



**2021 Mudsock Fall
Sevens Rugby
Information Packet**

2021 MUDSOCK FALL SEVENS RUGBY

AN AFFILIATE TEAM OF THE **MUDSOCK YOUTH RUGBY LEAGUE**



Meijer is pleased to support Mudsock Youth Athletics in its mission of bringing sports to local kids. As a family company, Meijer aims to enrich the lives of families in its community. By sponsoring youth sports programs like Mudsock, Meijer gets to support local kids as they learn valuable life skills, build friendships, get active and, most importantly, have fun!

Welcome Rugby Parents!

We are very excited to welcome you to the Mudsock Rugby family. Your child has shown an interest in joining a team coached by the finest coaches in Indiana. The Mudsock Rugby Sevens teams traces its roots to the Mudsock Youth Rugby Club started in 2003 under the umbrella of Mudsock Youth Athletics. Our club has many special traditions that your child will learn quickly.

Rugby is a very unique sport because it allows PLAYERS to make real-time life decisions. The game of rugby includes preparation, training and coaching but the non-stop action puts the strategy and game into the player's hands. No other sport is like rugby – it combines football, soccer, basketball, and wrestling all into one!

Every player is required to register and pay associates fees with Rugby Indiana and the Mudsock Youth Rugby Club. Our schedule consists of some travel, team supplies, and socials which are paid by dues. Parents will only pay dues one time through Mudsock Youth Athletics but will need to register each child on the RugbyIndiana website at www.rugbyindiana.com.

The purpose of this document is to answer some common questions about our club, the upcoming season, and to provide some basic information about the sport of rugby.

Registration

Open online registration at myathletics.com will open on May 1, 2021 and run until May 31. Parents can still register after May 31, 2021 if roster size allows but will pay a \$10 late fee to Mudsock Youth Athletics. Depending upon coaching staff size, rosters may be limited so please be sure to register as soon as possible.

Mudsock Fall Sevens Rugby League Fees

When you consider the cost of equipment, uniforms, travel, and athletic trainers, rugby is one of the cheapest sports in Fishers. We do, however, annually pay sanctioning and administration fees to both Rugby Indiana (our home Union) and Mudsock Youth Athletics.

Parents/Guardians will need to register on Rugby Indiana before the first practice. The cost of your Ruby Indiana registration is built-in to your total fees shown below, which go toward underwriting USA Rugby CIPP fees, supplemental accident health policy, Rugby Administration Staff, Referee Society, grants for low-income players, and traveling costs for All Star/Select teams. The fees below also cover Mudsock Youth Athletics registration and bookkeeping, as well as general field maintenance by the city of Fishers.

Every single administrator and coach in Mudsock Youth Rugby and Mudsock Fall Sevens is a volunteer. We ask that parents and players show the respect and patience that their commitment demands.

Fall 2021 Mudsock Fall Sevens Rugby Fees*

High School Girls - \$140

High School Boys - \$140

* Open to any high school age girl or boy attending Hamilton Southeastern or Fishers High School.

Schedule & Locations

Practices will take place at Brooks School Park with games on Sundays in September and October. All games will be held outside of Fishers.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Rugby?

Rugby is the fastest growing youth sport in the United States. Many people are familiar with rugby as a fringe sport, but you may be surprised to learn that it is actually the second most popular sport in the world behind soccer. In fact, in Europe, Australia and South Africa, the teams and players are elevated to a star status that exceeds that of NFL players in the United States! Many teams fill 80,000 seat stadiums for international match play.

The allure of rugby is easy to understand yet hard to explain. All players play both defense and offense at any given time during a game. Rugby sevens in particular has experienced a surge in popularity lately, with its debut as an Olympic sport in 2016 and Team USA's international success in 2019. Above all, rugby is a social sport that praises competition but demands good sportsmanship.

Scoring: There are four ways to score points in a rugby game.

- Try – When the ball is grounded over an opponent's try line (goal line) in their try zone (end zone), it is worth 5 points. The try counts as a score only if the ball is literally touched down with control in the try zone, which is where American football gets the word "touchdown."
- Conversion – After scoring a try, the scoring team gets an attempt to kick the ball over the crossbar and through the posts of the rugby uprights. A conversion is worth 2 points. Again, like American football, a score and a conversion are a combined seven points.
- Penalty – If the opposition commits a penalty, a team can choose to kick at the goal. Combining the penalty shot of soccer and the field goal of American football, a penalty kick is worth 3 points.
- Drop Goal – During play, a team may drop the ball on the ground and kick it over the goal. This is called a drop goal and is worth 3 points.

How do I learn more about Rugby?

Go to www.rugbyindiana.com and click on the tab "What Is Rugby?" You can watch videos and download a great document tool called "Beginners Guide to Rugby".

What are Rugby Socials?

As part of the rugby tradition, the home team hosts the visiting team with a meal, which is filled only with good cheer and camaraderie. This is a great way to meet other parents, ask questions, and make new friends.

What does my child need to play?

Rugby socks, rugby shorts, boots (cleats) mouth guard, **desire and effort!** (Soccer cleats can double as rugby cleats; however, metal cleats (baseball) and cleats with a cleat on the end of the toe (football) are strictly prohibited.

How many Fall Sevens rugby teams are in Indiana?

In the 2018 inaugural season of Fall Sevens, 11 boys teams and seven girls teams competed for the state

championship.



For over 40 years, Methodist Sports Medicine has served the residents of Indiana with the best-integrated service line model in orthopedic care. Methodist Sports Medicine is extremely excited to partner with Mudsock Youth Athletics and provide a one stop shop for all injury and recovery needs for families in its programs.

What is the difference between rugby sevens and other forms of rugby?

Rugby sevens (commonly abbreviated as simply “sevens” or “7s”) is a variant of rugby union in which teams are made up of seven players playing 7-minute halves, instead of the usual 15 players playing 40 minute halves. At the 2016 Summer Games in Rio, Rugby Sevens debuted as an officially sanctioned Olympic sport and will be competed in the 2021 Summer Games as well!

The wide-open, higher scoring style of play in sevens has been instantly popular with the American spectator. The 2019 Penn Mutual Collegiate Rugby Championships were nationally televised on ESPN, and the U.S. national rugby sevens team was in first place in international competition for most of the 2019 season before being barely edged out by Fiji.

What happens after the season? Are there opportunities to play in All-Stars or travels to other states?

Yes! During the spring semi-state and state tournaments, staff and coaches from the Rugby Indiana organization will provide try-out and other important information. Players and coaches from Mudsock Youth Rugby, Fishers High School Rugby Club, and HSE Royals Rugby have played/coached in the tournaments in Elkhart, Indiana and various all-star tournaments in Pittsburgh, Chicago, and Denver.

Are there colleges that offer club rugby in Indiana?

Yes! Sixteen colleges and universities in the state of Indiana offer club programs:

- Anderson University
- Ball State University
- Bethel College
- DePauw University
- Grace College
- Indiana State University
- Indiana University
- Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne
- Indiana Wesleyan University
- Purdue University
- Saint Joseph's University
- St. Mary's College
- University of Indianapolis
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Southern Indiana
- Wabash College

There is also a D1A Rugby Union for certain colleges and universities based on higher ability and skill. Division IA is an elite collegiate rugby competition sanctioned and administered by USA rugby. The conference-based league

features 37 elite men's college rugby teams competing in six conferences: Allied Rugby, Big Ten, California, East, Mid-South, West, and one independent team. The regular season sees all teams in the conference play one another, with the two top seeds qualifying for the playoffs. Playoffs are single elimination, and the two unbeaten teams advance to the Division IA finals.

Are there rugby scholarships available to my player?

Yes! Notre Dame is the most famous university in Indiana that offers full ride scholarships for rugby. There are twenty-seven (27) colleges and universities in the United States that offer rugby scholarships. A complete list can be found here: <http://usarugby.org/scholarships>. There are over 400 state colleges and universities that do not offer specific rugby scholarship, however, the rugby program will help find financial support in other ways to incentive players to play rugby. In recent years, there have been several rugby players from Fishers, Indiana and Central Indiana who have been awarded over \$300,000 in college scholarships. Some of these High School players have represented the USA in international rugby matches at no cost to the players and their families.

Is there a men's or women's level rugby club that my child and I could go watch games?

Yes! Two men's clubs, the Indianapolis Impalas Rugby Club and the Carmel-based White River Rugby Club, compete locally. The Indianapolis Hoydens is the women's premier club. Several members of our coaching staff have played for both the Impalas and White River. There is also a ton of rugby you can watch from the comfort of your couch! FloRUGBY is a dedicated channel that plays domestic and international rugby matches. You can also tune into ESPN and NBC for rugby matches.

Major League Rugby is the North American professional rugby league. It's only in its second season and rapidly expanding, but at present the closet team to Fishers is in Toronto, Canada. For more information on televised games, go to <https://www.usmlr.com>.