



Who Are We?

Mission:

Serve the University of Michigan and embody its mission through rugby competition and community.

Vision:

Michigan Rugby is a championship-caliber organization aimed at pursuing rugby excellence and a world-class rugby experience for all.

Values:

Team: My actions advance our shared goals.

Valor: My actions challenge adversity and fear.

Leaders: My actions inspire others to act.

Best: My actions maximize the moment's resources.



We work everyday both to uphold 62 years of outstanding rugby tradition and to attain new heights in the future. This is Michigan, and we are the Leaders and Best.

A Note from the President: George Janke



Dear Friends of Michigan Rugby,

First, the bad: We didn't play any rugby in 2020-2021 (p. 5). As the University weathered the height of the coronavirus pandemic, in-person events moved online, and when they did occur, they did so socially distanced and masked. Needless to say, this was not conducive to playing rugby. But sometimes you've just got to do your best with the hand you've been dealt. With that said, I think this past year was an overwhelming success for Michigan Rugby.

On the field, we turned to thrice weekly online "Zoombies" to build players' rugby knowledge when we couldn't do much else. In between frequent campus covid outbreaks, we practiced in-person (albeit only with our non-contact rugby skills) as much as we could. Perhaps most importantly, we maintained campus interest in rugby, and our numbers (we've got 55 players currently) have not dipped despite the lack of game action.

Our real win was off the field. Since we weren't playing games, we were able to double down on our efforts to develop the program for sustained success in the future. We redefined our mission and vision and values (see p. 2). We shook up our officer board in order to maximize efficiency (see p. 4). CFO Alexander Leichter and Head Coach Matt Trenary overhauled our budgeting process (p. 13; it's extraordinary how much more data is available to us when making decisions now). Coach Trenary created an internal team website so that players can more easily access team information. The list goes on and on.

Of course, none of this would be possible without our supporters. We received \$55k in donations this past year, by far the most ever (see p. 12). While our expenses were down without games, we relied on this money in order to pay our coaching staff, continue growing our endowment, and make purchases--such as signs to direct spectators--that will improve the Michigan Rugby gameday experience in Fall 2021 and beyond.

With all that said, I'm ecstatic for the future of rugby at Michigan. I hope to see you at a game this fall. Go Blue!

George Janke // President, Michigan Rugby // grjanke@umich.edu

A junior from McLean, Virginia, George didn't plan on playing a sport in college. But after showing up to a practice, he quickly fell in love with rugby and the competitive outlet it provides.



2021 Officer Board



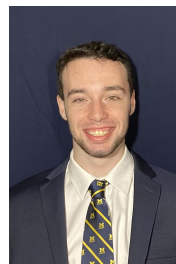
George Janke
Junior
President



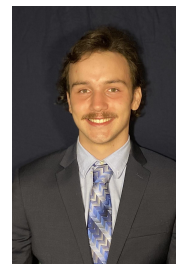
Braden Loughnane
Junior
Vice President



Alex Leichter
Junior
Chief Financial Officer



Conor Egan
Senior
Chief Logistics Officer



Calvin Klein
Sophomore
Chief Community Officer



Luke Boll
Senior
Chief Publicity Officer



Jackson Dabagia
Sophomore
Merchandise Officer



Alonzo Cortez
Junior
Public Relations Officer



Tommy Hendricks
Sophomore
Accounting Officer



Logan Przysiecki
Senior
Community Service Officer



Jackson Cox
Sophomore
Equipment Officer



Grant Sasina
Junior
Internal Events Officer

See p. 16 for the Captains, who also serve on the Officer Board.

Playing Through the Pandemic



When we were able to practice, we did so in masks, and spent most of the year on the practice field socially-distanced (no contact).

Covid outbreaks on campus were frequent; shut downs from practice were common. In those times, we turned to “Zoombies” to build rugby knowledge in the only way possible.

With no actual games, our focus turned to strength and conditioning. Players are coming back for Fall 2021 stronger than ever before.



While the pandemic isn't over, Michigan Rugby is back. See p. 17 for our Fall 2021 schedule.

Player Demographics (August 2021)

10% Freshmen
23% Sophomores
35% Juniors
31% Seniors

2 Years
Average Rugby
Experience

3.58
Average GPA

63%
Players with
STEM Majors

31%
In-State Players

14
States
Represented

5
Countries
Represented

54%
Multilingual
Players

Since the data is as of August, the freshman class is not filled out yet.





Remote Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Michigan

\$2,330 raised (up ~\$1,000 from 2020)

Also:

- Yearlong Blood Donations with the American Red Cross
- Virtual Walk to End Alzheimer's
- Habitat for Humanity ReStore
- 2021 USA Weightlifting National Championships Volunteering

A Note from the Head Coach: Matt Trenary



Michigan Rugby,

Fall 2021 presents many opportunities for our program, the first of which is playing competitive games again. The denial of this opportunity for the 2021 seniors was worse than any loss. The opportunity to represent Michigan Rugby is a treasured experience, and the COVID-19 pandemic has served as a stark reminder that this experience is a fleeting privilege unavailable to many.

This lesson has not been lost on returning players. This disappointment of a “lost season” has been counterbalanced by the significant work ethic and desire of returning players. Their shot at challenging their abilities and limits, and uniting in shared effort, is not taken for granted. Even as I write this, the delta variant is raising new questions about what is required for maintaining competitive club sports.

And your support in helping maintain our team has not been taken for granted either. Our opportunity to compete this fall, and our opportunity to improve as a program over the coming years, is only possible because of the generosity of our community. Despite lingering pandemic uncertainty, I’ve never been more excited about Michigan Rugby’s future because of the commitment of our entire community.

Stay in touch and healthy. I look forward to reuniting with many of you this fall. Go Blue.

Matt Trenary // Head Coach, Michigan Rugby // mensrugby@umich.edu

A 2006 alumnus, Coach Trenary is in his second stint as head coach. The relationships formed as a Michigan Rugby player and coach continue to shape his life.

2021-2022 Coaching Staff



Matt Trenary
Head Coach



Zach Simkins
1st Side Backs



Christian Mentzer
S&C / 2nd Side



Andre Cargill
Rugby 101 / Backs



Drew Vecchio
2nd Side / Forwards



Mike Renwick
Rugby 101 / Forwards



Matt Kasten
1st Side Backs



Lyric Kleber
Rugby 101 / Forwards



David Caputo
Rugby 101 / Backs

Most of our assistants are unpaid volunteers. We couldn't succeed without them.

Meet Some Players



Thomas Majure
Senior
Civil Engin.

I joined Michigan Rugby because I wanted something that would give me both structure and competition as I went through college. During my time with the team, I've found a family of guys that will neither let me down nor allow me to let myself down. We are constantly pushing to get the best out of one another. This team—and the sport in general—is built on hard work which is a virtue that I pride myself on and am happy to have found in Michigan rugby.
-Thomas Majure



Conor McNabnay
Sophomore
Mechanical Engin.

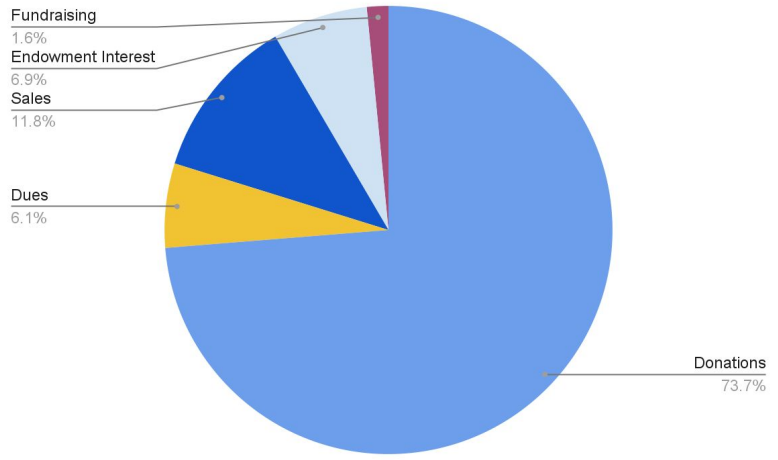
I joined Michigan Rugby because I wanted to be apart of an organized athletic team in college that would challenge me and offer some unique experiences. I enjoyed playing football in high school and I wanted to replicate that experience. This club has impacted my college experience by allowing me to be a part of a community of people who are teammates, friends, and students. I never thought I would be playing a sport in college so it's great to continue my athletic career playing rugby. -Conor McNabnay



We have 55 players entering Fall 2021.

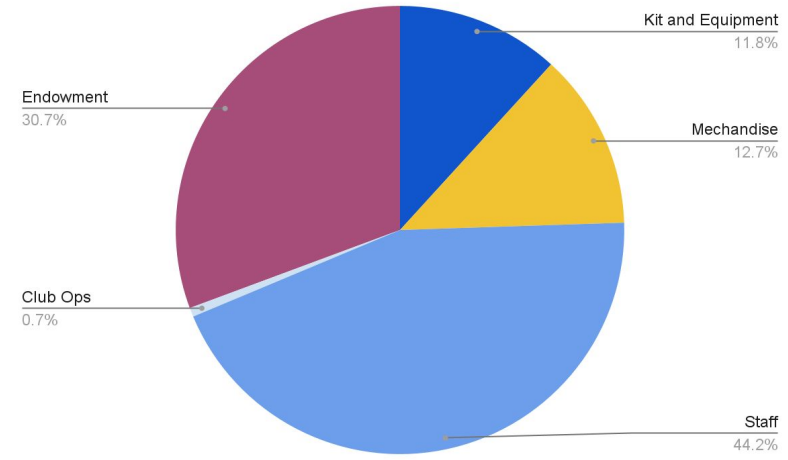
Financial Summary

2020-2021 Revenue: \$75.1k



- Donations (Direct and University Matching).....\$55,392
- Sales (Store Sales; Player Side Orders).....\$8,840
- Endowment Interest.....\$5,168
- Dues.....\$4,567
- Fundraising.....\$1,169

2020-2021 Expenses: \$91.6k



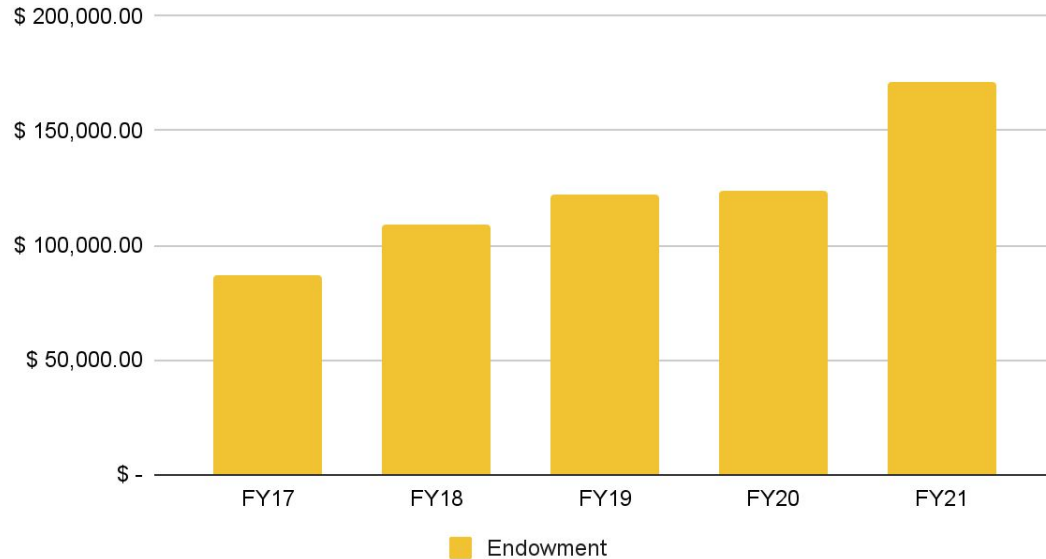
- Staff (Coaches).....\$40,518
- Endowment Contribution.....\$28,104
- Merchandise (Player Side Orders).....\$11,652
- Kit and Equipment (Uniforms; Kit Items).....\$10,786
- Club Ops (Stewardship; Miscellaneous).....\$598



If you have financial questions or suggestions, please contact Chief Financial Officer Alexander Leichter: leichter@umich.edu

Thank You Donors!

Endowment Growth (FY17-FY21)



Michigan Rugby received a record amount of donations this year

- Donations for FY 21: \$55,392
- Endowment Gain for FY 21: \$47,792

“We are incredibly grateful for our network of alumni, parents, and supporters that believe in us and our mission.”

- President George Janke

Half of your donation goes to funding current club operations, while the other half goes directly to our endowment.

Financing the Future

What has been done:

Creation of Organized Budget

We gathered previously scattered financial data, created a comprehensive budget system to help us understand club finances from years past, and are now planning a future that is supported by analytically-backed insights.

Continued Endowment Growth

Thanks to our donors and the MRF, our endowment continues to grow. This increases our yearly endowment interest, lessening dependence on fresh donations. It also gives us more clout within the University, making more ambitious goals more achievable. The endowment is integral to the club's future.

What we plan on doing:

Improved Player Support

Michigan Rugby's continued expansion must never lose sight of our *raison d'être*: our student-athletes. Financial support for team travel, subsidized team meals, and athletic training staff present at every game and practice are a few ways we are realizing a truly unrivaled Michigan Rugby experience.

Full-Time Head Coach

Michigan Rugby needs to pay our head coach like a full-time head coach. Unlike other competitive collegiate rugby programs, we are not currently able to do this. Amending this is imperative for our growth.



We wouldn't be able to achieve our long-term development goals without the help of the Michigan Rugby Foundation. See p. 14 for more information on the MRF.

Our Support Groups

Michigan Rugby Foundation (MRF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides flexible financial support and strategic guidance to the University of Michigan rugby community.

Over the 2020-2021 school year, MRF...

- Raised over \$26k with a shortfall campaign to support the club through the height of the pandemic.
- Raised \$8.6k for new balls for all players.
- Took on the club's long term development goals.
- Facilitated Giving Blueday donor outreach.

Support MRF through [Amazon Smile](#)

Visit MRF and donate at michiganrugbyfoundation.org



The **Student Advisory Committee (SAC)** is a group of local alumni and supporters that provide guidance to the club, specifically with...

- Navigating relations with the University.
- Solidifying annual and long-term budgets.
- Negotiating coaching contracts.
- Identifying and resolving potential barriers to rugby.
- Refining alumni engagement opportunities.

Current Members

Karl Seibert	Aaron Dodd
Mike Brooks	Jeff Hagan
Matt Kasten	Lyric Kleber

*Interested in getting involved with MRF? Contact President Wes Farrow at wes@michiganrugbyfoundation.org
Any input for the SAC? Contact umrffc-sac@umich.edu*

How Can You Support?

Donate

See mrugby.com/support. 100% of your donation goes directly to the club.

Cheer the team on

Come to Mitchell Field for a home game. It's free!
Not in town? Watch our live stream at mrugby.com/livestream.

Help with Logistics

It takes a lot of work to keep the club running.
We need help with post-game meals, photography, home game setup, and more.
Email grjanke@umich.com.

A Note from the Captains: Carter Lyon & Nathan Feldman



Carter Lyon
Senior
Head Captain

Michigan Rugby,

Hello! I'm Carter, a senior nursing student from the San Francisco Bay Area. I've been playing rugby since the age of 10, and I'm so excited to start playing my first season as a Michigan Wolverine. We've set many goals for the season, we have a variety of talent in different areas of the field, and we're looking forward to taking the Big Ten head-on after this past year of setbacks.



Nathan Feldman
Senior
Vice Captain

Greetings all! I'm Nathan, a senior from the Washington D.C. area (Maryland side) studying mechanical engineering. I started playing rugby when I was a freshman at Michigan after playing soccer for 14 years. I have learned everything I know about this sport from our very own coaches and alumni, and I look forward to sharing that knowledge with others.

We feel an obligation to the 2020 class to redeem the time lost by the unfortunate circumstances of this past year. We, as captains, will do everything we possibly can to foster the fun, competitive, and supportive atmosphere of Michigan Rugby to carry on the legacy of our former teammates. We understand the importance of this upcoming season for continuing the club's vast growth over the past few years and have many plans to achieve these goals as a unit.

We look forward to displaying our hard work come August 27th. Until then, Go Blue!

Our players elect two captains each semester



Rugby Returns in Fall 2021

Fall practices began with two-a-days on August 16.

Michigan plays new varsity program Adrian College as part of a tough non-conference schedule.



The conference schedule concludes against Indiana, the reigning Big Ten champions.

Home games are at Mitchell Field, or can be viewed online via live stream.



F 8/27	Adrian College
F 9/3	@ Notre Dame
F 9/10	@ Bowling Green
S 9/18	Alumni (OBW)
F 9/24	Ohio State
S 10/2	@ Wisconsin
S 10/9	@ Illinois
	Bye
S 10/23	Purdue
F 10/29	Michigan State
F 11/5	Indiana
S 11/13	@ Big Tens

When we kick off against Adrian College on August 27, it will have been 538 days since our last game.

Visit Our Online Store

We're in the process of updating our online store presentation and offerings!

shop.mrugby.com

Buy the latest limited edition Michigan Rugby Merchandise and support the club at the same time.



Email umrfc-store@umich.edu with all questions and suggestions.

Is there an item you want to see? Let us know!

Stay Up to Date



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^ See our Fall 2021 roster and more

University of Michigan Rugby Football Club



Soiled Meat and Sand

