

August 7, 2021

Michigan Rugby parents, welcome!

We enter this season with a sense of renewal, and for many, this season is new entirely. Even for those players who started with Michigan Rugby last year, their experience has been incomplete. We look forward to offering competition this fall and with it, the expansion of our community.

These two main facets of rugby—competition and community—are the focus of our team's mission. While we strive for on-field success and our best embodiment of Michigan's Leaders and Best ethos, we embrace rugby's ability to create new relationships and lifelong bonds. We believe rugby's community experience is the best in all of athletics, and that pursuing improved performance or additional resources need not eliminate this experience. In fact, the tandem of competition and community makes each element stronger.

Our most frequent community event is meals after home games. These are opportunities to not only replenish both teams' exhausted players, but provide a setting for conversation and the building of new relationships. We've purchased new tents and signage to improve this gameday experience. And we hope that you have the opportunity to attend this fall.

If there's one game to attend, we hope you can make Parents Weekend on October 23rd when we face Purdue. In addition to the on-field competition and meal, we'll be hosting a banquet in the Michigan Union that evening. Your participation will surely impact our pursuit of the best community in sports.

In addition to community enhancements, our players have remained focused on competing at their best when the chance returns. Weekly "Zoombies" have provided tactical rugby discussions, strength and conditioning programs help players maintain and improve physical standards, and weekly summer skill-building sessions have served those still near campus.

While these activities have helped player development, nothing can replace a full-team training—all 60 to 70 players—on a fall night in Ann Arbor. The physical proximity, the shared exertion, and the collective goals are integral to life as a rugby teammate. Rugby teammates help each other off the ground and grab hold of one another to drive forward, often despite significant obstacles and doubtful outcomes. This determined, united progress is the lesson of rugby. Rugby teams—our team—must always move forward.

We welcome you to the team and are eager to bind together for our 63rd fall of Michigan Rugby competition and community. Go Blue.

Regards,  
Matt Trenary  
Head Coach, University of Michigan Men's Rugby