

Dear Michigan Rugby Parents:

Welcome to 2022 and the spring season of University of Michigan Men's Rugby! I've written previously as a supportive parent of our two sons (George, LS&A Class of 2023; and, Otto, LS&A Class of 2025) who have found their niche at Michigan playing rugby. Without previous experience or even a basic understanding of the game, we have seen both boys embrace the game and learn the value of teamwork and commitment to a shared goal. The team plays at the D1A level as part of the Big Ten—the highest level of intercollegiate rugby. Penn State is joining the Big Ten this season which now makes 8 teams (Michigan, Michigan State, Purdue, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio State, and Wisconsin are the others). Michigan's success and future is built upon a long Michigan rugby tradition (est.1959) but also upon the players' continued hard work on and off the field—and our support. I'm hopeful every parent has had the opportunity to see a game this past fall, meet the team, and speak with Coach Trenary and others who support the program.

This spring, the collegiate season is filled by all 7s (that is, only 7 players on the field versus 15 players on each side in the fall). For the players, it means more space and more ground to cover—even more cardiovascular fitness, for sure. It also requires them to further develop and refine their rugby skills with less room for strategic and tactical errors. Rugby 7s is an explosive game that is nonstop...the games are over before you know it.

As always, the schedule is posted on the [mrugby.com](http://mrugby.com) The team does a great job keeping this site current and it is a wealth of information about the team all around. Highlights of this season include the Collegiate Rugby Championships in New Orleans May 28-30th. These games are televised and a great experience for players at a Major League Rugby stadium.

I encourage everyone to actively engage with their son's commitment and participation with the Michigan Rugby program. While hardly a nascent program, our continued support (financial and otherwise) remains a critical component of their success. Please reach out to your son or Coach Trenary to understand how you may be able to make the biggest impact. I look forward to meeting everyone in the coming months and Go Blue!!

Sincerely,  
Rob Janke  
LS&A Class of 1986  
SPH Class of 1989  
Medicine Class of 1993