club chartered during the current school year may have a homecoming candidate. These clubs may participate in all other homecoming activities.

SECTION III: REQUIREMENTS FOR CLUBS TO HAVE A HOMECOMING CANDIDATE

The rules for clubs wishing to have homecoming candidates are as follows:

- A. The club must be recognized by RSGA and may only nominate one male and one female candidate
- B. The club itself cannot be on probation
- C. The club itself must have existed for at least one year
- D. Candidate may only represent one club or organization
- E. Candidate **MUST** be a senior
- F. The club must pay a fee of \$50 before its candidate(s) will be placed on the ballot
- G. The nominee must not have had in-school suspension or out of school suspension during the current school year.

BY-LAWS

SECTION I

- A. Black and gold shall be the official colors of Rutherford High School.
- B. A charging ram shall be the official mascot of Rutherford High School.
- C. The official motto shall be "Ram Pride".

D. The Rutherford Senior High School official seal shall be shown below:



Pat Farmer, class of 1966, designed this seal. It is described in her words as follows: “This seal explodes with symbolism of Rutherford. The center, heavy with the keys to success; the swords of bravery; shield of protection; leaves of knowledge and the torch of honor are set off by the ribbon presentation of ‘Discipline Omnibus’ meaning ‘Education for all’.”

- E. Any club that is on probation for two consecutive years will no longer be recognized by the RSGA.
- F. *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10th Edition* shall be the official parliamentary authority of the RSGA.