

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING {AGM}



## MEMBERS ROLL CALL

Nikki Plumpton



## 2024

Rugby Scheduled Events



### **MARCH**

March 3 – Level 1 Coach - Freeport, ME

March 9 – Opening day Free Jacks vs DC (home)

March 16 – Free Jacks v Nola (home)

& Free Jacks hosting Men's Heritage Cup

March 23 – Level 1 Coach Training, Hingham, MA

March 24 – Level 1 Referee Training, Hingham, MA



### **APRIL**

- April 6 Round 1 of NERFU Playoffs
  - & Freejacks v Chicago (home)
- April 13 Round 2 of NERFU Playoffs
- April 14 Level 1 Referee Training, Canton, MA
- April 20 NERFU hosting EPenn in Atlantic Super Regionals Semi-Finals
  - & Free Jacks hosting Women's Trail Blazers Cup
- April 27 NERFU Championship teams please keep open



### **MAY**

May 1 – Deadline for Fall Schedule Requests

May 4 – Atlantic Super Regionals (EPenn)

May 5 – Free Jacks vs Utah (home)

May 18-19 – NERFU Cup in Newport, RI

& USAR National Championships

May 25 – Free Jacks v Dallas (home)

& MYRO Championships



### **JUNE**

- June 2 Free Jacks v Houston (home)
  - & NE Flag Rugby Championships
- June 15 NERFU Summer Sevens Series Tournament: Boston 7s
- June 16 Free Jacks v San Diego (home)
  - & Free Jacks hosting Golden Oldies Cup
- June 22 NERFU Summer Sevens Series Tournament: Newport 7s
- June 29 NERFU Summer Sevens Series Tournament: Burlington 7s



### **JULY**

July 1 – Fall schedule announced

July 13 – NERFU Summer Sevens Series Tournament: Worcester 7s

July 20 – NERFU Summer Sevens Series Championship Tournament

July 26-28 – 50th Anniversary of CanAms



### **AUGUST**

CIPP renewals - Exact Date TBA by USA Rugby

August 1 – Deadline to request referees through NERRS



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Brad Dufresne** 

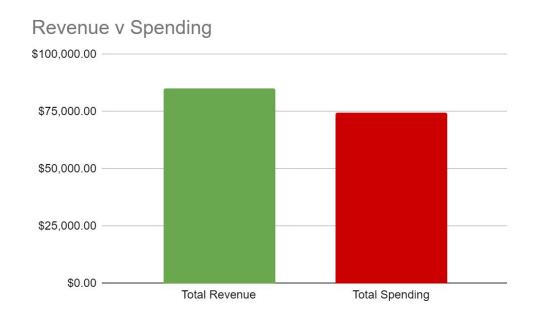


## TREASURER'S REPORT

Nora Welsh



### **2024 REVENUE V SPENDING**

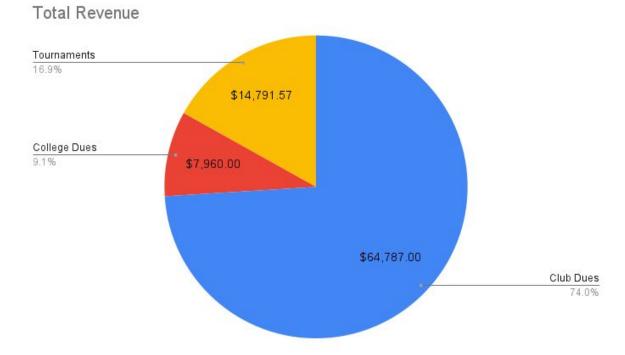


Total Revenue	\$87,538.57
Total Spending	\$70,649.97
Net Income	\$16,888.60



### **2024 REVENUE OVERVIEW**





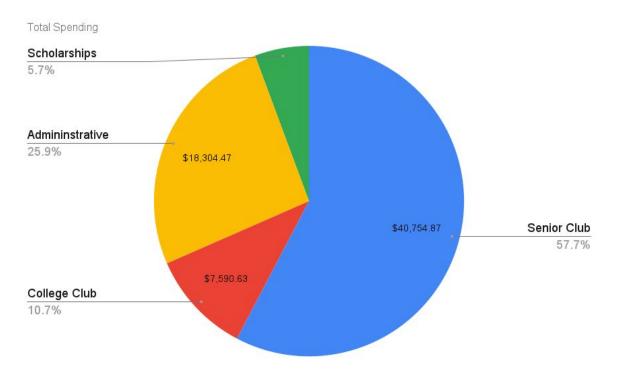


### FINANCIAL REPORT- REVENUE

	Actual	Actual v Budget
Club Dues	\$64,787.00	\$8,687.00
College Dues	\$7,960.00	\$460.00
Tournaments	\$14,791.57	-\$2,808.43
Total Revenue	\$87,538.57	\$6,338.57

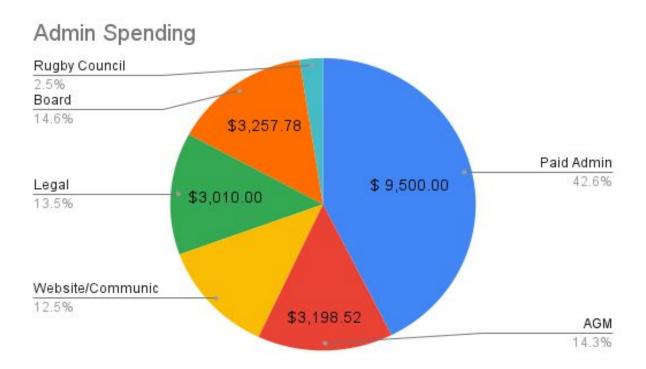


### **2024 SPENDING OVERVIEW**





### **DETAILED SPENDING - ADMINISTRATIVE**



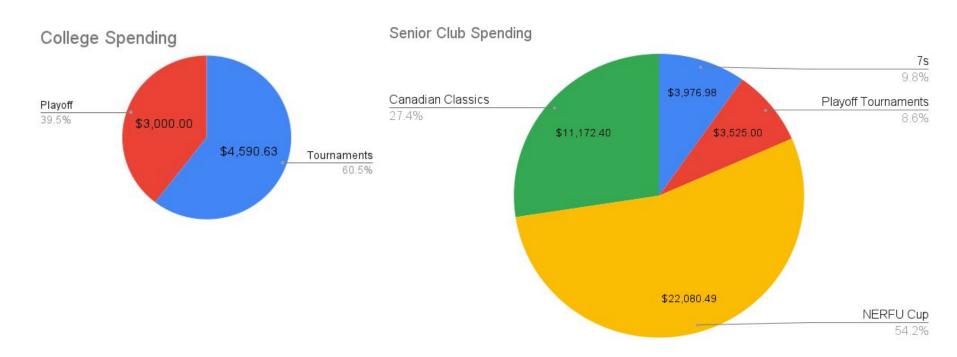


### FINANCIAL REPORT - ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	Actual	Actual v Budget
GU Admin salary	\$ 9,500.00	\$8,500.00
USA Rugby Club Council (T&A)	\$549.30	\$950.70
AGM	\$3,198.52	\$2,801.48
Communications	\$2,165.23	-\$165.23
Website	\$623.64	\$76.36
Board T&E	\$3,257.78	\$742.22
Legal/Accounting Fees	\$3,010.00	\$2,490.00
Total Administrative Expenses	\$22,304.47	\$15,395.53



### **DETAILED SPENDING - RUGBY**





### FINANCIAL REPORT - RUGBY EXPENSES

	College Actuals	Actuals v Budget
Playoffs	\$726.00	\$874.00
7s	\$3,864.63	-\$1,364.63
Playoff Assistance	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Total College	\$7,590.63	\$2,509.37
	Club Actuals	
7s	\$3,976.98	\$2,023.02
Playoffs - D2/D3	\$2,025.00	\$975.00
Playoffs - D1	\$1,500.00	\$500.00
NERFU Cup	\$22,080.49	\$7,919.51
Canadian Classics	\$11,172.40	-\$5,172.40
Total Club	\$40,754.87	\$6,245.13
Total Rugby	\$48,345.50	\$8,754.50



## SENIOR CLUBS REPORT

Kelsey Maguire



# WOMEN'S COMPETITION BRACKETS

Fall 2023



### **WPL - WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE**

Beantown Currently Ranked #3 Nationally!



### **WOMEN'S DIVISION 1 - STANDINGS GOING INTO SPRING**

**Boston Women** 

Providence

Beantown (D1)



### **WOMEN'S DIVISION 2 - STANDINGS GOING INTO SPRING**

Albany

Worcester

Burlington

**Charles River** 

Hartford

Portland



### **WOMEN'S DIVISION 2 - STANDINGS GOING INTO SPRING**

South Shore

Amoskeag

Seacoast

North Shore

**Upper Valley** 



### **COLLEGE CLUBS REPORT**

Dale Russell



### **SPRING 2023 (7s SEASON)**

The Championship was 2-day 16 team tournament

Champion - Maine

### **CRC Final 7s Rankings**

- Babson 1st
  - Combined 28-1 over the Spring 7's Season.
    - Only Loss against Queen's University (D1)
- Maine 14th

#### Small College MVP

Reed Santos MVP of CRC Small College 7's & Signed to Loggerheads in PR7's



### **FALL 2023 (15s SEASON)**

Three Divisions of Rugby Played

- Developmental 4 Teams (7s Only)
- Challenge 10 Teams
- Champions 8 Teams



### **CHALLENGE CUP FALL 2023**

 Nichols Men's Rugby- NCR Small College Northeast Challenge Cup Champion, achieving the club's first regional championship win & first conference championship win since 2006

Undefeated season going 7-0 in league play and 12-0 overall for the Fall.

Off the field fundraising 150 toys for the local community for Christmas time.



### **NERFU CHAMPIONS CUP 2023 SUCCESS**

Babson College has won 2 National Championships in 2023!

- NCR Academic All-Americans: 20
- 2023 NCR Small College National Champions (XV's)
  - #1 Ranked Small College Team for entire season (11-0 Record)
  - All-Americans: Reed Santos (NCR MVP), Jack Byszio(NCR Heart & Soul Award), Brice Muller (USA U20s Player Pool)
  - 8 Players Selected for Northeast All-Star Team
  - Team GPA of 3.59 for 40 Player Roster. 29 Made Babson Dean List
  - SGA club sport of the year and Reed Santos was SGA club sport athlete of the year
  - Coach Carrick Pell was NCR Coach of the Month for November



### **NERFU SENIOR MEN'S CLUB AND NCR COLLABORATIONS**

Bowdoin College & Portland Men's Rugby rekindling "Maine Cup"

- Most Universities and Colleges will participate.
- Past tournaments would provide an All-Maine XV and a pathway for regional representation competing against neighboring states.
  - o Date: April 6/7 2024 @ Bowdoin College

Seven Hills Cup- Worcester Men's Rugby & Nichols Men's Rugby

- 2 teams of Nominated Challenge Cup All Stars taking on Worcester's A and B side
- Providing additional select side experience and Men's club integration for current college players

Could we see further initiatives with other NERFU senior sides and colleges? Youth?



### **NERFU ALL-CONFERENCE COMBINED CHAMPION & CHALLENGE CUP**

Prop	School	Back Row	School	Centers	School	
Nate Marconi	College of the Holy Cross	Charles Price	Babson College	Jack Byszio	Babson College	
Tyler Davis	Nichols College	Richard Ohia	Bowdoin College	Matt Schwab	College of the Holy Cross	
Pat Minnehan	Providence College		College of the Holy	Providence #13	Providence College	
Alex Urszinyi	<b>UMaine-Farmington</b>	Andrew Cowles	gion	Cross	Evan Downing	UMaine-Farmington
		Evan Davidson	Keene State College			
Hooker	School	Alex Havarty Charles Doyle	Merrimack College Middlebury College	Back Three	School	
Chase Montgomery	Babson College	Chanes Doyle	Middlebury College	Steve Garofalo	Babson College	
Brian Arcentalez Salinas	Bowdoin College	Scrum Half	School	Aansh Raiyani	Bowdoin College	
2nd Row	School	Max Costello	Keene State College	Ryan Young Shaan Kanani	Merrimack College Middlebury College	
Brice Muller	Babson College	Jacob Laroche	Nichols College	Iverson Ramirez	Nichols College	
Jon Hall	Colby College	Flyhalf	School	Danny Moffat	University of New England	
John Cox	College of the Holy Cross	Reed Santos	Babson College	Daring Monat	Offiversity of New England	
Alixx Canwell	UMaine-Farmington	Luke Wolfington	College of the Holy Cross			



### SCHOLASTIC ALL AMERICANS - 65 PLAYERS FROM 8 SCHOOLS

Kehinde Adenle - Babson College 2024

Malek Allari - Eastern CT State University - 2023

Nick Anastas - Bowdoin College - 2023

Brian Arcentalez - Bowdoin College - 2024

Michael Bagnoli - Bowdoin College - 2026

Evan Bapista - Eastern CT State University - 2024

Isaac Bediako - Bowdoin College - 2024

Caleb Beebe - Amherst College - 2023

Nathan Blaha - Babson College - 2026

Alex Bolt - Babson College - 2023

Gerry Boylan - Babson College - 2024

KaDerrius Campbell - Bowdoin College - 2023

Quinn Cashman - Nichols College - 2026

Lucas Cerrahoglu - Babson College - 2026

Owen Chambers - Bowdoin College - 2025

Austin Cline - Babson College - 2025

Alton Coolidge - Babson College - 2026

Agustin Corti Maderna - Babson College - 2025

Maurizo Costa - Babson College - 2023

Lucas Couture - Nichols College - 2023

Vinny Crosskill - Babson College - 2026

Saul Cuevas-Landeros - Bowdoin College - 2023

Victor DelVecchio - Eastern CT State University- 2023

Justin Dixon - Bowdoin College - 2023

Harrison Drislane - UMaine-Orono - 2023

Andrew Esposito - Eastern CT State University- 2025

David Garcia - Bowdoin College - 2025

Jean-Philippe Guillerault - Curry College - 2023

Nico Guzman - Bowdoin College - 2023

Jonathan Hofmann - College of the Holy Cross - 2025

Bram Hollis - Bowdoin College - 2023

Coltrane Joseph - Bowdoin College - 2023

Luv Kataria - Bowdoin College - 2024



### SCHOLASTIC ALL AMERICANS - 65 PLAYERS FROM 8 SCHOOLS

Jacob Laroche - Nichols College - 2024

Max Leussler - Babson College - 2025

Aryan Mankar - Babson College - 2025

Griffin McDevitt - University of Maine - 2024

Will McDonough - Bowdoin College - 2025

Niall McKenna - College of the Holy Cross - 2025

Pat McQuillen - College of the Holy Cross - 2023

Jake Mead - College of the Holy Cross - 2023

Kamil Mouthon - Babson College - 2023

Callum Nicholson - Babson College - 2023

Richard Ohia - Bowdoin College - 2024

Cole Paquin - Eastern CT State University- 2023

Austin Paul - Nichols College - 2023

Alastair Poole - Amherst College - 2023

Aansh Raiyani - Bowdoin College - 2024

Diego Rao - Amherst College - 2023

Jacob Ring - Babson College - 2026

Colby Santana - Bowdoin College - 2023

Reed Santos - Babson College - 2024

Matt Schwab - College of the Holy Cross - 2025

Kai Scott - Babson College - 2025

Satchel Sevenau - Babson College - 2025

Luke Shaw - Bowdoin College - 2025

Jimmy Song - Bowdoin College - 2025

Jake Thomas - Babson College - 2023

Thomas Trundy - Bowdoin College - 2023

Jack Vaughan -College of the Holy Cross - 2023

Kenny Ventress - Bowdoin College - 2025

Thomas Weller - Bowdoin College - 2025

Jamison Welsh - Eastern CT State University - 2024

Michael Widman- University of Maine - 2026

Wenquin Zhao - Babson College - 2023



## COLLEGE RUGBY CLUB ORGANIZATIONAL BEST PRACTICE & GOALS

- Sustainable recruitment
- Club constitution or Bylaws
- University connection
- Coaches code of conduct



### **NERFU COLLEGE ACADEMIC ALL STARS**

- Opportunity to highlight off the field success of players, aligns club rugby with similar NCAA accolades
- Mutually beneficial for teams as well as University club sports departments giving them things to highlight



# **SPRING 7S 2023**

- Conference Tournament April 13th and 14th
  - Location Babson College
  - Cost \$125
  - Automatic Qualifier



# **SEVENS RUGBY REPORT**

Kim Maiorca



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 7s?

- Each year we strive to have things planned in advance This year we do
- We have a schedule and you have options
  - Sevens is more than just a summer series. It is an actual rugby season and we are trying to make it that within NERFU
- Some questions for your next team meeting:
  - Will you compete for the series championship?
  - Do you use seven's for fundraising and recruiting or are you just in it for fun?



### **2024 NERFU SUMMER SEVENS SERIES SCHEDULE**

June 15 - Boston

June 22 - Newport

June 29 - Burlington

July 13 - Worcester

July 20 - NERFU Championship @ Veterans Stadium Quincy

### **Important Registration Dates:**

March 1: Season Registration for the Whole Season Opens (financial incentive for teams that register for the whole season)

April 1: Registration Opens for Individual Tournaments



# DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ben Dexter



# **2023 CHANGES TO NERFU DISCIPLINE STRUCTURE**

- Created "independent" Discipline Committee
- Implemented World Rugby Regulations per USA Rugby mandate
- Drafted NERFU policies in compliance with World Rugby/USA Rugby policy



# **PURPOSES OF DISCIPLINE CHANGES**

- Support World Rugby Core Principles, including:
  - Universality of sanctions across all levels of rugby
  - Consistency of sanctions
  - Fairness/justice for players
  - Speedy timelines
  - Independence of Judicial Officers, Panels, Committees



# **OUTLINE OF FOUL PLAY HEARING PROCESS**

- Discipline Committee receives red card report
- Judicial Officer or Panel is assigned
- JO or Panel Chair holds a prehearing call with player
- JO or Panel holds a hearing
- JO or Panel issues written decision
- Decision is appealable, within 48 hours, on limited grounds



# **2023 FALL SEASON - BY THE NUMBERS**

- 3 foul play reports
  - 1 high school
  - 2 adult club
- 2 foul play hearings
- 1 sanction



# **2024 GOALS**

- Circulate, approve, and publish updated Discipline Policy
- Expand Discipline Committee: new Judicial Officers and Panelists



# **COMMUNICATIONS UPDATES**

#### **Established Channels**

- Website nerfu.rugby
- Email
- Facebook
- Instagram

Job Board (nerfu.rugby/about/jobs)



# **NERRS** Representative

# AMELIA "MIII" LUCIANO

**NERRS President** 

# Overview

- Officers and Contact Info
- Process for Referee Requests
- Fee Structure 2024
- Referee Services
- Your role in referee recruitment and development



# NERRS is the oldest and premier referee society in the country.

- Each year we have ~70 referees who fill our ~530 match and ~30 tournament assignments.
- We offer referee coaching and development opportunities, continuing education, and aim to watch each referee in at least 1 match per year to determine their competencies and give them feedback to improve.
- We have a 7 active referee coaches, 4 of whom coach referees at the national level.
- Currently, we have 7 referees ranked in the top 100 in the country and 2 in the top 20. 13 of our referees were assigned to performance leagues such as NIRA, D1A college, WPL, ARP, etc. last season
- Goal for 2024: Continue to upskill our referees through coaching and knowledge transfer from top referees to local level referees.



NERRS Executive Board 2023 (2024 voting in 2 weeks)

### **Elected Positions**

Amelia Luciano, President (president@nerugbyrefs.org)

Tom Zanarini, Vice President (vicepresident@nerugbyrefs.org)

Alec Tolivaisa, Treasurer (treasurer@nerugbyrefs.org)

Don Jennings, Secretary (secretary@nerugbyrefs.org)

Judah Boulet, Ombudsman (ombuds@nerugbyrefs.org)

### <u>Assignors</u>

Tom Beriau, Boston (bosassign@nerugbyrefs.org)
Neal Dill, Southwest (swassign@nerugbyrefs.org)
Chris Eckman, Northeast (neassign@nerugbyrefs.org)
Chris "Gusto" Davis, Northwest (nwassign@nerugbyrefs.org)

Miles McIvor, ANCRR (Atlantic North) Representative

### Representative to NERFU

Morgan Roberts Rinakama (roberts.morganl@gmail.com)





**NERRS** Website www.Nerugbyrefs

#### Giving Feedback

Referee Feedback **Match Fees & Payments** 

#### Match

- reams deserve a voice in the growth of rugby in New England
- Referees need an accurate, complete view of average/neutral, positive, and negative feedback · NERRS needs greater visibility into how teams see the product put on the field

- . NERRS will be able to respond to and to resolve concerns
- . NERRS will improve how the society's few coaches are allocated
- NERRS will better identify referees that merit in-person observation and promotions

#### Referee Feedback

Referee's Name

What Feedback Will Enable

We are constantly trying to improve our referees. Please share your suggestions, ideas, or anything that comes to mind.

First & Last Name	Select a date	:::	
Your Name *	Your email "		Your Club & Yo
First & Last Name	Enter email here		e.g. XYZ RFC
Rate the referee's overall performance.	Rate the referee's fitness. *		Rate the refere
Excellent	Excellent		Excellent
Very Good	Very Good		Very Goo
Good	Good		Good
Fair	Fair		Fair
Poor	Poor		Poor

Match's Date

# Fees

Game

#### NERRS Payment Schedule 2023



Event Type	Flat Fee For Referees	Mileage rate for referees	What we charge clubs
HS Single Match Referee	\$100	\$0.65 / mile	\$160
Senior / College Club Match Referee	\$100	\$0.65 / mile	\$160
ARP & Liberty Conference Matches	\$125	\$0.65 / mile	\$185
2 <sup>nd</sup> Side Match	\$100	\$0.65 / mile	\$160 / \$110
AR / 4th official	\$100	\$0.65 / mile	\$135
Coach / Evaluator	\$50	N/A	N/A
Tournament ½ Day Referee	\$125	N/A	\$160
Tournament Full Day Referee**	\$225	N/A	\$260

<sup>\* 2&</sup>lt;sup>nd</sup> Side Matches performed by same referee as 1<sup>nd</sup> side matches at same location on same day are billed at \$110, a \$50 discount \*\* Referees can request overnight lodging stipend for events outside of their geographic areas

Clubs are billed directly for referee services to the listed club treasurer on Match Facts, and clubs should contact the NERRS Treasurer (treasurer@nerugbyrefs.org) regarding any questions about paying the invoice or the invoice itself

Clubs with outstanding balances beyond their respective due dates will not be eligible to receive referee assignments until their outstanding debt is paid, and they may be subject to late payment fines.

# Referees

Process for Requesting

The New England Rugby Referee Society has moved from Who's the R platform.

Each club and conference has an established account, and NERRS pre season (2022-2023) in the system for each account. The primary contact rest of the process.

If you're working with NERRS for the first time or your old primary conta club/conference, please contact Amelia Luciano at president@nerugb of the account's contacts.

#### Officer Responsibilities and Instructions

Primary contacts must ensure the following procedures are done for their club.

#### 1. Update Contacts

- Anyone who has the role "Membership Officer" can add others and can assign them roles.
- Login to Match Facts. Go to the "Organization" view by clicking in the top left of the page (as opposed to

# Requesting Referees Through NERRS: MatchFacts

- 1) Update your team's contact information in MatchFacts (2 contacts!). If you have lost access to your account, please email <a href="mailto:president@nerugbyrefs.org">president@nerugbyrefs.org</a> or <a href="mailto:bosassign@nerugbyrefs.org">bosassign@nerugbyrefs.org</a> with details about your name, name of your club, position with the club, and what technical issue you are having.
- 2) Confirm/update the field associated with your club in the "GROUNDS" area of MatchFacts.
- 3) Enter your games. Proofread for the correct time, date, and location. Once you save a game, it will appear as "pending". Within 48 hrs, a NERRS official will check and approve it and make it available to be assigned. *Note:* If your team has unpaid bills, your games will not move from "pending" until you have paid. If you have questions or believe there is an error, contact <a href="mailto:treasurer@nerugbyrefs.org">treasurer@nerugbyrefs.org</a>.
- 4) A referee will be assigned to you by Thursday of the match week, but usually 1-2 weeks before. If you have concerns about an assignment, reach out directly to **your** area assignor.
- When you see the assignment has been made, please contact the referee to confirm game details, your and opposition teams' colors, and exchange phone numbers in case changes or cancellations occur.

# NERRS Fee Structure For 2024 (No changes until Fall)



Due to inflation, we will increase fees for the Fall 2024. If your club has difficulty paying, please reach out to Treasurer@nerugbyrefs.org.

Game/Referee Type	Spring/Summer 2024	Fall 2024
HS Single Match Referee	\$160	\$175
Senior/College Club Match Referee	\$160	\$175
ARP & Liberty Conference Referee	\$185	\$185
2 <sup>nd</sup> Side Referee	\$160/\$110 (if same ref as 1st side)	\$175
AR/4 <sup>th</sup> Official	\$135	\$150
Tournament ½ Day Referee	\$160	\$160
Tournament Full Day Referee	\$260	\$260
Coach/Evaluator	N/A	N/A

On average \$35 goes to NERRS per assignment. These fees are used for pay referee coaches, additional sports officials' insurance, training and development opportunities, kit coupons, end of year banquet, and course reimbursement.

### Other Referee Services



Besides refereeing your games, NERRS referees can be a resource for:

- Attending and refereeing your training sessions
- Leading law quizzes for your team
- Answering Q&A sessions for your players and coaches

These are good opportunities for our referees to practice in a low-pressure environment and to help our teams better understand the laws.

Reach out to <a href="mailto:ombuds@nerugbyrefs.org">ombuds@nerugbyrefs.org</a> to get connected with a local referee for the type of activity your team would like to put on.

# The Age-Old Problem: Referee Shortage

NERRS sent referees to 99% of games and tournaments where referees were requested in 2023. However, many weekends required referees to work multiple games.

NERRS was asked on several occasions to help other areas in the Northeast or at clubs that haven't requested referees in quite some time.

This is a problem for the entire New England rugby community, not just for the referees...





# WE WANT YOU (or your teammates) TO REFEREE!

The ask: Nominate 2+ members of your team who you think would be a good referee by emailing NERRS (<a href="mailto:president@nerugbyrefs.org">president@nerugbyrefs.org</a>) with their names and email addresses.



#### Tara Roberts

Ironically enough, I initially started reffing to work down the time on a card suspension. I found it really beneficial to me as a player and coach at that time, and it's a great way to be competitively involved in the game now, after hanging up the boots as a player.



#### **Geoff Tancredi**

I didn't like seeing the 2nd XVs for my HS club and for my sister's HS club consistently not get refs. I knew how hard all those players practiced and trained for games, and I wanted to help give them the chance to fall in love with rugby as much as I have; more games of rugby being played is only good news for the sport in my book.

### The Solution: Recruitment, Retention, and Rescheduling – YOU can help!

If you are already a certified referee, contact NERRS (<a href="mailto:president@nerugbyrefs.org">president@nerugbyrefs.org</a>) or the contact form on our website to sign up to referee. Whether it's a couple of sevens tournaments, as an AR at the NERFU Cup, or becoming a stalwart referee, we are happy to have you!

If you have not been certified and would like to be, there are courses in New England this spring:

- March 23 Hingham, MA
- April 7 Maine (Exact location TBD)
- April 14 Canton, MA

AR Course – available online for \$20 through Rugby Rx Learning Center.

Referee abuse continues to be the top reason referees quit. If you are on the pitch, sideline, or in the stands, remember that rugby is a game built on respect and referees are human, too.

The last way to help us cover all matches is to schedule your game at a time different than the bulk of games (Saturday 11-5p), so referees can double/triple up to cover the games.



# Voice your opinions!

If you have feedback about a referee's performance, positive or negative, fill out our referee feedback form on our website.

https://www.nerugbyrefs.org/nerrs-ref eree-feedback





# **Special Guest**

# **CARRICK PELL**

Head Coach - Babson College



Keynote Speaker

# **THOMAS "Wheels" Grant**

Community and Academy Lead - New England Free Jacks

# 





# **HOW WE CAN HELP YOU**



**COACH DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT** 



YOUTH PROGRAM KICKSTARTER



FJ PLAYER TRAINING APPEARANCES



SCHOOL VISITS IN YOUR AREA

# **SPOTLIGHT EVENTS**

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR NERFU CLUBS** 

March 16 - Heritage Cup

April 20 - Trailblazers Trophy

June 2nd - New England Flag Championships

June 16th - Golden Oldies Cup

SIGN UP AT FREEJACKS.COM

# **REGIONAL TRACKING DAYS**





# **OUR ACADEMY**





Junior Jacks Girls

Junior Jacks Boys



Independents
U23 Women

Independents U23 Men





# **Imagine Flag Rugby**

Investing in Americas Youth



# Imagine Flag Rugby Mission

The mission of the Imagine Flag Rugby program is to introduce rugby to youths across North America and provides a supportive entry into the rugby ecosystem to grow and mature within as athletes, as students and as individuals.

The Imagine Youth Flag Rugby program looks to get a rugby ball into the hands of every kid in America. This includes introducing rugby into 50,000 schools and having over 1 million youth playing rugby by the 2031/33 World Cups here in the United States!

Imagine Rugby is the 501C3 division of MLR, who is working in partnership with USA Rugby and USA Youth & High School Rugby with support from World Rugby











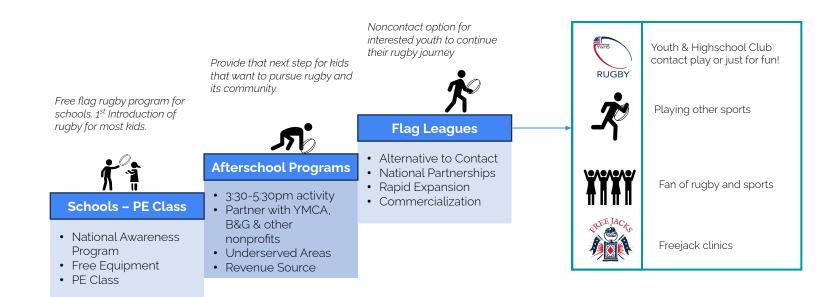






# Approach

Provide an adaptable noncontact form of rugby for youth meant to be complimentary and supportive of existing programs, while also providing that needed introduction to the sport. Build long term partnerships to enable rapid expansion, focus on underserved communities and establishment of a sustainable foundation for long term growth.





# About Imagine Flag Rugby



This is a free service provided to schools focused on "Teaching the Teacher". The program leverages noncontact game play activities specifically designed to be:

- Simple to teach and administer in PE Class
- Easy to understand and pickup in 10 minutes
- Fun to play in class, at recess and afterschool

These learned skills translate well into all athletic interests and promote growth as a student and opportunities as an educator.

The program leverages Ball in Bag kits along with in person training with Pro Players to introduce the fundamentals, values and game of Rugby to teachers and their students! All programming aligns





# Currently...



MLR / SYRO Region	States	Schools	Students	After School	Kids
2023 YEARLY TOTALS	19	356	125,000	18	1,700
GRAND TOTALS	19	676	338,000	51	4,700







# Youth Growth

Rugby has a proven track record in helping enhance the lives of those who play from a young age. Studies show that:

88%

Of students report that their physical fitness has improved as a result of playing rugby

86%

Of students report that rugby is helping them develop into a person with more good qualities

82%

Of students report that their academic performance improved as a rulst of playing rugby

81%

Of students are further along a pathway to happy, healthy lives (significant gains in positive youth development score)

<sup>\*</sup> Play Rugby, Inc. Social Emotional Learning Survey, 2018



# **Unique Offering**







### **INTERESTED?**

Please contact:

Thomas "Wheels" Grant thomas.grant@freejacks.com

## Support

- Ball Bag Kits (Free for Schools)
- State Aligned Curriculum
- Skills & Game Cards
- YouTube Videos / Channel
- In Person Training w/ a Pro
- MLR, MLR Franchises, YHS Rugby, USA Rugby and World Rugby Partners











## Imagine Rugby Pathway







contact rugby play in the U.S. from grade school thru high school

Awareness program introducing flag & noncontact rugby into school & afterschool programs



#### **Imagine Youth Rugby**

- 50K Schools

Foundation of all youth



#### Youth & High School

- 1M Youth Playing
- 10 States Sanctioned HS Play
- 25% Conversion to College / Academy

Focused on growth of elite level play of athletes out of YHS club and college funneling directly to USA Eagles and MLR



#### Academy (Elite)

- 25K Players by 2031
- National Tournament
- Elite Level USA Team

Ushering rugby players into college thru community college emerging sports leading to university growth









#### Collegiate

- 100 Colleges by 2031
- Achieve Varsity Status
- Pathway into Universities







27M Kids Aware

1M Youth Playing



On 3 ...

# Good Luck & Go USA!



### **ELECTIONS - Board of Directors (2 Year Terms)**

#### **Uncontested Nominees:**

President: BRAD DUFRESNE

Secretary: NIKKI PLUMPTON

Vice President, Senior Clubs: KELSEY MAGUIRE

Vice President, College Clubs: CHRIS BROERE (half term)



### **ELECTIONS - Commissioners (1 Year Terms)**

#### **Uncontested Commissioner Nominees:**

Commissioner of College Men - Champions: TONY SOLIS

Commissioner of Senior Women - Division 2 & 3: NIKKI PLUMPTON

Commissioner of Senior Men - Division 1 & 2: NICK ST. GERMAIN

Commissioner of Senior Men - Division 3: ZACH BOSWELL

Commissioner of Senior Men - Division 4: JAMES CANON

Commissioner of Senior Sevens: KIMBERLEE MAIORCA



### **ELECTIONS - Accepting Nominations From The Floor**

#### Vacant Positions:

Vice President of Diversity & Inclusion (2 Year Term)

Commissioner of Training & Development

Commissioner of Senior Women - Division 1

Commissioner of College Men - Challenge

Commissioner of College Sevens

Commissioner of College Women



### **AWARDS**

Club of the Year - South Shore Rugby

Spirit of Rugby - Peter Watson

College Champion Division - Babson College

College Challenge Division (Bill Good Trophy) - Nichols College

Division 4 Men - Seacoast Rugby



### A NOTE ON FALL/SPRING SCHEDULE ISSUES



### **DIVISION BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Senior Women+ - Front Section

Senior Men+ - Middle Section

College Clubs – Back Section



# **THANK YOU**