



2021
Mudsock Youth Rugby
Parent Info Packet



SPRING 2021

MUDSOCK YOUTH RUGBY

Welcome Parents!

We are excited to welcome you to the Mudsock Youth Rugby Family. Our club started in 2003 and boasts a proud history both on and off the pitch (rugby for field). We are aligned with Mudsock Youth Athletics. Our club has many special traditions that your child will quickly learn.

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

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

Player registration and payment are due by January 31, 2021, and can be completed online at myathletics.com

Early online registration at myathletics.com will open on January 1, 2021 and run until January 31. Parents can still register after January 31 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. There is no need this season to independently register your child with our home union, Rugby Indiana. Those fees and registration are built into the total cost you pay when you register with Mudsock Youth Athletics. See more on our fee structure below.

Mudsock Youth Rugby League Fees

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

The Rugby Indiana fee covers the cost of referees and provides additional insurance protection to your player. The Rugby Indiana fees pay for USA Rugby CIPP fees, supplemental accident health policy, Rugby Administration Staff, Referee Society, grants for low income players and All Star/Select teams. The Mudsock Youth Athletics fees pay for registration, bookkeeping, additional program athletic scholarships and general field maintenance by the city of Fishers.

All of these aforementioned fees are included in the registration cost outlined below. Mudsock Youth Rugby is committed to keeping fees low through volunteerism. If a parent logs at least two volunteer hours on behalf of his or her child's team, \$50 will be refunded per child at season's end.

All fees include a custom rugby ball, shorts, and socks. Jerseys are also provided. All you have to worry

about is a mouthpiece and cleats!

Spring 2021 Mudsock Youth Rugby Fees*:

- **2/3/4 Grade Co-Ed Flag Rugby** - \$175 (includes volunteer deposit)
- **5/6 Grade Co-Ed Tackle Rugby** - \$210 (includes volunteer deposit)
- **7/8 Boys Tackle Rugby** - \$260 (includes volunteer deposit)
- **High School Girls Rugby** - \$300 (includes volunteer deposit)**

** Multiplayer Discount: Register online at myathletics.com and receive a discount for families with 3 or more players in the same league.*

*** Open to any high school age girl who resides in Fishers including athletes that are home schooled, attend HSE or Fishers High School.*

To earn back your \$50 volunteer deposit (via 2 hours of volunteer time), there are many ways to help: team parent, preparing the pitch (field) for a match, player socials, laundering team jerseys, tournament concession stand duty, end of year banquet, etc. The Rugby Club will set up volunteer sign ups through our signupgenius.com website to make it easy for everyone.

Schedule & Locations

Rugby is considered a local travel sport and we play home and away games against teams from Central Indiana (example: Carmel, Westfield, Avon, Brownsburg, Pendleton, Broad Ripple). All practices will be local, typically using Fishers parks (often Brooks School Park) or local school fields. Our Spring 2021 practice and game locations are still being determined.

The final Spring 2021 schedule is still being assembled but in general rugby runs through mid-March (when winter sports are wrapping up) until the end of the school year. There may possibly be some optional pre-season training and conditioning sessions in February for those that can attend (TBD). Our teams typically practice two nights a week (coach's discretion) and on Saturdays until matches begin. Once matches begin they are typically played on Saturdays in lieu of those practices. Some players may be selected and have the opportunity to play in some Indiana All-Star games post season.

Thank you for your interest in Mudsock Youth Rugby in partnership with Mudsock Youth Athletics. In rugby, there are positions for boys and girls of all sizes and abilities and we will teach them how to play a physically demanding but VERY fun sport! Please see our Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) section below but don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions. WELCOME TO WHAT WE CALL RUGBY FAMILY!

Sincerely,

Courtney Lawhead
President – Mudsock Youth Rugby (Mudsock Youth Athletics)
courtlawhead@comcast.net

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Rugby?

Rugby is the fastest growing youth sport in the United States. In the U.S., rugby may be considered a new 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. Who can't appreciate the toughness required to play a fast-paced, physically demanding game that is 60 minutes long with no timeouts and only a 5- minute half time! All players play both defense and offense at any given time during a game. Most appealing is the fact that there is a position for everyone who wants to play – large or thin, short or tall. 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 does my child need to play?

All they need are boots (the rugby term for cleats), a mouth guard, and **desire and effort!** At this level, 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. All other uniform pieces and equipment are provided with your registration fee.

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

Yes! During the 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 many tournaments across the U.S. and even internationally. We maintain a strong relationship with Eagle Impact Rugby Academy (EIRA) which is a developmental pipeline for our U.S. National Team (The Eagles). EIRA hosts many Midwest camps, events and try-outs throughout the season.

When my child is done with youth rugby, are there high school rugby teams in Indiana?

Yes! In fact, Indiana is one of the hotbeds of rugby in the U.S.! There are currently over 30 boys and 15 girls high school teams in Indiana. There are three divisions for boys (Super League, Division I, Division II) and two divisions for girls (Division I, Division II). Indiana has one of the largest numbers of youth and high school rugby clubs in the USA. In 2011, the Southeastern Rugby Club was split into two high school teams, HSE Rugby and Fishers Rugby. HSE won the Division I state title in 2015, FHS won the Division I state title in 2016. Mudsock Youth Rugby teams also have multiple youth state titles and is the only youth rugby club in Indiana that feeds into two high school boy's teams. The girl's rugby teams, while newer, have also both enjoyed much on the field success.

Who are the Mudsock Youth Rugby Coaches?

Christiaan "Chris" Lawhead, Head Coach

Hometown: Indianapolis, Indiana

Profession: Sales Manager for Medical/Surgical Sales

Playing Experience: High School rugby (Indiana All-State Team), Indiana University Rugby (National College Championship Sweet 16), overseas club rugby player while residing in Castlebar, Ireland

Coaching Experience: 4 years at the youth rugby level. Has also coached many other youth sports in Fishers, Indiana, such as soccer, football, basketball, baseball, and wrestling.

Season Goals: 1) Fun and fundamentals, 2) Build player self-confidence, and 3) Compete for a 5/6 and 7/8 grade Indiana State Championship

Other: Chris' wife, Courtney, is currently the President for Southeastern Youth Rugby

Kara Fick, Co-Head Coach,

Hometown: Elkhart, Indiana

Profession: Senior Engagement Partner, Finish Line

Playing Experience: 2006 – 2007 Penn High School

Coaching Experience: 2 seasons with Southeastern Youth Rugby

Season Goals: We want to win and have a fantastic time!

Troy "Benji" Dixon, Co-Head Coach

Hometown: Patumahoe, New Zealand

Profession: Real Estate Broker

Playing Experience: Lots! Playing in New Zealand and the U.S.A.

Coaching Experience: Assistant Coach for HSE High School Boys

Season Goals: Introduce players and families to the World of Rugby, teach the fundamentals and advanced skills, and grow the love of the game!

Are there corporate sponsorship opportunities available?

We have many corporate sponsor opportunities available that provide great exposure for your business. With the largest youth program in Indiana and the growth of rugby in the state this is a great opportunity to get your brand out there! Mudsock Youth Rugby ("HSE Rugby, Inc.") is a 501c3 tax exempt organization and would greatly appreciate your support. Please visit the following link on our website for information on sponsorship opportunities for the upcoming season: *2021 sponsorship information coming soon!*