

Pinellas Athletic Club Under 19 Rugby

Dear Parents:

If you are reading this packet then your son has expressed interest in playing rugby with the Pinellas Athletic Club. Our club provides instruction and competition in youth rugby. Membership in the under 19 team is for athletes of no more than 19 years of age who are currently enrolled in high school. Rugby is a fast paced contact sport that is played around the world. In Florida, high school rugby began in 2005. In other states, such as California, New York, Indiana, Illinois, Texas, and Massachusetts, high school rugby has existed for many years or decades.

Rugby is an excellent 2nd sport for football players. Rugby demands a high level of cardiovascular fitness. Substitutions are limited and the game is only stopped for rule infractions and half time. All of the 30 players in a game (15 on each team/side) play both offense and defense. Every player has the opportunity to carry the ball and score.

Pinellas Athletic Club is currently forming for our first season. We are the first Under 19 team to play out of Pinellas County. Our team practices will begin in early January. We will practice at a designated city sports complex. The first game of our season will be in January and we will play on most Saturdays until mid-April. You can expect the team to play at least 8 games during the season. About half of our games will be played locally and about half will require travel. Other teams playing in our league are located near Tampa, and across the state. We may also play an occasional match with a touring team from another state or country. A fast version of the game, called 7's, is played in the summer. We may participate in a few 7's tournaments but participation is not mandatory.

Below are some web sites that are dedicated to high school rugby or rugby in general. Information can be found here that may answer some of your questions about the sport and the support it receives.

<http://www.usarugby.org/home.html> U.S.A. Rugby
<http://www.floridarugbyunion.com/index.htm> Florida Rugby Union
<http://www.rugbyacademy.us> The Rugby Academy

Attached are a waiver form and a player profile. Completing these forms is the first step toward joining the Club.

Each month, The Rugby Academy of South Florida stages an instructional clinic. Interested members of our club will be attending these sessions on a voluntary basis. The Academy runs these clinics professionally. Excellent instruction is provided by a very experienced coaching staff. The cost to attend is \$15 per player and that fee also includes lunch, a t-shirt and sometimes a nice bonus such as a pair of rugby shorts or a rugby travel bag. Players are divided into 4 groups: beginners, intermediate, advanced, for the boys and a separate group for girls. Each group is given instruction that is appropriate for their level of experience. These clinics are excellent for any level of experience and highly recommended.

Rugby is a fantastic sport. American rugby is growing quickly in popularity and our national team is improving as a result. Our players may be selected to play on one of two all-star teams in Florida. Players also may be selected to play on the USA U-19 or U-17 all-star teams. Currently, there are players from various Florida high school teams that have been selected to a national all-star or all-star developmental team.

I hope that you will allow your son to join us. Please contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,
Jay Chandler
Head Coach
pinellasathleticclub@gmail.com

A Note to Our Parents: updated 12-09-2007

Parents are an important part of each youth rugby team. We hope you and your family will support your son by attending matches, and by cheering for the team. We also have a Rugby Parents Club...all are welcome.

Many families are brand new to rugby. Most have questions about the sport and how teams are operated. Following is a Frequently Asked Question – FAQ section to provide answers to many such questions.

For those who have questions about the laws (rules) of rugby, please refer to the article entitled "Spectators Guide to Rugby" at www.USArugby.org.

Sincerely,

The Pinellas Athletic Club Coaching Staff